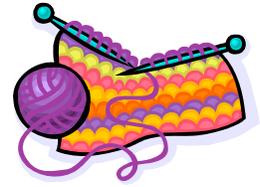




KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724 238 9320



NOVEMBER 2009 UPDATE

Dear Knitters & Stitchers,

What is a "LYS"? Local Yarn Shop, of course! And we are so glad that you've chosen us as *your* LYS! We are owned and staffed by people who enjoy handcrafts and understand the needs and wants of knitters, crocheters, spinners, rug punch enthusiasts and fiber artists of all kinds. We are here to serve you before, during, and after your visit.

We offer quality yarns, a large selection of accessories, dependable service, instruction, designer expertise, certified instructors, and as always, creative inspiration. Come to us for help, encouragement, support, laughter, friendships, and answers. Whether you're at home, or traveling, we are available in person at the shop, by phone, or online to assist you.

We are constantly re-inventing ourselves. We are now an authorized LOUET dealer, able to supply you with the entire line of premium, quality LOUET products from spinning wheels to weaving looms, accessories, yarns, rovings and patterns. We also carry locally handmade maple drop spindles. And, did you know we were recently named by INTERWEAVE PRESS as a crochet-friendly yarn shop? Stop by, and together, let's rock the fiber world one stitch at a time...

"NOVEMBER IS ALPACA MONTH"

**10% off all regularly-priced alpaca or alpaca blend yarns
in stock during November 2009**

**Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
12 noon - 4:00 pm Sundays through December 13**

Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open
We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX

Private knitting, crochet, spinning and rug punch instructions
are available by appointment
Finishing services available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Telephone 724-238-9320

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The feel of plush alpaca, cool wool or fuzzy mohair flowing through our fingers as we stitch is more than just touch, it is interaction. As KNITTER'S MAGAZINE editor Rick Mondragon writes, "Our senses are engaged, and so are we". Our new arrivals begin with color and inspiration, then you magically transform them into your own works of art. We think you'll find our latest collection to be quite engaging...

Each issue of KNITTER'S MAGAZINE (\$5.95) celebrates more than just knitting. It is a journey that begins simply -- with an idea that is shared by designers and culminates in a collection of designs and photos. Once again, Kathy Zimmerman is thrilled to have the opportunity to be involved in this process, with three of her designs featured in fall 2009. "Sparkling Red" (shown upper left), was knit with KOLLAGE YARNS "Glisten" yarn, which we introduced last month. About this cardigan with its X-cabled body and ribbed sleeves, KNITTER'S says, "Cables and ribs sparkle thanks to great stitchwork and small metallic flecks in the yarn. This cardigan can easily take you from day into evening". And "Rattan Boxes" (Lower right): "Great fabric defines a knit; such is the case with the basketweave slip stitch and patterned boxes in this cardigan. Keep it short as in the sample or add another box repeat in length for a more traditional fit". The slip stitch patterns make the heathered fabric look handwoven. The "Rings & Rungs" crewneck vest (see page 8 upper left) combines cables with texture for an unexpected new pattern stitch using a simple welt to elongate a basic honeycomb: "Turn up the heat in fire-engine red. Circles and little ladders create three panels of texture running down the center front and back. Quick and clever!" Also, we are so pleased with the full page ad featuring Kathy's "Less Is More" pullover in KOLLAGE YARNS "Glisten"-- pattern and yarn are both available now. Fall 2009 KNITTER's is dedicated to art & craft, with knits that are as much fun to make as they will be to wear...

In the premiere issue of St-Denis magazine (\$18.50), Veronik Avery states, "For many, knitting is most useful as a way of creating beautiful, well-fitting garments. It is a way for us to partake of the past, to continue an age-old craft that began as a necessity and has now become a pleasure. It is about the process and the relaxation and fulfillment we derive from it. It is about community: getting together with friends to knit, and appreciating how each individual brings their own unique influences to their knitting. And perhaps most of all, it is about creativity: turning a simple idea into our own unique work of art. It's about creating patterns that express our own ideas, or following someone else's pattern while making the garment our own -- tweaking the fit, selecting the colors, modifying an edge". New from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS comes Veronik Avery's "St-Denis Nordique" yarn (\$7.95, 50 grams, 150 yards, 100% wool, CYCA yarn classification 3), the artist's paintbox fiber used in the magazine's collection. This is a versatile yarn, in a wide color range, that can be tightly knit for warm accessories like mittens, double-stranded for thicker aran-weight gauge, or loosely with a single strand without sagging or losing its body. Using wool from North American sheep and spun in new England, this "Made in the USA" yarn is an elastic, plump, hardwearing yarn that feels good next to the skin. It reminds us of the vintage wools of long-ago, wools that were used for women's dresses, baby jumpers, men's socks and just about everything else -- and performed beautifully no matter what the project or pattern stitch...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

One of our most-requested sweater patterns are those worked top-down from the neck with minimal finishing required. New from LISA KNITS are "My First Top-Down Cardigan" (\$4.00, shown right), a basic cardigan in 10 sizes from child's size 4 to adult XXL with your choice of crewneck or collar and "My First Top-Down Pullover" (\$4.00, shown lower left), a basic pullover in 10 sizes from child's size 4 to adult XXL with your choice of crewneck or turtleneck. Models are on display -- please note that the yokes can be worked with self-striping or kettle dyed semi-solid yarns for an eye-catching "how did they do that?" effect...



© 2009 Lisa Knits

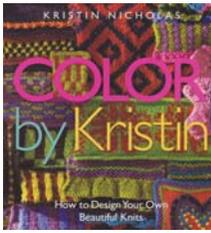
Another popular top-down style is KNITTING PURE & SIMPLE Pattern 278 "Top Down Shawl Collar Cardigan" (\$5.00) with contemporary asymmetrical ribbed buttonband closure and raglan sleeve shaping. Also new from KNITTING PURE & SIMPLE is pattern 2910 "Baby Hats, Mitts and Booties" (\$5.00) featuring rolled brim, ribbed or earflap styles, basic thumbless mitts and rib welt edged booties sized for newborn through 18 months...

It's time for the Holiday issues with great style, great texture and plenty of ideas for gifting . VOGUE KNITTING (\$6.99) concentrates on cowl necklines, what's next for necks! There are also enchanting accessories, irresistible color patterns at play and exquisite stitching in ladylike pastels. INTERWEAVE KNITS Holiday Gifts (\$14.99) is their biggest gifts issue ever, with 57 projects to knit, give and get. There are projects for creating fun, one-skein gifts, and using leftovers for 14 stash-busting ideas, plus 13 tips for your best knitting ever! Hand-knit gifts express good wishes, made with love and chosen with care. Editor Eunny Jang tells us, "Part of the beauty of the knitted gift is the ability to tailor it to the recipient -- to make it really and truly with him or her in mind". Ask to see the building block scarves knit by Betty Lou Glasso in our favorite team colors of Pittsburgh black & gold...

Socks are a small version of a big knitting project where you can play with color and stitches, perhaps our customers' most in-demand choice for a take-along project. Why socks? Why this delirium over something that requires size 1 or 2 double-pointed needles, short rowing, heel shaping, the Kitchener stitch and can result in the dreadful "second sock syndrome"? Reasons vary individually as do the knitters who adore sock knitting -- comfort, fit, portability, but above all, the fascination with those gorgeous colorful sock yarns! Toe up, toe down, boomerang heel, gusseted heels, socks are a tiny canvas for colorplay -- colors that may not work in a sweater can be very feet-fetching. For your sock knitting pleasure, we introduce two new skill-building patterns from LEAH OAKLEY ORIGINALS (\$4.00 each). "Ozmosis Socks" (shown page 5, lower left) is worked with traditional fingering weight sock yarn, and features a modified round toe, modified eye of partridge heel, and an easy-to-remember rib stitch. The heel technique has a very nice rounded edge, and, when the gusset stitches are picked up, the result is very smooth and flows just like osmosis. "Have A Nice Day" Socks has a simple 5X1 slip stitch rib pattern that is a great way to highlight beautiful hand-painted yarn. Skill-building techniques include a modified round toe, a round heel, is worked on two circular needles, and a knitted-in Arch Support (yes, we said ARCH SUPPORT) that makes this one of the most unique sock patterns we've ever seen...



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*** OUR FAVORITE DESIGNERS NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Ever since our Kristin Nicholas trunk show in August, knitters have anticipated the arrival of newly-released *Color by Kristin* (\$24.95, hardback, shown lower left). Designer Kristin Nicholas takes the mystery out of Fair Isle knitting and makes it accessible to all knitters with an excellent tutorial. She shares her unique approach to combining colors and her secrets to creating stunning designs. Lavishly illustrated with full-color photographs, *Color by Kristin* is chock-full of original patterns for gorgeously colorful sweaters, accessories, home decor items and more. Glossaries of edgings and interchangeable colorwork charts offer endless possibilities for creating your own one-of-a-kind knits. The projects in this book are all knit with Kristin's own line of vibrant yarns, NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia", and you can find the complete range of shades on our shelves now (\$7.95, 50 grams, 93 yards, 50% wool/25% mohair/25% alpaca, CYCA yarn classification 4, on sale at 10% off all month). Embrace your inner artist...

"Tis better to give than receive", the old saying goes, and what could be nicer to give (or receive!) than hand-knit gifts from the heart? In *Knitting A Kiss in Every Stitch* (\$19.95, hardcover), award-winning knitwear designer Nicky Epstein sets her needles -- and her boundless creative energy -- on handmade knitted gifts. Now, you can create gifts for people you love, and for any occasion. Our favorite is a cozy "boyfriend" scarf in three variations (ask to see our "hunter" scarf, a work in progress with ROWAN "Lima"), but we are also intrigued by the fisherman's gloves, cable-and-leaf tote, baby hats four ways, and whimsical children's hats that double as hand puppets (you've gotta take a look at the I'll Knitting Angel Hat!). Small details can make a big difference in design, and this is Nicky's unique area of expertise. If you are planning on knitting handmade gifts this holiday season, you will want to check out the clever and innovative ones in this book. There are also charity knitting ideas -- plus an extensive list of organizations that accept knitted items (if you don't already know, we are a "drop-off" center for Caps For Kids -- you can help us fill our "We Care" tree and window for Thanksgiving distribution by area food banks). "Made-with-love" items become heirlooms passed on for generations with remembrance of the knitter -- you!

Would you like to use up "stash" yarn left over from other projects? Do you need a reason to buy just one or two skeins of that new, irresistible yarn you've been drooling over? Are you looking for a quick gift? Something portable to take along? Instant gratification? If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions (or would like to), the answer is Leigh Radford's *One More Skein: 30 Quick Projects to Knit* (\$19.95, softcover). This beautiful collection features 30 unique projects that require only a small amount of yarn and a little bit of time, but deliver lots of style and satisfaction. Among them are fingerless gloves; sweaters, britches and capelets for baby; jewelry embellished with jump ring "beads"; and a multi-colored blanket worked from assorted stash yarns. Our picks are the sideways knit horizontal rib scarf and the charming circle & stripe scarf. "Two needles and one (or one more) skein of yarn -- the possibilities amaze me". That's what Radford tells us in her introduction, and what she shares with us in the pages of this book...

Attention, Debbie Macomber fans! There is now a Blossom Street Kids Book, *The Truly Terribly Horrible Sweater that Grandma Knit* (\$16.99, hardcover) to read with kids ages 3- 7. What Grandma knit into Cameron's sweater is the greatest gift of all...



*** ANNOUNCING LOUET PRODUCTS ***

An artisan can only be as good as his or her tools allow. Since 1974, the Louet team in Holland has been researching, designing, experimenting and consulting with you, the customer, to create a superior line of spinning wheels. This includes well-balanced wheels, which have been carefully and precisely engineered to be easy-to-use, durable, low-maintenance, aesthetically pleasing and productive. Certainly the best features of the Louet wheels are that they tread lightly, are easy to learn on and can be modified to satisfy the expert spinners.

Louet products are known worldwide for the excellence in quality, design and workmanship. That's why Kathy's Creations is proud to be an authorized Louet dealer. Louet manufactures its products with "green" energy, and only use timber from ecologically renewable sources. We are able to supply you with the entire line of premium Louet products, from spinning wheels to weaving looms, accessories, Louet yarns, rovings and patterns. Spinning accessories include skein winders, distaffs, Niddy Noddys, hand carders, drum carders, combs, Lazy Kates, bobbins, drive belts, replacement parts and the complete range of natural and dyed rovings for spinning (or felting), in amounts as small as one half-pound (to try our a new fiber) or larger quantities for projects.

When you purchase your wheel at Kathy's Creations, you receive a free spinning lesson, and a free half-pound of roving. We have a Louet spinning wheel on hand (pardon the pun) at the shop -- stop by for a demo and a spin. We also offer lessons by appointment, for beginner to advanced spinning. We also carry locally handmade maple drop spindles, which are well-balanced and easy to use...

*** THE "WE CARE" TREE ***

The Laurel Highlands Knitting guild needs help with its annual "Caps For Kids" project. The program distributes warm winter items (hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, slippers sweaters, etc.) to children in need in our neighboring communities through the Westmoreland County and Fayette County Food Banks and local service unit of the Salvation Army.

You may have noticed a tree in our window. It's bare branches and the empty boxes underneath are slowly being filled with items donated by our customers for "Caps For Kids". Why now? We need to send items to the area agencies by Thanksgiving so they can prepare them for December distribution. We invite you to participate in this community service project by donating new hand-knit, hand-crocheted or purchased commercially-made hats, mittens, gloves, headbands, scarves, socks, sweaters, etc. We are including patterns in this newsletter for inspiration. When you bring in your donations (please gift-tag with your name if you wish), we will put them in the window display, in the boxes or hang them on the tree. On behalf of "Caps For Kids", your support and participation are greatly appreciated...

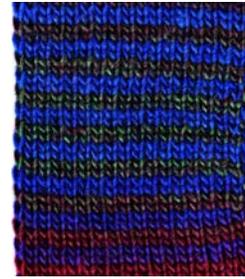
*** KNITTING TIP FOR SOCK SIZING GIFTS ***

Janet Klaus shared her tip for keeping a "step ahead" with holiday gift projects. When Janet's family is together (or when the opportunity presents itself), she gets a tracing of their feet! Use sturdy cardboard to trace each family member's foot so you have accurate measurements for fit and a rigid template. Try the sock on the template periodically while you are knitting the recipient's gift socks. Janet keeps her friends and families "feet" in manila envelopes when not in use, so she is always sure to put her "best foot forward". Thank you, Janet!



*** COLOR STRIPE SCARF ***

This easy 1X1 ribbed scarf was shared with us by Barbara McIntire (shown right). She adapted it from the generic 1X1 ribbed scarf mentioned in a 2007 blog by Jared Flood. We think it is an interesting use of self-stripping yarns and our shop model in progress is worked with two complementary shades of CRYSTAL PALACE "Mochi Plus" yarn introduced last spring (\$8.95, 50 grams, 95 yards, 80% merino wool / 20% nylon, CYCA yarn classification 4) .



SIZE: Approx. 6" X 64", rib slightly stretched

MATERIALS: 200 yards each worsted weight self-stripping yarn in two complementary contrasting colors; US size 9 knitting needles OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE

GAUGE: 5.5 sts / 7.5 rows = 1" in rib pattern stitch (not critical)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 34 stitches.

Pattern Row (all rows): slip 1 st as if to purl, knit 1, *purl 1, knit 1; repeat from * across to end.

Work in pattern, changing colors every 2nd row, until piece measures 64" or desired length. Bind off all sts in rib pattern. Weave in all ends. Thanks, Barbara!

*** RIBBED WATCH CAP ***

MATERIALS: 200 yards PLYMOUTH ENCORE TWEED worsted weight yarn; US size 6 circular knitting needle 16" length; US size 6 double-pointed knitting needles (dpns); stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 5 stitches / 7 rounds = 1" in stockinette stitch

APPROXIMATE FINISHED SIZES: small to fit large child (medium to fit average adult and large to fit large adult in parentheses); will stretch to fit

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 108 (116 - 124) sts. Join; being careful not to twist stitches. Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 3". Begin pattern:

Round 1: Knit all stitches.

Round 2: *K2, P2; rep from * around.

Repeat these two round until piece measures 7" (8" -9"), end with round 2 of pattern.

Corwn Shaping (change to dpns when necessary):

First decrease round: *K2, P2tog (purl 2 together); repeat from * around: 81 (87 - 93) sts. Work in K2, P1 ribbing for 4 rounds.

Second decrease round: *K2tog (knit 2 together), P1; repeat from * around: 54 (58 - 62) sts. Work in K1, P1 ribbing for 3 rounds.

Third decrease round: *K2tog; repeat from * around: 27 (29 - 31) sts. Knit 1 round.

Fourth decrease round: *K2tog; repeat from * around, end K1: 14 (15 - 16) sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a tail about 6" long. Thread tail through remaining stitches, pulling up tightly. Fasten off, Weave in tail . Turn back cuff folded up about 1 - 1.5".

ADDITIONAL SIZING: To adjust size, add or subtract in multiple of 4 stitches.

DESIGN OPTIONS: Substitute a self-stripping wool for a colorful but easy variation (Manos Wool Classica would be warm and cozy), or do some stash busting by using leftover odds and ends of worsted weight yarns.

*** CROCHET CORNER TIP ***

The center stitch in an outer corner on a square or rectangular crochet item may need to be longer than the other stitches if a sharp point, rather than a slightly curved corner is desired. Try working a triple crochet instead of double crochet, if you think the original corner is not precise enough. Remember to repeat this in every corner...



*** JANE'S HELIX HAT ***

This hat was presented as a program to the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild by Jane Armstrong. Jane tells us that she adapted this pattern from a variation, and has made several for charity. Her CAPS FOR KIDS hats can be found on our "We Care" tree. Thanks for sharing this "recipe" with us, Jane!

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn in three contrasting colors, approx. 75 yards each (main color MC, A & B); US size 6 & US size 7 circular knitting needles 16" length; US size 7 double-pointed needles (dpns); stitch marker
FINISHED SIZE: Head circumference approx. 20" when finished (child's medium to large)

GAUGE: approx. 5 sts / 7 rounds per inch

DIRECTIONS: With main color (MC) & smaller circular needles, cast on 80 stitches.

Place marker & join, being careful not to twist stitches. Work in K1, P1 or K2, P2 ribbing of choice for 1". If a fold-back cuff is desired, work for 3".

When ribbing is the desired length, change to larger circular needle. Knit 1 round in MC, increasing 4 stitches evenly spaced: 84 sts.

Next round: Knit 21 sts (1/4 of the total number of stitches) in MC, weaving in color A on the 21st stitch. Knit the next 42 stitches (1/2 of the total) with color A. Weave in color B on the 42nd stitch. Knit with color B until you reach the MC hanging down (42 more stitches or 1/2 the total). Pick up MC, making sure the last stitch of color A and the first stitch of color B are loose knit on to the next tail. Do NOT twist colors, just pick up the hanging yarn and knit on. Continue in this manner picking up the colors as you come to them and knitting around piece measures approx. 6" from beginning cast on round.

Crown Shaping (7-point decrease), continuing color sequence changing

Round 1: *Knit 10, K2tog (knit 2 together); repeat from * around.

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: *K9, K2tog; repeat from 8 around.

Round 4: Knit.

Change to dpns when necessary. Continue to decrease in this manner, working one less stitch between decreases on every other round until 42 stitches remain, then decrease every round. "At about K4, K2tog, cut the color A and weave it in. Repeat with color B, & work remainder of hat with MC. Decrease down to K2tog all around".

Cut yarn, leaving an 8" tail. Draw the tail through the remaining stitches and pull up tightly. Weave in all ends. Add pompom or embellishment, if desired.

*** CHRISTMAS IN LIGONIER VALLEY ***

Get away from the hectic pace of the holidays and visit Ligonier for a step back in time. Join Ligonier Valley merchants to kick off the traditional shopping season on Friday, November 27, 2009, from 9 am - 5 pm, and hang around for Light-Up on the Diamond when Santa arrives at 6:30 pm. From Thanksgiving weekend thto Christmas, enjoy free two hour parking on Saturdays. We will be participating in the own-wide Open House on Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. The Festival of Lights with more than 50 decorated trees & wreaths will be displayed at the Ligonier Town Hall Community Room from Saturday, December 5, 2009, through Sunday, December 13, 2009. Look for our wreath with rug punch ornaments handmade and designed by Nancy Caldwell...



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, November 2, 2009, and January 4, 2010; 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore Cafe, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. There will be no gathering in December because of holiday activities

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, November 10, 2009, and December 8, 2009, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** FUN FRIDAY, November 13, 2009, and December 11, 2009; 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Jyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration) *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Joyce 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 knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor.

***** UPCOMING SKILL-BUILDING CLASSES (ask to see class project samples on display) *****

"Intro to Rug Punch" with instructor Tracey Earhart Saturday, November 7, 2009; 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm; registration fee \$50.00 Beginner class, includes frame, Monk's cloth, instruction and use of templates. Needle and yarn additional purchase.

"Socks In The Morning" with instructor Tracey Earhart Saturday, November 14, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:00 noon; registration fee \$25.00 Beginner class; class supplies not included. Tracey demystifies the secrets to successful sock knitting and working with double-pointed needles as you make a baby or toddler sock

"Intermediate Rug Punch Class" with instructor Tracey Earhart Saturday, November 14, 2009; 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm; registration fee \$50.00 This class advances Rug Punchers to new levels of design transfers, creating patterns, working with different materials, building frames, punch-hooking a big rug, Christmas ornaments and more. Open to students who have completed an introductory class with Tracey. Bring your frame and Oxford Rug punch needle(s). All supplies -- except yarns -- included in the cost of the class.

*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 4 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, Oxford rug punch, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for almost 30 years!

In the fall 2009 issue of KNITTER'S MAGAZINE, editor Rick Mondragon tells us, "We are surrounded by amazing things -- and, besides nature, everything else is a creation of human hands and technology. As you begin your next project, be reminded of the decisions you make -- the orchestration of needles, yarn, stitches, and pattern -- as you feed your senses". Stress less, be thankful for friends and family, be grateful for the ways in which fiberarts add to the enrichment of our lives, and KEEP KNITTING & STITCHING ! Kathy