



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
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NOVEMBER 2015 UPDATE

Dear Stitchers,

November is here! And it's going to be an epic adventure. It's time to toss on a great hand-knit sweater or vest, layer on the cozy accessories (mitts, scarf, hat or all three), and enjoy the comforting warmth as the days get chillier.

Build your fall looks around new hues, patterns and textures in modern classic shapes. Make the most of each piece in your sweater wardrobe, reflecting your own individual style. Two of Fall's hottest trends are winter lace and fringe. It's all about strategic placement and mixing up stitches -- lace or cabled sleeves with a stockinette body is a look knitters love. Popular quilted looks translate easily into knits, in a variety of stitch patterns from small to large scale. Cables are having a fashion moment, and long vests are hotter than ever. Vests are easy to accessorize and can transform almost every outfit. We are here to help you with the latest in yarns, project ideas, and the how-to's to make them.

The holiday season is only a few weeks away -- are you prepared? As knitters and crocheters, we are always looking for something creative to make. It's always a wonderful feeling when we can spend our stitching time working on a project for someone special. What to make? A simple, gorgeous, decadently soft cowl is a must-have in every wardrobe. It also makes a perfect gift knit! Socks, scarves, mitts, mittens, and hats are always appreciated by everyone in the family. We've got plenty of gift-making suggestions sure to inspire you to create cute little gifts for loved ones, stylish accessories for guys or gals, and decorations for your home as well.

When making hand-made gifts, stick with a classic style that you can personalize so that it will be treasured by the recipient for a long time to come. A personal touch can simply mean choosing a fiber with care and consideration, in their favorite color. Add a special stitch pattern for texture or embellishing for a custom detail. For more ideas, stop by and visit us soon. You supply the creativity, and we'll supply everything else!

Regular shop hours are Monday through Saturday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Eastern Standard time
Closed Sundays

Holiday Open House Friday, November 27, 2015
Small Business Saturday November 28, 2015

NOVEMBER IS SOCK MONTH!
All regularly-priced fingering weight yarns in stock
are 10% off throughout November 2015

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting and crocheting lessons
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Mail orders available -- no order too small!
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

What are knitting and crocheting "makers" making? You name it -- garments, accessories, home decor and items for the whole family -- both for themselves and for holiday gifts. It's a warm and woolly season. We're excited by rich stitch patterns, classic shapes, innovative constructions, and amazing yarn choices. We love designs that challenge and intrigue, but appreciate patterns that are well thought-out and fun to make, traditional and yet contemporary. Here's what's new, what's now...

Interweave Knits Winter 2015 (\$7.99) focuses on heritage knits and new beginnings. There is no better time than late fall and early winter for knitters to reflect on the past, reveling in twisted stitches, colorwork, motifs, cables, techniques, and classic philosophies, while experimenting with the old silhouettes for a new look and feel. Find pleasure in cabled Aran, the tight textures of Ganseys, and the intricate patterning of Fair Isle. A helpful article is included in this issue for how to choose Fair Isle colors...

Attention, continental-style knitters! ADDI introduces a new knitter's thimble (\$5.50) designed to help you keep yarns untangled while working stranded or Fair Isle projects. We love gadgets and couldn't pass up this one!

It's not too early to begin gathering stocking stuffers for knitting friends (and pick up one for yourself, as well). A cute must-have from KA is the mini-bamboo crochet hook (\$2.95), ideal for picking up or repairing split stitches. The three-piece KA bamboo cable stitch holder set (\$16.50) is beautifully crafted and fits nicely in the hand. HIYA HIYA adds a new whimsical scissor -- octopus snips in a festive holiday green shade (\$6.50) to join the kitty and puppy snips collection...

Have you met MRS. CROSBY yet? This beautiful collection of lovingly curated yarns are hand dyed in beautiful semi-solid colors. Come play with our new arrivals "Carpet Bag" (\$23.50, 100 grams, 240 yards, 80% superwash merino wool / 20% silk, CYCA #3) and "Steamer Trunk" (\$17.50, 100 grams, 164 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #4). To quote Mrs. Crosby: "Newly-wound yarn is rather like our own, dear planet. So much potential in such a small ball".

When Mrs. Crosby wants crisp, perfectly defined cables, she wastes no time fiddling with other yarns. Instead, she dreams up the perfect yarn herself. Behold "Steamer Trunk", a high-twist worsted weight yarn perfectly suited to projects in need of structural hold and definition. A sturdy work-horse of a yarn, "Steamer Trunk" is 100% superwash merino with a springy quality that is sure to keep your finished projects looking like new for years to come. Check out our "Brickless" shawl in the stunning peacock colorway. As Mrs. Crosby says: "Life is a series of events darling, dress appropriately".

Take your knitting on an unforgettable journey with "Carpet Bag", a lustrous DK weight yarn spun with a splash of silk to create a single-ply yarn characterized by its luscious, smooth texture and elegant drape. These features are further brought to life with each dazzling hand-dyed shades like Greystone, Smoky Granite, and Red King Radish. Experience the magic of these versatile yarns, perfect for your knitting and crochet creations...

Does your project bag have your ID in case it is lost? If you inadvertently left it behind when travelling, would someone know how to contact you? New luggage tags from MRS. CROSBY (\$2.95) are just what you need to identify your knitting or crochet tote. Our latest batch comes with a new saying: "It's called luggage if one carries it oneself"...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

What to make with all your yummy yarn? CHURCHMOUSE YARNS has some new patterns to inspire you. They are easy to make, fun to have, and a joy to give. These are quickly becoming new customer favorites:



- Wooly Loop Accessories (\$7.50; hat, muff, mittens, & scarf, shown page two, upper left) -- Evoking enchanted woodlands and sweeping tundras, this romantic hat with its deep furry cuff frames the face beautifully. The muff is a charming little affectation that's actually quite practical. The simple scarf is the ultimate in coziness. And the mittens simply beg you to throw a snowball. The loop stitch is such fun!
- Alexandra's Airplane Scarf (\$5.50, shown page two, lower right) -- When Boston-based author and long-time Churchmouse friend Alexandra Dane was in Seattle, she visited their shop wearing a scarf that turned heads. Alex's perfect airplane project (both to knit and to wear!) is a sheer tube of lace-weight mohair you can style any number of ways. It's just the kind of thing we love -- simple, simple, simple, and all about the color! The barely beaded version adds an optional dusting of tiny beads for a little sparkle...
- Twice Reversible Ribbed Poncho (\$7.50, upper right) -- Churchmouse finessed the details of this longtime favorite style to make it "twice reversible": both the fabric and the shape can be flipped. They chose a pattern that has two 'right sides' and added a nifty hybrid graft/seam for true reversibility. You can wear your poncho point-in-front for relaxed 'boho' style or point-in-back for a little more polish. In two gauges and two sizes, you have options upon options!
- Simple Toe-Up Sock (\$7.50, not shown) -- What's the best thing about knitting socks from the toe up? It lets you use every last inch of yarn! Knitting the heels in afterwards ("afterthought" heel) lets you use self-striping yarns without breaking up the pattern. Plus, the heels and toes are easy to replace when they wear out -- which they will, because they'll be your very favorites! Did we mention that these socks are featured in two gauges?
- Mistake Rib Beanie & Scarf (\$5.50, shown lower left) -- Ah, the magic of mistake rib -- it's worked in the soothing rhythm of K2/P2 ribbing but an extra stitch 'oopses' the next row over by one (who hasn't made that mistake?!), giving you a much more complex texture. Knit in classic worsted weight or luxurious chunky, this set is cozy and modern...

What is LO-LO? it is an eco-luscious, effective, enriched alternative to liquid moisturizer, free of "junk". This isn't your average moisturizer. It's moisturizer to fit your lifestyle. It absorbs completely within seconds after you stop rubbing and can be used from the top of your head to the tip of your toes. We have just received a large assortment of new scents in two convenient sizes, for yourself or as a gift: LO-LO to Go (\$8.95) and regular LO-LO (\$14.95). Here are a few ways people like to use it:

- helps keep skin hydrated
- soothes skin dryness due to illness, medication, allergic skin reactions
- calms psoriasis and eczema
- keeps hand moisturized after repeated washing & constant exposure to water (and fibers)
- creates a barrier to inclement weather



PLYMOUTH YARNS SELECT DK MERINO SUPERWASH (\$7.95, 50 grams, 130 yards, 100% superwash fine merino wool, CYCA #3) is the lighter weight version of the oh-so-yummy European twist Worsted Merino Superwash! This yarn is perfect for garments, accessories and more. You get the warmth of wool, plenty of yardage, a gorgeous color palette encompassing all the classic shades you will ever need, and the added benefit of machine washability. This fabulous yarn is super-soft and great to work with whether you're knitting or crocheting...



