

KATHY'S KREATIONS 141 East Main Street Ligonier, PA 15658 724~238~9320 OCTOBER 2008 UPDATE



Dear Knitters.

The fall 2008 issue of *Knitter's Magazine* tells us, "Autumn is here. Cooler temperatures and shorter days force us to spend more time indoors, so grab the needles and yarn. Here is an opportunity to contemplate and review your day as well as be productive. It's the perfect time for relief -- in texture and details. Stressful day at work? Knit for relief. Bothered by cooler temperatures? Knit for relief. Bored? Knit for relief". You get the idea -- it's the simple pleasures of life like stitching that carry us through the day.

Now is the perfect time to update your wardrobe for fall and the holiday season. Focus on accessories for a simple, budget-friendly way to get a fresh new look. Cheery home decor updates can be as simple as new hand-crafted pillows, chair pads, rugs or an artfully set seasonal table. Cozy items like socks, sweaters, scarves, mittens, hats and shawls will help keep everyone in the family comfortable -- bundle 'em up and you can keep the thermostat a few degrees cooler this winter. Coldweather knits are true, "down-home" comforts.

We've got the latest yarns and ideas to help you with fall stitching and holiday gift-giving projects. And, we're celebrating the breath-taking beauty of the colorful Laurel Highlands this month with a special fiber promotion,

"OCTOBER IS MOHAIR MONTH!" All regularly-priced mohair-blend yarns in stock are 10% off during October 2008

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday Extended shopping hours Fort Days and October 25 & 26

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

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment Finishing services available Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON Telephone 724-238-9320 e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Fall for color -- it's what we love to do! Introducing our latest yarns in the newest colorways is always so much fun, especially this season. There are also classics with character, painted jackets, and LOTS of detailing with texture. Get ready to soothe your soul. Relief is at your fingertips. Make your stitching journey a colorful one with these exciting products...

The designs in KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Fall 2008 (\$5.95) range from simple to challenging, but no matter; they are all sensational wardrobe options. Intruiging knits await you within the pages of this issue. Whether you prefer color or stitchwork, they've got you covered in practical garments that you won't find in department stores or boutiques, including four of Kathy's designs.

Color can stop traffic, or get you going, in the case of Kathy's green "Career Check" cardigan (shown upper left). The sweater features VanDyke checks and basketweave patterns with faux-belt waist welt accent: "Two check patterns merge to create a sleek detail at the waist of this sophisticated jacket. This is a true candidate -- in bold green -- for the career-minded professional". Go for the starkness of white -- or more specifically natural -- and place knit stitches in relief on a purl background. Kathy's "Ridgeline" is a classic pullover with graphic diagonal lines: "Go for the perfect play of light and shadow in traveling slip-stitch stitches. The diagonals create visual interest in a flattering V-shape -- perfect for any gal or guy" (shown lower right).

Retro sweater shapes from 30 - 40 years back are popular, and, thanks to modern technology, much more appealing due to advances in dyeing, spinning, and fiber blends: think the classic V-neck pullover vest. "Lucky Bones" by Kathy (shown upper left, page 4) is bold and exciting in an angora and silk blend in a play of texture and color blocking: "Worn under a tweed blazer, this cabled vest looks tame with just an accent of pumpkin and chocolate peeking through. Remove the jacket, and the saffron color commands attention. For a more sedate option to this color-blocked knit, pick one color and work the body as a solid". There are plenty of "painted cardigans" like Kathy's "Luminous Diamonds" (shown lower right, page 5) which features a waffle-like stitch design on the diagonal; the variegated mohair-blend yarn shimmers in the light: "The diagonal waffle texture of this fabric is a combination of slip stitches and right-side floats caught up a few rows later -- the result is added color depth and luminosity. The three-button closure and simple cardigan silhouette keep the look clean and lean".

Other features like holey socks by Lucy Neatby, one-yarn intarsia, luscious layers and knit embellishment trends / surface design tips by Susan Lazear make this issue a keeper...

COLINETTE YARNS introduces "Orchard" (\$10.95), a booklet of luxurious contemporary throws and cushions to brighten your home. These pieces will add elegance to your own personal sanctuary -- we can imagine curling up with these beauties on a chilly winter's night...

KNIT SIMPLE Holiday 2008 (\$6.99) has over forty gifts ideas for quick knits that save you time and money. There are "winter woolies" -- cozy hat-and-scarf combos to keep you snug as you head for the slopes (or the shops!). Long, wide scarves are the rage this season, worn double-wrapped at the neck for added warmth. There are tips for making perfect pompoms (embellishments are popular), easy holiday gift projects, chevron-chic pillows and throws, plus our favorite, very merry minis -- cute, carefree, quick-knit miniature hat ornaments...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Three new designs from LISA KNITS are here (\$4.00 each). "Pretty Petals SW-038" is a sweet girlie-girl hoodie cardigan with matching pants for budding bloomin' beauties (shown right, sized infants to toddler, DK weight). ""Back To School SW-037" (shown lower left) is a color blocked textured hoodie pullover with pouch pocket and matching backpack (sizes 2 - 10, worsted weight). "On The Edge Cabled Hat & Mittens



HT-022" (shown lower right, page 7) was designed by Lisa's daughter, Kelly. This cozy worsted weight set features a sideways knit cable panel cuff with stockinette body. The hat also has garter stitch earflaps for added warmth...

CLASSIC ELITE is partnering with Jil Eaton of Minnowknits fame to develop her Jil Eaton branded yarn. We are pleased to introduce "Minnowmerino" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 77 yards, 100% extrafine merino wool, CYCA yarn classification 4). This yarn comes in a kid-friendly palette. Pattern support includes "Cable Cuddle #214QK" (\$6.50), a classic collared cabled cardigan for small fry with braid cables and Irish moss texture. Ask to see our Daisy Chapeau hat model now on display...

What's new for sock knitters? You'll love "Flat Feet" (\$26.50) from CONJOINED CREATIONS! Each made-in-the-USA "Flat" is a machine-knit fabric piece divided into two color-matched sections. Watch your own unique pattern unfold with every stitch as you knit directly from the flat, unravelling as you go. There is sufficient yarn for a pair of adult socks, mitts, hat or scarf. Ask to see our WIP (work in progress). We also have PATONS "Stretch Socks" (\$6.95, 50 grams, 239 yards, 41% cotton / 39% wool / 13% nylon / 7% elastic, CYCA yarn classification1), with a free pedicure socks pattern with purchase...

Last month, we introduced ROWAN "Colourscape Chunky by Kaffe Fassett" yarn and promptly sold out our initial order. New stock has arrived, along with pattern support. "The Colourscape Chunky Collection" booklet (\$17.95) features a variety of gorgeous basic sweater styles inspired by the long color repeats of "Colourscape" yarn. The palette is very wearable, from deep mysterious tones of purples, maroons and turquoise to the softness of dusty pastels...

One of our most anticipated yarns for this season is NASHUA HANDKNITS "Geologie" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 142 yards, 37% acrylic / 33% mohair / 30% wool, CYCA yarn classification 4). We find this yarn's subtle color shadings and hint of luster very appealing...

Wraps and shawls are perfect cover-ups for transitional weather and beyond, plus they make wonderful gifts to fit all shapes and sizes. New from OAT COUTURE is "GU420 Knit Ruana" in three weights of yarn -- worsted, chunky and superbulky -- and easy to knit garter stitch with an eyelet edge. Try combining different yarns and weights (a big trend for fall & winter) and let your yarn make a fashion statement...

Our own Helen Stetina of HELEN'S TREASURES introduces "Wee Pumpkin Pin" in punch needle embroidery (\$17.00). The pre-printed weaver's cloth, a small square of felt and pin-back are included with the pattern. Ask to see our sample now on display...



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF ***

Looking for a comprehensive, indispensible, one-volume reference guide to knitting? In *Knitting: The Complete Guide* (\$29.99, spiral bound hard cover), knitting expert Jane Davis teaches you everything you need to know about knitting. The compact, lay-flat format lets you keep your hands free to knit while color-coded page headers break topics into easy-to-navigate sections...

Get addicted to the square! Modular knitting takes on a new twist with *Knit to Be Square* (\$24.95, softcover). Vivian Hoxbro, who popularized the method in *Domino Knitting*, adds felting and geometric openwork patterns to modular squares for a new form of fun knitting. Fans of small-project knitting will love these hats, bags, shawls, pillows, slippers, and more comprised of small squares that use up the knitter's stash or, when combined with felting techniques, offer eye-catching results. If you can knit and purl, you can join the domino craze...

*** FORT LIGONIER DAYS ***

It promises to be quite a celebration in Ligonier Valley! "Ligonier 250" special events and celebrations commemorating our 250th birthday will be taking place over Fort Ligonier Days Weekend October 10-12, 2008. "Early Bird" Merchant's sidewalk sales are slated for Thursday, October 9, 2008, before the official start of Fort Days. Here at Kathy's Kreations we will also have an "indoor" sidewalk sale featuring clearance yarns on our sale table. The Fort, the town and the Valley welcome you to discover our heritage, recreational opportunities, and unique shopping experiences. Thanks to Karen & Bill McCullough of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road Association for sharing LVRR memorabilia in our lovely window display...

*** KNIT FOR THE CURE ***

Each October, Kathy's Kreations honors Breast Cancer Awareness Month by adding new scarves to our "Knit & Crochet For The Cure" Collection. The profits from the sale of these patterns throughout the year are donated to the designated cause of the designer. Joining Julie Charlebois' "Clusters In Stripes" crocheted scarf introduced last month are:

- --- "Sara's Tulip Rows" (not shown) designed by Susan Zylka; 1st place winner 2008 Westmoreland County Fair "Design-A-Scarf" contest sponsored by Kathy's Kreations; knit with a double strand of fingering weight CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Silky Alpaca" on US size 4 needles, this delicate lace pattern resembles tulip clusters; to benefit breast cancer research & education
- --- "Persian Lace" (shown lower right) designed by Nancy Premoshis; 3rd place winner 2008 Westmoreland County Fair "Design-A-Scarf" contest; knit with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS " Wool Bamboo" on US size 6 needles; a drapey openwork design with garter edging; to benefit breast cancer research & education
- --- "Lacey Scarf" (shown page 6) designed by Betty Lou Glasso; an elegant two-row openwork repeat, crocheted with Tahki "Cotton Classic" with US size E hook; to benefit breast cancer research & education
- --- "Sailor's Rib" (not shown) designed by Kathy Zimmerman and testknit by Marilee Roney; a textured knit worked with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "La Gran" mohair & US size 9 needles; proceeds will benefit the Boston Red Sox "Jimmy Fund" in memory of CLASSIC ELITE's founder Pat Chew, who passed away earlier this year from leukemia



*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS ***

Lois Ribblet purchases knitting accessories like stitch holders, row counters, etc. in pairs. She place them in two separate zippered cosmetic bags. She uses one in her project bag and keeps the other as a "back-up" for any item that gets misplaced or lost.

It is easier to pick up ripped out stitches onto a needle that is one size smaller than you are using for your knitting. Be sure to switch back to the original size needle when you continue your work.

Mary Pat Miller @ knitnet.com

When binding off stitches at the beginning of a row, slip the first stitch of the row, then bind off as usual. This eliminates a "stairstep" effect and makes a smoother, more rounded edge for finishing.

Louise Kelly from Knitnet.com

When knitting the popular feather and fan stitch pattern, it is important to cast on very loosely to get the inital wave effect on the bottom. Try using a needle size at least four to five sizes larger than required for the body of the afghan. Binding off immediately after the pattern row, without a border and using larger needles, will maintain the beautiful rippled look that is typically distorted on the bound-off edge.

Deesha Martin from Knitnet.com

Many tables and countertops have beveled or rounded edges. If you have difficulty finding a surface to clamp your ball winder, try purchasing an inexpensive wooden tabletop ironing board, which is smaller than a standard-sized ironing board. You can easily clamp a winder and swift to it and use where it's most handy.

Susan Zivec from Knitnet.com

*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Wendy K asks: "What is the correct method for blocking? I block my pieces before assembly and my daughter does her garments after seaming." Kathy answers that you are both right, depending on the style. Kathy prefers to always use a selvedge stitch edge and blocking wires, blocking pieces separately before seaming. In her opinion, this makes the seaming much easier, because the edge is flatter and easier to see. Kathy's method of choice is to insert the blocking wires at the sides of the garment, pin out the pieces to the desired measurements on a styrofoam board covered with a plastic tablecloth, then gently mist with room temperature water in a clean spray bottle that is only used for blocking, using bottled or filtered water. You have more control with this method rather than steaming the piece. After assembling the pieces, you may re-block the seams as needed. However, if the garment is worked circularly or in one piece to the underarm, then it should be blocked after seaming. It is always best to follow the pattern directions for blocking order.

Nancy P asks: "A scarf project I want to knit requires three balls of ribbon yarn. I have three balls, but one is a different dye lot. Although the yarn is variegated, there is a noticeabe color difference. Do you have any suggestions for blending these balls?" Kathy recommends that you work with the three balls at the same time. Work one row with ball #1, one row with ball #2, then one row with ball #3. When you finish with ball #3, the strand from ball #1 will be waiting at that edge. Drop #3, work the next row with #1. At the end of that row, #2 will be waiting. This is a very effective blending technique and also works well with different textures for "stash-busting" projects...

*** THE LITTLE SCARF THAT HOOD ***

Scarves with hoods are an upcoming hot fashion accessory for cooler weather ahead. Get started early on your holiday gift list -- your friends and family will be very impressed that you are so fashion-savvy. As a stash buster, try working this with two strands of worsted weight yarns or mix a ribbon with lightweight mohair (about 450 yards needed for project).

MATERIALS: TRENDSETTER "Dune" 5 balls; US size 10 & US size 15 needles; tapestry needle; small pins; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: approx. 3.5 sts = 1" (not critical); scarf measures 10" X 66" approximate Abbreviations: BO - bind off; CO - cast on; pat as est - pattern as established; sts - stitches; eor - every other row

DIRECTIONS: With smaller needles, cast on 35 sts. *Knit 6 rows (3 ridges) with US 10 needles, knit 2 rows with US 15 needles, knit 6 rows with US 10 needles, knit 6 rows with US 15 needles. Repeat from * until piece measures 21", end right side.

Shape hood: CO 2 stitches at marked edge three times: 41 sts. Place small pin at shaped edge to mark for seaming. Work even for 6". At marked edge, BO 1 st at beg of row and every 4th row twice, then every other row 6 times. Cont to work all BO sts at marked edge, BO 2 sts twice, 3 sts once, 5 sts once, then 17 sts once: 5 sts. Cont in pat as est, work 1 row even. At marked edge, CO 17 sts once, 5 sts once, 3 sts once, 2 sts twice, 1 st eor 6 times, then 1 st every 4th row 3 times: 41 sts. Work even for 6", end at marked edge. Place pin to mark for seaming. BO 2 sts at marked edge eor 3 times: 35 sts. Work in pat as est until piece measures 21". BO all sts. Even edge forms the front edge of the hooded scarf. Fold piece in half and sew back hood seam (shaped edge) between small pins. Block lightly, if needed.

*** A LITTLE OF THIS, A LITTLE OF THAT TRIANGULAR SHAWL ***

MATERIALS: 350 yards lightweight bulky alpaca yarn (A); 200 yards lightweight bulky mohair yarn (B); 100 yards lightweight bulky ribbon yarn (C); US size 10.5 circular knitting needle 32" length; stitch markers

Abbreviations - ssk (slip 2 sts together as if to knit, knit 2 together through the front loops); K2tog - knit 2 stitches together

GAUGE: 3 sts / 6.5 rows = 1" in pattern stitch

NOTES: Carry unused yarns up side of work when not in use. Slip markers every row. PATTERN STITCH (not shown)

Rows 1, 2 & 4: With B, Knit.

Row 3: With B, K1; *yarnover (yo), ssk across.

Rows 5 & 6: With C, knit. Rows 7 - 12: With A, knit.

Repeat these 12 rows for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: With circ needle & yarn A, CO 251 sts. K 5 rows, end WS, placing marker before and after center stitch of piece (stitch #126). Work in pattern stitch (see notes),

dec 1 st on each side of marked center stitch EOR ON RIGHT SIDE by working sssk before marker, K center stitch, K2tog together after marker. At end of EACH row, end K2tog and always slip the first stitch of every row as if to knit. Work in pattern stitch until 3 sts remain. Bind off. Add fringe, if desired (will need additional quantities of yarn for fringe).

*** UPCOMING RUG PUNCH CLASSES ***

"Introduction to Rug Punch" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, November 1, 2008; a 3.5 hour rug punch class 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm; registration fee \$50.00* (see next page for class fee policies)

Class fee includes a 20"X20" rug punch frame, monks cloth for project & instruction (yarn and rug punch needle available to purchase separately). Create a chair pad or mat, using a selection of templates to create your own design. During class, students will select and purchase yarns of their choice to create a one-of-a-kind unique design.

Students may bring a **simple** line drawing that will fit into a 12"X12" square or 13" diameter circle, if they have a particular idea in mind. Students may pre-order from the Wooley Fox catalog, or a chair pad pattern on monks cloth. Choices are subject to availability. Students will not complete the project during the allotted class time, but will have enough knowledge to comfortably and easily move forward on their own at home. Tracey is always willing to provide additional assistance and answer questions by telephone or e-mail. Additional class supplies include notebook, pen / pencil and small sharp scissors.

"Learn To Rug Punch for Kids" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, December 6, 2008 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Tracey has come up with a fun way to introduce children to rug punch techniques using cookie cutters! Ask for details...

"Rug Punch Christmas Ornaments" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, November 22, 2008 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For students who have taken Tracey's Introductory Class, learn to make fantastic Christmas ornaments to brighten the holiday season. Ask for details...

"Punching With Luxurious Yarns", A Rug Punch Retreat with Amy Oxford, inventor of the OXFORD RUG PUNCH NEEDLE, Saturday and Sunday, October 25 & 26, 2008; at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier

Kathy's Kreations and the Woolley Fox will proudly host Amy Oxford, an internationally recognized instructor and artisan in the field of rug hooking. The Retreat, "Punching With Luxurious Yarns", is limited to 15 students and is designed for both beginner and experienced rug hookers wishing to add dimension, richness and a variety of subtle and striking features to their work. By adding new fibers and combining finer materials, rug hookers will open new doors to reveal a wealth of possibilties. No previous experience with the Rug Punch Needle is necessary. Attention, knitters and crocheters -- here is a chance to use your stash in a new way. Don't miss out on this very special opportunity to work with Amy Oxford, an accomplished artisan who has authored several books on rug hooking topics.

Treat yourself to a wonderful, autumn weekend of fellowship and needleart in the colorful Laurel Highlands. For further details and a brochure, please contact Kathy's Kreations at (724) 238-9320 (only 2 spaces remain!)

*** INTERMEDIATE KNITTING CLASS ***

"Intermediate Knitting" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, November 22, 2008; a 3-hour class 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; registration fee \$25.00* (see next page for class fee policies) Students may choose a simple project such as a patterned scarf, mittens, gloves, fingerless mitts, hats, socks, purse, vest, a simple basic sweater or a simple felted item. Students must have a knowledge of basic knitting skills such as cast on, bind off, knit & purl. Instructor will assist students in choosing yarns and needles appropriate for

project. We will review project directions, learn needed skills, and cover any special techniques. Pattern, yarn, and needle purchases are the responsibility of the student. "The Knitter's Companion" book is highly recommended as a resource. Additional class supplies include notebook, pen / pencil and small sharp scissors.

*** READER'S KNIT CLUB ***

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Monday**, November 3, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. New knitting books will be featured...



*** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, October 14, 2008, and November 11, 2008, from 7 - 9 pm ***

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

*** "RUGGERS" RUG PUNCH HOOK-IN with Tracey Earhart Saturday evening, November 1, 2008;

6 pm - 8 pm; rsvp Love to rug punch? Since we introduced Tracey's rug punch classes this spring, many students are asking for more, more! Tracey's introductory rug punch class is a prerequisite...

*** FUN FRIDAYS, November 14, 2008, and December 12, 2008, 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration)

Join us for Fun Friday (the 2nd Friday in November and December). All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor.

*** UPCOMING CLASSES (see previous page for more classes) ***

"Pumpkin Hollow", a punchneedle class with instructor Helen Stetina; Tuesday evening, October 14, 2008, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm; \$25.00* registration fee (pattern & floss available separately) Be the FIRST to experience Barb Carrol's (of The Woolley Fox) new pattern PUMPKIN HOLLOW! You will receive a SIGNED copy of the pattern and learn a few new tricks from Helen. Please bring a 3strand punchneedle, embroidery scissors and 7" embroidery hoop. The model is now on display, ready for you to preview.

"The Wonderful Wallaby", a knitting class with instructor Jane Armstrong; Saturday, October 25, 2008; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; \$23.50* registration fee (includes pattern booklet)

What's a Wallaby? It's a seamlessly knit hooded sweater for all ages, worked with circular and double-pointed needles. It combines comfort and good looks, actually a hand-knitted version of the ever-popular cotton sweatshirt. Class supplies include worsted weight yarn (amount depends on size) and US 6 & 8 knitting needles in 24" circular length and double-points.

"Beginning Knitting", a knitting class with instructor Tracey Earhart, November 8, 2008, 10 am - 12:30 pm; \$25.00* registration fee

Children 10 and up and adults are welcome to this introductory class. Basic knitting skills including cast on, knit stitch, purl stitch, bind off will be taught, plus Tracey will demonstrate basic increases and decreases (time permitting). Needles and yarn are additional purchases and are the responsibility of the student. Recommended for adult students are US size 7 straight needles and worsted weight yarn; for children US size 9 straight knitting needles and bulky weight yarn. Clear, light colors are the best choice. Suggested book is the Knitter's Companion (available for purchase). Please bring notebook, pencil and small sharp scissors to class.

*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may preregister for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathyskreations.com

Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 28 years!

May all your stitching projects be inspired by the colorful autumn beauty that surrounds us... KEEP KNITTING! Kathy