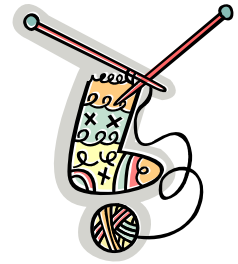




KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
NOVEMBER 2007 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Are you already feeling the "captivity of activity" that accompanies the holiday rush each year? This season can be hectic, so it's important to take a few moments to slow down for some comfort and joy. Curling up in your favorite chair with a knitting or crocheting project can help you to unwind and relax. It also provides an opportunity to work on some beautiful handmades for the lucky people on your list. We've got plenty of one and two-skein projects that are perfect for gift giving and handknit holiday cheer. As we all know, a little extra good cheer can work wonders.

In her *INTERWEAVE KNITS Holiday Gifts 2007* editorial, Eunny Jang writes: "Handmade gifts are somehow more satisfying. Knitting something with a particular person in mind, choosing his favorite colors, anticipating what she needs or wants most, and adding personal touches here and there, can be the source of a lot of joy". We hope you'll be inspired by our latest products to work on some handmade glad tidings and de-stress your own holidays in the process. Socks seem to be the most popular handknit gift project among our customers, so we've proclaimed:

"NOVEMBER IS SOCK MONTH"

**All regularly-priced yarns in our Sock Station are
10% off during November 2007**

**(brands include Regia, Fortissima/Socka, Trekking, Colinette Jitterbug,
Austermann Step, Classic Elite Alpaca Sox, Mountain Colors Bearfoot,
Claudia Handpaints and Elyn Cooper's Yarn Sonnets**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
plus special holidays hours (see page seven)
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services available

Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

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Telephone 724-238-9320

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com

please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com





***** GREAT NEW STUFF *****

Autumn brings change, with style embracing warmth in knitwear. Our collection of new yarns, patterns, and accessories are fresh, fashion-forward, yet timeless. Feel head-to-toe fabulous in the latest handknit styles that will help you gear up for winter's chill. Here's a sampling of new products to spark your creativity...

The Holiday 2007 *Knit Simple* (\$5.99) will help you to knit the season! This issue features chunky cabled designs in classic winter white, accompanied by cozy accessories. There is also a techniques section filled with excellent how-to's to help you tackle the twists and turns. There are clever tree trimmers, embroidered round ball ornaments with seasonal motifs, stuffed with plastic grocery bags (recyclers, rejoice!). Striped stockings ('tis the season to stripe), felted or not, will help you to understand sock construction. There are hats for everyone, scarves, glitzy evening sweaters & wraps, an intarsia blanket for sheep lovers, and brawny masculine knits. We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs is included in this collection. "Jack In The Boxes" (shown upper left), a crewneck pullover with basketweave blocks with a classic ribbed look. Ribs trim the body and sleeves of this crewneck with squared armholes. We think you'll find plenty of holiday inspiration in the pages of this magazine...

INTERWEAVE KNITS Holiday Gifts Holiday 2007 special edition (\$7.99) with 29 all new knits to give, from bags to shrugs, socks to sweaters, hats to afghans, boot toppers to teddy bears, and mitts to mug cozies. There are unique holiday gift ideas for knitters (for a friend or to give yourself) and a great needle felting "Beyond The Basics" article by Leigh Radford for embellishing your knits. And, here's a terrific idea -- how to host a knitting party with suggestions for celebrating a variety of occasions from birthdays to baby showers, and even a stash swap...

It's sock month and, with its small gauge, sock yarns just aren't for festive feet. VOGUE KNITTING Holiday 2007 (\$6.99) features a ball-ornament pattern that is easy enough to deck the halls in preactically no time! The primary focus of this issue is "Brit Knits" featuring sweaters from eight marquee British designers with their thoroughly modern use of color and texture in Fair Isle and intarsia. In contrast, there are delicate, lacy feminine garments in fine gauges and Tom Scott's dramatic, de-constructed wraps and shape shifters. Adina Klein, editor-in-chief of VOGUE KNITTING, was right on the money with her cobalt blue picks for fall and winter 2007. Adina now tells us that yellow is "the" hot color for spring and summer 2008, so watch for it. We are already seeing this trend in previews of upcoming yarns...

New from FIBER TRENDS is pattern FT-462 "Me & My Dad" (\$5.50, shown lower right), mens and boys classic V-neck pullovers designed by Kathy. The sweaters are worked in a textured garter & brioche rib alternating with 3-stitch stockinette ribs, using NATURALLY NZ YARNS "Harmony 10 ply" and "Naturelle 10 Ply". The boy's sweater features a traditional V-neck band while the men's sweater sports an interesting cross over V-neck band. Both have modified drop shoulders for a relaxed fit and squared armholes for easier to knit shaping. Wouldn't the guys in your life love to have a casual Friday or jeans sweater for hanging out together?



***** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF *****

What's new from LISA KNITS? "Fingerless Gloves / Mitts" (\$4.00, at right) is a two-way ribbed mitts pattern with fold-back mitten top or fingerless variations in fingering weight yarn. Kathy has been test knitting this pattern for holiday gifts and loves the fit. Lisa also has been hard at work on a collection of textured scarves, called "Six Simple Scarves" (\$4.00, lower left) to knit in worsted weight yarns...



Looking for a gift for the knitter on the go who has almost everything? How about an audiobook collection of CD's about knitting, published by KNITTING OUT LOUD (\$29.95, 4 CDs, running time 4 hours)? Based on the book, "American Knits" by Melanie Falick celebrates artisans from all over the world of American knitting, spinning and weaving. Meet the fascinating people behind the knitting scene, narrated by Christine Marshall. Another audiobook is "Knitting Memories: Reflections On the Knitter's Life", including moving stories on the importance of knitting in our lives...

Knitting Lace Triangles by Evelyn Clark (\$18.95, spiral bound) is a collection of stunning lace shawls, a basic in the knitting world. Lace triangles are versatile accessories. They can be knit in a variety of fibers and colors, as well as tweed, heather and glitzy yarns. This book is organized to help knitters design their own triangle using four simple laces -- flower, leaf, medallion and ripple. Using your imagination and this helpful guide, you *can* do it!

We are proud to introduce DIAKEITO YARNS from Japan. Classic, elegant, timeless... three words that describe these yarns to perfection. Kathy and Betty Lou fell in the love with the beautiful colorways and soft hand of these yarns at the TNNA Show in June. These yarns were definitely worth waiting for. "Diaelissa" (\$15.50, 40 grams, 153 yards, 32% mohair / 46% wool / 22% nylon) knits at worsted weight gauge, in a variegated colorway with a hint of sparkle. "Diadomina" (\$14.50, 40 grams, 122 yards, 50% wool / 21% mohair / 29% nylon) knits at DK gauge, has an incredibly soft hand, and is uniquely variegated, with a gently twist. "Diaelissa" and "Diadomina" are excellent choices for wraps, shawls and scarves. "Diaepoca" (\$6.95, 40 grams, 88 yards, 100% wool) is a light worsted weight basic with superb stitch definition and detail. Stay tuned for pattern support arriving soon...

As you can tell by the big, long list of sock yarns on sale this month, we have a large selection for your knitting pleasure. The newest addition is REGIA 4-Ply Royal Color (\$8.50, 50 grams, 231 yards, 75% wool / 25% polyamide), a self-stripping marl with subtle color accents. The durability of REGIA is 4-fold: dimensionally stable, hard-wearing, machine washable, AND machine dryable...

FIESTA YARNS are known for their incredible colors and fabulous yarns. The latest addition to our shelves is "Ballet" (\$22.95, 5.5 oz., 350 yards, 50% superfine alpaca / 50% Tencel, DK weight).

One hank of this luxurious yarn will make the "Ballet Lace Scarf" (\$4.50, shown on page 5, upper right), with a zigzag "swinging tree" lace pattern that's perfect to wear with a blazer or tucked inside a coat. We had a problem deciding which of the beautiful colors to choose for our model scarf --they are all gorgeous!





***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

The Great American Afghan has been re-visited and updated by XRX Books (\$12.95, soft cover). This project includes unique squares knit by 25 American designers, including a cabled one from Kathy (shown at left). Kathy's square features a trio of Irish moss staggered diamond cables bordered by a combination open and enclosed cable panel. Tradition meets innovation in this piece, allowing freedom to arrange the squares any way you like, using any patterns you like (one or all 25)...

Color is a very subjective thing. We each perceive it in a uniquely individual way, with colors that we like and those that we dislike. If you are confident with the needles, but still feel color challenged, now you can learn to develop your own personal color palette with Kristin Nicholas in *Kristin Knits* (\$24.95, hardcover). She enthusiastically guides you through the process of harmonizing colors and textures to create knitted garments that are personal, contemporary, and stunningly beautiful. Fair Isle, squiggles, bobbles, pompoms, stitched flowers and stripes are pulled out of her arsenal in complementary ways that never clash or feel over the top. Play with your new color freedom with 27 patterns, expressly designed to showcase color in combination, or take inspiration from her to find your own color language. Kristen's tips on swatching with color take on deeper resolution given that all these designs are worked with NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" (one of our favorite yarns!), a versatile blend of wool, alpaca, and kid mohair she's had dyed to her specifications. And, by the way, did you know that the extremely talented Ms. Nicholas was one of Kathy's mentors?

Good style is in the bag with *Bag Style* from INTERWEAVE PRESS (\$21.95, soft cover). Custom handbags and handcrafted purses are hotter than ever, and bags are a trendy way to show off your personal style. What's more, bags are quickly replacing scarves as the most popular small project to make. Whether knitted, crocheted, or felted, *Bag Style* will give you endless ways to personalize and customize a bag. From a dressy purse to carry your essentials to a generous tote based on nineteenth-century carpetbags to a felted messenger-style abg, you'll find loads of practical projects and inventive inspiration. There is also a Design Notebook that explains the elements of a knitted bag and how to combine those elements into your own designs...

Revolutionize your crochet! Break the rules, get creative and get inspired by *Crochet Me* by Kim Werker (\$21.95, soft cover). Get ready for hip, edgy, flirty crochet designs that will change your mind about this craft. Filled with cutting-edge patterns like a babydoll dress, thigh highs, and even a mini-wrap skirt, *Crochet Me* leaps into the world beyond crocheted cozies and the same old afghans...

Felt on! Take your felt forward! Knitwear designer Maggie Pace brings a modern edge to felting with *Felt Forward: Modern Designs in Knitted Felt* (\$21.95, soft cover). This fresh collection of simply stylish designs made with innovative techniques also provides inspiring images and essential tips. These sophisticated projects, like mod hats, cool bags, fashion-forward accessories, and unique items for the home, feature elegant shapes and highlight a range of fibers from classic wool to alpaca, angora, and even acrylic. Anyone with basic knitting skills will find the tools to create one-of-a-kind contemporary knitted felt pieces...

***** FASHION TREND REPORT *****

"Design Lines", the newsletter of the Association of Knitwear Designers, cites the following trends for winter 2007/08: "Natural fibers, especially fine qualities of Merino wool and luxury fibers like alpaca, mohair, and, of course, cashmere, are expected to see strong sales for winter with the renewed interest in knitwear. Proving popular are top quality blends using merino and cashmere. Blends, which make a difference to handle or performance, are also increasing. Softness and smoothness next to the skin are the most important features for wool to deliver, as well as lightness. Wool has changed hugely and has been refined in recent years, but the general public still perceives wool as being scratchy.



In pursuit of softer wool, research projects have discovered a simple technique that could have significant impact on the wool industry. It was found that a fleece which is shorn six months ahead of the regular shearing season has a fine tip rather than a blunt tip, which makes it softer than normal.

In another development, a new generation, ultra-fine merino fiber is stretched to give it a luxuriously smooth, silky handle, easy to wear next to the skin, and elegant drape. The yarn takes it into the luxury fiber business to create high quality garments with luxurious softness. Soft luxury in alpaca, mohair and cashmere are high on the list for winter, also in blends. Cotton is being increasingly used for trans-seasonal and winter knits. Cotton yarn with a wooly touch blends with wool, alpaca and angora, and is designed to be used for both knitwear and socks. Even more luxurious, cotton/cashmere blends are making a strong presence".

***** WHAT IS 'EMMA' ? *****

EMMA, the acronym for the newly formed East Main Marketing Association, is a coalition of retail shops and restaurants on Main Street's east side of town. The purpose of the organization is to promote shopping and dining along the beautiful tree-lined avenue in historic Ligonier. Kathy's Kreations is proud to be among the 20 different establishments along the street, where the shopping is varied and entertaining. Beginning this month, EMMA will be instituting a "First Friday" program when all the EMMA merchants will be open until 8 pm. To inaugurate the program, EMMA is holding a drawing for a getaway to the recently restored Bedford Springs Resort & Spa. Please be sure to register to win at our service desk...

***** YIPES, STRIPES! *****

In Classic Elite's Web-Letter 13, Creative Director Pam Allen says, "Stripes are an underrated design element. In spite of their apparent simplicity, they offer endless possibilities for creative knitting. Think about it: even at the most basic level, using only two colors, you can do a number of different things with stripes. You can alternate two colors in evenly spaced stripes, or alternate big wide stripes with narrow ones; you can play around with spacing -- start with thin stripes in color A on a background of B and shift, as you work up, to thin stripes of B on a background of A; you can work stripes horizontally, or knit a sweater sideways from cuff to cuff for vertical stripes; you can play around with adding texture stitches to striped knitting; or you can work 'placed' stripes". A free pattern for a simple striped pullover in quick-knitting CLASSIC ELITE "La Gran" is available, with purchase of the yarn to make the project. See the next page for a combination that struck Betty Lou's striped fancy. Our thanks to Pam & CLASSIC ELITE for sharing the information from their website, www.classicelityarns.com



***** 'TIS THE SEASON *****

What projects are our shoppals knitting for holiday gift giving? It seems that one and two-skein projects are the unanimous picks, and our gals are making them in multiple quantities for everyone on their list. Tracey has knit twelve sets of colorful, super bulky two-hour earflap hats and matching mittens (and still counting!); Kathy works fingerless mitts while riding her stationary bike (test knitting Lisa's new pattern) with plans for children's mittens & hats; Betty Lou has tallied four sets of legwarmers thus far; Joyce is working on her trademark Christmas stockings; Jen is making a special one-of-a-kind scarf for a friend, and Kelly, our felting maven, is felting bags, bags and more bags! Here's Betty Lou's pattern for legwarmers (shown upper left, in CLASSIC ELITE yarn) to help you knit the season. Thanks for sharing your pattern, Betty Lou!

***** BETTY LOU'S STRIPED LEGWARMERS *****

FINISHED SIZE: medium ladies' 14" long; 12" calf circumference

GAUGE: 4.5 sts / 6 rounds = 1" in pattern

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn in two colors (A & B), approx. 150 yards each; US size 7 double-pointed needles (dpns) or 12" circular knitting needle; tapestry needle for finishing

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 56 sts (14 sts on each needle if using dpns). Join, being careful not to twist sts.

With A, work K2, P2 ribbing in rounds for 1.25".

With B, K 8 rounds.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 7 rounds with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 5 rounds with B.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 3 rounds with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 2 rounds with B.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 1 round with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 7 rounds with B.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 6 rounds with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 7 rounds with B.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 1 round with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 2 rounds with B.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 3 rounds with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 5 rounds with B.

With A, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 7 rounds with A.

With B, work 1 round K1, P1 ribbing. K 7 rounds with B.

With A, K 1 round. Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 1.25". Bind off all sts in rib pat. Weave in all ends.

NOTE: Betty Lou twisted colors every round on the inside of the piece and carried them up the work, creating a faux back seam. You may wish to use more colors, and cut ends and re-join, weaving them in.

DESIGNS VARIATIONS: To make the leg warmers longer, add more rows in the middle of the work or add more ribbing to cuff at each end. Stripes may also be random, choosing to match the pair or not. For a wider calf, add sts in increments of 4 (4, 8, 12, etc.)

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***** KNITTING TIPS & TRICKS *****

When shaping a sloped shoulder, bind off the specified number of stitches for the first two rows. On all subsequent bind-off rows, slip the first stitch instead of working it to eliminate the dreaded "stair steps"...

Lace knitters often use a "lifeline". This means to insert a length of yarn at a specific row of the pattern repeat. In case you need to rip back to correct an error, you will have a "safe" place in the pattern and will know where to begin. Bonnie Welch suggests using dental floss instead of yarn, which works for all weights of yarn (source Knitnet.com)...

Another re"mark"able tip from Deesha Martin (source Knitnet.com): When working lace, Deesha divides her chart into sections of 10 stitches each, using colored stitch markers to correspond to the 10-stitch sections. Using crayons or colored pencils, she matches each section of the chart to the colored stitch markers on her knitting. If she is interrupted, she looks at the stitch marker and matches it to the color on the chart...

When a pattern calls for multiple stitch markers when working in the round, Joyce Millslagle recommends always using a green-colored marker at the beginning of the round (green for "go"). This eliminates any confusion between the starting point and any increase or decrease points. Thanks for sharing this tip, Joyce!

***** CALENDAR OF EVENTS *****

- EMMA (East Main Street Marketing Association) **First Fridays November 2, 2007 and December 7, 2007** -- we are among the shops east of the Ligonier Diamond open until 8:00 pm. Make visiting Ligonier a holiday tradition!
- Kathy's Kreations Open House Thanksgiving Weekend **Friday, November 23, 2007, and Saturday, November 24, 2007**, 9:00 am - 5 pm; join us for refreshments, a "freebie" with your purchase (one per customer), and door prizes
- Town-wide Open House **Sunday, December 2, 2007**-- we are open 12 noon - 5pm
- **Festival of Lights** Saturday December 1 through Sunday, December 9, 2007, at the Town Hall Community Room
- From Thanksgiving to Christmas, enjoy free two-hour Saturday parking; Christmas music throughout the town and Saturday carriage & sleigh rides
- The 4th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival will be held at the Pittsburgh South Crowne Plaza Hotel on **February 9 & 10, 2008**. Kathy, Betty Lou and Charmaine will be there with lots of knitter's goodies. Kathy will also be teaching a class about slip-stitch color work techniques. Visit www.pghknitandcrochet.com for details. We have a limited supply of discount admission tickets.

***** FRIENDSHIP SCARVES /SHAWLS *****

Interested in community service projects and charity knitting? Join fellow knitters and crocheters at the Adams Memorial Library in Latrobe on the first and third Wednesday evenings, 6 pm - 8 pm, in the Reed Room. All skill levels are welcome, but the gathering focuses on knitting for charity or community service projects, such as the Friendship Scarf Program. There is no charge to attend.



***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHT** *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Monday, November 5, 2007, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Selected picks for holiday knitting and crochet projects will be featured. Please note that there will no meeting in December because of B&N holiday activities...



***** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, November 13, 2007, and December 11, 2007, from 7 - 9 pm
Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** **UPCOMING CLASSES** *****

**"Diagonal Block Scarf" with instructor Leslie Chmiel, Saturday, December 1, 2007
9:30 am - 12:30 pm \$20* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

Many of our customers have admired this beautiful one-skein, modular-style COLINETTE "Jitterbug" scarf and now you can learn the how-to's in this class. Materials needed include #US 5 needles (straight or circular) & 300 yards fingering weight yarn.

*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 3 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreations.com

**Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.
Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 27 years!**

**FUN FRIDAYS with instructor Joyce Bischoff, Friday, November 16, 2007, 10 am - 2 pm
and December 14, 2007, 10 am - 2pm**

It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for knitting help with your questions and skill-building. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

***** **THE "MALL ALTERNATIVE" KNIT-INS** *****

If "Black Friday" shopping experiences and gorging on leftovers aren't for you, join us for a knit and crochet "great escape" on Friday or Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm. Please call ahead to let us know to expect you.

A hug, a kind word, a hand to hold -- these are the greatest gifts of all. This Thanksgiving, may you give them freely, and receive them abundantly. There is no more appropriate time for us to say "Thank You" and to express to our Friends, old and new, warm wishes for a wonderful November. **KEEP KNITTING!** Kathy