



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
NOVEMBER 2011 UPDATE

Dear Stitches,

Have you ever thought about how yarn inspires you? Maybe your creativity is sparked by the beautiful colors in hand-painted yarn. Perhaps you're attracted by the variety of textures or the rustic nature of wooly tweeds. Yet again, maybe it is the endless possibilities presented by one fabulous skein and what you can make with your own two hands. We at Kathy's Kreations are drawn to yarn for all of these reasons. We've pulled together a fabulous collection of yarn, patterns and accessories for fall and holiday stitching and beyond.

As Rick Mondragon tells us in his *Knitter's Magazine K104* editorial, "Days are getting shorter, darker, cooler. And nothing can chase away the blues quicker than needles and yarn. Ask any knitter. There are times when a simple project frees us to ponder more pressing matters; at other times, a pattern engages us so thoroughly that we concentrate on it rather than other concerns". For projects that come together quickly and others that take time, you supply the creativity and we'll supply everything else!

NOVEMBER IS "RELAX, HANDKNIT, CREATE" MONTH

All regularly-priced ROWAN YARNS

in stock are 10% off throughout November 2011

All NASHUA HANDKNITS yarns and pattern booklets in stock are 25% off

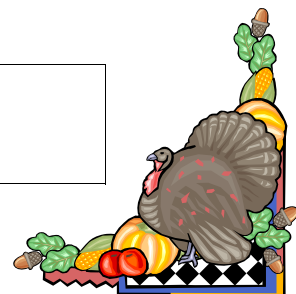
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday

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

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 ***

OK, it's officially sweater weather. The leaves are almost off the trees, the air is definitely crisp, and before long, snowflakes will be flying. The countdown to the holiday gifting season has begun, with knitters and crocheters eagerly picking up needles, hooks and yarn. At Kathy's Kreations, we've got a lot to celebrate. There's a brand new sign above our yarn shop and Kathy's long-awaited, much-anticipated sweater designs for *Knitter's Magazine* are finally here. KATHY'S SWEATER IS ON THE COVER! Without further ado, let us introduce K104 (shown upper left, \$5.95) featuring Kathy's "Autumn Delight" cardigan on the front, a play of color blocking and texture. The contrasting bands and top-stitched raglan ribs offer a festive salute to the fall season. About this design, worked in KOLLAGE YARNS "Fantastic", *Knitter's* says: "Texture and color evoke the riches of an autumn harvest. The apricot, navy, and eggplant are perfect foils for the applied-armhole trim, ridged hem, and contrasting button bands". The handsome companion pullover, "Woodsman" (shown lower right) combines solids with a coordinating marl for quiet sophistication with rugged appeal. Worked with UNIVERSAL YARNS / FIBRA NATURA "Shepherd's Own", *Knitter's* says: "Natural-colored wool in 2 solids and a coordinating marl are the perfect choice for a classic man's sweater. This pullover is detailed with applied-cable panels at the armholes, and welted cuffs and waistband".

The theme for this issue is "Take It From the Top", and you'll be going round in circles with uniquely constructed sweaters, shawls, capes, skirts, even hats, and accessories. In many cases, the knitting starts simply with a few stitches that grow to full dimensions. I-cords -- those made by you or from one of the new I-cord yarns like our BERROCO "Link" (\$29.95, 200 grams, 32 yards, 50% wool / 50% acrylic, CYCA #6) -- can be seamed together for fun accessories. These unusual gems do not even require knitting needles but can be sewn with long seams.

Keeping focus around the neck, there are collars, round yoke cardigans in Fair Isle, cables or simple stripes, and a sideways knit cabled yoke. Classic triangle shawls can be constructed easily, with endless options that you can customize. "Rounding" out the projects are classic and elegant wardrobe options, and a "take me anywhere" vest. This issue is jam-packed with plenty of ideas for beautiful knits from your heart and hands...

We are officially a FIESTA "Color Cruise 2012" shop! We will receive a "surprise" limited edition colorway in a couple of select hand-dyed FIESTA YARNS. The gorgeous October colorway is Rio De Janiero, a mix of tomato red, eggplant, marigold, and bright gold. This color is only available in "La Boheme Starburst" (\$38.95, 4 oz., 165 yards, an Aran weight two-strand yarn combining rayon, brushed mohair, and a subtle metallic), "Tenero" (\$36.50, 2 oz., 70 yards, a bulky weight chunky boucle blend of cashmere, merino and polyamide, CYCA #5), 32 degree (\$29.95, 100 grams, 190 yards, 40% baby alpaca / 40% extrafine merino / 20% silk, CYCA #4), and "Cottonista" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 110 yards, 50% peruvian pima cotton / 50% tencel, DK weight, CYCA #3). Also on our shelves is "Baby Boom" in the rich Spirit of the Southwest colors (\$28.95, 90% extrafine superwash merino / 10% nylon, 4 oz., 440 yards, CYCA #2). New pattern support is "Ruffled Vest" (\$6.50) for "La Boheme", with a model in the lavish "peacock" colorway in progress. Make us your favorite "port of call" for colorful luxury fibers...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Ruffles Rule and Slippers Slip into our Top 10 best-selling patterns for fall:

- 10) Felted Slippers by French Press Knits \$6.95; a girly-girl ballet slipper adorned with a sparkly button strap
- 9) Maid Marian crocheted vintage cloche hat by Grace Akhrem \$6.50
- 8) Robin Hood knitted hat with brim by Grace Akhrem \$6.50
- 7) Aestlight Shawl by Shetland Trader \$6.50 (shown upper right); a fingering weight shawl knit using traditional Shetland construction. Enjoy the garter stitch goodness wrapped around your neck! Try it with Madelinetosh "Tosh Sock" or "Pashmina"
- 6) Spectra by Westknits \$6.50; lightweight scarf with short row shaping creates a dramatically curved edge that coils and drapes. Basic intarsia technique entwines two strands of yarn, creating seamless wedges that resemble a color wheel.
- 5) Blue Whale by Westknits \$6.50; arched shawl constructed using three simple stitch patterns (stockinette, reverse stockinette, and seed stitch), making it a completely reversible design. The unique shape drapes easily across the shoulders.
- 4) Just Enough Ruffles Scarf by Cosmicpluto \$5.50; worsted weight scarf is shaped with short rows and gently curves towards the ends -- perfect for wrapping around your neck without bulk
- 3) Bowties Scarf by Knit One, Crochet Too \$4.50; two garter stitch lengths worked with two shades of self-striping "Paint Box" yarn with and connected with bowtie fingers
- 2) Linen Stitch Scarf by Churchmouse Designs \$5.50; continues to be one of our longest running, best-sellers; woven appearance, worked with three different colorways of CLAUDIA HANDPAINT YARNS "Fingering Merino" (new colors in stock)
- 1) Bias Before & After Scarf \$5.50 by Churchmouse Designs; twin shawls, one solid and one handpainted "Silky Alpaca Lace" by CLASSIC ELITE YARNS (new handpainted shades in stock)



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The Shetland Trader

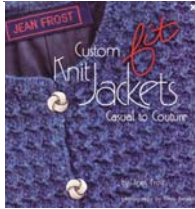
Attention, spinners! We now have luxurious KRAEMER YARNS "Alpaca Roving". This blend of 70% North American alpaca and 30% Merino wool is available in 4 natural shades: rose gray, fawn, natural and brown (\$40 per one pound bag). KRAEMER "Sterling Silk & Silver" roving is also available in off-white shades, ready for hand-dyeing (\$60 per one pound bag)...

CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS "At Home" Pattern Collection, with photography by Jared Flood, is here (\$5.50 each). Patterns include:

- Easy Folded Poncho (shown lower left): our favorite poncho transcends the trends; an easy to knit & finish (just one long stockinette rectangle), with or without cowl
- Two-Way Ruffled Scarf: each one-skein scarf can be knit in simple stockinette or easy eyelet lace, then worn on its own or layered one inside the other for double ruffle drama. Go for high contrast or soft, subtle shades. Oh, the possibilities!
- Shoulder Cozy: Capelet, poncho, or cowl -- however you wear it, it's the perfect touch of warmth for all seasons. Project knits up in an evening!
- Lace-Back Fingerless Gloves : the perfect project for learning about lace; 3 different charts with varying degrees of difficulty
- Simple Mohair Wrap & Afghan in 2 gauges: graceful shawl or elegant throw -- perfect for new knitters or "zen" knitting
- Other arrivals are One Big Granny Square throw & pillow (crochet); Cashmere Beret; Ribbed Pencil Skirt; Straight Skirt; Picot-Edge Mohair Throw; Frothy Crocheted Scarf or Wrap



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Churchmouse Yarns



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

The highlight of Stitches Midwest and Stitches East Markets was a new book from Jean Frost, *Custom Fit Knit Jackets: Casual to Couture* (\$24.95, softcover, shown left). Jean Frost -- the recognized master of handknit jackets -- demystifies fit. Her Master-Pattern approach works for bodies big and tall, short and small, or anywhere in-between. It's a PROCESS: a series of steps you can understand, practice, and perfect. A few informed choices later, you'll arrive at a custom-fit jacket. Anticipate the pleasure you'll feel each time you wear it. For jacket success -- not just one time, but EVERY time. The trunk show garments plus Master Fit Pattern will be arriving at Kathy's Kreations soon -- please stay in touch for upcoming show dates! We're thrilled to be among the first yarn shops in the country to receive the trunk show...

Our customers are still raving about Sally Melville's "Essential Skills" workshop this fall. Sally's book, *Warm Knits, Cool Gifts* (\$22.99, soft cover) is once again in stock. With shawls to wrap up in, hats to pull over our ears, wool sweaters to keep us warm, and ornaments for the tree, the cooler months lend themselves to knitting like no other time of the year. In this book, knitting superstars mother & daughter Sally Melville and Caddy Melville Ledbetter share more than 35 of their most inspired patterns for the seasons that are perfect for gifting. Filled with patterns from modern designs to heirloom pieces, this book offers gift inspiration for everyone on your list. Isn't it time for you to celebrate your love of knitting by making something for friends and family?

*** NEW MAGAZINES ***

Simple, stylish, spirited -- it's a special issue of *Knitscene Winter 2011* (\$7.99). What makes you think of winter knitting? Heavily textured knits, like Aran sweaters and big bobbly afghans. There are five ways to work a bobble -- alternatives for everyone. This issue highlights angora fiber, one of nature's warmest fibers. Free your stitches -- there are 22 knits for the journey...

Yes, that's Martha Stewart on the cover of the *Holiday 2011 VOGUE KNITTING* (\$6.99). There is a lengthy interview in which she shares her lifelong passion for knitting. This edition is dubbed a "collector's issue of knitting A to Z" featuring Aran, boucle, cables, dress, entrelac, Fair Isle, gauntlets, hats, intarsia & much more. Letter by letter, VOGUE cleverly toasts the dawning of a happy new knit year in high spirits and high fashion. Cast on in style...

What would Jane knit? New magazine *Jane Austen Knits 2011* (\$14.99) points out that the literature of Jane Austen and knitting are an ideal pairing. Knitting, like reading, has a meditative quality to it. For knitters, the films inspired by her books are the perfect companions as we snuggle under blankets with a cup of tea, adding stitches to garments that hold our dreams and wishes. The 35 projects range from feminine to romantic to classic, all with contemporary appeal...

Special issue INTERWEAVE *Crochet Accessories* (\$14.99) has 59+ projects to love, including 14 one-skein projects (make a gift in an evening!). Our favorites are the "tops for tots" (love that cupcake hat!) and the dog sweater. Bonus feature is the guide to crochet basics article...

*** THROW A LIFELINE ***

Lace is a huge fashion trend, expected to continue right through next summer. If you are a lace knitting fan, the next issue of *Knitter's Magazine* (K105) will be devoted to openwork techniques and "lace at your pace". Lace can be an accent or an allover pattern. How it develops and blends into a knit and wardrobe can be extremely exciting. Kathy recently came across an article in the September-October 2011 *Country Register*, "The Dropped Stitch" column written by Sharon Greve. She found it very informative and helpful. If you are not already using a lifeline in your lace knitting, you probably should be. Sharon has graciously given us permission to reprint the article. Thank you, Sharon!



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Kathy Zimmerman

"Let's admit it. Knitting mistakes are a given for all-level knitters. Who hasn't forgotten to change needle size per pattern instruction, miscalculated project gauge, or bound off too tightly or too loosely. Perhaps the most stressful errors sneak up on us while knitting a complicated lace stitch pattern or multicolored intarsia projects. Sometimes we lose our place in pattern /chart reading, miscount stitches, or forget a yarn-over. Yes, we've all done it! Been there -- done that!

Throw yourself a knitting lifeline that allows easy retrieval of rows only a repeat down in your work. It can prevent totally ripping out and starting over. It's a definite knitting and stress timesaver and a frustration buster.

Lifeline: A strand of smooth, strong, non-fuzzy (to avoid leaving traces of fibers when removed) yarn / thread which is threaded through each knitted loop on an unpatterned "rest" row at the beginning or end of a pattern repeat after completing the designated row. It leaves no trace when removed and reinserted after each correct row repeat. Cotton, dental floss, and crochet thread work well.

A tapestry needle threaded with lifeline yarn works well to insert lifeline through stitches. Or, tape end of lifeline thread below right-hand needle tip, knit as usual across row pushing stitches down past the tape. When row is completed, remove the tape, pulling thread out a ways to hang out both edges of work to avoid losing it through the knitted loops. When inserted properly, the lifeline thread will travel from stitch to stitch just below the knitting needle. The lifeline may be moved up as knitting progresses. Do not wrap the lifeline yarn around the needle, through any markers, or catch it with new stitches.

Uses: For single dropped stitches, after finding this error a few rows down, knit over to the stitch on top of the hole. Let the stitch drop to the lifeline yarn. Using a crochet hook, repair the stitch, placing it back on the needle. Check other repeats to be sure the repair is correct.

When it is necessary to rip out rows, simply remove the needles and rip back to the lifeline row. The lifeline prevents ripping back more than is necessary as that row is a correctly knit row. Next, insert the needles through the lifeline loops. Be sure the correct number of stitches are mounted on the needle correctly. Reset the row counter back to the lifeline row and continue to knit in pattern.

Lifelines can be inserted after every correctly knitted repeat or every other row. Choose the sequence placement that is comfortable for you.

Throw yourself a lifeline!

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Friend of the Shop Karen McCullough adds: "Don't forget to write down the row on which the lifeline is threaded!"

*** FASHION TRENDS ***

The *Tribune-Review* October 3, 2011 featured an article touting the basic turtleneck as a fashion-forward item this season, with the return to the mod look of the 1960's rekindling interest in the turtleneck beyond a layering tool under a ski sweater: "The turtleneck will be the must-have item of the season".

And on October 7, 2011, in the "Living" section, the *Trib* devoted a section to pulling off the sweater look, stating: "Short-sleeved sweaters are not only trendy, but practical. They're the perfect style for transitional weather". Short-sleeved and 3/4 length sleeved sweaters are becoming a wardrobe staple, with many resembling cozy knit tunics with a sporty feel. *People's* Style watch fashion director Kate Dimmock says: "A classic ivory color is on trend, as well as hues such as mustard, brown, wine and gray. Neutrals work best for these sweaters, especially the textured choices, because bright and bold colors might be too much".

As always, we've got the latest patterns and yarns to help you translate these fashion looks into projects for your needles and hooks. Be sure to check out our selection of current magazines to see how editors and knitting companies interpret these trends...

*** CHILD'S CABLED HAT GLEANED FROM THE INTERNET ***

SIZE: Babies' (toddler's in parentheses)

HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: approx. 17.5" (20")

MATERIALS: JIL EATON "Minnowmerino" 2 hanks (77 yards per hank); US size 8 circular knitting needle 16" length; set of US 8 double-pointed needles (dpns); cable needle (cn); stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 5.5 stitches / 6.25 rows = 1" in cable pattern, slightly stretched

ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

K - knit; K2tog - knit 2 together; P - purl; P2tog - purl 2 together; ssk - slip, slip, knit decrease; sts - stitches; 3/3RC (right cross cable) - place 3 sts onto cable needle (cn) and hold in back, K3, K3 from cn

DIRECTIONS: With circular needles, cast on 96 (112) sts. Place marker & join, being careful not to twist sts. Work in rounds of K2, P2 rib for 1.5" (2").

Rounds 1-3: *K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 4: *K6, P2, 3/3 RC, P2; repeat from * around.

Rounds 5 -7: *K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 8: *3/3 RC, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Rounds 9 - 11: *K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 12: *K6, P2, 3/3 RC, P2; repeat from * around.

Rounds 13 -15: *K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 16: *3/3RC, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Rounds 17 - 19: *K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Shape crown, changing to dpns when necessary.

Round 20: *ssk, K2, K2tog, P2, 3/3RC, P2; repeat from * around: 84 (98) sts.

Round 21: *K4, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 22: *ssk, K2tog, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around: 72 (84) sts.

Round 23: *K2, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 24: *K2tog, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around: 66 (77) sts.

Round 25: *K1, P2, K6, P2; repeat from * around.

Round 26: *K1, P2tog, K6, P2tog; repeat from * around: 54 (63) sts.

Round 27: *K1, P1, ssk, K2, K2tog, P1; repeat from * around: 42 (49) sts.

Round 28: *K1, P1, ssk, K2tog, P1; repeat from * around: 30 (35) sts.

Round 29: *K1, P1, K2tog, P1; repeat from * around: 24 (28) sts.

Round 30: *K2tog; repeat from * around: 12 (14) sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a 12" tail, thread through tapestry needle, and pull tail through remaining sts. Draw up tightly, secure on inside and weave in ends.



*** RAVELRY GROUP MEET AND GREET November 12, 2011; 10 am - 12:30 pm ***

Members of the Ravelry group "We Love Kathy's" will gather for a meet and greet at Kathy's Kreation's on Saturday morning, November 12, 2011, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. Please bring your knitting and any items to show and share. We plan to meet on a regular basis and will discuss convenient meeting dates / times. All group members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise purchases on "Meet and Greet Day". Not a member? Ask us how you can join!

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

--- Bedford Springs Knittreat; November 3-6, 2011; Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Bedford, PA; mini-market vendor featuring CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS and teaching "Button, Button", a technique workshop on buttonhole methods, buttonhole placement, "ribbing rules" and closure options. The Market & CLAUDIA trunk show will be open to the public on Saturday afternoon, November 5, 2011, from 2 - 5:30 pm. For information, e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030.

--- 8th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival; Four Points Sheraton; Mars, PA; Friday, February 11, 2012 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm; Saturday, February 11, 2012; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday, February 12, 2012, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Kathy's large double booth will be filled with yarns, patterns, and needles. Kathy and friends will be doing live technique demos at the booth. For info, e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030.

*** ANOTHER FIRST FOR KATHY -- A PODCAST INTERVIEW! ***

What's a podcast? It's like a radio interview over the internet. Kathy was interviewed about her design process on Tuesday October 18, 2011, at 2 pm by phone. The show is available at journalgazette.net/craftyliving. There is a new podcast every Sunday. You can access it from *iTunes*. It's called Math4Knitters - Journal Gazette. It's completely free to subscribe through *iTunes*. Kathy's interview will be show #104, airing begins on Christmas Day, 12/25/11!

*** 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...





*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **Monday, November 7, 2011, and December 5, 2011, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.**

*** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, November 8, 2011, and December 13, 2011; 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 18, 2011, and December 16, 2011; 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 knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

*** KATHY'S KREATIONS ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, Friday and Saturday, November 25 & 26, 2011 ***

*** "MIDNIGHT SPLENDOR" LACE EVENING BAG knitting class with Jean Wise ***

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$25.00 registration fee* plus pattern and materials; for intermediate skill level knitters

Jean Wise combined a traditional Shetland lace pattern and edging for this spectacular clutch-style evening bag. Learn Jean's how-to's for the techniques and finishing tips, plus pointers for lining the bag. Class supplies include 125 yards KRAEMER Silk & Sterling yarn (available for purchase at class time), US 5 knitting needles (straight or circular), basic supplies (stitch markers, row counter, note-taking materials, scissors).

*** "SMOCKED SANGRIA MITTS" knitting class with Kathy Zimmerman ***

Saturday, November 19, 2011, 9:30 am - 12: 30 pm; \$25.00 registration fee* (includes pattern)

This class was most recently taught at Kathy's and Carol's Ramada Workshop here in Ligonier last month. These lovely fingerless mitts are ribbed with a clever smocking technique using a cable needle. Additional student supplies are 200 yards DK weight yarn, circular row counter and US size 1 dpns or 9" circular needle...

*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 as a store credit. 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, 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 31 years !

No matter the temperature or weather, great knits can help you to think warm thoughts! KEEP KNITTING & CROCHETING!

Kathy