



**KATHY'S KREATIONS**  
**141 East Main Street**  
**Ligonier, PA 15658**  
**724-238-9320**  
**MAY 2010 UPDATE**



Dear Knitters & Stitchers,

In the age of high tech, Facebook, Twitter, texting, instant messaging, e-this, i-that and general information overload, our senses are constantly being bombarded. Isn't it comforting to simply find your favorite quiet spot, grab some fabulous yarn & needles or hook, and peacefully stitch away? Researchers have proven the benefits of knitting especially as an excellent way to relax, reduce stress and keep mentally sharp.

Spring inspires us to find a new approach to our everyday lives. Fresh air and sunshine have a way of sparking a spirit of discovery and engaging our imaginations. For knitters and crocheters, embracing that curiosity means it's time to make something fun, something new. Let's spend a little more "me" time this season, relaxing with our needles and yarns, to create something beautiful the low-tech, old-fashioned way -- by hand. We're making room for our wonderful new summer merchandise collection with our latest promotion:

**"A WOOLY NICE SALE!"**  
**10% off all regularly-priced 100% wool yarns in stock**  
**all weights, all brands**

**TOTE BAG TUESDAYS**  
**Bring in your vinyl "Kathy's Kreations" tote or**  
**recycle a "Kathy's logo" shopping bag**  
**Get 10% off as much regularly-priced merchandise**  
**as you can fit into the bag!**

**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, AX

Private knitting, crochet, spinning and rug punch 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  
e-mail [kathy@kathys-kreations](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations)  
please visit our website [www.kathys-kreations.com](http://www.kathys-kreations.com)



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

Spring is the time to clear your mind and replenish your spirit. We're bringing in natural fibers, soft textures and easy-to-wear styles for warm weather knitting. Stitching provides lots of eco-friendly options for living greener, healthier and happier. Here's what new, what's now in the knitting and crochet world...

Welcome to *Knitscene Easy* (\$7.99, shown upper left)! Fast-knitting and small-budget projects are always hot -- whether you're a first-time knitter or an avid one. This special issue brings you truly simple knits that don't require much yarn and are super-cute, too. Here, you'll find a recap of the basic tools, stitches and lingo plus simple sweaters and 8 fun ways to make a scarf. Our favorite designs are the flash mitts, a simple rectangle seamed with a thumbhole, and little triangle scarf (shown above).

*INTERWEAVE KNITS Summer 2010* (\$6.99) features 24 fresh, quick, inspired knits with simple stitches but big impact. In "Strands", editor Eunny Jang says about summer knitting: "Free yourself from seasonal rigidity. You can knit what you want, when you want. We've filled this issue with projects that range from fun bagatelles to ambitious sweaters; that work year-round when knitted in the right yarns or are layered in the right way; and that will be wearable for years to come. Forever summer, forever knit". There is an interesting article by Vicki Square on color transitioning, how to enjoy each season of the year for the colors it brings and how to take your cue from nature. This issue heralds knitting as a gentle art with classic shapes, vintage inspiration, timeless fibers, and anti-fad details. Our favorite is the Beach House Pullover with saddle shoulders and menswear-inspired details -- rich staghorn cables, deep waist ribbing and a large-scale shawl collar...

*Piecedwork Magazine May / June 2010* (\$6.99) has put together its third annual special issue on the magic and mystery of lace. Each story, each piece of lace speaks eloquently to the beauty and value of work being done by someone's hands. Some of those hands are unknown; others belong to lacemakers of today who are carrying on the tradition brilliantly. This issue with its examples of needle, bobbin, crocheted, tatted, and knitted lace testify to lace's widespread and enduring appeal. Get inspired by these lace traditions and celebrate our folk knitting heritage with an Orenburg Honeycomb Lace Scarf, knitted lace drawstring bag, or a sweet baby bonnet...

New from NASHUA HANDKNITS comes "Creative Focus Linen" (\$10.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 50% linen / 50% cotton, CYCA #4). This delightful blend of natural fibers provides gorgeous stitch definition for both openwork and textured patterns. If you are planning to make a medium weight garment this summer, be sure to check out this fabulous new yarn...

Sun protection is so important for tender little heads! "L'il Sunhats" from KNITTING AT KNOON is a collection of adorable hats for tots that make sun-time cover-up fun and fashionable (\$8.50). With six designs in one size to fit little heads from 18" - 20", ask to see our shop models beautifully hand-knit by Marilee Roney...



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

What's new from LISA KNITS? Three new patterns for your knitting pleasure (\$4.00 each)! HT-026 "Ribbons" (shown upper right) is a lovely hat adorned with a picot trim and features a ribbon motif. It is worked in DK weight yarn and sized to fit an adult. A portion of the profits from the sale of this pattern will be donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.



SW-044 "Sea Cove" (shown lower left) Seagull cables adorn this textured crewneck pullover sweater worked in heavy worsted weight yarn. Six sizes for women in finished chest range from 35" to 56" & eight sizes for men in finished chest range from 38" to 59".

SW-046 "A Basic Top-Down Raglan" (shown lower left page 2) is a basic crewneck raglan pullover worked from the neck down. Worked in worsted weight yarn with your choice of a ribbed or lace edging, in ten sizes for children and adults ranging from 26" (size 4) to 54" finished chest...

If you are planning to make a medium weight garment this summer, be sure to check out these fabulous new yarns. New from NASHUA HANDKNITS comes "Creative Focus Linen" (\$10.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 50% linen / 50% cotton, CYCA #4). This beautiful blend of natural fibers provides gorgeous stitch definition for both openwork and textured patterns.

New from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS is "Chesapeake" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 103 yards, 50% organic cotton / 50% merino wool, CYCA #4), part of the Verde Collection. This is a wonderful blend of cool, crisp organic cotton combined with extra soft merino wool. The suggested gauge of 5 sts per inch will take you through all seasons, with nature in mind. This is a great yarn for both adult and childrens' garments. The heathered colors of the 12 color palette are the lovely result of the different ways the vegetable and animal components take the dyes, with a subtly marled appearance...

We have a new display area designated for class announcements, next to the checkout counter. Now you can see, touch and feel our pending class projects. The Cable Sampler Scarf and NONI Designs Petit Four Bag along with other NONI bags and patterns are currently featured -- be sure to take a look!

CLOVER introduces a quick and easy measuring gauge in the shape of a knitted hat (article 3147, \$3.50). In addition to the US and metric sizing tool (measures 20 needle sizes), there is also a handy ruler along the bottom edge. Baffled by gauge issues? If your stitch gauge is not correct, what size needle do you choose, larger or smaller? It can be confusing. If your swatch does not measure 4" wide, remember that if it is smaller than 4", try LARGER needles because you need a LARGER piece. If your swatch is larger than 4", try SMALLER needles because you need a SMALLER piece...



At last, stitch markers that work with smaller double-pointed needles and short circular needles. CLOVER introduces Triangle Stitch Markers (article 3148, \$5.95). These stitch markers are made for use with knitting needles US size #0 - #4 and have a specific triangle shape that allows the knitting needle tips to slip easily when passing the markers from one needle to another (and they are really cute!)...



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

Green isn't just a color anymore -- it's a lifestyle. What makes a yarn organic? Are natural dyes safer than chemical dyes? How can you create less material waste in your designs? What kind of beautiful projects can you create that also keep the earth in mind? With *Knitting Green* (\$24.95, softcover, shown upper left), you can explore the many ways to integrate eco-friendly ideas and actions into your knitting. This book features 20 contemporary and green projects for garments, accessories, gifts, and home furnishings from top designers, who also share how they integrate green principles with their work and lives. Inspirational and encouraging, these essays and projects suggest ways for making knitting sustainable. From reusing yarns to crafting "warm" projects (so you can turn the heat down!), *Knitting Green* is your go-to resource for the best tips, patterns, and ideas to preserve the delicate planet while you knit...

In *Knitting Nature* (\$29.95, hardback), designer Norah Gaughan blends the natural and artistic worlds together with 39 stunning, fun-to-knit designs for women, men and children. Here, the masterful Gaughan shares her clear explanations of intriguing natural phenomena along with easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions for the unique projects they inspired, such as a tank top with leaves that grow the same way they do on a stem...

With an eye toward design and a focus on the characteristics of different fibers, *A Fine Fleece* (\$30.00, hardback) features stunning photographs and 26 classic yet contemporary patterns that showcase both the beauty of handspun yarns as well as their more readily available counterparts. The pleasure of knitting can be so much greater when you know you're using the perfect yarn for the project...

In *The Natural Knitter* (\$32.50, hardback), Barbara Albright takes readers on a rich journey through the joys of all natural fibers -- materials that can make a difference, both in your knitting and the health of our planet. Our own Kathy's design, "Girl's Night Out" is featured in the book (on the back cover!), highlighting the softness, drape, and quality of the llama and wool fiber used for the sweater and hat duo...

*Knitting in the Sun* (\$22.99, softcover) gives you more than 30 projects designed exclusively to knit and wear in warm weather. Whether you're new to knitting or a seasoned stitcher, you'll find fresh patterns and compelling designs to create gorgeous lightweight pieces that will make a splash on sunny days...

Kathy and Kathy's Creations were recently featured with a story, "Busy Hands of Knitters Reach Out to Help Others" in the Spring 2010 PENNSYLVANIA CAREGIVER magazine. The article describes Kathy as a "facilitator" who helps women gain personal satisfaction through donating items or supplies to projects that reach out to others. The article specifically mentioned our KNIT FOR THE CURE program, which honors the memory of women with life-threatening disease. The profits from the sale of these 30+ patterns is donated to designated health associations at the request of the individual designer. The article also mentioned the shop's "We Care" tree which showcased 114 items for Caps For Kids and Chemo Hats programs. This month, Kathy's is collecting canned good and non-perishable food donations for the Westmoreland Westmoreland County Food Bank and your support, as always, is appreciated...

\*\*\* TIPS AND TIDBITS \*\*\*

Eleanor Swogger, Marketing Manager of KRAEMER YARNS, recently told us that the reason helmet liners for the troops are to be made from 100% wool is because of its fire retardant and self-extinguishing properties. The military does not want anyone in a combat zone to wear any type of clothing that will burn...

Shopgal Betty Lou Glasso recommends recycling those wonderful plastic zippered packagings from bedsheets and linens to organize your projects. This is an excellent idea to conveniently keep all your needed supplies, the pattern and yarn all together when you need it. We also sell mesh-style zippered plastic pouches in several sizes...

\*\*\* LOVELY LEAFY SCARF \*\*\*

Our thanks to our dear designer friend and nationally-known knitting instructor Shanta Moitra for sharing another scarf pattern with us. The lacy leaf patterned scarf was originally knit for one of her sisters-in-law. Thank you, Shanta!

FINISHED SIZE: 7" X 64"

MATERIALS: 300 yards Manos del Uruguay Silk Blend DK yarn; US size 7 knitting needles; stitch markers

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in pattern stitch, after blocking

LEAF PATTERN (multiple of 14 + 1)

Row 1 (right side): K1; \*yo, P2, K2tog, K5, ssk, P2, yo, K1; repeat from \* once.

Row 2: \*P2, K2, P7, K2, P1; repeat from \* once, end P1.

Row 3: K1; \* yo, K1, P2, K2tog, K3, ssk, P2, K1, yo, K1; repeat from \* once.

Row 4: \*P3, K2, P5, K2, P2; repeat from \*once , end P1.

Row 5: K1; \*yo, K2, P2, K2tog, K1, ssk, P2, K2, yo, K1; repeat from \* once .

Row 6: \*P4, K2, P3, K2, P3; rep from \* once, end P1.

Row 7: K1; \*yo, K3, P2, SKP2 (central double decrease), P2, K3, yo, K1; repeat from \* once.

Row 8: \*P5, K2, P1, K2, P4; repeat from \*, end P1.

Row 9: K1; \*K2, ssk, P2, yo, K1, yo, P2, K2tog, K3; repeat from \*once.

Row 10: \*P4, K2, P3, K2, P3; repeat from \*, end P1.

Row 11: K1; \*K1, ssk, P2, (K1, yo) twice, K1, P2, K2tog, K2; repeat from \* once.

Row 12: \*P3, K2, P5, K2, P2; repeat from \* once, end P1.

Row 13: K1; \*ssk, P2, K2, yo, K1, yo, K2, P2, K2tog, K1; repeat from \*once.

Row 14: \*P2, K2, P7, K2, P1; repeat from \*, end K1.

Row 15: ssk, P2, K3, yo, K1, yo, K3, P2, SKP2 (Central double decrease), P2, K3, yo, K1, yo, K3, P2, K2tog.

Row 16: \*P1, K2, P9, K2; repeat from \* once, end P1.

Repeat rows 1 - 16 .

Original pattern source: *Japanese Knitting Patterns 1000*, page 68.

Note: Slip markers every row.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 35 stitches. Knit 9 rows (5 garter ridges), end WS.

Set-up pattern (right side): K3 (garter edge), place marker (pm); beg with row 1, work leaf pattern across center 29 sts, pm; K3 (garter edge). Keeping 3 sts at beg & end every row in garter (K every row), work in pat until approx. 63" completed, end with row 8 or 16 of pattern. Knit 9 rows, end RS. BO all sts as if to knit on next row.

Weave in ends. Block lightly.

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\*\*\* The 3/50 PROJECT \*\*\*

Both the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce and SKACEL COLLECTION have brought our attention to this project. Thank you to all our customers who have made us one of their 3/50 projects and to SKACEL, who supports the independent yarn shop owner, along with the ideals behind this project. Spread the word -- we would love to see more individuals take part in this worthwhile movement.

From SKACEL NEWSLETTER April 2010: "Little did Cinda Baxter know that her blog post on March 11, 2009 would blossom into a movement designated to stimulate local economies, better know as the **3/50 Project**. Baxter, a Retail Consultant and professional speaker, was prompted to write her blog after viewing a number of media programs, including the Oprah Show, CBS News, the Today Show, and Meet The Press. The overall message of the 3/50 Project grew out of this motivation and is simple ... *we all have the power to assist in the salvation of our local economy during these tight times.*

These are the project's rules as noted by Cinda:

- Choose three independently owned businesses that you would miss if they went out of business.
- Spend \$50 per month at each of these stores.

That's it! It's that simple. Cinda also notes that 'If just half the employed U.S. population spent \$50 each month in independently owned businesses, their purchases would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue.' Let's see what happens..."

\*\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\*\*

We are frequently asked which retreats and market venues Kathy will be teaching and/or vending. Look for her this fall headlining as Guest Teacher at:

- The 25th Annual Knitter's Day Out in Mechanicsburg, PA September 24 - 25, 2010; intro to combining lace & cables; ruffle, frill & scallop edgings; and slip-stitch sampler class
- South Hills Knitting Guild Thursday, October 21, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA; lace & cables combination scarf
- Knitter's Retreat at Bedford Springs Spa and Resort November 5 - 7, 2010, Bedford, PA; Bedford Springs Spa Mitt, an original design by Kathy especially for this retreat
- Kathy's Creations Workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier November 13 - 14, 2010. This is a 2-day class package workshop with Kathy teaching Fair Isle knitting and braided knitting techniques with a "jeans purse" project, finishing techniques plus a needle-felted holiday bird ornament by guest teacher Carolyn Collen-Dubois. A fun weekend is planned with an "after hours" pizza party on Friday evening, and built-in "free time" for Christmas shopping in Ligonier. Carol Smith, formerly of Carol's Yarn Shop in Accident, MD, will help co-ordinate the event. More details will be coming in the June newsletter -- you may request to be notified when registration opens.

\*\*\* SUMMER HOURS \*\*\*



The Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce recently announced that many merchants will be open **Thursday evenings until 7:00 pm** during the summer through the holiday season. For your shopping convenience, **we will be open Thursday evenings until 7:00 pm and Sunday afternoons 12 noon - 4:00 pm beginning in late June.** Stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter...

**\*\*\* A VERY SPECIAL TRUNK SHOW \*\*\***

Most knitters are familiar with NONI DESIGNS by designer Nora Bellows. We are pleased to announce that a Trunk Show of selected designs will be on display here at Kathy's Creations from **Friday, May 14, 2010, through Monday, May 31, 2010.**

NONI DESIGNS are exciting patterns for the intrepid knitters, featuring garments for children & adults, housewares, accessories and bags. NONI bags are bags to be worn, not just carried. They are, like jewelry or any adornment, extensions of our personalities. Let your creativity guide you as much as these patterns do toward making your own unique statement. Add interesting combinations of flowers to your bags, go on color adventures, but, most of all, enjoy the process. Did you know that felted bags are particularly well-suited as totes for groceries or picnics because they are naturally insulated, don't lose their shape or their immense carrying capabilities when wet, and withstand even harse treatment, all the while looking fantastic while being used again and again?

NONI flowers are exceptional, not just for their beauty, but for their ease of construction. The perfect portable project, they are wonderful as adornments for bags, the cuffs of your socks, the straps of your flip flops, the tops of gift boxes, hair thingies, lapels of coats, suits, jean jackets, and just about anything else that screams out for beauty. Give both the flowers and the patterns as gifts. Flowers, flowers everywhere, all year around (felted or not felted).

Items scheduled to be on display include (patterns \$8.95 each):

- Top-down ribbed pullover, either sleeveless or long bell sleeves: Noni brings to garments the same bold sense of color, classic fashion-forward style, and whimsical sensibility that she has always brought to bags. Easy to knit and easy to wear, Noni garments are made with movement and comfort in mind.
- Clematis Felted Shopping Bag and/or Lunch Tote: ideal for any shopping trip, toting groceries or as a lunch tote. Can be made striped or adorned with the Clematis flower.
- Petit Four Bag with sweetheart roses: a one-skein project, this little vintage-style, romantic bag is fun to make and looks as sweet as a little cake. Embellished with one or several sweetheart roses, it's a great companion for evening or weddings. A perfect bag for bride and bridesmaids. Learn how to make a felted sweetheart rose with Marilee Roney during her NONI helpful how-to's class on Saturday, May 15, 2010, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.
- Laptop Bag, men's colorway: there are so many laptops in different sizes, but this pattern allows you to make your laptop fit perfectly. Bag and power cord pocket are knitted in the round with custom fit and optional sizing. Instructions include 2 handle styles (to use with or without hardware) and an optional zipper closure, worked with double-stranded worsted weight yarn in stripes or solids.
- Froggie Towel & Scrubby Bath Puppets: so easy, so Noni! This cotton towel with froggie hands and froggie hood is generous enough to wrap up even big little kids and square so little legs don't stick out the bottom.



Froggie face and hands make this towel extra fun for bath time and play time. The scrubby puppets in small for kids and large for parents make for bath time hilarity without losing sight of one of the goals: squeaky clean kids! For a wonderfully cozy stroller blanket, make the hoodie towel in a soft, delicious yarn.

- Kid's oven mitts & 2 placemats: did you know that felted mitts are naturally insulated?

**\*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\***

Join the "First Monday" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate, Greensburg, PA on the first Monday of each month: **Mondays, May 3, 2010, and June 7, 2010, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit with us!



**\*\*\* "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, May 11, 2010, and June 15, 2010, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) \*\*\***

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

**\*\*\* FUN FRIDAYS, May 21, 2010, and June 18, 2010; 10 am - 2 pm \*\*\***

All knitters & crocheters welcome! An instructor is available for help with your questions, skill building and how-to's for projects purchased here. 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...

**\*\*\* NONI DESIGNS TRUNK SHOW MAY 14 - 31, 2010 \*\*\***

**\*\*\* FELTED FLOWERS & HOW-TO's FOR NONI DESIGNS Saturday, May 15, 2010, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm with instructor Marilee Roney; \$20.00 registration fee\***

Marilee shares her felting tips and how-to's for making & finishing your felted totes with specialty hardware, straps & handles. Class project features making a felted sweetheart rose (yarn provided). Additional student supplies include NONI Petit Four pattern (\$8.95) plus US size 7 double-pointed needles (both available for purchase).

**\*\*\* CABLE SAMPLER CLASS Saturday, May 15, 2010, 1 pm - 4 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; \$20.00 registration fee\***

Learn how to knit cables with the cable queen herself! The Cable Sampler Scarf first appeared in Debbie Macomber's novel, *Summer On Blossom Street*. Now you can learn to knit cables like a pro. Additional class materials to be supplied by the student include 650 yards smooth DK weight yarn in a light to medium shade, US size 6 knitting needles and a cable needle.

\*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 bad 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](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)

**Private knitting, crochet, felting, Oxford rug punch, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills, finishing techniques, socks, problem solving help and beginner spinning are now forming -- check with us for dates. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for 30 years !**

This May, we have compiled some fun projects in anticipation of Mother's Day. You can knit or crochet for anyone in your life who embodies all the qualities that mothers are best known for. Many of us learned our skills from mothers or grandmothers, friends or family. Repay their kindness with a project you've made especially for them, and, better yet, pay it forward by teaching someone else to knit or crochet.

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy