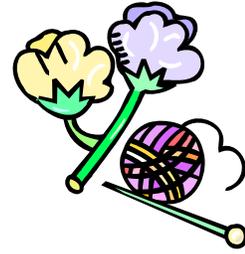




KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
APRIL 2008 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

If you think about the things that make spring such a special time, color might come to mind: sunny yellow daffodils and forsythia bushes, the cheery pinks, purples and lilacs of garden blooms, the greening of the countryside, robin red-breast sightings, and the intense blue of the sky. The brilliance of spring awakening seems to energize everything and everyone. Spring is a time to brighten up your life!

The harmony of nature is reflected in the shelves and displays at Kathy's Kreations. Our eclectic new yarns are as colorful as spring, with project ideas perfectly suited for the warmer days ahead. There are a variety of environmentally-friendly options for the fiber-conscious, including extraordinary blends of cotton, linen, bamboo, corn and milk (yes, milk!). Finer gauge yarns for lace knitting and crocheting along with sensational sock yarns complete the mix. Punch needle embroidery and rug punch home dec items will add a fresh splash of color to your indoor space, too.

Make us one of your spring destination spots and let your senses take it all in. Brighten up your life and,

"KNIT A CLASSIC"
All regularly-priced CLASSIC ELITE yarns
in stock are 10% off
during April 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 *****

What gives a sweater its appeal? Is it simply style alone, or is there some elusive quality that makes it a "stand-out"? We've got a bevy of new yarns, designs and innovative products, each with a special "something" to spark your creativity. Vibrant patterns, energetic hues, and colorful styles are spring's sure things. What are knitters knitting now? It's "Knit A Classic" Month, and CLASSIC ELITE tells us that it's traditional sweaters that are hot on the needles. Look for lace, lace & cable combinations, Bohus sweaters, Fair Isle colorwork, Faroese shawls -- anything related to the history of knitting. Whatever your fancy this spring, we've got the goods and here's the latest:

The environment is the hottest of hot-button topics these days, and *Vogue Knitting Magazine* Spring / Summer 2008 (\$6.99, shown upper left) features ten fabulous hot-weather sweaters in the greenest of yarns that are good for the environment and your wardrobe. There is a special section on organic style -- knitting green and what it means. There are several projects for fairy-tale wedding knits, including a bag, ethnic mitts, shrug, bridal coat, dresses and lace knits. Style is in the air with a new wave of classics: cables, tanks and tunics in deep blue, plus black & white sweaters for work. An article on waist shaping by Lily Chin is a "must-read"...

Everyone's dyeing to dye! *Knit One, Crochet Too* introduces the Culinary Colors Dye Collection (\$53.95). This kitchen-safe, eco-friendly dye collection for yarn and fiber includes directions and basic color theory instructions, and highly concentrated, FDA-approved dyes for use on animal fibers such as wool, alpaca, and silk (1 fluid ounce each of 10 vibrant colors will dye multiple projects)...

Love to knit? Want projects that are quick and fun to do? 100% cotton yarn dishcloths are a very portable project, as practical as they are pretty. Pick one or two of our 100% cotton yarns and make a batch from two new booklets from LEISURE ARTS (\$6.95 each). "Baby Washcloths to Knit" features 9 easy-to-make soft cloths for baby with whimsical garter stitch designs like butterflies, sailboats, stork, bunny, rocking horse, lamb and baby items. "Garden Dishcloths to Knit" includes 12 designs with garter stitch motifs like leaping frogs, ladybug, flowers, birds, cherries and much more...

New from COLINETTE just in time for spring occasions like proms, bridal showers, and weddings, is the Mini Pak Shawl Kit (\$129.50). This shawl kit includes several hanks of hand-painted, textured yarns sufficient to complete a large triangular shawl, easy to knit, and a beautiful one-of-a-kind masterpiece when finished....

BERROCO introduces *Norah Gaughan Volume 2* (\$15.50), which contains two stories with two distinct covers in a flip book design. In "Three for All", Norah takes three concepts and each has three variations, and "Objet d'art" features simple modern pieces. Summery blends of linen, silk and rayon are knit in stockinette stitch, mixed with a few simple openwork stitches and transformed with pleats, twists and folds into interesting and wearable "objets". The booklet features sensual tops, cropped cardigans and beautiful, functional bags (shown lower right), all icons of Gaughan's inimitable style...



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

We seem to be in the midst of a baby boom -- congratulations to many of our customers who are first-time mothers and grandmothers. We would like to recommend PLYMOUTH YARN/CLECKHEATON "Cocoon 4 ply" for your precious little ones (\$4.50, 50 grams, 178 yards, CYCA yarn classification 2, 70% merino / 30% nylon, machine washable) -- this is the softest baby yarn to come along in a long while. CLECKHEATON pattern book 951 features basic, classic styles for babies and those bolero and baby girl shrugs you've been requesting. We're sure you'll agree the patterns are simply darling...



The "Cadenza Crossover Baby Sweater" from COLINETTE YARNS (\$19.95 kit) is now available in a variety of gorgeous handpainted "Cadenza" colors, a soft 100% merino easycare wool. Knit with US size 6 needles, this surplice-style cardigan will fit newborn to six month sizes, boys and girls. Ask to see our precious display model beautifully handknit by Joyce Bischoff...

New items have arrived from KNIT ALONG WITH DEBBIE MACOMBER. Debbie is donating all of the proceeds from the sale of these items to help children all over the world. These items will make wonderful Mother's Day's gifts for your favorite mom -- and don't forget to pick up one or two to pamper yourself (shown lower left):

- Floral Stripe Purse Kit to knit or crochet (\$15.99, 11" wide X 9.5" tall X 2" deep); kit contains one set of 13" faux leather handles, two 3/4" brass magnetic snaps, exclusive fabric for lining; you supply the yarn and needles / hook
- The Knitter's Complete Journal (\$32.99); this fabric bound, canvas-lined journal includes lined paper, five section dividers, plastic needle gauge; two zip top pockets; pen holder; CD loaded with patterns, tages, note cards, recipes, labels, and recipe cards; refill packs are available (\$3.99)
- Classic Collection Pattern Box (\$21.99); this folding easel-style box contains 20 cards with 23 designs including pillows, sweaters for women and kids, scarves, hats, purse & belt; afghans & throws; dishcloths; shawls & stoles; each laminated card has a color photo and complete easy-to-follow instructions. The card's compact size is perfect for taking along in your knitting bag. At home, use the box as an easel to hold the pattern card while you knit.
- Quilted Large Needle Case (\$32.99); this large zippered, pastel quilted spring print fabric with flap closure protects and holds six pairs of straight needles, accommodates sizes 0 - 19 (not included), opens flat ; approx. 16" wide X 1.25" deep X 5" high
- Quilted Single Project Bag (\$18.99); the pastel spring print quilted fabric matches the large needle case; the bag snaps to a belt loop, purse, or wrist for a project-on-the-go; crossover flap allows the yarn in the bag to feed untangled; approx. 9" X 5"
- Knitter's Pocket Guide (\$21.99) is a take-along, laminated quick-reference guide; the pastel spring print fabric with canvas lining matches the large needle case and project bag; cards include information about yarn weights, a needle inventory, how-to's for techniques, helpful hints

-- Three-Compartment Hanging Storage (\$24.99); pastel spring print fabric coordinates with project bags & pocket guide; space-saving storage for your yarn stash, linens, sweaters, and more; velcro hang tab fastens securely around a standard closet rod; three easy-access zippered compartments protect items from dust & dirt; see-through mesh keeps items visible at a glance





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

Felting has become increasingly popular among our customers, as it creates a textile that is durable yet soft. *Shibori Knitted Felt* (\$24.95, softcover, detail shown left) adds an extra dimension to felted knits, drawing on ancient Japanese-inspired techniques using beading, pleating, and embroidery to manipulate and decorate the fabric.

Knitted-in bobbles and shibori-style "bumps" (produced by marbles tied into the knitting before it is felted and then removed) can be used to make wonderful fabrics with a raised texture, too. Knitters who already love knitted felt for its softness and durability will take their skills to new heights with the addition of fanciful embellishments.

This book is filled with beautiful things to make for yourself or as gifts for friends and family. Try your hand at interestingly textured bags, scarves, and wraps for your spring wardrobe or throws, cushion covers, place mats and coasters for your home. There is simple, down-to-earth, technical advice and easy-to-follow patterns, with the added bonus of some tried-and-true advice on getting the best from washing-machine felting...

British fishermen's sweaters are some of the most satisfying creations a knitter can make. Their beauty comes from texture and pattern alone, yet they can be as spectacular or as understated as you wish. Traditionally worked in the round, with knitted-in sleeves, they require no sewn seams -- appealing for many knitters!

Cables, Diamonds, Herringbones (\$19.95, softcover) demystifies the process and passes on traditions to other hands. North American knitters are more familiar with the Irish Aran sweaters, but the traditional Scottish Guernsey (gansey) and English Jersey patterns in these pages are made with finer wool on smaller needles, yielding less bulky sweaters that can be either "dressed up" or work with a favorite pair of jeans. Either way, these are sweaters that your family will appreciate for years to come...

Fashion trends may come and go, but true beauty never goes out of style. In *Classic Knits at Home* (\$19.95, hardcover), Erika Knight turns her skilled eye to adding sumptuous texture and elegant color to the home with a collection of 15 knitted basics for every room. Each textile has been carefully considered for its hand-crafted charm, which will withstand the vagaries of fashion. Projects range from a quintessential cable knit throw in the softest cashmere blend to a practical wash mitt knitted in eco-friendly yarn, as well as a chic yoga mat and slippers for cozy comfort. The range of yarns is natural, comfortable, and easy to live with: cotton, alpaca, mohair, cashmere blends, and wool...

From lacy summer tops to chic sweaters, to chunky, funky hats and colorfully crafted afghans -- they all start with the single, simple act of wrapping a crochet hook around a strand of yarn. Then come the stitches, the flourishes, the unlimited creativity. Stylish and somewhat cheeky in tone, chock-full of information and inspiration, *STITCH 'n BITCH Crochet: The Happy Hooker* (\$15.95, soft cover) is an indispensable guide. Learn crochet skills, speak the lingo, and make the stuff. From a cute little sock monkey hat to elegant mohair bunny slippers to a "Doris Daymat", these whimsical designs are a stitch wrapper's delight. A special shout-out to knitters: you'll love how easy crochet is and how quickly the project progresses...

***** APPLIED I-CORD *****

Marylyn in VA e-mailed us with a request for applied I-cord information. Applied, or attached, I-cord is a knitted cord that adds a beautiful finishing touch to a garment edge when a rib is not appropriate. A wide I-cord may be used as a design feature, and a narrow I-cord can serve as a surface to attach another edging (to prepare a surface for zipper insertion, neaten scarf edges, finish purse flaps and handbags, etc.).

From Kristen TenDyke, CLASSIC ELITE YARNS techie: When working an applied (attached) I-cord edging, pick up on the "wrong" side of the work for a smoother appearance.

Gleaned from the Internet on the subject of applied I-cords (original source attributed to Meg Swansen): On the "wrong" side, with a smaller double-pointed needle (dpn), pick up one stitch for each ridge along the selvedge. On regular size needle, cast on 3 sts in the border color. Transfer the 3 sts to the dpn and *K2, slip 1, K1 (a picked up stitch from the body), pssso (pass slipped stitch over). Replace the 3 sts to the pick-up needle and repeat from *.

Another variation attributed to Susan Esser: With dpns, Cast on 3 sts, *K2, slip 1 as if to knit, yarn over, insert the needle into the sweater edge and pick up a stitch (5 sts now on needle). Insert the left-hand needle into both the yarn-over and the slipped stitch, and slip them over the last stitch. You now have 3 sts on your dpn. Repeat from *. This works better if you are working with two colors and do not wish the garment color peeking through.

Several sources reported success with picking up a dpn's worth of stitches at a time. Depending on your gauge, you may need to change the ratio of pick-up for a smooth edge. Skip a row every now and then to maintain an even look.

If you work more than one row of I-cord, you will need to increase around any corners to avoid the cord bunching up. To do this, work applied I-cord to corner. Work 2 or 3 rows I-cord without attaching. Re-attach and work as for applied I-cord. OR, pick up an extra stitch or two before and after the corner point stitch. Pick up the loop between the stitch, twist in, and place it on the left-hand needle, then work it as usual. The twist will prevent a hole...

***** WHELK PATTERN PLACEMAT & WASHCLOTH *****

FINISHED SIZE: 13" X 18" rectangle

MATERIALS: CLASSIC ELITE "Provence" one hank (100% mercerized Egyptian cotton, 100 grams, 205 yards); US size 6 (4.0 mm) knitting needles

GAUGE: 5.5 sts / 9 rows = 1"

Pattern Stitch (multiple of 4 + 3, shown lower right)

Row 1 (right side): K3; *slip 1 purlwise (as if to purl) wyib (with yarn in back), K3; repeat from * to end.

Row 2: K3; *slip 1 purlwise wyif (with yarn in front), K3; repeat from * to end.

Row 3: K1; * slip 1 purlwise wyib, K3; rep from * to last 2 sts, end slip 1 purlwise wyib, K1.

Row 4: P1, slip 1 purlwise wyif, *P3, slip 1 purlwise wyif; repeat from * to last st, P1.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 71 sts. K 3 rows. Work in whelk pattern until piece measures 17.75", end row 4. K 3 rows. Bind off all sts.

WASH CLOTH (8" x 8")

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 43 sts. K 3 rows. Work in whelk pattern until piece measures 7.75", end row 4. K 3 rows. Bind off all sts.

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***** SPRING 2008 TREND REPORT *****



CLASSIC ELITE YARNS, our featured yarn company this month, shared their seasonal forecast with us: "On the fashion front, trend magazines tell us that consumers are looking for something special, something one-of-a-kind, handmade, and seasonless -- a gem to treasure beyond a single season.

Knitwear, especially knitwear made by hand, fits the bill perfectly. Colors, yarns, silhouettes, and sweaterly details are grouped into three stories for Spring 2008:

Honesty This story is organized around a palette of sun-dried colors -- picture rich apricots, bleached lemon, wheat, and flax. The fibers are natural -- linen, cotton, bamboo, hemp -- alone or blended with other naturals or synthetics that make them lighter and more comfortable to wear. Silhouettes are primitive -- kimono shapes, unstructured jackets, wide sleeves. Details are rustic -- exposed seams, ties that wrap to hug the body, large pockets.

Tonic Clear, lively colors -- raspberry, grass green, delft blue, and lemon peel -- are the basis of this story. Layer or mix them in stripes or little colorwork patterns. The yarns are finer, and a little viscose or bamboo provides a subtle sheen. Shapes are long and narrow or blouson. Design details include deep ribs, edges in a contrast color, hoods, zippers, and drawstrings.

Whisper Think of misty mornings, layers of gray cloud scudding across the sky, the metallic glimmer of water on the sidewalk. This story is themed around the color gray, from pale tints to hefty charcoal, often burnished with pearlescent touches. Yarns might be marled or tweedy or textured in some way. Silhouettes are long and lean, maybe belted or tucked in, and they feature dressmaker details such as dart shaping, tailored collars, and full-fashioned raglans.

Fashion predictions aside, a perusal of knitting blogs shows that knitters (at least those that are inclined to chat about their craft), are growing more sophisticated in their skills. They want to understand lace, find ways to combine stitch patterns with interesting silhouettes, and experiment with new techniques such as knitting a sweater from the neck down. Small projects continue to attract knitters-- as well as projects that don't require a lot of fussy finishing and gauge-taking". Knit A Classic!

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

Joyce M recently asked, "How do I know the correct number of stitches to pick up for bands? The number that the pattern calls for seems like too many and I'm worried that the band will flare". Good question! Joyce Bischoff has a couple of suggestions. When working bands, particularly with cotton yarns, Joyce picks up into every space. Then, decrease evenly spaced on the first row to the number of stitches specified in the pattern. For buttonbands, you may use your garment as a swatch to pick up a few inches worth of stitches as a "gauge swatch" to experiment.

Kathy reminds us that the pick up row is gauge-dependent. The typical pick-up for a vertical edge is 3 out of 4 rows. This roughly translates into standard gauges of 5 sts / 7 rows per inch for worsted weight yarns and 6 sts / 8 rows per inch for sport weight yarns. If you are working garter stitch, slip stitch, brioche stitch or patterns that have a more compressed gauge, pick up the ratio between stitches and rows. For example, if your gauge is 5 sts / 10 rows per inch, try picking up every other row. For horizontal pickups (bound off neck stitches), pick up one stitch for each bound-off one. For diagonals, usually 5 out of 6 is the appropriate amount.

If you pick up too few stitches, the edge will have a "pulled" appearance. If you pick up too many, the edge will flare. Sometimes a trial and error approach is best, and it's OK for you to use a different stitch count in the required multiple, if necessary...

***** CABLE NEEDLE TIP *****

Recently, this tip from Terry D appeared on KnitNet: "A simple way to keep track of your cable needle between cable pattern stitches is to tuck it under your watchband. It's out of the way and won't fall out, particularly if you have an expansion watchband". Kathy prefers to use a short 5" Bryspun double-pointed knitting needle for cablework. She winds her cast-on tail onto a small bobbin and keeps her cable needle stored inside to be ready when needed...

***** WE'RE A HOT SOX SPOT *****

Have you heard the buzz about the XRX / Knitter's Magazine "Think Outside The Sox" contest? Sock knitters are being asked to submit original designs in many categories and the winners will be awarded cash prizes. Winning entries will appear in an upcoming XRX book. We are pleased to be a HOT SOX SPOT featuring COLINETTE "Jitterbug" yarn. For contest rules, check out the spring issue of Knitter's or online at <http://thinkoutsidethe sox.com>

Tips from KnitNet: if you design your own socks and begin the socks with a ribbed cuff, make the rib pattern flow into the leg and foot pattern for a more polished, well thought-out professional look...

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

Introduction to RUG PUNCH with instructor Tracey Earhart
Saturday, April 19, 2008 10 am to 12 noon \$40.00



Learn more about this newest addition to Kathy's Creations! Class includes a kit and instruction using the Oxford Punch Needle to create a " Child's Sunflower" Chair Pad designed by our own Tracey Earhart of HALFMOON HOLLOW (upper right). You can personalize your chair pad by choosing a red or blue background. Because each kit is a custom order, students MUST be registered at least 7 days ahead of time (space is very limited). No cancellations will be taken after April 12th. Frames and Oxford Needles will be available for use during class and may be purchased afterwards. Monk's cloth in 1-yard cuts is available and we will custom cut to size and finish edges (ask for special order details).

"Punching With Luxurious Yarns", A Rug Punch Retreat with Amy Oxford, inventor of the OXFORD RUG PUNCH NEEDLE

Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26, 2008; Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA

When we introduce a new needle at Kathy's Creations, we do it in a big way! Kathy's Creations 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 (Sheep Flower Rug, shown lower right). 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.

Treat yourself to a wonderful, autumn weekend of fellowship and needleart in the colorful Laurel Highlands. Overnight accommodations are available at the Ramada. For further details and a brochure, please contact Kathy's Creations at (724) 238-9320.





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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, April 7, 2008, and May 12, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. New knitting books for spring will be featured...

******* "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, April 8, 2008, and May 13, 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!

******* FUN FRIDAY with instructor Joyce Bischoff; April 11, 2008, 10 am - 2 pm *******

You'll find we do much more than than just knit and crochet on Fun Friday (the 2nd Friday of each month)-- you'll share many wonderful things, from conversation to ideas, and favorite patterns to tricks learned along the way. It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. 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. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

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

**"Fantastic Finishes" with instructor Nancy Premoshis, Saturday, April 5, 2008
9:00 am - 12 noon \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

Finishing is all about the details. Nancy has the "how-to's" for working invisible seams, neat joins, weaving in ends, blocking, "finishing from the beginning" and a wealth of knitting tips for professional-looking finishing touches.

*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, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.
Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 27 years!**

******* VICTORIAN KNITTED LACE WORKSHOP *******

The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild will host a spring workshop, "Victorian Knitted Lace" with instructor Jean Wise on Sunday, May 18, 2008, 9 am - 4 pm at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier. Ms. Wise will present a study of vintage knitted stitches, lace knitting techniques and helpful hints for working lace. Student will work on a sampler of stitches. Registration fee is \$40 for the day (lunch included). Please call Kathy at (724) 238-9320 for details.

We hope that you will explore some sun-drenched colorwork projects this spring.
KEEP KNITTING! Kathy