



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724~238~9320
APRIL 2006 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Do you know where your UFO's are hiding? More likely in your bedroom closet than a galaxy far, far away. UFO's, in knitting cyberspace vernacular, are unfinished objects. We all have them. It's time to do some spring cleaning and re-organize your yarn stash -- find creative ways to use up odd balls of yarn, finish those fabulous "almost done" sweaters from last spring to wear *this* season, make an appointment with one of our excellent instructors to help you conquer a problem that has you stumped, or bring them to "Fun Friday". Even a beginner knitter can be fashion forward by adding simple stripes to basic patterns (it's a great way to use up extra yarn or re-invent / recycle a stalled project). If all of these concepts seem "alien" to you, donate your odds and ends to a charity knitting group, senior center or school, making more room for the latest out-of-this-world yarns and freeing up your needles to create even more UFO's. Ask us about the Adams Memorial Library Chemo Caps Project, Caps for Kids, and Warm Up America for programs in need of yarn.

No matter how many UFO's you have going at one time, knitting does wonders for the soul -- most knitters find it relaxing and soothing for their inner space. Knitting is part of our lives. Come in and see what's new in celestial socks, heavenly wraps, and cosmic sweaters...

LET'S KNIT !!!

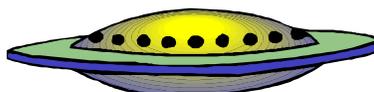
All regularly-priced CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS
in stock are 10% off during April 2006

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
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 *****

As we celebrate the completion of our 26th year in business and the arrival of spring, our passion for knitting and knitters has never been greater. Style comes alive this season, abundant with confidence, color and texture. It's fun, it's fabulous, it's full of energy. Take your pick of wonderful new products to make your spring knitting season extra special. There are many creative ways to work with color and texture. Here's what's new in the trendsetting magazines...

Hit a home run with KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Spring 2006 (\$5.95), who invites you to "Be A Sport" with hand-knit versions of sportswear -- the hoodie, tank tops, jackets, polos and T-shirts. This issue, with its sports metaphors, is "full of stitch-work and fun knitting options. Rather than overly textured yarns, these garments are classics in contemporary colors with little accents of style". There are many techniques for skill-building -- short rows that shape hats, shawls and collars to drawstrings, ties, and sashes that define a look. Although the sweaters and accessories featured are for spring, you'll find that many are perfect for most seasons, most places. We are pleased that two of Kathy's designs are included, about which KNITTER's says: Take A Turn (shown upper left) -- "Combine color and texture in a logical manner. Here a rope cable pattern changes color at each twist, the result is a striped sweater with lots of character" (in CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Provence") Checking (shown page 6, lower left) -- Slip-stitch blocks make easy work of variegated ribbon yarn. The resulting texture and color mix is so interesting everyone will want to 'check it out'."

VOGUE KNITTING Spring / Summer 2006 (\$5.99) is all about the details -- the "embellishment" trend is everywhere -- everything from medallions to flowers to picot edges -- and (let's cut to the lace), openwork is in!. White is making a big fashion statement, along with nautical looks, lingerie-inspired pieces, urban safaris, riviera chic, couture styling and a return to the sixties. To our delight, Kathy's boxy cable and textured cotton pullover is included in this collection (see lower right). Be sure to check out the article, "Geometry Lesson" for a great-looking multi-directional wrap that's suitable for handpainted yarns...



Hook into summer with INTERWEAVE CROCHET Spring 2006 (\$7.99). This special issue will help you get into the loop with projects chosen with warmer weather in mind. There are openwork vests which slide over a tank or a tee and smaller projects like totebags, scarves, belts, and even clever beach sandals. There are projects which give new meaning to hairpin lace, reinterpreting an old technique into up-to-the-minute fashion with a fabulous how-to article (ask to see our selection of hairpin lace looms and try this fun technique)...

KNIT 'n STYLE June 2006 (\$5.99) creates a stir with features on knitting lace (we told you, it's Hot!). Margaret Radcliffe's article includes tips on what projects to pick, what tools and materials to use, how to correct mistakes, and how to block. In conjunction with this article, there are several lace and eyelet openwork designs that produce very feminine garments...

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

LISA KNITS has four new patterns (\$4.00 each), and we're the first yarn shop to have them! For the sports-minded, there is "Team Colors" (shown right), a hat and scarf duo with an easy, clever reversible cable pattern, for you to show your team spirit. "Touchdown" pullover (shown lower left) features a striped "gridiron" background with applied football embellishments and a toy football -- your favorite little guy will love it! For girls, there's "Butterflies" (shown page 7, upper right), a charming hat and sweater with applied butterflies. And, for beginners and experienced knitters alike, a basic "Seed Collar Cardigan" (shown page 8, upper right) easy enough for your first (or classic enough for your fiftieth) cardigan project. Cardigans and jackets will have renewed popularity right through fall and winter, and this beauty is ideal for tweed or self-stripping yarns...



RYC *Babies Book Four* (\$16.50, soft cover) is a delightful collection of crochet and handknits designed to be a joy to create and a pleasure to wear for wee ones. Babies are only babies for a short time -- all too soon that cuddly bundle will be an energetic toddler with his or her own ideas! Now is the time to enjoy dressing baby in the coolest, cutest clothes imaginable, all with Cashsoft Baby DK (\$8.50, 50 grams, 142 yards, 57% superfine merino/33% microfiber/10% cashmere). There are cables, Fair Isles and textures as well as intarsia cowboys, chicks, and scotty dog motifs. A variety of stuffed animal toys are also included...

"Cotton Stria" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 116 yards, 100% cotton) is a supersoft Peruvian cotton that is hand dyed in large kettles dyed by the women of the MANOS DEL URUGUAY Cooperative to create a marbelized, subtly striated effect. No two skeins are exactly alike and there are no dyelots. Pattern support booklet Cotton Collection #3 (\$14.50) features a variety of stylish summer fashions gauged at 4.5 sts per inch on US 6 - 8 needles. "Handcrafted Kettle Dyed Pure Wool" (\$14.95, 100 grams, 138 yards) is spun from a luxurious blend of Merino and Corriedale wools. We now have the most popular handpaint colorways (some subtle, some dramatic) for garments and felting, gauged at 3.5 - 4 sts per inch on US 8 - 10 needles...

Felting rocks! If you can't get enough felted bags, CABIN FEVER has several new patterns for you (\$5.50 each):

- #705 Lattice Tote Bag -- a Fair Isle shoulder bag using 7 colors of worsted weight wool
- #706 Tote Stripes -- a roomy shoulder bag with your choice of 4 colorful stripes
- #707 SheepStrings Felted Purse -- a small shoulder bag with unique strap
- #708 Sheepstrings Big Bag -- the large version to carry all you belongings and simple to knit

DESIGNS BY CAROLYN patterns (\$5.95 each) now available:

- CW-07 Jaunty Jane -- ladies' basic summer short-sleeved pullover in two gauges (chunky & light chunky) in stockinette & reverse stockinette
- CW-08 Two-One Rib Raglan Pullover -- ladies' easy short-sleeved pullover with textured interest
- CW-10 Diamonds -- girl's sweet short sleeved pullover with chevron edges and textured pattern
- CW-11 Emma's Fancy Cardigan & Hat -- girl's cute cardigan with novelty yarn in garter slip stitch





photo
© Nashua Handknits

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

There's more than meets the eye at Kathy's Kreation's. Many of you know that Kathy is a nationally recognized knitwear designer for several yarn companies and major knitting magazines. We are pleased to present the second edition of *The North American Designer Collection* from NASHUA HANDKNITS (\$14.95, shown left). In the preface, NASHUA HANDKNITS says, " We are proud to offer spring and summer designs from nine designers who have their pulse on what the North American knitter and crocheter wants to wear. Our cover sweater is a striking cable and leaf design, created by Kathy Zimmerman, in our Creative Focus Cotton" (shown upper left). This design is featured in an earth tone shade of taupe (now available), great to match with summer linen separates. We invite you to check out this booklet, including several lace and openwork designs that are very much in style. You'll see why Kathy feels so honored to be included once again in this very special series from NASHUA HANDKNITS...

Unwind the power of *Inspired Cables* by Fiona Ellis (\$35.00, hardcover). In this collection of 20 original designs, Ellis combines her extensive fashion expertise with her own creative approach. This unique selection of cable patterns ventures out of the predictable realm of vertical columns and constant repetition and into the spontaneous territory of a variety of natural designs. Each pattern is combined with easy-to-follow instructions, diagrams, and the four themes of change, nature, energy, and time to present a range of captivating styles for the entire family. From sweaters to tank tops, yoga bags to pillows, wraps to scarves, each offering an opportunity to tune into a mindful approach to knitting...

What a cool idea -- *Hand Felted Jewelry and Beads* (\$21.95, softcover) -- this fashion art is sure to start a felting frenzy! Expert felter Carol Huber Cypher shares her artful secrets to making striking jewelry and accessories with beaded embellishment in this ultimate guide. In addition, this book is a comprehensive resource to walk you gently through the process of felting step-by-step, with tips on all the tools needed. With just a bag of wool, a needle, a bit of soap, water, thread and beads, you'll see just how simple it is to make truly original creations from felt...

KNITTING PATTERNS BY MELISSA presents *Volume Two Toddlers to Tots* (\$19.95). This unique presentation of 18 color project cards in an envelope features designs sized for 1 - 6 year olds. Fashions vary from a whimsical butterfly dress and dinosaur hoodie to traditional "dressed up" coats and ponchos to sporty letter jackets and football sweaters...

Knitting With Ribbon Yarn by Tracy Chapman (\$29.95, hard cover) is a stylish guide to discovering how to make head-turning garments and accessories using ribbon yarn. Create stunning summer-weight sweaters, vests and wraps; chic bags and home accessories; and silken camisoles and halters to show off ribbon yarn's unique, vibrant highlights. There are also tips and techniques to teach you how to enhance your pieces with embroidery, beads, and sequins. This book features 28 original designs, based on simple shapes and basic stitches, enabling any knitter to create something special...

***** THE "HOLIDAY DE-STRESS" PATTERN OF THE MONTH *****

In our continuing series, inspired by Tracey Earhart's fiber group's resolution to "de-stress the holidays" by starting early and doing one gift project a month, here are more ideas to help avoid the last-minute rush and budget crunch.



RIDGED RIB HAT

FINISHED HAT CIRCUMFERENCE: approximately 20" child (22" adult medium)

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn, approx. 150 (175) yards; US #5 and US #7 16" circular knitting needles; US #7 double-pointed needles (dpns) OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE.

GAUGE: 5 sts = 1" in pattern stitch on larger needles

RIDGED RIB PATTERN (shown upper right, knit with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Princess")

Round 1: Knit (K).

Round 2: Purl (P).

Rounds 3 & 4: *K1, P1; repeat from * around.

Repeat these 4 rounds for pattern, worked circularly.

HAT INSTRUCTIONS (worked circularly): With smaller needle and worsted weight yarn, cast on 100 (110) sts. Join, place marker, being careful not to twist sts. Work in rounds of K1, P1 ribbing for 1" (1.5"). Change to large needles. Work in ridge rib stitch until piece measures 5.5" (6") from beginning.

Crown Shaping (garter stitch):

Round 1: *K8, ssk (slip, slip, knit decrease); repeat from * around: 90 sts.

Round 2 and all even-numbered rounds: Purl.

Change to dpns when necessary.

Round 3: *K7, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 5: *K6, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 7: *K5, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 9: *K4, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 11: *K3, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 13: *K2, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 15: *K1, ssk; repeat from * around.

Round 17: *ssk; repeat from * around. Cut yarn. Run tail through remaining sts.

Fasten off.

SCARF FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 6" X 60"

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn, approx. 300 yards; US #7 16" knitting needles OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE of 5 sts = 1" in pattern stitch on larger needles

RIDGED RIB PATTERN (shown upper right, knit with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Princess")

Row 1: Knit (K).

Row 2: Knit (K).

Row 3: P1, *K1, P1; repeat from * across.

Row 4: K1; *P1, K1; repeat from * across.

Repeat these 4 rows for pattern, worked flat.

SCARF INSTRUCTIONS (worked flat, back & forth): Cast on 31 sts. Work in ridged rib pattern until piece measures 60" or desired length. Bind off all sts in pat. Weave in ends. To adjust for wider or narrower scarf, add or subtract stitches in multiple of 2.

© Copyright 2006 Kathy Zimmerman. All rights reserved. For non-commercial personal or charitable use only. Please do not reproduce in any form, copy this pattern or sell items made from this pattern without the permission of the designer, Kathy Zimmerman.

***** ASK KATHY *****

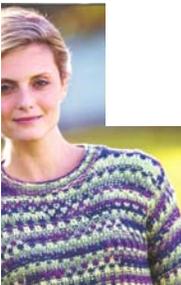
From Kathleen Babyak: "I'm knitting my first sweater in the round from the top down -- how do I know if it will fit?" Transfer the "live" stitches of the yoke from your circular knitting needle onto a long strand of slippery yarn thinner than your working yarn (a mercerized cotton like TAHKI "Cotton Classic" works well for this purpose). Tie the ends of the strand so that the garment stitches are secure, and try on the actual garment. You can make the necessary adjustments for the fit to the underarm shaping. This also works for the sleeve length...

From Charmaine Clawson: "The bottom rib of my beautiful kid mohair sweater is stretched. I tried sewing some elastic around it, but it doesn't look right. Is there anything I can do?" There are some tricks to working with elastic thread to correct stretched ribbings. Secure the elastic thread in the seam at the first row of the body. Work through HALF of every other stitch across the row (example, if the ribbing is K1, P1, work through only one half of the K stitch only). Give a slight tug following each stitch. Repeat this process approximately every .5" of the ribbing up from the bottom or as desired for best appearance from the public side of the work. Try the garment on to adjust for fit and then secure the thread in the seam...

From Bev (internet): "How do you block a sweater without making it look smashed? I tried steam and dry ironing and I'm not happy with the result". Easy does it -- steam is a last resort and dry ironing can damage the knitted fabric permanently. For best results, use blocking wires (thin wires than can be threaded along the outside of the knitted pieces, we have these in stock) and T-pins to shape the pieces of the garment before assembly. I use a large styrofoam sheet covered with an inexpensive plastic tablecloth (the disposable picnic table kind) and pin the individual pieces of the garment to the desired measurements. Use a clean plastic spray bottle filled with room temperature filtered water and spritz lightly. Let the pieces air dry in a place safe from pets and household traffic. After assembling the garment, a light spritzing may be needed on seams or collars to set. I've had bad experiences with a steam iron singeing hairy fibers, and have heard nightmares from customers who have tried a wet towel laid on top of their projects. With the spritz method, you can try again making the pieces a little damper, but once the fabric is overblocked, there may not be a fix...

***** FELTING TIPS *****

Vicky Trevino recommends using the back side of a rubber dish rack mat (the side with corrugated ridges) for spot felting. It worked wonders on a "too long" purse strap. Check out the beautiful TWO OLD BAGS "Bucket Bag" which Vicky made for us from FILATURA DI CROSA "127 Print" and embellished with a JHB INTERNATIONAL "Roch"



button. Vicky, an expert seamstress, has lined our bag, complete with a zippered pocket. She also shaved the bag with electric hair clippers, giving it a smooth and neatly trimmed appearance. Please ask us for information about having your felted bags custom lined by Vicky...

Other ideas for "spot felting" textured surfaces are bamboo placemats, small "bubble wrap", microwave bacon racks, a ridged rubber doormat, reed or cane beach mats...

***** UFO MONTH *****

We have declared April to be UFO (unfinished objects) month and hope that you join us in resolving to finish at least one item. The idea came from Eleanor Swogger at KRAEMER YARNS, who issued this challenge: "My UFO that I plan to finish is a sampler cardigan that has been knitted for at least three years, but needs one more sleeve sewn in and one underarm seam. Decorative embroidery is supposed to be done between patterns. The bands are knit but the sweater got put aside to finish something else. It is time to finish the project and will probably only take two to four hours. It will be great to have a new finished sweater. What do you plan to finish?"



We posed this question to our instructors. Here's what we found:

Lisa Carnahan: "I've had this project about 5 years now in the basement knitting bin. It's an Alice Starmore gansey worked with fine yarn and size 2 needles. The body is done and I love it, I just need to pick up the sleeves & knit them down to the cuff. It probably needs to be re-gauged, after all this time. I will simplify the pattern with plainer sleeves"...

Tracey Earhart: "When Hannah was a toddler (she's nine now), I was making her a little ruffled tank top. Hannah grew faster than the knitting, and the project was set aside. If I was wise, I would work on it as a gift for my friends' daughter's birthday -- it would fit perfectly and she would look so cute in it". Tracey also recommends the UFO challenge as a way to "de-stress" the holidays and special occasions. You already have a head start on a handmade gift...

Betty Lou Glasso: "The funky patchwork cardigan -- I need to finish that one (this sounds like the same project as Eleanor's UFO) . And, the carwash scarf -- I'll be OK once I get past the middle, but it has six different yarns that get tangled up. And the steek sweater -- I'm knitting a child's version so I can learn how to do the steek without fear"...

Nancy Premoshis: "My oldest UFO was started when my daughter was in college. She is now 30 and occasionally asks about it. There was a yarn dye lot problem and the color difference shows right across the shoulders at the back. It's been in my closet ever since. I guess I should get it out and see what I can do with it"...

Kathy: "The beautiful red Ananas and ribbon garter stitch cardie that was supposed to be done for the TNNA trade show two years ago. It's patiently waiting for me to have time to pick it up again. Maybe for the next trade show"...

We'd love to hear about your UFO's. One yarn shop we know suggests chocolate as an incentive -- you get to eat one M&M as a reward for every row completed!

***** "TOTE GIFT BAG" GIFT IDEAS *****

One of our customers recently told us about a great gift idea. She felted a large FIBER TRENDS Fabulous Felted Tote and added pockets. She gave this to her sister as a baby shower gift to use as a diaper bag. The pockets held baby wipes, lotion, and various "mommy" items. Inside the bag was a handknit baby blankie and diapers. We love this idea and suggest that Weavette squares could be felted for the pockets.

This idea can be applied to other gift ideas -- a book lover's tote for a friend's birthday complete with a juicy novel, bookmark, journal, a mug for beverages and a LISA KNITS reader's wrap; or a "love to shop" tote for a fellow knitter with LANTERN MOON needles, a small project, knitting gadgets and a gift certificate to Kathy's Kreations. Please let us know your ideas and we'll pass them along...

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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, April 3, 2006, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Volunteers will be on hand to help with knitting questions and how-to's, including instructions for beginners. Featured book displays will focus on knits for little ones, including *For the Pampered Baby* by Rita Weiss and *Simple Knits for Little Cherubs* by Erika Knight. The next Knit Night will be **Monday, May 1, 2006, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**, and the featured book will be *Kids: A Knitter's Dozen* which includes Kathy's design, "Colorful Combs"...



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

"Knit Nite" at Kathy's Creations: Tuesday evening, April 11, 2006, 7 - 9 pm (knitter's night out) All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! Hosted by the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild... it's free!

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

"Beginner Socks", Saturday, April 29, 2006, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Nancy Premoshis, \$10.00 registration fee*

Socks are the ultimate portable knitting project, great to take along in your tote for unexpected knitting opportunities. Nancy will help you tackle your first pair of socks -- mastering double-pointed needles, recognizing and fixing mistakes, interpreting pattern directions, heel and toe shapings, and much more...

* 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 Creations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-creations.com

Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

******* FUN FRIDAY IS BACK! *******

Dig out your UFO's (unfinished objects) & WIP's (works in progress) and join us on **Friday, April 28, 2006 from 10 am - 2 pm**, for a fun-filled day of knitting comradery. Joyce Bischoff will be here to answer your questions and provide expert knitting assistance, with wonderful tips for getting those UFO's back on track. It's free, it's fun, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack or lunch if you wish, a folding chair if you've got one, and your sense of humor. You deserve to escape for a knitting break...

"A light exists in spring
Not present on the year
At any other period"
Emily Dickenson

Winter has faded, hints of spring and the promise of summer are more evident. Days grow longer as we "spring forward", trees begin to bud and the blooms begin to peek out of the ground here on the Diamond, in nature's re-birth. We'll help you plan your special projects for spring and summer occasions. KEEP KNITTING! Kathy