



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
JANUARY 2009 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

It's a brand-new year and this season, knitting and crocheting rise to every occasion -- not only as an enjoyable recreational pastime, but for practical warmth. The future looks bright with new colors, textures, and designs. You are part of the renaissance of an age-old art and making renewal a reality (old meeting new).

It's an inevitable part of winter -- the weather outside can be downright frightful. Those of us who stitch turn to the comfort of crafts as the mercury drops. Find a quiet place each day to rest your body, mind and spirit, and work on a project. Indulge in soft silhouettes, toasty knits and sensational styles designed with every member of your family in mind. Whatever fibers you choose -- wool, alpaca, cashmere, mohair, bamboo or synthetic blends -- keep in mind that textural stitches and full-bodied colors are the ticket to enjoying chilly nights.

Celebrate the joy that comes from within, and unleash your creativity. Imagination is both a journey and a destination. Savor the season, laugh at the snow, pick up your needles and hooks, because,

"IT'S SWEATER WEATHER! "

**All regularly-priced bulky-weight yarns in stock
are 10% off during January 2009**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
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
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Telephone 724-238-9320
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The fashion forecast? We predict global warming in luscious yarns and saturated hues. A fashion facelift doesn't require a new wardrobe. Whatever your style, there's a knit that's right for you. Choose one or two sweater projects that span the season, a few accessories to spice up your existing wardrobe, or quick and easy knits to round out your closet perfectly. We're ringing in the New Year with a fresh mix of yarns, patterns and ideas sure to help you ward off the winter chill:

INTERWEAVE CROCHET Winter 2008 (\$6.99) features 20 projects for winter warmth and unique budget-friendly accessories. In her editorial, Kim Werker explores crochet as a medium of collective expression. She writes, "We express ourselves individually in the crochet we make. The cardigans in this issue are anything but ordinary, even when they're simple enough for a beginner to take on. Asymmetrical lines, thoughtful details, and a variety of yarns will keep your hands busy all season, and Annette Petavy's Beyond The Basics on garment finishing will ensure your sweaters look good and will endure for many years to come. Accessories range from the simplest of scarves to the most intricate of shawls with options playful and sophisticated in between, and a range of home decor projects will inspire you to spend warm nights cuddled up at home this winter". Helpful articles include tips for changing colors, and the importance of gauge. Our favorite projects are the colorful Peruvian-inspired Chullo Hat and mitts, the pinwheel beret (berets are making a comeback), instant decor pillows worked with multiple yarns & a large hook, and the soft, striped "Mulled Spices Afghan" (shown upper left), whose versatile colorwork opens up possibilities for any season, decor, or mood...

New from Canadian designer HOLLI YEOH is "Candace" (\$8.50), a colorful baby cardigan knit using self-striping sock yarn for the front and a solid color for the back. You choose the detailing on the back to make the sweater personal -- a vertical stripe or a rectangular patch to brighten it, or just leave it plain. "JoJo" (\$8,50), also by HOLLI YEOH, is a cozy baby jacket sized extra roomy to accommodate layering. It has pockets for little hands and little treasures, and the collar will stand up against a breeze. Also worked from self-striping sock yarn with solid trim, optional squares on the back can add a cheerful color contrast...

New kits range from a luxurious, small indulgence one-ball mitten project from NASHUA HANDKNITS (\$9.95) to FIESTA YARNS "treat yourself" large indulgence "Curves & Columns Vest" kit from *Knit One Below* by Elise Duvekot (\$148.95)...

What do we mean when we say "season spanning"? These are sweaters that will crossover from winter into spring, and be comfortable in a variety of temperatures. New season spanners from PLYMOUTH YARN COMPANY are "Oceanside Organic #1467" (\$3.50), a textured ribbed twin set with elbow-length roll-up sleeves V-neck jacket & matching higher V-neck shell and "Mainland #1461" (\$3.50, shown right), a timelessly beautiful longer length A-line swing cardigan with roll-up sleeves, stand-up collar and two-button yoke closure. And, yes, we've got those big RENAISSANCE BUTTONS in a variety of neutral woodtone colors...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Don't just make a scarf or hat -- make a statement! We're receiving almost daily requests for new scarf and hat ideas. Bundle up with these easy-to-make favorites from our scarves & shawls binder:



© 2009 Fiber Trends

FIBER TRENDS AC-62 "Everyone's Favorite Hat & Scarf" (\$5.95, shown right)

an easy, close-fitting, unisex hat worked in K2, P2 rib with matching long scarf in your choice of worsted, bulky or super bulky yarn -- these styles are really "in" this season

LISA KNITS AC-015 "Six Simple Scarves" (\$4.00) textured designs suitable for everyone in the family -- simple yet stylish -- need we say more?

LISA KNITS AC-003 (\$4.00) this four-row pattern stitch is the perfect project to try your hands at lace knitting -- in your choice of fingering, sport or worsted weight -- it's not only a snap, but a potential stash buster

KEEP IT SIMPLE KS112 (\$4.50) this cabled scarf is quite simple with just an 8-row pattern. Using knits and purls, you only pick up your cable needle every 7th row to create the twist. This is an ideal "my first cable project" pattern

MADDY LAINE ML128 "Hoodwinks" (NEW, \$4.95, shown lower left) a hood is joined to a scarf, to knit short or long, in one color or stripes (horizontal or vertical). Choose a style, pick one of four yarn weights, and knit!

NASHUA HANDKNITS NHK34 "City Streets" (\$14.95, booklet) ask to see "Snowbird", a cabled hooded scarf with pockets, and our latest shop model handknit by Danielle Palmer with fabulous NASHUA "Snowbird" yarn; this booklet also includes a reversible hat & scarf, mittens with cabled cuff, colorful garter stitch mittens, long cabled mittens, mohair scarf, buttoned neck warmer & much more

And, how about a pair of fingerless mitts with half-fingers or pop-up paws to compliment these new hats and scarves. Our shoppals' hands-down (pardon the pun) favorites are LISA KNITS AC-014 8 sts/inch fingerless mitts and AC-016 5 sts /inch fingerless mitts (\$4.00 each). What makes these so special? The ribbed contour is sized to fit everyone and Lisa has designed the ultimate comfortable thumb gusset. One of the joys of visiting our shop is that you can try out our display models and experience the fit in person...

Remove fuzz from all knitted or crocheted fabrics, coats, afghans or sweaters of wool, cashmere or acrylic with D-FUZZ-IT (\$3.95, made in the USA). Simply hold fabric taut with one hand and brush quickly with this sweater comb in the other...

Yes, they really are easier on your hands! We're pleased to announce that square double-pointed needles from KOLLAGE YARNS are here (\$13.50, set of 5). Kathy and Betty Lou were pleased to be among the first to trial-test these for KOLLAGE YARNS. Handcrafted to exacting standards, KOLLAGE's square knitting needles are designed to be ergonomically suited to your hands, decreasing stress and strain for those who love to knit. They enable you to knit faster with more uniform stitches. They are perfect for slippery yarns or if you knit tightly. The square needles are perfect for knitters who have arthritis, carpal tunnel, or stiffness in their hands and fingers. And the square circular knitting needles (\$14.50) have the "K Kable" which won't kink, kurl, or knot (they will knit, however). Customers are raving about them -- you've got to try them!



© 2009 Maddy Cranley



***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

Handpainted yarns can be described in one word: BEAUTIFUL! Now, you can put these colorful yarns to a practical use with Carol Sulcoski's new book, *Knitting Socks with Handpainted Yarn* (\$ 19.95, softcover, shown left). Join Carol as she teaches techniques and tips sure to help every sock knitter create fabulous footwear: how to design projects around handpainted yarns, the difference between various hand-painted yarns, how to avoid the pitfalls of pooling and stacking, how to combine multicolored handpaints with other types of yarns, and more. This book includes 21 original sock patterns designed with handpainted yarns in mind, making the yarn work for you. Do you have a stash of handpainted yarns waiting for a spectacular pattern to show them off? The techniques and patterns in this book will help you find new inspiration for your treasured skeins...

If you don't like to follow the crowd, crack open *Not Your Mama's Knitting* (\$14.99, softcover) and learn how to express yourself with hip, hyper-chic designs any fashionista would covet. This book helps you get clicking with must-know basics, info on needles, yarn varieties & tools of the trade, plus suggestions for customizing every design and personalizing every project so that they're truly yours. Knit cool creations and trendy items to dress yourself, your friends, your apartment, a baby and even a pet or two...

Most of us fondly remember the person who taught us to knit. Let's each make a New Year's resolution that 2009 will be the year for us to make a memory by teaching someone to knit or crochet. We recommend the following booklets:

LEISURE ARTS "Cool Stuff -- Teach Me to Knit" and "Cool Stuff -- Teach Me to Crochet" (\$13.50 each) for teaching kids, tweens & teens

TNNA Needlecraft Resource Library "How To Knit" and "How To Crochet" (\$6.95 each), favorites recommended by our knitting & crochet instructor, Betty Lou Glasso

SUSAN BATES "My Knitting Teacher" and "My Crochet Teacher" (\$5.50 each) with simple instructions and clear diagrams that make it easy to learn

LION BRAND "Learning to Knit" (\$5.95), a laminated quick reference fold-out illustrating all the basics including finishing tips & tips for problem-solving

ANNIE'S ATTIC "I can Knit!" (\$7.99) features 11 cool knit projects for pre-teen girls including wonderful wearables, gifts for friends, backpack, blanket, bracelets, & more!

BOYE "I Taught Myself to Knit" Pocket guide (\$5.50) includes a booklet and single point size 8 starter knitting needles

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to grow with countless knitters and crocheters taking part in this new tradition of faith. In LEISURE ARTS "The Prayer Shawl Ministry Volume 2" (\$11.95, softcover), you'll be inspired by the 10 knit & crochet patterns that will offer you an opportunity to express your compassion and friendship. There are designs for all skill levels, plus inspiring stories from knitters and crocheters like you...

Attention, fans of Kate Jacobs! We are taking advance orders for *Knit Two*, the sequel to *The Friday Night Knitting Club* novel, arriving soon...

*** KNITTING TIP ***

Big yarns are popular this season. When working with chunky or super bulky yarns with an uneven thickness or texture, you'll get more accurate gauge results if you make your swatch at least twice the normal size -- about 8" or 20 cm square.

*** COPYRIGHT, NOT COPY WRONG ***

Gina B asks, "What does it mean when a pattern states that it is 'copyright protected'?" "Copyright" is the legal right that is given to creators of original works including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and other works in media (think knitting, crocheting, needle punch, rug punch, etc.). Simply, it's OK for you to copy or re-print a pattern WHICH YOU HAVE PURCHASED for your own personal use only (such as a worksheet to make notes). It's NOT OK to give a copy to a friend without permission or sell copies of it. It's NOT OK to sell knitted items created from the pattern without the permission of the designer. Selling copies of the pattern or selling knitted items are both commercial purposes (this is copyright "infringement").

*** FASHION SAVVY ***

Looking for versatile styles that will take you from workplace to weekend getaways? The trendiest looks of the winter season are figure-fitting V-neck pullovers, elongated cardigans, and versatile vests meant to be worn alone, or layered under a jacket. Sleek, longer silhouettes are very popular, as attention shifts to "back to basics" and classic details. The coordinated layered look is also seen in mainstay handknit accessories -- snug-fitting caps, long & wide fringed scarves, as well as cozy gloves, mitts & mittens in solids and Fair Isle colorwork. There is also a renewed interest in luxury yarns (check out *Luxury Yarn One-Skein Wonders: 101 Small Indulgences* on our bookshelves to discover the small treasures you can knit from single skeins of the high-end yarns you dream about)...

*** CHILD'S KNIT HAT ***

SIZES: To fit toddler's 18" head (child's small 19.25" head in parentheses)

MATERIALS: DK weight wool approx. 125 (160) yards; US sizes 3 & 5 circular knitting needles 16" length or size needed for gauge; US size 5 double-pointed needles

GAUGE: With US 5 needles in stockinette stitch, 22 sts / 30 rounds = 4"

NOTE: Slip marker every round.

DIRECTIONS: With smaller circular needle, cast on 100 (110) sts. Join, being careful not to twist stitches; place marker for beginning of round. Work in rounds of K1, P1 rib for 1". Change to larger circular needle. Knit every round until piece measures 4.5" (5").

1st decrease round: *K8, K2tog (knit 2 together); repeat from * around -- 10 sts decreased : 90 (100) sts. Knit one round.

2nd decrease round: *K7, K2tog; repeat from * around -- 10 decreases: 80 (90) sts.

Knit one round. Change to double-pointed needles. Continue in this manner to decrease 10 sts every other round (one less stitch between decreases) until 10 (10) sts remain. K 1 round. Break yarn, leaving a 10" end. Thread tail through tapestry needle

and draw through remaining stitches. Pull up tightly, fasten securely on wrong side of work. If desired, make pompom and attach to top of hat.

© 2009 Kathy Zimmerman. For personal or charity use only. Please feel free to share these patterns with your friends, but do not use for commercial purposes without permission of the designer, Kathy Zimmerman. All rights reserved.



*** ALAN'S PATTERN SCARF (finished size 7" X 64") ***

Kathy designed this winter warmer scarf and home dec projects from a fascinating, easy-to-knit textured pattern stitch, Alan's Pattern.

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1"

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH "Galway" 3 skeins (approx. 600 yards); US size 8 knitting needles; stitch markers

PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 8 sts, stitch detail shown lower right)

Row 1 (right side): K.

Row 2: *K4, P4; repeat from * across row.

Row 3: *K4, P4; repeat from * across row.

Row 4: K.

Row 5: *K4, P4; repeat from * across.

Row 6: *K4, P4; repeat from * across.

Row 7: K.

Row 8: *P4, K4; repeat from * across row.

Row 9: *P4, K4; repeat from * across row.

Row 10: K.

Row 11: *P4, K4; repeat from * across row.

Row 12: *P4, K4; repeat from * across row.

Repeat rows 1 - 12 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: With US 8 needles, cast on 34 sts. K 7 rows, end wrong side.

Set-up Row (right side): K5, pm; beg with row 1, work pattern stitch across 24 sts (three pattern repeats), pm; K5. Keeping 5 sts before and after markers as garter edge (K every row), work in pattern until piece measures 63" or desired length. Remove markers. K 7 rows. Bind off all sts as if to knit. Weave in ends. Block to measurements.

*** ALAN'S PATTERN DISHCLOTH (approx. 7.5" X 7.5") ***

GAUGE: 4.5 sts / 6.5 rows = 1"

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH "Fantasy Naturale" 100% cotton 1 skein: US size 8 knitting needles

DIRECTIONS: With US 8 needles, cast on 34 sts. K 5 rows, end wrong side.

Set-up Row (right side): K5, pm; beg with row 1, work pattern stitch across 24 sts (three pattern repeats), pm; K5. Keeping 5 sts before & after markers as garter edge (K every row), work in pattern until piece measures approx. 7". Remove markers. K 5 rows. Bind off all sts as if to knit. Weave in ends.

*** ALAN'S PATTERN AFGHAN (finished size 48.5" X 60") ***

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1"

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH "Encore Worsted Weight" 12 skeins (approx. 2400 yards); US size 8 circular knitting needle 36" or 40" length; stitch markers

DIRECTIONS: With US 8 circular needle, cast on 242 sts. K 7 rows, end wrong side.

Set-up Row (right side): K5, pm; beg with row 1, work in pattern stitch across 232 sts (nine pattern repeats), pm; K5.

Keeping 5 sts before and after markers as garter edge (K every row), work in pattern until piece measures 60" or desired length. Remove markers. K 7 rows. Bind off all sts as if to knit. Weave in ends. Block to measurements.

Abbreviations: beg - beginning; K - knit; P - purl; pm - place marker; sts - stitches

© 2009 Kathy Zimmerman. For personal or charity use only. Please feel free to share these patterns with your friends, but do not use for commercial purposes without permission of the designer, Kathy Zimmerman. All rights reserved.



*** 18th ANNUAL LIGONIER ICE FEST ***

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, Ligonier merchants, organizations and businesses will transform the Diamond area into "Winter Wonderland", with artistic ice sculptures . While the ice carving is underway, merchants will hold "indoor" sidewalk sales. Other festivities around the Diamond include the PopCorn Man, strolling musicians, horse & buggy rides, a concert and the firemen's annual spaghetti dinner at the Town Hall. It's a "happening" event -- hope you'll join us!

*** 5th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL ***

It's back, bigger and better than ever! We are pleased to be one of 42 exhibitors at the 5th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival Saturday & Sunday, February 14th & 15th, 2009. The event moves to a larger location this year at the Four Points Sheraton North in Mars, PA, near the PA Turnpike Cranberry exit & I-79. Kathy and Betty Lou will be there with an expanded "double" booth filled with amazing yarns, patterns, books, accessories and gadgets. Eleanor Swogger, Marketing Manager of KRAEMER YARNS, will be helping out at our booth -- KRAEMER YARNS are proudly made in here in our home state of Pennsylvania! Eleanor will be teaching a Fair Isle knitting class (this year's event features over 40 classes with a variety of instructors). For registration and information, visit www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030. Be sure to pick up a discount card here at Kathy's Kreations for \$2 off admission at the door...

*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Laurie M asked, "What is the best way to begin a new ball of yarn"?

Good question! Whenever possible, join yarn only at the edges of your work so that you can weave the tails neatly into the seam of the garment. If you must join a ball in the middle of the row (for example, if knitting in the round, or when working an afghan with a garter or seed stitch border), only do so where there's a change in the pattern, to make the changeover less noticeable. And, while we're on the subject, here are some helpful hints:

- Treat any knots or imperfections in the yarn as "breaks" -- cut them out, then re-join yarn, preferably at the garment edge.
- It's easier to disguise joins with textured patternwork. Join a new ball of yarn behind a cable by whipstitching it in where the knit meets the purl.
- For a neater look on your completed garment, weave in ends before blocking. Never try to weave in a dark color over a light one -- it will show through on the right side of the garment. For slippery yarns, weave in the tails on two rows, changing direction as you go. With bulky or chunky yarns (very trendy right now), split the yarn in two and weave it in opposite directions to avoid thick spots.
- To determine if you have enough yarn to complete another row: If your yarn measures four times the length of the width of the piece, you can do one row. To determine if you can do two rows, fold the remaining strand of yarn in half & make a slipknot at the halfway point. If you reach the knot before you complete the first row, there is not enough left to do a second row.
- Long tails from your cast-on row can be used to seam your garment.
- When joining a new color in Fair Isle technique, knit one stitch with the tail of the old yarn and the beginning of the new yarn. Then, while you are knitting the different colors, twist the loose strands into the back of the work in the traditional Fair Isle technique.





***** READER'S KNIT CLUB *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, January 5, 2009, and February 2, 2009, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA...

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, January 13, 2009, and February 10, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm *****

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

***** FUN FRIDAYS, January 9, 2009; February 6, 2009; March 13, 2009; and April 3, 2009; 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration) *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor.

***** ANNUAL LIGONIER ICE FEST JANUARY 24, 2009 *****

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

"Inside-Outside Scarf" with instructors Betty Lou Glasso & Kathy Zimmerman; Saturday, January 10, 2009; a 3-hour knitting class 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm; registration fee \$25.00* (includes pattern)

The fabulous new book, "Knit One Below" by Elise Duvekot introduces an innovative exciting way for knitters to combine colors, weights, fibers, and types of yarn into versatile fabrics. Learn the technique, which alternates one simple action, working into the stitch one row below the stitch on the needle, with a knit or a purl. Pick two balls of contrasting yarn & work the versatile Column Pattern for an unique reversible scarf. Yarn (approx. 200 yards worsted weight yarn each of 2 solid colors), and double-pointed knitting needles (US 10) are the responsibility of the student. Additional student supplies include row counter and small sharp scissors.

*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 4 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 28 years!

Please check with us for upcoming punch needle classes with Helen Stetina and rug punch classes & gatherings with Tracey Earhart -- late January dates to be announced

We sincerely thank you for your business during 2008 and wish you the very best for 2009: inspiration, lots of incredible yarns & threads, and happiness with every stitch.

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy