



FEBRUARY

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATE

Dear Stitchers,

When temperatures dive, why not keep yourself warm with a project that's not only toasty, but stunning? Start with great fibers, timeless styles, then add rich colors. Make a project with one of our drop-dead gorgeous hand-dyed yarns from EMMA, DREAM IN COLOR, MANOS DEL URUGUAY, DRAGONFLY FIBERS or MADELINE TOSH to take the edge off any chill!

Whether you need to update your wardrobe or you're just looking for inspiration, stay ahead of the curve with accessories in rich colors. Dark colors have an instant unisex flair, but feel free to step out of the box and introduce vivid shades into the mix, to put a modern twist on a classic piece. Style a "fluro" color with dark color items to make the neon stand out for a bold statement. Color makes everything better, wherever your journey leads. Don't be afraid to try something new -- you might really like it!

If the neon trend is too much, *The TrendSpotter* blog tells us to keep it simple and streamlined with tonal dressing. A continual color combination in your outfit (all gray, all pastels, or gradient tones, for example) creates unity and will make you look like a piece of walking art. You don't have to choose the exact color combo for every part of your outfit -- varying shades create depth and further dimension to your outfit and will look fantastic from every angle. Of course, nothing says chic layering piece like a luxurious sweater or wrap. These look great with everything from jeans to skirts to trousers, and are as easy to dress up as they are to dress down.

Our "Something New" this month includes two new quick accessories designed by our own Kathy. We've also got inspiration on ways to intertwine the calming energy of PANTONE's Color of the Year, Classic Blue, into your projects all winter long...

WARM UP WITH WOOL!

10% off all purchases of in-stock, regularly-priced
100% wool (all weights) throughout February 2020

STORE HOURS

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday; closed Sundays

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX, Apple Pay & Google Pay

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

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(Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)

"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry

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Find us at our Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Page



e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com

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





*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Knitting and crocheting are as much about the journey as they are about the destination. Getting to the finished project feels great, but you should enjoy the process along the way, from the first stitch to the last. That's where Kathy's Kreations comes in. We're here to help you with your project and yarn selections from beginning to end. We've got classes to help you improve your skills, a selection of patterns and finished items for inspiration, a wide variety of tools and accessories to make the process easier, gear for the finishing touches, and yarn, yarn and more yarn!

How sweet is this, valentine? We are loving the lilac-y tonal with bursts of bright pink, blues and purples for EMMA'S YARN Crazy, Beautiful Color Club for February 2020 (shown upper left). We have limited supplies available in bases "Practically Perfect Sock Yarn", "Simply Spectacular DK", and "Bodacious Bulky" (\$27.50 each). In case you missed last month's colorway inspired by champagne and fireworks, some quantities are still on our shelves. The *Retta Scarf* (free Ravelry Pro download, shown upper right page 7) looks great when knit in a single strand of "Bodacious Bulky". This scarf design by Jessica Gore is the perfect everyday accessory -- warm, stylish, surprisingly easy to knit. It features a central nine-stitch plait cable bordered by twisted stitches and garter stitch, creating a classic design that looks good however you want to wear it...

Happy 15th Anniversary to CHIAOGOO! "Red Lace" is our best-selling fixed circular knitting needle product line. These make knitting easier, with needle tips made from surgical-grade stainless steel and 3 steel cables coated in nylon with lifeline holes to make creating your next project a breeze. We also carry a complete line of TWIST Red interchangeable sets with a wide variety of sizes all together in a lovely fabric case, along with individual components in mini, small and large sizes...

It's the season for snuggles! Right on cue, JUNIPER MOON FARMS "Cumulus" (\$21.95 solids/\$22.95 dappled, 100 grams, 251 yards, 94% Israeli Mako Cotton/6% nylon, CYCA #4) just may be the softest cotton blend yarn you will ever feel! This cloud-weight worsted weight yarn with chainette construction is an all-season-friendly cotton with a touch of nylon for stability and strength. Light and fluffy like a cloud, it is perfect for baby blankets and clothing, as well as the softest next to skin accessories for grown-ups...

UNIVERSAL YARNS "Major" (\$12.00, 200 grams, 328 yards, 100% anti-pill acrylic, CYCA #5) gives you major color and yardage in each skein! This bulky, extra soft, machine-washable yarn with its self-striping color changes make it ideal for everything from baby blankets and garments to colorful afghans to comfort shawls that you can throw in the wash...

To Australia, With Love. In an effort to aid in the devastating Australian bush fires, MADELINE TOSH will be donating 25% of all sales from their new colorway "To Australia, With Love" to Wildlife Rescue South Coast (photo lower right). We sold out of our first order very quickly, but more is on the way and should be here in early February. This gorgeous yarn is available in bases "Tosh Merino Light" (\$28.50, 420 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #2) and "Pashmina" (\$37.50, 360 yards, 75% superwash merino/15% silk/10% cashmere, CYCA #3). Kathy Z recommends pairing one skein of "Tosh Merino Light" with her *Just One More Row* scarf design and one or two skeins of "Pashmina" for her *Into The Woods* cowl / infinity loop. Inspired by MAD TOSH, she will donate 25% of all sales of these KATHY ZIMMERMAN DESIGNS patterns sold at Kathy's Kreations in-shop and on her Ravelry store to Australian Wildlife Relief during February 2020...





*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The beauty of undyed, naturally-colored alpaca and its softness combines into a heathery sport-weight yarn in MANOS DEL URUGUAY "Alpaca Heather". There are 3 undyed colors put up in 100 gram hanks (\$28.50, 100 grams, 328 yards, 70% wool/30% alpaca, CYCA #3). When the undyed shades are then overdyed with MANOS's kettle-dyed semi-solid colors, the results are 9 more rich, subtle tones, put up in 50 gram hanks (\$15.50, 50 grams, 164 yards, 70% wool/30% alpaca, CYCA #3). Undyed and dyed colors look great in color combinations, such as in the *Destello Scarf* (F154, pattern free here with purchase of yarn to make this project, shown upper right), designed by Sarah E. Chapman. This scarf uses short rows worked with wraps, and features attractive striped sequences turned this way and that way for an eye-catching neck warmer. Ask to see our shop models made with shades toast, bark, harbor, and zinnia. We also have recently received new colorways in MANOS "Fino", a lovely silk and wool fingering blend suitable for cozy cowls like perennial beauty *Willow Cowl*...

SIRDAR "Snuggly Bunny" (\$5.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 100% nylon, CYCA #4) is a sweet faux fur yarn perfect for little ones. Soft as the down on a rabbit's nose, this yarn looks cute even in the skein! This Aran-weight yarn resembles fringed ribbon and adds fluff to the simplest of stitch patterns. Baby sweaters and hats are soft, warm, and adorable in this machine-washable nylon yarn. Try it for CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS *Easy Peasy Baby Jacket!* Babies and toddlers will love to be cocooned in the supreme fluffiness of "Snuggly Bunny" -- baby-friendly, kid-friendly, and OK, grown-up friendly too...

SKACEL has introduced its COLOR OF THE YEAR -- a teal shade representing unity, tranquility and optimism across its most popular yarn lines. Stop in to see this shade in customer fave Sueno (\$16.50, 100 grams, 255 yards, 80% superwash merino/20% viscose from bamboo, CYCA #3) and Sueno Worsted (\$17.50 100 grams, 182 yards, 80% Superwash merino/20% viscose from bamboo, CYCA #4). Both of these yarns are lovely for garments, hats, and accessories...

New supplies of EUCALAN lanolin-enriched no rinse delicate wash cleaner are here (\$6.25 trial size, \$15.95 16.9 ounce size)...

Show your project some love with *addiLove* (\$10.50), adorable heart-shaped removable locking stitch markers from ADDI. You can use the stitch marker hearts to mark sections of a complicated pattern or to indicate the beginning of a round. However you use them, you are sure to LOVE them!

Customers continue to rave about their completed "Audition Shawl", the legendary knit-along from last fall with our knitting hero Michelle Hunter. But what to do if you have leftover yarn from the project because you did not want to play yarn chicken? Rosanne H recently came in to share a new shawl she knit with an almost-full cake of *Audition HiKOO "Simplicity Spray"*. Rather than stash her "Spray", Rosanne added a skein of "Simplicity" in a dark teal solid for quantity sufficient to make the *Alzada* shawl (\$6.00 Ravelry Pro download, shown lower left being modelled by Rosanne). *Alzada*, by designer Irina Eberhardt, is an asymmetrical triangular shawl, knitted from side to side. The garter stitch is alternated with eyelet stripe. The pointy edge gives charm to the shawl. Rosanne's gradient yarn combined with a solid is the perfect choice for this piece. Rosanne tells us that she uses this shawl for layering to eliminate carrying around a heavy coat when shopping. It's a great project for beginners to practice working short rows!





*** FEBRUARY 2020 KNIT-ALONG (KAL) ***

It's time to knit projects that keep us toasty and we found one that is perfectly cozy when winter winds blow. It helps that it is an easy, quick knit, too! *Hot Lines* by Lorraine Waitman (free Ravelry Pro download, shown upper left) is a great little cowl that uses different sequences of knits and purls to create ribbed lines that move and change and then change back again across the cowl. Pick up a colorful hank of worsted weight yarn from our shelves plus five SKACEL buttons, then get started. The designer tells us: "Leaving one or two buttons unbuttoned allows the cowl to drape over your collar just a bit".

Join us for knitting/ crocheting every Friday during February 2020 at Kathy's Kreations from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for the group projects, 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 February 2020 shop thread at "We Love Kathy's" and like/follow us on Facebook at Kathy's Kreations Ligonier, PA...

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

Our weekday knitting class series based on books by Michelle Hunter and taught by instructor Karen McCullough continue. Take your knitting to the next level with new skills. *Building With Lace* is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4, 2020; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm** and focuses on *Smocking Stitch*. Nothing is more eye-catching than the deep texture of a smocked fabric. Learn how to make these embossed designs created by gathering stitches together with a horizontal strand. Class registration is \$20.00 for the class plus purchase of book and yarn from Kathy's Kreations. AND, improve your knitting skills one square at a time with *Building Blocks*, designed to help knitters navigate through major knitting techniques and principles. The recommended yarn is HiKOO "Simpliworsted", a lovely blend of superwash merino and premium acrylic/nylon that is very soft and durable. We continue the lessons by learning to make the *Right Twist*, which provide stunning impact by simply changing the order in which stitches are worked, a crossover similar to cabling. The class is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4, 2020, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**. Registration fee is \$15.00 plus purchase of book and yarn from Kathy's Kreations...

In our series of lace classes, students will master lace knitting one section at a time. Join our instructor Kathy Erhard as she demonstrates lace skills and work along to make your own gorgeous lace shawl as a wearable showcase of your skills. This month's **Building with Lace** class explores the difference between "lace knitting" and "knitted lace." The difference lies in the fact that some lace patterns work increases and decreases only on the right side and others work these stitches on all the rows.

Students are using the gorgeous HiKoo by Skacel RYLIE (50% baby alpaca/25% mulberry silk/25% linen) yarn, so see Kathy Z for this yarn or a suitable substitute. Join us on **Saturday, February 15, 2020, from 9:00 am - 12 noon** at Kathy's Kreations and learn how to create this remarkable lace pattern. The class fee is \$20 per session.

Socks constructed with a toe-up design eliminate the dreaded Kitchener stitch with the added benefit of less leftover yarn. Join instructor Kathy Erhard on **Saturday, February 15, 2020 and Saturday, March 7, 2020** from **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** for **Toe-Up Sock Construction Techniques** and learn how to eliminate ladders by knitting on two circular needles, cast on the toe with the Turkish Cast On, and how to turn a heevel without picking up any stitches with the Fleegle Heel. We will be knitting Kathy Erhard's new *Peoplewear Socks* (shown right). Pattern calls for 100 grams fingering weight and two US size 1 (2.5 mm) 24-inch circular needles. Kathy's Kreations yarn and pattern purchase (\$5.00) are required. Class fee is \$20...



*** TIPS AND TRICKS ***

Knitting perfectly matched sleeves or cardigan fronts is a breeze if you cast them both onto the same needle, using a separate ball of yarn per sleeve/front. Work across the needle, dropping the yarn from one sleeve before picking up for the other. Kathy attaches the two together with a locking stitch marker to avoid confusion and knitting one piece longer than the other...

What to do when your darling puppy chews a hole in your favorite cashmere sweater? A customer recently shared a tip originally from Martha Stewart. If you do not have the original yarn or cannot get a good repair, knit or crochet several little swatches in squares or shapes (like hearts) to serve as patchwork. Conceal the mending with a patch, than place more patches randomly across the garment to make it look like a planned design feature...

When placing beads in a garment or shawl, our knitting friend Eleanor Swogger pours a small number of beads into a shallow bowl which makes it easier to scoop up the beads. She then lines up beads on several tiny hooks from her grandmother's crochet basket. She tells us that this saves time as she doesn't need to stop after placing each bead to re-load her hook...

*** CLUSTER STITCH SCARF ***

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 7-1/2" X 64", after blocking

MATERIALS: approx. 300 yards worsted weight yarn; size 7 (4.5 mm) knitting needles OR SIZE
NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE

GAUGE: 21 sts / 30 rows = 4" over cluster stitch

TAKE TIME TO SAVE TIME, CHECK YOUR GAUGE

Cluster Pattern Stitch (multiple of 5 + 4)

Row 1 (RS): K2; *yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo; repeat from * to last 2 stitches, k2.

Row 2: K2; *knit the yo, [p3tog leaving sts on LH needle, yo, then purl the same 3 stitches together again], purl the yo; repeat from * to last 2 stitches, K2.

Note: there are two consecutive yarn overs when you begin the repeat.

Row 3 - 6: Knit.

Repeat rows 1 - 6 for pattern.

Directions

Cast on 39 sts. K 3 rows. Begin cluster pattern stitch and until piece measures approx. 64" or desired length, end on WS with row 6. Bind off knitwise. Weave in ends and block as desired.

abbreviations

K - knit; K2tog - knit 2 stitches together; LH - left hand; P-purl; RS - right side; ssk- slip, slip, knit decrease; st (s) - stitch (es); WS - wrong side; yo - yarn over

Options:

- Size may be altered by adding or subtracting a multiple of 5 sts
 - Additional garter stitch between cluster stitch rows
 - Use cluster stitch pattern as a border and choose another pattern (rib, texture, lace, etc.) for the remainder of the scarf.
 - Buy extra yarn if you plan to make scarf longer or add fringe.
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*** "MY FAVORITE COLOR" TEXTING MITTS ***

"The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love color the most", said John Ruskin in *The Stones of Venice* (1851-3). That quote appears at the beginning of *The Secret Lives of Color* by Kassia St. Clair, which was recently recommended by our knitting friend Lee T. Of course, Kathy turned to the "red" section of the book immediately and was inspired by what she read (and a chilly Ice Fest week-

end) to knit a warm, wooly pair of texting mitts. These hand warmers are knit flat and then seamed allowing a thumb opening, with garter stitch along the inner edge. Choose your "favorite color" of worsted weight yarn and start knitting. Kathy chose MADELINE TOSH "Vintage" in her favorite red colorway, fatal attraction, for our shop sample. These mitts also make great gifts -- match them up with our free cowl pattern from the December 2019 newsletter for a gift set!

SIZE: to fit ladies' small (medium, large in parentheses)

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 6" hand circumference (7", 8" in parentheses)

MATERIALS: 200 yards worsted weight yarn; US sizes 5 & 7 (4.5 mm) knitting needles OR SIZE

NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE; 4 locking stitch stitch markers; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 18 sts / 24 rows = 4" over stockinette stitch

TAKE TIME TO SAVE TIME, CHECK YOUR GAUGE

Pattern stitch

Stockinette stitch

Row 1 (right side): Knit.

Row 2: Knit 1; purl across to last st, end knit 1.

Repeat these two rows for pattern.

1X1 ribbing

Row 1 (right side): Knit 1; *purl 1, knit 1; repeat from * across row.

Row 2: Purl 1; *knit 1, purl 1; repeat from * across row.

Repeat these 2 rows for pattern.

DIRECTIONS (make 2)

With larger needles, cast on 31 (37, 43) stitches. Knit 1 row.

Row 1 (right side): Purl.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: Purl.

Rows 4 & 6: Purl.

Rows 5 & 7: Knit.

Row 8: Knit.

Repeat these 8 rows three times, then work rows 1 - 7 once. Work in stockinette stitch for 3 rows, ending with a wrong side row and placing a removable stitch marker at each end of last row. Work in stockinette for 1", placing a removable stitch marker at each end of last row. Continue in stockinette stitch for an additional 2" (2.5", 3") or desired length to the knuckle area, ending with a wrong side row. Change to smaller needles and work in 1X1 ribbing for 5 rows. Bind off in rib pattern. Sew side seam opening, leaving the seam open between markers for the thumb. Weave in ends. Block, if needed.

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***THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD PANTRY ***

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Christmas tree dishcloth project. Over 150 handmade dishcloths and ornaments were donated to and distributed by the Ligonier Valley Food Pantry in January 2020 and were greatly appreciated. Let's do it again! We will be collecting 100% cotton green dishcloths (knit, crochet, any pattern) throughout the year...



*** SAVE THE DATES *****

- 16th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET / CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL
March 20 - 22, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Green Tree, PA
This "can't-miss" event is the area's largest and best fiber festival! Look for us in the Market at booths 25 & 26 once again in the Green Tree Ballroom.
Registration is open.

For additional details, visit the website at www.pghknitandcrochet.com

- Kathy's Kreations 40th birthday celebration Saturday, March 28, 2020
- Spring Break with instructor Jolie Elder April 17 - 19, 2020 (registration filled)
- LYS Day April 25, 2020

*** THE TOP 25 HALLMARK CHRISTMAS TOWNS ***

We heard about this honor after the New Year, but it's so special that we wanted to share this recognition by the *Runaway Suitcase* blog by Reservations.com. We think Ligonier is special 365 days a year, not just at Christmas time! Stop by for a visit and see for yourself, so you can uncover the perfect real-life Hallmark town in America near you! (Ice fest photo lower left)

"Known best for their heart-warming cards, Hallmark has capitalized on finding those moments that inspire humility, gratitude and connection. Given that the holiday season is full of these kinds of moments, HALLMARK CHANNEL'S COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS movies have truly been able to capture the essence of the season in their seasonal lineup.

Featuring small towns with local cafes, friendly neighbors who call each other by their first name, and a whole line up of Christmas activities, these movies stir something in even the toughest Grinch. While you may not have the time to watch all of the 200+ films on their list, perhaps you would like to have your own Hallmark experience? Guess what, it's actually possible. We did the work for you and ranked some of the nicest, coziest small towns in America perfect for a Hallmark movie."

Ligonier ranks #4 following Jackson, WY, Telluride, CO and Park City, UT (and it's smaller in population). The process factored in scenery, friendliness, walkability, Christmas cheer and small business representation. Here's what they said about Ligonier: "The classic bandstand sitting in the downtown square lets visitors know that they've made it to this quintessentially small town just an hour from Pittsburgh. Settled in the 1760s, it's still known for its family spirit and old-school style.

Their Light Up Ligonier day is just one of their holiday events meant to preseve the childhood wonder of Christmas for everyone. With Christmas carols playing throughout the city, a good chance of fluffy snowfall and a mailbox for sending your Christmas list to Santa, it's easy to let go of reality.

The best part of this particular day, the winner of a special raffle gives one lucky child the opportunity to push the button that transforms the entire town into a twinkling and glittering Christmas city".

Kathy likes to describe Ligonier as "a Norman Rockwell painting that sprang to life". Hope to see you soon. We are a fun girls' or couples' "day out" destination...

*** WHAT IS GRANDMILLENIAL STYLE? ***



If you think 'granny chic' is a somewhat dubious trend, brace yourself for its latest offshoot that's taking Pinterest and Instagram by storm: "Grandmillennial" style! This term, a mashup recently coined by *House Beautiful*, celebrates home decor often associated with, yup, your grandparents. It's an Insta-meets-grandmother look, but in a cooler, chic way. Look for crochet dresses to be a trend for spring, especially in the infamous Millenial Pink shade...



*** 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 February 3, 2019 and March 2, 2020; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

*** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS February 11, 2020 and March 10, 2020; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) *** Join us for stitching, lots of fun conversation and maybe hot cocoa!

*** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT February 8, 2020 and March 14, 2020; 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, February 21, 2020 and March 20, 2020; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ***

Have you heard of the Swedish practice of fredagsmys? It translates into "cozy Fridays." Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships on Fun Friday, our version of fredagsmys! 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...

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

Stop by on Fridays in February from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please) to work on our newest KAL with your stitching friends to encourage you. Our featured project is the classic *Hot Lines* cowl (see details page 4). We also invite you to bring still-in-progress projects purchased here to complete. 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 February 2020 thread and the Kathy Zimmerman Group...

*** "BUILDING WITH LACE" Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (knit) ***

*** "BUILDING BLOCKS" Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (knit) ***

*** "BUILDING WITH LACE" Saturday, February 15, 2020, 9:00 am - 12 noon (knit) ***

*** "PEOPLEWEAR SOCKS" Saturday, February 15, 2020, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (knit) ***

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 (photo shown upper left, instructor Karen McCullough on left with student Kathleen S). 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 39 years!

Is it just us, or did 2019 seem like the year that didn't stop? We're slowing things down a bit in 2020 with relaxing tones that the PANTONE COLOR INSTITUTE says "instill calm, confidence and connection as we cross the threshold into a new era". Check out our shelves to get started with color and project inspiration that just might lead to meditation...

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! *Kathy*