Friendly Reminder: By order of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a face mask covering the nose and mouth is required to enter any business. Please use our hand sanitizer before shopping or touching merchandise, and practice social distancing.



KATHY'S KREATIONS 141 East Main Street Ligonier, PA 15658 724-238-9320 APRIL 2021 UPDATE

Dear Stitchers,

Springtime in the Laurel Highlands brings not only blooms and greenery, but a fresh, new outlook. This is reflected in the projects we choose. Let's capture the energy and optimism of the season with a knitted or crocheted wardrobe makeover for warmer weather!

New lightweight natural fiber yarns are arriving in cool merino wool, cotton and linen for your spring stitching pleasure. This season seems to be all about colors that pop — whether they be trendy sorbet pastels, brights inspired by nature, or vibrant sun-ready shades that make us feel good from head to toe.

Cropped, loose-wearing tee tops with minimalistic cap sleeves and sleeveless pullovers are a trend we've been noticing for the season. In fact, we are featuring Casapinka's latest design, *The Birdwatcher*, as our knit-along this month. We think that EMMA'S YARN "Super Silky" fingering will be perfect for this project. We plan to knit our shop sample in the April 2021 Crazy Beautiful Club selection. Perfect for those essential, springtime pieces!

There is lots of warm weather stitching ahead — whether out on the porch, in the backyard, and hopefully soon, on the road. Grab your knitting needles and crochet hooks and join us, won't you?

IT'S "HAPPY STITCHING" MONTH!

10% off all purchases of regularly-priced HiKOO YARNS in stock (all weights and brands) throughout April 2021

STORE HOURS — WE ARE OPEN!

10:00 am—4:00 pm Monday through Saturday, closed most Sundays Please call us at 724-238-9320 for mail orders or curbside pick-up availability

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX, Apple Pay & Google Pay
Private knitting and crocheting lessons with covid protocol
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift cards available
Mail orders available — no order too small!
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

Like us, follow us and share us on Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)

"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry

#kathyknitz on Instagram

Find us at our Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Page

e-mail kathyknitz@gmail.com

please visit our website http://www.kathys-kreations.com





***GREAT NEW STUFF ***

We love the feeling of optimism in the air this spring! There's something so refreshing and uplifting about sunnier days that simply makes us feel good. Say "hi" to warmer weather with a new knitting or crocheting project. Welcome the season, cherish the joys of spring, and raise your spirits all at the same time...

Happy splashes of color! As the world blooms each spring, it brings with it a kaleidoscope of color. Emma's Yarn April 2021 Crazy Beautiful Color Club helps us experience the transformative power of beautiful hues inspired by Nature's most prolific season. Available in "Super Silky" (\$29.95, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% superwash merino / 20% silk, CYCA #2) and "Practically Perfect Sock" (\$26.95, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% superwash merino / 20% nylon, CYCA #2). This colorway features gorgeous shades of blue that are reminiscent of crystal ocean waves. Whether you're tempted to dive right in or just stop and stare, this color is the perfect escape....

Named for the author of Peter Rabbit books, Beatrix Potter, JUNIPER MOON FARMS "Beatrix" is a light, lofty, soft blend that features the finest angora (get it? Peter Rabbit?) and extrafine merino wool blown into a nylon chainette. Weighing in at a bulky gauge, "Beatrix (\$20.50, 50 grams, 109 yards, 54% extrafine merino wool / 30%angora / 16% nylon, CYCA #5, shown page 8) maintains lightness and loft and knits up quickly. Be careful — petting it is hard to resist! Lightweight and fluffy, "Beatrix" has a beautiful halo and creates garments and accessories that are cozy warm and have a luxurious feel. Kathy chose it for our shop sample, "Unbreakable Vow Toque" mock cable hat by Jenny Noto (\$6.00, Ravelry Pro download, shown page 8) as there are days when we still need hats in April here in the Laurel Highlands. Ours is topped with a "Furreal" extra-soft vegan faux fur 100% acrylic pompom (\$10.95)...

It's no wonder that MANOS DEL URUGUAY named their fingering weight "Alegria" — it's sturdy, resilient, bouncy, brilliantly colorful and the name translates to "joy" in Spanish! This soft blend of superwash merino and polyamide is ideal for socks, and it's wonderful for kids and baby wear. "Alegria" is hand-dyed by a South American fair trade women's cooperative (literally "hands of Uruguay") in a range of vibrant variegated/tonal shades and semi-solids. MANOS DEL URUGUAY is well-known — and well-loved — for the beautiful artistry that they bring to their hand-dyed yarns. MANOS creates a personal connection between dyer and knitter — as you knit, you can see the touch of the artist in every shift of color. Plus, you'll find the artist's signature right on the label. We are pleased to welcome several new colorways to our shelves...

In spring, we've learned to be smart about our layers (and the yarns we knit them in). Everyone needs a super-versatile vest for trans-seasonal wear — the weather seems to change practically every hour these days! John Crane's pattern for SKACEL COLLECTION, the "Johanna Vest" (free Ravelry download, shown lower right), includes instructions for short and long lengths. It is sized to fit the hips, but directions are given to alter the pattern if

the bust measurement is larger or smaller than the hip measurement. The vest is knit from the bottom up starting with the left and right fronts and a back panel, which are then joined to form the body of the vest. At the underarm, the body is again divided and with the panels knit separately, then joined at the shoulder. Instructions are given for left and right insert pockets. Lastly, a center band is knit up one side, around the neck, and down the other side. Add striping, color blocking, or simply knit in all one color. The choice is yours. One brilliant blend we've come to rely on is HiKOO "Sueno (\$16.50, 100 grams, 255 yards, 80% superwash merino wool/ 20% viscose from bamboo, CYCA #3), but it will look equally smashing in our new "Sueno Tweed" version of this popular yarn...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Each month, we eagerly await the arrival of DREAM IN COLOR's Pop-Up Club selection on springy, soft fingering weight base "Smooshy Cashmere" (\$34.50, 100 grams, 400 yards, 70% merino / 20% cashmere / 10% nylon, CYCA #2, at right). We're swooning over this month's special colorway, inspired by colorful hummingbirds. What a lovely shade to usher in warmer weather! What will you be inspired to make with this charmer?



We love to combine supplies and techniques from other crafts with knitting and crocheting. Beads, with all their sparkling magic, are always a favorite to add a special finishing touch. There's something magical about those glistening beads nesting in among the stitches that elevates a lace shawl or mitts into an heirloom piece. Adding beads to your work is easier than you think. Our latest arrival of MIYUKI #6 decorative beads (\$4.50—\$5.50 per box) will have you dreaming of glittering projects — you'll want to add them everywhere! CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS "Koigu Beaded Beret" (\$6.50) is one idea — this playful beret makes the most of less than one precious skein of fingering weight yarn. A little touch of beading "gilds the lily." And the knitting is easy-peasy — even with the beading rounds, you might get finished in an evening or two. With all that, plus a shape that's timeless and flattering, this little beret makes the perfect gift...

KATRINKLES gadgets are charming! Just in time for LYS Day, we will be receiving a shipment of customized yarn cutters with our logo on a keychain. These yarn cutters are handcrafted of cedar, so each piece has unique wood grain and coloring (\$22.50). The cedar will keep your project bag smelling fresh, and will discourage moths and other critters from your yarn at the same time. There is a small blade in place to trim your working yarn or ends. Safer than scissors for traveling...

AMBAH O'BRIEN presents the *Celestia Hat* (\$6.00 Ravelry Pro download, shown page 6, lower left). This hat works up in practically no time. It is knit from worsted weight yarn with fun eyelet patterning that will keep you wanting to knit just one more round and you'll be done in a few hours. With three sizes included, you'll enjoy making these for all the hatwearing people in your life. The pattern includes both written and charted instructions for the eyelet section. We recommend HiKOO "Sueno Worsted" or BERROCO YARN "Ultra Wool" for this "happy knitting" project...

The definition of jazz is "music characterized by improvisation, syncopation, and usually a regular or forceful rhythm." Designer Lilia Vanini tells us: "This is exactly what I felt when I saw my scarf finished. I was looking to make something completely irregular and when I finished mixing lace, cables and stripes, the result? The Classic Jazz Scarf knitting pattern (\$6.50, Ravelry Pro download, shown page 6 upper right). This scarf combines cables and lace to create an intrinsic shape and diagonal stripes in two colors using easy Fair Isle. It has a little bit of everything to keep you entertained, and you have your choice of wearing it as a scarf or seaming the ends for an infinity loop. Ask to see Kathy's cowl in progress, knit with DREAM IN COLOR "Smooshy" in springy shades Grow and Crying Dove. The drama is in the details. Wrap yourself in a beautifully jazzy design, super chic and elegant!

Supply chain issues are slowly starting to ease, and new arrivals of our favorite yarns are once again on our shelves — PLYMOUTH "Encore" worsted; BERROCO "Ultra Wool" and "Ultra Alpaca" — as well as CHIAOGOO knitting needles and KNITTER'S PRIDE accessories like blocking mats, blockers and Karbonz needles...



Attention, all those knitters who love the color pink (and you know who you are)! LYKKE interchangeable needle sets now are available in a new shade, blush, with bright pink tips. The set includes needle tips is US sizes 4—15 in a handy case, with two 24" cords, two 32" cords, and one 40" cord (\$125.00/set). Still available in original driftwood gray, too...



*** APRIL 2021 KNIT ALONG (KAL) ***

From Casapinka, one of our favorite designers, comes *The Birdwatcher* (Ravelry Pro download, \$7.00, shown left). This design is a cropped, relaxed-fitting sleeveless top worked from the bottom up, in the round with some interesting techniques. At the underarms, the front and back are split and worked flat until the seaming at the shoulders. German short rows are used to provide some shaping at the

shoulders for a comfortable fit. A decorative lace border at the bottom makes this an entertaining knit. This top is designed to be work with 4" - 6" of positive ease. It is knit with fingering yarn — check out our selection of EMMA'S YARN "Super Silky", DREAM IN COLOR "Smooshy" and BAAH YARNS "La Jolla" for this project. Did we mention that it is designed in nine sizes 36" - 68"?

Join us in person every Friday during April 2021 (rsvp please, occupancy limited) to work on this new Casapinka release or any other knit /crochet project purchased here from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. You may also follow along on our "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group...

*** UPCOMING CLASSES (please call 724-238-9320 to register for any classes) ***

PLEASE NOTE: All in-person classes are tentatively scheduled and will be dependent on health safety concerns as recommended by the PA Commonwealth Department of Health guidelines.

Let's Knit A Hat is a fun skill-building class series and learning opportunity offered by instructor Karen McCullough on Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 1:00 pm—3:00 pm. This month's hat is one we introduced last month as a project for working with HiKOO "Sueno Tweed DK", TIN CAN KNITS Beloved bonnet (\$7.00, Ravelry Pro download, shown lower left page 5). This cozy little hand knit comes in 5 sizes, from newborns to kids to adults. There's nothing quite so darling as a sweetie kept cozy by a perfect little bonnet, designed to stay put and frame that beloved little face. Class fee \$20. By request, both yarn and pattern are also available to purchase and knit along at home if you aren't able to attend class...

Improve your knitting skills one square at a time with our continuing *Building Blocks* class series with instructor Karen McCullough. Based upon the very successful books authored by Michelle "Knit Purl" Hunter, these sessions are designed to help knitters navigate through the major knitting skills, techniques, and principles. Each class isolates a new concept. This month's class focuses on *Simple Decreases*. A decrease is made when two stitches are worked together, resulting in one new stitch. Depending on the method used to decrease, this new stitch will slant (lean) either to the left or right. Join Karen on Tuesday, April 20, 2021; 1:00 pm—3:00 pm. Class fee \$20.

Always been a little curious about brioche knitting? Or, maybe you know a little, but not quite enough? We've got two classes coming up with instructor Marian Lech that are just the answer. Let's Do Brioche Part 1 on Saturday, May 22, 2021, 12 noon—3:00 pm, is an introductory class for those who have never done brioche or need a refresher. In this class, you will learn about terms, stitches and basic brioche techniques. Student supplies include swatching yarn in worsted weight and US 7 or 8 knitting needles (straight or circular), or purchase supplies here before class. Class fee \$20. Limit 4 students.

Let's Do Brioche Part 2: Channeled Colors Brioche Cowl is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021, 12 noon—3:00 pm. This beautiful two-color cowl (shown right) is worked in the round with two colors of yarn. Purchase worsted weight or light bulky yarn from Kathy's Kreations for this project (500 yards main color, 500 yards contrast color; suggested yarns HiKoo "Kenzington" and MANOS "Maxima"), plus bring US size 10 24" circular needle for a scarf length or 40" for an infinity loop. There is pre-class homework; a working knowledge of brioche is needed to take this class. Class fee \$20. Limit 4 students.



*** MARYLAND ROAD TRIP MYSTERY SHAWL ***

With the arrival of Spring, plans are underway for a new road-trip knitting adventure! As you may recall from last year, knitting friends Cynthia Spencer and Valerie Reed collaborated on a mystery shawl called *Pennyslvania Road Trip*. It was our most popular project of 2020! This year, they're on the road again, this time to Valerie's home state of Maryland. We are so excited to share with you our mystery knit along and invite you to join the fun!

The 2021 Road Trip Mystery is a beautiful shawl with an unusual shape.

The final shape is a bit of a mystery, but we're told that it's a cross between a triangle shape and a scarf, and very wearable. The pattern is divided into 8 sections, an introduction, a conclusion, and six legs featuring different stitch patterns inspired by various regions, landmarks, and natural wonders found in Maryland.

Maryland Road Tr

Like last year, each leg of the journey will include two different stitch patterns to choose from (Cynthia's or Valerie's), opening the door to a grand choose-your-own knitting adventure. The pattern is being released on Ravelry and is available to purchase through Kathy's Kreations, who is a Ravelry Pro yarn shop. A pre-order edition is available for \$3.98. As the sections release one at a time, beginning on **April 17, 2021** and running through the end of July, the pattern will be updated, and the price will gradually increase to a final cost of \$12.99.

The release of REALLY CLEAR DESIGNS MKAL, Maryland Road Trip Mystery Shawl, is intentionally timed to begin on Local Yarn Shop Day, April 17. We are thrilled that Cynthia Spencer will be with us then for the kick-off during our Spring Break. Special color packs from BAAH YARNS, who have created eight colorful combos from their "La Jolla" yarn, are now here but selling out quickly. You may see and purchase the color combos in person here at Kathy's Kreations while our supplies last or view them at roadtripmystery.com to then order them from us. This shawl will also use optional beads, so check out our selection of MIYUKI beads that color coordinate with the color pack kits. Last year's project was so much fun that we can't wait to cast on again...

*** HELPFUL TIPS & TRICKS ***

From Jenna C: When using a yarn pompom maker, use a smaller yarn with nylon (like sock yarn) in a similar shade to tie cord when completing the pompom. This results in a more secure pompom. Thanks for sharing, Jenna!

From "Hints From Heloise": Three other handy uses for crochet hooks include:

- 1) To pull hair and "gunk" from a bathroom sink
- 2) To pull torn threads of garments to the inside when mending
- 3) To pull up a zipper on the back of a garment

Need a simple spring refresh? Give a garment a fresh look by switching out the buttons! Buttons can completely change the look of a garment. Have the original buttons started to blend in or look blah? Snip them off, save them for future use, and replace them with a brand new style. Instant garment refresh! This is great for accessories as well, like pillows...



Lifelines to the rescue! Working on an intricate lace project, or need an easy way to see where to measure from? Thread a lifeline into the knitting! In lace, this provides a "safe" place to rip back without losing your place. But there is also another use. For example, in the *Johanna Vest* (see page two), easily see where to measure from in a certain point in your project by referencing a lifeline. Just thread a tapestry needle with unwaxed dental floss or contrasting colored yarns, and thread the needle through the live stitches on your needle. Brilliant!

*** ALMOST-INSTANT GRATIFICATION BOAT NECK VEST (not shown) ***

SIZES: Small (medium-large-XL-XXL in parentheses)

FINISHED CHEST MEASUREMENT: 36" (40" - 44" - 48" - 52")

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn approximately 600 (700—800—900—1000) yards; US sizes 7 & 9 24" circular knitting needles; tapestry needle for finishing; suggested yarn JUNIPER MOON FARM "Cumulus" or "Cumulus Dappled"

GAUGE: 5 sts/7 rows = 1" in stockinette stitch with larger needle OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE. Take time to save time, check your gauge!

STOCKINETTE RIDGE PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 2 stitches)

Row 1 (right side): Knit.

Row 2: Purl 1; *knit 2 tog (k2tog); repeat from * to last stitch, purl 1.

Row 3: Knit 1; *knit into front and back of next stitch; repeat from * to last stitch, knit 1.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: Purl.

Repeat these 6 rows for pattern.

BACK AND FRONT: With smaller needle, cast on 90 (100-110-120-130) stitches. Work in knit 2, purl 2 ribbing for 2", end with a wrong side row. Change to larger needles and work in stockinette ridge pattern until pieces measures 21" (22"-23"-24"-25") from the cast on edge, end row 6. Bind off all stitches. Sew back to front at armholes, leaving a 9" (10"-10"-11") or desired width neck opening. Sew side seam, leaving a 7" (7.5"-8"-9"-10") armhole or desired length. Weave in ends and enjoy! (Inspired by a vintage pattern)

*** DESIGNING WITH KATHY ***

"When a designer creates a knitting pattern and the knitter subsequently uses it, two physical items are used. First, there is the yarn which has a weight and thickness. Second, there are the needles which have a diameter (or thickness). The designing process creates a requirement for a specific needle size to be used with a specified yarn to form a desired gauge (number of stitches per horizontal inch). If the knitter follows the designer's pattern and maintains the correct gauge, then the finished product should be the same as the designed product.

The designed product will have a recommended needle size to be used. The needle size is generally the one recommended for the average knitter to obtain the desired stitch gauge. It is the STITCH GAUGE that is important in successfully creating the product (particularly in garments), NOT the needle size. The knitter must maintain the recommended stitch gauge, or the completed work will not be the correct size". (gleaned from a vintage My Valuable Yarn Guide) NEW PRODUCT ALERT: Ann Budd's innovative gauge rulers are on the way!!!



Another reason why getting gauge matters: Not only does proper gauge ensure the project turns out to be the intended size, but it also helps avoid running out of yarn. Doing a gauge swatch is also a great way to test how blocking might change the look or finished dimensions of the project. Why use the yarn that the pattern calls for, if possible? It's already been proven to get the gauge, plus it supports the designer and the yarn company who supplied the yarn to design the project. It's a win, win, win!

LOCAL YARN STORE DAY

*** LOCAL YARN STORE DAY ***

need to take a look at these!).

LYS Day (Local Yarn Store Day) is an international yarn crawl slated for Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:00 am—4:00 pm. It was originated by The National Needlework Association to drive traffic to local yarn stores. LYS Day has brought thousands of "yarnies" from across the USA and Canada to go to their local yarn store to see the products created exclusively to celebrate this day. This day is dedicated to brick and mortar yarn shops!

At Kathy's Kreations, we will feature special colorways in limited supplies from several of our indie hand-dyers (BAAH YARNS, EMMA'S YARNS, DREAM IN COLOR and WONDERLAND YARN). Kathy has designed a scarf using the new fabulous flamingo shade of HiKOO/SKACEL "Simpliworsted" and the pattern will be introduced for LYS Day. The Maryland Road Trip Mystery Shawl KAL also kicks off that day — don't miss out on this fun-filled knitting adventure! Our new Gauge Rulers from Ann Budd will also be here (you really

Each year, BAAH YARNS hand dyes an annual LYS Day color called "Love Your Store". The 2021 limited edition comes with a free Ravelry download code for a shawl pattern (shown upper right) with each BAAH LYS '21 yarn purchase of 3 skeins of "La Jolla" yarn.

Last but not least, Casapinka and Sharon from Security are extending the LYS celebration with a special design called "Noncho" April 30—May 2, 2021 for National Bubble Tea Day. This is a striped DK weight poncho in 3 colors, with instructions included for fingering weight. With your purchase of our DK kits from EMMA's YARN, DREAM IN COLOR or BAAH YARNS, or their fingering weight options, you will receive a code for a free Ravelry pattern download...

*** SPRING BREAK 2021 ***

Only two spaces remain for our 10th annual "Spring Break" Knitting Workshop Weekend hosted by Kathy Zimmerman and slated for April 16—18, 2021. Cynthia Spencer of *Really Clear Designs* will be teaching a nine-hour knitting workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier with colorwork knitting topics. Projects include a textured shawl, a mitered square hat and a Fair Isle headband...

*** STEEL VALLEY YARN CRAWL ***

Steel Valley

The Steel Valley Yarn Crawl has a new look this year. This 8th annual event is a Pittsburgh-area happening and will be held July 30—August 8, 2021. Six shops are

participating: Kathy's Kreations; Kid Ewe Knot, McWalker Yarns, Raggz, Sewickley Yarns, and Yarns by Design. For general information, please visit the new website, thesteelvalleyyarncrawl.com or contact thesteelvalleyyarncrawl@gmail.com

In addition to a new logo (shown at left), there are a few new surprises in store. Save the Date — we'll keep you updated in future newsletters!



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Your safety and well-being are our utmost concern. All in-shop events are slowly resuming in compliance with the extended social distancing and health safety guidelines. We are limiting the number of attendees at our Friday knit-alongs and all classes, so please call head for space availability. For everyone's health safety, a face mask covering both nose and

mouth is required, as well as the use of hand sanitizer upon entry. Please check in with our Facebook page (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA) and Instagram (#kathyknitz) for updates...

*** APRIL 2021 KNIT-ALONG (KAL) ***

Stop by on Fridays during April 2021 from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please, as occupancy is limited) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature a new Casapinka project, *The Birdwatcher* sleeveless top. Not working on the KAL? You are still welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (free!). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group April 2021 thread...

*** FUN FRIDAY, April 16, 2021; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ***

Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships! Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you. RSVP please, as occupancy is limited.

- *** "LET'S KNIT A HAT!" Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 1:00 pm 3:00 pm ***
- *** "BUILDING BLOCKS" Tuesday, April 20, 2021; 1:00 pm 3:00 pm ***

*** SPRING BREAK April 16-18, 2021 ***

It's our 10th annual "Spring Break" Knitting Workshop Weekend hosted by Kathy Zimmerman. Cynthia Spencer of *Really Clear Designs* will be teaching a nine-hour knitting workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier with colorwork knitting topics.

*** LYS DAY 2021 ***

Save the date! LYS Day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 17, 2021**. Think of it as a nationwide Yarn Crawl to support local yarn shops (LYS). We'll have exclusive, unique products created specifically for this event including a special BAAH LYS day colorway...

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Learning to knit or correcting mistakes are not the only reasons to have a one-on-one tutoring lesson. Learn specialized skills like lace or short rows, or get help with a pattern before starting -- our instructors can do it all! Additional group classes are forming -- ask us for details. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for more than 41 years!

We're excited about Spring and the wonderful new products that are arriving daily. Stop in soon to check it all out! KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!