



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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OCTOBER 2005 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Isn't this a pretty season? It's time for some well-designed knitting, crafted with beautiful yarns. Fashion for fall 2005 is particularly individualistic, free and spirited. We've got you covered in color with bold basics, rich tweeds, and energetic novelties, along with design ideas and the tools to create your own one-of-a-kind style.

Kathy Lacher, Creative Director of CLASSIC ELITE YARNS tells us, "Yarns dictate fabrics so clearly that there will be an emphasis on luxury in yarns. A soft hand will continue to be important, along with comfort and elegance. We will be looking for angora, cashmere, silk, extra-fine merino, all blended into beautiful colors. We will want alpacas, multicolor marls and heathers, tweeds in naturals and colors, plain yarns that we can knit into retro jacquards, boucles, novelty effects, metallics, velvety-looking piles, light weight, felted, brushed effects, feathery, furry, printed, and especially mohairs". Kathy's Kreations is offering all of these yarns in our Fall 2005 collection. It is our intent to keep you "trendy", so we've chosen our favorite fiber for our monthly promotion,

"OCTOBER IS MOHAIR MONTH"

All regularly-priced mohair or mohair blend yarns in stock
are 10% off during October 2005

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/Novus, AX

Private knitting 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

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

Can you feel it? There is an excitement in the air as the new fall products begin to arrive, as knitters and crocheters start picking up their needles and hooks in anticipation of cooler days ahead and holiday gift-giving. Inspire your creativity and color your world with fine yarns and classy styles this season. We've got two brand new companies to tell you about and lots of wonderful new products.

We are very pleased to introduce **NASHUA HANDKNITS** featuring natural fibers and creative designs for the North American lifestyle. Four new yarns have arrived for your knitting and crocheting pleasure:

"Equinox Stripe" -- \$15.50, 100 grams, 66 yards, 73% wool / 27% acrylic; super bulky (yarn weight classification 6), knits up quickly in a two-color strand at 2 - 2.5 sts / inch on US size 15-17 needles; pick a range of colors to show off your style

"Wooly Stripes" -- \$9.50, 50 grams, 88 yards, 100% wool; medium (yarn weight classification 4), beautiful colorways and yes, it felts! You've got to experience the color shading in person -- it's hard to pick a favorite

"Creative Focus Worsted" -- \$8.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 75% wool / 25% alpaca; medium (yarn weight classification 4), a single strand wonder in heather and solids; ideal for colorwork, cables or textures; 5 sts / inch on US size 7, and, yes, it felts, too!

"Creative Focus Chunky" -- \$8.50, 100 grams, 110 yards, 75% wool / 25% alpaca; bulky (yarn weight classification 5); 4 sts per inch on US size 9 needles; the big brother to the worsted version; yes, it felts, too!

"Julia" -- \$7.25, 50 grams, 93 yards, 50% wool / 25% kid mohair / 25% alpaca; worsted (yarn classification 4); soon to be available in the NASHUA packaging; we love this yarn for everything -- color, cable, textures, felting, you name it! This is a very good yarn and we are pleased to have been one of the yarn shops chosen to introduce this product last year.

Pattern support for these yarns and this visionary new line is magnificent. Four new booklets are now available (\$10.25 each) with titles that describe the contents: Relax, Work, Play, and the North American Designer Collection. We are pleased that two of Kathy's cabled designs are included: the criss-cross cabled pullover shown upper left was knit in Creative Focus Worsted, in the North American Designer Collection, and the cabled pullover in Creative Focus Chunky in the "Relax" booklet shown lower right. The pattern format is written for American knitters and photographed so you can really see the sweaters. Be sure to take a look at these yarns -- they are exquisite and we congratulate NASHUA HANDKNITS on the successful launch of these gorgeous yarns...

KNIT 'n STYLE December 2005 (\$5.99) reminds us that it's time to knit. The industry kicks off the fall season with Knit-Out & Crochet events around the country. We are doing our part with knit gatherings at Barnes & Noble and in our own shop (see page 8 for details). This issue focuses on festive fashions with feminine charm for the holidays, featuring capes, shawls, jackets, pullovers, glitz and faux fur. In addition to seasonal designs, don't miss the insights by Leslye Solomon in her article on handwashing knitted garments...



photo
©Nashua Handknits

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

The second yarn company we are introducing is KRAEMER YARNS (shown right). This brand-new line of high-quality yarns is specifically designed for handknitters -- to be easy to use, in the widest variety of fashionable colors, affordable, available in weights and sizes to fit any project. We are particularly excited about this company because every ball of KRAEMER YARN is spun in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. For more than 100 years, KRAEMER has been spinning commercial, custom novelty yarns for home furnishings, crafts, apparel, industrial and carpet application -- a living, breathing testament to small-town America. We proudly present the following new **MADE IN THE USA** yarns:



- "Naturally Nazareth" -- \$6.25, 100 grams, 184 yards, 100% wool; Aran (yarn weight classification 4), a traditional basic and yes, it felts!
- "Summit Hill" -- \$8.75, 100 grams, 230 yards, 100% merino superwash wool; worsted (yarn weight classification 4), lots of bang for your buck, very soft; not suitable for felting, but looks great with texture and colorwork; the knitting guilds have loved working with this yarn for helmet liners and "Caps For Kids" charity knitting
- "Tatamy Tweed" -- \$4.95, 100 grams, 250 yards, 45% cotton / 55% acrylic; DK (yarn weight classification 3), rich tweeds in brights & pastels, a splendid machine wash & dry blend
- "Little Lehigh" -- \$4.95, 100 grams, 250 yards, 45% cotton / 55% acrylic ; DK (yarn weight classification 4), in solid colors; machine wash & dry; ideal for babies' & childrens' wear (see LISA KNITS model "A Very Easy Baby Sweater" for pattern support in this yarn & Pebbles)
- "Little Lehigh Pebbles" -- \$4.95, 100 grams, 250 yards, 45% cotton / 55% acrylic; DK (yarn weight classification 4); a subtle tweed version of Little Lehigh

Bob the UPS man has been bringing in lots of boxes lately, which he jokingly describes as Tracey's "job security". Seriously, Tracey Earhart has done an outstanding job re-organizing our tweed, basic, & novelty yarns and now has most of our vast collection of patterns in binders. Some of the new luxury yarns on display include:

From ROWAN CLASSIC YARNS: "Cashsoft DK" -- \$8.50, 50 grams, 142 yards, 57% extrafine merino / 37% microfiber / 10% cashmere; DK (yarn weight classification 3); real soft stuff

From ROWAN YARNS: "Kidsilk Spray" -- \$15.95, 25 grams, 229 yards, 70% kid mohair / 30% silk; lace weight, makes wonderfully elegant stoles & wraps and "Kidsilk Night" -- \$15.95, 25 grams, 227 yards, 67% kid mohair / 18% silk / 10% polyester / 5% nylon; lace weight, think New Year's Eve shawl with a hint of sparkle

From FIESTA YARNS: "Starburst La Boheme" -- \$43.50, 4 oz., 165 yards, one strand mohair blend combined with one strand rayon with subtle metallic glitz

From SKACEL COLLECTION: new shades of "Unikat" and its big brother "Turmalin" -- \$22.50, 100 grams, 77 yards, 100% wool; super bulky (yarn classification 6); in gorgeous multi-color layered strands



We are out of space for this update, but there's lots more stuff in the shop. We want to tell you about LISA KNITS new pattern AC-012 "Carry-All Bags" (\$4.00, shown left), handy little bags in 6 sizes worked in 5 different gauges, to carry a water bottle, CD player, cell phone, palm pilot, or other take-along items. A great stash buster pattern...



***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF *****

Like knitting today, the XRX series *The Knitting Experience* is personal, passionate, and powerful. Discover what knitting can bring to your life with noted teacher, designer, and author Sally Melville. In addition to the titles already on our shelves (*Style, The Knit Stitch, and The Purl Stitch*), Sally's latest *Book 3: Color, The Power And The Glory* (\$24.95, softcover, back cover shown left) is already a huge hit.

In the introduction, Sally states, "Color is a very powerful concept. First, there are the 'rules' of color, the 'how' of putting colors together. This whole subject is intimidating to some, wonderfully exciting to others".

The designs in this book are similar to those in *The Knit Stitch* and *The Purl Stitch*: some classic, some unexpected. There are techniques for color, geared to beginners and beyond, and especially those of us who feel "color-challenged". Sally Melville provides inspiration, instruction and the details that matter to build your skills, wardrobe and confidence...

Handknits for Kids by Lucinda Guy (\$23.00, hardcover) is a collection of 25 fantastic and original hand-knitted designs for girls and boys aged 2 to 5, with something to knit for every season. Lucinda designed this book for you to enjoy knitting some very special and original things that the children in your life will love to wear, love to use, and love to play with. We think she has definitely hit the mark with her whimsical garments Happy Hen and Dangerous Dinosaur, toggle flower accessories and cute critters Handsome Hound, Birdie, Mousie Mousie and Monsieur Cat...

It's hip to knit these days, and you'll find cool stuff about the knitting lifestyle in the *Knit Bits 2006 Calendar* (\$11.99). This is a day-to-day calendar with a little knit info on each tear-off page. What's old is new again and this calendar definitely puts a fresh twist on the traditional craft...

For The Love of Knitting 2006 is a hang-on-the-wall-in-your-favorite-knitting-spot calendar. Twelve months of knitting images, including knit art sculptures, knitting still-life photographs, an array of vintage knitting pattern book covers, and humorous vintage paintings of knitters adorn the pages of this calendar. There is also space on each date to keep track of knitting meetings, classes and other important events...

Welcome to Babes' World. You won't be able to resist the charming handknitted "babes" in *Knitted Babes* (\$19.95, softcover). Each babe has her own fabulous wardrobe of handmade trendy clothes, organized to reflect individual personalities. The book is simple to use, all you need to know is how to knit and purl. What kind of "babe" are you?

From coast to coast, all knitters have one thing in common: leftover yarn. *Odd Ball Knitting* (\$19.95, softcover) by Barbara Albright solves the conundrum of what to make with your yarn stash by offering more than 30 beautiful projects that don't look as if they were made with odds and ends. From stylish accessories to decorations for your home, there's something fun and interesting to knit from every strand you've been collecting. Transforming your hodgepodge of mismatched scrap yarns into stylish, practical accessories has never been easier. Barbara offers strategies for using color, determining yardage, and combining yarns in unique ways...

***** KEY FASHION AND KNITWEAR STYLE TRENDS FOR FALL 2005 *****

Kathy Lacher, Creative Director for CLASSIC ELITE YARNS, gave us the following forecast for the season:

--- **Embellishments** are found on everything from fabrics to sweaters to t-shirts. They are bejeweled, sequined, rhinestoned, puffed, embroidered, creweled, ruffled, applied, beaded, satin-trimmed, flower-trimmed. The embellishments give a rich, three-dimensional look to knits.

--- **The Cardigan Sweater** is a key item for fall, often fine gauge, often with a vintage look. The cardigan can be solid, printed, striped, belted or trimmed. Trims can be from the above list of embellishments or from ribbons, contrast stitched, crocheted, buttons, bows, lace, braiding. The cardigan can have 3/4 length sleeves and look great with a '50s style skirt.

---**The cropped cardigan** -- some curved bed jackets, some straight bottoms, tie front, zips, button fronts, ribbon ties, almost always layered.

---**Coats** tend to be short -- car-coat length or knee-length, and maybe belted. Or, they can be beautiful late '40s roomy swing-style coats with big collars. Peacoats will be prevalent, too.

---**Jackets** are very interesting and come in several shapes. The Shrunken Jacket is often shaped, often has a notched collar, pockets, velvet trim, button trim, belted, pushed up sleeves.

---**Layering** of fine gauge sweaters looks fun and fresh. Layer up different colors and shapes. Start with a shell or turtleneck and layer on a couple of cardigans -- great with skirts or pants.

---**Casual Luxe** reflect the vintage/retro looks but with a worn-in, recycled feel; rugged rustic tweeds, patching, handmade, family heirloom, flea market, woody, outdoorsy.

---**Big knits, blanket wraps, coats** -- bigger than ponchos, long cardigans, car coat lengths, cabled, pompomed, jacquards.

---**The cowl neck sweater** -- chunky or fine gauge, drapey or bulky.

---Still some **hoodies and zippered cardigans**, but not the must-haves they once were.

---**Stripes** -- bright multicolors, tonal, with color blocks, Missoni-type chevrons, vertical. Stripes look fresh and cheerful.

---**Fair Isle yokes** and allover jacquards -- chunky and folkloric-looking, some traditional looking, can be layered over a floral shirt to look less traditional. There is a definite return to pattern knitting.

---**Chunky knits** -- cardigans, cowl necks, in tweed, in printed yarn. All with big collars.

---**Cables** -- from chunky to fine gauge in neutrals and brights.

---**Crochet** -- allover patterns, granny squares, mixed with knitting, sheer for layering, in coats, shawls, tunics, pillows, afghans.

---**Tweed sweaters** -- cabled, chunky, fine gauge, zippered, ribbed.

---**Mixed texture stitches** -- in pullovers, in cardigans. Can be a simple mix of two or three stitches, or a complicated patch effect. Ribs as yokes or trims.

---**Novelty themes** -- colorful pictures or color mixtures. May be related to the comic book trend.

---**Argyles** -- almost always fine gauge.

---**Lacy** -- openwork stitches as allover pattern, or in patches.

---**Ruffles** -- on wraps or on button fronts.

---**V-necks & scoops** -- always layered over other sweaters or t-shirts

---**Scarf or shawl necks, tie necks, & cross-over necks**, especially in wraps

---**Vintage round collars**



***** KNITTING TIPS *****

Shelly Thompson has a great idea for interactive felting projects. She sends her finished projects without felting them as gifts to family or friends along with felting instructions. The recipient felts his/her own project to fit. What a fun project for kids, and educational, too...



Need to do some blocking and your blocking wires are not available? In a pinch, Kathy uses thin bamboo or shish-kabob skewers...

For a neater bind-off: knit or purl (depending on how the pattern stitch appears) the last 2 stitches together, then bind off. This prevents the loose loop at the end of the bind-off edge...

To estimate yarn needed for long tail cast-on (sling shot or thumb method): wind the yarn around the knitting needle to be used for the cast-on ten times. Unwind and measure the length. Use that length measurement to estimate how much is needed for every ten stitches. Don't forget to leave a little extra for finishing the seam...

For a smooth edge around the bottom edge of a sweater worked in the round, work the first stitch (joining stitch) with the yarn from the skein and the cast-on tail together. Place your marker and start with a new first stitch. The last stitch on the round will be the "two yarn strand" stitch and those two strands will be knitting as one, making a smoother join along the edge. Kathy originally received this tip from Kay Holt...

Betty Lou Glasso suggests using a provisional cast on when working the body and sleeves of your garment. Then, you can add the edging, trim, some accent color or ribbing later. This is also a good idea if you do not know if you will have enough yarn to complete your garment...

***** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW *****

"What is a SSP?" The SSP (slip, slip, purl) is a single, left-slanting decrease which provides the mirror image of the P2tog (right-slanting) decrease. It is an alternative to the P2tog-tbl, which means purl 2 stitches together through the back loops. The P2tog tbl, however, twists the stitches. To work a SSP, slip 2 stitches **one at a time** to the right-hand needle **knitwise** (as if to knit them). Slip these 2 stitches back onto the left-hand needle. Insert the right-hand needle through the back loops, into the second stitch and then the first one. Purl these 2 stitches together to decrease one stitch. Take a look -- the resulting stitch slants to the left. To work the P2tog (right-slanting) decrease, insert the right-hand needle into the first 2 stitches on the left needle from right to left. Work the 2 stitches together in purl.

And while we're on the subject, the corresponding decreases in knit are SSK (slip, slip, knit) and K2tog. SSK is a single, left-slanting decrease. It is worked by slip 2 stitches **one at a time** to the right needle **knitwise** (as if to knit them). Slip the left-hand needle into the front of these stitches from left to right and knit them together. K2tog (knit 2 together) is worked by inserting the right-hand needle into the first 2 stitches on the needles as if to knit, beginning with the second stitch. Take a look -- this decrease slants to the right.

Mastering these techniques and using them in your garments adds a professional finished look to your work. It's all in the details...



***** EASY COZY SLIPPERS FOR THE FAMILY *****

SIZE: to fit toddler (child's small - child's medium/adult's small - adult's medium - adult's large in parentheses)

MATERIALS: 1 (1 - 2 - 2 - 2) skeins BROWN SHEEP Lambs' Pride Bulky; US size 9 knitting needles OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE

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

DIRECTIONS: Starting at back of heel, cast on 20 (23 - 29 - 35 - 41) sts.

Row 1 (right side): Knit (K).

Row 2: K 6 (7 - 9 - 11 - 13) sts, P1, K 6 (7 - 9 - 11 - 13), P1, K 6 (7 - 9 - 11 - 13).

Repeat rows 1 & 2 until piece measures 3" (4" - 5" - 7" - 9"), inc 1 (2 - 2 - 2 - 2) sts on last row: 21 (25 - 31 - 37 - 43) sts.

Work in K1, P1 ribbing for 1.5" (2.5" - 3" - 3.5" - 4") or desired length for foot.

Next Row: K2tog across row to last st, K1. Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Draw tail through remaining sts & pull up tightly. Fasten securely.

FINISHING: Sew ribbing together along ribbing for instep. Fold cast-on edges together and sew back seam. Add a pompom or knitted cord bow, if desired.

***** LANNIE GARTNER'S REVERSIBLE CABLE AFGHAN *****

While looking through back issues of the Golden Dome Knitting Guild's newsletter we found this afghan, with original design credit given to the Three Rivers Knitters Newsletter in 1990. We've updated this classic for a new generation of knitters!

3/3 RC (right cross) cable: slip 3 sts to cable needle (cn) & hold in back, K3, K3 from cn

FINISHED SIZE: 50" X 60"

MATERIALS: 2000 yards heavy worsted or Aran weight yarn (such as CLASSIC ELITE Montero); 29" circular knitting needle US size 10; cable needle (cn)

GAUGE: 1 repeat of 12 sts (1 cable each side) = 2.5"; 4 sts = 1" in stockinette stitch

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 238 sts.

Rows 1 & 3: K2; *K6, P6; repeat from * across row, end K8.

Row 2: K2; *P6, K6; repeat from * across row, end P6, K2.

Row 4: K2; *P6, 3/3 RC; repeat from * across row, end P6, K2.

Rows 5 & 7: Same as row 1.

Rows 6 & 8: Same as row 2.

Row 9: K2; *3/3 RC, P6; repeat from * across row, end with 3/3RC, K2.

Row 10: Same as row 2.

Repeat rows 1- 10 until afghan measures approx. 60" from beginning, ending with row 3 of pattern. Bind off in pattern as for row 2.

Fringe: Knot 6 12" strands of yarn into every 6th stitch across each bind off and cast on edges of afghan.

***** PRETTY POINTS DISH CLOTH FROM HAZEL SCHROCK *****

MATERIALS: 100 yards heavy worsted 100% cotton yarn (such as K1, C2 Cotonade or PLYMOUTH YARNS Fantasy Naturale), US size 8 knitting needles

Row 1: Slip 1 stitch, K3, yo, K10, turn & K back.

Row 2: Slip 1 stitch, K3, yo, K 9, turn & K back.

Row 3: Slip 1 stitch, K3, yo, K 8, turn & K back.

Row 4: Slip 1 stitch, K3, yo, K 7, turn & K back.

Row 5: Slip 1 stitch, K3, yo, K 6, turn & K back.

Row 6: Bind off 5 sts, K to end of row.

Row 7: Knit across.

Repeat these 7 rows until there are 12 points. Bind off on next row, leaving a 12" tail. Stitch around center, pull together and join 2 sides together.

******* HOW-TO CLASSES *******

Group classes are now forming -- stay tuned for information. Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace crochet lessons (children's & adults) are also available by appointment during business hours. Students may pre-register for these events by call Kathy's Creations at 724-238-9320 or e-mail at kathy@kathys-creations.com Class supplies are not included in the cost of registration. No refunds will be given unless cancellation is made 48 hours prior to class, or in the event of inclement weather. Classes without a minimum of four students may be subject to cancellation or postponement at the discretion of the instructor.



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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, October 3, 2005, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** at Barnes & Noble, Route 30, Greensburg. There will be a display of books featuring hats, scarves, and holiday gift ideas. All skill levels are invited, and volunteers are available to help with questions and how-to's, including learn to knit instructions for beginners. Please bring your current projects to show and share, stop by the cafe for a pumpkin spice latte or capuccino, and let's knit!

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

"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Creations Tuesday evening, October 11, 2005, 7 - 9 pm

All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit!

FORT LIGONIER DAYS

Friday, October 14, 2005, through Sunday, October 16, 2005

Thursday, October 13, 2005 early bird merchant sidewalk sales

Friday, October 14, 2005, through Sunday, October 16, 2005 townwide festivities

SCARECROWS ON THE DIAMOND CONTEST

October 17 - November 1, 2005 Creative ghosts and goblins -- "Something To Crow About" -- are draped about lamp posts around the Diamond. Vote for your favorite...

******* ON THE COLOR SCENE *******

Fall -- it's color-warm, color-wonderful. From our forecast guru Kathy Lacher, Creative Director of CLASSIC ELITE YARNS: "Colors for Fall '05 mimic the richness and fun of the pattern and fabric mixes -- and everyone wants to wear color now, not neutrals. We are taking pleasure in looking into our closets and seeing colors other than black and grey. There will be lots of color choices for fall and if I had to pick one key color, I would pick green. There will be many shades of green from deep to blue-green to acidic and green shades in between. There will be emphasis on warm tones, too. Reds, berry shades, magenta, orange, plum, and purples. There will be a prominent range of slightly dusty pastels and a mixture of black and white. There are neutrals, especially as bottoms and tailored suits; greys and beautiful browns; warm beiges and camels. The neutral bottoms mix well with the brightly colored tops. Brights vary from very bold to mid-bright and beautiful. I am seeing a lot of turquoise jewelry, so that may become an important color, too. Great colors will make it a great year for handknitting". Thanks, Kathy, for sharing your crystal ball with us! And to knitters everywhere, may your knits be as colorful as the autumn leaves.

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy