



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
NOVEMBER 2010 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

Stitching feeds our creative spirit and gives us a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. It has a relaxing, zen-like focusing effect. It can shut out the world when life becomes too hectic and demanding. It is portable, perfect for "on the go", when gathering with friends, or simply enjoying quiet time at home. As we compile our holiday gift lists, there is that "comfort and joy" feeling of making a beautiful handcrafted gift and seeing the recipient's eyes open with delight when they unwrap your knitted or crocheted treasure. We call this a "handmade hug".

Although we don't have any magic needles or hooks to help you get all your holiday projects done on time, we've got a wonderful selection of the latest yarns, accessories and gadgets to make your stitching fun. And, if all else fails, we've actually done some holiday knitting for you. We've got the largest selection of ready-to-go handknitted items in Kathy's Kreations history, ready to be boxed and wrapped, including mitts, hats, scarves, felted slippers, wine toppers, shawls, ornaments and much more. Make Kathy's Kreations your "handmade" headquarters!

"NOVEMBER IS ALPACA MONTH"

**All regularly-priced 100% alpaca & alpaca yarns in stock
are 10% off throughout November 2010**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

THINK THURSDAYS!

We're open 'til 7 pm Thursdays (except Thanksgiving)
12 noon - 4 pm Sundays (weather permitting, please call ahead)
Free KNIT AND CROCHET-IN every Thursday from 5 - 7 pm -- come & stitch!

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



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Nothing beats a cold, crisp fall morning like a warm, cozy sweater. BERROCCO YARNS in their e-newsletter #364 states, "What signals the start of fall for you? It could be the slight chill in the air, or the first crunchy rustle of russet leaves accumulating on the ground. It could be the roadside cider stands and the irrepresible urge to cast on more projects than you can possibly manage at once! Channel that impulse into stockpiling gifts before the winter snow starts swirling". Here's what's new to spark your creativity and help you get a jump start on gift knitting...

INTERWEAVE KNITS presents *Holiday Gifts 2010* (\$14.99, shown upper left) featuring over 60 projects to celebrate the holidays. In her column, editor Eunny Jang writes, "Everyone's reasons for making things by hand are different. But we all know that pure, elemental drive; the idea that something made with love has value and meaning." The pages of this issue are filled with everything from quick, simple bagatelles to intricate treasures for special folks -- bright pops of color, knits for cozy spaces, lovely vintage lace, super-warm accessories, fast knits in big yarns, mix-and-match projects to customize, pretty toys, and clever takes on classics. Our personal favorites are the toddler-sized fruit market hats. Grab your needles and a special yarn and get inspired to knit, give and get...

Any of us who are interested in the needlearts is "connected" by thread in some fashion. PIECEWORK MAGAZINE November / December 2010 (\$6.99) is a tribute to all manner of thread. Silk is one of the season's most popular fibers, and there is a fascinating article about the story of silk. Projects include fancy silk mittens to knit, a holly berry cowl to knit, a fan edging to crochet, and an Orenburg shawl to crochet. There is also an interesting profile of BROWN SHEEP COMPANY, which is located on a "century" farm, property owned continuously by a single family for 100 years or more...

New from CHRIS BYLSMA DESIGNS is "Kaleidoscope" (\$6.50). Angles, colors, textures and shapes all come together in this whimsical, one-of-a kind color-blocked pullover that's as much fun to wear as it is to knit. This is a terrific stash buster project...

In INTERWEAVE CROCHET *Accessories* (\$7.99, shown lower right), editor Marcy Smith comments, "Small though they are, accessories enrich our lives in many ways. Their most practical purpose is to provide warmth: a hat to keep out the chill, a scarf to close the gap at the top of a coat, mitts to keep our hands warm. But really, accessories are a style statement. Reflecting someone's personality with the right hat brim, a richly textured scarf, a perfectly fitting pair of socks -- these make the crocheter and recipient happy." You'll find more than 40 new designs for accessories to keep you covered head to toe. Some will take an hour to make, others longer, giving you time to think about the people you are making them for -- even if that person is you. Several small projects are great candidates for a luxury ball of yarn, others are perfect for gifts in a hurry. There are also wonderful ideas for cold-weather items suitable for charity gifts (we'll be glad to accept them for our "We Care Tree"). Whether you're seeking the perfect finishing touch to an outfit or the perfect gift for someone special, you'll find it in this issue...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Cowls, collars, and scarves are the season's neck's best thing. New from LISA KNITS is "AC-023 Chill Chasers" (\$4.00, shown right). Designer Lisa Carnahan worked this trio in Aran weight yarn, and these three collars are sure to guard against the chill of wintry winds...



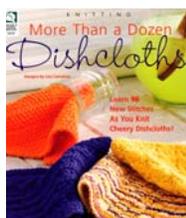
Also new from Lisa Carnahan is "More Than A Dozen Dishcloths" (\$7.95, shown lower left), which encourages knitters to learn 16 new stitches as they knit cheery dishcloths. The stitches are simple, and each can be completed in just 1-2 hours time with worsted weight cotton yarn. These portable projects are perfect for filling the "dead" times, be it waiting in the car, at appointments, or during the kids' practice sessions. The patterns in this book are all easy, and one is so easy that it is rated "beginner". There are interesting combinations of knit and purl, eyelet and simple lace patterns, diagonal and travelling stitches, increases, decreases, slip stitch patterns, and mock cables. A beginner will learn many useful skills and more advanced knitters will find the patterns interesting. This booklet reflects Lisa's fine eye for detail resulting in a well-crafted book that is pleasing to read and use...

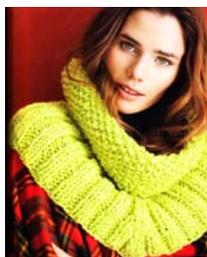
Our yarn spotlight is on MANOS DEL URUGUAY "Maxima" (\$12.50, 100 grams, 219 yards, CYCA #4, 100% extrafine merino wool), a super soft and squishy, versatile, fair trade kettle-dyed yarn. The worsted weight one-ply construction makes it a great all-purpose yarn, and the fantastic yardage makes it perfect for one-skein projects. Fun, bright, intense colors will make your handmade items stand out from the crowd!

This season marks a return to the vibrant, quick-knitting fun of chunky, multicolored yarns. Our clear customer favorite thus far is BERROCO YARNS "Borealis" (\$14.50, 100 grams, 108 yards, 60% acrylic / 40% wool). Unique dyeing processes result in shimmering prismatic, jewel-toned colorways to entertain your eye. Quick-knitting and silky soft, "Borealis" is a joy to knit and wear. Check out our new arrivals and Dotty Griffin's gorgeous cowl (free pattern on page 6 of this newsletter)...

It was our pleasure to be a LOUET vendor at the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet's Yarn Tasting at Churchill Country Club in early October. In addition to over one dozen new patterns for shawls and sweaters, new shades of "Gems" fine / sport weight (\$13.95, 100 grams, 225 yards, CYCA #2, 100% merino wool) are here. Sock knitters rave about "Gems" for super-comfy footwear. Additional shades of "Eastport" (\$17.50, 75 grams / 150 yards, 70% USA alpaca / 30% merino wool, CYCA #3) are now available...

Our November love affair with alpaca fiber continues with the addition of KRAEMER YARNS Made-in-the-USA "Alpaca Handknitting Yarn" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 70% alpaca / 30% merino, CYCA #3). Kathy is hard at work designing for KRAEMER with this fabulous natural yarn -- look for news about an Aran-inspired vest in future updates. Another new alpaca arrival is KOLLAGE YARNS "Solace" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 91 yards, 70% alpaca / 30% silk, CYCA #4), which may look familiar to some -- it is last year's popular "Glisten" without the estellina sparkle. This is a fabulous choice for men's designs and Kathy's choice for the "Walking The Dog" pattern, being offered as a class next month...





*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

You've been waiting all summer for this book to come out and it is finally here. We're talking about *Cowl Girls* (\$19.95, softcover), shown left) by Cathy Carron -- it's the neck's big thing to knit! Get thrown for a loop with more than 40 dazzling designs for cowls, gaiters, snoods, bandannas, collars, necklaces and more. *Cowl Girls* brings the hottest new accessory from the runway to your needles. This is the hippest, hottest accessory out there. There are patterns for knitters of every skill level and there's sure to be at least a few that are just so you...

One Ball Knits is back with fresh, modern gifts, all made with just one ball, hank or skein of yarn. Complete with an illustrated "Basics" section covering yarn, tools, essential techniques and finishes like felting, embroidery, and sewing, *One Ball Gifts* (\$18.99, softcover) is all you need to make memorable treasures to give and share -- whether this is your first project or your hundred and first. And you don't need to spend a lot of money to make these knitted beauties -- just use those leftover gems in your stash. Who on your list wouldn't love to get Toasty Toes Slippers? Or treat that special someone with Little Red Driving Gloves. With 20 projects, there's a fun gift idea here for everyone...

The editors of *Vogue Knitting* magazine present the most comprehensive and stylish collection of mittens and gloves available today. Featuring designs from more than 20 years of knitting, *Vogue Knitting Mittens & Gloves* (\$24.95, hardcover) is the go-to book for mittens, gloves and everything in between. It includes more than 40 patterns by today's leading designers, with projects to challenge expert knitters as well as those just starting to knit. There are hand warmers to suit every occasion, from an evening at the theater to a neighborhood snowball fight. *Vogue Knitting* brings you an indispensable resource for mitten and glove patterns. You won't be able to keep your hands off it...

The NEW Knitter's Template (\$24.99, hardcover, spiral bound) by Laura Bryant and Barry Klein is your guide to custom fit and style. Back by popular demand, this is the must-have guidebook for anyone who wants to stitch knits that fit and flatter! You'll find the techniques and templates from the original edition, plus the answers to frequently-asked questions. Choose from nine gauges and 16 sizes as you customize your designs. Indulge your creativity with styling details such as body length, neckline shaping, and armhole type. Discover more freedom in your knitting with these versatile templates. Tailor any pattern to suit your size and personal style...

Love the appeal of quick knits? Check out *Twinkle's Seventh Avenue* by Wenlan Chia (\$14.95, booklet), distributed by CLASSIC ELITE YARNS. There are six stunning runway designs, all knit with superbulky yarn -- whether you are looking for a cowl scarf, vest, or tunic. If you like to knit fast, these designs are not only fast, but fashion-forward...

New from REGIA are two journals: "Classic Styles" (\$7.50, booklet) features scarves, socks, berets, headbands and mitts all worked with our new "Extra Twist Merino" yarn; and "Jazz Colours" by Erica Knight (\$6.50, booklet) which includes trend-setting fingerless gauntlets, a slouchy hat and cool socks to warm your tootsies...

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

It's time to help the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild 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.

Once again, we will have the "We Care" tree in our window. The 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 around 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. 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...

*** CHRISTMAS IN LIGONIER VALLEY ***

Get away from the hectic pace of the holidays and visit Ligonier for a step back in time. We will be participating in the town-wide Open House on Sunday, December 5, 2010 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 4, 2010, through Sunday, December 12, 2010. Look for our "There's No Business Like Snow Business" wreath with handknit snowmen ornaments handmade and designed by Nancy Caldwell...

*** QUICK FIX ***

Duplicate stitch technique can be used to correct mistakes in color knitting (cover over the errant stitch with the proper color) or for small color accents. It also comes in handy to repair areas where the yarn is split or "weak". Thread a blunt tapestry needle with a length of yarn, cover the "weak" stitch with an embroidered stitch, following the flow of the yarn. Duplicate stitch on the wrong side of the work is useful for weaving in ends in the middle of a row when knitting circularly. Kathy will be doing quick designer demos on this and other techniques during our Thanksgiving Open House...

*** WHAT SIZE SHOULD I MAKE? ***

Before you cast on even one stitch for that beautiful fall sweater you've got planned, you need to decide what size to make. This can be confusing, but with a little planning, you can easily choose your perfect size.

First, take your actual chest measurement at the fullest point of the chest. Decide how much ease (roominess) you would like in the finished garment. This is usually very individualized and will depend on the weight of the yarn, fit (oversized drape vs. more fitted). This fit is generally noted on the pattern instructions.

If you aren't sure how much ease you would like, measure a piece of clothing that fits you the way you would like your sweater to fit. This is also a good way to determine your preferred sleeve and body length. For more help with fit or sizing problems, sign up for Kathy's "Fearless Knitting" class in January...



*** GARTER STITCH DISHCLOTH (shown right) ***

Thanks to Peggy McFeaters for sharing her basic dishcloth pattern!

FINISHED SIZE: 9.5" X 9.5"

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH YARN "Fantasy Naturale" 1 hank; US size 8
knitting needles; tapestry needle for weaving ends

GAUGE: 4 sts / 8 rows = 1" in garter stitch

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 37 stitches.

Rows 1- 8 : Knit.

Row 9: Knit 5, *yarn over (yo), K2 tog (knit two together); repeat from * to last 4
stitches, knit 4.

Row 10: Knit.

Row 11: Knit 5 stitches, yo, K2tog; knit across to last 6 stitches, end yo, K2tog, knit 4.

Repeat rows 10 & 11 for 48 rows, then work row 10 once.

Work next row as for row 9. Knit 7 rows. Bind off all stitches as if to knit. Weave in ends.



*** FASHION TIP ***

Judy Tlumac suggest wearing a pair of thin stretchy gloves underneath handknit fingerless mitts for added warmth. Great tip for driving on chilly November mornings. Try them with Kathy's basic ribbed mitts. Thanks, Judy!

*** KATHY'S BASIC MITTS (worked flat, back & forth then seamed) ***

MATERIALS: US # 7 needles; Aran weight yarn approx. 175 yards; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 6 sts / 6 rows = 1" in rib, unstretched

DIRECTIONS (make 2): CO 36 sts.

Set-up Row (wrong side): P3; *K2, P2; rep from * across to last st, end P1.

Row 1: K3; *P2, K2; rep from * across to last st, end K1.

Row 2: P3; *K2, P2; rep from * across to last st, end P1.

Rep rows 1 & 2 until piece measures 6.5" or desired length, end with row 2. BO all sts in rib pat. Finishing (right side): with tapestry needle, sew seam for approx. 2" for knuckle area. Leave approx. 1.5" open for thumb area. Sew seam over remaining 3" for wrist area & cuff.

*** ETERNITY RING COWL ***

Cowls are a versatile addition to your winter wardrobe. A cowl is basically a circular knit tube which is slipped over the neck for warmth. The advantages are that you can't get it caught as easily in a door like a scarf, it is great for layering (outdoors or indoors), there are no loose ends to deal with, and it is hard to lose them because they stay in place around the neck. We've worked ours in a drapey yarn -- thanks to Dotty Griffin for the idea and model loan!

SIZES: close-fitted to neck (deeper size in parentheses)

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 26" (29.5") circumference X 15.5" (16.5") long

MATERIALS: BERROCO "Borealis" 2 (3) hanks; US 11 circ needle 24" length; stitch marker

GAUGE: 11.5 sts / 16 rows = 4" (gauge not critical)

DIRECTIONS: With circ needles, cast on 75 (85) sts. Join and place marker, being careful not to twist stitches. Knit all rounds until piece measures 15.5" (16.5"). Bind off all stitches loosely. Weave in ends.



*** OUR FALL KNITTING WORKSHOP ***

Kathy Zimmerman of Kathy's Kreations and Carol Smith, formerly of Carol's Yarn Shop in Accident, MD, invite you to join us for a knitting workshop in historic Ligonier, PA on November 12, 13, and 14, 2010. This is a two-day event to be held at the Ramada Inn taught by famous knitter and designer Kathy Zimmerman. The workshop will teach "Fair Isle Knitting" and Braided Knitting techniques with a jeans purse project, "Finishing Techniques", & a needle-felted Christmas ornament taught by Carolyn Collen-Dubuse.

The weekend package includes an after-hours pizza party and special shopping time at Kathy's Kreations (attendees receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced yarns and accessories in stock), two breakfasts, two lunches, classes Saturday and Sunday, selected class supplies, "free time" to shop in the pretty town of Ligonier and goodie bags. The price is \$175 per person. Rooms are not included, but the Ramada Inn has set up a special rate for attendees, so please make your own reservations by calling 724-238-9545. Space is limited to only 25 people, so please e-mail us and send a check for the full amount of \$175 to Kathy's Kreations @ 141 East Main Street; Ligonier, PA 15658. For questions, please contact Carol Smith at 724-757-4858.

*** WHERE'S KATHY??? ***

- Knitter's Retreat at Bedford Springs Spa and Resort November 5 - 7, 2010, Bedford, PA; Bedford Springs Spa Mitt, an original design by Kathy especially for this retreat workshop (for info, call 724-963-7030 or e-mail pghknitandcrochet@gmail.com)
- Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival (Market); February 11-13, 2011; Four Points Sheraton North; Mars, PA (for info call 724-963-7030 or e-mail above address)
- Stitches West; February 17-20, 2011, Santa Clara, California; teaching classes including Knit To Fit, Create-A-Cable, Slip Stitch Savvy, Intro to Combining Lace & Cable Patterns

*** THANKSGIVING WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE ***

Join Ligonier Valley merchants to kick off the traditional shopping season on Friday, November 26, 2010, from 9 am - 5 pm, and hang around for Light-Up on the Diamond when Santa arrives at 6:30 pm. Join us for our annual Open House on Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27, 2010, from 9 am - 5 pm, and Sunday, November 28, 2010, from 12 noon - 4 pm.

*** FASHIONISTAS, BEWARE ***

From October 2010 *Yarn Market News* article "Supersize Me": "Superbulgies are the pituitary cases of the fiber world. Knitting up at 1.5 to 2.75 stitches to the inch, these are your instant-gratification yarns, the ones you turn to when you need a quick gift or "palette" cleanser between long projects. As much as we enjoy these large lovelies, approach with caution: a body-conscious pullover knit in a biggie yarn can lend a Michelin-man aspect. On the other hand, an oversized vest or shrug with forgiving ease can make you look modern and fresh."

3 st per inch biggies on our shelves: BERROCO "Borealis", done up in impressionistic multis, is a pretty-as-a-painting single that shimmers like Monet; PLYMOUTH "Baby Alpaca Grande" is lustrous and creamy; and SKACEL COLLECTION /AUSTERMANN "Murano" is a big ball that is also big on fashion and style...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate, Greensburg, PA on the first Monday of each month: **Mondays, November 1, 2010, and December 6, 2010, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit!



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***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, November 9, 2010, and December 14, 2010; 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! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, November 19, 2010, and December 17, 2010; 10 am - 2 pm *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! An instructor 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...

***** WALKING THE DOG HAT OR MITTS" Saturday, December 11, 2010, 1pm - 4 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; \$20.00 registration fee plus pattern purchase *****

The newest installment in KOLLAGE YARNS "Feed Your Creativity" Series is the "Dog Walking Trio" (shown upper right), designed by our own Kathy. Worked in "Solace", "Glisten" or "Fantastic" yarn, this set features a seed stitch scarf with pocket (to carry dog treats, your credit card & key), a matching hat, and mittens with fold-back tops. The set is worked in three shades, alternating colors every row, and garter stitch accents. Choose to make the hat or mitts in class -- how often do you get a chance to take a class with the designer of the project?

***** "FEARLESS KNITTING WORKSHOP" Saturday January 15, 2011, 1 pm - 4 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; \$20.00 registration fee* *****

Are you intimidated by that project you've been longing to knit but are afraid to attempt because it looks too hard, you don't know how to make it fit your body, you've never knit a cardigan, etc. Kathy will share her professional designer expertise with you to help you master new skills and confidentially tackle that challenge.

*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 bad 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. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills are being planned, or 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 30 years !

Our best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday -- we're grateful to you, our customers, for your support and for making us your favorite local yarn shop. KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!
Kathy