

KATHY'S KREATIONS
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 MARCH 2023 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

The countdown to spring has begun! What does springtime stitching mean to you? Is it a change in the types of projects you like to knit or crochet? Do you choose different fibers, drifting from woolly animal fibers like merino or alpaca to more lighter yarns like cotton or linen? Do you yearn for more portable projects like shawls or socks, suitable to take along as you travel? Thinking about shorter sleeves or vests? For many of us, the answer is a combination or all of the above.

Since spring and warmer weather isn't quite here yet, we still need to think transitional wear such as scarves, shawls, cardigans, sweaters, socks, hats and more. For smart, versatile layers, we need to rely on soft, draping yarns in spring-inspired shades. We look for projects that are lightweight and comfortable, perfect for cool spring days and evenings. With so many options to choose from, you'll have a hard time picking just one to make!

The changing of the seasons from winter to spring is a most exciting time. Spring is a time for renewal, beginnings and taking a fresh outlook on life, so celebrate the season with a new project made brighter by pops of colors. Spring colors inspire us for the warmer months ahead – we can't get enough of uplifting, happy shades. According to *instyle.com*, the top spring 2023 color trends are robin's egg blue, lavender, every shade of unconventional blue, pastel pink, teal, blood orange and green. If spring has a signature color, it has to be mood-boosting, "ready-for-anything" green, from mint to Kelly. And of course, there's magenta, Pantone's pick for the color of the year 2023!

Knits are a no-brainer for season-spanning weather, with styles ranging from western to preppy. Color blocking is still popular, so if you can't decide between two colors for your next project, go for both! Add some knitwear layers to your wardrobe for this season. Whether you're headed out to the office or just going shopping around town, it never hurts to look and feel good...

IT'S "SPRING FORWARD!" MONTH!
 All regularly-priced, in stock PLYMOUTH YARNS
 are 10% off during March 2023

STORE HOURS

OPEN 10:00 am–4:00 pm Monday through Saturday; closed most Sundays

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!

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"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 <https://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The days are getting longer, and it's the perfect time to refresh your fashion style with some new handmade knitwear. Spring is all about light, airy, bright shades and fabrics. Our newest collection of patterns and projects offer a variety of options for your choosing. We hope that the first signs of spring inspire you to pick up a new project in a yarn and color that makes you feel good. Whether you're a beginner or more experienced stitcher, you'll find something in our latest collection that will suit your skill level and style. Grab your needles, hooks and some new yarn and get ready to create beautiful things...

Spring is in the Air – or at least that is what we are hoping for in March 2023! EMMA'S YARN has hand-dyed the perfect transition colorway – a soft, springy, “Sprout-y” green with cool, flowery purple tones (shown upper left on base “Practically Perfect Sock”). It's here on bases “Simply Spectacular DK” (\$28.50, 255 yards, 75% superwash merino wool/25% nylon, CYCA #3) and “Super Silky” (\$31.00, 400 yards, 80% merino wool/20% silk, CYCA #2)...

We're delighted to announce the 2023 Road Trip Mystery Shawl with Cynthia Spencer and Valerie Reed. For the past three years, we have been armchair virtual traveling to Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Florida. This year? We're heading north! The new shawl is going to be called the *Great Lakes Road Trip*. We'll be “visiting” 8 states plus the Ontario province of Canada. That's every state that borders the Great Lakes, along with a nod to our neighbors to the North.

ABOUT THE YARN CHOICE: We're delighted to announce that this year, we're partnering with MANOS DEL URUGUAY, and using their wonderful fingering weight base, “Alegria”. Cynthia and Valerie, along with MANOS, have created ten special color packs that will work beautifully for this project. The shawl is designed to work with MANOS DEL URUGUAY “Alegria”, with two skeins of the main color and two contrasting shades. Please note that these skeins have a bit more yardage than most fingering weight yarns. If you substitute, be sure to have enough yarn. We have ordered all ten color combos, and anticipate that this will be a very popular project. Kathy's Kreations will be glad to accept advance orders for the kits until April 10, 2023; you can view the combos at roadtripmystery.com

Clues will be released every two weeks beginning on Saturday, April 29, 2023 (Local Yarn Store Day). Please join us as we kick off this celebration of knitting and local yarn shops as we create a stunning, almost-crescent-shaped shawl featuring textures and designs by various locations around the Great Lakes. We're so excited to have you along on this knitting adventure!

In 2022, the Ravelry knit pattern with the most finished projects was the *Sophie Scarf* by PETITE KNITS (\$4.50 pattern, Ravelry Pro download). It is worked back and forth in one piece, from tip to tip in garter stitch with built-in I-cord edges, using DK weight yarn. A smaller size reaches around the neck once, and the larger size twice...

The *Pomona Scarf* by talented designer Jenny Noto (\$6.00 Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown lower right) uses a clever slip stitch “dip” and garter sections in two contrasting colors to keep your neck warm and toasty. It's very adjustable using the pattern repeat for a wrap or a blanket. The pattern is written for worsted weight with suggestions provided for weights up to super bulky. Kathy's shop sample is being knit with MADE-LINE TOSH “Vintage” (\$29.50, 115 grams, 200 yards, 100% superwash merino wool/ CYCA #4), or try our DREAM IN COLOR “Classy” (\$26.95, 54 oz., 250 yards, 100% superwash wool, CYCA #4) or MALABRIGO “Rios” (\$16.50, 100 grams, 218 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #4) for outstanding results as well...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Casapinka has designed another fantastic, four-color, fingering weight pattern, *Desert Sunset Shawl* (\$7.00, Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown upper right). Inspired by the sunsets of Joshua Tree National Park, this boomerang-shaped shawl was created with all the colors that remind Casapinka of this beautiful part of the country. Slipped stitches and a large border of faux cables makes this an engaging knit. We have put together some winning combos with EMMA'S YARN "Super Silky" (\$31,00 per skein, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% superwash merino/20% silk, CYCA #2). EMMA'S YARN also has some kits which are available for drop shipment (we can arrange directly from EMMA right to your door, if you are unable to shop in person)...



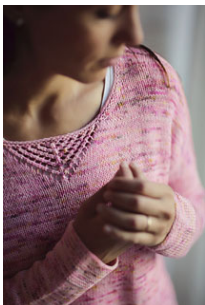
©Casapinka

Looking for the perfect shoulder knitted coverup for spring? Choose between two size options of the *Woolisia Shawl* by Ambah O'Brien (\$7.00 Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown page 8 upper left). A single skein of fingering weight yarn will create the small version (a perfect little accessory or gift), or create a beautiful fade from 12 mini-skeins (check out our EMMA'S YARN 10-minis theme packs \$67.50 and smalls \$6.00 each) and accent with leftovers from your stash. Simple, rhythmic knitting makes this a soothing and fast project for all skill levels. Ambah took her inspiration from nature, envisioning a wildflower meadow...

Kathy designed a mini-basket in this newsletter so you can get ready for springtime events. A cute little addition to any basket is Chris Zvara's *Easter Bunny Peep* (\$3.00 pattern, Ravelry Pro download, shown lower right page 7). Our shop peep was knit with HiKoo "Simplicity DK" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 117 yards, 55% superwash merino/28% acrylic/17% nylon, CYCA #3). This pattern can be used with any size yarn but the designer recommends to downsize 2–3 knitting needle sizes from what the ball band asks. Knitting tightly will keep the stuffing from "peeping" through...

MALABRIGO "Noventa" (\$23.50, 125 grams, 90 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #5) comes with their particular "singly" ply twist. This provides the yarn with a slightly irregular texture which, along with their hand-dyed technique, produces a very complete product. The palette is quite bright and translucent due to the dyeing techniques and the superwash process. This yarn is great for quick knits, textured stitches, hats, cowls, scarves and outerwear. Use knitting needles size US 10 -13 or crochet hook US J–N...

Each month, we debut a new WONDERLAND YARNS "deStitchNation" artisanal, hand-dyed shade that will be here for a limited time only. This month's yarn club continues our journey to magical literary realms. In addition to a skein of yarn and accompanying pattern, kits include fabulous enamel pins, designed exclusively to represent this month's destination. Feel the enjoyment that comes from making something beautiful and being creative with our latest shade, arriving soon...



©Joji Locatelli

Joji Locatelli asked herself when designing something for a knitting retreat: "What would I like to knit if I have to make something while I am relaxing? I would like something with a bit of interest, but mostly something that I don't have to pay a lot of attention to ... Something that has a loose comfortable fit so I am not worried if it is a little big, or a little small. And something that reminds me of the good weather and blooming flowers. That's how this sweater was born". We're talking about perennial favorite *I See Spring* (\$7.00 Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown at left), knit with long sleeves, a simple lace insert at the neckline and relaxed fit in a sport weight yarn...



*** MARCH 2023 KNIT ALONG ***

We are looking forward to Spring Break Weekend April 28 - 30, 2023, with featured instructor Cynthia Spencer of REALLY CLEAR DESIGNS. This month, we are pleased to present Cynthia's newest design as our knit along project, *Certainly* (\$5.99 individual pattern or \$6.99 pattern/set, available as an eBook through Kathy's Kreations Ravelry Pro download). This lovely hat and cowl set is an excellent opportunity to play with color, relax and learn!

Can a beginner make this cowl or hat? Can you use yarn stash? Can you make this quickly? The answer to everything is, "Certainly!" (And that's how it got its name).

You will need four colors each of a worsted weight yarn that knits at 5 stitches per inch. Our shop model is being knit with MALABRIGO "Rios". We've got lots of colors that work together well. Then mix and match to make a bunch. Choose one skein each of a light, medium, dark and a contrasting "pop" color. You will need approximately 150 yards of each to make the hat and cowl. You can make the cowl any size you want; the instructions will tell you how. The hat is sized from baby through large adult.

Cynthia tells us: "This hat is so fun that one of my testers ended up making 17 of them, to give them to the entire family for Christmas! She said that she was never bored, because she wanted to play with color combinations."

Get ready to cast on and knit with us every Friday throughout March 2023 from 10:00 am–2:00 pm to work on this, or any other project purchased here at Kathy's Kreations (crocheters welcome, too!). If you can't join us in person, please post your progress on our Ravelry page, *We Love Kathy's*; Instagram (#kathyknitz) or Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)...

*** UPCOMING CLASSES (please call 724-238-9320 for details) ***

The *Katarina* jackets are coming along nicely as our *Let's Knit* series with instructor Karen McCullough continues on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**. Throughout this series of classes, students have been knitting this COCKNITS cardigan, a nearly seamless jacket. In this session, we begin attaching the sleeves to the body and assembling with the fronts. Karen is available for "help" with one-on-one private knit or crochet lessons, as well as how-to's for "the things that patterns don't always tell you" by appointment...

*** A TIP FROM KAREN ***

To avoid ladders when working with double-pointed in the round, insert the right needle into the second stitch, tug gently, then complete the stitch. Do this every time on each needle for a tidy appearance...

*** LYS DAY ***

Come celebrate LYS Day with us on **Saturday, April 29, 2023!** LYS DAY (Local Yarn Shop Day) was designed to encourage knitters, crocheters, weavers, spinners and other yarn enthusiasts to visit and shop at "brick and mortar" stores to see exclusive products, and support these small businesses. This is also a great opportunity to connect with fellow fiber folks, as well as a special day for us to celebrate you, our loyal customers.

We will kick off the Great Lakes Road Trip mystery shawl with Cynthia Spencer, one of the designers, on hand for Spring Break that weekend as well (see page 2 for information on the MANOS DEL URUGUAY yarn for this project).

CASAPINKA will premiere a two-colored shawl designed with this LYS event in mind, using one variegated and one solid shade of fingering weight yarn. We are partnering with our yarn vendor DREAM IN COLOR, who specifically created six 2-skein color combo kit options on base "Smoochy with Cashmere" for this pattern, plus some surprises...



*** SPRING BREAK 2023 ***

Community is a vital part of knitting, and we look forward to seeing our long-time friends and meeting new ones at our 11th annual Spring Break weekend workshop April 28–30, 2023, hosted by Kathy Zimmerman. There is nothing quite as fun as being with like-minded makers who are just as excited as you are to learn more about their craft in a fellowship setting. Our featured guest instructor is designer Cynthia Spencer of Pine Grove Mills, PA (photo at right), an energetic teacher who loves to help other knitters explore new techniques and expand the way they think about their knitting. Her designs focus on color, contrast and texture. Cynthia will be teaching informative classes at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA that cover brioche knitting and “knit to fit” modifications topics. Skill level is intermediate. It promises to be a special springtime event in beautiful Ligonier Valley and it is also LYS Day Weekend. Attendees can look forward to in-store events, special kits, a door prize drawing, giveaways and glorious hand-dyed yarns.



In the spirit of trying new things, brioche knitting projects are trending on Ravelry and in magazines like the 2023 spring issue of *Interweave Knits*. This popular technique produces beautiful, cozy, irresistible, three-dimensional and reversible fabric. Have you wanted to learn brioche or improve your skills, but don’t know where to start? Cynthia breaks down techniques into simple relatable ideas and actions that take the guesswork out of the sometimes tricky brioche concepts. Gain the confidence to work basic and beyond brioche patterns with Cynthia’s *Really Clear Designs* valuable insights, explanations, and guidance. In her classes, you will learn basic brioche in one and two colors.

Do you ever have questions about recognizing what construction style suits your body best, decoding pattern measurements/schematics, or adjusting elements of a garment? Students are invited to bring along handknit garments or planned projects for Cynthia to discuss styling, modifications, and advice on how to obtain a better fit. Whether you’ve been knitting for several weeks or several decades, you’ll discover tips to improve your process — learn from the best!

In addition to the weekend package and nine hours of Saturday and Sunday workshop instruction, students will join Cynthia for an after-hours pizza party at Kathy’s Kreations Friday with an informal meet and greet Friday evening; goodie bags; yarn for your class projects; morning coffee breaks and two lunches at the Ramada. There are only a couple spots left. Request an information flyer NOW by calling 724-238-9320...

*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS FROM KATHY ***

When working ribbed edgings in a top-down garment, drop a needle size on the round BEFORE you actually start working the ribbing. This gives a neater transition than changing both on the same round. This works because the loops created on your needle on the last round of stockinette stitch are the loops that will form the first visible round of rib, so if they are on your bigger size needle, they will appear looser than the rest of your rib. It can make a difference!

Do your future self a favor by making a habit of taking notes. When working from a published pattern that you’ve purchased (respect copyright, please), photocopy or print out a paper copy to work from. Then, write all over it — makes notes about the gauge if it differs, yarn used, type of needle — anything that might be helpful when restarting. Write in new numbers if making alterations or changes. Kathy always marks where she stopped if there is an possibility that she won’t be working on the project the very next day. The paper copy lives with the work in progress, collecting miscellaneous notes and wrinkles along the way. Kathy uses graph paper and transposes any large chart with repeats onto it, numbering upcoming rows and highlighting those requiring a decrease or increase...

*** HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS PRESENT ***

It's not too early to start knitting for a special event upcoming in your family, whatever the occasion. This knitting poem was shared by its creator/author Gail Oare. I'm sure many of us can relate to the topic. Thanks, Gail!

In mid to late March during last year's winter weather
I started to knit you a new Christmas sweater.
I picked out the needles and colors with care.
and cast-on with hope of what you'd soon wear.

I knitted by day and watched you grow taller
and by Fourth of July, I'd finished the collar.
Just six months to go till you'd open your present
on Christmas morning, a vision so pleasant.

Onward I labored, knitted and purled
and it lengthened three inches by the time the leaves curled.
I put it aside when Halloween came
so by early November, it still looked the same.

With time shrinking fast, I adjusted instead
to make you a snug hat to warm your small head.
As I twisted a cable to make it look nice,
knots filled the yarn, but I made them suffice.

Rib stitches are tricky if you forget where you pause
but I've not given up on it as a lost cause.
There's a hole here and there that I countered with buttons
and a flap on the edge that I fixed with some cuttin'.

I wrapped it and ribboned it for under the tree,
this homemade treasure made for you by me.
So as you pull off the bow and take off the lid
let me try to explain what I actually did.

You're still only five and confused by this gift.
It's not a cool toy so I'm sure you'll be miffed
and mystified why there's no batteries or fizz,
just a gift from my heart – whatever it is.

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

Plans are underway for the Steel Valley Yarn Crawl later this summer! Dates have been set for **Friday, July 28, 2023 through Sunday, August 6, 2023**. We will be including details and updates about this event in future newsletters but be sure to save the date NOW! Nine yarn shops will be participating:

Darn Yarn
Kathy's Kreations
Kid Ewe Knot
McWalker Yarns
Moon & Yarn Craft Room
Raggz Fiber Art
Sewickley Yarns
Yarn Bits and Bobs, LLC
Yarns By Design



©gabriellev



*** TEMPERATURE BLANKETS ***

Temperature blankets and scarves are trending once again! The concept is simple – knit or crochet a row for each day of the year, in a color corresponding to the temperature on that day. These projects are popular because they are easy to stitch and they are the stand-by work in progress there for you. It's interesting because they are constantly changing and you can't really imagine what they'll look like until they're done. They can also be amazing stash busters! It's not too late

to get started for 2023.

A couple that we recommend are *Ribbed Temperature Blanket or Scarf* by Gabrielle Vezina (knitted, shown upper right, a free Ravelry Pattern) and *Temperature Blanket Year Long* by Tara Marie (crocheted, a free Ravelry pattern), but a search online will reveal quite a few variations. We recommend an easy care yarn for these projects, like our PLYMOUTH YARN “Encore Worsted” (\$7.50, 100 grams, 200 yards, 75% acrylic/25% wool, CYCA #4) or HiKOO “Simpliworsted” (\$16.50, 100 grams, 140 yards, 55% superwash merino/28% acrylic/17% nylon, CYCA #4)...

*** BOX STITCH MINI BASKETS FOR SPRING (photo not shown) ***

Fill these with wrapped mints or candy to use as favors for your spring events like Easter, birthday parties or baby/bridal showers.

MATERIALS: DK weight yarn, approximately 25 yards; US size 4 knitting needles; tapestry needle

GAUGE: not critical; approximately 6.5 sts / 8.5 rows = 1” in stockinette stitch

NOTE: On wrong side, slip all stitches purlwise with yarn in front.

DIRECTIONS: With long tail cast on method, cast on 42 sts. K 6 rows (garter stitch) for border. Begin pattern:

Rows 1 & 2: K1; *k2, p2; repeat from * to last st, k1.

Rows 3 & 4: K1; *p2, k2; repeat from * to last st, k1.

Rows 5 & 6: Repeat rows 1 & 2.

Row 7: K1; purl across to last st, k1.

Rows 8 & 9: K.

SHAPE BOTTOM OF BASKET (decrease 4 stitches every row):

Row 1: K1; *k8, ssk; repeat from * to last st, end K1 (38 sts).

Row 2: K1; *p7, p2tog; repeat from * to last stitch, slip 1 (34 sts).

Row 3: K1; *k6, ssk; repeat from * to last st, knit 1 (30 sts).

Row 4: K1; *p5, p2tog; repeat from * to last st, slip 1 (26 sts).

Row 5: K1; *k4, ssk; repeat from * to last st, end K1 (22 sts).

Row 6: K1; *p3, p2tog; repeat from * to last st, end slip 1 (18 sts).

Row 7: K1; *k2, ssk; repeat from * to last st, end k1 (14 sts).

Row 8: P2tog across (7 sts).

Cut yarn, leaving a tail to seam. Insert yarn through tapestry needle, draw the end through remaining sts, pull up tightly. Secure and sew seam. Weave in ends.

HANDLE: Cast on 4 sts. Knit for approximately 4”. Bind off. Sew handle to opposite ends of basket. Cut a cardboard insert to line the bottom of the basket, if desired.

Optional: decorate with ribbons, charms, small silk flowers, or embroidery.

A good stash buster when worked with contrasting odds and ends of yarn!

Abbreviations: K - knit; P- purl; P2tog—purl 2 sts together;

ssk—slip, slip knit decrease; st(s)—stitch(es)

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©Chris Zvara



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

It's still cold, flu and COVID season. Your safety and well-being are of our utmost concern. All in-shop events have returned, but please call ahead for space availability. In accordance with the CDC's current recommendations: "People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with Covid-19 should wear a mask". Hand sanitizer is available throughout the store and you are encouraged to use it before shopping. Please check in with our Facebook page (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA) and Instagram (#kathyknitz) for any updated CDC information or changes to our hours in the event of inclement weather as it's not spring yet....

*** MARCH 2023 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 March 2023, 10:00 am–2:00 pm, for our fun knit alongs, the *Certainly* hat and cowl. 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 group March 2023 thread, Instagram (#kathyknitz) and Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)...

*** "LET'S KNIT!" Tuesday, March 7, 2023; 1:00 pm–3:00 pm ***

Ready to try making a sweater? Instructor Karen McCullough presents a gorgeous cardie, *Katarina* by COCOKNITS, a clever way to learn garment knitting techniques!

*** FUN FRIDAY, March 17, 2023; 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Come in for the fun 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, connect, and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters. It's St. Paddy's Day, so wear something green, and RSVP please, as occupancy is limited...

*** LYS DAY AND SPRING BREAK ***

It's double the fun! **Saturday, April 29, 2023** is LYS DAY (Local Yarn Shop Day). It is designed to show support for small businesses while bringing together a unique community of knitters, crocheters, weavers and spinners to drive awareness and celebrate the love of needlearts. Think of it as an international Yarn Crawl! We are planning special in-store events, special kits, exquisite hand-dyed yarns, snacks, a door prize drawing and give-aways...

Private knitting and crocheting "help" is available by appointment. Additional group classes are forming for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the "helpful hands" of experienced knitting for over 42 years!

Brighten up, lighten up! Let's embrace spring with new energy. May you share a laugh with someone, may you learn something new, and may you see something beautiful that inspires you. Come to a class, Spring Break or a knit along and you can do all this. It's time for a new beginning!

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy