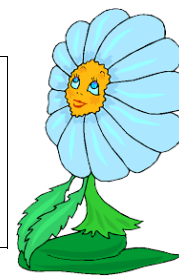




KATHY'S KREATIONS  
141 East Main Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658  
724-238-9320  
MAY 2017 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

There are as many reasons why knitters and crocheters stitch as there are types of stitches and project choices. More than a hobby, needlearts provide us with a sense of accomplishment as we meet the challenge of completing a project. It is about more than just the process, however. Knitting and crocheting enrich our lives in many ways.

Some of us stitch because of a connection to the past, to continue a craft taught to us by our mothers and grandmothers that has now become a pleasure and an almost meditative way to relax. We slow down when we knit or crochet. Others find it to be about self-expression, creating their own patterns or following someone else's pattern while making the project their own by tweaking the fit, switching up colorways, or making design changes. Some of us find fulfillment in the community aspect -- getting together with friends who knit or crochet, and appreciating how each of us brings our own unique individual influences to our work. Others stitch simply for fun and the sheer love of working with fibers and color. Yet, for all of us, it is all about creativity -- turning "stitches and string" into our own personal success story. The focus is create something that is one-of-a-kind.

Bernadette Murphy wrote in the introduction of her book, *Zen and the Art of Knitting*: "Knitting produces a beautiful, handcrafted, wearable work of art. Each garment reflects its unique moment in time and is as singular in its construction as the person who knit it -- an image of the creator's spirit."

As we drift into summer, colors are brighter, days are longer, and a more relaxed attitude says it's time to relax and enjoy our favorite pasttime, knitting and crocheting. The season's mellow mood is the perfect muse for our latest collection of warm weather yarns and new stitching accessories. You'll find colors, fibers and projects with flattering fits and interesting details that fit into your summer lifestyle. We hope that our selections will inspire you to be creative, and also satisfy your urge to create beautiful items and garments with your hands for those...

**"SUNNY DAYS AHEAD!"**  
**10% off all purchases of in-stock,**  
**regularly-priced 100% cotton yarns**  
**during May 2017**  
**Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
**Monday through Saturday**

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  
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e-mail [kathy@kathys-kreations.com](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)  
please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>



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

Late spring and early summer weather can change quickly here in the Laurel Highlands, so we are always looking for designs that can be worn on warm days and cool ones, too. Layering is always in! Effortless chic seems to be very much in style at the moment. Handknit designs should reflect the way you live your life -- denim-friendly casual for running errands and lunch with the girls, or dress it up for a night on the town...

TAHKI / STACY CHARLES agrees: "Smart layering is a good strategy for the indecisive weather of spring. Lightweight jackets, ponchos and cardigans suit fluctuating temperatures and prove useful into summer when offices tend to pump the air conditioning."

Flattering and flirty, the "Waverly Place Poncho" (shown upper left) easily accessorizes with your existing wardrobe, and is equally beautiful over jeans, skirts, and dresses. This pattern is an ideal knitting project for anyone who enjoys multiple ways to wear accessories. "Waverly" features two large lace panels that can be worn with the pattern cascading down the shoulders or to the front and back; each gives the poncho a slightly different drape. The pattern is part of the "One Christopher" booklet collection (\$19.95) and is featured on the cover. It is easy to wear with practically anything. For this design, STACY CHARLES FINE YARNS used tubular cotton "Patti" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 100% cotton, CYCA #4) boosts the lace texture design and offers all-weather adaptability...

Get dramatic with the summer 2017 "Shakespeare issue" from INTERWEAVE KNITS (\$7.99). Create a fairy tale with your needles and yarn with knits influenced by the bard. As you read the entertaining fashion stories *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*, you'll find not only the usual information but also poetry, including sonnets, inspired by the designs and the characters for which they are named. The shawl projects are romantically dreamy, and perfect for summer. It's all a great read. As the director of content strategy, Steve Koenig, wrote: "If knitting be the food of love, knit on..."

We love notions and gadgets and we know you do, too. Our latest find is the wooden "Knitter's Rule" gauge swatch 4" X 4" measure (\$12.50). It makes taking a gauge much easier!

Amy at BERROCO YARNS tells us: "We love plant fiber for summer knits, and none are more well-known or versatile than cotton. Brand new 'Pima Cotton 100' (\$10.50, 100 grams, 219 yards, 100% pima cotton, CYCA #4) is 100% pima cotton, but it is in a matte finish, meaning not shiny at all. Instead, it has a smooth look and feel, perfect for great beach-inspired knitting patterns." Oh, we've got plenty of those...

SNITSB "Twisted" (\$6.50 pattern, shown lower right) is described by the designer as: "A reversible rectangular top with a twist, literally. Twist can be worn inside out with the seams exposed." This is a stunning and easy to knit summer wrap. It looks great in linen. One yarn possibility is PLYMOUTH YARNS "Linen Concerto" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 101 yards, 48% rayon / 42% linen / 10% cotton), a luscious Italian import with unique color shadings that are perfect for warm weather wear. It would look equally great with machine washable UNIVERSAL / FIBRA NATURA "Flax" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 137 yards, 100% linen, CYCA #3). Linen gets softer with wearing and washing, and is very durable. Did you know that linen fabric from 5,000 years ago has been discovered in Egyptian tombs?



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

LISA KNITS introduces three new patterns for your knitting pleasure (\$5.00 each). Season-spanning "York Harbor AC-041" (shown right) is a lacy 6-row pattern that is easily remembered. It is worked with a fingering weight yarn and may be knit in your choice of two widths. "Autumn Retreat AC-040" can be knit as a scarf, cowl loop, or stole in worsted weight yarn. A leaf pattern gracefully cascades along the length of these lovely accessories. And no one does whimsical kids' hats like Lisa! "Pig Tails HT-033" is a cute hat with loop hair and tassel pigtails for the special little girl in your life...



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Lisa Knits

Accessories are fun to knit all year 'round, and we already have customers planning their holiday gift list. Two new projects from KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO use fingering weight yarn, making them lightweight to knit now for later. Pattern 2338 "Buttoned Up Cowl" (\$5.50 pattern, shown lower right page five) is worked from side to side beginning and ending at the center back. Worked with two contrasting skeins of "Crock-O-Dye" (\$23.50 solid, \$26.50 hand-dyed, 100 grams, 416 yards, 65% superwash wool/ 20% nylon / 15% silk, CYCA #1), one hand-dyed and the other a solid, the multi-colored section is shaped with increases and decreases to create a wider section that is folded in half to outside at center front. Three buttons are used to hold the doubled layer in place, with no buttonholes worked. Pattern 2328 "Rainier 3-Piece Set" (\$5.50) uses two hanks of "Kettle Tweed" (\$22.50, 100 grams, 437 yards, 65% merino wool / 20% baby llama / 10% bamboo / 10% Donegal, CYCA #1) in two shades. One hank of each color is held together to make a hat, mittens, and cowl. Work the cowl as the last piece to use up all yarn. The size of the cowl will vary, depending on how much yarn is left...

Coming this month from Michelle Hunter -- a new book called *The Best Of Knit Purl Hunter* (\$25.50). We will have the hard copy version for you! This collection features 25 patterns from Michelle's knit alongs -- favorites like 14 Carat, Ambiguous, Wandering Moon and more. We will gladly reserve a copy for you...

New crochet patterns have arrived from ONE LOOP SHY (\$7.50 each):

- Bandanity: "Very versatile and great for the beginning crocheter! This bandana cowl / infinity scarf is worked flat then seamed to create a point which can be worn up front cowboy style or put to the back for extra warmth."
- Peppermint Bandit: "Color work doesn't get any easier than this! Both strands are carried throughout ... so there are only the beginning and ending tails to weave in for this quick, textured headband."
- Sweet Potato Twist Cowl (shown upper left page 8): "This simple cowl is worked in the round with an intentional full twist. A little change to the traditional single crochet stitch produces a pattern that looks and drapes like knit."
- Pink-A-Roo: "This baby blanket is thick and cozy! It is worked with a doubled strand of worsted weight yarn, in a stitch combination that looks and drapes like a knitted blanket. The unique finishing touch is a 'kangaroo pocket' that is perfect for tucking in a toy or two."



The "Simple Yet Effective Shawl" by Laura Chau (pattern \$5.50, shown left) is: "An easy to knit basic, top-down shawl knit in stockinette and garter stitch. Scarf sized, but easy to make any size you like! Perfect for that ball of yarn that just doesn't want to be socks." Easy enough for a beginner's first shawl...

© Copyright 2009  
Laura Chau



\*\*\* MAY KNIT ALONG \*\*\*

The merry month of May has us knitting along on a gorgeous cowl by the YARNIAD, Hilary Smith Callis. "Starshower" (\$6.50 pattern, shown upper left) is described by the designer as: "A shawl-shaped hybrid. It is shaped as a shawl, but mostly worked in the round -- so it can be worn as a shawl, but without the ends dangling down. The

simple Open Star stitch pattern works well with a favorite semi-solid or variegated sock yarn. Sparkle is encouraged, but not required."

We will be working on this project every Friday in May 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..

\*\*\* THE EMPOWERMENT OF KNITTING \*\*\*

Our sincere thanks to Sharon Greve for generously granting permission to re-print "The Dropped Stitch" column which appeared in the March-April 2017 issue of *The Pennsylvania & West Virginia Register*. It provides an interesting insight into our age-old craft.

Sharon writes: "Many are surprised to learn that knitting began as a trade practiced mostly by men. In the 15th and 16th centuries, knitting guilds were comprised of skilled male hand knitters. Every woman, regardless of age or social status, grew up learning to knit at home and in school using their skill for fundamental items for the family. The invention of the knitting machine in 1589 made it an impractical profession for men. They moved onto more lucrative crafts -- passing knitting into women's hands.

Every phase of our social history has affected knitting culture. In 18th and 19th century Europe and America, fancy knitting became the hallmark of women of leisure. Women of lesser means sold knitted garments to feed and clothe their families, creating a self-worth outside the home. At wartime, women continue to rally together to knit mitts, scarves, socks and sweaters for the troops. During the Depression, women knitted not only to escape their troubles but to augment the family's income. Stimulated by the 1960s craft revival, knitters around the world helped each other set up cottage businesses to support their families through the world's crises.

Yarn and needles have empowered women to enter many endeavors and opportunities outside the home. Today knitting thrives as a popular form of fashion, art, recreation, and stress reliever. Tote bags bulging with colorful yarn and needles are a common sight in all public areas, airports and on public transportation. For many knitters, their knitting is the first item packed for travel. Even actress Julia Roberts knits for relaxation between Hollywood sets. Small businesses around the globe have been established due to the empowerment of women using their knitting skills.

Knitters became a valuable work force in the garment factories in the 1900s. The founding of International Women's Day was observed in the United States in 1909 in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York where women protested working conditions. Since those early years, knitting has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike.

During International Women's Year of 1975, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on March 8. Now the day is celebrated in many countries around the world recognizing women for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. In December 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nation's Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by member states in accordance with their historical and national traditions.

And to think -- knitting as an age-old craft became a link to the future."

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\*\*\* KNITTREAT 2017 \*\*\*

Join us from November 9 - 12, 2017 for KNITTREAT, a wonderful fall weekend retreat and knitting getaway coordinated by Elaine Smith of Embroidered 4 Ewe. This year, the event moves to beautiful Wisp Resort in McHenry, MD (Deep Creek). Kathy will be teaching again and rumor has it that knitted slipper classes are in the planning. To request further information and updates, please visit [www.knittreat.com](http://www.knittreat.com)

\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*

The 4th annual Steel Valley Yarn Crawl will be held July 28 - August 6, 2017. The 11 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. Snazzy tote bags and passports should be available at the end of June. More details next month...

\*\*\* UPCOMING SPRING BREAK 2018 DATES \*\*\*

Our Spring Break with instructor Merrily Clark was held in mid-April and a great time was had by all! The KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Enchantment Shawl" was a fun workshop and we're looking forward to seeing the finished projects. Next year's dates are April 20 - 22, 2018 at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA. The teacher will be none other than our own Kathy Zimmerman who will teach a comprehensive "Knit To Fit" 9-hour workshop on taking essential measurements and converting them to stitches and rows, fitting garments, basic pattern construction, adapting commercial patterns for a better fit, planning your own sweater design and more. Kathy is expanding material from workshops previously taught at several Stitches events and Knitter's Day Out to include trade secrets from her 30-year career as a knitwear designer for major knitting publications and yarn companies. Space is limited and advance registrations are being accepted now. Please call us at 724-238-9320 for details...

\*\*\* KATHY'S TORTELLINI SALAD \*\*\*

The most requested recipe from our Spring Break Friday evening Meet & Greet gathering was for Kathy's Tortellini Salad. It's easy to prepare because it's semi-homemade. The recipe can be easily doubled for a crowd. Serve it in a fancy bowl over leafy lettuce greens or baby spinach for a lovely spring salad!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large or 2 small boxes Buitoni refrigerated spinach & ricotta tortellini (in the deli section)
- 2 jars marinated artichoke hearts (Kathy used a DeLallo salad type with pimentos & olives)
- 1 bottle Italian dressing (Kathy used Market District Rustic Italian)
- 1 bag or box leafy lettuce greens (romaine, mixed greens, etc.) or baby spinach

DIRECTIONS: Cook tortellini according to package directions. Drain thoroughly and cool. Place in large bowl. Drain artichoke hearts. Gently stir in artichoke hearts with cooked tortellini. Top with 1/2 bottle of dressing. Cover and refrigerate several hours or overnight. Before serving, gently stir again and add remainder of salad dressing or as much as desired. Serve over greens and enjoy!

\*\*\* HYGGE IS THE NEW FIBER WORLD BUZZWORD \*\*\*

Never heard of it? It's quite the rage! "Hygge" is the Danish art for the art of finding pleasure in simple things. We are seeing it translated into knitting with cozy shrugs, throws, textured patternings, yoke sweaters, duster vests for layering, snuggly home accessories, and, looking forward to fall (already?), chunky knits. Other big trends going forward are "farmhouse" inspired knits, and polar bear everything for kids...



\*\*\* KNITTING FOR THAT BABY FACE \*\*\*

Our heartfelt thanks to Andrea Springer, the Knitting Savant, for sharing her column and pattern from *The Pennsylvania & West Virginia Register* March-April 2017. Andrea Springer blogs at [www.knittingsavant.com](http://www.knittingsavant.com) where she helps folks remember that they have everything they need to be successful in knitting and in life. You can share comments or ideas with her at [andrea@knittingsavant.com](mailto:andrea@knittingsavant.com) or follow Knitting Savant on Facebook and Twitter.

Andrea writes: "Like many of us, I check social media daily to see what's up in the world. One of my favorite parts of my feed is the babies. We have a daily ritual of sharing the photos our family and friends post of their little ones, usually with the exclamation, "Aww, look at that peanut!" After a day of grown up challenges, these little faces are a shot of sunshine.

We welcomed new 'peanuts' to our family and neighborhood recently. I designed this simple rolled brim hat for gifts, using a striping method called the Helix Technique that eliminates the color 'jog' that happens when knitting in the round. Three colors are used in each round, each working progressively, section by section, creating a 'helix' of color. This pattern is topped with an I-cord knot and is a simple gift to frame that sweet baby face!"

And here is Andrea's darling pattern...



**Materials:**

3 colors of DK weight yarn (A, B, & C), approximately 125 yards total

**Needles:**

US #6 - can use DPN's and/or 40" circular using the Magic Loop method

**Notions:**

Stitch markers, tapestry needle

**Gauge:**

22 sts x 30 rows in Stockinette  
Stitch = 4"

## Look At That Peanut! Hat

a *Knitting Savant* Pattern

This simple rolled brim hat pattern uses the Helix Technique to knit in the round to make "jogless" stripes.

**Sizes:** Baby (14" circumference) / Toddler ( 16" circumference)

**Pattern:**

Cast on 77 / 88 stitches. Join to work in the round, being careful not to twist. Place a marker at the beginning of the round. With Color A, knit until the hat measures 1.25" from the cast on edge. The edge will roll naturally.

Next Round: K 25/29. Place marker. K 26 / 29. Place marker. K 26 / 30. The beginning marker is here. If you're using DPN's, you can arrange the stitches on three separate needles.



orange arrows  
show the marker  
placement

*"Look At That Peanut!" Hat (continued)*

Begin Helix Technique Striping:

Helix Round 1: Knit 25 / 29 to the first marker with Color A. Drop Color A. Pick up Color B and knit to the second marker. Drop Color B. Pick up Color C and knit to the beginning marker.

Helix Round 2: Continue knitting past the beginning marker with Color C to the first marker, where Color A will be waiting. Drop Color C. Pick up Color A and knit to the second marker. Drop Color A. Pick up Color B and knit to the beginning marker. Make sure not to pull the first stitch in the transition too tight so it doesn't pucker.

Continue in this manner, picking up the waiting color at the first and second markers, and knitting with the color picked up at the second marker to the beginning marker and then on to the first marker (you will work two sections in each round with a single color). Work until the piece measures 4.25" / 4.75" from the rolled brim.

Decrease Round 1: Decrease 2 / 3 stitches evenly around. 75/85 stitches remain.

Decrease Round 2: K2tog, K3, repeat to the end. 60/ 68 stitches remain. This photo shows the color change at the marker and the progress across the next section with the new color. Knit 5 rounds.



Decrease Round 3: K2tog, K2, repeat to the end. 45 / 51 stitches remain. Knit 5 rounds.

Decrease Round 4: K2tog, K1, repeat to the end. 30 / 34 stitches remain. Knit 3 rounds. At this point, knit with Color A only.

Decrease Round 5: K2tog, repeat to the end, K1. 15/ 17 stitches remain. Repeat this round 2 more times. You should have 4/ 5 stitches left.

Using two DPN's, work the remaining stitches in I-cord for 1.75" and bind off. Weave in loose ends and tie a single knot in the I-cord to finish the top!



**\*\*\* 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 **May 1, 2017** and **June 5, 2017**; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

**\*\*\* "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, May 9, 2017 and June 13, 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 May 13, 2017 and June 10, 2017 ; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please)\*\*\***

Come sit 'n knit! 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, May 19, 2017 and June 16, 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!

**\*\*\* MAY KNIT-ALONG (KAL) \*\*\***

Stop by on Fridays in May 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 the "Starshower" shawl / cowl -- 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 May 2017 thread...

**\*\*\* LHKG WORKSHOP \*\*\***

Kathy Zimmerman will be the guest instructor at the annual Spring Workshop sponsored by the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild. The event will be held on **Sunday, May 21, 2017, from 9 am - 4 pm** at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA. Kathy will teach "Catch The Wave: Exploring Old Shale Stitch".

Although many knitted lace patterns pair yarn-over increases and their corresponding decreases close to each other, Old Shale stitch (stitch detail shown lower right) is from a fascinating group of stitches called delayed decrease patterns. Yarnovers are clumped together, then the decreases are clumped together in a delicate wave rhythm. Because it is so extremely simple, it can be varied in dozens of ways. In this workshop, students will explore ways in which this famous old Shetland stitch can be altered while still maintaining its recognizable wave pattern with deep scallops. We will work a variety of stitchwork variations in a "hands on" sampler with information for an elastic cast on method, incorporating colorwork, and designing your own scarf, afghan or baby blanket. Registration fee is \$50 for LHKG members, \$60 for non-members and includes lunch. For more information or to register, contact Karen McCullough at 724-238-5859.

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 !

Our June newsletter will be available a bit earlier due to the Memorial Day holiday, so please keep a look-out for it. 'Til then, keep knitting and crocheting!

Kathy

