



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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APRIL 2011 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

Nothing is more rewarding than spending your time in a creative and artful endeavor. Creative expression turns our attention away from the troubles of the world, and allows us to quiet our minds and brighten the horizon with new ideas. The repetitive nature of knitting and crocheting offers uplifting positive benefits and a form of meditation. It doesn't matter what you create -- what you choose to make matters far less than the activity itself. The inward focus will help to make your life more calm, satisfying and contented.

It's finally spring -- a time of new beginnings and fresh starts. We're not only ready for spring with fresh products, exciting projects, and special events to feed your creativity, we are celebrating our many years in business. Let's get creative -- make spring bloom!

APRIL IS "KNIT A NATURAL" MONTH

All regularly-priced Kollage yarns, patterns and needles in stock are 10% off throughout April 2011

10% Tuesdays are back!

Receive 10% off as many regularly-priced items as you can fit into your Kathy's Kreations logo tote bag on Tuesdays only



RAVELRY DAY Saturday, May 14, 2011

**All "Ravelers" receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced items
Learn all about Ravelry in Jen's class 10 am - 12 noon**

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, AX
Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle
instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
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*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Isn't it funny how a pop of color changes everything? Colorful spring & summer knitting projects bloom with natural fibers -- cottons, bamboo, classic linen and linen blend yarns -- we have so many lovely yarns for stitching up your spring . We've been gathering the latest vibrant and versatile standout warm weather looks to spark your knitting and crocheting creativity. We've got the latest styles and must-have colors in brilliant combinations to get you "gorgeous to go" for the season...

Ah, *Knitter's Magazine* K101 (\$5.95)! This issue features an array of multi-seasonal knits and a few that are definitely cold weather fare. The theme is "High Def", which tunes into sharp colors, fun textures, and knitting in bits-and-pieces. The projects feature sound technique, but not necessarily difficult projects. There are modular garments in entrelac, fashion accessories knit in two sections, cables and textured stitches.

Editor Rick Mondragon states in his editorial: "K101 packs a punch, not just in looks and wearability: they teach lessons. Don't be intimidated. Worked in glorious yarns, they become pleasurable adventures in knitting. All you need do is take a bite at a time. Soon you will build a wardrobe that defines your passion -- knitting!"

One of Kathy's designs is featured, with terrific stitches in a great color combo. *Knitter's* says about "In Living Color" (shown upper left): "Bands of color are further enhanced with textured, stranded-colorwork borders and collar -- simple and stunning". This design is worked in two contrasting dynamic shades of KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Paintbox" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 100 yards, 100% wool, CYCA #4)...

Knits Ahoy! *Knit Simple Spring/Summer 2011* (\$6.99) goes nautical with 30 shipshape red, white and blue styles for the entire crew. You'll find lots of cool and colorful projects, including a trio of pillows to spice up your decor. All hands on deck for this fun issue featuring versatile vests and cute little toppers, and smooth stitching ahead. Variety is truly the spice of knitting -- look for knitting on the diagonal, lovely ethereal openwork, one shape four ways, and a snazzy tote to felt & fringe...

We continue to be amazed by the classic beauty of CHURCHMOUSE DESIGNS. "Beaded Mohair Scarf" (\$5.50) -- Tiny glass beads sit like raindrops on the gossamer web of this simple garter stitch scarf. Lacy loops at the edges are created as you go with a yarn-over at the beginning of each row. But the real secret to the beauty of this piece is in the finishing. Slip blocking wires through each edge loop and steam press gently --- transformation!

"Happy Ruffled Sock Cuff" (\$7.50) -- a straightforward, comfy basic sock with an added

bonus pattern -- a ruffled cuff adds a touch of flirtiness

Kathy's latest design for KRAEMER YARNS is the "Purl Shell Top & Wrap" (\$2.00, shown lower right). This fashionable set, a sleeveless top and matching wrap, is perfect for summer. It's worked in a textured purl shell pattern that utilizes double wraps to create an attractive lace fabric. The top is sized small through 2XL. This set can be made in Tatamy or Tatamy Tweed DK and would be great in any colorway...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Our Knit For the Cure Collection of scarves and accessories began in 2004 and has grown to over 35 items. The profits from the sale of these patterns are donated to the "cause" requested by its designer. We are pleased to introduce the latest addition to the collection, Audrey's Scarf, designed by Lisbeth Brown in memory of her sister-in-law, Audrey Faller (\$4.00, detail shown upper right). The pattern features zigzag textures with a seed stitch background. Profits from the sale of this pattern will be donated to the Amyloidosis Foundation. The scarf uses 450 yards of worsted weight yarn (3 skeins of Classic Elite Yarns Princess, Patrician Port, Color #3455, were used to make the model) with US size 7 (4.5 mm) knitting needles. Audrey's Scarf joins Lisbeth's two previous designs for the Knit For The Cure Collection: Jakes's Scarf (prostate cancer) and Lisbeth's Scarf (lymphoma). The Knit For The Cure Collection may be viewed on our website, www.kathys-kreations.com



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Kathy's Kreations

New from MOUNTAIN COLORS is "Jeannette" (\$44.00, 50 grams, 158 yards, cashmere/silk luxury blend). This is the hottest new yarn on the Mountain Colors Ravelry group. One skein will make a scarf (pattern free with purchase of yarn). If you are not familiar with Mountain Colors, the colorways are positively gorgeous. Spring is the perfect time for knitting a one-skein luxury wonder to pamper yourself or someone special. We also have new colorways of "Crazyfoot" for socks or Barb's Ruffled Scarf...

Attention, CLASSIC ELITE "Liberty Wool Print" and Molly Scarf fans! As an official yarn subscriber to the Liberty Wool Program, we will receive two new colors of Liberty Wool Print every other month (\$7.95, 50 grams, 122 yards, 100 superwash wool, CYCA #4) -- stop in soon to see new colorways Art Deco Wavelength, UltraViolet Autumn, Rain Forest and North Sea White Caps. We have several model garments on display -- the ZigZag Tam (a classic tam with colorwork in two shades on the top), Garter Stitch Wrap (easy-to-knit shawl worked entirely in garter stitch with scalloped edges), and Feather & Fan Scarf (a tried-and-true vintage lace pattern). Patterns for these delightful designs and the Woodland" Cowl are free with the purchase of yarn to make the project. Also new from CLASSIC ELITE is the "First Light" booklet (\$9.95) featuring designs for the Verde Collection yarn "Chesapeake" (8.50, 50 grams, 103 yards, 50 % organic cotton/ 50 % merino wool, CYCA #4)...

Last month's most requested project is the "Gathered Scarf". Ask to see our elegant model scarf handknit by Betty Lou Glasso in KRAEMER YARNS "Fountain Hill" mohair blend (\$11.50, 100 grams, 560 yards, 80% acrylic / 20% mohair, CYCA #2) worked with a strand of SKACEL multi-color "Filigran Lace No.1" (\$26.95, 100 grams, 660 yards, 100% merino wool, CYCA #1). The gathered pattern is achieved by switching between US 2 and US 8 knitting needles (condo knitting), alternating garter and stockinette patterns, while increasing and decreasing the number of stitches. A fun project and easier than it may seem...



The latest in our KOLLAGE YARNS "Feed Your Creativity" series is the "French Quarter Scarf" (\$5.50, shown left). This delicate lace leaf patterned scarf was designed by Sandi Rosner with 1/2 N 1/2 yarn (\$17.95, 50 grams, 174 yards, 50% milk / 50% wool, CYCA #3). And guess what? There is a matching "French Quarter Cardigan" pattern (\$5.50)...

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*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Trying to find great knit designs in larger sizes is not always easy. *Knitting Goes Large* (\$24.95, soft cover) aims to fill the gap by offering a selection of 20 great knits for all occasions and all seasons for larger women with varying figure types. Whether you are looking for warm weather jackets, comfortable sweaters, cool summer tunics or cardigans, neat tops to wear under a suit or pretty evening cover-ups, you will find something to suit your figure and your taste, all in classic ROWAN YARNS...

In a plus-size society, boxy oversized sweaters just don't cut it. *Knitting Plus* by Lisa Shroyer (\$24.95, softcover) empowers larger knitters to take charge of the fit and fashionability of their stitching. The 15 featured pullovers and cardis are all accompanied by plenty of schematics, charts and copious notes aimed at helping the knitter customize the piece to best flatter her figure.

Though some plus-size knitting calls for advanced techniques, several of the pieces here are basic, including a mohair-blend dolman-sleeve top worked side to side, a V-shaped shrug that won't ride up and a raglan pullover knit from the bottom up. Ease -- the measurements of a knitted piece versus the measurements of the body -- is integral to plus-size fitting. And it's at the forefront of every project in the book. Depending on your shape, sleeve style can make or break a sweater. This collection has great examples of set-in, cap, raglan, drop-shoulder and seamless construction. No longer does plus-size knitting mean boring knitting. Lace, cables, colorwork, detailing and luxurious yarns are all employed beautifully throughout. Technical tricks include bust darts, twist and rib, and cap-sleeve calculation.

About Kathy's design, "Waltham Cabled Cardigan" (shown upper left): "Kathy Zimmerman combined modified-drop shaping with a V-neck and shawl collar for a casually classic look in this rugged cardigan. Panels of rope cables are flanked by ribs for a richly patterned non-bulky look that drapes nicely in a worsted-weight blend of alpaca and wool. This cardigan is finished with a one-piece short-row collar and front band that allows you to make as many buttonholes as you like. Kathy worked three buttons at the bust that allow the fronts to flow open at the lower edge. The combination of deep V-neck and wide shawl collar is attractive on most plus-size women." This cardigan design was worked with LOUET "Eastport Alpaca" (\$17.50, 70% alpaca / 30% merino; 75 grams, 150 yards, CYCA #4 medium). The original model garment from the book is currently on display in our shop courtesy of editor Lisa Shroyer and will be the highlight of our upcoming "Meet and Greet".

If you are a member of Ravelry, you are cordially invited to visit and join our Knit-Along group, "Waltham KAL", moderated by Julie Matthews (knittingatlarge on Ravelry) or julie@knittingatlarge.com

*** MEET AND GREET ***

The Waltham KAL group will have a "Meet and Greet" here at Kathy's Creations on Saturday afternoon, April 9, 2011, from 1 pm - 4 pm. All knitters are welcome to attend this free event as we discuss the project and check out progress. Kathy will be on hand to answer questions about the design features and construction, plus autograph her design in your books. All Ravelry members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise throughout the day. Jen Ferrence is teaching a "Ravelry 101" class from 10 am - 12 noon (see page 8 for details). You won't want to miss this special day of fun and fellowship!

*** SPRINGTIME PATTERNS ***

Searching for some cute novelty ideas for spring? We suggest LISA KNITS pattern AC-020 (\$5.00, shown right). The basic egg is worked in a self-striping yarn, to fit over a purchased plastic, styrofoam or wooden egg. Be creative and work stripes with solid colors. Add a bit of glitz with stripes of novelty yarns. Lisa's pattern features openwork and cabled versions as well, which can be worked flat or in the round. LISA KNITS pattern HT-010 features "Springtime Friends Hats" (\$5.00), clever children's hats to knit in worsted weight featuring your choice of a chick or bunny...



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Lisa Knits

*** KNITTED MINI-EGGS ***

What can you do with leftover bits of sock or fingering yarn? This quick-knit pattern from the archives of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild takes just a small amount of yarn and US 2 knitting needles.

Cast on 4 stitches.

Row 1: (K1, inc 1) twice: 6 sts.

Row 2 & all even rows: Purl.

Row 3: (K1, inc 1) 3 times: 9 sts.

Row 5: (K1, inc 1) 4 times, K1: 13 sts.

Row 7: (K1, inc 1) 6 times, K1: 19 sts.

Row 9: Knit.

Row 11: Knit.

Row 13: K1 (K2tog) 9 times: 10 sts.

Row 15: (K2tog) 5 times: 5 sts.

Row 16: Purl.

Cut yarn, leaving a long end. Thread this through the 5 sts, pull up tightly. With right side facing, sew up seam, stuff with fiberfil and shaping as you go.

*** A VERSATILE STITCH ***

Seeded Rib Stitch (multiple of 4 + 1)

Row 1 (right side): P1; *K3, P1; rep from * across row.

Row 2: K2, P1; *K3, P1; repeat from * to last 2 stitches, end K2.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

This reversible stitch looks terrific in any gauge with any size yarn or needle.

Be sure to mark the right side, as it is easy to get confused.

Here's an idea to get started with a textured dishcloth:

MATERIALS: Tahki Cotton Classic one ball (108 yards); US size 6 knitting needles

FINISHED SIZE: approximately 8" X 8"

GAUGE: 5.5 stitches / 7.5 rows = 1" in pattern stitch

DIRECTIONS: With US size 6 knitting needles, cast on 45 stitches with cable cast on method. Work in seeded rib pattern until piece measures 8" or desired length, ending with row 2. Bind off all stitches in pattern. Weave in ends.

More ideas to feed your creativity: try this for a scarf, rectangular stole, prayer shawl, or placemat. Simply add or subtract in multiples of 4 for desired width and go for it. Got more ideas? Please let us know how you used this stitch!

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

Kathy Zimmerman and Carol Smith are pleased and excited to announce the next Kathy's Creations Workshop will be held in Ligonier, PA, on September 30 - October 2, 2011 at the Ramada. We are ready to begin taking reservations. The cost is \$175 per person which includes classes, breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday, Friday night pizza party at Kathy's Creations, a birthday surprize for a special attendee (wonder who?), and a cocktail party at Carol's house Saturday night. We will allow free time to shop in Ligonier and will give "goodie bags" with discounts/special offers from the local merchants.

The following classes are planned:

- Sangria Smocked Rib Fingerless Mitts (shown lower right) with instructor Kathy Zimmerman. These mitts looks like they are hand-smocked and the ribbed palm makes them fit "like a glove". Pattern and Kollage Yarns "1/2 n 1/2" will be provided . Additional student supplies include US size 2 double-pointed needles, stitch markers, and basics (scissors, tape measure, row counter)
- Kathy's Lace and Cable Scarf with instructor Kathy Zimmerman. Project yarn will be provided. Student supplies include US size 4 knitting needles, cable needle, row counter, basics

--- Basic toe-up sock featuring gusseted heel with instructor Jayme Glover. Sock is worked toe-up on two circular knitting needles. Pre-class work is required in preparation to work the gusseted heel. Additional student supplies include 350 yards fingering weight sock yarn; two 24" circular knitting needles size 2.5 mm
To reserve a space for the workshop, mail your check for \$175 to Kathy's Creations; 141 East Main Street; Ligonier, PA 15658. If you have questions, please call Kathy at 724-238-9320 or Carol at 724-757-4858. More class details will be sent out later. The workshop filled early last year and space is limited. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis as payments are received, so please don't delay.

Rooms may be reserved by calling the Ramada at Historic Ligonier; 216 West Loyalhanna Street; Ligonier, PA (724) 238 9545. Mention that you are attending the workshop to receive a special rate.

*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS ***

To end the confusion of how to slip a stitch, use this rule:

SLIP AS IF TO KNIT -- when you will be doing something with the stitch, such as a left-slanting ssk decrease (slip, slip, knit)

SLIP AS IF TO PURL -- when you will not be doing anything with the stitch, such as in slip stitch patterns

*** TRUNK SHOW NEWS ***

We first met mother and daughter design team Jane Bigelow and Jill Bigelow-Suttell at the Bedford Springs Knittreat last fall. We love their classic approach to design and are pleased to announce our first trunk show of A B-EWE-TIFUL DESIGN patterns (\$6.00 each). Arriving later this month are model garments for Simply Detailed VEST (3 closure options), Faux Argyle Pullover, Basic Raglan Pullover with Cables, Basic Raglan Cardigan with Cables, Texture Squared Pullover, and Sideways Gloves...



*** WHERE'S KATHY??? ***

- Stitches South (the largest knitting expo in the South!); April 14 -17, 2011, Atlanta, Georgia; teaching classes including Knit To Fit, Create-A-Cable, Slip Stitch Sampler, Intro to Combining Lace & Cable
- Slip-Stitch Colorwork Hat; a 6-hour workshop for the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild; Sunday, May 15, 2011, Ramada Inn of Ligonier; 9 am - 4 pm; \$40 fee for non-members (includes lunch); for details, call Kathy at 724-238-9320.
CLASS DESCRIPTION: Slip-stitch colorwork technique is an easy way for beginners and experienced knitters alike to add color and texture to their projects. Slip-stitch patterns use only one color per row, so complicated-looking patterns can be mastered quickly. Kathy will discuss the basic how-to's for working this technique, hints for choosing colors and yarns, as well as tips for interpreting instructions. The "hands on" class project is Kathy's tweed-stitch hat which experiments with color combinations as the student learns the technique.
- Interweave Knits Summer 2011; read Kathy's Designer Profile and an article about Kathy's Kreations written by Julie Matthews
- Stitches Midwest August 25 - 28, 2011; Schaumburg, Illinois; teaching classes Knit To fit, Slip Stitch Sampler; Intro to Combining Lace & Cable; Ruffles, Frills and Scalloped Edgings
- Bedford Springs Knittreat; November 3-6, 2011; Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Bedford, PA; mini-market vendor and teaching "Button, Button", a technique workshop on buttonholes methods, buttonhole placement, "ribbing rules" and closure options; for information, call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com

*** DESIGN-A-SCARF CONTEST THEME ***

Kathy's Kreations will once again sponsor the "Design-A-Scarf" contest at the Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair, to be held in August 2011. Entry must be a scarf of original design knitted or crocheted with a natural fiber made in the USA. The pattern design and yarn label must be submitted with the completed scarf. Prizes are gift certificates from Kathy's Kreations: 1st place \$40; 2nd place \$30; 3rd place \$20. Entry dates and deadlines for submissions will be announced by the Fair Association this summer...

*** MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SWEATER WARDROBE ***

Do you have a closet full of clothes and nothing to wear? Maybe it's time for some spring cleaning -- clean out the closet and re-think your wardrobe. Try getting back to basics: co-ordinate colors and stick with the classics.

What colors are your core wardrobe colors in jackets, slacks, skirts? For example, if you wear a lot of black, choose sweaters in red, ivory or gray which can be worn with pieces in your existing wardrobe.

Stick to three basic shapes: T-neck, cardigan, and crewneck, in a classic length. When choosing a knit or crochet project, ones suitable for layering are most versatile. For year-round wear, choose fibers in cotton or blends of silk or cashmere. Avoid anything that is too bulky, too fancy, or too trendy. Wear the cardigan as a jacket. The crewneck can be worn alone in warmer weather. Try updating the look with a belt at the waist, if the sweater is not too bulky. The key word in understatement. Don't get rid of all those sweaters that you worked so hard to make -- UPDATE!



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

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA on the first Monday of each month: **Mondays, April 4, 2011 and May 2, 2011; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit with us!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, April 12, 2011 and May 10, 2011; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, April 15, 2011 and May 20, 2011; 10 am - 2 pm *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! An instructor is available for help with your questions, skill building and how-to's for projects purchased here. 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. The April date is also "FRILLY FRIDAY", when Tracey will demo the Cafe Scarf in our hottest new yarn UNIVERSAL "Marina" (free pattern with yarn purchase). Bring along Crochet Ruffles, Barb's Ruffled Scarf, Molly Scarf, the Potato Chip scarf or work the Cafe Scarf -- if your project has ruffles (or not), you may knit or crochet along!

***** RAVELRY 101; Saturday, May 14, 2011, 10 am - 12 noon *****

Have you always wondered what we mean when we mention "Ravelers"? Well, you can be one too! Come join Jen Ferrence (tricotlore on Ravelry.com) and learn how this "facebook for knitters" website can enhance your knitting universe. Aside from organizational help, Ravelry offers interaction with other knitters worldwide, pattern support from the designers themselves, and unlimited ideas for your next projects and unused yarns. Jen's class is perfect for those just getting into technology as well as for advanced net surfers. Learn how to become a Raveler, and learn how to use the basic functions of the website. You will receive handouts to help you remember what to do once you get home. Please bring along a pattern or knitting book for the second part of the class. Jen will show you how to use the search engines on the website to find the perfect yarn for your pattern and the perfect pattern for your yarn! Cost is \$15*, which includes the handouts.



*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 2 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for bad 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, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills are being planned, or we would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 31 years !

We invite you to make Kathy's Kreations your "destiknition" for all your creative needs this spring. You supply the creativity -- we'll supply everything else!

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy