



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



Dear Knitters,

Warm summer days are giving way to longer, cooler nights and crisp mornings. It's time to welcome the arrival of the fall knitting season, and start working on your holiday gift list! The latest trends are: quick, flattering knits made with bulky yarns; projects that "mix it up" by using different fibers and weights (think stash busters); projects that explore clever constructions; and projects of all sizes worked with natural fibers.

On the 7/23/08 *Knitting Daily* website, *Interweave Knits* editor Eunny Jang discusses the knitting treats that await us this fall: "Our knitting stories are about exploring the many directions a single inspiration can go in, giving insight in the process -- how good, how satisfying, knitting is at all levels. Getting back to basics with knitting never feels boring or tired: those stitches, those yarns, those movements are always compelling, because there's always something new to explore or learn, and something new to be made every time. So get knitting, and dig into the aspects you find most fascinating". Whether it's fiber, constructions, technique, or design, we think you'll find plenty of inspiration to spark your creativity in the new products we're featuring for fall, so get ready to:

"KNIT, KNIT, KNIT!"

**All regularly-priced PLYMOUTH YARNS in stock
are 10% off during September 2008**

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
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 *****

Get ready for the new fall classics -- don't you agree that this is the best time of year to pick up needles and yarn? We've got a wonderful line-up of products sure to spark your creativity. Let's start with the magazines:

In the fall 2008 issue of *Interweave Knits* (\$6.99), editor Eunny Jang says that you'll find "garments with wide-ranging appeal, all with a mind toward changing weather and knitting whims: You'll find lush, rich fabrics and textures; transitional layering pieces; and cozy fibers used in unusual ways. Old classics are revisited and reimagined, new combinations and blends are considered, and unusual constructions are made beautifully wearable. Wardrobe staples, quirky accessories, shawls and socks -- there's something for everyone". Be sure to check the fantastic "Beyond The Basics" article on invisible cast-ons and bind-offs, a "finesse" technique for attractive, elastic beginnings and endings...

Piecework Magazine (\$5.99) marks its fifteenth anniversary, inspired by quilts -- there is a decorative quilt-inspired pillow cover to knit, using two motifs inspired by a whitework quilt. Meg Swansen provides insight into the versatile knitted I-cord with a potholder inspired by the "Opinionated Knitter". Knit an elegant leaf lace edging from Miss Blanche Beau's notebook of Victorian lace. *Traveling Stitches* explores the knitting knowledge and traditions that pioneer women took with them as they made their way across the continent during the 19th century. Nancy Bush also examines the history of Estonian knitted socks and incorporates diamond patterns found on traditional women's Setu stockings into stylish contemporary socks...

The popular special issue *Interweave Felt* is back (\$7.99). The 2008 edition features all NEW content, ranging from needle felting, wet felting, knitted felt, and more. With special projects for little ones (baby booties), unique patterns for home decor, tons of bags, and beautiful wearable felt, this magazine is all the rage with our customers! There are tips for great felting results every time plus our favorite, adorable needle felt animals (beagles and polar bears)...

We are pleased to announce the premiere issue of the long-awaited NASHUA HANDKNITS MAGAZINE is here (\$19.95). NASHUA HANDKNITS has strived to provide yarns and designs to fit the lifestyle of the North American knitter, featuring US & Canadian designers. The first story, *Harvest*, offers garments that are sized for the entire family. Imagine celebrating the colors of fall in a warm, cozy sweater as you walk through the invigorating autumn air. *Office* takes us someplace very familiar with garments designed for today's working woman. In environments where professional dress codes vary widely, these garments can substitute for suit jackets, day into evening styles, and simply fashionable, creative statements that merge knitting and business together. We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs, "Career Track" (shown right), a lace & cable cardigan with tab closure collar knit with "Julia" yarn, is included in this collection. The third story, *Natural Focus*, was photographed at the sheep farm owned by Kristin Nicholas and Mark Duprey in NW Massachusetts. The textured rib & cable jacket with single button closure from this collection (shown upper left) was also designed by Kathy, knit from Natural Focus Ecologie Wool...



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

Other new booklets from NASHUA HANDKNITS (\$14.95 each):

- The North American Designer Collection No. 7: once again Kathy is thrilled to be include among the ranks of such talented knitters. Her design, "Collared Cardigan" from "Ivy" yarn (lower left), features 3/4 length openwork rib sleeves, openwork borders and collar, single button closure and lace & cable motif vertical panel on the fronts & back
- Mohair 3: Kathy's dramatic, bold original cable high V-neck vest with side slits (shown upper right) is the perfect piece for layering. We love the feminine looks of the sweaters in this booklet, chock full of eye-appealing, soft textures
- Quarry: textures, cables, ribs, blocks -- this booklet has it all, including a simple stockinette V-neck with an interesting front tie
- City Street: more cables, textured, eyelets & ribbed accessories and sweaters -- these are a few of our favorite things (especially the cabled hooded scarf!). Be sure to notice the longer length to the mittens, an upcoming trend for winter
- Geologie: this gorgeous mohair and wool blend is so beautiful that it gets its own booklet! Kathy's checked brioche ribbed cardigan with pockets & collar is fun to knit (see last page, upper right). "Geologie" yarn will be arriving later this fall.



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Nashua Handknits

New from MOUNTAIN COLORS is Brooke's Lace Shawl kit in beautiful 100% merino handpainted wool crepe (\$96.50), a unique tunic length shawl with sleeves. New patterns (\$5.50 each) include "Cape Cod Cardigan", a V-neck design with textured ridges; Back-to-Basics Sideways Cardigan, a crewneck styling; and Back-to-Basics Sideways Vest. These figure-flattering garments are ideal for use with handpainted yarns. Please see last page for information on or Hand-dyeing workshop...

Sock yarns continue to be our best sellers, for socks, shawls, stoles and fingerless mitts. New from ZITRON is "Trekking Hand Art" (\$20.50, 100 grams, 459 yards, 75% superwash wool / 25% nylon) in gorgeous hand-dyed shades. New color packs of AUSTERMANN "Step" (\$24.50, 100 grams, 460 yards, 75% superwash wool/ 25% nylon) infused with aloe vera and jojoba oil, include Serengeti colorways, an exotic self-striping pattern...

What else is new? ROWAN "Colorscape" (Kaffe Fassett's new chunky signature yarn, \$12.50, 100 grams, 175 yards, 100% lambswool) & "Milk Cotton" (\$12.95, 50 grams, 124 yards, 70% cotton / 30% milk protein). There are new luxurious shawl yarns from KOLLAGE YARNS; multi-directional sweater designs from CHRIS BYLSMA; the latest bags from LANTERN MOON; "Go, Black and Gold" in our team colors station and FIBER TRENDS "Gotta Get A Gecko" pattern (\$5.50) -- wait 'til you see the felt model handknit by Madelon Sheedy (it's the cutest critter ever!) -- AND much more -- stop in & see!

***** 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. The Fort, the town and the Valley welcome you to discover our heritage, recreational opportunities, and unique shopping experiences. "Early Bird" Merchant's sidewalk sales are slated for Thursday, October 9, 2008, before the official start of Fort Days...



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

Knit stylish garter stitch projects with beautiful motifs and irresistible textures! *Great Garter Stitch* (\$14.95, soft cover, shown left) will help you find how creative you can get using simply knit stitches in every row (without a purl in sight!). The garter stitch is the foundation for the striking designs and effects -- from lacy diamonds to triangle patchwork-- featured in fashionable projects. In this book, you'll not only see garter stitch in a new light, but you'll discover how this humble stitch can be used to create knitting magic...

Chicks, grab your sticks -- the time to knit is now! If you've always wanted to pick up this fun, rewarding hobby but were afraid to try, lose your fear and dive into the easiest, most accessible beginner's guide to knitting out there, the *Chicks with Sticks Guide to Knitting* (\$17.95, soft cover). The "Chicks" are all about support, encouragement, and hands-on instruction as they guide readers through a series of lessons that are the building blocks to mastering the skills needed to complete more than 30 simple, fashion-forward patterns. There are gorgeous hats, scarves, and sweaters for men and women alike, as well as wraps, handbags, pillows, and more. Learning to knit has never been easier or more rewarding...

For the first time ever, renowned knitwear designer Debbie Bliss presents *Essential Knits for Kids* (\$22.95, hard cover), a fantastic new collection of contemporary projects styled specifically with boys and girls aged two to five in mind. Debbie's comfortable, fashionable-yet-rugged creations using natural-fiber, machine-washable yarn are not only fun to knit, they keep your child looking great while addressing a very practical need: easy on, easy off, easy to clean. The designs are cleverly organized into three sections: Down Time, Special Time, and Time Out. Within these categories, you'll find gear to outfit your kids from head to toe, whatever the occasion. Stripes, beads, buttons and Fair Isle abound, giving classic looks a new twist and edgy designs a polished appeal...

It's hip to be square! *Vogue Knitting On The Go* series introduces "Grannies" (\$12.95, hard cover), taking crochet granny squares out of the afghan (although there are a couple of those) and transforming them into a gorgeous collection of apparel and home decor projects. Grannies are incredibly versatile -- whip up a simple tote by joining two large grannies, piece together multiple small squares to create a patchwork baby blanket, or trim a small capelet with a border of grannies. There's no limit to the possible combinations...

And, speaking of grannies, be sure to check out our spectacular TRENDSETTER YARNS rocking chair throw hand-crocheted by Betty Lou Glasso in four shades of "Tonalita" yarn. The pattern is available in Book 3704 "Kids & Accessories" (\$11.95, booklet)...

What could be more intriguing than a mystery within a rich, colorful, knitterly context? Maggie Sefton's latest novel is *Dyer Consequences* (\$21.95, hardcover), a mystery with more twists and turns than the scrumptious yarn in the fictitious shop of Lambspun. The clever, fast-paced plot, with a spunky sleuth and a cast of fun, engaging characters delivers the goods...

***** GYPSY STITCH SCARF *****

FINISHED SIZE: 6.5" X 60"

MATERIALS: NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" worsted weight yarn 300 yards
US size 7 knitting needles; tapestry needle

GAUGE: With US 7 needles in pattern, 5 sts = 1"

GYPSY STITCH PATTERN (shown upper right, multiple of 6 + 3 + 2 edge)

Row 1 (RS): K 1 (edge); *K3, P3; repeat from * across to last 4 sts, end K3, K1 (edge).

Row 2: K 1 (edge)*P3, K3; repeat from * across to last 4 sts, end P3, K1 (edge).

Row 3: K 1 (edge) *yo (yarnover), slip 2 sts together as if to K, K1, pass the 2
slipped sts over the K1 (p2sso), yo, P3; repeat from * to last 4 sts, end yo, slip 2,
K1, p2sso, yo, K1 (edge).

Row 4: K1 (edge) *P3, K3; repeat from * to last 4 sts, end P3, K1.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 33 sts. Work 5 rows garter stitch (K every row), inc 1 st at each
end on last row: 35 sts. When piece measures 59" or desired length, end with row 4 of
pattern. K 1 row, dec 1 st at each end: 33 sts. Work 4 rows of garter stitch. Bind off all
sts as if to knit. Weave in ends with tapestry needle. Block lightly.

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***** BABY THUMBLESS MITTENS *****

Kathy designed these cute little handwarmers for wee ones with our new machine
washable, cuddly soft, faux-chenille wool blend yarn.

SIZES: 3 - 6 months (6 - 9 months; 12 - 18 months in parentheses)

MATERIALS: 100 (150 - 200) yards SCHOELLER / STAHL "Fortissima Socka Teddy" DK
weight superwash; one set each US sizes 2 and US 4 double-pointed
needles (dpns); tapestry needle for weaving in ends

GAUGE: 6 stitches = 1"

DIRECTIONS: With smaller dpns, cast on 24 (26 - 28) sts. Join; being careful not to twist
sts. Work in K1, P1 rib for 1" (1.5" - 2"), increasing 4 (4 - 6) sts evenly spaced across last
row: 28 (32 - 36) sts. Change to larger size dpns. Work in stockinette stitch (K every
round) until piece measures 3" (4" - 5") from beginning.

Shape top:

Round 1: *K1, K2tog [together], K9 (11 - 13), K2tog; repeat from * once.

Round 2: *K1, K2tog, K7 ((9 - 11), K2tog; repeat from * once.

Round 3: *K1, K2tog, K5 (7 - 9), K2tog; repeat from * once.

Round 4: *K1, K2tog, K3 (5 - 7), K2tog; repeat from * once.

Divide remaining 12 (16 - 20) sts evenly on 2 dpns & weave sts together for mitten tip.

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***** DESIGN-A-SCARF CONTEST WINNERS *****

Kathy's Kreations sponsored a "Design A Scarf" contest for last month's Westmoreland
County Fair. Entries were a scarf of original design, knitted or crocheted with CLASSIC
ELITE YARNS. Congratulations to the following knitters for their prize-winning entries: 1st
place Susan Zylka "Tulip Rows"; 2nd place Karen Sredzinski "Yellow Scarf"; 3rd place
Nancy Premoshis "Persian Lace". Nancy also won a well-deserved "Best Of Show"
ribbon for a beautiful DALE OF NORWAY lace child's dress with Fair Isle trim -- great
work!

***** INTRODUCING CROCHET FOR THE CURE *****

Each fall, we introduce new additions to our "Knit For The Cure" pattern collection. Our staff and friends of the shop have designed scarves and accessories, with the profits from the sale of these patterns donated to the charity of the designer's choice. We are pleased to begin our "Crochet For the Cure" series. The premiere scarf was designed by Julie Charlebois, in memory of her mother, Irene Wolf, with profits designated for breast cancer research. Julie's beautiful "Clusters In Stripes Scarf" pattern (\$4.00, upper right) was worked with CLASSIC ELITE "Summer Set" cotton / alpaca blend yarn in her mom's favorite color...



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

Marie P called to ask, "I'm working Lisa Knits Flower Garden Cardigan. The direction says to purl through the back loop. How do I do this?" Good question, Marie, this can seem awkward if you've never done this. According to Barbara Walker (*Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns*, on our bookshelf), "P1-b" or P1 tbl, or purl through the back loop, means: purl one stitch through its back loop, placing the right-hand needle point behind the stitch as if to insert the needle between the first and second stitches from the back, then inserting it, instead, into the *back* loop of the first stitch from the left-hand side, and wrapping the yarn around the needle point in front to complete the purl stitch as usual".

Jennifer B asked: "How do I keep track of increases when working lace?" The most important thing to remember is to always work the yarnover / decrease pairs together. Every yarnover increase **MUST** have a corresponding decrease to maintain the pattern. It may be helpful to make a working copy of the stitch chart, find the yarnover/decrease pairs in the pattern and circle them (or color with different color highlighters) to help keep track of them. If you do not have enough stitches to work the paired combination together, then work them in stockinette instead. When you have enough extra stockinette stitches to work only half of the pattern, that may be enough to keep the lace pattern intact. Stitch markers are always helpful. Place one color stitch marker to keep track of the original stitch count, and another to count the number of increases, which should be the same on each side.

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

When knitting a cardigan, work the buttonhole stitches on each band. When it's time to sew on the buttons, just attach them over the buttonhole. You will have perfectly matched buttons... from KnitNet.com

Having trouble remembering how to cross cables in the correct direction? Try this mantra: "I'll be **RIGHT BACK**, I **LEFT** the **FRONT** door open". Hold stitches to the back for a right cable cross. Hold stitches to the front for a left cable cross... from KnitNet.com

Alpaca, a very popular fiber this season, doesn't have the elasticity of wool. Many people who find wool irritating next to the skin can wear alpaca garments in comfort. There's no lanolin in alpaca to react to. Take care, though, when weaving in ends. Alpaca's silky hand means that sometimes an end will slip out if it isn't woven in securely. Be sure to weave in one direction for a few stitches, then turn around and weave back for a stitch or two... from Pam Allen, Classic Elite Yarns fall '08 newsletter

***** FALL 2008 TREND REPORT *****

According to CLASSIC ELITE YARNS fall newsletter, industry fashion magazines see four main color stories for fall '08:

--- **Indulgence** knits are the dessert sweaters -- worked in clear pinks, roses, lavender, and chocolate browns. Texture stitches are oversized -- lacy and open or plain but knitted in a loose gauge -- and worked with fluffy, voluminous yarns. Sweater details stay close to the face with scarf extensions, chunky rolled collars and cowls. The overall silhouette is sloppy shouldered, rounded and blouson.

--- **Birds of Paradise** knits are colored almost exclusively in blues, greens and ombres -- think marine, periwinkle, teal, emerald, russet, chartreuse and forest green. Yarns grade subtly from one color to another. Consider working two yarns held together and changing them intermittently to achieve this effect. Silhouettes are loose and unconstructed, with wide belts cinched at the hips, waist or worn empire style.

--- **Flapper** knits draw on faded photos of glamour girls wearing gilded flapper dresses and long strands of pearls. Colors have a soft patina -- dusky blues, pale grays, mauves, taupes -- all the tones of an old hand-tinted photo. Yarns are drapery and fluid; stitches are lacy, transparent and may be worked in chain-mail imitations. Sweater silhouettes are soft, tiered, drapery with smocked details and deep scooped necklines.

--- The **Construct** story harkens back to the clean, minimal styling of the early 60s. Color work is graphic -- big-and-bold color blocking or clean, neat geometric patterns. Colors are clean reds, oranges, olives, khakis and grays. Silhouettes, in contrast to the other stories, are slim, straight, or A-line. Necklines are V'd, shirt-tailored or standaway. Buttons and zippers are concealed to preserve a clean, uncluttered line.

***** WHAT'S NEW WITH RUG PUNCH? *****

Love to rug punch? Since we introduced rug punch class this spring, many of customers are asking for more, more, more! Join Tracey Earhart on **Saturday, September 27, 2008, 6 - 8 pm** here at Kathy's for a fun evening of fellowship and sharing ideas. And don't miss our workshop with Amy Oxford next month!

"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 possibilities. 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 (sample project shown lower right).

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 (just a few spaces remain!)



***** READER'S KNIT CLUB *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, September 8, 2008, and October 6, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. New knitting books will be featured...



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***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evening, September 9, 2008, from 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 are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** "RUG PUNCH NIGHT" with Tracey Earhart Saturday evening, September 27, 2008; 6 pm - 8 pm**

***** FUN FRIDAY September 12, 2008, and FUN SATURDAY, October 4, 2008 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff**

Join us for Fun Friday (the 2nd Friday in September) and Fun Saturday (on October 4, since Fort Days will be on our regular meeting day). 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. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

***** UPCOMING CLASSES *****

"Sedona Sunset Six-Strand Class" with instructor Helen Stetina; Saturday, September 20, 2008, 10 am - 12 pm OR 2 - 4 pm (a TWO-HOUR class with your choice of morning or afternoon); \$45*

Helen is offering this colorful class to get you acquainted with the six-strand CTR punch needle and all the fun things it can do! Please bring a small pair of sharp embroidery scissors. Six-strand CTR punch needle will be available for class use and may be purchased after class.

Class size is limited to six students per class; register early as Helen tells us first come, first served

"Dye-ing to Knit With Ewe" with instructors Eleanor Swogger and Kate Lemmers; Saturday, September 27, 2008; a three-hour class with your choice of 9 am - 12 noon OR 1 pm - 4pm \$25* registration fee plus yarn

Love to knit with colorful hand-dyed yarns? Eleanor and Kate will share their secrets to help you create your own unique colorways. Registration fee includes instructions and enough colorings for dyeing two hanks. 14 varieties of KRAEMER YARNS "Natural Skeins" wool yarn will be available for purchase, with a price range of \$7.95 - \$14.50 per hank. Additional dyes will be available to use during class for \$2 per hank.

"The Wonderful Wallaby" 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.

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

May you approach your fall projects with a curiosity to learn something new and a sense of adventure, and by all means, enjoy every minute. KEEP KNITTING! Kathy