

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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JANUARY 2008 UPDATE

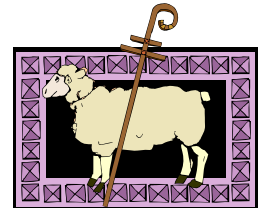
Dear Knitters,

Don't let that fresh blanket of white on the ground get you down -- go with the snow! Exciting things are happening here in the contemporary fiber world to help you ward off the chill, and the season's most fashionable knits are turning heads all over town. Maximize the potential of your winter wardrobe by knitting or crocheting versatile vests and sweet sweaters that add warmth, pizzazz and casual elegance. Snuggle into warm, woolen turtlenecks and fuzzy cardigans that offer comfort and joy. Knits introduce extra texture and cozy layering that can expand on what is already in your closet.

A bright knitted tote bag, snazzy skater's hat, toasty mittens or a chic scarf are the perfect cold-weather pick-me-ups. Playful, pretty head-to-toe accessories can keep you well-insulated this winter, making your time outdoors as warm as it is magical. We've got plenty of ideas for nifty makeables you can do quickly with one or two skeins of yarn. Of course, indoor types can always take cover and cuddle up with super-soft pillows or comfy coverlets, just the touch for a homey family room.

Bundle up and take winter by storm. Here's what's new to help you take your place in the stylish here and now:

"WARM UP WITH WOOL"
All weights, regularly-priced 100% wool yarns
in stock are 10% off
during January 2008



Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
plus special extended holiday hours
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services available

Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

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***** GREAT NEW STUFF *****

What could be better than curling up in your favorite chair under a cozy afghan and knitting to your heart's content? Winter is a great time to complete all those works in progress or try something challenging. Make a New Year's resolution to learn one or two techniques this January. Here are some project suggestions certain to help you stay warm all winter long...

Knit Simple Winter 2007/08 (\$5.99) begins the first of a series of creative workshops. The tutorial presents two simple edgings that will lend the ideal finishing touch to any garment. The first, a knitted hem, replaces ribbing at the edge and creates a facing for a smooth border. The second, a crab stitch -- a nifty crochet technique that every knitter should know -- creates a subtle decorative edge without appearing too fussy. Try adapting these design features to a basic sweater pattern. There are plenty of winter-themed projects in this issue for your knitting pleasure. Knitting motifs using the intarsia method may seem difficult to a new knitter, but a little practice and the how-to instructions will have you turning your sweaters into winter wonderlands. Stitch up cool critters like a 3-D penguin on an adorable child's pullover, a girl's hooded snowflake jacket (Nicki Epstein's knitted snowflakes make this issue a keeper), mom-and me duos, or a wrap-around polar bear ladies' pullover. Bundle up the kids in warm, sporty-style knits that look cool. The clever officewear projects will keep you fashionable at work. We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs is included in this issue, "Bricks on Sticks" (shown upper left), a textured hip-length coat with alternating knit and purl variations arranged in a brick pattern. A garter-stitch high -V neckband and ribbed lower edges complete the structure, knit with BROWN SHEEP Lambs' Pride Worsted (new colors now in stock). This jacket would look great with a wide leather belt waist closure...

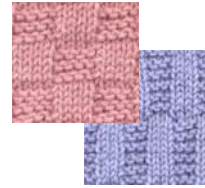
New from DIAKETTO / DANCING FIBERS is "Merry-Go Round Entrelac", a beautiful sweater project using two colors of self-stripping worsted weight yarns. This design is a seamless entrelac pattern worked "in the round" up to the armhole, then worked back and forth. The clever colorwork works Color A squares clockwise and Color B squares counterclockwise. Circular needles are used, scooping up slipped stitches, so you can work from either end. Textured stitch sleeves provide an interesting contrast...

Creativity and innovation are two of the components that fuel our passion for fiber arts. If you are interested in felting and needle felting, please check out Tracey Earhart's unique, eye-catching zigzag scarf, made with SKACEL COLLECTION's "Artfelt" line of high-end, cutting-edge felting kit (\$40.95, see lower right). The centerpiece of the kit is ZITRON's hand-dyed 100% merino roving, boasting a rating of 19 on the micron scale. Butter soft, durable and colorfully intoxicating, the kit contains both pencil roving and standard roving. The "canvas" is anything but ordinary. ZITRON's Easyfelt Paper provides the artist with a foundation from which to build on. Upon completion of the felting process, the Easyfelt Paper will magically dissolve in very hot water, yielding a fully fused piece of art, ranging from wafer thin to handbag thick. From wearable pieces like Tracey's scarf to home decor, "Artfelt" will change the way you look at felting. No knitting experience required! Each kit contains enough roving to complete either a purse, two pillows, four placemats or a scarf, Easyfelt Paper, two felting needles and an instructional step-by-step slide show DVD...



***** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF *****

Happy kids and toasty knits inspire plenty of winter cheer. LISA KNITS "Cuddle Up Baby" (\$4.00, pattern stitch details at right) features two comfy, cozy baby afghans that are as adorable as your small fry. Lisa Carnahan worked these simple textured knit and purl patterned pint-size warmers with Aran weight yarn. Another new pattern coming later this month is Lisa's basic toe-up men's sock sized for larger feet, worked with traditional fingering weight sock yarn...



Inspired by the creative women in her life and the love of handknitting inherited from her grandmother, renowned knitwear designer Louisa Harding offers a new collection of luxurious knitted gifts that honor traditional knitting by infusing it with contemporary spirit in *Knitting Little Luxuries: Beautiful Accessories to Knit* (\$21.95, softcover). Divided into four evocative chapters, the patterns showcase unique style and design: eclectic and quirky features vintage-inspired projects that show off embellishments and special stitches; textured and modern focuses on organic, edgy looks created with cables and textured stitches; pretty and feminine uses luxuriously soft yarns and lace stitches to pamper; traditional and folk takes the Fair Isle and Aran heritage and adds a modern twist. Choose from lovely hats, sophisticated wraps, beautiful bags, and cozy mittens -- for accessories that are stylish and luxurious, quick and easy to knit, and use only small amounts of yarn. *Knitting Little Luxuries* has everything you need to pamper yourself and your friends with elegant knitted gifts...

knit.1 Winter 2007 (\$5.99) is all about time -- time to sparkle, timely tidbits and 35 fast projects you can make in practically no time! This issue is chocked full of references to time -- time savers, organizing your time, two timers (reversible pattern stitches) and stitches in time. The editors remind us what knitting has to do with time -- wearing something you've stitched instantly evokes the time in your life in which it was created. There are some fun projects in this magazine, including Lisa Carnahan's hip striped baby pullover and leggings. You can't stretch time, but you can maximize the little you have with these quick-knitting projects...

In 2008, green will be more than just a color. Please ask to see our collection of earth-friendly plant and animal fibers (organic cottons, bamboo, soybean, seacell, corn, wool, alpaca, mohair, cashmere and blends of two or more of these). What's next? Got milk? We're not kidding -- Kollage Yarns will introduce "Creamy" this spring (80% milk / 20% cotton). Spring things will begin arriving later this month...

Two new baby pattern books have arrived from DALE OF NORWAY, for sizes newborn to 3 years. The designs featured in these books were made from "Baby Ull", (\$6.50, 50 grams, 181 yards, 100% merino wool), which feels wonderful and very soft next to the skin. Book 175 (\$13.95) features brightly colored legging and sweater sets, Fair Isle motifs, intarsia animal bordered pullover, darling hats, mittens, booties, sweet little dresses, a lacy shrug for baby girls, and cabled designs (see Aran-inspired cardie, lower left). Book 183 (\$14.95) includes a christening gown set, simple lace and quick stripes, as well as a very cute strawberry outfit. The wide selection of accessories also gives you plenty of options for completing each set...





***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF *****

Our colorful window display by Tracey Earhart features a bevy of books and ideas to "get the lead out" by knitting or felting a safe toy. Knitted toys, dolls and stuffed animals are thoughtful, old-fashioned gifts that express your love for the little ones. Hand-knit fabric lends itself so well to toys -- its inherent softness is just waiting to be cuddled and touched. What could be nicer than to welcome a new arrival or to indulge an adored child, grandchild or friend, than a lovable handmade knitted companion?

Knitted & Felted Toys (\$19.99, softcover) is a beautiful collection of 26 delightful toys, from cute and cuddly animals like the penguin shown at upper left or a loopy-maned lion, to well-loved characters such as a pirate, a mermaid and a princess. The easy-to-follow patterns use both knitting and felting techniques. These are precious...

Welcome to a menagerie of adorable knitted animals. Animals from all over the globe have inspired *World of Knitted Toys* (\$14.99, softcover). This wonderful collection of more than 50 toys were designed to be knitted in two sizes -- clutch, for a perfect child's hand to hold, and cuddle, big enough to be hugged. From monkeys to parrots and rhinos to a kangaroo, these cheerful creatures and dolls are just waiting to become someone's best friend...

Create lovable, handmade dolls and animals to treasure for a lifetime. *Toys to Knit* (\$19.95, softcover) includes over 25 patterns for making a collection of soft, cuddly dolls, teddy bears, elephants, fish, kangaroos, soft clocks, and other knit toys for toddlers as well as grade-schoolers. For doll lovers, a wardrobe of patterns such as tutus, skirts, pants, coats, sweaters, tiny hats and shoes, scarves, purses, wands, and other precious must-have accessories that belong in every doll's closet. With a range of projects catering to knitters of all abilities, these adorable projects will charm children and adults alike...

Knitted Toys (\$18.95, hardback) contains 21 designs for a variety of toys using soft yarns in gorgeous bright colors that will appeal to children of all ages, from babies upward. Not only are the projects in this book fun to make, but they will give children hours of enjoyment, from the cute caterpillar finger puppets to the rag dolls. Delightful photographs illustrate each design, including close-up details and alternative views. A useful section at the beginning of the book gives essential information on finishing and making up the projects, including step-by-step illustrations of embroidery stitches and information about yarns and knitting needles. Packed full of gorgeous projects that have a universal appeal, this book will be a source of inspiration and delight to new knitters as well as those seeking new patterns...

In *Knit A Fantasy Story* (\$25.95, softcover), Jan Messent shows how, using only odds and ends of yarn, the minimum of materials and a little imagination, you can create an enchanted land and people it with fairy folk, a handsome prince, and mythical creatures. This book will delight the young at heart and anyone with a sense of fantasy and fun...



***** KNITTING IS GOOD FOR YOUR BRAIN *****

Thanks to our knitting buddy Joan Walsh from NYC for sending us an article from the 12/11/07 *New York Times* by Jane Brody, who writes, "The brain, like every other part of the body, changes with age, and those changes can impede clear thinking and memory. Yet many older people seem to remain sharp as a tack well into their 80s and beyond.

Although their pace may have slowed, they continue to work, travel, attend plays and concerts, play cards and board games, study foreign languages, design buildings, work with computers, write books, do puzzles, knit or perform other mentally challenging tasks that can befuddle people much younger...

'If you're doing the same thing over and over again, without introducing new mental challenges, it won't be beneficial. Thus, as with muscles, it's 'use it or lose it.' The brain requires continued stresses to maintain or enhance its strength. So, if you knit, challenge yourself with more than simply stitched scarves. Try a complicated pattern or garment". OK, folks, we've been saying this for years, and now we have been validated by none other than the *New York Times*. Let's all make a New Year's Resolution to learn a new knitting stitch or technique each month of the year, and to do at least two challenging projects in 2008. After all, it's good for our brains...

***** KNIT A "SURVIVOR SCARF" *****

Community knitters will meet at Adams Memorial Library, Latrobe, PA, on the first & third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 8 pm. The group's winter project is knitting scarves for cancer survivors, to be distributed at the June 2008 Relay for Life. For more information or to participate in the program, contact Jennie O at the Library. We will collect scarf donations here at Kathy's Kreations for the event as well...

***** "EWE" TUBE REVERSIBLE HAT *****

Sizes: Toddler (child's medium - adult small - adult large in parentheses)

Finished Head Circumference: 18.5" (20" - 21.5" - 23.25")

Materials: Knitting worsted weight yarn (CYCA 3) approx. 125 (150 - 175 - 200) yards solid color A and approx. 75 (100 - 125 - 150) yards self-stripping color B; 16" circular and double-pointed (dpns) needles US size 8; stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing

Gauge: 5 sts / 7 rounds = 1" in stockinette stitch

Note: slip marker at beg of each round

Directions: With dpns & color A, beg at top end, cast on 23 (25 - 27 - 29) sts, leaving a 12" tail. Join, being careful not to twist sts; place marker.

Next Round: K, inc into the front & back of every stitch: 46 (50 - 54 - 58) sts.

Next Round: K into front & back of every stitch: 92 (100 - 108 - 116) sts. Change to circular needle. Continue to knit every round with color A until piece measures 14" (15" - 16" - 17") from beginning. Cut yarn; attach color B. Knit every round for an additional 5" (5.5" - 6" - 6.5"). Turn work inside out (purl side is the public side of work).

Next round: P2tog around: 46 (50 - 54 - 58) sts.

Next Round: P2tog around: 23 (25 - 27 - 29) sts. Cut yarn, leaving a 12" tail.

Thread tail through tapestry needle. Draw through remaining sts and pull up tightly; fasten securely. Thread tail of cast-on end through tapestry

needle; weave through cast-on edge and pull up tightly; fasten securely.

Stuff one end inside the other and fold back cuff. This tube hat may be worn two ways, simply stuff the opposite end inside the other to change the look.



***** KEEPING YOUR SWEATER SWEET *****

Joyce Bischoff sent us a newspaper clipping from the *Tribune-Review* 11/30/07, with this advice for keeping your sweaters looking smart and smelling fresh:

- Washable wool sweaters that can be safely machine washed should be placed inside-out in a pillowcase or mesh laundry bag and laundered on the gentle cycle in cool water. Do not use standard laundry detergents, which are intended for removing tough, greasy dirt. Soaps especially formulated for gentle-cycle cleaning are easier on the fabric. Kathy recommends "Eucalan" or "Soak" for washing wool, which require no rinsing. Dry flat on a mesh screen away from heat and sunlight. Only if the label says "Easy Care" can it be tumble-dried. Never use chlorine bleach on a wool sweater. Soften harsh wool sweaters by adding a capful of hair conditioner to the rinse water. Do not use fabric softeners.
- Do not machine wash your sweater unless the label says you can. Even when using cold water, the agitation might cause the sweater to shrink.
- Remove spots and stains promptly. For getting food or alcohol out of wool, the American Sheep Industry Association recommends placing a towel under the stain and **gently** rubbing it with carbonated water toward the center of the spot. For red wine, immerse it in cold water. For lipstick, rub the stain with white bread.
- To speed up the drying process, purchase a mesh screen that fits over the bathtub, hangs from a clothesline or stands 4" - 5" above the table. Occasionally, turn the garment over while drying being careful to re-shape.
- After drying sweaters, remove any wrinkles with a hand-held steamer.
- A perfume or cigarette scent on a sweater can be dissipated by hanging it outdoors, out of the sun, for a few hours, *Good Housekeeping* suggests. Then wash the sweater according to the label instructions and rinse in a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and water.
- Labels that say "Dry Clean Only" should not be hand-washed. Those that only say, "Dry Clean" can be carefully laundered.
- Cotton knits should be turned inside out to avoid pilling that occurs from the fabric rubbing against itself in the spin cycle, according to *Real Simple* magazine. Hand-wash cotton sweaters and knits with buttons or other embellishments. Perspiration can cause discoloration if not laundered within 48 hours. Bulky knits should be dried flat to avoid stretching.
- When hand washing sweaters, do not oversoak. Soaking too long can cause colors to bleed or fade, or can alter the size. It can also loosen the glue holding embellishments. According to *Real Simple*, about 98% of the dirt is removed in the first 2 minutes of a machine cycle and in about 5 minutes with hand washing, which should be plenty of time.
- To ensure returning your wool sweater to its proper size during the drying process: Before washing, measure and trace the shape of the sweater onto a clean sheet of paper. Hand wash gently in cool water with gentle detergent. Rinse with fresh water until the water runs clear. Squeeze out excess water -- do not wring -- and roll sweater in a towel to absorb moisture. Lay the sweater on the paper, and gently re-shape it to fit the outline. Pat into the desired shape with a towel. Dry flat on a mesh screen.
- Never hang sweaters, because they can easily sag, be pulled out of shape and left with unsightly humps and bumps. Most sweaters are best stored flat or gently folded. Never stuff them into crowded drawers. According to *Martha Stewart Living*, the best means of storage is to fold with a sheet of tissue paper inside to prevent wrinkling. If you're pressed for space, sweaters can be folded lengthwise and hung on a wooden hanger. Place a sheet of tissue paper between the bar and the sweater to prevent creases.



***** 4th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL *****

The Festival will feature 32 exhibitors from across the US (including Kathy's Creations, booth #7); over 40 fiber-related classes; free learn to knit & crochet classes; free "ER"; Warm Up America knitting lounge; and a knit/crochet/felting contest with prizes and ribbons. The dates are **Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10, 2008**, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pittsburgh South (across from South Hills Village Mall). Discount admission coupons are available here at Kathy's Creations. To access class and program information, please visit their website, www.pghknitandcrochet.com



Event co-ordinator Barb Grossman tells us, "**Annie Modesitt** will be the guest teacher at this year's festival. She has written and co-authored several books. Author **Robyn Chacula** will also be teaching classes, giving a free lecture and doing a book signing. In her lecture, she will give us a peek at what goes on behind the scenes in the world of knitting and crochet's 'In Crowd'. **Kathy Zimmerman**, 'The Cable Queen' will once again be teaching 'Slip Stitch Savvy', and will be available at booth #7 throughout the Festival". In her class, Kathy will discuss the how-to's for working slip-stitch colorwork technique, hints for choosing colors and yarns, as well as tips for interpreting instructions. The "hands on" class project is Kathy's tweed-stitch hat which experiments with color combinations as the student learns the technique. Hope to see you there!

The Needle Nook, a beloved cross stitch and needlepoint shop here in Ligonier, will close its doors at the end of January. We will miss owner Donna McDowell, a long-time business friend and colleague, and send our best wishes her way for a wonderful retirement. We are pleased to announce that we will begin stocking Needle Punch and Oxford Rug Punch tools, supplies and accessories beginning in February 2008. New ideas for needle felters are also coming -- stay tuned! If you are interested in receiving more information about upcoming classes or private lessons, we will be glad to hear from you...

***** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS *****

If you prefer working circular knitting projects with two circular needles instead of double-pointed needles, Kathy suggests that you place point protectors at each of the needle not in use to avoid picking up the wrong end. Another tip gleaned from KnitNet.com for working two socks on one circular is to mark one sock with a stitch marker and always end with that sock. This avoids inadvertently turning the needle in the wrong direction if you are interrupted and knitting the same sock again...

When working color stripes in the round, break off the color change leaving a 4" tail. After the project is completed, turn it inside out and duplicate stitch the ends in place directly behind the stitches of the same color. This hint appeared in Margaret Radcliffe's *Knitting Answer Book* (a wonderful resource book now on our bookshelf, \$14.95)...

When you need to measure your work and don't have a ruler handy, try using a dollar bill, which is exactly 6" long...

When assembling a garment, begin at the cast-on edge of the bottom of the body or sleeve cuff and work the seam towards the underarm. Any unevenness can be concealed at the underarm, and the edges will appear neater...



***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHT** *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, January 7, 2008, and February 7, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Winter project knitting books will be featured...

***** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, January 8, 2008, and February 12, 2008, from 7 - 9 pm

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** **FUN FRIDAY with instructor Betty Lou Glasso** *****

Friday, January 18, 2008, 10 am - 2pm

It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Betty Lou is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

Best wishes to Fun Friday instructor Joyce Bischoff who is recuperating from back surgery. Get well soon, Joyce -- we all miss you!

***** **UPCOMING CLASSES** *****

**"Finishing Techniques" with instructor Nancy Premoshis, Saturday, January 12, 2008
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

You've successfully completed the knitted pieces of your project and it's time to put it together -- now what? Nancy will show you the how-to's of mattress stitch seams, picking up stitches and more. Please bring a garment to finish or swatches for practice. Class supplies include yarn used for your project and corresponding needles, a "CHIBI" or tapestry needle, and scissors.

**"My First Cardigan" with instructor Nancy Premoshis, Saturday, February 23, 2008
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

Nancy will help you to get started on a cardigan project of your choice. Class supplies include a pattern, project yarn and corresponding needles.

*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 3 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor.

Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreations.com

**Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.
Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 27 years!**

LIGONIER ICE FEST OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, January 26, 2008, 9 am - 5 pm

Winter is the perfect time to curl up in your favorite chair with a special new project. With warm thoughts and warm knits for each of you this month, keep knitting !

Kathy