



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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JULY 2017 UPDATE

Dear Stitchers,

Sun's out! Stitching is fun, no matter what the season. Whether you are at the beach or backyard, park or poolside, don't forget to take along a knitting or crochet project to work on while you relax. Searching for the perfect summer stitching project? We can help! Our shop is filled with beautiful yarns, notions and project ideas for warm weather knitting and crocheting (and beyond).

Summer is the season for lightweight layers in natural fibers. Nothing feels better than cotton, linen or silk when temperatures start to rise. The thinner yarn and portability of projects make them convenient to take on summer travels. Lace knitting is always a favorite to beat the heat -- tank tops and shawls in airy, openwork patterns embody the essence of summer cool. Texture also adds style to easy summer knits. And, there is the ever-popular "must have" take-along pair of socks project -- ask to see our yummy new sock yarns!

Ready for a fiber adventure like no other? Please join us for ten fun-filled days "crawling" your way through the Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania area beginning July 28! The Steel Valley Yarn Crawl will feature a "passport" to get stamped at each store. Bags and passports are available here NOW. To add to the fun, you will have lots of chances to win PRIZES! We'll be glad to fill you in on all the exciting details.

Summer is calling and we have a star-spangled promotion for you, because we strongly feel that American-made matters...

"BUY AMERICAN YARN!"

**10% off all purchases of
in-stock, regularly-priced yarns with "Made In The USA" on the label
(all brands and weights)**

July 1 - 27, 2017

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Monday through Saturday

Closed Tuesday, July 4, 2017

Join us for the Steel Valley Yarn Crawl

Extended hours for the crawl (see page five)

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX

Private knitting and crocheting lessons

Instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services & gift certificates available

Mail orders available -- no order too small!

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

Like us, follow us and share us on Facebook!

"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry

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



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

We have curated our latest collection with sunny, summer stitching in mind. The heat and humidity of summer has arrived, so the stitching should also be seasonal (maybe outdoors in a shady spot or indoors in the air conditioning). Our newest projects, patterns and yarns will provide plenty of inspiration to keep your fingers busy all summer long and then some. Don't miss out on these cool favorites with an eye towards fall...

Fall 2017 *Knitscene* (\$7.99, shown upper left) is the cardigan issue. Select from a range of classic styles -- find your perfect cardigan to wrap up in all season long. There is an excellent article on using gauge to get a great fit, as well as one on how to use slip-stitch knitting to do some wicked-cool colorful knitting. Other projects you'll love include hats, ponchos, shawls, socks, mitts, boot toppers, and more. We can't decide which one of this magazine's 16 modern essentials is our favorite, so we may need to make more than one!

Speaking of cardigans, you will need the perfect buttons for your perfect cardigan. A new selection of SKACEL BUTTONS is here! SKACEL acquired the Renaissance/Blue Moon Button Company earlier this year. They are now distributing premium quality buttons sourced from manufacturers all over the world, including buttons made from shell, wood, resin, horn, leather, plastic, glass and metal. Most of the buttons are sold individually and are located in button display tubes near Kathy's pattern design collection. It is never a problem for us to honor special request button, needle or yarn orders for you...

BERROCO's soft "Remix Light" (\$12.50, 100 grams, 432 yards, 30% nylon/27% cotton/24% acrylic/10% silk/9% linen; CYCA #3) is a DK weight version of worsted favorite "Remix" -- a tweedy, nubby blend of 100% recycled fibers, with no wool content. Ideal for both knit and crochet items, this machine-washable, oh-so denim-friendly yarn is an excellent choice for everything from sweaters to accessories...

BERROCO's "Pima 100" (\$10.50, 100 grams, 219 yards, 100% Pima cotton, CYCA #4) is an unmercerized matte finish yarn with a nice, tight twist that provides gorgeous stitch definition and superior softness. This worsted weight yarn is ideal for warm-weather knit and crochet garments including tops, cardigans and pullovers...

It's Ragg time! The ragg yarn for the 21st century has arrived in 8 new KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection Chunky" colorways! With this surprising twist on your knitting needles or crochet hook, the possibilities are as endless as your creative imagination. This unique yarn features traditional tweed flecks and a color palette ranging from pastel to dark and dusty (\$7.50, 100 grams, 120 yards, 30% domestic merino / 70% acrylic, CYCA #5, shown page 8 upper left). Each ragg color has met its match with a corresponding "Perfection Chunky" solid shade. Kathy's design "Sporty Stripes Pullover" for KRAEMER YARNS has been re-designed with the ragg and solid shades just to showcase this yarn (shown page 6).

We are pleased to announce the arrival of an original new design by Kathy for KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO. "Malaga Pullover #2403" (\$5.50, shown lower right) is a long-sleeved pullover knit with "Allagash" yarn (\$14.95, 100 grams, 219 yards; 60% wool/20% viscose/20% nylon, CYCA #4). It features a central cable panel with simple rope cables on a staggered grid of open cables with garter stitch interior. The central panel is bordered by vertical panels of rope cables and garter stitch ladders. A wide V-neck garter neckband meets at the center front neck for a clever variation on the traditional V...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Summertime knitting should be easy -- something you can take along in a tote and work on when traveling or at a sporting event. LISA KNITS "Six Simple Scarves" is just the project you need! The bonus is that you get six patterns in one! Any of the wonderful worsted weight yarns on our shelves, from summer plant fibers to winter woolies, will work beautifully with this pattern...



JAMES BRETT "Marble Chunky" (\$15.50, 200 grams, 341 yards, 100% acrylic, CYCA #5) is a machine-washable, colorful "no wool" yarn. It knits up quickly, is amazingly soft on the needles with a slightly velvety feel and a fantastic drape. With its generous yardage, it's a great economical choice for cozy sweaters, accessories, prayer shawls, charity knitting, home decor, and afghans. The color combinations are so beautiful -- four new shades will be arriving soon!

No knitter's or crocheter's tote bag is complete without a nail file for unexpected nail breakage emergencies. Coming soon are yarn-themed nail files from TRUE BRITE, complete with our Kathy's Kreations logo, so our shop info will always be at your fingertips...

New patterns have arrived from KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO (\$5.50 each):

- "Pollen Shawl": knit with "Crock-O-Dye" (\$26.50; 100 grams; 416 yards; 65% wool/20% nylon/15% silk; CYCA #1), this crescent-shaped shawl in five sizes tells a story with its openwork patterns along the border: falling leaves, bee swarm, and a "sun" section. The top edge is worked with short rows to shape, and ends with a frilly top edge.
- "Road Trip Pullover #2407": this cute and sassy color block child's pullover with raglan sleeves is worked with "Sebago" yarn (\$7.95, 50 grams; 146 yards; 100% Australian superwash merino wool; CYCA #3). In kids' sizes 2 - 10, this would be a charming big sister / little sister or big bro / little bro duo.
- "Moroccan Baby Blanket #2406: this darling 30" X 40" DK weight blankie features colorful triangle motifs joined to make squares along the borders of a solid mid-section. Multi-colored large tassels in each corner add contemporary embellishment to the piece. This afghan would also be a good stash buster.

We are proudly introducing a new sock yarn from DREAM IN COLOR that you will love! "BFL Sock" (\$26.50, 100 grams, 420 yards, 85% Bluefaced Leister/15% nylon, CYCA #2, shown lower left in milky spite colorway) comes in an array of 14 stunning colors. This yarn combines a wonderful soft Bluefaced Leister wool with nylon to make a durable, perfect sock knitting yarn. "BFL Sock" has a soft hand and the color dye is rich and vibrant...

Speaking of DREAM IN COLOR, we have been receiving excellent feedback regarding this spring's cashmere blend yarns mini-Dream Club projects! Many of you have been asking when Dream Club will start up again. It's looks like Dream Club will be better than ever!

Every other month beginning September 2017, project kits will include some exciting options like a gradient set, multi-size skeins, speckle pairs and more. Pattern kits are all selected with exclusively-dyed colors chosen especially for that project, with a different yarn for each club. Prices will vary with the featured yarns.

Something new from DREAM IN COLOR starts every other month beginning August 2017. The "Pop-Up Skein Club" will feature a different yarn base and colorway each time. You select what project you would like to knit or crochet. We will come up with pattern suggestions that we think will look smashing, if you need a creative spark...





*** JULY KNIT ALONG ***

This month's knit along focuses not just on a pattern! BERROCO's newest shining star yarn is "Nebula", a 100% superwash merino single spun yarn with out-of-this-world color shifts that do almost all the work for you! This stellar new yarn works up at a sport weight gauge and packs more than 400 yards into each gradient cake. Even though BERROCO quietly launched it earlier this year "under the radar", it's quickly become a fan-favorite here at Kathy's Kreations. Each of the ten shades (all named for constellations that also happen to be zodiac signs) features vibrant colors that flow from one to the other. More shades are arriving in late summer. Ask to see your sign!

Which brings us to our knit along projects using this very special yarn. This month, you have your choice of three great summer knits, each of which uses just one marvelous ball: ---"Trelawny", a simple scarflette that uses decreases and eyelets to form an open, airy pattern. This long, narrow scarf will measure approximately 96" when finished.

---"G'Day Boomerang Shawl" (shown above, Ravelry Pro download) Our gorgeous sample was knit by Peggy Dailey in the Aquarius shade. About Susan Ashcroft's design, Ravelry says: "The slipped stitch pattern is very easy to knit and works well with semi-solid and variegated yarns... The pattern contains detailed instructions for two different versions: allover texture or stockinette bands alternating with textured bands."

--- "Nebushawl" (shown lower right) One of our customers found this on Pinterest and we are sharing the free pattern. Created for knitters of all skill levels, this easy-to-knit shawl starts in one corner and increases along one side to create a dramatic diagonal striped triangle shawl with amazing results. Wanna knit *your* astrological sign?

We will be working on our projects every Friday in July 2017 from 10 am - 2 pm at Kathy's Kreations. If you can't make it to our Friday knit alongs, please keep up to date with postings to our "We Love Kathy's" group on Ravelry and Facebook page...

*** NEBUSHAWL ***

SKILL LEVEL: Easy

MATERIALS: one ball BERROCO "Nebula"; US size 5 circular knitting needle 24" length; stitch marker; tapestry needle

GAUGE: 20 stitches / 42 rows = 4" in garter stitch (knit every row)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 3 stitches.

Row 1: Knit 1, place marker, knit 2.

Row 2: Slip 1, knit to end of row.

Row 3: Slip 1, slip marker, knit in front and back of next stitch, knit to end of row.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 until only a few yards of yarn remains. Bind off loosely and weave in yarn ends. Block lightly.

Originally seen on Pinterest; blog@nobleknits.com

*** WESTMORELAND COUNTY FAIR ***

Kathy's Kreations will once again be sponsoring the "Design-A-Scarf" contest for Made-In-The-USA natural fibers at the Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair to be held August 18 - 26, 2017. Details can be found on their official website, www.everfest.com

*** SUMMER IN LIGONIER ***

Join us on July 21 - 22, 2017 for our annual town-wide merchant's sidewalk sales (indoor or outdoor, depending on the weather). In addition to our clearance items, we will have a large selection of handknit and crocheted items available to purchase...



*** STEEL VALLEY YARN CRAWL ***

We are pleased to announce that Kathy's Kreations will be participating in the 4th annual Steel Valley Yarn Crawl from **July 28 - August 6, 2017**. Please join us for ten fun-filled days "crawling" your way through the Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania area! Participating shops include: Beaver Yarns Shoppe; Darn Yarn Needles & Thread; Dyed in the Wool; Kathy's Kreations; Kid Ewe Knot; Knit One; Knitsburgh Yarn Shop; Raggz Fiber Art; Sewickley Yarns; Tonidale Yarn & Needlecraft, and Yarns By Design.



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Kathy's Kreations

This self-guided tour is a great way to see what our local fiber arts community has to offer and meet other yarncrafters. It is an excellent opportunity for fiber enthusiasts to discover new patterns, classes and yarns. The crawl will feature a "passport" to get stamped at each store, in no required order. To add to the fun, you will have lots of chances to win PRIZES! Along the way, we hope that you will discover new ways to fuel your fiber passion and meet local fiber artists up close and delight in their wares. Best of all, re-ignite your love for all the yarns and fibers that western PA has to offer. Get a group of friends together and pile in the car to hop from shop to shop.

Stylish jute "Yarn Crawl" totes with large navy front pocket and padded shoulder straps complete with passport and drawing tickets are available now (shown upper right, yarn & goodies not included). Supplies are limited, so be sure to get yours early!

The rules:

- Passports must be purchased from one of the participating yarn stores.
- Each participant must have their own passport. Only ONE passport per person.
- Each participant must fill out the contact information on the passport. Please print clearly as we need this information to be able to contact you!
- Each participant must be present at each yarn shop to receive their stamp (i.e., no proxy crawling!)
- Each participant must be at least 18 years of age.
- All completed passports must be turned in by the end of business on August 8, 2017 to the last store you visit.
- When you make a purchase at a shop, you will be given raffle tickets to be entered to win baskets at that shop only. The white tickets that come with the bag may be deposited for the drawing in any of the shops.

All winners will be posted online at the SVYC Ravelry and Facebook pages and will be contacted within 30 days of the end of the yarn crawl. Winners who have not claimed their prizes in 30 days will forfeit them and alternate winners will be chosen. There will be three prize baskets at each shop that you can enter to win with your tickets, one of them being a gift card. There will be a large basket valued at over \$1,000 retail as the grand prize for one lucky winner (your name is entered for this prize once you've turned in your completed passport).

Each shop will have a featured yarn and project for both knitters and crocheters. The pattern is free with the purchase of the yarn, and the featured yarn will be available to yarn crawlers at 10% off.

Kathy's Kreations will have extended hours for this event: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday; 8:00 am - 6:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays; 11:00 am - 5:00 pm on Sunday 7/30 and 11:00 am - 4:00 pm on Sunday 8/6. Save the dates, buy a bag and stay tuned for additional information in our August newsletter and on our Facebook page about our featured yarn, featured pattern, gift baskets, fun shop activities, and a "cable queen" stitch marker giveaway (newsletter which will be available a few days earlier than usual with the big reveal and schedule of what's happening in our shop).

New this year is the official website, which includes a map of the shops, updates and rules: <http://steelvalleyyarncrawl.weebly.com/>

*** TRADE SHOW NEWS ***

One of our roles as your local yarn shop (LYS) is to educate and inform you of each season's key fashion trends, providing you with a wide range of project ideas, products and technical how-to's for successfully completing expressions of your creativity. At TNNA (National Needlework Association Trade Show) in Columbus, OH last month, Kathy & Facebook / Social Media consultant Vina McLeod Rudolph caught up with valued industry friends and colleagues, and made some new connections. We have many wonderful products coming your way as a result of our back and forth exchange of creativity and artistry. Some are already on our shelves, others will be arriving over the remainder of the summer, so stay in touch!



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Kraemer Yarns

We explored amazing colors, textures, fibers & stitches at the fashion show, "Sample It!", the "New Products" display and in the vendors' booths. The hand-dyed yarns are always incredible and this year was no exception:

- DREAM IN COLOR is re-visiting some previously discontinued shades which inspired a new tonals palette. We of course ordered some in "Jilly with Cashmere" (wait 'til you touch!)
- You asked for DRAGONFLY FIBERS and we listened. We agree with our customers that the depth and richness of these hand-dyed colorways is truly amazing -- look for fingering weight "Djinni" (pronounced like "genie") and sport weight "Traveler" towards the end of summer...
- Perhaps the most unique booth from a marketing standpoint was WONDERLAND YARNS by Frabjous Fibers. The Alice in Wonderland-themed booth had us following the pink paw prints "down the rabbit hole" where we fell in love with yummy new sock wool/nylon blend "Mary Ann: A Year In Color". We also ordered new shades of "Queen of Hearts" inspired by the Land of Wonders and Tea Time...

The SKACEL booth was wonderful, as always. In addition to ordering new buttons and a variety of new "Zauberball" cotton and tonal sock colorpack yarns, we were delighted to find "Oh" yarn, a chainette chunky yarn that will be introduced in the October mystery cowl Knit Purl Hunter knit along. While we were at SKACEL, we met up with knitting friend Michelle Hunter herself, who will be teaching our Fall Fling in early October. We had a planning session and are pleased to announce that Michelle's workshop will feature swatching from her *Building in Lace* book...

Kathy was the featured Meet & Greet designer at the KRAEMER YARNS booth on Saturday afternoon, signing autographed patterns of "Sporty Stripes" (shown upper right & lower left), knit with "Perfection Chunky Ragg". The folks at KRAEMER are always so welcoming (thanks, David, Sharon and crew!). Beth Aidala cleverly came up with a nifty booth display featuring a red carpet with KRAEMER "Knitty" awards and dolls of the KRAEMER folks with Sharon "presenting" the award to their designers. Kathy's doll will be hanging around the shop during the Yarn Crawl and something special is in the works that you won't want to miss...

At the BERROCO booth, we got to meet the positively delightful owner of JAMES BRETT yarns, Mr. James Brett himself. In addition to ordering all the new shades of "Marble Chunky", we also ordered more BERROCO "Pima 100" and "Nebula" yarns...



At the BRYSON DISTIBUTING booth, we re-stocked CHIAGOO and KNITTER'S PRIDE needles and essential CLOVER goodies. We have revamped and expanded our KNITTER'S PRIDE section and more *Karbonz* are on the way. New mini-clips from CLOVER are here, which work well for keeping stitches from flipping when joining circular knitting...

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Kraemer Yarns

*** TRADE SHOW NEWS Continued ***

Knitting for others is a rewarding experience. Volunteer knitters from "Knitted Knockers" welcomed us. For those of you not familiar with this group, Knitted Knockers are soft, comfortable handcrafted breast forms, made with love by volunteers, for women who have had mastectomies. Please ask us for more information. We do stock TAHKI "Cotton Classic" and "Cotton Classic Lite", which are approved yarns for making these prosthetics...



Trisha Malcolm of VOGUE KNITTING gave a fabulous trend report for fall 2017:

- Pantone colors for fall shown upper right (more about this next time)
- Asymmetrical and hi-lo hemlines have been rising in popularity for the past few seasons, but the trend is truly exploding.
- Loose silhouettes prominent
- Ribs are always slimming, even on oversize sweaters
- Stripes in textures, not just horizontal but vertical and diagonal
- Fringing huge, maybe with stripes, sometimes loopy
- Aran heritage updated with capes, less fitted / relaxed styling
- Super chunky cables paired with feminine skirt or asymmetrical
- Yoke sweaters in Fair Isle or traditional Scandinavian patterning, a trend towards colorwork with argyles and intarsia
- Textured knits & purls in heavier yarns
- Statement sleeves -- colorwork, different texture, the action is all on the sleeves, sometimes with a plain stockinette body.
- Statement sweaters, with an intarsia message
- Lacing and cut-outs, slashing
- The shawl trend is not going away
- Embellishment includes add-on ribbons, pearls, beads, sequins, embroidery and applique.
- Tops are more cropped and boxy
- Layer, layer, layer in a single color looks very slimming
- Ruffles are re-appearing
- Big chunky hats
- Neckwear trends, scarves & fitted cowls are worn like jewelry, "sleeve" scarves
- Wraps, ruanas, and ponchos are statement pieces
- Pompoms and tassels still huge
- Mandalas in crochet are part of a spiritual trend, symbolize an enjoyment of life, work of art
- Head-to-toe knits with matching skirt, top, hat
- Marls, either created with yarn or two strands held together
- Yarn trends continue super chunky, cushy soft; brushed alpaca, a return to mohair, monochromatic layered dyeing, chainette, tonal sophisticated, colored cakes & gradients
- Chunky yarns continue to be very trendy, with some extreme knitting (giant stitches)

It was fun to meet up with industry friends, like Barb and Ann of PITTSBURGH CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL (we will be a vendor at next year's festival April 6 - 8, 2018, David L. Lawrence Convention Center Hall A) and Elaine Smith of KNITTREAT (we will be teaching at WISP Resort; McHenry MD; November 9-12, 2017). Other fabulous folks we chatted with at TNNA Columbus: Leslie & Diana at Mountain Colors, Stacy Charles at Tahki, Les Farber at Rowan and Christine Forester at Aalta Yarns. Stop in to hear about new products, see all the latest "stuff", learn more about fashion trends and how-to's for making it all happen...



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings July 3, 2017 and August 7, 2017; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

*** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, July 11, 2017 and August 8, 2017; 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please) ***

Join us for stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! Please call ahead to rsvp in case of a scheduling change...

*** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT July 8, 2017 and August 12, 2017; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please) ***

Come unwind with fellow knitters! We do much more than just knit -- we share conversations, ideas, favorite patterns, and knitting tricks. Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here. Open to all skill levels...

*** FUN FRIDAYS, July 21, 2017 and August 18, 2017; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ***

Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships! Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels welcome!

*** JULY KNIT-ALONG (KAL) ***

Stop by on Fridays in July from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature your choice of three projects knit with BERROCO "Nebula" yarn -- as well as WIPs from previous KALs. Not working on the KALs? 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 July 2017 thread...

*** "FINISH IT LIKE A PRO" SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2017, 10 am - 1 pm, with instructor Kathy Zimmerman ***

Most knitters appreciate the value of good finishing techniques, but the process can be intimidating. With some professional trade secrets, tips and helpful advice from Kathy, even a newbie can sew and finish a project with ease! Here's a class where you can learn to master mattress stitch, weaving in ends and steps for finishing finesse from the first cast-on edge to the last seam stitch. Registration fee \$25, call 724-238-9320 for more details...

*** "BUILDING BLOCKS" TUESDAY JULY 11, 2017, 10 am - 12 noon, with instructor Karen McCullough ***

Add to your knitting knowledge and learn some new techniques! Each month, Karen introduces you to a new skill with a new block from Michelle Hunter's *Building Blocks* book. By the end of the series, you'll have a gorgeous lap throw. Registration fee \$10 plus materials, call 724-238-9320 for more details...

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Learning to knit or correcting mistakes are not the only reasons to have a one-on-one tutoring lesson. Learn new techniques like lace or short rows, or get help with a pattern before starting -- our instructors can do it all! Additional group classes are forming -- ask us for details. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for more than 37 years!

We're grateful to be part of your creative process. We look forward to welcoming you to our shop. KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy