

PRESS RELEASE

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Crochet Guild of America (CGOA)
Kicks Off a Yearlong Celebration of its Tenth Anniversary
July 24-27, 2003
www.crochet.org/2003conf/index.html

July 24-27, 2003 marks an important milestone in the history of the Crochet Guild of America (CGOA). The Guild will convene its Tenth Annual *Chain Link* Crochet Conference, "Sweet Home Chicago" and at the same time kick off a year long Celebration to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of CGOA!!

The Northern Ill Chapter of CGOA is "jazzed" to be hosting its third *Chain Link* Conference. Please join them, back where it all began in 1994, in Chicago, renowned city of jazz greats! BE A PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!!

Crocheters from all over the United States and from many foreign countries will immerse themselves in a weekend of "Crochet Camaraderie": Jean Williams Cacicedo, known as the "mother of the art-to-wear movement" will set the tone for the weekend with her Keynote address, "Looking Back... Moving Forward." Classes offered by well-known teachers will explore the latest techniques, friendships will be made and renewed at sumptuous banquets and the many yarn craft industry supporters will provide door prizes galore. The "Crochettes," back by popular demand after their debut in 2002 will open the Fashion Show, "Jazz Up Your Style with Crochet." Open to the public and free of charge, the Juried Crochet Art Exhibit, "Rhythm of Crochet" will both thrill and educate its viewers and the Marketplace will offer the latest in supplies for crochet enthusiasts to buy.

If that's not enough, professional members will attend a Pre-Conference meeting to hone their business and technical skills and the Craft Yarn Council of America will offer a crochet certification course. Prudence Mapstone from Australia will offer the Post Conference Seminar in Free Form Crochet.

An ad hoc Celebration Committee has been working since August '02 to plan activities for its members that will bring attention to crochet and to the guild on a national level during the Celebration Year (August '03 to August '04):

- A specially selected crochet teacher will travel to the local chapters providing an exciting weekend of learning that is planned and organized for their enjoyment
- “Rhythm of Crochet,” juried and invitational crochet art exhibit will travel across the nation for one year. Six invited artists will join jurors, Carol Ventura and Eileen Troxel, as well as those juried into the show, to educate the public by challenging preconceived notions of this medium. Sponsored by CGOA and Solutia, cash prizes will be given in four categories. Peoples’ Choice Award winners from past years’ exhibits will also be displayed at Chain Link ’03.
- A Celebration logo has been designed and will appear in magazines and retail stores nationwide to draw attention to the Tenth Anniversary of CGOA
- A brand new book published by Martingale, *Today’s Crochet*, with garments by CGOA designers will be unveiled as the “official” book of the Celebration Year.
- “Thirty Ways to Promote Crochet” has been provided to the retail members of TNNA along with a crochet-themed cartoon to be displayed in their shops to “Celebrate Crochet!”

View the “Sweet Home Chicago” Conference brochure on line at www.crochet.org and sign up now.....”early bird” specials await you!

The Radisson O’Hare Rosemont is the site of this exciting event, centrally located near O’Hare airport in Chicago, with free shuttle service to the hotel. To register log on to www.radisson.com/rosemontil.