

Joined Together

The official newsletter of the Crochet Guild of America

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Conference Countdown...

The holidays are just around the corner, but the *real* countdown in the CGOA office is to the 2015 Conference! We're so excited to bring the CGOA Conference (in conjunction with the [Knit & Crochet Show](#) and the [TKGA Conference](#)) to the [Town & Country Resort & Convention Center](#) in San Diego, CA, July 22-25, 2015 (pictured at right). The Board, committees and staff are all busy working on plans to make next year's conference really memorable.



Pre-registration is scheduled to open the week of Feb. 23. Watch our website and emails for the specific day and time, which will be announced after the holidays.

NEW this year, we will also open our hotel room block when pre-registration opens. This ensures that the room block is reserved for those who truly plan to attend the event. Watch your inboxes and the website for the room block information, which will be sent out with pre-registration details.

Vote by Dec. 26!



Click [here](#) to get this Vote Tote pattern FREE!

Voting is underway for the 2015 Board of Directors. Delma Myers, Jan Scogin, Marcy Smith and Susan Sullivan have all offered to serve the membership as a board member. There are three seats available and as always, you may write in a candidate. Just remember a "write-in" does need to be a member of CGOA to serve on the board.

To view details about the candidates and vote, please log onto [CGOA's web page here](#). Voting closes Dec. 26, 2014, at 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

CGOA Dues Increase in 2015 for Professional Members

Please note that dues for our Associate Professional and Professional Members will change in the new year. Starting Jan. 1, 2015, dues for these member types will increase from \$35 to \$50. The rate change will be reflected in your next membership renewal, as well on all new membership applications starting in 2015.

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In the Spotlight: Crochet Guild of Prince William County

Virginia's Crochet Guild of Prince William County has been quite active lately — and Chair Rhonda Reese sent so many photos, we decided to put the spotlight on them! You can see more of their photos in an album on our [Facebook page](#).



The guild held two *I Love Yarn Day* events, one at the Manassas Mall and the other at the A.C. Moore Craft Store in Manassas, Va.



The guild also had a hat drive for charity and collected more than 150 hats. It awarded guild members prizes for the most hats made (this father-and-daughter team!) and a prize for the most creative hat.



Lianka Azulay of *Bonita Patterns* was our November speaker (pictured above, in red jacket). We also had former CGOA President Karen Klemp (*Almost Amy*) speak in October. We were very excited to have them both, and enjoyed having them share their knowledge with us.



The guild also held Tunisian crochet classes at the Prince William County Senior Citizen Center in Manassas, Va. The seniors were very interested in learning and practicing their new Tunisian crochet skills.



CGOA Chapter News

Tidbits and ideas from CGOA Chapter meetings from around the country, listed in order by state:

MINNESOTA

Crochet Twin Cities: The last year-and-a-half has been quite busy! We continue to grow, as more crocheters in Minneapolis-St. Paul and the surrounding areas learn about us. A good bit of this growth is a direct result of our relationship with the [Textile Center of Minnesota](#), so we're sharing our story with other chapters.

The Textile Center of Minnesota is a nonprofit coalition dedicated to honoring textile traditions and promoting excellence and innovation in fiber art. In June 2013, our chapter became an organizational member of the Textile Center, which meant we were able to offer our members borrowing privileges from the Textile Center Library, one of the largest fiber arts lending libraries in the U.S. In October 2013, we started holding our monthly meetings in one of the Textile Center classrooms. This move has been very positive: The classrooms are quite spacious and well-lit, and the ever-changing fiber arts exhibits are an extra source of inspiration and conversation.

When we joined the Textile Center, it quickly became clear that we would get much more out of our membership if we actively engaged in programs and events that were offered to us. Through the Textile Center, we have been able to do demonstrations and teaching sessions at several community events such as the [American Craft Council Show](#), [Hennepin County Fair](#), [Artist's Circle Art Show at St. Catherine's University](#), and the Textile Center's own [Do or Dye](#) fundraiser. At all these events, we heard over and over again, "Wow, I never knew there was a crochet group in the Twin Cities" — with the result of several new members who would not have learned of us otherwise.

Another publicity channel we have taken advantage of is the bi-weekly e-newsletter published by the Textile Center. As organizational members, we are al-

lowed to place one free announcement in each issue of the newsletter. We use this to give a brief listing of our next meeting (second Saturday of the month at Textile Center) or meetup (fourth Saturday of the month in various public areas, such as coffee shops or bookstores); point people to our blog posting; and provide them with our email address for more information. This publicity has resulted in several new members, as well as many requests from non-members to be on our email reminder list.

Possibly our biggest boost this year, though, came from an unexpected change in the Textile Center gallery exhibit schedule. We were asked on very short notice if we would be able to provide items for a crochet exhibit for the community gallery. Our members responded with enthusiasm — with items to display and "sweat equity" to help do the installation. Our exhibit, aptly titled "Start Seeing Crochet," ran from March to May with more than 50 items on display; the announcement at [TextileCenterMN.org/start-seeing-crochet](#) aptly describes the spirit and purpose of the exhibit, to show the community the beauty, variation and complexity of crochet. This exhibit was definitely a win-win for both the Textile Center and Crochet Twin Cities: We helped out the Center by providing a high-quality exhibit, and the Center helped us by giving our chapter and crochet itself a lot of positive publicity!

For more information about our latest activities, feel free to visit us online at [CrochetTwinCities.blogspot.com](#) or like our [Facebook page](#)!

— Julie Marz, President

TEXAS

Center of City Crochet Circle (Houston): We will hold our last meeting on Jan. 7, 2015. The reason why this CGOA chapter is disbanding has to do with where and why we meet. Our chapter has met since 2012 in the cafeteria of the ExxonMobil Building on the first

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I Spy With My Little Eye: Crochet on TV

CGOA members have known for 20 years (or more!) how special crochet is. But it appears that Hollywood is also crochet-crazy. With every click of the remote or Netflix binge we are spotting crochet — from the set designs (lots of crocheted afghans!) to the actors' wardrobes.

The next time you have the TV on, be sure to take a glance away from that project in your lap and up at the screen from time to time. You might find crochet inspiration right there in your living room!

Here is just a brief list of shows that have featured crochet in recent episodes. If you have more to add, [email us!](#)

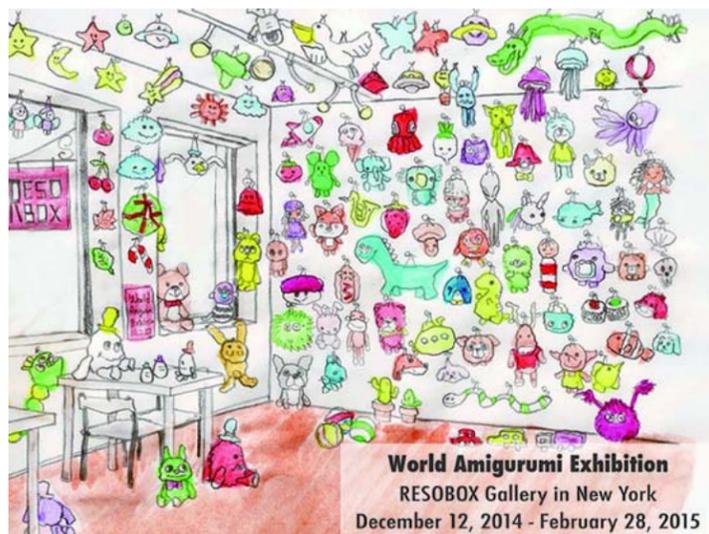
- *The Big Bang Theory*
- *The Fosters*
- *How I Met Your Mother*
- *Mad Men*
- *Marry Me*
- *Modern Family*

- *Nashville*
- *The New Girl*
- *Orange is the New Black*
- *Supernatural*
- *Switched At Birth*
- *The Vampire Diaries*
- *Veronica Mars*



The *New Girl* had main character Jess focusing on “crochet time” with friends a couple seasons back.

World Amigurumi Exhibition Set for New York



RESOBOX, a Japanese cultural center in New York is having a World Amigurumi Exhibition, turning its space into an “Amigurumi Room” from Dec. 12, 2014 until Feb. 28, 2015.

More than 3,000 Amigurumi created by 130 artists from 33 different countries gather in the gallery space. Visitors are welcome to come experience this unique Japanese crochet culture! For more information visit the event page: Resobox.com/amigurumi-world-14.

In addition, the coordinators are looking for crochet artists who might be interested in providing Amigurumi classes or lectures during the exhibition. Interested artists can contact the coordinators at info@resobox.com.



Debby Sighting...



Earlier this year, longtime CGOA staff member Debby Johnston retired. Our office has received many emails and notes wishing her well in this new chapter, and we thought you might like to know what she's been up to!

Debby tells us she is writing a novel, proofing a friend's second mystery book (she already has one out on Amazon: *The Monogrammed Underwear and the White Cadillac* by Katherine Mitzel), singing quite a bit (solos, ladies' quartet and annual Messiah), watercolor painting, a little crochet and knitting, bird-watching into her backyard woods with her husband each morning from their deck with field glasses and coffee, and spending lots of quality time with friends and family.

In addition, she has taken up *fishing*. The picture above shows one of *six* muskies she caught on a lucky day on the lake. It was a whopping 37.5 inches! She highly recommends retirement, and asked us to “Say hi to all of my crochet friends!”

Chapter News From page 3

Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. Our focus has always been education — teaching anyone who stopped at our table how to crochet.

Although the cafeteria is mainly used by Exxon-Mobil employees and contractors, it is open to the public and conveniently located in the heart of downtown Houston. Our crochet table attracted quite a few working women with busy lives. Our midday schedule appealed to them, instead of long commutes to suburban chapters or committing weekends or evenings to chapter meetings, since most already had commitments to soccer games, church functions, etc.

The ExxonMobil property has been sold, and in February 2015, its personnel will relocate to new digs 38 miles north of the city center. The new property will be gated, and therefore closed to the public. Chapter members will be joining other chapters in the Houston area or affiliating with the online chapter. — *Anita W. Darras, President*

CGOA Staff

- CGOA Executive Director - Karen Knies
- CGOA Member Services/Programs Coordinator - Kareena Gibson

CGOA consults regularly with a volunteer Industry Board of Directors:

- Marcy Smith, Interweave Crochet, President
- Tammy Hildebrand, Designer, VP
- Susan Lowman, The Crochet Architect, Secretary
- Bobbie Matela, Coats & Clark, Treasurer
- Jack Blumenthal, Lion Brand Yarn
- Mary Colucci, Craft Yarn Council
- Kate Steinke, Crochet Engineer