



Crochet Guild of America

Gwen Blakley Kinsler, Chair
Tenth Anniversary Celebration Committee
PO Box 127
Lockport, IL 60441
CGOA@crochet.org
www.crochet.org

Press Release

Contact: Gwen Blakley Kinsler
4500 Pride Court
Rolling Meadows, IL 60009
(847) 776-3934

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2003

Crochet Guild of America (CGOA) Turns Ten!!

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION (July 24, 2003-July 31, 2004)

Founded by Gwen Blakley Kinsler of Rolling Meadows, IL in 1994, the Crochet Guild of America returns to its roots, "Sweet Home Chicago," July 24-27, 2003 to kick off a year long Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of CGOA. The Annual *Chain Link* Crochet Conference, hosted for the third time by the Northern IL Chapter of CGOA attracts hundreds of crocheters from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries. Like-minded stitchers come together to share their passion for crochet and to renew friendships on an annual basis.

This year's Conference is particularly special, as the Guild has reached the milestone of ten years. In order to give back to the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the Guild a success, a Celebration Committee has been formed to create a Year of Celebration with special activities for the many local chapters and a push to promote the Guild and crochet in general. "Crochet is a hot fashion item today," says Kinsler. "It couldn't be better timing for our anniversary celebration. The twenty and thirty age group is seeing crochet as a 'hip' hobby today and we hope to attract them to our organization as new members."

Eight women from the Northern Illinois Chapter have worked as a part of Kinsler's Conference Committee for over a year to plan this upcoming event. Members come together St. Charles, Schaumburg, Arlington Heights and the city of Chicago to plan the weekend activities. Jean Williams Cacicedo, from Berkeley, CA will open the conference with her Keynote Address, "Looking Back...Moving Forward." Known as the "Mother of the Art to Wear Movement," her talk promises to be an inspiration to all. The elite group, which has attended all ten conferences, will be honored along with the original members who attended the first meeting of the Premiere Northern IL Chapter. A special Celebration logo has been created and the Celebration Committee will be wearing polo shirts bearing that logo them.

Today's Crochet, the official book of the Celebration Year, contains patterns for fashion garment designs exclusively by CGOA members. An author book signing will be held with many of the designers present at the Conference.

Taking a look back, a decade of People's Choice winners will be displayed along with the **"Rhythm of Crochet"** juried art exhibit. Open to the public free of charge during the weekend conference at the Radisson O'Hare Rosemont 6810 N. Manheim Road, Rosemont, IL . "Rhythm of Crochet" will travel across country for one year including venues at McHenry Co. College, Crystal Lake, IL, Moonstone Gallery & Studio, Lake Geneva, WI, Fiber Foundation, Amherst, MA and Gallery 510, Decatur, IL and several other venues.

The yearlong Celebration will culminate at Chain Link '04 with a birthday cake for all to enjoy! For more information on the Tenth Annual *Chain Link* Crochet Conference and the Crochet Guild of America visit our award-winning website at:
www.crochet.org