



CGOA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter from CGOA Especially to Your Local Chapter

Vol 5/ Issue 2 – July/August 2012

DISTRIBUTION NOTICE: We want to reach all of your local chapter members with this news and need your help. You have received this newsletter because you are listed as a contact for your local CGOA Chapter. Would you please copy this e-mail to every member of your local chapter? For members without e-mail, print out a couple of copies to pass around at your next meeting. Thank you for your help so that no one is left out.

■ HELLO, AGAIN!

Just back from a wonderful CGOA Conference/Knit & Crochet Show in Manchester. We met so many enthusiastic crocheters and heard updates from guilds around the country. We'd like to share a few of the highlights in this issue.

REMINDER: If you plan to be in Reno, sign up for the Chapter Coffee on Friday evening. Whether you are part of an established guild or just contemplating starting one, these relaxed evening gatherings are a great way to meet new people and you'll walk away with lots of fun ideas and programs. *The Editors*

■ MANCHESTER CHAPTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



CGOA Board member Jack Blumenthal with Lion Brand Yarn, sponsors of CGOA's Professional Development Day also welcomed chapter members.)

Those Yarn Crocheters, the Harrisburg Chapter of the CGOA

CGOA Board Member Jane Rimmer hosted the evening. She also spoke briefly about her guild, Those Yarn Crocheters, whose 20 members live in central Pennsylvania area near Harrisburg. In addition to getting together for regular meetings, they team up with The Keystone Lace Guild, sponsors of the Gathering of the Guilds each February. Local guilds that work in the needlearts/fiber arts get together for a day of community education and service and they spend months preparing. Displays are made to show examples of different techniques in crochet, and the charities they support. Members staff the booth to answer questions about crochet, give demos, and provide information about where and when the guild meets. Admission to the event is one can of food for the local food bank. Each guild supplies small items for door prizes. Rimmer pointed out that reaching out and working together with other groups is a great way to meet new people, promote your guild and do good things.

Off the Hook Guild, Durham, North Carolina

The Off the Hook Guild is 30 members strong. Kate Steinke reported that one of the projects that has helped to raise visibility for her guild has been its participation in the three-day Carolina Fiber Fest, which is part of the North Carolina Agricultural Festival held every spring at the Fair Grounds in Raleigh. The Guild was one of many groups to volunteer at the 2012 Carolina Fiber Festival. Members demonstrated crocheting, displayed projects, gave brief tutorials to festival attendees, and provided a beginning crochet lesson through a "Make & Take" activity. The big pay off: they collected 150 e-mails from people who were interested in learning more about their guild!

Creative Crochet Guild of Long Island (CCGLI)

Deb Seda, president of the Creative Crochet Guild of Long Island (CCGLI), shared that charity projects are the focus of this group of 14. To take their message to a broader audience and promote charitable works, the guild participated in a Stitch N Pitch (<http://www.tnna.org/page/StitchNPitch>) event, organized by the National NeedleArts Association. The association reserves a block of seats at major- and minor-league baseball games and sells tickets to anyone interested in the needle arts. A large group usually turns out to enjoy baseball and, of course, stitch. Deb's group set up a table, distributed goodie bags to many attendees and asked attendees to crochet and knit sections to be assembled into afghans.

Dutchess County Chapter of CGOA, Poughkeepsie, NY

Designer extraordinaire Margaret Hubert is a member of the Dutchess County guild. She noted that one of the most important activities for her guild every year is setting up a booth at the Big E, the Eastern States Exposition, one of the largest fairs in the country. The guild's goal is to share their love of crochet with great displays and demos. Margaret counseled others make these outings informational and fun, plus enjoy the food! For individual guild meetings, she also advised that it's important to have a lesson prepared.

Center of the City Crochet Circle, Pasadena, TX

For crochet enthusiasts who are working and live distances from one another, this guild came up with the solution: literally meet in the "Center of the City," Houston that is. Anita Darras reported they have six regular members but as many as 9 will show up for their lunchtime meetings. Their focus is on mentoring each other.

Ididachain Crochet Guild of Alaska, Anchorage & Wasilla, AK

This 17-year-old guild alternates holding its meetings between Anchorage and Wasilla to accommodate more members. Delma Myers reported the highlights of the guild activities are organizing a Day of Crochet at local venues, which includes a display and demos. The guild also provides judges at the state fair to reach and teach people to crochet.



Delma Myers of the Ididachain Crochet Guild

■ WELCOME TO CGOA CHAPTERS WHO JOINED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER



Vivacious Art Crocheters – CA
Ganchitos - FL
Knot Another Coffee Club – Crochet Guild of Nanchez – MS
Charlotte Crocheters - NC
Crocheters of the Jersey Shore – NJ

■ FACES OF HEROINES

Laura Comas from Knoxville, TN told one of the most moving stories we heard at the Manchester convention. Over the next few years, Laura is dedicating her time to creating a mural made up of the crocheted images of the 140 service women who lost their lives fighting in the Iraq war. Initially, the mural will hang in the Women in Military Service to American Museum at Arlington Cemetery near Washington, D.C. After the exhibit, the individual crochet portraits will be given to the families of the fallen soldiers. To contribute to this project, check out the Faces of Heroines Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faces-of-Heroines/187992014583140?sk=info>).



Laura Comas, Faces of Heroines, holds the first completed crocheted image which will be part of the memorial mural that will hang in the Women in Military Service to America Museum.

■ PET-GHAN CGOA CHAPTER CHALLENGE AWARDS

Jeannette Ng (*pictured below, right*), representing the New York City Crochet Guild and Rita Weiss of Creative Partners, presented the Pet-Ghan Chapter Challenge awards in memory of Jean Leinhauser. The New York Crochet Guild awarded \$250 to The Chain Gang Chapter of Marietta, Georgia for the most pet-ghans donated to a local animal shelter, and the \$250 Rita Weiss award was presented to Gail Ugro (*pictured below, left*) of Minnesota for the most pet-ghans produced and donated by an individual. Gail challenged other chapters to carry on the project and offered her help.



■ CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS PROGRAM IN CROCHET & KNIT

Don't forget to sign up with the Craft Yarn Council, soon, for the Certified Instructors Program (CIP) that is being offered immediately prior to the CGOA Conference/Knit & Crochet Show in Reno, Nevada. The 12-hour program, which is designed to provide current crocheters (and there's a separate track for knitters) with the skills and confidence to teach others, will be held on September 10-11, 2012 (just prior to the Conference so as not to conflict). Students receive a list of samples that must be completed and brought to class. The Crochet Certification class is taught by Barbara Hillery Van Elsen.

Monday hours: 2-5 p.m. and 6 – 9 p.m.

Tuesday hours: 9 a.m. -12 p.m. and 2 - 5 p.m.

Certification Program Cost: \$150 (CGOA Members pay only \$125.)

Register at: <http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/?q=register.html> or call Council offices: 1-800-662-9999

■ CHAPTER NEWS



Long Island Crochet Guild

The Long Island Crochet Guild (*pictured below*) made 25 scarves for the Special Olympics this year! Member Kathleen Morissey reported: "This is always a fun project, and we love doing it! Here are some of our more than 35 members proudly displaying our packaged scarves." The guild meets once a month at

the local fire station for crocheting and camaraderie! They always have a steady stream of afghans, lapghans, baby hats and scarves going out to local charities. Kathleen adds, “We also have a class every month to teach us old dogs some new tricks!”



■ **CGOA CHAPTERS NEAR RENO – WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A BOOTH?**

If you are near Reno and your guild would like to have a booth at the Fall Knit & Crochet Show, be sure to contact **Bethany Donatelli** at bdonatelli@offinger.com. This is a great way to get your guild in front of the community. Booths are available for only \$50. And remember, all members with a CGOA ID number will enter the floor free during show hours.

■ **PRE-REGISTER BEFORE AUGUST 27 FOR FALL CONFERENCE/KNIT & CROCHET SHOW**



The price of event and class tickets is higher onsite, so it pays to pre-register! Get pre-registration pricing any time before August 27.

And with so many popular classes, it's a good idea to reserve your seat early. Classes sell out quickly.

Go to www.KnitandCrochetShow.com to register online – or to print out the brochure so you can read it at the kitchen table and fill out the form to fax or mail in.

Classes start Wednesday (through Sunday). Shopping is Friday, Saturday and Sunday – with a two-hour evening preview on Thursday.

CLASSES, SHOPPING, FASHIONS AND A REALLY GOOD TIME!

What a great opportunity to take **classes** from the best crochet and knit teachers in the industry: *Gwen Bortner, Vashti Braha, Suzanne Bryan, Lily Chin, Joan Davis, Kathie Earle, Candace Eisner Strick, Darla Fanton, Laura Farson, Margaret Fisher, Charles Gandy, Leslie Gonzalez, Jennifer Hansen, Arenda Holladay, Galina Khmeleva, Sharon Levering, Susan Lowman, Marty Miller, Judy Pascale, Binka Schwan, Suzann Thompson, Karen Whooley, Nancie Wiseman, Myra Wood and Jutta Zuloaga.* (See class descriptions and bios online).

Shop from **exhibitors**, including: *A Dropped Stitch, WA; Accent Bead Design, CA; Becky Caraco Designs, CA; Blue Heron Yarns, MD; Crochet Design Showcase, PA; Crochet Liberation Front, WA; Fiber Rhythm Craft & Design, OR; FoxyKnits, CA; Handknitting.com, WY; Harmony Skin Care, WA; Jimmy Beans Wool & Stitch Red, NV; Knitterly, CA; Knitwhits/Freia Fibers, CA; Pioneer Yarn Co., NV; Red Heart Yarn, SC; RedFish Dye Works, CA; Sierra Sewing Center, NV; SPORFARM, OR; Terilyn Needleart, CA; Tootsie P Yarns; CA; and Village Spinning & Weaving, CA.* (The full exhibitor list and a description of things being offered will be posted a month before the show).

Sponsors for Reno include: [CGOA](#), [TKGA](#), [Annie's](#), [Crochetville](#), [KRW Knitwear Studio](#), [Lion Brand Yarn®](#), [Red Heart](#) and [Skacel](#).



Photos for Knit & Crochet Show by Elizabeth Williams and Knit & Crochet Show Staff

Schedule of what you'll want to sign up for:

WEDNESDAY –

Professional Development Day (8-5) – learn from crochet and knit designers and others how to make a living at what you love.

Crochet Masters Meet-Up (5-6) – for those enrolled in or hoping to enroll in the CGOA Masters Program

Classes Begin (6 pm-9 pm) – get an early start on all the great knitting classes!

THURSDAY –

Classes (all day) – take a three-hour or six-hour class from your favorite instructor.

CGOA Conference Kick-Off & Gift Exchange (6 pm-7 pm) – just before exhibits open

Shopping Floor Preview (7 pm-9 pm) - be among the first to shop!

Dance Party (9 pm-Midnight) – sponsored by CGOA and TKGA

FRIDAY –

Classes (all day)

Shopping Floor (10 am-6 pm)

Friday Fashion Parade (1-1:30) – on the Show floor!

CGOA Mini Member Meeting (6:15 pm-7:15 pm)

CGOA Chapter Member Get-Together (8:30 pm-9:30 pm) – sharing with other chapters

SATURDAY –

Classes (all day)

Shopping Floor (10 am-6 pm)

Designer Meet & Greet (10:30-1:30) – show your design portfolio to industry publishers

Online Community Meetups (12:30-1) – connect face-to-face with online friends

CGOA Dinner, Fashion Show & Silent Auction (7:30 pm-9 pm) – THE event for the Conference!

SUNDAY –

Classes (all morning)

Shopping Floor (10 am-3 pm)

Other “just for you” items to note –

- **Book Signings** – by many of your favorite authors.
- **Free Goody Bags** (to the first 500 who pre-register and take at least one class) – sponsored by Lion Brand.
- **Free Shopping Bags** (while they last!) – sponsored by Skacel.
- **Enter On Site to Win Door Prizes** – provided by exhibitors and industry suppliers.
- **Purchase Commemorative Show Pin** – (pictured)



TWEET, TWEET – WHO'S THERE?

Are you on Twitter or Facebook? Keep your followers in the loop while you are at the CGOA Conference/Knit & Crochet Show – let them know about the great SHOPPING, amazing CLASSES and fun FASHION SHOWS. We'll be awarding cool prizes to some lucky tweeters and Facebook fans – watch for details at the show (and online!).

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, NOW!

Rooms are selling out! For hotel, driving directions and parking information, visit <http://www.knitandcrochetshow.com/fall-travel-hotel.asp?i9s2>. Be sure to use the special show code to get a special room rate.

■ DID YOU GET YOUR POSTERS AND COUPONS TO HELP PROMOTE THE CONFERENCE?

If you are in the Southwestern states surrounding Reno, your guild president should have received a packet of posters and discount coupons for the Knit & Crochet Shows for you to post in your favorite crochet hang-outs. If you need more (or you didn't get any for some reason), just let us know at CGOA@Offinger.com.

Also point your non-member friends to www.KnitandCrochetShow.com to print out their own discount coupon (\$2 off or BOGO!).

Even better, encourage everyone to join CGOA so they DO NOT HAVE TO PAY to enter the Show! It pays to be a member!



Give us your favorite shop's name and address if they haven't heard. We'll tell them how to exhibit!

■ OCTOBER 12 – I LOVE YARN DAY: PASSION, FASHION, FUN

Whether you knit, crochet, craft or just adore fiber, October 12th is the day to affirm your passion for yarn. Show it off, tag with it, carry it, gather with friends. Declare your LOVE! Get involved.

- Create an I Love Yarn Day badge
- Teach someone to knit or crochet
- Do something for charity
- Wear a knitted or crocheted item
- Give a gift of yarn
- Take your yarn to work day
- Host a yarn-a-bration party
- Knit, crochet and craft in public

More at <http://www.ILoveYarnDay.org>

■ TELL US YOUR NEWS BEFORE OUR NEXT ISSUE

Thanks to everyone for your contributions of chapter happenings - they are much appreciated - and please keep them coming. Sharing this information with other chapters communicates the benefits of sharing with others our individual passion for the art of crochet.

To contribute ideas or comments on the content of this newsletter please contact chapter@crochet.org.

CGOA Chapter Committee: Jack Blumenthal, Rita Weiss, Mary Colucci, Christin Berrafuto.

■ KEEP YOUR CHAPTER INFORMATION CURRENT

To update your chapter contact information and email address, please notify CGOA@Offinger.com. See your current CGOA Chapter online listing at <http://www.crochet.org/chapter.html>.