

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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SEPTEMBER 2006 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Hopefully, you enjoyed a really great summer, with time to knit and relax. As warm days turn to cool nights, we have everything you need to make the most of the season ahead, with knitwear as colorful and special as Fall itself.

We've got tweed sweaters with cable patterns, "complete-the-chic" feminine knit jackets and wraps, designs in bright self-stripping yarns for novices or experts to satisfy your color cravings, sweaters with ruffles for indoors, great-looking accessories and bags, and cozy hats and coats for outdoors. And felting, too -- lots and lots of felting yarns, patterns, and project ideas (including a felted squirrel!). Fall is on the way, so stop by soon to discover everything you need for a warm and fuzzy autumn.

Autumn is also Knit-Out time: stitch whenever possible! Knit during your commute (but not if you're driving), in the mall or anywhere else you're sure to draw a crowd. Our knitting buddy Charmaine knits in the park during band concerts and always strikes up a fiber-related conversation. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or spending time close to home, take your knitting along, and,

"KNIT ON!"

**All regularly-priced TAHKI / STACY CHARLES YARNS in stock
are 10% off during September 2006**

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 and crochet instructions are available by appointment
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***** GREAT NEW STUFF *****

This autumn, add a "WOW" factor to the season of the sweater with distinctive, delightful handmade knit or crochet fashions. Choose from a variety of fabulous "feel-good" fibers in high-energy colors like cherry red or attention-getting plum. Dazzling accents and refined details add an unmistakable eye-catching edge to sophisticated comfort. Imagine the possibilities...

VOGUE KNITTING Fall 2006 (\$5.99) pumps up the volume with big knits and a return to the classics. VOGUE KNITTING was named one of the *Chicago Tribune's* Top 50 magazines in June and one look at the pages of this issue leaves no question why they received this honor. New knitters, once clamoring for furry scarves, chunky stitches and miles of garter stitch, are now seeking out intricate cables, clever colorwork, delicate details and luxurious yarns. You'll love what VK has in store for you -- a fashion fusion with a chance to wax nostalgic about several decades at once, from Edwardian silhouettes to Depression-era hobo chic to the bold black and whites, recalling the 60s and 80s. This issue celebrates two traditions -- sock making and cables -- all worth a second look and a "must-have" collector's item...

NASHUA HANDKNITS "North American Lifestyle Series" for Fall/Winter 2006 has arrived and now there are more choices than ever. Booklet titles include Stripes, Mohair, Ski, Holiday, Study and the Designer Collection No. 3 (\$14.95 each). We are pleased that two of Kathy's designs are featured: her signature Classic Cabled pink pullover in Creative Focus Worsted (shown upper left, from the Designer Collection No. 3) and a denim-friendly seed stitch and cable long jacket in the new yarn, Vignette (shown lower right, from the Stripes booklet). Yarns for these designs are arriving now, including Painted Forest (\$8.95) which is 100% wool, suitable for felted projects; 50 grams, 55 yards, bulky weight with a suggested gauge 3 sts = 1" on size 11 needles; pattern support includes a gorgeous ridged capelet shoulder hugger in the "Holiday" booklet. Stay tuned for more new NASHUA arrivals. This will be the featured yarn company for next year's 2007 Westmoreland County Fair Design-A-Scarf contest which we proudly sponsor...

During the next few weeks, we will introduce some exciting new products, one of which is GITA MARIA knitting jewelry, shawl pins, and glass enamel buttons to showcase your jackets, wraps and accessories. Each "charm" is designed by artist Gita Sturm, handmade using sterling silver as the base, then highly polished. The charm, button or pin, is painted with glass enamel and then kiln fired. The reflection from the silver shines through the transparent colors, creating a watercolor impression. Our collection includes hand-carved heart-shaped bone shawl pins (\$8.95) and gold vermeil with a glass enamel and peridot stone insert heart-shaped end (\$36.50). Sheep circle, floral triangle, and heart-shaped with pearl & link large buttons are \$14.50...

"Bunny Hop" (\$7.25, 50 grams, 113 yards) is a luscious new microfiber and angora blend yarn from CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS. It knits at 5 sts per inch on size US 7 needles. It may be washed by hand or machine, making it ideal for babies' and kids' projects. This is also very popular for socks, a soft, cozy treat for your tootsies -- try it with any of LISA KNITS "Sock Of The Month" patterns (\$4.00 each). It comes in a variety of pastels, brights, darks and ombres, and, oh yes, Steeler fans, BLACK solid AND GOLD solid!



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

The yarns of TAHKI / STACY CHARLES tell the tale of fall 2006 -- rustic tweeds, luxurious fibers, and classy glitz. Our personal favorites are TAHKI "Bunny" (\$8.75) and "Bunny Print" (\$9.25, 50 grams, 81 yards, 50% merino wool / 25% alpaca / 25% acrylic). One of Kathy's family grouping designs (shown upper right) is featured in TAHKI YARNS Fall Collection (\$15.50). These designs feature coin cable ribs and a central wing cable pattern -- ask to see our model garments.



photo © Tahki Yarns

Look for head-to-toe knit dressing, from wardrobe to accessories, to make a big fashion statement this season. These garments fill the pages of TSC fall / winter booklets including the S. CHARLES COLLEZIONE (\$15.50, 28 elegant & timeless designs), FILATURA DI CROSA (\$15.50, 27 luxurious & vibrant designs), FILATURA DI CROSA "Baby... Toddler..." (\$12.50, colorful, fun afghans, sweaters, vests, scarves & hats) and the "Accessory Collection" (\$12.50, over 40 unique & whimsical hats, scarves, purses, wraps & even a dog sweater, also available in a kit). New TAHKI YARNS include "Sante Fe" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 92 yards, 95% extrafine merino wool / 5% nylon), a multi-color boucle and "Dakota" (\$7.95, 50 grams, 84 yards, 50% wool / 35% nylon / 15% polyester), a basic twist yarn with a supersoft, fuzzy wrap...

Attention, Steeler fans! We're kicking off another super season with a special collection of black and gold yarns suitable for "lucky" scarves, hats, totes, and socks...

New patterns from PLYMOUTH YARNS include a shrug and shell pat S476 (\$3.95, shown lower left), an openwork twinset perfect for transitional weather. The latest collection of PLYMOUTH standard "over the sofa" afghans and baby blankets have arrived, now located in a convenient binder on our bookshelves...

This season's fashion trends embrace so many options for knitters who love woolly yarns, luxury fibers, and a touch of glitz. Here's a sampling of our "feel-good fibers":

- JAGGERSPUN "Zephyr DK" (\$18.95, 100 grams, 245 yards, 50% Chinese Tussah Silk / 50% fine Merino wool), as beautiful for textured Aran sweaters as it is for lacy shawls and stoles; Kathy's choice for this year's "Knit For The Cure" scarf, prayer stole and baby blanket, available at the end of September
- SKACEL COLLECTION "Loft" (\$10.95, 50 grams, 110 yards, 100% merino wool), a lovely self-stripping wool with dramatic color changes for cozy garments or accessories; suitable for felting (wonderful for the "My Constant Companion" tote from *Knitter's Stash*)
- SKACEL COLLECTION "Preludio" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 65% nylon / 35% kid mohair), soft and sophisticated with subtle color changes, our choice for the elegant "Symphony Stole" free pattern on page five



photo © Plymouth Yarns

- CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Wool Bamboo" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 118 yards, 50% wool / 50% bamboo), with great stitch definition, an incredibly soft hand, beautiful drape, using a renewable resource; look for Kathy's cathedral cable pullover in the *Luxe* booklet
- CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Stormy" (\$40.00/50 grams, 110 yards, 100% cashmere), from the Luxury Yarns Division, the ultimate in tweed yarns; look for Kathy's cabled pullover, free with purchase of "Stormy" yarn



photo
© XRX, Inc.

***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

The latest addition to XRX's "The Best of Knitter's" series is *Jackets For Work and Play* (\$19.95, softcover). These jackets are for more than just work. They move easily from the office to evening to casual Saturdays, so you'll look great anytime, anywhere. Twenty-six projects cover a wide range, from classic jackets, coats, and even a suit, to more creative cover-ups with clever construction that explore and showcase your knitting skills. "Suitable" stitches (slip stitch, linen, moss and cables) create wonderful jacket fabrics. Some of the original yarns used for these designs are no longer available, so the yarns are described

generically throughout this book.

In the opening, KNITTER's tells us, "A jacket is the final layer of dress that can define our look -- not just by shape, but by fabrication as well. A knit jacket offers even more. Personalize yours with color, length, and trim. Choose to knit one that is refined, polished, and tailored for work, or one that is more casual, soft, and relaxed for play".

We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs, "A Well-Bred Plum" is part of this exciting new collection (shown upper left). Here's what KNITTER's says about this sweater: "This classically-styled jacket can be dressed up or down, depending on your needs. For faster knitting and a tweed look, Kathy has combined a strand of two lighter-weight yarns. The matching plum yarn trim and dyed-to-match buttons make this a truly coordinated effort". Plum, aubergine, eggplant shades are *the* biggest color trend for fall and winter (did you see all the beautiful deep, rich, dark purple gowns at the recent Emmy awards show on TV?) This sweater would look smashing worked in a single strand of CRYSTAL PALACE Aran / Aran Marl, TAHKI Donegal Tweed (on sale this month), JO SHARP Silkroad Aran, ROWAN Scottish Tweed or CLASSIC ELITE Skye Tweed...

The 2007 page-a-day STITCH 'n BITCH Knitter's Calendar (\$12.95), based on Debbie Stoller's smash hit book, is here and selling fast! There are 365 days of Stitches, Bitches (and Ingenious Fixes), tips, techniques, and trivia, from favorite fibers on Monday to a fabulous pattern every Friday. Get your knit on...

Knit Fix is the essential Rx for knitters! Discover a cable crossed the wrong way a few inches down in that gorgeous fisherman sweater? Buttonholes won't work with your fancy buttons? Lace charts and shaping have you baffled?

With clear illustrations and instructions, *Knit Fix* (\$19.95, spiral bound) teaches you how to correct twisted stitches, figure out where those extra stitches came from, hide or repair color mistakes, close up holes, alter a finished piece for a perfect fit -- and so much more. It's all here, from the basics of identifying a stitch to techniques for solving the toughest knitting problems. Soon, you'll be laughing about your former knitting troubles as you perfect your skills. No matter what your knitting predicament, *Knit Fix* is a handy guide for repairing common errors...

Knitting Yarns and Spinning Tales (\$16.95, hard cover) brings to life the unique yet universal experiences of knitters from a variety of backgrounds. This exceptional collection combines lighthearted essays with more philosophical pieces from nationally known authors and experts (such as Meg Swansen and Lily Chin), who put down their needles long enough to share their thoughts and musings about this popular pastime. If you live to knit, enjoy the companionship of other knitters, or appreciate the intricate handwork of a handknit sweater, this book is a must-read...

***** MORE GREAT NEW YARNS *****

- CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Inca Alpaca Marl" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 109 yards, 100% alpaca) this classic alpaca now comes in a tweedy marl, great for mens' knits (see *Tweed Four* booklet for a classic, basic pullover)
- KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Paintbox" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 100 yards, 100% wool), a muted, self-stripping single ply worsted weight yarn; some shades suitable for felting
- KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "PJs" (\$6.50, 50 grams, 88 yards, 100% polyester), a unique ribbon yarn which feels like your favorite jammies; great for babies & kids' projects; support pattern 1380 Bonnie Sue Bunting is a hooded, long-sleeved "one-sie" with legs, suitable for child in a carseat (shown upper right)
- TRENDSETTER "Dune" solids (\$14.50, 50 grams, 82 yards, 36% mohair / 35% cotton / 12% acrylic / 15% nylon / 2% metal); one of favorite evening yarns now available in solid chocolate brown, off white and black, very chic for evening or dressy event
- TRENDSETTER "Pandora Shadow" (\$12.50, 50 grams, 85 yards, 100% polyamide) sets the trend -- this is a monochromatic self-texturing yarn that changes as you knit off the ball, from puckered ribbon to wooly bumps to furry; great for dressy sweaters, scarves, or stoles -- a true eye-catcher!
- TRENDSETTER "Tiffany" (\$15.50, 50 grams, 82 yards, 50% polyamide / 31% mohair / 16% acrylic / 3% polyester) is sophisticated glamour at its best -- a soft, muted multi-color with hints of understated metallic glitz
- TRENDSETTER "Super Kid Seta" (\$13.50, 25 grams, 233 yards, 70% super kid mohair / 30% seta silk), the ultimate in lace shawls and scarves, in lady-like shades for fall
- TRENDSETTER "Segue" (\$13.50, 100 grams, 120 yards, 100% polyamide), a wide, gently variegated ribbon, gorgeous in when woven through eyelet scarves made from Super Kid Seta, or on its own for a quick-knit triangle shawl



photo © K1, C2

***** THE SYMPHONY WRAP *****

This wrap was inspired by Carol Ober, whose stole was the hit of the Westmoreland Symphony Gala fund-raising auction. Thanks, Carol, for permission to adapt your lovely design with our musically-titled yarn from SKACEL, "Preludio".

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 70" wide by 18" long

MATERIALS: SKACEL COLLECTION "Preludio" 7 balls; US size 13 circular knitting needle
36" or 40" long

GAUGE: 10 sts / 12 rows = 4" in openwork pattern stitch

PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 4 + 2)

Rows 1 - 3: Knit.

Row 4: K2; *P1, yarnover (yo), P2tog (purl 2 sts together), K1; repeat from * across.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern.

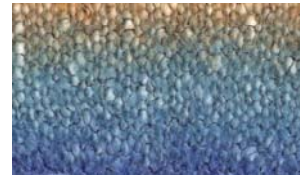
DIRECTIONS: With circular needle, cast on 174 sts. Work in pattern stitch until piece measures 18". Bind off all sts in pattern.

***** KNITTING TIP *****

Lisa Carnahan passed along a tip from the Internet "knitlist". Leslie A polished her clear acrylic and aluminum needles with Johnson's Paste Wax. After buffing the wax COMPLETELY off, she noticed a marked difference in the way the yarn moved on the needles. She claims that the yarn glided much more smoothly without letting the stitches slide off the needles. This might be worth a try if you have a "grabbing" problem with your knitting needles -- just remember to get all the wax off the needles before knitting! What will creative knitters think of next?

***** KATHY'S "OVER THE RAINBOW" SCARF, STOLE AND HAT *****

Our own Tracey Earhart has inspired us to plan ahead for the holidays and gift giving by working on projects a little at a time. This will avoid the last-minute rush and de-stress the holiday season.



OK, Tracey, you've got us convinced -- we're taking our knitting along (everywhere we go!) to take advantage of every knitting opportunity, no matter how small. Here's an easy quick-knit scarf or stole, and a matching hat done with an elegant self-striping mohair that will make even the newest beginner's project look like an expert. Love those self-striping yarns!

MEASUREMENTS: scarf 8" X 60"; stole 16" X 64" (in parentheses)

MATERIALS: 270 (550) yards mohair yarn; US size 15 needles

Kathy used REYNOLDS "Fusion" shade 77 two balls for scarf; shown at upper right
(3 balls will do 2 scarves)

GAUGE: 3 sts / 3.5 rows = 1" in pattern using size 15 needles

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 24 (48) sts. K 5 rows for edge.

Garter & Stockinette Pattern Stitch (3 rows stockinette, 5 rows garter)

Rows 1 & 3 (RS): K.

Rows 2: P.

Rows 4 - 8: K.

Repeat these 8 rows until a few yards of yarn remains. Work rows 1-3 once, then K 4 rows. Bind off all sts as if to K.

VARIATION: This could be worked using a variety of stash yarns, changing colors every 8th row on row 1. When substituting, please make certain that all yarns used for project are similar in weight and compatible for cleaning (for example, all machine wash or all hand wash; if even one yarn is dry clean only, then garment should be dry cleaned for best results).

"OVER THE RAINBOW" HAT

SIZES: Child's (small adult - large adult in parentheses)

FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 17" (21" - 24")

MATERIALS: 125 (150 - 175) yards mohair yarn; US sizes 13 and 15 circular knitting needles 16" length; US size 15 double-pointed knitting needles (dpns); jumbo stitch marker; tapestry needle

GAUGE: 3 sts / 3.5 rows = 1"

DIRECTIONS: With smaller circular needle, CO 52 (62 - 72) sts. Join, being careful not to twist sts, place marker for beginning of round. (K1 round, P1 round) three times. Change to larger needles. Work in stockinette stitch (K every round) until piece measures 7" (8" - 9"). Work decrease rounds as follows:

Round 1: *K2tog; repeat from * around

Round 2: Knit.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 twice, changing to dpns when it becomes difficult to move the sts. Cut yarn, leaving a tail. Draw tail through remaining sts with tapestry needle & secure. Weave ends in neatly.

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KNITTING TIP: when joining a new ball of self-striping yarn, unwind the new ball until the color which you ended with appears. This will give a continuous color appearance, one more pleasing to the eye. Save the yarn which you unwind to use later as needed.

***** KNITTING TIP *****

Our expert test knitter, Eleanor Swogger, recommends a quilter's ruler as a useful tool to accurately measure gauge. This is a long, wide, clear, hard plastic "see-through" ruler that enables you to see your stitches to easily count and measure at the same time. The hard plastic is durable and will not stretch like a cloth measuring tape might do...

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

"What is a German bind-off?" This bind-off method will give you a slightly decorative edging. Here's how: Work one stitch in pattern, *slip stitch back to the left hand needle, work 2 together; repeat from * across row until all sts are bound off. The "work 2 together" may be done as an ssk, K2tog or P2tog. The ssk is the easiest, as it is the most rhythmic movement. If you've been using the same bind-off for years, why not give this a try?

***** DESIGN A SCARF CONTEST *****

Kathy's Kreations was pleased to sponsor its 2nd annual "Design-A-Scarf Contest" for the Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair last month. Congratulations to the winners, who received gift certificates from KATHY'S KREATIONS for their beautiful scarves, all worked with Tahki/Stacy Charles yarns. All entries were amazing, and the judge told us that it was a pleasure to see the creativity and gorgeous handwork.

1st place \$40 -- Karen Sredzinski for her intricate "Westmoreland Woodlands" themed scarf. She tells us that the center blue zigzag represents a stream (complete with tiny felted fish and bubbles!) bordered by green pathways and trimmed with a leaf border, inspired by the natural resources of Westmoreland County

2nd place \$30 -- Susan Zylka for "Rose's Trellis Scarf", a cable and trellis pattern in honor of her friend and breast cancer survivor, Rose McCaskie. Susan's scarf pattern will be for sale as part of our October "Knit For The Cure" project. Proceeds from this scarf will benefit breast cancer research.

3rd place \$20 -- Cathy Torres for a textured wedges design worked with a beautiful rust shade of "Donegal Tweed".

Contestants are already asking for details about next year's contest. All original scarf entries must be knit or crocheted with NASHUA HANDKNITS yarns...

***** UPCOMING TRUNK SHOWS AND DISPLAYS *****

September 2006: Prepare yourself for a season chocked full of colorful knitting and creative opportunity! Striped woven fabrics will be a major statement in fashion apparel this season and we will see their influence continuing into the next few fashion seasons. We're hosting a "Striped Stitching Sampler" featuring NASHUA HANDKNITS designs from the latest "Stripes" booklet (back cover shown lower right) using Woolly Stripes, Equinox Stripes, and Painted Forest yarns.

October 2006: Fort Ligonier Days will be held Friday through Sunday October 13-15, 2006, with special "early bird" Merchant's Sidewalk Sales held Thursday, October 12. Bob Stutzman and Bill McCullough of the Ligonier Valley Railroad Association will have a display of train memorabilia in our large window for this event. This is also our "Knit For The Cure Month", our annual scarf pattern fundraiser for cancer research. This year, we have three new additions to our collection from previous years. Several of these can be adapted for a "Prayer Shawl" project by increasing the number of stitches stated in the pattern multiple...



photo
© Nashua Handknits

***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHTS** *****

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, September 11, 2006, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. These evenings will feature knitting-related novels, interesting reads and fun knitting with friends...



photo
© Classic Elite Yarns

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

**"Oriental Jacket KAL" with designer / instructor Kathy Zimmerman
Saturday, September 9, 2006, 9 am - 12 noon \$10 registration fee**

What's a KAL? It's a knitalong, a group of knitters working on the same project at the same time. The enchanting CLASSIC ELITE Oriental Jacket from last month's trunk show was so popular that several knitters have asked us to form a support group for help with interpreting pattern directions and stitch charts (shown Elite Yarnsupper right). Class supplies include the CLASSIC ELITE "Noble Knits" booklet, yarn for the project (our model was knit from "Lush"), US size 6 and 8 knitting needles, cable needle, and usual knitting supplies (stitch markers, scissors, row counter, etc.) How often do you have a chance to knit along with the designer of the garment?

"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evening, September 12, 2006, 7 - 9 pm

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! It's free!

**"FUN FRIDAYS" with instructor Joyce Bischoff
September 15, 2006, and September 29, 2006, 10 am - 2pm!**

It's fun, it's free -- come sit and knit with us! Joyce is available for knitting help with your questions and skill-building. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

**"Felting Finesse" with instructor Kelly Gradischek
Saturday, September 16, 2006, 1 - 4 pm \$10 registration fee***

Felting, the process of washing and shrinking knitted items into felt, is the current rage and with good reason. Not only do felted knits look great, but they're warm, durable and fun to knit. Choose a FIBER TRENDS bag pattern and appropriate materials, and our expert Kelly will help you with the how-to's: how to knit in the round, how to add a novelty, how to felt, how to make the strap, and answer your questions. Learn to felt without fear -- you can do it!

* 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 3 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, crochet and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

Breezy silhouettes, lively yarns and sophisticated colors are the hallmark of the upcoming season. When autumn leaves fall, be ready -- KEEP KNITTING! Kathy