*** DREAM CLUB 2015 - 2016 ***

What is the Dream Club? For those of you not aware, the Dream Club is a monthly subscription service that features exclusive yarns and fun-to-knit designs from one of our favorite yarn companies, DREAM IN COLOR. Each month from September through February, we receive exclusive yarns, pairing a unique hand-dyed colorway with a pattern that will showcase that month's yarn. The projects all use a single skein, some in special yardage put-ups exclusively for these designs. Each pattern comes with a Ravelry code for the corresponding pattern so that you may add it to your pattern library for future reference and updates. New colorways will arrive during the first week of every month through February 2016. This exclusive event is only available through participating local yarn shops like Kathy's Kreations -- please contact us if you are interested in learning more.

This month, DREAM IN COLOR introduces a limited edition November 2015 Dream Club yarn, "Jilly with Silk" (\$37.50 kit), a delightful special DK weight blend of 85% superwash merino and 15% silk. How exciting! The charming unisex, slouchy style hat pattern by Hanna Maciejewska, entitled "Dream On!" (shown upper left) features allover texture, cables and a variation on brioche rib. The project is worked on US 4 & 6 needles in 16" length or dpns. This is the perfect project for a precious yarn.

We have designated "Dream Club" as one of our Friday knit-along projects. If you can't make it to our Friday knit alongs, please keep up to date with postings to our "We Love Kathy's" group. There is also a "Dream Club" group on Ravelry with projects, a monthly contest and special information. We're very enthusiastic and excited about this program -- let the knitting fun continue...

*** SPRING BREAK 2016 WITH ANDREA WONG ***

Kathy's Kreations invites you to join us for our "**Spring Break**" **Knitting Workshop Weekend**. Accomplished knitter, instructor, and internationally-recognized knitwear designer, Andrea Wong, will teach a two-day ethnic knitting workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA hosted by Kathy Zimmerman on April 15 - 17, 2016.

Saturday's six-hour class will be "Peruvian Knitting" (photo lower right). Key topics and concepts covered will include how to work circularly with purl side facing, two or more colors per round. Andrea will cover some Peruvian techniques for trapping the yarn as you work and some borders and stitches. Skill level for this class is intermediate to advanced. The student should have a working knowledge of stranded knitting or Fair Isle techniques

Sunday's class will be "Turkish Slippers". The presentation is a new class under development which Andrea will introduce at Spring Break weekend.

SKILL LEVEL Intermediate to advanced

REGISTRATION The weekend package includes an after-hours knitting pizza party or Soup & Sliders and special shopping time at Kathy's Kreations (Friday evening); an informal meet & greet on Friday evening to get acquainted; morning coffee breaks and two lunches at the Ramada; classes Saturday and Sunday; extended lunch break on Saturday with time to shop in the pretty little town of Ligonier and goodie bags. Early Bird registration is \$225 per person which is currently accepted until November 30, 2015. Following that date, registration is \$300.

Overnight lodging is not included and is optional for local participants. The Ramada has set up a special rate for us, so please make your own reservations by calling 724-238-9545. Space is limited on a first-come, first-served basis, so please e-mail or call 724-238-9320 and send a check for the full amount to Kathy's Kreations. As of October 31, 2015, only 11 spaces remain.

KATHY'S KREATIONS will be open on Sunday, April 17, 2016, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Attendees will receive a 10% discount on all regularly-priced knitting supplies and yarn all weekend.



*** SCOREBOARD KAL ***

Join SKACEL, KAL Commissioner Michelle Hunter and Kathy's Kreations for one of the most fun knit-alongs of 2015! The photo at right was taken at our recent Fall Fling (shown left to right Dallas fan Missy Hammer; Ohio State fan Michelle Hunter, and Steelers fan Kathy Zimmerman). The 2015 Scoreboard KAL allows fans to capture their favorite team's season, yielding a unique piece of hand-knitted sports history along with bragging rights for those whose teams dominate the field. Our shop team, "Stealing Stitches", is decked out in the black and gold of Blitzburgh.



It works like this -- a cowl is worked in your favorite team's two main colors; the primary color (MC) represents your team, while the secondary color (CC) will always represent the opponent. There is also an option to add a third color, to provide a visual break between games. When a team scores, you will knit a round in the color for each point attained.

Simply purchase HiKoo "Simplicity" yarn in your team's colors -- receive a free copy of the pattern, the latest Skacel Magalog, and a scoresheet. Kathy is the official equipment manager and scoreboard keeper, if you need to catch up on the scoring. Check out our shop window to view the season' cowl-in-progress. For a full overview with KAL dates and details, visit www.scoreboardkal.com

*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BRING YOU HiKOO ***

- Never try to work directly from a hank! Yarn in a hank must be wound into a ball or you will end up with a tangled mess. Even if you think you won't -- you will! This was learned the hard way by two Skacel employees when they first learned to knit -- Brooke and Chuck!
- Always start a new ball or skein of yarn at the beginning of a row, if possible. This way, ends can be easily woven in and hidden. Save the leftover for seaming -- Becky
- For a nicer-looking edge, consider slipping the first stitch of every row with the yarn in front, while always knitting the last stitch of the row -- Candice
- Your time is valuable, invest in your happiness with enjoyable yarn and tools (HiKoo and Addi needles, of course!). Per hour, knitting is one of the least expensive hobbies -- Jodi
- Circular knitting needles are not just for knitting in the round. They help take the weight of your work off of your arms and wrists -- Brooke
- Remember that the gauge given on a yarn label is a suggestion; it's a place to start when swatching. Depending on the fabric you desire, you may use a larger needle than stated on the label (for a more loose or drapery fabric) or a smaller needle (for a more firm fabric) -- Chuck
- Getting and maintaining the correct gauge for a pattern is very important! Being off by only half a stitch can make inches of difference on a worsted weight sweater -- Rachael
- Be very careful when washing or wet blocking projects that contain strongly contrasting colors (e.g., black and white), because like your favorite pair of jeans, dark colors of yarn may transfer to lighter colors when wet. Wool wash and soap can intensify the color transferring -- Karin
- Treat your hand-knits with care! It's best to store hand-knitted items flat (opposed to on hangers), and hand wash knitted items only when absolutely necessary -- Dawn
- HiKoo "Simplicity" is the perfect yarn for kids projects, because it is soft and washable! -- Marcy

*** A CURIOUS FACT ABOUT ARAN KNITTING ***

Our knitting friend Mary Pickar recently returned from a trip to Ireland. While she was there, she visited a spinning mill. She learned that Aran hand knitters frequently use blackberry / trinity stitch in their sweaters, since it is unable to be duplicated by a knitting machine...

*** COLOR CHANGING COWL ***

Our thanks to knitting friend Mary Pickar for sharing her pattern (shown right) with us! If you haven't seen HiKOO "Abracadabra" yet, be sure to stop by to check out the magical color change in the sunlight...



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Mary Pickar

MATERIALS

- "Abracadabra" by HiKOO (35% superwash merino / 50% polypropylene/ 15% nylon), 59 grams, 91 meters. 100 yards, one skein
- US 7 needles, straight or circular
- tapestry needle
- stitch holder
- scrap yarn for provisional cast-on

GAUGE

Not critical to this project

NOTE: This cowl will curl naturally even though it is knit back & forth. Maintain K2 at beginning and end of each row.

ABBREVIATIONS

K - knit; K2tog - knit two stitches together; yo - yarn over needle

INSTRUCTIONS

Using a provisional cast on, cast on 12 stitches.

Row 1: K2; purl to last 2 stitches, K2.

Row 2: K2; *K2tog, yo; repeat from * three times, K2.

Row 3: K2; purl to last 2 stitches, K2.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: K2; purl to last 2 stitches, K2.

Row 6: K2; *yo, K2tog; repeat from * three times, K2.

Row 7: K2; purl to last 2 stitches, K2.

Row 8: Knit.

Repeat rows 1 - 8 until cowl measures 34" - 37" (desired length) and end with row 7.

28 repeats were completed on model shown in photo, upper right.

Move stitches to a stitch holder and cut yarn, leaving enough to graft ends together using Kitchener stitch.

FINISHING

Block piece. Blocking is done primarily to clean the yarn.

Note: Do not worry about pinning it flat, the piece will curl when unpinned.

When dry, place stitches from stitch holder onto 1 needle and stitches from provisional cast-on onto 2nd needle. With right sides together, Kitchener or graft these stitches together. Weave in ends with tapestry needle. Enjoy wearing your cowl!

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WHERE'S KATHY?

November 12 - 15, 2015 Knittreat at Bedford Springs Omni Resort & Spa

Kathy will be a Featured Teacher (Cabled Hats), as well as a vendor at this special event

March 4, 5, & 6, 2016 Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival

Look for us on the corner near the registration desk in booths 73 & 74 at this event, moving to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh

*** NOTABLE QUOTE ***

"Properly practiced, knitting soothes the troubled spirit, and it doesn't hurt the untroubled one, either".
Elizabeth Zimmermann

*** KILLER TOFFEE ALMOND BROWNIES **

Every October at Fort Ligonier Days, there is always one dessert brought in by our shoppals that has everyone asking for the recipe. This one was shared by Karen McCullough, and it was the hit of her Fort Days picnic. Thanks, Karen!

4 large (4.45 oz.) *Hershey Symphony Milk Chocolate Bars*, almonds & toffee chip

2 boxes Brownie Mix, preferably *Ghiardelli* triple chocolate brownie mix

2/3 cup water

2/3 vegetable oil

2 eggs, slightly beaten

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Add brownie mix, water, oil, and slightly beaten eggs to mixing bowl. Mix until combined and there are no signs of dry mix. Prepare 9" X 13" baking pan by spraying generously with non-stick cooking spray. Pour half of the batter into the pan. Lay candy bars over batter. Pour the remaining batter over the candy bar layer. Make sure to completely cover candy bars. Place in preheated oven and bake for 50 minutes. As soon as middle is firm, and edges are pulling away from the sides of the pan, they are done. Remove from oven and let cool completely. Lay a cutting board on top of brownie pan and invert brownies onto cutting board for cutting. With sharp knife, cut brownies into 2" squares.



*** GIFT A HUG! ***

Thanks to Sharon Greve for granting permission to re-print her column which appears in the November-December issue of *The Country Register*. Thank you, Sharon!

"The advent of electronic communication has almost made putting pen to paper a lost art. Often the most meaningful, life-altering words are the ones expressed in a personal handwritten note or letter. Remember the excitement of opening an envelope and unfolding the pages to discover treasured words of love and support? It's a gifted hug! Even when the pages are returned to the envelope, they are still available for another day's visit. The paper may become discolored and fragile, but the words and feeling expressed are timeless. It is a treasured gift because someone cared enough about you to create something just for you.

And, so it is with handmade gifts, aka timeless treasures. They make us feel that someone loves us enough to donate so much time and skill to create something so special -- just for us. Large projects such as afghans continue to offer warmth and love in every stitch over time, regardless of their condition. As a grandchild once said, "When I curl up with my afghan, I feel your arms around me, Grandma." Even toddlers continue to feel the love in their handmade baby blankie that becomes a security blanket to keep bedtime monsters away. Handmade sweaters, christening garments, and other baby items are so recognized as treasured gifted hugs that they are carefully tucked away to offer loving memories to future generations.

Treasured gifts trigger memories of the creators, somewhat like a personal visit. The annual unpacking of handmade Christmas stockings and ornaments kindle happy memories of special times and special people. Just like handwritten letters, these treasured traditions are lovingly tucked into a storage box to await another year's visit.

There's something personal and loving when we invest our time, creativity, and energy into gifts for family and friends at this joyous time of year. Sadly, so many people have never experienced a handmade gifted hug. Let's extend warm thoughts and care to those in need throughout the year.

Treasured gifting is beneficial to both parties. If we are interested in making a strong statement of caring and affection, one-of-a-kind handmade items are best. Our gift speaks volumes about who we are, what the recipient means to us, and the relationship between us. There is great satisfaction to know we have reached out and touched someone.

As with a handwritten letter or note, a handmade gift will be treasured over time because we took the time and effort in this fast-paced electronic world to create a gifted hug.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses!"

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*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crochet and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **November 2, 2015 & December 7, 2015; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

*** "KNITTING" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, November 10, 2015 & December 8, 2015; 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please) ***

Join us for stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! Please call ahead to rsvp in case there has been a scheduling change...

***SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT November 14, 2015 & December 12, 2015; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please) ***

Come sit 'n knit! Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here. Open to all skill levels...

*** FUN FRIDAYS, November 20, 2015 & December 19, 2015; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ***

Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels welcome!

*** NOVEMBER KNIT-ALONG (KAL) ***

Stop by **EVERY Friday in November** from **10 am - 2 pm** (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature Dream Club "Dream On!" hat and the Scoreboard KAL. Not working on the KALs? You are still welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (free!). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group November 2015 and Scoreboard KAL threads...

*** SAVE THE DATES ***

March 4, 5, & 6, 2016 Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival

Look for us in booths 73 & 74 at this event, moving to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Our booths will be on a corner near the registration desk and the ladies' room!

April 15 - 17, 2016 Spring Break with Andrea Wong

Registration now open! Andrea will be teaching ethnic knitting techniques Peruvian Knitting and Turkish Slippers. Classes will be held at the Ramada Inn of Ligonier.

April 24, 2016 Northeast Knitting Tour

Join Elaine Smith on a journey bringing together knitters and crocheters on a tour of specialty yarn shops, woolen mills, fiber processing farmworks, and more! Kathy's Kreations is pleased to be part of this inaugural, interactive dream tour.

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Winter group classes are forming -- ask us for details. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for more than 35 years !

It's time to gear up for making gifts for friends and family. It's a time to knit, a time to crochet, a time to enjoy. **KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!** Kathy