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News Release
For Immediate Publication

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CGOA AND TKGA CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RECENT 2012 SUMMER KNIT & CROCHET SHOW IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Clusters of men and women and happy chatter over loops and hooks and knitting needles marked the rare quiet moments in the Knit & Crochet Lounge, sponsored by Red Heart Yarns, during the recent 2012 Summer Knit & Crochet Show in Manchester, New Hampshire. Downtime was rare because the schedule bulged with conference activities prepared by the Show's sponsors: Crochet Guild of America (CGOA) and The Knitting Guild Association (TKGA). A Buddy Program coordinated by Kate Steinke helped first-time conference-goers by matching up "newbies" with show veterans. Conference activities bracketed three days of cash and carry exhibits and nearly a hundred hours of classes by 21 popular crochet and knit instructors on topics ranging from Crocheted Tunisian Lace to Twined Knitting.

CGOA's Professional Development Day sponsored by Lion Brand® Yarn introduced would-be crochet and knit professionals to the mysteries of how to get published, how to become a contract crocheter/knitter, and how to present a teaching proposal. Speakers included: Kimberly AcAlindin, Renee Barnes, Gwen Bortner, Lily Chin, Cari Clement, KJ Hay, Margaret Hubert, Susan Huxley, Melissa Leapman, Marty Miller, Jane Rimmer, Karen Whooley, and Margery Winter. A raffle of generously donated items garnered funds to benefit The Helping Hands Foundation's Needle Arts Mentoring Program(SM).

Concurrent with the Professional Development Day sessions, knitters learned the ins and outs of navigating the highly regarded TKGA Master Hand Knitting Program. Representatives of the TKGA Masters Committee, including Arenda Holladay, Suzanne Bryan, Charles Gandy and Leslie Gonzalez, presented skill-building and knitting research insights to guide Master Knitter candidates toward mastery of their discipline. Knit blocking practice, with buckets of water, thirsty towels and handfuls of pins, proved to be a popular exercise. Members of the TKGA Masters Committee provided "office hours" in the TKGA membership booth during exhibit hours to help answer additional questions about the Masters Program.

With special thanks to Red Heart Yarns for sponsorship, crocheters curious about or enrolled in the CGOA Masters of Advanced Crochet Stitches and Techniques Program gathered later that evening to hear from CGOA Masters Committee members and various program reviewers, including Karen Whooley, Kathleen Sams, Susan Lowman, Jane Rimmer, Linda Dean, Karen Ballard and others.

Entries in the annual CGOA Design Competition were displayed throughout the Show, with winning designs announced by Doris Chan, Andee Graves and Shari White of the competition committee on Thursday evening:

<u>$1000 Grand Prize, sponsored by *Vogue Knitting Crochet*</u>
"Reversible Rowan Tree Vest", designed by Laurinda Reddig

<u>Category: Accessories, sponsored by WEBS, America's Yarn Store</u>
First Prize $300 "Knots of Love Shawl", designed by Kathryn White
Second Prize $200 "Vineyard at Dawn Shawl", designed by Linda Dean
Third Prize $100 "Romantic Pineapple Shawl", designed by Kathryn White

<u>Category: Afghans, sponsored by Red Heart Yarns</u>
First Prize $300 "Princess and the Pea", designed by Michele Wilcox

Second Prize $200 “Ahana”, designed by Brenda Bourg
Third Prize $100 “Diagonal Modern Art”, Nancy Smith

Category: Fashion, sponsored by *Interweave Crochet*
First Prize $300 “Mystique”, designed by Tammy Hildebrand
Second Prize $200 “Glendalough Shrug”, designed by Jennifer Ryan
Third Prize $100 “Cool Breeze Tee”, designed by Jill Hanratty

Category: Small Wonders Jewelry, sponsored by Boye and the Crochet Dude brand
First Prize $300 “NC Necklace”, designed by Karen C. K. Ballard
Second Prize $200 “Marseille Necklace”, designed by Shelby Allaho
Third Prize $100 “Hairpin Lace Bracelet”; designed by Jean DeMouy

Category: Thread Crochet, sponsored by AllFreeCrochet.Com and FaveCrafts.com
First Prize $300 “Charm Blouse”, Natalia Kononova
Second Prize $200 “Pineapple Rose Delight”, designed by Carol Booth
Third Prize $100 “Southern Rose Doily”, designed by Kathryn White

Category: Fanciful Fashion, sponsored by Tahki Stacy Charles Yarns
First Prize $300 “Summer Dreams Bolero”, designed by Dot Drake
Second Prize $200 “Freya Dress”, designed by Linda Skuja
Third Prize $100 “The Whirlwind”, designed by Diana Toni

Category: Artistic Expression, sponsored by Tulip Company
First Prize $300 “Ageless Elegance Gatetop Purse”, designed by Kathryn White
Second Prize $200 “Cat Tree”, designed by Sachiko Adams
Third Prize $100 “Sensory Herbary”, designed by Martha Furman Kojro

$200 Special Award for Technical Merit, sponsored by Designing Vashti
“Summer Dreams Bolero”, designed by Dot Drake

$100 Founders Award, sponsored by CGOA Founder Gwen Blakley Kinsler
“Princess and the Pea”, designed by Michele Wilcox

$100 People’s Choice Award, sponsored by Crochet Liberation Front
“Pineapple Rose Delight”, designed by Carol Booth

Following a two-hour preview and first-chance to buy on Thursday evening on the Knit & Crochet Show exhibit floor, knitters and crocheters danced the night away at the CGOA/TKGA-sponsored Welcome Dance Party, with music licensing sponsored by Crochetville.

During a quick break from the first full day of shopping the Show’s exhibits and taking classes on Friday, everyone “ooohed and aaahed” at a Red Heart Yarns-sponsored parade of fashions emceed by Gwen Bortner with designs by exhibitors offering the patterns and fibers for purchase. Half-hour stage demos of various knit and crochet techniques were offered throughout exhibit hours, including “Historic Knitting Techniques From the 1800s” by Rose Ann Hunter, “Cha Cha Scarf” by Karen Whooley, “How to Make Broomstick Lace” by Red Heart and Tammy Hildebrand, “Hairpin Lace” by Red Heart and Donna Hulka, and “Nooking Sashay & Ribbon Yarn” by Red Heart and Amy Shelton.

Shoppers could also buy crochet and knitting tools, books, notions, accessories and more. Books by Gwen Bortner, Beth Brown-Reinsel, Doris Chan, Lily Chin, Tove Fevang, Charles Gandy, Margaret Hubert, Karen Klemp, Melissa Leapman, Susan Lowman, Mary Beth Temple and more could be personally signed by the authors. Purchased yarns could be wound at the CGOA Ball Winding Booth for a nominal donation to support The Helping Hands Foundation's Needle Arts Mentoring Program (SM). Free shopping bags were sponsored by Skacel. Goody bags already filled with product were supplied by Lion Brand® Yarn to the first 500 show goers who preregistered and took at least one class. Purchases of 2012 conference commemorative items, including Show pins and a size J glass 2012 Commemorative Crochet Hook designed by Chris Murphy, allowed attendees to take home reminders of their conference experiences.

Throughout exhibit hours, door prizes by exhibitors were awarded, and at various conference activities items donated by various corporate sponsors, such as Annie's Attic, Berroco, Handy Hands, Interweave Press, Kraemer Yarns, Lantern Moon, Leisure Arts, Lion Brand Yarn, Lorna's Laces, The Knitting Zone/Hiya Hiya North America, Martingale & Co., Plymouth Yarn Co., Prism Yarns, Running Press, Stitch Diva, Trafalgar Square Books, Unicorn Editions, Ltd. and more were awarded. Several show goers who posted and "tweeted" from the Show won prizes.

At the Friday evening CGOA Member Meeting, Board Members presented a report of 2011 activities and recognized various program volunteers. Prior to adjournment, Jeannette Ng, 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 local animal shelters, and the $250 Rita Weiss award was presented to Gail Ugro of Minnesota for the most pet-ghans produced and donated by an individual. Later that evening representatives from various CGOA Chapters gathered for coffee and sharing of successful and interesting promotional and program ideas.

Knitters gathered for the TKGA Dinner on Friday, sponsored by Annie's and featuring a member fashion show coordinated by Gwen Bortner and emceed by Lily Chin and Charles Gandy, the awarding of Master Knitter pins to the latest program graduates, and the conclusion of the knit portion of the Silent Auction to benefit The Helping Hands Foundation's Needle Arts Mentoring Program(SM) and the TKGA Memorial Scholarship Fund. Silent Auction donors included: Close Knit Sisters, Author Terri DuLong of the Cedar Key Series, Fiber Rhythm Craft & Design, Glorious Knits, Rose Ann Hunter and TKGA.

Saturday's Designer Meet & Greet afforded face-to-face time for designers to meet and present their proposals to the editorial staffs of several industry companies and publications, including Penny Sitler of TKGA's *Cast On* magazine, Bobbie Matela of Red Heart Yarns, Kara Gott Warner of *Creative Knitting*, Marcy Smith of *Interweave*, and Carol Alexander of *Crochet!* and *Crochet World*.

Online community friends on Crochet Liberation Front, Crochetville and Ravelry found face-time in a meet-up sponsored by Annie's early Saturday afternoon.

Crocheters gathered for a dinner sponsored by Annie's on Saturday evening, with a dynamic member fashion show, awards of CGOA Masters pins to recent Masters Program graduates and reviewers, the conclusion of the crochet portion of the Silent Auction to support The Helping

Hands Foundation's Needle Arts Mentoring Program (SM), and the announcement of the CGOA Design Competition's People's Choice Award.

Clover sponsored a brief TKGA Member Meeting on Saturday evening, followed by a rousing game of Last Knitter Standing, with games and prizes provided by Charlotte Yarn. The title of Last Knitter Standing was conferred on Kimberly Townsend.

To view photos of the 2012 Summer Knit & Crochet Show and CGOA and TKGA Conferences, visit: http://www.crochet.org/confrpts.html and http://www.tkga.com/conference.shtm.

The Fall Knit & Crochet Show with CGOA and TKGA Conferences is scheduled for September 12-16, 2012 (with education from September 12-16 and exhibits open from September 14-16) at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. For details on exhibiting and attending, visit www.KnitandCrochetShow.com or contact Knit & Crochet Show at KnitandCrochetShow@Offinger.com. Members of CGOA and TKGA receive exhibit and event ticket discounts and enter the Show for free. To become a member, visit either www.Crochet.org or www.TKGA.com.

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