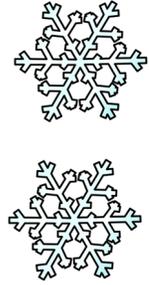




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JANUARY 2024 UPDATE



Dear Stitches,

For millions of people, the most magical time of year is winter. Towns like Ligonier provide visitors with something entertaining to do throughout the winter months. In addition to skiing at three area resorts, snowmobiling and other winter sports, merchant shopping, carriage rides, and our annual Icefest are part of the celebrations. We encourage you to get out and enjoy yourself, taking advantage of the best the cold weather has to offer right here in the Laurel Highlands.

If indoor sports are more appealing to you, it's a great time to settle in for a long winter's night with a new knit or crochet project. This is prime stitching season, and a wonderful opportunity to make something special for yourself. If you've never knit a sweater, our *Marly Cardi* knit along is a great way to start. Make learning something new a priority New Year's resolution, and we'll be glad to help you with that!

In addition to a scarf or two, projects on our shopgals' long list of queues for winter are hats, mittens and shawls. We've been busy refreshing our project ideas and doing a reset with all-new shop samples for sweater season. Don't be left out in the cold!

Whether you're hitting the slopes or the streets, be sure to layer up and that's where we come in with a fantastic selection of yarns and project ideas plus the how-to's to make it all happen. We invite you to come visit us in the winter wonderland that is Ligonier and discover our enchanting collection of cozy style makers...

IT'S "SNUGGLE UP!" Month!

All regularly-priced super bulky CYCA #6 yarns in stock
are 10% off during January 2024

STORE HOURS

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday

Closed most Sundays, but

Open for IceFest January 19 - 21, 2024

We accept MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Tap & Pay

Private knitting, crocheting lessons & "help" 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 US -- E-MAIL US

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 Chamber of Commerce Member Page

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



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Winter is in full swing! With a couple more months of chilly weather ahead, what better time is there to treat ourselves to something cozy and warm? An extra-special skein or two of a luxurious yarn is sure to keep us cozy throughout the season, as we stitch it and then, as we wear it...

Our January 2024 EMMA'S YARN Crazy Beautiful Club colorway is alluringly vibrant and so super cool, a happy twist on winter blues and the perfect way to kick off a new year full of Crazy Beautiful colors. EMMA develops a new color every month that's exclusive to Crazy Beautiful yarn shops like us, providing our customers to early access. Available here on base "Super Silky" (\$31.00, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% super-wash merino/20% silk, CYCA #2, shown upper left)...

Did you know that half of all New Year's resolutions are broken as soon as the end of January? Cynthia Spencer of REALLY CLEAR DESIGNS has experienced this personally and is on a mission to solve the problem. Her beautiful crescent-shaped *Resolution Shawl* (\$5.99, Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown page 8 upper left) provides a bit of motivation to keep resolutions -- and better yet, to form them into solid habits to take you through the new year the right way. Here's how it works: Make three resolutions. Then buy a background yarn, which is your resolution to "knit". And buy three other colors that go with it. Each color represents one of your resolutions. Any weight yarn will work! Estimated yardages for fingering 1200 - 1600; Sport 1000 - 1500; worsted 800 - 1200; Aran 750 - 1150. Each day, when you do one of the resolutions, you can knit that section (as the sections, get larger, just knit a row or two so you don't get overwhelmed). Don't work on more than one section a day. The idea is to work at a small, steady pace so that you can build the habits and keep the resolutions. Cynthia will release the full pattern instructions on January 1, 2024 morning...

BERROCO YARN's stylish *Linton Mittens* by Brenda York feature a classic colorwork motif made in two colors of "Mercado" yarn. Keep your hands toasty all winter long with these wonderfully warm mittens (pattern \$6.00, shown page seven upper right). "Mercado" is our Aran weight, 100% Peruvian Highland wool yarn (\$12.50, 100 grams, 164 yards, 100% Peruvian Highland wool, CYCA #4). This classic yarn is great for colorwork, cables and so much more. These could be your next masterpiece...

Welcome to the *Basket Loop* beanie, a free Ravelry pattern download! This beginner-friendly pattern aims to equip you with the essential steps to create a cozy and stylish beanie using basic knitting techniques. Whether you're new to knitting or seeking a quick project, this pattern provides a straightforward yet rewarding experience. Instructions are available in charted form and written out. One size fits an average adult. Choose a skein of our Aran weight yarn selection and let's get started...

Josue's Hat (\$5.99 Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown lower right) combines simplicity with style. Using an easy slipped-stitch pattern alternated with rounds of knitting, this hat is a journey into color and creativity. This hat makes a quick gift. Use at least three colors to say hello to a new accessory. The knitting is so easy that you can watch a good movie as you knit, but so captivating that you won't be able to put it down (and then it will be done!). Directions give you the choice of either a classic beanie or a laid-back slouch hat to accommodate everyone's taste. Use your choice of DK, worsted, or Aran weight yarn -- we selected MALABRIGO "Rios" (\$17.50, 218 yards, 100 grams, 100% superwash merino, CYCA #4). This pattern is sized for toddler through adult large and is sure to become an instant favorite...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The cat is out of the bag! Last year, we received a limited shipment of CHIAOGOO Forte interchangeable needle sets. To our amazement, they sold out in JUST ONE DAY! If you weren't able to get yours then, Forte 2.0 is being released by CHIAOGOO in early 2024! Touted to be the creme de la creme of knitting needle sets, this set has everything in one convenient zippered case. There are a limited number of sets available to us so be sure to get your pre-order in now! The sets are expected to be here in mid-January, first come, first served. Call us at 724-238-9320 to reserve yours. Included with the Forte 2.0 set:



- 14 pairs of 5" (13 cm) tips in sizes US 2 - 15 (2.75 mm - 10 mm), including US 2.5 (3 mm).
 US 2 - 8 tips are made of stainless steel and carbon fiber
 US 9 - 15 tips are made of stainless steel and blackwood
- Six silver, memory-free, multi-strand steel SWIV260 cables as follows:
 two 14" (35 cm) -- one each [S] & [L] to make 24"/60 cm circulars
 two 22" (55 cm) -- one each [S] & [L] to make 32"/80 cm circulars
 two 30" (75 cm) -- one each [S] & [L] to make 40"/100 cm circulars
- Three [S] red TWIST, memory-free, multi-strand steel cables (14"/35 cm, 22"/55 cm & 30"/75 cm)
- Accessories: stainless steel scissors, four end stoppers, 20 stitch markers, measuring tape, two tightening keys, four cable connectors, one heart-shaped gripper, two darning needles, two [L] - [S] adapters, a swatch/needle gauge, and two safety pins
- Elegant and functional REACH compliant man-made material case with a full zipper enclosure; double-sided removable needle board that firmly houses all tips; elastic that securely holds but gives easy access to accessories; as well as four pockets to hold the rest of your knitting supplies including a pattern or notes.

We are re-Toshing the shop! MADELINE TOSH Hue of the Moment for January 2024 is "Spicy Ramen" and is available here on sock yarn "Twist Light" (\$29.95, 118 grams, 474 yards, 75% superwash wool/25% nylon, CYCA #1), "Tosh DK" (\$30.50, 225 yards, 100% superwash merino, CYCA #3) and "A.S.A.P." (\$33.50, 90 yards, 100% merino wool, single ply, CYCA #6). This hot and spicy shade is perfect for easy beanie hats to warm your noodle (pun intended), as well as cozy socks. A free download code of Lena Skvagerson's 1-skein *Warm Noodle Beanie* hat pattern (shown upper right page 6) is available with your "A.S.A.P." purchase.

MADELINE TOSH super bulky yarn "A.S.A.P." is also perfect for CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS "Double Split Color-Blocked Cowl" (\$6.00, Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations). Reversible and seamless, this quick-knit cozy cowl is a double treat! Cleverly constructed with splits on opposing sides, you'll see a little peek-a-boo of contrasting color when worn. With the brilliant paintbox of MAD TOSH, you'll be sure to find a combination on our shelves that works beautifully in your wardrobe. Which color will you show off today?

DREAM IN COLOR's current Pop-Up Club brings a feeling of joy and fun. Dyer Veronica Van has added all of her favorite bright happy colors -- lime green, hot pink, rich purple and bright teal-- for the shade she calls "Season of Light". It's available here now on base "Smoochy Cashmere" (\$36.50, 4 oz., 400 yards, 70% superwash merino/20% cashmere/10% nylon, shown lower left). We are pleased to announce that we will once again be participating as a stockist for DREAM IN COLOR's Dyer's Choice Quarterly Auto-Ship. Get inspired with new shipments to our large inventory of best-seller "Smoochy Cashmere" arriving in mid-January, March, June and September. It's always a pleasant surprise, some old favorites and new shades, too!





*** JANUARY 2024 KNIT ALONG ***

Ready to knit a sweater now that the holiday knitting is done? Make a New Year's resolution to knit something beautiful for yourself. Our January 2023 knit along is MANOS DEL URUGUAY's *Marly Cardi*, beginning 1/2/2024 (shown upper left). It will feature two strands of contrasting sport weight alpaca/wool blend "Alpaca Heather" yarn held together, with the two fibers coming together to create a rich heathery palette. Get ready to start your first project of 2024 and ring in the New Year right.

Come knit with us every Friday throughout January 2024 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to work on this, or any other project purchased here at Kathy's Kreations (we're crochet friendly, too!). If you can't join us in person, please post your progress on our Ravelry page, *We Love Kathy's*; Instagram (#kathyknits) or Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)...

*** SPRING BREAK 2024 ***

Our Spring Break workshop at the Ramada Inn of historic Ligonier will coincide with LYS Day weekend, April 26 - 28, 2024. AND, our instructor will be master knitter Tanis Gray, whose fabulous knitting designs have been featured in many major publications and books worldwide (over 650 published designs in her portfolio). Classes will include the Ride or Die Cowl Workshop (a unique lace brocade stitch) Saturday morning, Confectionary Cowl Workshop (an unusual lace pattern) Saturday afternoon, and Create Your Own Cable Adventure Workshop (we love cables!) on Sunday morning. At this time, this event is sold out, but we will be glad to add you to our waiting list if a space becomes available. Please contact Kathy at 724-238-9320 for further details...

*** UPCOMING "LET'S KNIT" SERIES ***

Our "Let's Knit" class series with instructor Karen McCullough resumes on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**. It's a New Year, a new project, *Knit Envelope Cardigan* (shown upper right page 5, free Ravelry pattern download). If you've been searching for the perfect layering cardigan, look no further! Fold yourself up in the *Knit Envelope Cardigan*, knit in worsted weight yarn, and it'll be the highlight of your winter/spring wardrobe. Featuring a delicate, textured stitch, a shawl collar and 1/2 length bat-wing sleeves, this cardigan hits all the right notes. Class supplies include worsted weight yarn 1050 - 1470 yards from our shelves (depending on size chosen) and US size 7 knitting needles. Registration fee is \$20, please call Kathy at 724-238-9320. Karen is also available for knitting and crocheting "HELP" by appointment (anything from pattern interpretation to how-to's), with beginners and newbies always welcome...

Let's face it. If you've never done Fair Isle colorwork before or haven't been happy with your stranded knitting attempts, it can be intimidating! Kathy Zimmerman has a class for you, to help you build your skills and get more comfortable with colorwork. Join her on **Saturday, January 20, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. In this class, you will learn Kathy's two-handed, two-color method for working Fair Isle, and how to evenly tension the yarn. She will also share her tips for how to hold the dominant color for best colorwork results. The class project is CASAPINKA's *Little Frankie Hat* (shown lower right). Students must be able to work knit stitches in the round and be familiar with how to work a decrease. Registration is \$20 per student for instruction, plus purchase of pattern and DK project yarn from Kathy's Kreations. Additional class supplies include US sizes 5 and 6 16" circular knitting needles, US size 6 double-pointed needles and a circular row counter or beginning of round stitch marker. There is pre-class homework (working a small amount of ribbing in advance will allow for more meaningful class time to work on the colorwork technique). Class size is limited. Please call Kathy at 724-238-9320 to register...



*** LOOKING AHEAD ***

We are delighted to announce that we will be participating in a new MALABRIGO knit along in March featuring a beautiful shawl designed by Jill Tamminen from KNIT SISU. This lovely pattern was designed for "Dos Tierras", one of MALABRIGO's most special yarns. "Dos Tierras" is the fusion of two unique worlds -- of pasture and mountain, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, sheep and alpaca. It is a symbol of cooperation and appreciation for the natural treasures that surrounds us. A legacy that we wish to multiply with every stitch and knot. This knit along will also include the release of 6 new colors in "Dos Tierras", prior to the event. Please note that we will be ordering yarn for this event, and will honor special orders for color combinations. However, it is hand dyed and may take several weeks to receive, so if you are planning to participate, please be aware of this and order ahead...



©Julia Madill

*** THOUGHTS ON THE MAKING SEASON ***

"When you learn to make things with your hands, you begin to awaken an awareness of the beauty and value of things in your life. Handmaking teaches us about slowness: the antidote to brevity and efficiency. It shows us, through patience and the skillfulness of our own hands, what goes into a thing.

When we put those long efforts into bringing beauty into the world, we are honoring that which made us by creating as we have been created. We are taught to respect the slow, attentive piecing together of the life we yearn for. Stitch by stitch, we apprentice the craft. We work in tandem with mystery, feeling its rhythms awaken in our bone-memory.

As the hands work, the mind is stilled and a greater listening is engaged as we drop down into the deep rhythm of devotion, where the whole world is in communion. The ferns unfurl, the rosebud flattens, and the song of creation can be heard".

toko-pa Turner, excerpt from *Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home*
www.belongingbook.com

*** LITTLE WINTER SHAWLETTE ***

A big "thank you" to Susanne Shahin (orientbayerin on Ravelry) for granting permission for us to reprint her top 20 design, *Kleines Wintertuchlein*, translating to *Little Winter Shawlette* (shown lower left). The original pattern can be found as a free Ravelry download at orientbayerin's Ravelry Store. We have quite a selection of beautiful hand-dyed fingering weight yarns that would look fabulous in this pattern.

MATERIALS: Approximately 440 yards fingering weight yarn; US 4 or US 5 circular knitting needle 32" length

GAUGE: not critical

ABBREVIATIONS: kfb - knit front and back (increase); k- knit; p- purl

DIRECTIONS

Cast on 3 stitches with method of choice, turn work.

Row 1: Purl 3 stitches, turn work.

Row 2: kfb, k1, kfb.

Row 3: kfb, p3, kfb.

Row 4: kfb, k5, kfb.

Row 5: kfb, k across to last stitch, kfb.

Row 6: kfb, p across to last stitch, kfb.

Repeat rows 5 & 6 for pattern.

NOTE: Always kfb the first and last stitch of EVERY ROW (two increases per row). Continue in pattern until desired size or until enough yarn remains to bind off. Bind off all stitches loosely.



©Susanne Shahin

*** TIPS AND TRICKS ***

From Yarn Inspirations (Instagram): One of the ways to create a smoother side edge when working with single crochet stitches is to eliminate the turning chain completely, and work a chainless single crochet. Instructions:

- 1) Do Not Chain
- 2) Remove the hook from the working loop to eliminate the twist of the loop
- 3) Turn work, then re-insert hook back into the stitch
- 4) Place your first single crochet into the first stitch and proceed as usual.



If you knit or crochet, you probably have figured out that there's math involved. Your pattern may direct you to increase a certain number of stitches evenly spaced, but it does not tell you the specific sequence. Here's the formula for working out the number of stitches you need to do in between each increase in your row/round, whether knitting or crocheting. Take the number of stitches in your current row/round, and divide that number by the number of increases you need to do, then subtract 1. That will give you an equal number of stitches, evenly spaced...

Knitters, have you ever used a crochet hook to bind off your knitting? Normally, knitting needles are used to bind off stitches. In an effort to reduce tension in your hands, try binding off with a crochet hook in the same size as the knitting needle used for the project. The angle of the stitches is less difficult to pick up. Simply insert the crochet hook into the live stitch, wrap the yarn around the hook and pull through to create a stitch (two stitches on the crochet hook), then bind off in the usual manner by pulling the first stitch over the new one. It might just prove helpful for trigger finger, arthritis, or carpal tunnel issues...

From Karen McC, gleaned from the Internet: The soft ends of a cotton bud (i.e., Q tip) can be repurposed as an effective and lightweight cable needle. This hack is handy for those delicate cable patterns where a weightier needle might distort the stitches. Keep a few cotton buds in your crafting tote for holding stitches at the back or front of your work. A great travel tip!

To knit neat edges with a simple garter texture scarf: *With yarn in front, slip the first stitch purlwise, take yarn over needle and knit the next st (creates a yarn over), then knit to the last 2 sts, k2tog. Repeat for every row. #laknitsapparel (Instagram)

From thisisknit, Instagram: Your needle tips do not always need to match, especially when using interchangeable needles. If you're knitting in the round, you can switch out the left hand needle tip for a smaller size without impacting your tension at all. Your stitch gauge is determined by the needle tip in your right hand. Why is this useful? If you're a tighter knitter, it can help your stitches to flow more easily from tip to tip. If you're a knitter on a deadline, it may help you knit faster. Also, if you're a disorganized knitter, you may be able to find only one correct needle tip size!

*** BEST SELLERS 2023 (DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!) ***

Our top five best-selling yarns for 2023

5. Plymouth Encore Worsted
4. Malabrigo Rasta
3. Malabrigo Rios
2. Emma's Yarn Super Silky
1. Dream in Color Smooshy Cashmere

Our top five best-selling patterns for 2023

5. The Snark-o-Meter by Casapinka
4. Powder Wrap by Casapinka
3. Broken Wings by Joji Locatelli
2. Golden Hour by Kathy Zimmerman
1. Just One More Row by Kathy Zimmerman

*** THE KNITTER: A POEM BY A KNITTER'S HUSBAND ***

Knit one, purl one
Then you knit another one
Knit two, purl two
Then you knit another few

Miss a stitch, bait and switch
That is how to scratch your itch
Is it a skein or a ball?
That really is not my call

Try it on, does it fit?
Every time she knits a mitt
Sew it up, add a thumb
Then she knits the other one

Need a toque, for your dome?
That is what she does at home
I can't speak or make a sound
Especially when she's trying to count

Now as we have some colder weather
Maybe you could use a sweater
Pick your color, then just wait
You'll have it soon, not too late

Baby blanket? Nice warm shawl?
Not a problem, she can do it all
In the time it takes to set your clocks
She'll knit you a pair of socks

All the above, a labour of love
Sometimes I don't have enough
She knits me up another pair
Someday, maybe underwear

To handle those Alberta Clippers
She'll make a pair of knitted slippers
This is why I'm never bitter
I'm married to an avid knitter!

(gleaned from the Internet. Original source unknown. Anybody's mate want to claim it?)

*** GET ON THE PEACH FUZZ EXPRESS! ***

PANTONE's Color of the Year 2024 is a heartfelt peach hue bringing a feeling of tenderness that captures our desire to nurture ourselves and others. It's a velvety gentle peach tone whose all-embracing spirit enriches mind, body and soul, Peach Fuzz! (Pantone 13-1023)

Leatrice Eiseman, Executive Director of the Pantone Color Institute tells us: "In seeking a hue that echoes our innate yearning for closeness and connection, we chose a color radiant with warmth and modern elegance. A shade that resonates with compassion, offers a tactile embrace, and effortlessly bridges the youthful with the timeless".



©Berroco



©Pantone Color Institute



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

An RSVP is appreciated for all in-store events (classes, knit alongs) as space is limited. Any changes to our hours due to inclement weather or scheduling will be posted on our Facebook page and Instagram...

*** JANUARY 2024 KNIT ALONG (KAL) ***

Although stitching is a solitary activity, knitters and crocheters enjoy gathering to share their successes, laugh about mistakes, and learn from one another. Stop by on Fridays during January 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, for our fun knit along, *Marly Cardi*. When we're knitting or crocheting, it's always happy hour! Not working on the KAL? You're still welcome to come -- it's free! PLEASE BRING A PROJECT PURCHASED HERE AT KATHY'S KREATIONS (maybe one that doesn't require much concentration, so that you can engage with the people around you). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry page or Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)...

*** LET'S KNIT!" CLASS SERIES ***

Join instructor Karen McCullough and kick off the New Year with the *Knit Envelope* wrap on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. This group is always fun, and Karen always has new techniques and tips to share. Check out the details page 4...

*** FUN FRIDAY ***

Come in for the fun and leave with friendships! Join us on **Friday, January 19, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. 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, connect, and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters. RSVP please, as occupancy is limited...

*** FAIR ISLE KNITTING CLASS ***

Are you baffled by Fair Isle colorwork? Do your projects come out too snug? Does the process feel awkward? Is stranded knitting beyond your comfort level? Join instructor Kathy Zimmerman for her "Two Handed, Two-Color Fair Isle" knitting class, with tips and techniques to get you started. The class project is CASAPINKA's *Little Frankie Hat*. Class will be held on **Saturday, January 20, 2023, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**. See details on page 4...

*** LIGONIER ICE FEST ***

Something to look forward to when it's cold and frosty! We've got the remedy for the post-holiday blahs. Join us for Ligonier Ice Fest, January 19 - 21, 2024. There will be over 50 ice sculptures on and around Diamond Park in the center of town. Ice Fest 2024 will begin at noon on Friday with LIVE CARVING Sculptures on Saturday, January 20. We will be open until 7:00 pm on Friday, January 19, 2024. New this year, icy hot rocks will be hidden around town for people to find. We are sponsoring several rocks with our shop name on the back. The finder may redeem the rock in our shop for a small prize. All weekend, receive a free copy of Kathy's knitted Ice Fest Hat, designed and created just for this event. Grab a warm drink and admire the ice masterpieces around town. Stop by Kathy's Kreations for this fun celebration and warm up here with a new project...

Spring planning includes a MADELINE TOSH Road Show (i.e., trunk show) featuring their most popular bases and colors in inspiring projects to spark your creativity -- stay in touch for details on when! Check in with us for information about the summer Steel Valley Yarn Crawl, scheduled for July 26 - August 4, 2024. It's not too early to save the date!

We're wishing you the very best for the New Year -- may 2024 bring you happiness, good health and plenty of cozy, hand-knit and crochet projects. Happy New Year!

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy