

*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Right about now, winter's grip is making us yearn for sandals and sunshine. We'll speed up the season for you with a hint of the warming trend to come. Spring 2014 is about peekaboo lace and floral patterning, loose, boxy shapes for easy layering and drapey, breathable cardigans. Each month, we launch new products to inspire, help expand skills, and take on the challenge of something new. We have a fabulous selection of the latest yarns as well as returning favorites with new colors

and patterns. Here are this month's additions and top picks for something new to try and ideas that inspire, with a spotlight on creativity...

It may seem odd to talk about springtime when snow is still on the ground. But, actually, now is the perfect time to start knitting and crocheting spring and summer garments to get the most out of them during the warm-weather months! Simple, relaxed elegance is the hallmark of TAHKI YARNS casual style and this season. TAHKI's "Spring Fling" pattern booklet (TSS14, \$16.50) continues this tradition with a collection of 15 classic designs to knit. Fashionable without being overly-trendy, the garments feature new yarns and familiar standbys like "Cotton Classic" (\$6.50, 50 grams, 108 yards, 100% mercerized cotton, CYCA #4). The open-front Willow Cardigan, shown upper left, is knit with new "Tandem" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 107 yards, 28% cotton / 28% viscose / 28% nylon / 16% acrylic, CYCA #4), a multi-color chainette with matte/shiny contrast. This soft, multi-colored yarn with just a hint of shine, is perfect for spring/summer garments and accessories. Looks fantastic with basic crochet, too...

The "Challah Infinity Scarf" by PAM POWERS KNITS (\$7.50, shown page 8, upper right) is composed of luscious braided knitted strips of moss stitch and ribbing resembling the delicious challah egg bread. These three strips are then rejoined and knit together in strips of stockinette and reverse stockinette stitch, in a solid color or three-color version. This project is suitable for a beginner who is open to a construction challenge, since it utilizes only knit and purl stitches. We like it so much that we are having a knit-along to work on this scarf every Friday 10 am - 2 pm during the month of February...

Have you noticed that the heavy gauge sweaters have a way of getting finished at the end of winter and lightweight cardigans seem to leap off the needles right around Labor Day? This is a common problem: we see something that we want to make, we gather our supplies and get started. But, by the time we are finishing, there are only a few short weeks left in the "season" to wear our FO (finished object). What's a yarnie to do? It's time to re-think our stitching calendars. Instead of waiting until the weather gets a little warmer to start spring and summer garments, why not start now? What better way to usher in thoughts of warmer weather than with yarn? CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Bella Lino" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 164 yards, 58% linen / 26% viscose / 16% cotton, CYCA #3), shown lower right, means "beautiful linen". This is a yarn that really lives up to its name! The colors in the long repeats of the linen-blend harmonize beautifully on a natural linen hued base, reminding us of all things beach-related --sand, seashells, sunsets and ocean/lake views. There are so many possibilities for what to make with this gorgeous fiber -- layering pieces for now and shawls, tanks & tees for later on. Don't miss out on this yarn...

Also new from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS is pattern booklet 9232 Harvest Woods (\$9.95). Designs are from the mountaintop Collection and include a fabulous top-down cabled pullover, textured swirl hat in two versions, sideways striped scarf, ribbed cowl, seed stitch vest and textured A-line cardigan. All are worked in natural shades of undyed chunky weight "Blackthorn" or colorful new arrival "Wynter" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 120 yards, 50% superfine alpaca / 50% wool, CYCA #5)...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

One of our all-time best-selling yarns is TRENDSETTER "Tonalita" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 100 yards, 52% wool / 48% acrylic, CYCA #4), and new shades are now in stock, like ocean & sky, shown upper right. This wonderful self-striping yarn features incredible colors that softly move from one shade to the next. "Tonalita" has a light, soft spinning, allowing the fibers and colors to flow smoothly. The colors are ideal for women's, men's and kids garments, as well as home decor. Ask to see our gorgeous CHURCHMOUSE AT HOME "One Big Granny Square Afghan" (\$5.50 pattern), crocheted with "Tonalita" by Betty Lou Glasso. Betty Lou did an amazing job -- an inspiration for how beautiful granny square crochet can be.

We are also helping TRENDSETTER YARNS to celebrate their 25th Anniversary! For every \$25 of non-discontinued TRENDSETTER YARNS which you purchase, you will be entered into their drawing to win one or more of twenty-five \$100 gift certificates to purchase more TRENDSETTER yarns from your local retailer (Kathy's Kreations). Ask us for details...

"Danube" is a new line of yarns from CRYSTAL PALACE River Collection (\$8.95, 50 grams, 40% nylon/ 30% rayon / 30% wool). It comes in DK (163 yards), Aran (119 yards), and Bulky (81 yards) weights, and seven beautiful colorways. It is made of slow-striping fiber with silk-like flecks and has a rustic, handspun look. The color changes flow together like the European river after which it is named. It is very soft and has a lovely, luxurious sheen. Kathy couldn't wait to make something with this yarn so she designed a textured scarf for a kntiting guild program. We are pleased to share Kathy's free pattern with you (see page 6).

KNITTER'S PRIDE introduces an exquisite collection of fabric bags for storing interchangeable knitting sets in style! These organizers are well-designed to accommodate a variety of needle sizes and tips. They are offered in a combination of fabric: cotton (Eden Trail, \$16.50), Silk (Orient Sheen, \$17.95, interior shown lower left), Brocade (violet dream, \$16.50), and polyester / cotton (ribbons, \$16.50). Due to popular demand, we are increasing our selection of KNITTER'S PRIDE "Dreamz" needles. If you haven't tried them yet, you are in for a treat. Also new from KNITTER'S PRIDE are stainless steel lace blocking wire kits (\$26.50) and Lace Blocking Mats (\$32.50, pack of 9). The mats can be used individually for flat blocking of knitted and crocheted smaller projects like mitts or join together for larger projects...

Of the new handpainted yarns that are arriving almost every other day, we are already picking favorites. Re-orders of MADELINE TOSH YARN fall/winter must-have shades are here in "Tosh Sock", "Pashmina", and "Vintage". DREAM IN COLOR "Everlasting DK" (\$26.95, 100 grams, 275 yards, 100% superwash Australian merino wool, CYCA #3) has arrived in luscious shades Victoria, jeans, basalt, poppy and rain cloud. This is our pick for the "Wurm" hat and other winter warmers that will transition into spring. We also love the new kettle-dyed colors in "Smooshy" (\$25.50, 4 oz., 450 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #2) and "Groovy" (\$20.50, 4 oz., 120 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #5) -- the rosalita shade (mauve rose) has us dreaming of a colorful cowl...

Nicky Epstein will be a featured "headliner" teacher at the upcoming 10th annual Pirttsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival in March. We have her latest book, "Knits For Dolls" (\$19.95, soft cover), designed with 18" dolls in mind. Bring a whole new spirit of fun and fashion to your little girl's favorite dolls! The 25 fabulous outfits in this book include designs for

knitters of every style and skill level, and Nicky brings her distinctive charm and creativity to each piece, from delicate dresses to jaunty hats to sporty sweaters. Thanks to Linda Honchar, her sister Jan and niece Alison for providing our window display of American Girl dolls...



Kathy's Kreations invites you to join us on April 25 ~ 27, 2014 for our **3rd** annual "Spring Break" Knitting Workshop Weekend. Margaret Fisher will not be joining us, but our own Kathy Zimmerman, nationally-recognized knitting instructor and knitwear designer, will teach a nine-hour workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA. The weekend will kick off with a Meet & Greet on Friday evening. On Saturday, Kathy will teach a six-hour class "Stitchwork for Self-Striping Yarns". Students will work on a sampler scarf, experimenting with a

a variety of pattern stitches to enhance the beauty of hand-painted yarns. Several of Kathy's designs for Knitter's Magazine will be featured (see upper left). On Sunday, Kathy will teach "Details, Details, Details", including beyond-the-basics finishing details to finesse your handknits with a professional appearance. The weekend package includes an after-hours knitting Soup & Sliders party and special shopping time at Kathy's Kreations (Friday evening); morning coffee breaks and two lunches at the Ramada; classes Saturday and Sunday; extended lunch break on Saturday with time to shop in the pretty little town of Ligonier and goodie bags. The price is \$225 per person.

Overnight lodging is not included and is optional for local participants. The Ramada has set up a special rate for us, so please make your own reservations by calling 724-238-9545. Space is limited on a first-come, first-served basis, so please e-mail or call 724-238-9320 and send a check for the full amount to Kathy's Kreations. Attendees will receive a 10% discount on all regularly-priced knitting supplies and yarn all weekend.

*** ASK AN EXPERT ***

Q: "What is superwash wool, and why should I care if my wool is superwash or not?

A: Eleanor Swogger, Merchandise Manager at KRAEMER YARNS replies: "Sheep wool contains scales that give it elasticity and crimp. These characteristics make it easier to spin the fiber as they help the fiber attach to each other. The crimp adds bulk and holds air, helping to insulate. This can keep you cool in summer and warm in winter. But heat and agitation cause the scales to permanently lock together causing felting.

The superwash process changes the properties of wool to allow the wool to be machine washed and prevent felting. Two methods are used to create wool which is machine washable. The first process removes scales from the wool. The second method involves coating the fibers which prevents them from sticking together.

Excessive heat can damage a superwash coating, so it is suggested that superwash yarns be machine washed and dried on cool settings. Non-superwash yarn should not be machine dried but some can be washed with cold water on delicate setting. Thanks, Eleanor!

*** COLOR OF THE YEAR ***

Fashion designers take a modern twist on the traditional for Spring 2014 by pairing soft pastels with vivid brights to create a colorful equilibrium. Inspired by a mixture of blooming flowers, travels abroad, and strong, confident women, designers use color to refresh, revive and defy conventional wisdom.

"This season, consumers are looking for a state of thoughtful, emotional and artistic equilibrium", states Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. "While this need for stability is reflected in the composition of the palette, the inherent versatility of the individual colors allows for experimentation with new looks and color combinations".

The 2014 color of the year is radiant orchid (shown atop a delicious-looking cupcake at left, the Danube Scarf on page 6, and the hearts on our front page border). It's already showing up on our shelves (TAHKI Cotton Classic color 3948). Radiant Orchid blooms with confidence and magical warmth that intruiges the eye and sparks the imagination. A captivating harmony of fuchsia, purple and pink undertones, Radiant Orchid emanates great joy, love and health. More about spring fashion trends and color palette in our March update next time...

*** KNITTING CABLES: HOW TO FIX MISTAKES ***

Fixing mistakes may seem like a daunting task when you're knitting cables, but not necessarily. *Knitting Daily 11/29/13* had some tips and a mention of tips and tricks from Kathy's video, *Classic to Creative Knit Cables*. If you find a mistake in a cable crossing several rows (or even repeats) down and don't want to live with it, do not rip out your work to that point! You may be able to fix it. Insert a small double-pointed needle or stitch holder into the stitches in the row just below the incorrect cable. Work up to the point of the offending crossing and then drop only the involved stitches from your needle. Beware that if the error involves strands that have since separated, this point may be several stitches away from the original crossing point. The stitches in each strand stay with it throughout the knitting, meaning that you must drop from wherever the original strand's stitches have ended up. Ladder the dropped stitches down until you reach the held stitches. Rework the pattern correctly, using the ladders as the working yarn. Kathy likes to use double-pointed needles in the same size as the body is being worked for this step. Even the tension as needed with a SUSAN BATES repair tool or CLOVER "Chibi" bent-tip yarn needle...

*** GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR STITCHING TIME ***

Are you the kind of knitter or crocheter who feels like there simply are not enough hours in the day to devote to your needleart? There is a limit to how much time any of us can devote to stitching on a single day. But here are some tips for getting the most out of the moments that you do have:

- -- Practice makes perfect. Try working a little on a new technique every day and soon you'll notice you are able to work faster than before and with more accuracy.
- -- Check your hands. Is the yarn properly tensioned around your fingers? Perhaps holding your crochet hook with a different grip will make a difference. Or try another style of hook -- perhaps bamboo or one of the smooth touch grips will be more comfortable. For knitters, try both the English or right-hand throwing method and Continental left-handed style to see which works best for you.
- -- Do remember to take breaks at least every hour. Not only does it help to move around but keeps us mentally sharp. Don't forget to check your work frequently to make sure everything is going as expected.
- -- Find hidden stitching time, or hidden stitching places (like gatherings at Kathy's Kreations). It's not just that hour after dinner watching TV, but many opportunites throughout the day. If you are a commuter or passenger in a carpool, turning this into stitching time could easily have you finishing up projects in a more timely manner. Think about which projects would be good for "waiting around" and take these with you when you know you will need to wait at the doctor's office or soccer game. Are there small projects that would fit in a small tote that could be pulled out during lunch breaks at work? All kinds of opportunities present themselves throughout the day.

*** DID YOU KNOW??? ***

Have you ever thought about the origins of certain styles of sweaters? Aimee Levenson recently sent us information about Henley styling. Apparently, the crew teams of the English town of Henley-on-Thames wore shirts that were collarless with a button placket below the round neckline. This style became popular with the masses, and the Henley was born.

The raglan sleeve got its name from Englishman FitzRoy James Henry Somerset, the 1st Baron Raglan, who lost his arm in the Battle of Waterloo. His tailor developed this style of sleeve to be more comfortable for him after the loss of his arm.

Interstingly, in the Crimean War Baron Raglan fought alongside British Army General James Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan, after whom the cardigan sweater is named...



*** HAPPINESS LASTS LONGER WITH A HOBBY ***

Which would make you happier in the long run: getting a raise or joining a knitting club? Surprise: it's the knitting! Folks who indulge in a hobby enjoy improved moods for months longer than folks who get a bump in salary, buy a new car or move into a new house, reports the journal *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*. While a raise and new purchases make us feel good when we get them, we quickly become used to them, so they no longer inspire joy. But pursuing a passion creates a constantly changing experience, which prolongs our

happiness! Thanks to Halla Miller for sharing the clipart at upper left.

Where can you join in a knitting gathering? No surprise! Kathy's Kreations hosts a variety of stitching groups each month and we invite you to join us -- Knit Knite (second Tuesday evening), Sit & Stitch Saturday (second Saturday), Knit-alongs (every Friday) and Fun Friday (third Friday), times listed on page 8. What do we do at these gatherings? All skill levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome to bring their projects purchased here & gather for fellowship, conversation, and fun with other stitchers. Please bring a snack if you wish or a treat to share, and your sense of humor. Please call ahead to let us know that you are coming so that we have enough seating. It's interesting to see what others are making -- several knitters are working on current Knit-alongs or are finishing up a variety of projects. And, if you missed it, Linda Honchar shared her recipe for a perfect winter day warm dip:

SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP

Ingredients: 2 cups parmesan cheese, freshly grated

1 (10 ounce) box frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained

1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped

2/3 cup sour cream 1 cup cream cheese 1/3 cup mayonnaise

2 teaspoons garlic, minced

Directions: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix together parmesan cheese, spinach and artichoke hearts. Combine remaining ingredients and mix with spinach mixture. Bake for 20-20 minutes. Serve with crackers, pita chips or toasted bread. Thanks for sharing the recipe, Linda!

*** KATHY'S DANUBE SCARF ***

Kathy designed this beginner-easy cozy scarf with our newest arrival, CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS River Collection "Danube Bulky", a rustic, slow-striping wool blend with silk-like flecks. The winter 2014 storms keep coming in a parade of "clippers" from the North -- be prepared and bundle up!

FINISHED SIZE: 6" wide X 62" long

MATERIALS: Crystal Palace Yarns "Danube Bulky" 3 balls (approx. 243 yards); US size 10

knitting needles

GAUGE: 16 stitches / 21 rows = 4" in pattern stitch

PATTERN STITCH (Irish moss stitch)

Rows 1 & 2: *P1, K1; repeat from * to end. Rows 3 & 4: *K1, P1; repeat from * to end.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 24 stitches using long-tail cast on method. Repeat pattern until just enough yarn left to bind off, or desired length. Bind off all stitches in pattern. If fringe or other embellishment is desired, purchase an extra ball of yarn.

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*** BUILDING BLOCKS KNITTING SERIES WITH LISA CARNAHAN ***

Do you want to be a better knitter? Master color knitting one panel at a time with this class series. **Building In Color** by Michelle Hunter is another carefully designed sequence of patterns aimed at introducing knitters to the wonderful array of stitches and techniques used in color knitting, sparking creativity and confidence. Each of the 10 patterns focuses on new skills and ways of using multiple colors of yarn. The sequential approach allows mastery of skills which then build upon each other in subsequent patterns. All of the techniques are supported with the free online video instruction that you have come to rely upon from Michelle Hunter's books. Explore the world of color from a fresh perspective!

Lisa Carnahan, designer and owner of Lisa Knits, will be here at Kathy's Kreations to guide you through each lesson while adding helpful tips that she has learned in her many years of knitting and designing.

Every pattern in **Building In Color** will add to your knitting education as you learn to expertly knit with multiple colors. And, as with the blocks in **Building Blocks**, each pattern creates a lovely panel that is assembled into a colorful blanket -- your own cuddly work of art! This book also aims to increase your chart-reading skills. Both written and charted instructions are included for each pattern, along with a *Chart Sense* section to help you gain confidence with this essential knitting skill.

Between classes, you will have an excellent workbook to guide you, access to online video lessons, and Lisa will reply to any questions that you have via e-mail. At the completion of the series, we'll get together for a Finishing Party where we'll celebrate the completion of our sampler afghans along with a few surprises!

We begin our project with two standards in color knitting -- intarsia and Embroidery. Both open the door to an unlimited number of designs full of color, texture, and fun! Don't worry, experience is the best teacher, and you will gain confidence with each row! The first class will be held at Kathy's Kreations on **Saturday, March 22, 2014, from 10 am - 12 noon.** Cost of the class series is a one-time purchase of the "Building In Color" booklet by Michelle Hunter (\$20.50); \$10 per class session; and three skeins of "Simplicity" yarn to complete each block (you may substitute yarn, but it must be purchased at Kathy's Kreations). All panels will be knit with a US 6 (4.0 mm) circular knitting needle 24" (available for purchase before class, if needed).

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

February 27, 2014: Laurel Highland Knitting Guild meeting, Ligonier Town Hall, 7 pm. Kathy will conduct a program on "Stash Buster Projects", featuring the "Rib-a-Roni" hat pattern available from Ravelry. The public is invited to attend as a guest. Please bring along US size 8 circular knitting needles 16" length, a stitch marker, and worsted weight yarn in three or more colors (approx. 150 yards total) in complimentary colorways

March 14-16, 2014: Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars, PA just off the Cranberry exit of the PA Turnpike. Kathy will once again be in Market booths #2 & #3. Market hours have been extended: 12 noon - 7 pm Friday, 9 am - 5:30 pm on Saturday and 9 am - 4 pm on Sunday. We will be showcasing Claudia Handpainted Yarns and Kathy will be representing them at the Trunk Show. For information, visit www. pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030.

April 5, 2014: 19th annual Knitter's Fantasy; Chaney High School; Youngstown, Ohio. Kathy's Kreations will be at the Yarn Market, booths #19 & #20.

April 10, 2014: Join us at KRAEMER YARNS in Nazareth, PA for "Kathy's Kreations" Day. Kathy's Kreations is sponsoring a free tour of the textile mill & yarn shop -- you can join us there! Merchandise Manager Eleanor Swogger will also do a hand-dyeing demonstration featuring KRAEMER YARNS Natural Skeins Collection, including their latest yarns "Kathy". This yarn is named for one of KRAEMER's employees, although our Kathy has a special fondness for this new addition, which inspired a new design...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crochet and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **February 3, 2014** and **March 3, 2014**; **6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!



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*** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evening, February 11, 2014 and March 11, 2014; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp) ***

Join us for an evening of stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead in case of cancellation...

*** FUN FRIDAYS, February 21, 2014 and March 21, 2014; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ***

Join us for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome!

*** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT ***

Come sit 'n knit! We will be gathering at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday mornings **February 8, 2014** and **March 8, 2014; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Join us for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please bring your knitting, crocheting and any projects to show and share. Open to all skill levels...

*** NEW BUILDING BLOCKS CLASS SERIES WITH LISA CARNAHAN ***

We are pleased to announce the sequel to the Building Blocks class series, taught by Lisa Carnahan. Lisa will be teaching a series of classes based upon Michelle Hunter's latest book, "Building In Color". If you are interested in expanding your colorwork knitting skills, please call or e-mail us to register. The first session will be held **Saturday, March 22, 2014, 10 am - 12 noon**. Fee is \$10 plus purchase of project yarn and a one-time purchase of the "Building In Color" book by Michelle Hunter

Congratulations to those who attended the "Building Blocks" educational series with instructor Lisa Carnahan -- you are cordially invited to bring your finished project to a free "Block Party" on **Saturday, March 22, 2014, 12 noon** to show and share your completed blanket or work in progress. Complimentary refreshments will be served and Lisa will be available for questions to wrap up this series...

*** FEBRUARY KNIT ALONG (KAL) ***

We will meet here **EVERY Friday in February** from **10 am - 2 pm** (rsvp please) to work on our newest KAL, the Challah Infinity Scarf by PAM POWERS KNITS (shown upper right). 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!).

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. 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 over 33 years!

Do you have a hand-made sweater or accessory that you consider to be "classic"? Knitted and crocheted "classics" are like old friends who are always ready to do something fun. What makes a classic? We think it's a combination of beauty, utility and timelessness. Many of our CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS patterns fit the bill, and then some. Stitching a classic definitely leads to small masterpieces. Here's to your next masterpiece! KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy