



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
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FEBRUARY 2007 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

It may be cold outside, but a colorful front is moving in here at Kathy's Kreations. Expect bright days and cozy nights whenever you enjoy your favorite indoor sports, knitting and crocheting. Winter will eventually melt into spring, so plan ahead.

Layering pieces allows us to adapt comfortably to weather patterns and temperature changes while remaining stylish and attractive. We can assist you to create year-round knits to meet your individual needs, resulting in a wardrobe that you can integrate into your everyday life. Take advantage of fashion's flexibility and re-interpret the latest styles to complement your taste and skill level. We hope to inspire and challenge both your knitting and your sense of design with what's new, what's now, what's next in season-spanning projects.

Handknits help ward off winter's frostiest weeks with extra layers of pattern and style. Chase the chill with a skein of something warm and cozy. With so much to choose from, accumulation could be quite heavy!

"WARM UP WITH WOOL "

**All regularly-priced 100% wool yarns in stock
are 10% off during February 2007
(applies to all weights, superwash and basics)**

**It's our first-ever Stash Buster Pattern Sale!
All patterns on our pegboard wall at the back of the shop
are 50% off during February 2007
Find the perfect pattern to use up your "inventory"!**

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

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

The up and down temperatures of this winter has yarn companies reflecting on trans-seasonal or transitional designs and yarns to provide options for stylish knit dressing that crosses the seasonal fiber divide. Layering is popular again, allowing us to adjust to environmental weather changes by adding pieces or taking them off without sacrificing our total "look". Would we let a little cold weather come between you and your creative expression? No way! We have our shelves stocked with products to take you from ski season to the warmer weather ahead, from deep winter to spring break. Here's a sampling of "what's new" for you:

VOGUE KNITTING Winter 2006/07 (\$6.99) presents the "Big Chill" with winter whites, pale tones, uncommon texture, depth and stunning feminine looks. There are romantic ruffles, dresses, shrugs, coats and rose-inspired intarsia sweaters. Big is back with gigantic cables and thick yarns. There is a trend toward multi-directional knitting with traditional touches of cables and Fair Isle. Can spring be far behind?

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS CREATIVE COLLECTION presents *Knit It!* Spring 2007 (\$5.99). There's something for everyone in this issue, from snowflake-themed sweaters and gauzy wraps, to knitted bags and "baby boomlet" items. You can chill out with your choice of dozens of irresistible knitting projects -- think sleeveless sweaters, lacy shawls, home accessories, spa-luxurious washcloths, an eye mask and more. There is a super-easy garter stitch tote and one-stitch pillows & throws. Our favorite picks are the baby hats excerpted from *Itty Bitty Hats*. Ask to see our shop models of the blossom hat, knit by Betty Lou Glasso with ARTFUL YARNS "Serenade", and the striped hat, worked from Kathy's stash (yes, Betty Lou raided Kathy's stash of cotton yarns for this one). There is also a fantastic "must-read" article by Deborah Newton on knit-to-fit, with foolproof sizing tricks and an easy method to help you learn to make sweaters fit better. And we agree with the editors and fashionista knitters everywhere -- something you make is COOLER than anything store-bought!

In her *YARN MARKET NEWS* January 2007 article, Clara Parkes remarks, "Socks have long held both a functional and creative place in knitter's lives, but they are rapidly re-gaining rock star status". Interest in sock knitting isn't new -- we're simply seeing another surge in popularity for a project that's small, portable, and relatively easy to knit. They are so many varieties of yarn that can be used for socks, plus the possibility for creative imagination. And, at this time of year, a pair of warm, cozy socks is an undeniable pleasure. Everyone wears socks and needs them -- and this perfect blend of form and function is what fuels the frenzy. We've got two new patterns from LISA KNITS with definite socks appeal for your sweetie this Valentine's month (\$4.00 each). SK-024 "Ribbed Sock for Guys" (shown upper left) is worked in DK wool and SK-023 "Basic Sock for Guys" that looks great in sock weight self-patterning yarns such as AUSTERMANN's "Step" (shown at right, \$18.50, 100 grams, 460 yards, 75% wool / 25% nylon). This yarn is infused with jojoba and aloe vera, to soothe both the knitter and the wearer. Just one skein can complete a pair of socks. The interplay of colors in self-patterning yarns can be especially engaging for newbies or first-time sock knitters who don't have the confidence to create colorful effects using multiple strands of yarn...



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

What's new and knittable? Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS introduces SW-025 "Like Father, Like Son" (\$4.00, shown at right). These textured classics would look equally great on mother and daughter, too. The textured lower body features a subtle dash stitch pattern with a cable and ridged yoke. The dash pattern reappears on the lower sleeve with seed stitch at the top. A crisp 2X2 rib pulls together the gansey look. We think this pattern has possibilities for color blocking by working the separate stitch patterns in different shades. Ideal for layering under a blazer, SW-026 "The Office Vest" (\$4.00, shown lower left), a classic V-neck sleeveless pullover, combines vertical stockinette panels with alternating cables. Lisa has it accessorized for a guy, but wouldn't this be great for gals, too? Timeless designs have universal appeal...



You don't have to go to Antarctica to play with penguins. FIBER TRENDS introduces its latest in whimsical felted creatures, #FT-230 "Playful Penguins" (\$5.50). You'll want to have a few of these little guys around, and we think they look adorable in Pittsburgh black and gold...

We love yarns that carry from season to season with a flair for style, and a love of color. ARTFUL YARNS "Serenade" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 110 yards, 70% pima cotton / 30% angora, CYCA yarn classification 4)) has a lovely hand and subtle marl twist that makes it an ideal for any season. There is a free openwork neck scarf pattern on the inside of the ball band. How cool is that?

New on our shelves from LANG YARNS is "Opal" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 170 yards, 42% viscose / 58% nylon). This thin ribbon yarn is wonderful for delicate girly-girl tops and floral embellishments, particularly those beautiful knitted roses a la Nicky Epstein. This would also work well for knitted cords, evening bags and openwork scarves with beadwork...

What could be more luxurious than silk? Silk combined with kid mohair! NORO's "Silk Garden Lite" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 137 yards, 45% silk / 45% kid mohair / 10% lamb's wool) is a beautiful self-striping single-ply DK weight yarn with colors inspired by the world of nature. Ask to see our elegant diagonal basketweave scarf knit with this yarn by Betty Lou Glasso...

It's no secret that we are fascinated by knitting gadgets. Our new favorite is from our favorite gadget company. CLOVER introduces a mini-chibi in an orange case (\$6.95). These easy-to-thread curved tip needles make finishing a breeze. This size is a "must-have" for finishing socks...



Michelle Hoke is our local knitting prognosticator. Michelle has proclaimed 2007 to be the year of the "stash buster". She has vowed to reduce her yarn inventory (which leaves room in the budget for books, patterns and needles to make use of all that inventory!). OK, Michelle, we've got lotsa ideas to help you and all the other stash-busting knitterati spark your creativity and use up your stash. Be sure to check out our 50% off pattern wall this month and also our vest pattern collection for some wonderful projects using combinations of yarn oddments...

***** PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL *****

Events that bring knitters and crocheters together adds the dimension of community to our often solitary craft. Check out the 3rd Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival at the Crowne Plaza, Pittsburgh South, on **Saturday, February 10, 2007, 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday, February 11, 2007, 9 am - 4 pm**. This hotel is directly across the road from South Hills Village.

In addition to having a booth, Kathy will be teaching a "Crazy About Cables" class on Saturday morning, 9 am - 12 noon & Sunday afternoon, 1 pm - 4 pm with how-to's for interpreting cable stitch charts and tips for knitting cable stitch patterns. Kathy is the featured guest designer for CLASSIC ELITE YARNS Fall/Winter 2006 pattern collection, and the stitch chart featured in this class is Kathy's original "Princess cable". Kathy will also be signing CLASSIC ELITE posters near her booth on Saturday, 3 - 4 pm, and on Sunday 10 -11 am, while supplies last.

In addition to conventional knitting and crochet classes at the Festival, there will be a market, demos and exhibits. Event tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more details about class schedules & fees, highlights, and registration, please visit the website at www.pghknitandcrochet.com Hope to see you there -- bring a fiber friend!

***** FAIR ISLE WORKSHOP *****

Have you always wanted to learn colorwork, but felt it was too challenging? Now is the time to master this technique. The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild is hosting a Fair Isle Workshop with instructor Eleanor Swogger on Sunday, April 15, 2007, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Ramada Inn in Historic Ligonier. The workshop will feature a stranded colorwork jeans purse worked in 5 colors. Cost for the workshop is \$35, which includes lunch. Class size is limited, and students are requested to register early. For more details, contact Kathy Zimmerman at Kathy's Kreations, 724-238-9320.

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

Fall in love with socks -- they are a pleasure to create, easy to carry in your knitting tote, and oh-so-cozy to wear. In *Favorite Socks* (\$22.95, spiral bound, shown lower left), renowned sock designers Nancy Bush, Ann Budd, Priscilla Gibson-Roberts, and Evelyn Clark showcase their style in an inspiring collection of classic, innovative sock patterns from INTERWEAVE PRESS. Featuring 25 timeless designs, the adventurous knitter will find plenty of inspiration to keep needles flying and feet warm...

Knitting Nell (\$16.00, hardcover) is a book you will want to share with the children in your life. This character is as warm and comforting as a hand-knti sweater, through whom the joys of knitting and generosity shine...

Here's a "novel" idea; warm your toes by the fire and warm your heart with a good read about love, life and your favorite crafty pasttime. Coming soon is *The Friday Night Knitting Club* (\$22.95). What begins as an weekly knitting group hosted by a single mom knitting shop owner soon evolves into an unbreakable sisterhood, a strong support system, as the characters learn from each other and bond over their love of knitting. Julia Roberts is set to produce and star in the movie version of the book, set to hit the silver screen in 2008. If you haven't found a regular knitting circle yet, you are welcome to come to one of our gatherings (see page 8 for times and dates). It's as much about friendship as it is about the knitting...



***** GREET SPRING WITH UNSTRUCTURED STYLE *****



In their *KnitBits* #172 newsletter, BERROCO YARNS tells us, "The Spring '07 trends have encouraged asymmetry to go mainstream. As 'ready to wear' customers are embracing the total looks ... clean graphic shapes... layers ... modern constructions... new proportions, knitters are also creating head-to-toe looks in classic yarn constructions and eco-conscious fibers".

"Influenced by the kimono, many of today's fashion houses have adopted a new perspective on design and fit based on simple geometry and how it drapes forgivingly on the female form. We see this as the beginning for a new direction in handknit dressing for seasons to come".

"The design twist is in the unique constructions. By putting together the pieces in new and different ways, we allow fabric to drape on the bias for an elongated line that flatters all women. There are no fussy details to distort the clean lines".

***** SPRING 2007 FASHION FORECAST *****

The classics are back! Adina Klein, Fashion Director of *Vogue Knitting Magazine*, writes in *Yarn Market News*: "Retro-Futurism is the buzzword du jour. In fashionista-speak, it means 'everything old is new again'." As the style pendulum swings from bare-midriff exhibitionism to the new minimalism, look to this season's trends to create class-conscious knits.

According to Adina, "Winter's overblown looks balloon into a major trend for spring. Silhouettes are definitely top-heavy. Watch for long, large and loose sweaters over ubiquitous leggings. All this drapery is the perfect canvas for the new 'husky' fibers: corn, casein, bamboo, naturally dyed cottons, handspun cashmeres and any yarn with a cause".

"Look in the fashion dictionary under 'classic' and you'll find a panoply of nautical knitwear; traditional Arans and their modern configurations, crisp navy and white stripes, cashmere in camel colors -- timeless styles won't intimidate those fashion 'fraidy cats, but are still fresh and fabulous enough to appeal to the younger set. Get ready for some serious naval gazing!"

"It's a scary thought, but 80's fashion is the nouveau retro. Off-the-shoulder looks, electric colors, batwing sleeves and colorblock intarsia are making a strong comeback. They're part of the athletic influence that dominated the shows in Bryant Park and in Europe. Oh, what a feeling!"

Prim is in. "One part proper and one part cheeky: the 'sexy secretary' gets a promotion this spring. Classic silhouettes -- the twinset, the shell and three-quarter-length sleeve cardigans -- pair with tulip skirts and, for the brave of heart, flirty little mini-skirts".

"Models jogged down runways in swanky interpretations of anoraks and tennis dresses; sneakers morphed into stilettos and everything in between. This year, in fact, marks the eightieth anniversary of Russell Athletic's introduction of the sweatshirt. Celebrate sportiness." Our thanks to Adina for sharing her crystal ball with us...

***** TIPS FOR MORE SUCCESSFUL KNITTING *****

- Knit or crochet with yarn in a color and fiber that you really like. You'll enjoy your project more.
- Place your directions and pattern notes in a string-closure plastic envelope. If you are working on several projects at one time, try using an accordion file to carry everything neatly in your knitting bag (ask Kathy about her "red" file).



***** BETTY LOU'S BABY AFGHAN *****

Kathy designed this delicate, easy-to-knit baby afghan, requested by Betty Lou Glasso. Why not knit one for the special baby in your life?

FINISHED SIZE: 32" X 36" (36" X 46" in parentheses)

MATERIALS: DK weight (CYCA yarn classification 3) 1100 (1500) yards;
29" circular knitting needle US 5 (3.75 mm) or as needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE: 5.5 sts = 1"

IRISH CHECK PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 6 + 3, stitch detail shown upper left)

Rows 1 & 3: K3, *P3, K3; rep from * across.

Rows 2 & 4: P3, *K3, P3; rep from * across.

Rows 5 & 7: Repeat rows 2 & 4.

Rows 6 & 8: Repeat rows 1 & 3.

Work these 8 rows for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: With circular knitting needles, CO 175 (199) sts. K every row for 9 rows.

Set-up Pattern: K5 (garter edge), place marker, work across center 165 (189) sts in pattern stitch, K5 (garter edge). Work in pattern as established until piece measures approx. 34.5" (44.5") from beginning, end on WS with row 4 or 8 of pattern. K every row for 9 rows. BO all sts knitwise.

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***** GRANDMA BAKER'S BLANKET *****

Wendy Stemple's blanket pattern stitch from the December 2006 newsletter of the Roof Garden Knitting Guild inspired our adaptation of this throw. Thanks, Wendy!

FINISHED SIZE: 44" X 56"

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn approx. 2400 yards; 36" circular knitting needle US 8

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in pattern stitch.

PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 5 + 1)

Rows 1, 3 & 5 (right side): K6 (garter side border); * K4, P1; rep from * across to last 10 sts, K4, K6 (garter side border).

Rows 2 & 4: K6; purl across to last 6 sts, K6.

Row 6: Knit across row.

Repeat these 6 rows for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 221 sts. Work in garter stitch for 13 rows. Work in pattern stitch until piece measures 54.5" or desired length, end with row 6 of pattern. K 12 rows. Bind off all sts. Weave in all ends.

***** WENDY'S MOCK CABLE SCARF *****

Our thanks again to Wendy Stemple for sharing this scarf pattern. She recommends rustic tweed yarns for this project. Thanks, Wendy!

FINISHED SIZE: 7.5" X 60"

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn approx. 300 yards; knitting needles US size 8

GAUGE: 6 sts = 1" in pattern stitch.

MOCK CABLE PATTERN (multiple of 4 + 2)

Row 1 (WS): *K2, P2; repeat from * across, end K2.

Row 2: *P2; K2tog but do not take the sts off needle, knit the first stitch again and slip both sts off needle; rep from * across, end P2.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 46 sts. Work in pattern until piece measures 60", end WS. Bind off all sts. Weave in ends. Fringe, if desired.

***** KNITTING TIPS *****

Having trouble identifying the weight of that mystery yarn in your stash? Julie Charlebois folds a strand of the yarn in half and matches it up with the hole of her gauge check. If the doubled strand covers the hole, that is the size needle you should try for swatching (for example, if the doubled strand covers the US 8 hole, this should be in the worsted weight gauge range). Lisa Carnahan tells us that you can also try inserting the double strand through the hole, as a variation on the same suggestion...

When knitting modified drop and drop shoulders sweaters, taper the shoulders for a better fit. Bind off the shoulder stitches in three steps (at the shoulder edge three times), binding off one-third of the stitches in each step...

***** SHAPE IT UP WITH SHORT ROWS AND KNITTING FOR KIDS *****

From Carol Hurt of the Greater St. Louis Knitters' Guild; Knitter's News November 2006:

If you're a sock knitter, you've probably used short rows for the heels. In addition to socks, there are many uses for short rows.. Did you know Short Rows...

--- can add bust ease?

--- can make a shirt tail hem?

--- can be added to accommodate a rounded back?

--- make a beautiful shoulder shaping without "steps"?

--- can shape shawls?

--- make shaped gores for hats?

And a tip for knitting children's cardigans: Use different colored buttons down the front of a child's cardigan. Outline the buttonholes with a color to match the corresponding button. This will help the child line up the buttonholes with the correct button. Thanks, Carol!

***** NATURE'S FAVORITE COLOR *****

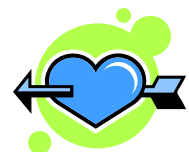
Green is the color that's most closely linked with nature, so we're used to seeing it as the background for all other colors. So, you can think of green -- in all its variations -- as a neutral shade. Other "crossover" colors commonly found in nature are sky blue, sunlight yellow -- we have become accustomed to seeing them in combination with many other hues. For that reason, these colors look good on almost everyone. Use them to expand on the colors found in your most flattering palette...

***** WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING *****

Cold weather outside and dry heat inside is a recipe for chapped, cracked skin as it loses moisture, and, with it, its barrier layer. Lois Ribblet recently shared her nightly skin treatment for nourishing hands. Before going to bed, Lois warms a jar of Vaseline petroleum jelly in hot water for a few minutes, applies liberally to her hands, then she puts on a pair of white gloves. This will help to heal your hands while you are sleeping. Thanks, Lois!

***** SOCKS ON TWO NEEDLES *****

Attention, sock mavens! Here's a tip from Carol Robinson which appeared on KnitNet: "If you are knitting a sock -- or even two socks at a time -- on two circular needles, use needles of two different colors. 'Color coding' makes it much easier to decide which point to use next". Kathy places stoppers on the ends of the "idle" needle not in use, which is also very helpful...



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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, February 5, 2007, and March 5, 2007, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. The night will feature knitting-related novels, interesting reads and fun knitting with fiber-loving friends in a cozy setting...



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

Tuesday evenings, February 13, 2007, and March 13, 2007, from 7 - 9 pm

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

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

Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

Adams Memorial Library Chemo Hat Program Wednesdays, February 21 & 28, 2007, and March 7 and 14, 2007; 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm sharp

This very worthwhile charity knitting program, co-ordinated by Tracey Earhart and the Library, returns for 8th time. Last year, through the generosity of local knitters, 130 caps were donated to the Arnold Palmer Pavilion at Excelsa Health Care. This program will teach beginners and intermediate knitters the necessary skills and how-to's for making a chemo hat in the round. PLYMOUTH YARNS "Encore" worsted weight yarn and a complimentary pattern will be distributed on February 21, 2007, at no charge. The student must supply a 16" circular knitting needle and double-pointed knitting needles in US size 7. Needles will be available to purchase that evening, or may be purchased in advance at Kathy's Kreations. Please mention that you are part of the library program to receive a 10% discount on supplies for this project through March 14, 2007. One ball of PLYMOUTH "Encore" will make one adult hat (man's or ladies'), or two child-sized hats. Crocheted caps are also welcomed.

Finished caps will be collected at the Library or may be dropped off here at Kathy's Kreations before March 14, 2007. Hats will be delivered to the Palmer Pavilion on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2007. Beginners are welcome, as well as experienced knitters to serve as mentors to assist with instructions. Please call the Adams Memorial Library at 724-539-1972 to register for the program or volunteer to help no later than February 14, 2007. These hats are so appreciated by hair-loss patients -- it's the ultimate handmade hug, so let's try to top last year's numbers...

"FUN FRIDAY" with instructor Joyce Bischoff: February 23, 2007, 10 am - 2 pm

It's fun, it's free -- join us to knit or crochet! Joyce is available for knitting help with your questions and skill-building. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

This February, stay warm by picking up some "sticks" and some "string", and making something beautiful with your hands.

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy