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Kathy's Kreations
Yarns and Knitting Accessories
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Kathy's Kreations November 2024 Update
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NOVEMBER 2024 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

We love autumn vibes! No other season has such an open invitation to get cozy. It's time to revel in that warm, fuzzy feeling with layer upon layer of handmade woolly comfort and classic styles with a modern twist. Our fall knitting and crocheting adventure continues with fabulous fibers in rich colors and luxurious neutral yarns you'll reach for again and again.

Oversized pullovers, fitted cardigans and knitted dresses are all great starting points, but the best knitwear for autumn 2024 adds a playful spin. Look to pieces that offer both versatility and statement-making design, keeping you effortlessly chic throughout the colder months. When it comes to choosing a new project, comfort and style go hand-in-hand. This season is all about unique details and stand-out designs that make your outfit pop, mixed in with plenty of timeless classics, of course!

The National Needlework Association's "Yarnsgiving" celebration is in full swing. This new tradition promotes the joy in crafting and giving with yarn. We encourage you to craft hostess gifts for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, along with crocheted or knitted cold weather items for charity. Items for the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild *Caps For Kids* program may be dropped off here, for distribution through a local community service unit.

Now is the time to get a head start on your holiday knits gift list! Beautiful yarns (both new to us and familiar favorites), as well as new shop samples and patterns all are in the works. In addition, holiday Who-ville preparation and re-stocking the shop with knitting needles, crochet hooks and accessories after a busy autumn have kept the shopgals busy. Best of all, we get to share it all with you! Kathy's Kreations is your Sweater Weather headquarters (and hats, and scarves, and shawls, and mittens, and all things stitched up cozy)...

NOVEMBER IS "BRING ON THE COZY" MONTH!

All regularly-priced 100% wool yarns (non-superwash) in stock
are 10% off during November 2024

STORE HOURS

OPEN 10:00 am—4:00 pm Monday through Saturday
closed most Sundays and Thanksgiving November 28, 2024
SHOP SMALL -- Join us for Open House Black Friday November 29, 2024
and Small Business Saturday November 30, 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 - 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 <https://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

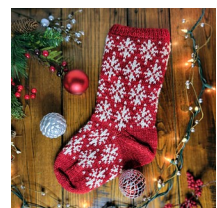
Who says that knitwear has to be dull? Bright, colorful knits are taking over the season, and they're a great way to add a vivid oomph to your cold weather outfits. Think rich jewel tones like emerald greens, ruby reds and deep blue hues. Color blocking and multi-tonal pieces are especially popular, giving your ensembles a fresh and energetic feel, in contrast to the gray skies outdoors. From colorful designs to tactile textures, this season's must-try knitwear trends offer something for everyone. Whether you're drawn to classic stripes or playful bow details, there's no shortage of ways to refresh your knitwear collection for autumn into winter. Choose pieces that combine comfort, warmth and stand-out style. Feeling inspired? Snuggle factor is real, so check out this batch of coziness...

We're always excited to see what EMMA'S YARN has dyed up for us with each monthly Crazy Beautiful Club selection, and she has conjured yet another exceptional choice for November 2024 (shown upper left). Burnt oranges fade into glowy peaches, while spots of berry pink stand out against winey purples in this fabulous shade, available here on base "Practically Perfect Sock" (\$28.95, 100 grams, 400 yards, 80% superwash merino/20% nylon, CYCA #2). It's firey, it's fabulous, and it's perfect for fall scarves and shawls...

Whether you are learning to crochet or have been stitching for decades, there are always little things you need to look up. New from Jen Lucas is the *Pocket Guide to Crochet* (\$8.50), a handy compact reference guide for crochet basics. This is your go-to companion for all things crochet, providing essential information on tools, stitches, and invaluable tips and tricks. Learn everything you need to know about crochet hooks, yarn, and notions, as well as reading a pattern, gauge, stitches, finishing, and so much more. Also included are helpful charts, six easy-to-follow classic stitch patterns, and an adorable baby blanket pattern. Whether you're a beginner or a long-time crocheter, this guide will provide everything you need to find success for your next project! It's a great stocking stuffer idea for kids and grown-ups alike...

Add some energetic pizazz to your wardrobe this year with *an* unexpected surprise shade for the season. MADELINE TOSH's November's Hue of the Moment is "Calling All Snowbirds" (shown lower left on base "Twist Light", page 7). If you can't spend your winter flocking to warmer climes, then flamingo bomb your life. This is Tosh's line in the sand -- even if we're standing in snow -- against bone-chilling gales and sleet. Plant a few polyethylene birds around and watch Plastic Flamingo -- "flamazing" in retina-seering coral -- take off. Purchase this yarn and receive a free Ravelry download code for the new *Snowbird Scarf* by Lena Skvagerson. A group of flamingoes is called a flamboyance. Create a flamboyance with this yarn -- it's a super power!

Christmas stockings are a delight to receive as a gift, and even more fun to knit and give! If you're looking for a new pattern to welcome an addition to your family, The *Flurry Christmas Stocking* by Melissa Kemmerer (\$5.00, Ravelry Pro download available through Kathy's Kreations, shown lower right) knits up in a weekend, so there's still time to make one or two. The afterthought heel makes it much easier, especially for those of us who aren't practiced at sock knitting. This stocking is knit top-down in the round in one piece (as in a traditional cuff down sock) and it features an easy Fair Isle snowflake motif repeat. The original was knit with KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection Worsted" (\$7.95, 100 grams, 200 yards, 70% acrylic/30% merino wool, CYCA #4). Christmas stockings also make a wonderful baby shower or wedding/engagement gift...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

What's new from designer Joji Locatelli? *Cake Pop Sweater* (\$8.00 RPD, shown right) is a top-down sweater knitted in one piece, with a circular yoke. It features an easy feather and fan lace wave pattern and it is perfect for new sweater knitters, but also really quick and fun for more experienced ones. Choose your favorite worsted weight yarn from our shelves (MADELINE TOSH "Vintage" or MALABRIGO "Rios" are both good choices) and let's get started...



© Joji Locatelli

Worsted weight "Rios" (\$17.50, 100 grams, 210 yards, 100% superwash merino, CYCA #4) was one of the first MALABRIGO yarns we got to know. Not only was it love at first stitch, but it continues to be one of our all-time favorite yarns. With its gentle, hand-dyed variations and rich, shadowy shades, each skein is a work of art. If you're looking for a great project for this yarn, Liz Maloney's *Two-at-a-Time Fingerless Mitts* (shown upper right, page 7) features a technique for working two mitts at the same time on one needle. That means no picking up stitches, no seams, no "second mitt" syndrome, and minimal finishing. Once you bind off, you only need to weave in cast on and ending tails and you are done! This project takes about 50 grams of worsted weight, so it is a great stashbuster. Kathy loves "Rios" because you can use up odds and ends so easily, as many shades look great when combined. Purchase two or three irresistible shades of "Rios" and get creative with color blocking and stripes. Worked on US size 6 knitting needles, gauge is not critical. Directions are included for small and large sizes, so you can knit these as cozy gifts for all your friends and family...

Exciting news for MALABRIGO "Rasta" fans! This beloved, plump, single-ply super bulky yarn has expanded its color palette with a new "Madre Tierra Collection". This collection features nature-inspired hues that capture the essence of the life forms and ecosystems that sustain it (\$25.50, 90 yards, 100% merino wool, CYCA #6): woodland, plumage, navegante, dreamscape, dancing leaves, and amphibian. Receive a free pattern for your choice of mittens, a hat or cowl with your "Rasta" purchase during the month of November for a soft, squishy, bouncy treat on your needles...

Do you have a favorite type of knitting? Around here, knit vests are trending, and texture rules. It's fun to create interesting and beautiful patterns with knit and purl stitches, knitted cables and twisted stitch patterns. The *Dolcetto* vest is all about textural beauty options! This elegantly cabled vest pattern by Thea Colman of BABY COCKTAILS (\$9.00, Ravelry Pro Download pattern available through Kathy's Kreations, shown lower left) is written for both V-neck and crewneck versions, so TWO PDFs will be available for download into your Ravelry library. Thea chose a detailed cable and played around with asymmetry. Within the cables, there is a fun technique that adds a "wrap" to the crosses, so that's a simple new skill to play with in the motif. She added texture at the center of the body and stockinette along the sides, and extended the cable feet straight into the hem edge. It's unique, but timeless. The idea behind the design was to create a classic piece that could be both modified and worn a number of ways. Small cap shoulders allow you to wear *Dolcetto* without anything underneath, but you can layer it, if desired. The option for either the V-neck or crewneck means that you can choose what works best for your wardrobe and comfort. This vest works equally well with more or less ease, depending on how you want to wear yours!



Dolcetto is worked with a worsted weight yarn from the bottom up in the round, and split into pieces at the armholes. The front and back are then worked flat to the shoulder and seamed. Collar and armhole ribbings are picked up around openings and worked in the round to the end. Cable instructions are both charted and written, and each of the two versions has notes on the different places and ways you can modify this vest to fit your needs...



*** NOVEMBER 2024 KNIT ALONG ***

Every Friday, Kathy's Kreations is a lively place where our knitting friends and customers gather to stitch together. It seems like almost everyone in our knit along group is working on a hat right now. Most are beanies, both slouchy and close fitting. It's fun to see what people knit, as there are so many pattern and yarn choices. Plus, this group is

not timid about customizing!

For twice as much fun, we have selected the *Molino Beanie* and *Molino Cowl* by Kristel Nieves from The MALABRIGO YARN Dos Tierras Duality Collection as our November 2024 knit along selection (\$6.00 each pattern, available as a Ravelry Pro download here at Kathy's Kreations, shown upper left). These are two patterns that complement each other to perfection, inspired by the concept of duality. They are two entertaining projects that showcase a dynamic design, allowing for a multitude of color combinations. They truly embody the unique qualities of "Dos Tierras" DK yarn, blending softness with its one-of-a-kind texture (\$21.50, 100 grams, 210 yards, 50% merino wool/50% baby alpaca, CYCA #3). This yarn is from two lands: Uruguay and Peru, South and North, Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. Two cultures, two fibers (alpaca and wool) that come together in one yarn to unravel their expression of duality. These projects remind us of quilt-inspired windmill patterns which are trending in a big way this autumn.

This Knit Along is a great way to connect with other makers, and get motivated to finish projects. Come knit or crochet with us every Friday in our class area from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm throughout November 2024. Work on the *Molino Hat* or *Cowl*, or any other project purchased here at Kathy's Kreations. If you can't join us in person, please post your progress on our Ravelry page, We Love Kathy's; Instagram (#kathyknitz) or on Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA).

*** HERE'S WHAT WE'RE MAKING ***

What do our shopgals and friends of the shop have on their knitting needles?

Kathy Z -- four pairs of childrens' mittens using TIN CAN KNITS pattern *The World's Simplest Mittens* with BERROCO "Ultra Wool" worsted & TIN CAN KNITS *Light and Shadow Hat* (shown page 8, upper left) with MALABRIGO "Rios"

Linda C -- Another *Santa Hat* with BERROCO "Comfort"!

Nan R -- *Maple Leaves Hat* by WOOLY BEAR HAND KNITS with KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection"

Kathleen S -- *Cozy Christmas Ear Warmers* by ROSIE POSIE CO. with KRAEMER YARNS "Naturally Nazareth"

Karen McC -- REALLY CLEAR *Shadowed Cowl* with PLYMOUTH "Encore", which segues into...

*** LET'S KNIT CLASS SERIES ***

Our "Let's Knit" class series continues on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** with a very special project from our most recent Fall Fling. Shadow knitting is a captivating pattern where hidden patterns emerge with a change in perspective. Using only knits and purls, you'll be intrigued as you work on this project and start to see the patterns emerge. We'll start simple, but the possibilities are truly endless!

Join instructor Karen McCullough as the group works on shadow knitting techniques with the *Shadowed Cowl*, a REALLY CLEAR DESIGN by Cynthia Spencer (shown lower right). Registration fee is \$20.00 plus yarn and purchase of Ravelry Pro download pattern, \$5.99. PLEASE BRING a 24" or 32" circular knitting needle, US size 7. You may use a US 5 or 6 for the ribbing, if preferred. Please call us at 724-238-9320 to register for this class.

The December *Let's Knit* class on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, will be a wrap-up and continuation of any unfinished student projects from this series. Future 2025 projects are in the works, like the *Alanis* pullover by Elizabeth Smith, to start in January...



© Cynthia Spencer

©Anne Aungier

A close-up photograph of a knitted cuff, likely for a hat or sweater. The cuff features a repeating geometric pattern in two colors: a deep red or maroon and a bright yellow-green. The pattern consists of interlocking diamond or lozenge shapes. The cuff has a ribbed edge at the top and bottom, and the overall texture is that of a thick, hand-knitted fabric.

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A green hand, resembling a Grinch, is shown holding a red Christmas ornament. The hand is wearing a red sleeve with white trim. The ornament is red and has a silver cap with a small loop. The background is white.

X

contrast color CC

*** TIPS, TRICKS AND MINUTIA ***

--- When wet blocking a sweater or a cowl that has been worked in the round, use a ruler inside the garment to straighten the edges. Works like magic!

--- Marjorie M uses an alphabet craft bead with the size crochet hook she is using, and attaches it to her project with one of our pear-shaped coilless pins and a locking stitch marker (shown upper right). In the event she is away from the project for a while or it is in "time out", she knows what hook she was using when she put it away...



---When working with double-pointed needles, it is best to cast onto one needle tip and then divide your stitches evenly...

--- We recently saw our shopgal Nan using a clipboard for her pattern. Genius! Kathy recently bought a clipboard with storage & pen holder, similar to those used by nurses for patient charts, to keep her pattern clean and available, plus storage inside for stitch holders, cable needle, finishing needle, etc. to keep those items away from a curious cat...

--- Did you know that having multiple craft projects in progress is better for your well being? Dr. Anne Kirkterp, author of *Craft Psychology*, claims that having a range of projects to choose from gives you freedom to select one that matches your energy level, which promotes a better flow state. She recommends having 5 - 10 craft projects on the go at any given time. That's our kind of prescription! @THE THOUGHTFULARTISAN, IG

*** SPRING BREAK 2025 ***

Plans have begun for our 14th annual Spring Break Knitting Workshop Weekend, **April 25 - April 27, 2025**, hosted by Kathy Zimmerman. Internationally-reknowned designer Tanis Gray Chang will be our featured instructor once again. A graduate of RISD, Tanis lives in northern Virginia with her Mechanical Engineer husband and two children. She has been in the creative field for years, including roles at Martha Stewart, HBO, Focus Features, Hungryman Productions, and as the Yarn Editor at Vogue Knitting. She has worked on projects with Warner Brothers, Lucasfilm, Tim Burton and Disney. She is the author of 15 published books and over 700 published designs. Tanis has had her own regularly-featured TV spot of PBS' *Knitting Daily TV* with Vickie Howell and has taught multiple online Fair Isle classes for Craftsy.

Tanis will be teaching a nine-hour workshop at the Ligonier Town Hall Community Room in historic Ligonier, PA with Fair Isle knitting, Latvian Braid and two-color cables knitting topics. Skill level intermediate to experienced. Only two spots remain available!

If you are freaked out over Fair Isle and curious about stranded colorwork techniques, the *Luminosu Hat and Cowl* classes are for you (project shown lower left)! In Tanis' most popular workshop, she'll cover basic stranded techniques for English, Continental and Combination knitters, tackle common issues, proper technique, color theory, how to trap floats, Latvian Braids and more.

Two-colored cables and stranded colorwork make for a glorious combination! Easier than it looks, the *Palace In Wonderland* cowl (shown lower right) is packed with technique but simple to make shorter or longer, or more or less wide. Learn the provisional cast on with two colors, 2-colored cables, chart reading, grafting with two colors, cabling without a cable needle, and blocking. It's a cable game changer! Please call us at 724-238-9320 or e-mail kathyknitz@gmail.com for more information or to request a flyer...



© Tanis Gray



© Tanis Gray

*** HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE ***

Many of you have told us that you're looking for small projects for the holidays and *Yarnsgiving* hostess gifts. We will be sharing more 1 - 3 ball projects like our *Who-lidays Headband* in our upcoming updates, we also wanted to share BERROCO YARNS thoughts about why makers love small projects:



© Liz Maloney

1. **Quick Satisfaction:** Smaller projects, like hats, scarves, or even dish-cloths, can be completed quickly, giving a sense of accomplishment that can be really motivating.
2. **Less Commitment:** They require less time and yarn, making them less daunting than larger projects. This can be particularly appealing for makers who have busy schedules.
3. **Experimentation:** Small projects allow makers to try new techniques, stitches or patterns without committing to a long-term project. This can be a great way to learn and grow your skills.
4. **Gifting Opportunities:** Small items are perfect for gifts, making it easy to create thoughtful presents for friends and family without investing too much time.
5. **Portability:** Smaller projects are easier to take on the go, whether it's to a knitting group, or public transport, or while traveling.

One of our favorite BERROCO traditions is "Minutia". Each year, the Berroco team gathers up their scraps from the year's projects to create holiday ornaments to decorate packages, wreaths, trees, mantels and more. For information, see <https://berroco.com/patterns/minutia-23>

*** KNIT AND CROCHET TRENDS FORECAST FALL/WINTER 2024/2025 ***

This season, the fashion world turns its attention to warmth, texture, and comfort. Knit and crochet pieces are functional and at the fashion forefront, with trends offering endless inspiration for your next project. Here are key trends from LERUGI CROCHETS online and how you can incorporate them into your creations:

--- **Oversized Everything.** It's all about making a statement with size. From chunky sweaters to oversized crochet scarves, designs are embracing volume in a big way (literally!). Exaggerated silhouettes are perfect for those who want to stay cozy while standing out.

--- **Textured layers.** Play with a mix of yarn weights, stitch patterns, and techniques to create tactile, layered looks. Think nubby popcorn stitches, intricate cables, and layered lace patterns. Mixing different textures in one garment, like a cable-knit sweater with a lace crochet hem, adds depth and interest. For crocheters, experimenting with stitches like the waffle or shell stitch can add that desired texture, while knitters might explore bobble stitches or complex cables.

--- **Earthy Tones and Natural Hues.** A celebration of nature, earthy tones such as terracotta, moss green, and deep browns are often paired with neutral shades like cream, beige, and soft grays to create a soothing, grounded aesthetic. When choosing yarn, look for natural fibers like wool, alpaca, or cotton to enhance the organic feel of these hues.

--- **Vintage Revival.** Nostalgia is a recurring theme, drawing inspiration from the 1970s with retro crochet vests, granny square cardigans, and fringed shawl stealing the spotlight. Consider revisiting classic crochet patterns from the past. Think bold geometric patterns, bell sleeves, and the iconic granny square, but with a modern twist.

--- **Intricate Detailing:** Details matter this season -- crochet lace, beaded embellishments, and even hand-embroidered accents add a personal touch to garments. Add a crochet lace border to a scarf or shawl, or try beadwork to elevate a simple sweater. Knitters might experiment with Fair Isle patterns or delicate lace to add that special touch.

--- **Monochromatic Mastery:** Head-to-toe knits in a single color family

--- **Bold Accessories:** Oversized hats, chunky scarves, and knitted bags are key components of an outfit. Make a statement piece like a bright, chunky beanie or a large, textured crochet tote to complete your winter look.



© Madeline Tosh



*** 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 schedule change will be posted on our Facebook page and Instagram...

*** NOVEMBER 2024 KNIT ALONG (KAL) ***

One of the best things about being a knitter or crocheter is that we are a community of makers. Although stitching is a solitary activity, knitters and crocheters enjoy gathering to share their successes, laugh about mistakes, and learn from one another. Whether you've just discovered us or have been with us for years, thank you so much for your support. Stop by on **Fridays during November 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**, for our fun knit along *Molino Beanie*, *Molino Cowl* or the *Who-Lidays Headband* (free pattern page 5). 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, Facebook (Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA) or Instagram (#kathyknitz)...

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

Join instructor Karen McCullough for learning shadow knitting techniques with the *Shadowed Cowl* on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** (see page 4). This group is always fun, and Karen always has interesting techniques and tips to share...

*** FUN FRIDAY ***

Come in for the fun and leave with friendships! We love the fellowship created around a table full of yarn. Meet with us on **Friday, November 15, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Join our knitting community for gathering, 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. Find your "happy place"...

*** BLACK FRIDAY & SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY ***

Shop small, shop local, shop Ligonier! Kathy's Kreations will be open for your shopping pleasure 10:00 am - 4:00 pm on **Friday, November 29, 2024** and **Saturday, November 30, 2024**. Shop Small is a nationwide movement to celebrate small businesses every day and to help communities thrive and stay vibrant! Join us for snacks, a selection of holiday-themed products, our Who-ville/Grinchy vibe and a chance to win door prizes with your purchase...

*** HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE ***

Enjoy the magic of the season as you do your Christmas and holiday shopping in Ligonier! Join Ligonier merchants for a townwide Open House **Sunday, December 8, 2024, 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm**. There may be a Santa sighting (or even a Grinch!)+...

Private knitting and crocheting "help" is available by appointment. Additional group classes are available for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the "helpful hands" of experienced knitting for over 44 years...

This is a season of creativity, comfort and craftsmanship in the world of knit and crochet. Whether you're drawn to oversized shapes, intricate details or vintage nostalgia, there's a trend for all makers. Push the boundaries of your craft, experiment with new techniques and create pieces that are not only warm and toasty, but also fashion-forward and uniquely yours. Cozy up!

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy