



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
MAY 2012 UPDATE

Dear Stitches,

Spring is in the air, and summer is not far behind. It takes only inspiration and a few tools to reinvent your wardrobe or update your home decor in a few evenings of stitching. Just a few quick and easy items are all it takes to get into summer mode. From creating a lightweight lacy scarf, to making a fashionable tote for Country Market, to working up some placemats for outdoor dining, we've got affordable, high-impact projects that are easy to complete, and that you'll enjoy all summer long. We'll help you create new accessories that are the essence of comfort and style.

Did you know that cotton is the most popular fabric in the world? Cotton was first used 7,000 years ago and is the oldest known fiber. Knitters and crocheters universally cherish cotton for its natural year-round comfort, "breathability", visual appeal, easy care, durability and value. Escape to summer and satisfy your itch to stitch with one of our favorite warm weather fibers:

MAY IS "COTTON IS COOL" MONTH

**All regularly-priced 100% cotton and cotton blend yarns
in stock are 10% off throughout May 2012**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday

Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

Open Sunday, May 20, 2012, 12 noon - 4:30 pm

Closed Monday, May 28, 2012 (Memorial Day holiday)



We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle
instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Saturated colors, vintage-inspired classics and meticulously hand-stitched garments distinguish our collection for Summer 2012. Make a one-of-a-kind project with a fabulous "feels like summer" cotton, bamboo, linen or silk blend. Marry earthy texture with casual, lasting style. We've captured the spirit of summer with cool knits for hot days. Everybody loves something fresh and new. Here's what's fresh, here's what's new in warm weather options. And, as always, it's with you in mind. Get clicking!

A frequently-asked question here at Kathy's is "What's everyone making?" This summer, hands down (or on, if you prefer), it's CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS "Bias 'Before & After' Scarf" (\$5.50, shown upper left). CHURCHMOUSE dubbed this scarf 'before & after' because it's so ugly (truly!) before it's blocked and so beautiful after. Knitted on the bias, this light, airy scarf has the smooth simplicity of stockinette stitch without all the rolling at the edges. The nearly sheer fabric is perfect for warmer days -- layer two for style and coziness. Choose one skein of our gorgeous lace weight beauties like CLASSIC ELITE "Silky Lace Alpaca" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 460 yards, 70% baby alpaca / 30% silk); kettle-dyed MANOS DEL URUGUAY "Lace" (\$19.50, 50 grams, 439 yards, 70% baby alpaca / 25% silk / 5% cashmere); hand-dyed FIESTA YARNS "Gracie's Lace" (\$49.95, 100 grams, 965 yards, 70% superfine merino / 15% silk / 15% cashmere); KRAEMER YARNS "Sterling" (\$21.50, 100 grams, 420 yards, 63% superwash merino / 20% silk / 15% nylon / 2% silver); CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS "Silk Lace 20/2" (\$49.95, 100 grams, 1100 yards, 100% silk) or SKACEL "Filigran" (\$25.50, 100 grams, 660 yards, 100% superwash merino). Oh, yes, and beads along both edges are optional, but definitely worth it...

If you haven't discovered the luxurious beauty of MADELINE TOSH yarns, it's time for a road trip to Kathy's. These yarns are uniquely hand-dyed in a layered, glazed dyeing process to produce an artistic depth to its colorways. We'd love to introduce you to our latest arrivals of glorious "Tosh Sock" and "Tosh Chunky". You need to experience these yarns in person, to see the colors, to touch them, and to appreciate what the excitement is all about...

Every project is a new departure, started with hope and excitement. INTERWEAVE *Knitscene* Summer 2012 (\$7.99) is inspired by eco-chic, with leaf motifs and organic yarns. There are 23 bright knits (we love the breezy Westport Shawl by Sarah Wilson) and a great tutorial to help you learn how to measure your gauge the right way. And don't forget to check out the great knitting bag options for your stitching journey (choose from Jordana Paige, HiyaHiya project bags and Lantern moon now on our shelves, with more Namaste arriving soon), because on-the-go projects never looked so good and your projects deserve a great tote...

It's time to get out in the garden for some of you, but spring mornings can get a little damp and chilly. Kathy's textured "Russian Rib Boot Toppers" (\$4.00, shown lower right), are cozy liners to keep your garden boots dry and you warm (and they look cool, too!). Kathy's self-published patterns are available to purchase in hard copy, in pdf format by e-mail and also at <http://www.craftsy.com> (visit Kathy Zimmerman's Designs Shop) and at "Kathy Zimmerman Designs" at <http://www.ravelry.com/stores/kathy-zimmerman-designs>.



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

New from LISA KNITS just in time for proms, weddings, and enchanted evenings (\$5.00 each). "Beachcomber" AC-029 (shown right) is a worsted weight triangular-shaped stockinette shawl with eyelet ribs and a lace border. Embellish your shawl with beads and fringe accents, if desired...



© Copyright 2012
LISA KNITS

Attendees at our recent Spring Break weekend loved our insulated canvas tote bags (\$10.95) and now you can purchase one, too! In our signature turquoise with Kathy's Kreaions logo, this is perfect for small projects, a lunch carrier, or wine bag for BYOB to your favorite restaurant. As with all of our logo totes, bring it in on any Tuesday, and receive an extra 10% discount on all regularly-priced purchases you can fit into the bag...

Openwork -- enchanting, magical, often mysterious -- is center stage in the fifth annual lace issue of *Piecework* May/June 2012 (\$6.99). Learning about some of the people from the past who encouraged the development of various types of lace or depended on it for their livelihood helps bring these laces into perspective. You'll also discover reticella (Italian for "little net"), one of the oldest forms of needle lace, Depression Lace, and knitted lace traditions that continue into the twenty-first century. Lace lovers will want to knit the stunning cover piece Accordion Scarf, as well as the Russian Triangular Butterfly Shawl and Lacy Ribbonwood & Fern Scarf (works of art)...

If you associate Ysolda Teague only with sophisticated lace shawls, think again. Her "Tiny Shoes" pattern (\$6.50m shown page 6) are adorable Mary Jane style booties worked in fingering weight yarn. Can you think of a more perfect way to use up your leftover sock yarn and showcase special little buttons? These tiny shoes are a wonderfully quick but satisfying knit to welcome a new baby girl. Pair it with "Elijah" (\$6.50), a darling elephant toy knit without seams on double-pointed needles. Elijah was designed to be round and cuddly but still easy for little hands to grasp. He would make a wonderful gift for any kid (or adult)...

Spring is time for new tools and gadgets, and we can't resist them any more than you can. HIYA HIYA stitch markers (\$5.95) come in a set of six brightly colored mini-yarn balls that fit up to size 15 / 10 mm knitting needles. We've tested these out personally and give them two thumbs up. These also come packaged in a "Dumpling" carrying case (\$10.95) which makes a great gift for a fellow knitter or just a tiny splurge for yourself. Another top pick are the wool finishing needles from PONY (\$2.95), in a set of three sizes and lengths. Simply thread any weight yarn through the plastic loop end -- works like a charm!



With front and back pieces uniquely shaped to fit a woman's figure, the "Rivel Cardigan" by MIRIAM FELTON (\$8.50, shown left) is a high waisted feminine 3/4 length sleeved cardigan that will make a great addition to your wardrobe. Knit it in a smooth DK "cool wool" for a more refined style, or a tweedy yarn for a more relaxed feel. The plaited cables wrap over the shoulders and the shoulder seams are moved to the back instead of on top of the shoulders for a great fit...

© Copyright 2012
Miriam Felton



*** CRAZY FOR CABLES ***

Knitted cables -- all of them, from simple ropes to complex panels to amazing allover encrusted fabrics -- are basically stitches that are worked out of order, with the stitches crossing over one another. When combined with knit/purl texture, the illusion of individual "strands" moving across the surface is created. We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs is included in a new eBook from INTERWEAVE KNITS, "A Step-by-Step Guide to Knitting Cables with 4 Staff Favorite Patterns", available at knitting.daily@interweave.com

As editor Eunny Jang states: "Cables are perennially popular, and with good reason -- from simple rope cables to intricate braid- and knot-like motifs, cables are just plain fun to knit. In this exclusive eBook, we'll walk you through a series of projects that will have you cabling the most complicated textures in no time".

The "Hawthorn Pullover" (shown upper left) first appeared in the fall 2010 issue of *Knits*. About this design, KNITS says: "Quietly fine details make the Hawthorn Pullover shine: Hem ribbing flows neatly into asymmetrical cable ropes over the body and back out at the yoke, while a heathery undyed wool gives a nod toward classic fisherman's sweaters. Kathy Zimmerman adds a wide boatneck and a slim, straight fit for a neat, gamine-inspired silhouette". This "perfect sweater to dress up or down" was knit from UNIVERSAL YARNS / FIBRA NATURA "Shepherd's Own", a Spanish merino wool still in stock on our shelves...

*** FALL FLING 2012 KNITTING WEEKEND ***

Kathy and Carol Smith will host the 3rd Annual Fall Workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA with guest teacher Eleanor Swogger on September 21 - 23, 2012. An accomplished knitter, instructor, and Merchandise Manager for Kraemer Yarns of Nazareth, PA, Eleanor will teach a two-day workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA. The hands-on classes will be a "Getting Started With Bead Knitting", a purlled I-cord simple spiral bracelet project; "Lace & Beads" fingerless mitts, and "Playing with Mitered Knitting". In the beading classes, you will learn two different methods for incorporating beads into your knitting, as well as basic lace techniques in the mitt class. In the mitered knitting class, you will learn the how-to's to create the basic garter stitch square and how to customize your look to create the desired fabric. The weekend package include an after-hours "soup and sliders" party and special shopping time at Kathy's Kreations (Friday evening); coffee breaks and two lunches at the Ramada; classes Saturday and Sunday; free time to shop in the pretty little town of Ligonier and goodie bags. The "early bird" price is \$175 per person before August 1, 2012 and \$200 per person after August 1, 2012. Overnight lodging is not included, but the Ramada has set up a special rate for us, so please make your own reservations by calling 724-238-9545. Space is limited on a first-come, first-served basis, so please e-mail or call 724-238-9320 for more details. Hope to see you there!

*** SPECIAL EVENT ***

Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS will be the guest teacher at a knitting workshop sponsored by The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild on Sunday, May 20, 2012, 9 am - 4 pm at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA. The morning session class topic is "Short Rows" including traditional, Japanese and German techniques. In the afternoon session, Lisa will present tips, techniques and problem-solving (students are invited to bring projects in need of help). For more information, call Kathy at 724-238-9320. Kathy's Kreations will be open from 12 noon - 4:30 pm on Sunday, May 20, 2012...

*** BUTTON BRACELET ***

Show off the gem from your button collection with this little cable bracelet. Thanks to KRAEMER YARNS for sharing this cute stashbuster pattern with us!

MATERIALS: Approximately 25 yards in the yarn of your choice (lace, fingering, sport or DK)

NEEDLES: one size smaller than suggested on manufacturer's label;
sample bracelets shown upper right: "Saucon Sock" cherry on left; US #3 (3.25 mm); "Belfast" linen US #5 (3.75 mm) in center; "Tatamy Tweed DK" taupe US #4 (3.5 mm) far right

EXTRAS: cable needle; one button

GAUGE: Not critical, a thicker yarn will make a wider bracelet. Choose a needle size that will make a firm fabric. Bracelet is approximately 1" wide.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 2 sts.

Row 1: K.

Row 2: Knit into front and back (KFB) 2 times..

Row 3: K 1, (KFB) 2 times, K1.

Row 4: K2, (KFB) 2 times, K2 -- 8 sts.

Row 5: K.

Row 6: K2, bind off 4 sts, K2.

Row 7: K2, cast on 4 sts, K2.

Row 8: K.

Row 9: K1, P1, K4, P1, K1.

Row 10: K2, P4, K2.

Rows 11 & 12: repeat rows 9 & 10, ending with a wrong side row.

Cable Stitch Pattern:

Row 13 (right side): K1, P1, move 4 sts to CN, rotate CN 180 degrees clockwise, K sts off CN, P1, K1.

Row 14: K2, P4, K2.

Row 15: K1, P1, K1, P1, K1.

Row 16: Repeat row 14.

Repeat cable stitch pattern rows 14-16 until bracelet is 7.5" long, or desired length. End after row 15 of cable stitch pattern.

Next Row: K1, K2tog, K2, K2tog, K1.

Knit 3 more rows and bind off, leaving a yarn tail to sew on button. Weave in ends and block if necessary.

Abbreviations: CN - cable needle; K - knit; K2tog; KFB - knit into front and back of stitch; P - purl; sts - stitches

*** SELECTING THE CORRECT SIZE BUTTONS ***

With the approach of warmer weather, many of our customers still like to take along a knit jacket or cardigan in case of overly-cool air conditioning or evening chill. Which buttonhole technique you use will depend on the garment, how it will be worn, the position of the buttonhole, and your yarn. Most buttonholes will stretch, so try working a test buttonhole first, just as you would a swatch, perhaps using several different techniques to see which you like best. Generally, space buttonholes about 2" apart. Buttons should be just slightly larger than the buttonhole but never larger than the band is wide. For example, a 3/4" button is appropriate for a 1" wide buttonband.



*** FASHION FORWARD ***

In a recent newsletter, TAHKI YARNS tells us: "While we all look forward to the new fashion trends that come with the changing of the seasons, there are some styles that strike fear in the hearts of all but the thinnest among us. Recent popular summer looks like low rise jeans, the crop top, "lingerie as outerwear" do little to flatter most physiques in the real world. So when trend forecasters start promoting relaxed silhouettes, we all did a collective cheer. Make way for the A-line tunic: a popular shape for Spring 2012. No matter how many points we eat at Weight Watchers, or how many Zumba classes we attend, the A-line top is both fashionable and flattering ... Wear these tops with ubiquitous black leggings and ballet slippers or a long flowing skirt and you will be catwalk-ready AND comfortable."

*** ASK AN EXPERT ***

Mimi G asks: "When a pattern says to place increases 'evenly spaced' across a row, how do I do this?" OK, there's math involved. Divide the number of stitches on the needle by the number of stitches you wish to add and this will equal how many stitches go between the increases. For example, if you have 60 stitches and need to increase 5 stitches, $60 / 5 = 12$. Kathy likes to balance the number of stitches at the beginning and end of the row. So, begin by working 6 stitches (half of 12), increase, [knit 12, increase] 4 times, end by working 6 stitches. Work the increases while maintaining the pattern stitch, if possible...

*** TIPS AND TRICKS ***

When working short rows using "wrap and turn" technique, Kathy Sherman places a CLOVER locking stitch marker in each wrap. This makes it easier to identify which stitches have been wrapped when picking them up on the final row. Thanks, Kathy!

*** FACTS ABOUT COTTON YARNS ***

- Cotton is a vegetable fiber now grown widely in hot climates around the world. It is grown in 17 states and 80 countries. It outsells all other fibers combined.
- There are two kinds of cotton: ELS (extra long staple) and Pima or Egyptian (finest grade). The fiber is hollow in the center, and, under the microscope, resembles a twisted ribbon.
- Cotton treated with caustic soda and then stretched to be made smoother, shiny in appearance, stronger and with less shrinkage is referred to as "mercerized" after John Mercer of Lancashire, England, who invented the process
- Cotton takes dye beautifully so it is available in a multitude of colors, with good color retention, but care must be taken because some colors may bleed. It can weaken from extended exposure to sunlight.
- Cotton is breathable and comfortable, but may have thicker seams. A mattress seam or 1/2 stitch seam should be used when assembling garments.
- Cotton absorbs up to 27 times its own weight in water
- In addition to being soft, cotton is durable and strong; it resists abrasion, pilling and moths
- Many cotton yarns can be laundered in the washing machine (always check the manufacturer's label). Cotton sweaters should be washed frequently, since they tend to absorb moisture and pick up dirt. Wash white items and medium colors separately in warm water and dark colors in cool water.



*** KNITTING DAILY TV ***

The folks from America's Alpaca will be featured in the upcoming season of Knitting Daily TV, featuring one of Kathy's designs for KRAEMER YARNS, The Drop Stitch Vest, Hat and Scarf Set made with "Handknitting Alpaca DK" (hat photo at right). Pattern and yarn both available at Kathy's Kreations -- please ask for information...



*** WHERE'S KATHY? ***

June 23, 2012 The National Needlework Association trade show in Columbus, OH.

Kathy will be the featured designer at a Meet and Greet Saturday afternoon 2 pm - 4 pm at the Kraemer Yarns booth. Kathy will be autographing pattern booklets of her 13 Kraemer designs, including the Double Zigzag A-Line Aran Jacket in "Perfection" worsted yarn which will be part of the Fashion Show. Kathy's pattern booklets will be available for purchase at Kathy's Kreations in early July.

August 9 - 12, 2012: Kathy will be teaching once again at Stitches Midwest in Schaumburg, IL. Class schedule is available at www.knittinguniverse.com (Knitter's Magazine website). Class topics include Knit to Fit; Ruffles, Scallops and Frills; Intro to combining Lace and Cable and Slip-Stitch Savvy.

September 7 - 8, 2012: Kathy will be teaching once again for Knitter's Day Out in Summerdale, PA, at Central PA College and Donna Dunlap will be manning Kathy's market booth; details coming soon at www.knittersdayout.org

September 21 - 23, 2012: Kathy and Carol Smith will host the 3rd Annual Fall Workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA with guest teacher Eleanor Swogger.

See page 4 for details -- registrations are now being accepted but space is limited

October 4 - 7, 2012: Kathy will be the featured instructor at a "Knitting Superstar" weekend for the Atlanta Knitting Guild; Atlanta, GA

*** YARN SUBSTITUTION ***

One of Kathy's first formal knitting workshops was with author and knitter par excellence Maggie Righetti. Kathy learned Maggie's two Golden Rules:

- 1) You never know what a yarn will do until you make a swatch
- 2) The more basic the yarn, the more complicated the pattern stitch can be; the more complicated the yarn, the simpler the pattern stitch should be

The type of yarn that you choose makes all the difference in the way a garment looks. Cables and intricate lace usually become "lost" when worked with slubby or novelty yarns, so keep it simple and use a basic, smooth yarn for these types of pattern stitches. Conversely, novelty and highly textured yarns are the "star", so select a basic stitch to show them off to their best advantage, like garter or stockinette for knitters or basic single / double crochet for crocheters. Experiment by working swatches in a variety of stitches to see what works best for your yarn.

Generally, wool, wool blends, and synthetic wool substitutes have the most elasticity which makes them well-suited for plain and textured stitches and for fitted garments. Yarns like bamboo, linen or cotton that have less stretch are good for draped garments, shawls, or lace stitches.

When substituting yarns, always work a sample swatch first, not only to check the gauge but also to check that the "feel" of the resulting fabric is suitable for the design. It is always best to select a yarn with exactly the same gauge/needle size as the suggested yarn, but you can usually adapt up or down one or two needle/hook sizes without affecting the results. However, be aware that even slight variations in gauge will affect the final size...



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crochet and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **May 7, 2012, and June 4, 2012, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

*** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, May 8, 2012, and June 12, 2012; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) ***

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome to come, sit & stitch! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

*** FUN FRIDAYS, May 18, 2012, and June 15, 2012; 10 am - 2 pm ***

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce Bischoff is available for help with your questions, skill building and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your project, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

*** RAVELRY GROUP MEET AND GREET ***

Members of the "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group will be gathering at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday mornings, **May 12, 2012, and June 9, 2012; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Please bring your knitting, crocheting and any projects to show and share. We meet on the second Saturday of every month. All group members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise purchases on this "Meet and Greet Day". Not a member? Ask us how you can join!

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

We're starting summer off with a bang! You are cordially invited to our three "Open Stitching" long weekends **Thursday May 31, Friday June 1 and Saturday June 2, 2012; Thursday June 7, Friday June 8, and Saturday June 9, 2012; and Thursday June 21, Friday June 22, and Saturday June 23, 2012**. Simply come, sit and knit / crochet to your heart's content from 10 am - 2 pm on these dates. Please bring a chair, a snack to share if you wish, your project purchased here, and call ahead to let us know you are coming. Join in the fellowship of other knitters & crocheters -- it's a great escape!

*** "BEAD BRACELET" CROCHET CLASS with instructor Marilee Roney; Saturday, May 19, 2012; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$25.00 registration (includes pattern)***

Bead embellishment is hot, hot, hot, and we've got a wonderful crochet class planned with Marilee. Student supplies include a size E standard crochet hook and a steel size 10 crochet hook. Practice beads and strand to learn technique will be provided. Bracelet kits (shown lower right) may be purchased on the day of class...

Private knitting, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 32 years !

We know that you are eager to get outdoors and enjoy the warm weather, but don't forget to take your knitting along (June 11 - 20 is "Knitting In Public" week!) Now is the perfect time for exploring all the wonderful yarns that work year-round. Linen, cotton and silk -- give them a try for your new warm-weather wardrobe. **KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!** Kathy

