

Friendly Reminder: By order of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a face mask covering the nose and mouth is required to enter any business. Please use our hand sanitizer before shopping or touching merchandise, and practice social distancing.



**KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
JANUARY 2021 UPDATE**



Dear Stitchers,

Welcome, 2021! We're looking forward to what the New Year will bring. It's time for some serious knitting and crocheting projects. Ready to cast on your first project of 2021?

For starters, we're giving the winter classics you love a fresh new twist to keep you glowing all season long. This means super-soft accessories, toasty wraps, cozy socks, and a sweater or two that you love to live in. And all with the warmth, comfort and chic you deserve.

Steal the scene with a stole! INTERWEAVE KNITTING tells us: "Handknit shawls of all varieties – textured triangles, lacy circles, garter-stitch squares, and more – are great for adding a splash of color to your outfit or keeping the cold at bay. Of all the shawls out there, rectangular stoles are the easiest to wear, both style-wise and staying-on-your-shoulders-wise". Ask to see our CASAPINKA's *The Sharon Show*, *M's Sampler Shawl* and LISA KNITS *Nora's Shawl* for a couple of tried-and-true customer favorites that are sure to blend into your winter wardrobe.

Knitting and crocheting are even better now, when we're encouraged to stay home. It's a great time to be a knitter and crocheter!

**IT'S "WINTER WONDERLAND" MONTH!
10% off all purchases of all regularly-priced
bulky weight yarns in stock (CYCA #5, all brands)
throughout January 2021**

**STORE HOURS -- WE ARE OPEN!
10:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday, closed most Sundays
Please call us at 724-238-9320 for mail orders or curbside pick-up availability**

ICE FEST DATES tentatively scheduled for January 23 & 24, 2021

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX, Apple Pay & Google Pay

Private knitting and crocheting lessons

Instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services & gift cards 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

(Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)

"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry

#kathyknitz on Instagram

Find us at our Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Page



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



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Give winter a warm welcome – it's a New Year! Let's take the opportunity to expand our horizons and learn new things, in the safety and security of home. We're enthusiastic about new takes on so many favorites, with fresh hues, irresistible textures and delightful details.

Looking for your next favorite thing to stitch? If you're ready for something new, our latest collection has your comfort in mind as we optimistically move forward. We've got fabulous yarns in gorgeous colors, pattern ideas for cozy sweaters, and an entire grouping of shawls, cowls, hats and versatile accessories to inspire you. We can't wait to share it all with you. Ready? Set? Let's do this!

We're ringing in the New Year with EMMA'S YARN "Practically Perfect Sock" in the Crazy, Beautiful Club selection for January 2021 (\$26.95, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% superwash merino /20% nylon, CYCA #2, shown upper left). January's color is an amazing blend of soft neutrals speckled over a light blue background evoking Pantone's color of the year 2021 (see page 5, upper right), a gentle colorway that's perfect for cozy nights spent knitting.

Emma tells us that the January 2021 selection would knit up into a cool *Lazy Hiker* shawl, a design by Laura Dobratz (\$5.00 Ravelry Pro download, available here, shown page 5, lower right). This is a simple and entertaining crescent-shaped wrap to knit, with easy garter stripes alternating with eye-catching lace sections. There are modifications for sport weight and gradient fingering weight versions. New-to-us shades have arrived in "Super Silky" (\$29.95, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% superwash merino/20% silk, CYCA #2) & "Beautifully Basic" (\$26.95, 100 grams, 438 yards, 100% superwash merino, CYCA #2)...

LANG YARNS "London Superwash" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 110 yards, 70% virgin wool/30% acrylic, CYCA #4) will keep you warm this winter! And that's precisely what you want from your new cardigan, sweater, hat or scarf. London's thicker thread also means that it crochets and knits up wonderfully quickly. It is a heavy worsted blend of wool and acrylic, which gives the yarn a slightly glossy sheen. Striking colors are interwoven with a black base to create a very dramatic look. The yarn is quite robust which makes it easier to work with and more addictive to knit with. Use it for hats, cowls and sweaters that have extra depth from this roving yarn's marled shades and keep cozy warm in style this winter! Choose your favorite color and let's get started...

A perfect choice for warm winter knits, ROWAN "Brushed Fleece" (\$13.95, 50 grams, 115 yards, 65% wool/30% alpaca/5% polyamide, CYCA #5) has a gentle halo and soft marl color effect that combines beautifully with its superb palette of neutrals and richer shades. Due to its chunky finish, "Brushed Fleece" is not only quick to knit, but it's very much a lightweight yarn that's easy to wear and super cozy...

Yarn alert! We are incredibly excited to provide you with the first look at our new HiKoo "Sueno Tweed" (\$18.50, 100 grams, 255 yards, 69% superwash merino wool/16% bamboo viscose/19% Donegal Viscose, CYCA #3) shown lower right ! We will be introducing this new addition in late

January. This tweedy adaptation of everyone's favorite merino/bamboo fusion features seven spirited colorways which incorporate coordinating flecks that provide a balanced pop of color and depth. What will you make with this wonderful new yarn? Some ideas include CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS *Tea Leaf Shawl & Scarf*, *Two Point Cowl*, a pair of *LaceBack Fingerless Gloves* or



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

ROWAN pompoms (\$38.50, shown upper right) are a luxury puff of fur for beanies, scarves, a fun bag accessory, and more. Soft, fluffy, furry and 100% vegan fiber, the faux-fur pompoms are a welcome addition to any hat! Handmade in Austria, from the first cut to the last seam, these pompoms come with an integral ribbon for easy attachment, and are available in a range of natural shades...



© Kathy's Kreations

Following recent supply chain delays, we are pleased that some of our favorite yarns that have been back ordered for some time are once again arriving on our shelves:

- SIRDAR “Jewelspan” (\$13.95, 200 grams, 546 yards, 100% acrylic, CYCA #4) is a unique self-stripping Aran weight acrylic yarn, comprised of a single ply with a tight twist and generous yardage. It blends opulent colors to mimic the look of hand-dyed yarns. The frequent color shifts will add extra fun and dimension to your knitting and crocheting projects. Easy to care and machine washable, “Jewelspan” is a great choice for everything from hats, cowls and scarves to kids’ wear and afghans.
- SIRDAR “Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK” (\$10.50, 50 grams, 127 yards, 75% superfine merino/20% silk/5% cashmere, CYCA #3) was created to be the ultimate choice for baby projects. True to its name, it gives blankets, soft toys and sweaters a luxurious finish and feel. This reassuringly delicate, soft yarn is kind to sensitive skin and its machine washability on a wool cycle makes it ideal for babies. Made in Italy, this gorgeous yarn creates wonderfully textured knits, and the subtle color palettes makes it easy to combine shades for the perfect mix. We recommend the darling “Matelot” pattern 6013 (\$5.50), a unisex striped pullover with overlapping shoulder tabs for your sweet little one. Pair it with an easy striped beanie pattern 1242 (\$5.50) for a cute set...
- In BERROCO “Sesame” (\$16.95, 100 grams, 230 yards, 43% wool/39% acrylic/9% cotton/9% nylon, CYCA #4), wool, acrylic, cotton and nylon come together for a unique yarn flecked with color and texture. Pop your finished knit or crochet creations into the washing machine for easy care. We love hearing customer rave reviews and seeing all the lovely scarves and accessories you have made with this fabulous yarn!
- Colorful fresh shades of DREAM IN COLOR “Smoochy Cashmere” are here (\$34.50, 4 oz., 400 yards, 70% superwash merino/20% cashmere/10% nylon, CYCA #2). Stay tuned for more information regarding 2021 clubs, collections and colorways. In the meantime, start the year with feel-good shades in a project knit by you for you (a well-deserved splurge)...

The most-requested knit project-of-the-moment is the *Felix Pullover* (\$7.00 Ravelry Pro download). This is a basic, cropped, top-down raglan with a delicate eyelet motif incorporated into the raglan increases, designed by Amy Christoffers to be the perfect sweater to layer over tunics, dresses or high-waisted pants. A separate cardigan version is also available (\$7.00). We suggest BERROCO “Mercado” for these sweaters (\$11.50, 100 grams, 164 yards, 100% Peruvian Highland wool, CYCA #5)...



© Kathy's Kreations

By request, Kathy Zimmerman has re-introduced her popular hat and cowl set, *Back Seat Driver* (\$5.00, shown lower left). The duo features a richly textured garter and rib pattern, knit in the round. The photographed model was knit using HiKOO “Sueno Worsted” (\$17.50, 100 grams, 182 yards, 80% merino superwash/20% viscose from bamboo, CYCA #4). Thanks to Gail Grabow for test knitting our updated model...



*** JANUARY 2021 KNIT ALONG (KAL) ***

Our January 2021 knit along (KAL), *Festival of Stitches*, comes highly recommended by customers Carla L and Mary Lou F. This fun and playful project from designer Lisa Hannes promises to keep you engaged from start to finish. Different sections make it almost addictive and it knits up quickly. The finished item will add a wonderful

highlight to your daily wardrobe with a shape that is versatile and easy to wear.

While there's lots of colorwork in the pattern, the stitches are rather uncomplicated – mosaic, slipped stitches and color blocking. There are also some cables, eyelets and stripes, but no super complicated techniques are used in this pattern. Each section contains fully written instructions and charts so you can choose which you prefer to work with. Every section in this pattern is completely adjustable to your liking or the yarn/yardage you have available. Designed for fingering weight yarn in 3 contrasting colors, this pattern was originally released as a mystery knit along, and it is still in its original format with the separate clues (Ravelry Pro download, \$6.83 US).

Join us in person every Friday during January 2021 (rsvp please, occupancy limited) to work on this project or any other project purchased here in person from 10:00 am–2:00 pm or follow along on our January 2021 thread on our Ravelry group, We Love Kathy's...

*** UPCOMING CLASSES (please call 724-238-9320 to register for all classes) ***

PLEASE NOTE: CLASS IS SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY AND WILL BE DEPENDENT ON HEALTH SAFETY CONCERNS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PA DEPT OF HEALTH

Let's Knit A Hat! is a fun learning opportunity offered by instructor Karen McCullough on **Tuesday, January 12, 2021; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**. This year-long series of skill-building techniques will include cast ons, colorwork, stitch patterns, shaping and more as you learn to make a different hat in each session -- it's a year of hats and it's not too late to join in! This class project features striped hat **CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS *Up And About Striped Beanie*** (shown lower right). This lesson will focus on new techniques cable cast-on and corrugated ribbing with a little colorwork, a little striping and a lot of fun. "First, a graphic textured corrugated ribbing in two colors marches around the brim. Then, an ascending series of stripes taper off towards the crown. Pick high contrast colors for some graphic oomph or a pair of tonal hues for subtle cool". Class supplies include 150 yards each sport weight yarn in two contrasting colors, US size 4 circular needles in 16" length, US size 4 double-pointed needles, 5 stitch markers (one contrasting) and your knitting bag with usual gadgets. Registration fee is \$20.00 per session...

Our *Building Blocks* class series continues on **Tuesday, January 19, 2021; 1:00 pm -3:00 pm** with instructor Karen McCullough and a frequently asked-for class – interpreting knitting pattern charts. A knitting chart is a graph with symbols representing the pattern stitches. Charts are a simple, popular way to convey knitting directions while providing the knitter with a visual cue to the finished design. This knitting series was designed by Michelle Hunter specifically to help grow your skills while you navigate through major knitting techniques and principles while knitting sampler squares. Each class will focus upon a technique to broaden your understanding. Each of the 12 patterns isolates a new skill, which you master with confidence before moving on to a more advanced concept. At the completion of the series, the reward is an abundance of knitting know-how along with gorgeous blocks to assemble into a sampler afghan. The recommended yarn is HiKOO "Simpliworsted", a lovely blend of superwash merino and premium acrylic/nylon that is very soft and durable. Registration fee is \$20.00 per session plus purchase of book and yarn from Kathy's Kreations. Want to learn more? Please give us a call at 724-238-9320 for information on any of our upcoming classes or to schedule a private knit or crochet lesson...



*** THE COLOR OF THE YEAR 2021 ***

Ultimate Gray (medium gray) and Illuminating (lemon yellow), two independent colors that highlight how different elements come together to support one another, best express the mood for Pantone Color of the Year 2021. Practical and rock solid but at the same time warming and optimistic, this union is one of strength and positivity. It is a story of color that encapsulates deeper feelings of thoughtfulness with the uplifting promise of something sunny and friendly, supported by fortitude...



© Pantone
Fashion Institute

*** SOOTHING STITCHING AS A MOOD BOOSTER ***

Several friends of our LYS recommended an article written by Kate Atherley published in *The New York Times* on December 19, 2020. Here are excerpts:

“Already an excellent winter activity in an ordinary year, knitting is even better suited to 2021, when we’re encouraged to stay home and restrict our social circles ... But the craft can also trigger mental health benefits. Many studies have been published that show knitting helps to manage chronic pain, improve cognitive function and even increase happiness. Perhaps most relevant in these uncertain times, a survey of knitters taken last year by the Abo Akademi University in Finland indicated that they felt knitting ‘can be a counterbalance to a stressful job, hectic lifestyle or other demanding situations in life’...

It’s well known in knitting circles that there are two types of knitters: those that focus on the results – a comfortable sweater, mittens to match a new winter coat, a gift for an upcoming baby shower – and those who focus on the process. Process knitters knit for knitting’s sake. They value the soothing repetitive motion and the feel of the yarn running through their fingers, relish the colors, the act of creation. They enjoy the good things that come with it, without having to fuss about their work being perfect, or their scarf being stylish. If you are thinking of picking up knitting, think of it as meditation with a little bit of equipment. Approach it for the joy of the process and to take some pressure off. (Also, it’s a good way to keep your hands out of the candy bowl if you want to change your eating habits.)

And, if the result is something that can keep you (or a friend or family member) warm, it’s a fantastic bonus. Just think: Scarves! Hats! Mittens! Sweaters! Stylish statements, gifts for loved ones, blankets to welcome new babies. Once you become more accomplished, you’ll be a mitten machine.

Rubee Dewji, a Canadian software developer who lives on her own, took up knitting in the early spring at the encouragements of some friends. Before the pandemic, Ms. Dewji, 31, filled her spare time playing music in bands; she found playing on her own during lockdown just emphasized her loneliness. ‘I’ve mostly made things for other people, and I realized that when you are making something for someone you love, you are thinking about them with every single stitch, and somehow that feels less lonely even though I am doing it all alone,’ she said.”

*** “PLAN AHEAD” TIPS AND TRICKS ***

- Always leave a long tail when casting on for use in seaming – less ends to bury!
- Start new yarn ends at the beginning of a row and bury the tail into seams and not into the knitted fabric. Knitted fabric moves and stretches and this will keep ends from popping out of your work.
- When seaming the body of a garment, work an extra yard or two into the side seam to be used for mending holes, if needed. For a cardigan, sew in an extra button if one needs to be replaced.
- If a garment is worked with a bulky or textured yarn, use a smooth yarn in a matching color for working the seams, to make them neater, more stable and less bulky.



© tophatfancy

*** NAN'S DISHCLOTH ***

Thank you to all the marvelous knitters, crocheters and crafters who donated dishcloths and ornaments for the "We Care" tree displayed in our shop windows in December 2020. Your support by making these items is greatly appreciated and they will soon be on their way for local distribution through the area Food Bank.

Nan R generously shared her vintage checkboard dishcloth pattern with us (shown right). Thanks, Nan!

Finished Size: Approx. 9" X 10-1/2"

Materials: Worsted weight cotton, approx. 150 yards (our photographed dishcloth used Plymouth Yarn *Fantasy Naturale*, shade 5398); US size 8 knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge

Gauge: 18 stitches = 4" in stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl one row)

Directions: Cast on 40 stitches loosely.

Row 1 (right side): Knit.

Rows 2–7 : Knit.

Row 8: Knit 4, purl 32, knit 4.

Row 9: Knit 6; *Purl 4, knit 2; repeat from * to last 4 stitches, end knit 4.

Row 10: *Knit 4, purl 2; repeat from * to last 4 stitches, end knit 4.

Rows 11 & 12: Repeat rows 9 and 10 once more.

Row 13: Knit.

Row 14: Knit 4, purl 32, knit 4.

Row 15: Knit 4, purl 3; *knit 2, purl 4; repeat from * to last 9 stitches, end knit 2, purl 3, knit 4.

Row 16: Knit 7; *purl 2, knit 4; repeat from * to last 9 stitches, end purl 2, knit 7.

Rows 17 & 18: Repeat rows 15 & 16 once more.

Rows 19 through 66: Repeat rows 7 through 18 four more times.

Rows 67 through 72: Knit.

Bind off all stitches. Weave in ends.



*** V-8 SOUP ***

Nan R also shared her card club's recipe for a delicious, hearty soup that is sure to warm up your spirits on a chilly winter day. Kathy added the onion, parsley and soup greens.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground meat (Kathy used 90% lean beef, but OK to use ground turkey or chicken)
- 2 large bottles V-8 vegetable juice
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 large bag frozen mixed vegetable
- 1 bag shredded "angel hair" cabbage or 1 small head cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp. parsley
- 2 tbsp. dehydrated soup greens (optional)

In large Dutch oven, brown meat and onion. When meat no longer pink, add V-8 and bring to a boil. Add vegetables and soup greens, then cabbage. Cook until cabbage tender (about 20 minutes).

This recipe allows for easy experimenting with other veggies and herbs. Thanks, Nan!

*** ICE FEST 2021 ***

The 30th annual Ligonier Chamber of Commerce Ice Fest is scheduled for January 23–24, 2021. This is a fun-filled weekend of ice sculptures, outdoor events and indoor merchant sales around the Diamond. Stay tuned for any changes or modifications to this year's event.



*** SPRING BREAK 2021 ANNOUNCEMENT ***

Kathy's Kreations invites you to join us for our 10th annual "Spring Break" Knitting Workshop Weekend, to be held **April 16-18, 2021**, hosted by Kathy Zimmerman. We are delighted to announce that Cynthia Spencer of Pine Grove Mills, PA will be our featured instructor (Cynthia's photo, shown upper left). Kathy first met Cynthia at the Knitter's Day Out, where her classes received rave reviews. More recently, Cynthia and friend Valerie Reed teamed up to design the popular *Pennsylvania Road Trip Mystery Shawl*, our most knit pattern of 2020. This knit along was very popular with our customers. And now, we are bringing her to Ligonier!

Cynthia Spencer has spent the past 15 years writing patterns and surrounding herself with knitting, quilting, color, and creativity. Her *Really Clear* pattern series came about as a result of working with hundreds of knitters and learning what they wanted in a pattern. She loves it when knitters understand how to make whatever they want to make!

Cynthia will be teaching a nine-hour knitting workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA with colorwork knitting topics.

WEEKEND DETAILS

The weekend package includes an after-hours Soup & Sliders party and special shopping time at Kathy's Kreations (Friday evening); an informal meet & greet on Friday evening to get acquainted; an optional Friday evening knit-along; morning coffee breaks and two lunches at the Ramada; classes Saturday and Sunday; extended lunch break on Saturday with time to shop in the pretty little town of Ligonier and goodie bags.

Registration is \$250 per person. Overnight lodging is not included and is optional for local participants. The Ramada has set up a special rate for us, so please make your own reservations by calling 724-238-9545. Space is limited on a first-come, first-served basis, and the workshop is already half-filled. Please e-mail or call Kathy at 724-238-9320 for more information.

SKILL LEVEL

Intermediate to advanced

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

About *Make A Million Shawl* (shown lower right), Cynthia tells us: "This 'recipe pattern' will allow you to combine different colors and textures to create a beautiful shawl! You can use any type of yarn for this shawl. Start with 3 or 4 colors (all the same weight), and if you need to buy more, you can do that later! Bring a long circular needle two sizes larger than the yarn normally takes. (ex., If you're making this shawl out of fingering weight yarn, you should bring a size 4 or 5 long needle.)" The pattern is *Make A Million Shawl* by Really Clear Designs, and will be provided by Kathy's Kreations.

There is nothing like Fair Isle to give the knitter the creativity to combine vibrant colors with stunning patterns. Fair Isle is traditionally done using one yarn in each hand. This sounds intimidating, but it's easier than you think -- and far more addicting than you ever bargained for. This pattern *Fair Isle Headband* (shown page 8, lower right) will also be provided by Kathy's Kreations and contains two different headbands. The first has just two colors, and the second amps up your skill level with a few more!

On Sunday, we will talk mitered squares. "The project for this day will be open-ended, but we'll give you ideas for hats or scarves." Cynthia will have a general mitered-square handout





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

Your safety and well-being are our utmost concern. All in-shop events are slowly resuming in compliance with the extended social distancing and health safety guidelines. We are limiting the number of attendees and social distancing at our Friday knit-alongs and all classes, so please call ahead for space availability. For everyone's health safety, a face mask covering both nose and mouth is required, as well as the use of hand sanitizer upon entry. Please check in with our Facebook page (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA) and Instagram (#kathyknitz) for updated information.

***** JANUARY KNIT-ALONG (KAL) *****

Stop by on Fridays during January 2021 from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please, as occupancy is limited) to work on our newest KAL with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature a Lisa Hannes project, *Festival of Stitches*, with a variety of fun stitches in a colorwork rectangular shawl. Not working on the KAL? **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 January 2021 thread...

***** FUN FRIDAY, January 15, 2021; 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. RSVP please, as occupancy is limited.

***** "LET'S KNIT A HAT!" Tuesday, January 12, 2021; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *****

***** "BUILDING BLOCKS" Tuesday, January 19, 2021; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *****

***** 30th annual icefest Saturday and Sunday, January 23–24, 2021 *****

It's a spectacular weekend of sparkling ice sculptures around the Diamond, fun outdoor activities and merchant indoor sales. Please check with us regarding any changes in schedule or modifications due to CDC or Department of Health restrictions. At the time of our newsletter publication, plans are still in place.

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 specialized skills 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 40 years!

Thank you for supporting this local yarn shop throughout the year. We are striving to maintain and bolster our knitting and crocheting community, even under current necessary restrictions. Be soothed by the colors and textures of your stitch work, value its meditative nature, and embrace mistakes as part of the learning process.

May your New Year be healthy, prosperous and joyful. Make a resolution to give yourself more time to knit and crochet. Give of yourself and to yourself. **KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!**

Kathy

