

Forum

2008

KAS is created

The KAS Forum is the heart of information for our crafters around the world. It is here that we share ideas, laughs, stories, distributions and most importantly pictures of our work from crafter's home countries, to the KAS Barn and to blankets wrapped around children with beanies, hand-warmers and toys.

2009

Lion Brand and Ravelry promote KAS

Knit-A-Square was founded in October 2008, and after Lion Brand Yarn and Ravelry.com promoted KAS, the Forum went live on May 18 of 2009. Within 24 hours of going live the Forum had 250 members.

Forum goes live.

In the early days KAS was happy to receive squares of all types, well as long as they were eight inch squares. Eventually, to add some variety and sharing of ideas, monthly challenges were started. Country flags, neon colors, African animals, letters & numbers, transportation, plants, Christmas, variegated yarns, Plain Janes (PJs), and use the stash are just some of the themes that have been used over the years. If you look into the archives you will find albums, challenges and themes filled with ideas. In February 2016 we changed the name from Challenges to Themes.

1st international packages arrive

20,000 square arrives in SA.

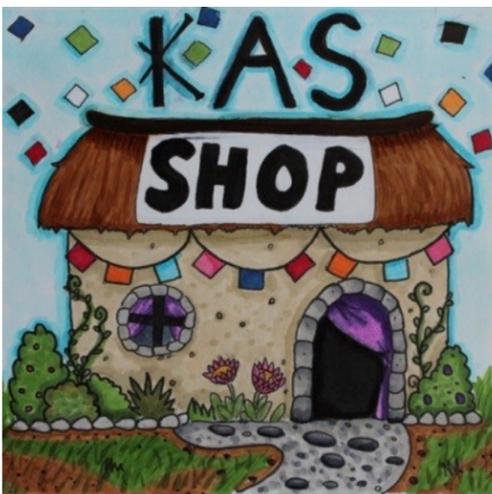
The Forum is also the place where we have our own KAS Pattern Book for knitted, crocheted, loomed and sewn projects. There is a section with patterns written in French. There are patterns for different squares, puppets, toys, beanies and hand-warmers. You can also find information on how to sew a blanket together using 35 squares of your own. If you haven't looked at our patterns, please check it out at the link at the end of the article.

2010

Averaged 9000 squares a month for the year.

Soweto Gospel Choir Event

Arlene Guerin writes One Square For An Elbow



The KAS Shop is where you can purchase items for KAS in SA to help with the distribution of blankets or you can purchase items for yourself to be delivered by snail mail or digitally. Items for KAS South Africa are: Pay The Office Rent, Distributions Support and Gogo Support. Under Cards and Gift Giving is an amazing collection of digitally delivered photos for you to use and share with family and friends. Our KAS merchandise includes a T-shirts, tote bags, buttons, mugs and magnets. Funds generated by the KAS Shop help us to continue our mission of warming the children in South Africa.

The KAS Shop opened in November 2015 with its first sales in December. Prior to this time shop sales were done through the KAS Care shop. The darling logo for the KAS Shop was created by Amelia Murray, the granddaughter of Anne Powell, in 2016

There are several Discussions ongoing on the Forum at any given time. Several get hidden away, as they are not viewed very often. We would like to bring attention to the following:

Memory Blankets is where we showcase blankets to honor loved ones. There are some very special blankets and very moving stories.

Member's Patterns, Tips and Tricks is filled with information for knitters and crocheters alike.

2011

157,927 squares received

2012

KAS Pattern Book created by Linda Maltby and Carol Playford

173.230 squares received

1,988 KAS Forum members



[Posted by Maggie Menzel on July 15, 2012](#)
I just released a new pattern that I designed with KAS in mind. It's now available in this discussion page and on Ravelry for free!

2013

500,000 square arrive in SA

KAS receives items from over 60 countries this year.



It is here that you can find information about the Uthando dolls pictured above

2014

River John Square Knitters form



Many of us have seen this square and you can find the pattern in this discussion, too. There are many more ideas in these pages.

Edy starts his 40 loom dolls

A special discussion for Memorial Blankets was formed.

Français is a section devoted to our French speaking members. Valerie Zalewski has graciously translated parts of the Forum into French so these members can participate.



2015

Received several packages from schools in the Czech Republic

The KAS Snippets is our monthly newsletter. It is here that you can read about what has happen in the life of KAS in the past month. There are the regular features that happen on a monthly basis, and often there are special little stories that touch one's heart.

2016

KAS receives 1,000,000 square

That Warm Fuzzy Feeling, is a blog that was started in 2017 by KASbarn volunteer Leanne Hunt. In her own words, "This discussion aims to give you an up-close and personal look at what happens on opening days at the Knit-a-Square barn. I'm a partially-sighted volunteer who attends with my guide dog Tango and my driver Bonggi, who has also become a keen volunteer. While everyone else opens parcels, sorts squares and packs items ready for distribution, I listen and take mental notes so I can pass on something of the atmosphere on the ground. Enjoy!"



Tango staying warm.

Julie Harrison starts Adult Enrichment Class in Japan

If you want a picture, created only with words, as to the sights, sounds, and smells of the activity in the barn on Tuesday mornings, this feature is a must read.

Cath Riley hand delivers her wonderful squares and helps in the sorting room

One important part of our Forum is the Monthly Squares List. This show all the packages that have been opened in the KASbarn for any particular month. It is important that you complete a packing slip and include it inside your parcel. The Squares is will show name, country, and how many squares were in each parcel. It is so exciting to see when your package arrives. For some it can take 6-8 months to finally see their names on the list. Very few parcel have been lost in the last 10 years.

177,306 Squares received in 2016

2017

Over 5,500 blankets were distributed.

Some other items on the Forum are:

KAS Connects- this highlights other organization that KAS works with in South Africa. Items that are not in the KAS package (squares, blankets, beanies, hand-warmers and soft cuddly toys) usually find their way to the organizations listed here. KAS Cuddles, KAS GOs, clothing, school supplies and the like.

In December KAS records 1,338,249 squares received.

Funny and Fantastic—here we highlight the lighter side of life, usually with animal pictures. This page will always make you smile and often make you laugh.

2018

KAS has 4,786 forum members as of September 2018

South Africa Reports—Usually this is where we find photos of distributions, but this is also where we hear from Ronda about KAS. Sometimes it is to report discouraging news whether it be postal strikes, increase in gas prices or flooding. Most of her reports bring us welcoming news about how KAS has changed so many lives in South Africa, answer to prayers and celebrations in the KASbarn.

People from 50 countries contribute items to KAS

KASism— KASnazzed, KASnazy, KAStime, KASister and KAStastic are just a few of the words you will find here. You will also find their meanings.

The Forum was set up to inspire crafters to create squares for KAS. We do that by sharing our photos of our work. To date we have over 20,000 photos dating back to the very first international package that arrived on Ronda's doorstep.

KAS Countries

Australia
Belgium
Canada
Channel
Islands
Chile
China
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech
Republic
Denmark
Dubai
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hawaii
Hong Kong
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Malaysia
Malta
Netherlands
New
Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Saudi
Arabia
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South
Africa
South
Korea
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Taiwan
Trinidad
&Tobago
United
Kingdon
USA
Vietnam

And
counting

The bulk of the Forum is updated by a team of Moderators. They have different roles and areas they specialize in to bring you the most up-to-date information from South Africa and our members. The Moderators are from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France, The Netherlands, Canada and the USA.

We are fortunate to have some of our members host the monthly themes, too. It takes lots and lots of people to put together this amazing information sharing platform.

If you are on social media, there are three Facebook pages dedicated to KAS. Knit-A-Square, Knit-A-Square Croatia, Knit-A-Square UK and Carrément Votre/Knit-a-square. Knit-A-Square also has a page on Ravelry.com.

The Forum is for our KAS crafters to keep you informed, and to help you share your gift with others around the world. Whether you post photos, make comment or just browse through the pages and discussions, we hope you find the Forum full of fun fact and ideas.

NET AFFECT

*Why knitting? With a thousand things to choose
of graver consequence I would have thought
that fickle and departed tart, my muse,
might have inspired a more enthralling sport.*

*But no. So knitting it would have to be.
Two sticks, a length of string and endless time
to make some sense of purl and plain. To me
it seemed a vague and lonely pantomime.*

*Initially, the battle with disease
looked too unequal. How could knitters armed
with nothing more than needled yarn appease
that monster, AIDS? How could it be disarmed?*

*A million and a half (or thereabouts),
unparented, abandoned and alone,
hungry, homeless, hopeless, cold. My doubts
soon set about knitting themselves a home*

*in my gut - a useless site to stitch.
Faithless me. How could I have forgotten
the internet's electric talking which
energises fibre, yarn and cotton?*

*Now suddenly your knitting is a rhyme,
a hand-sung hymn, a symphony of clicks
performed by nimble fingers (unlike mine),
a wall of hope in wool instead of bricks.*

*I've come to like your craft, when once I fought
my mother for the right to be outfitted
in any form of garment that I thought
a million miles removed from being knitted.*

*And like it more for what it represents:
the thin, unbreaking thread of simple love
that salves the small and poor, without pretence.
Is this the proof I search for from above?*

Tim Whitsun,

*KAS Forum Member
May 21 2009*