



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
DECEMBER 2018 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

Winter holiday cheer and charm are once again here. Knitters and crocheters everywhere are busy filling their gift lists with warm, colorful, functional presents patiently crafted with love in every stitch. No purchased gift quite equals the thoughtfulness and caring of a handmade item.

An informal poll of our customers tells us that they have completed more hats than any other projects this month. Some popular patterns include KATHY ERHARD DESIGNS *Classic Ribbed Hat* in HiKOO "Simpliworsted", CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS *Boyfriend Hat* in TAHKI "Zona" and TIN CAN KNITS *Easy Peasy* in MADELINETOSH "Vintage". Our faux fur rabbit and raccoon "snap on" pompom puffs from McPORTER FARMS add the perfect finishing touch embellishment to wrap your loved ones up in warmth!

Need a last-minute gift idea? Ear warmers are a quick-knit and one size size fits practically everyone -- check out *Callison* in BERROCO YARNS "Vintage Chunky", *No More Cold Ears* in MRS. CROSBY "Steamer Trunk" and *Vanessa* in MADELINETOSH "Tosh Chunky". These can be knit easily in an evening or two...

We have been planning, handmaking, shopping for and gathering all the best for this festive (and busiest) time of the year. We've got your gift-giving covered. Come discover our unique selection of project ideas to bring comfort and joy to your family and friends this holiday season, gift knitting at its finest, as well as items you'll enjoy making for yourself later...

LET THE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN!

10% off all DREAM IN COLOR YARNS in stock throughout December 2018

Store Hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday, closed most Sundays
LIGONIER TOWN-WIDE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE Sunday December 2, 2018
12:00 noon - 5:00 pm

The Ligonier Borough Council has announced that FREE PARKING ON SATURDAYS
will continue throughout the rest of 2018!

Shop, Eat, Stay and Play in Ligonier and don't pay for parking on Saturdays!

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting and crocheting lessons
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates 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!
"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry
kathyknitz on Instagram

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Sharing is at the heart of the holidays -- traditions like time together, kindness, laughter, hugs and handmade gifts all make the season bright. The more we share, the more we inspire others and that's what the holidays are all about. Here are some great products and project ideas to help you make some merry handmade magic happen...

Cool nights call for cozy projects. The Winter 2019 issue of *Interweave Knits* (\$7.99, shown upper left) is sure to keep you occupied while you settle into knitting for warmth this season. Welcome to the Science Issue where you'll discover 19 designs inspired by the natural sciences -- astronomy, biology, geology, and chemistry -- and the world around us. In this issue, you'll find projects ranging from conceptual to casual, but they are all quintessentially *Knits* -- refined, smart, and classic with a bit of professorial quirk. Explore knits inspired by Earth and space in the fashion story "The Earth and the Cosmos". Discover the unexpected in the "Lab of Curiosities" story, full of knits blooming with biological inspiration. Learn how STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) programs are incorporating knitting to get young people into technology and science higher education. Untangle the mystery of brioche grafting with a surprisingly simple tutorial. Finally, meet a maker who creates knitted biological art. Nerd out with this wondrous, whimsical, classic, quarky and entertaining issue...

Are you knitting up some Christmas stockings for new additions to the family, or do you need to make some repairs to treasured heirloom stockings that are time-worn? Keep them looking authentic with genuine "Angora" from PLYMOUTH YARNS (\$8.50, 10 grams, 49 yards, 100% angora, CYCA #4). It's rare to find 100% angora, and this is the real thing from Italy. Soft and cuddly, this worsted weight yarn is perfect for adding interest to your projects, trims and stunning accents...

When the holidays wind down and winter's chill takes hold, find a warm escape in the soft comfort of an interesting new project. We recommend the colorways of DREAM IN COLOR's newest "Celebrate Our Diversities" collection, with colors so stunning that you won't be able to decide if you want to knit or frame them. These one-of-a-kind shades are on your choice of base, either "Smoochy With Nylon" (\$26.50, 4 oz., 420 yards, 85% superwash fine merino wool / 15% nylon, CYCA #2) or "Smoochy with Cashmere" (\$32.50, 4 oz., 440 yards, 70% superwash merino wool / 20% cashmere / 10% nylon, CYCA #2). DREAM recommends two possible project ideas by designer Casapinka. "One and Done" (\$6.00, Ravelry Pro download available here) is a crescent-shaped shawl that is repetitive and foolproof, where one beautiful skein of yarn does all the work for you. With periodic garter ridges, ribbing that widens after dropping stitches, and an eyelet border will maximize the beauty of your special skein of yarn. "Your Slip Is Showing" (\$6.00, Ravelry Pro download available here) is an opportunity to make a more adventurous large statement piece using a simple slipped stitch technique. It is a boomerang-shaped shawl, which is meditative to knit as it flows from one color combination to the next in twelve different sections. It uses four different colors of yarn and lends itself well to speckles, tonals or variegated colors, fade sets or gradient colors (photo, lower right). There is an optional schematic that allows you to plan your shawl colors using colored pens. You can use it to determine which colors will show up at the beginning, middle and end of your project. Directions for this are described in the pattern. And, of course, you could always make a decadent self-indulgent pair of socks for yourself from either yarn, because you are definitely worth it!



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Small Business Saturday is about more than just shopping at local stores. This holiday shopping tradition leaves many inspired to "Shop Small" year-round. Thanks to all our wonderful customers who help us celebrate our small business not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year. Congratulations to Pattie B and Tina H, the winners of our basket drawing giveaways this year. Thanks to Berroco Yarns for their contributions and support.



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Kathy's Kreations

This year's special featured holiday promotion is a "Celebrate Small Business" collaborative kit from PAWLEY STUDIOS and ANZULA YARNS (\$82.50, shown upper right). PAWLEY created a creative ceramic stoneware-looking mug filled with two sumptuous contrasting skeins of ANZULA YARNS "Squishy Fingering". The kit comes with the *Nubivagant* cowl knitting pattern by Heather Zoppetti and a stitch marker from STITCH SPROUTS. This makes a great gift for a knitting friend (or for yourself!)

Think of all the wonderful "stocking stuffer" notions that you can fit into one of our YAZZII mini-organizer totes (\$42.50) or KATHY'S KREATIONS clear vinyl project tote (sizes vary, \$28.95 - \$38.95)! Here are some great small gift ideas for your knitting or crocheting friends:

- Clover "Chibi" tapestry needles
- KNITTER'S PRIDE Row Counter Ring
- LO-LO TO GO hand moisturizer
- Eucalan minis
- Stitch marker sets by Cable Creations
- SUSAN BATES Handi-Tool (aka "cool tool")
- KNITTER'S PRIDE Needle View Sizer
- CLOVER Locking Stitch Markers
- PONY Wool comb
- LEE Highlighter tape
- SUSAN BATES Sock-shaped point protectors

Just in time for Christmas, URTH YARNS has added a festive red and green colorway to their hand-dyed self-striping collection of matching sock kits (\$30.50). We also have new supplies of "Uneek Fingering" (\$25.50) & "Harvest Fingering" (\$24.50) for the very popular "Butterfly / Papillon Shawl"...

One of the most-requested gifts on many knitters' wish list this season are interchangeable knitting needle sets and crochet hook sets. We have several for you to choose from, from manufacturers like CHIAGOO (Twist, and Spin), KNITTER'S PRIDE (Dreamz, Karbonz and Zing), PLYMOUTH (rosewood) and LYKKE (driftwood)...

Many thanks to our customers who dropped off hats for the Laurel Highlands Caps For Kids project (280 items were collected). Hats, scarves and other cold weather items will be distributed to area children in need through the Epiphany Anglican volunteers "Angel Tree" and the local Salvation Army in mid-December...



More McPORTER FARMS faux raccoon pompom puffs have arrived (\$12.50) in a variety of shades that would be a perfect topper for your handmade hat. Our customer Anita P sent us a photo of her finished "Classic Ribbed Hat" project by designer KATHY ERHARD (\$5.00 pattern) using a rustic tweed worsted weight yarn and one of our puffs. It's beautiful, Anita -- thanks for sharing!

© Copyright 2018
Anita Pasquale



*** DECEMBER KNIT ALONG ***

The holiday season has us focusing on one-skein wonder projects, so we selected BERROCO YARNS *McKenna* texting mitts for our December KAL (shown at left). These cozy cabled hand warmers use BERROCO's *Ultra Alpaca Chunky* yarn and knit up quickly for last-minute gifts.

Join us for fun knitting every Friday in December at Kathy's Kreations from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for the group project, the continuation of previous KALs, or any other works in progress purchased here. If you can't join us in person, follow us on the Ravelry December 2018 shop thread at

"We Love Kathy's"...

*** UPCOMING KNITTING CLASSES (call 724-238-9320 to register for all classes) ***

Join instructor Karen McCullough on **Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 10:00 am - 12 noon** to master colorwork knitting one panel at a time! Each month, Karen will introduce you to a wonderful new knitting technique from Michelle Hunter's *Building In Color* book. By the end of the series, you'll have a gorgeous blanket. Don't worry about jumping in late -- it is never too late for the color series. This month's topic features *Row Below*, a member of the Brioche family of stitches. The Knit Below is used to create fluffy textured fabrics with a honeycomb effect. When used in color work, the Knit Below adds depth to contrasting colors. Instruction includes how to insert a Lifeline and working from a chart. Registration fee is \$10 per class plus materials. Let's make some color magic happen! Karen tells us that the next class, "Make One Purl", will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 because of the New Year...

Whether you want to try something new or improve your colorwork skills, the *Vaip Cowl* is a fun-to-work project with eye-catching colors and attractive designs. This cowl includes several different color patterns that will keep your interest as you knit, while providing the chance to perfect your stranded knitting technique. And for those who don't enjoy wearing cowls, this project may be worked instead as a scarf. Join instructor Kathy Erhard on Saturdays, January 19, February 16, and March 9, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Kathy's Kreations to learn the knitting skills that will make knitting with two colors, casting on, and seaming easy. Kathy's Kreations also takes all the guesswork out of choosing colors that will give your project the perfect pop of color. Please see Kathy Z for your choice of striking *Vaip Cowl* kit (shown lower right), available in a variety of color schemes from CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS. You will also need two US size 2 (2.75 mm) 24" (60 cm) circular needles and a tapestry needle. Registration fee is \$20 per class.

Building With Lace is back! If you love lace and missed out on the first series of classes, here's another chance to make Michelle Hunter's *Building With Lace Shawl*. Starting from the initial cast on and working through all of the nine carefully chosen lace stitch patterns and beaded border, this class will teach you all you need to know. These lace patterns illustrate essential skills such as provisional cast on, reading charts, increases, decreases, lifelines, afterthought yarn overs, Japanese lace, Russian join, cabling without a cable needle, smocking stitches, Estonian nupps, applied borders, adding beads, and more. Join instructor Kathy Erhard as she demonstrates these skills and work along to make your own gorgeous lace shawl. Classes begin January 19, 2019 from 9:00 am - 12 noon at Kathy's Kreations and will be held on Saturday mornings of each month from January through October (photo, page 8).

Please choose your favorite color of HiKOO "Rylie" from Kathy's Kreations or one of her other select yarns for this class and bring US size 5 24-inch circular needles. Registration fee is \$20 per class.





IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE'VE GOT GIFT CERTIFICATES --
EVEN SANTA SHOPS HERE!

*** "Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (the knitter's version!) ***
"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,
the only one sleeping was a Knitter's dear spouse.
The Fair Isle stockings were almost completed,
"Just a few stitches left," our sweet knitter repeated.
"Then I can hang them and head off to finish the shawl I am knitting,
fulfilling Mom's wish for something cozy -- I'm not quitting!"
When out of the kitchen there arose such a crashing,
she sprang from her work, and dropped all of her sashing.
Away to the doorway she flew like a plane,
wondering what was happening and who she would blame.
When what to her wondering eyes should appear,
but Old Mrs. Claus and her bag of knit-gear.
With her elves bearing gifts, through the kitchen she came,
she directed and pointed and called them by name.
"Now Berroco, now Dragonfly, now Plymouth and Dream
MadTosh, Claudia, Manos and Urth" she called to the team.
Onto the knitting room -- there, it's just down the hall.
now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"
"My Dear," said The Claus (as she liked to be called),
"There is no need to worry or fret much at all.
Our projects will be completed this night,
I'm terribly sorry that we gave you such a fright."
"Please sit down, Have some tea. It's relaxing, you'll see.
My friends and I have come a long way to help Thee."
She thought she was dreaming, our dear Knitter did.
in fact she quite feared that she near flipped her lid!
But the flash of needles and twist of thread
soon gave her to know she had nothing to dread.
They spoke no words, but went straight to their knitting.
How the work went so quickly, she had no way of knowing.
The stitches, how fine! The edges how straight!
The Clauswoman's talent was awfully great.
They finished the shawl, then started a hat.
Before they all knew it, they were done just like that!
Now Old Mrs. Claus, she knew knitters real well,
and she knew they'd need help on this night most of all.
so she said to the knitter, "Just move over, dear,
I've brought my own Addis. We'll get done, never fear.
I told sweet old Santa about what knitters do.
How they plan all these projects but have other work, too.
So he taught me his magic for doing things fast.
There, that hat is done. Now this is the last."
They tidied their yarn ends, and picked up the scraps
and chased our dear knitter's six cats from their laps.
As they scurried away with their circs still gleaming
Dear Mrs. Claus pauses, her cap ribbons streaming.
"Merry Christmas, my dear, and to all, a knitter's delight"

adapted from a poem by the Country Register of Iowa, 2009

*** TIPS AND TRICKS ***

Our *Building With Lace* knitting instructor Kathy Erhard shared these helpful hints. The larger the gauge swatch, the more accurate your swatch will be. Make gauge swatches a minimum of 4" X 4" and check gauge after blocking. Using wooden needles when working with slippery yarns helps prevent dropped stitches.

Our *Building With Color* instructor Karen McCullough uses a crochet hook one size larger than her knitting project to bind off stitches. Karen tells us it is much easier!

Our crochet Instructor Karen Voshall shared a tip for dressing up a package, which originally appeared on Joanna Gaines *Magnolia* blog. Wrap gifts in brown craft paper, wrap red yarn around the package, and then finish off with two tassels (one at each end of the yarn). Simple, but stunning...

CABLE KEEPER

Ing-credible threads Designs



This is the perfect solution for holding on to your cable needle, tapestry needle, etc. while you are knitting. This handy little keeper will hold it from being lost in the couch, under the table or being the newest cat toy!

Completed in about an hour, what a great little gift (add a cable needle) for all your knitting buddies.

Materials:

Size 1.5 to 2.5 US, 32-40" long circular for magic loop (dpm's if you prefer)

Sock/fingering/ light sport wt yarn- about 6 yds.

Whatever bits you have leftover, just use the needle that works with the yarn.

I used 1.5 with sock yarn and 2.5 with light sport wt.

Thanks to Lisa M for sharing this pattern idea with us during Knittreat at Wisp Resort last month. What a great last-minute gift idea for knitting friends who love cables! And an ideal stash buster, too!

Design by Ingrid, Ing-credible Threads Designs, Ravelry "ingsknits", Etsy Ingcredible Threads

Cable Keeper pattern (cont.)

Pattern:

Cast on 24 sts and divide 12 each side of cable for magic loop

Join to knit in the round.

k1, p1 rib for 2 rounds

k 3 rounds

Next round, k 3, slip 3 sts to cable needle(CN) and hold in back, k 3 sts, k 3 sts from CN, k3 and then knit the remaining sts to complete the round

k 3 rounds

k1, p1 rib for 2 rounds

Bind off in pattern

Notes:

I also knit one with a k1 round, p1 round at beginning and end of pattern which is a little larger at the edges.(white one)

If you hold the CN in front, the cable will slant to the left, holding it in back the cable slants to the right.(see photo)

Experiment to see which slant works best for you.

*Thanks to Jody-Saliese Mason for her inspiration-"hold my cable needle please" pattern.



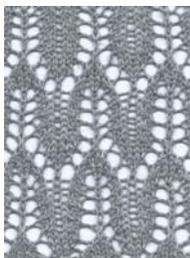
Design by Ingrid, Ing-credible Threads Designs, Ravelry "Ingridknits", Etsy IngcredibleThreads

15th annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival
and Creative Arts Festival
March 15-17, 2019
Greentree Doubletree Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA
Look for Kathy's Kreations in booths 25 & 26

*** WINTER NEEDLEARTS TRENDS ***

In the official blog of The National NeedleArts Association, Heather Zoppetti, TNNA Yarn Group Chair, shared this fashion report on what's hot for this season: tweed, fringe, hoodies and knitwear. Heather's predictions:

- "Tweed is subtle and sophisticated. You'll see it pop up in all manner of fabrics, fashion and, of course, yarns. As a yarn, tweed is classic and rustic. It's flecked with nubs of color that add visual interest to your knitting and give your finished piece an overall textured look. We find ourselves itching to cast on for woolly projects with a touch of rustic charm that only a tweed yarn can achieve.
- Perhaps you're thinking, "Fringe, really?" But ... this new fringe is sophisticated and luxurious! Step up your fringe game with airy curtains of mohair, delicate strands of silk or swingy valances of beads. It's simplest to add this embellishment to shawls and accessories, but there's nothing stopping you from adding it to everything. Keep it classy with just a few tassels or go overboard with show-stopping layers of flounce.
- Eccentric head coverings are popular, but the specific trend this winter is hoods -- hooded scarves, sweaters, and coats. Adding a hood to a garment or accessory is a great way to stay on-trend this season. Most hoods are just rectangles seamed at the top, an easy addition! Keep warm and bundle up with a tweed fringed hoodie -- that's three trends in one!
- What else is hot this winter? Knitting, of course! Bundle up in your coziest knits, grab your needles, wool and cast on. What better way to spread the love of craft than to give the gift of knitting by teaching a friend or family member to knit. Knitting doesn't require electricity if the power goes out during winter storms. Plus, you get a warm wearable in the end -- bonus"!



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

Join the "First Mondays" group for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are Monday evenings December 3, 2018 & January 7, 2019; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

***** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, December 11, 2018 & January 8, 2019; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) *****

Join us for stitching, lots of fun conversation and maybe ice cream --even if it's freezing outside!

***** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT December 8, 2018 & January 12, 2019; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) *****

Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here.

***** FUN FRIDAYS, December 21, 2018 & January 18, 2019; 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...

***** DECEMBER KNIT-ALONG (KAL) *****

Stop by on Fridays in December from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. Our featured project is "McKenna", chunky knit cabled texting mitts from BERROCO YARNS. 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 December 2018 thread...

***** "BUILDING IN COLOR" Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon (knit)**

***** "BUILDING WITH LACE" Saturday, January 19, 2019, 9:00 am - 12 noon (knit)**

***** "VAIP COWL" Saturday, January 19, 2019, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (knit)**

***** TOWNWIDE LIGONIER MERCHANTS' OPEN HOUSE *** Sunday, December 2, 2018; 12 noon - 5:00 pm**

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 new techniques 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 38 years!

Make your list and check it twice to be sure you have that special, one-of-a-kind handmade gift that adds that special "just for you" touch. Make it a holiday season to remember with gifts lovingly made by hand -- let the celebrations begin!

HAPPY KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy