

## What's the Most Difficult Thing You've Crocheted?

Continued from page 1 work.

"When I showed this complete sweater in my first meeting of my chapter, I was happy that people liked it, and it was chosen to be displayed in the window of Rolling Meadow Library. This is my first achievement."

Dana Benjamin found the challenge in a "Celtic afghan I did for my friend's house-warming gift" because the pattern was badly-written. Karen Navoy did a formal dress for a military ball when she was in college. Amy Steinmetz was challenged by both the

72" round tablecloth she stitched out of bedspread weight cotton thread and by the necklace she came up with for the water-themed 2008 chapter challenge. Amber Martinez did an afghan for a wedding present. Rosalie Johnston found scaling crocheted garment patterns for different sizes challenged her each time she wrote a pattern.

What all these stitchers have in common is that they came across something unfamiliar, and found a way to work it out. Are you inspired yet? Let the new year challenge you to conquer something new in the realm of crochet.

## Remembering Elsie Carl

Elsie was taught to do chain stitch as a (continued on page 4) young girl and all the rest of her crochet skills are self-taught. Her love of crochet and other crafts came in handy to fill the long hours when Roy, her husband, was on the road working. Living in Hyde Park in 1943, Elsie remembers going to Marshall Fields for her crochet supplies and she especially liked stocking up on discontinued yarns. "Herrschner's used to be on Randolph Street in Chicago," Elsie told me. "That's where I got started using beads," she remembers. As is her fashion, Elsie really stocked up on supplies when Herrschner's move to Stevens Point, WI in 1970. "I got lots-cheap!"

Elsie showed me crocheted sweaters, jackets and dresses she made to wear when she was young. She even has one trimmed in rhinestones that she wore on a cruise. "We went out a lot back then and I made necklaces to match my sweaters and even had shoes to match," she explained. I asked her if she was quite the "fashion item" and Elsie replied, "I was to me!"

Next time you are at a Chapter meeting, get to know Elsie. She has made a great contribution to our group and to crochet!

## Meetings

We meet at the Rolling Meadows Library, located at 3110 Martin Lane, Rolling Meadows, on the second Saturday of the month, 1:30-4:30 p.m. For more info visit our web site at [www.nicrochet.com](http://www.nicrochet.com), or call Marge Scensny, Membership, at (847) 524-0271. Visitors are welcome to attend a first meeting free. The next two meetings (per year) are \$3. If you would like to join the Northern Illinois Chap-

ter of the Crochet Guild of America, dues are \$15 per year. Membership in the National Crochet Guild of America dues are \$35. The Northern Illinois Chapter is an affiliated chapter of the Crochet Guild of America, and joining both is recommended, but not required.



[www.nicrochet.com](http://www.nicrochet.com)

Northern Illinois Chapter (NIC)  
of the Crochet Guild of America (CGOA)

## Upcoming Meetings

November 8—Crocheted Socks

December 13—Annual Holiday Party, Pattern Swap and optional Gift Exchange

January—date and topic to be announced.

1st Quarter 2009

Volume 11, Number 1

# Chain Reaction

Amy Steinmetz, Editor

## Creative Commons Licensing: Kinder to the Crocheter By Dorothy P. Schmidt

Creative Commons is a practical alternative to current copyright laws. It allows greater opportunity for crochet designers to share their patterns with crocheters while not allowing them to profit from the designer's work.

Creative Commons licensing allows more options than the Fair Use allowance of current copyright regulations. Howard Pitler in an article published in Innovate says "Creative Commons provides a legal framework that clarifies the intent of creators and thereby allows for future innovation."

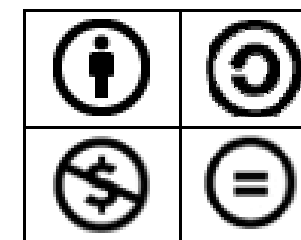
For more information: on CREATIVE COMMONS google CREATIVE COMMONS or go to <http://www.Innovateonline.info> <http://www.creativecommons.org> For Copyright law of the USA <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92/chap1.html#110>

If you want to see it actually used to protect a crochet pattern go to [www.crochetkookie.blogspot.com](http://www.crochetkookie.blogspot.com) It is used to copyright the pattern titled PINKY NO DRINKY. You will see the CC license at the end of the pattern. Click on it and the link will show you what copying is allowed for this pattern.

### Editor's Note:

Thanks to Dorothy for bringing this licensing option to the notice of our members. Want to know more about this intriguing concept of creative commons licensing? The creative commons website mentioned above gives good clear information as to what exactly creative commons licensing is, how it differs from more widely known copyright licensing, what kinds of rights you can confer through creative commons licensing, and how to go about protecting your works using creative commons licensing.

And by the way, take a few minutes to check out Dorothy's very entertaining Crochet Kookie web blog!



Symbols for different kinds of creative commons licenses

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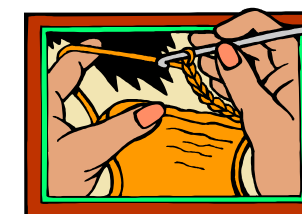
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### Contributors Wanted!

Chapter members are encouraged to put pen to paper, whether literally or figuratively in this digital age, and submit material for upcoming newsletters.



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## President's Column by Rosalie Johnston

As we end one year and start another, I'm happy to report that our membership has grown to fifty. We have a great group and it's nice to see our numbers going up. With more people in our group, we have greater opportunities to learn from each other. It seems that someone always has that little tip we need to solve one of our crochet problems. Don't forget to tell your friends about our Chapter when they ask you about your crocheting. You never know when one of your acquaintances is actually looking for a group such as ours. Sometimes people may crochet a little or have crocheted in the past and would like to take it up again. And often there is that lone crocheter looking for the company of other crocheters. So "talk us up" because in our Chapter "the more the merrier" is really true.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Northern Illinois Chapter is

### What's the Most Difficult Thing You've Crocheted?

Is 2009 your year to tackle a new crochet challenge? You're a crocheter, so you've tackled things that were challenging and mastered them. But sometimes we need inspiration, challenge and even competition to produce results outside our comfort zone. Perhaps the accomplishments of some of our Chapter members will inspire you. Here is what Tina Ji reported:

"It was my first free-form leaves sweater. I was inspired by a picture of many flowers and leaves on a garment. I

a chapter of our national group, the Crochet Guild of America. One of the many benefits of membership in CGOA is a free subscription to Crochet! magazine, including Chain Link, CGOA's newsletter. CGOA members receive retail discounts with AnniAttic.com, Interweave Crochet, TheLeisureBoutique.com, Mary Maxim and Shop-Caron.com. Members also receive discounts to annual and regional conferences. One of the best benefits of membership is being able to keep up with the newest trends and techniques of crochet. You also have the opportunity to network with crocheters from all across the country. I think it is important to support our national organization and I encourage everyone to become members of CGOA. Check it out at [www.crochet.org](http://www.crochet.org).



thought it was fun to crochet flowers and leaves, and it was fun at the beginning. I used whatever the colors I liked, whatever the patterns I imaged. I made many individual pieces of flowers and leaves. But when I tried to patch them together, it drove me crazy. There were so many pieces and so many ends of yarn. Too much work for fastening off. I spread out my stuffs all over the table and sew them piece by piece. It looked like the endless

## Remembering Elsie Carl

*Editor's Note: The following article by Gwen Blakeley Kinsler is a reprint of a profile of Elsie Carl that ran in the chapter newsletter in November 1999. For those who knew Elsie, this is a nice remembrance. If you were not fortunate enough to get to know her even a little, this may shed some light on why so many guild members were touched by her and wanted to pay tribute to her memory.*

Elsie Carl: Living Treasure, Treasure Hunter by Gwen Blakeley Kinsler

Elsie Carl is characterized by a lifetime quest for learning and a spirit of creating and giving. A young 88 years old, this four-foot ten, energy-charged dynamo (with size 4 ½ shoes) is a wonder to behold! To think, we almost didn't get to know her! On a recent visit to her home in Hinsdale, she told me how she came to our first Chapter meeting in June, 1994 expecting to see a crochet exhibit. As she peeked into the meeting room and saw only 3 people sitting at a table (Sue Kenyon, Dana Benamin, and Gwen Blakeley Kinsler), she was ready to turn around and leave. Instead, Dana "nabbed" her and gave her a sell-job that was not only beneficial to Elsie, but to many of the rest of us who have been inspired by her.

Kitsch and crochet with recurring themes of cats, beads and shells are words to describe the craft work Elsie has done. At her home, I felt like I had been given a ticket to visit a road-side attraction in Florida: "the house of shells", "the amazing cat-collector", or that I had wandered upon a rural "Ben Franklin" store with a "going-out-of-business" sign in the window. Elsie is a collector, "pack rat" is the term she uses to describe herself. Though she is practical and even frugal, Elsie is not one to buy in small quantity. When it comes to her craft supplies, she is prepared for any need or creative idea that might arise because useful things just come her way. Gracefully displayed, every nook and cranny of her house has a portion of the many things she enjoys collecting. Framed crochet and shell art on the walls along with framed crewel and painted scenes. Swarovsky crystal pieces in a specially de-

signed cabinet, automatic tie racks with dozens and dozens of her original design necklaces, which with a flick of the wrist can be viewed with amazement, racks of tiny shoes and dozens of hats and purses. "When I get interested in a project, I go overboard making my creations by the dozens. I am to hats what Imelda Marcos is to shoes," says Elsie with a grin.

Although she says her basement workshop is a "mess," I found Elsie to be incredibly organized. She has craft supplies from the forties labeled and in boxes and every imaginable container, even dividers from candy boxes and recycled to store her costume jewelry earrings until they are re-used in another jewelry creation. Unable to part with anything because past experiences tell her that's exactly when she will find a need for the departed item, Elsie even has some boxes labeled "crap" and "junk!"

To those of us in the Northern IL Chapter, Elsie is best known by her unique bead-crochet rope necklaces, adorned with "found" objects from her collection. So impressed were we that first day we met her, we asked Elsie to present a program on bead-crochet ropes at our premier chapter meeting the following September (1994). That presentation and her enduring enthusiasm has launched several professional endeavors for our members: Lori Zalewski taught the beaded ropes at Chain Link '96, Barb Sizemore taught a bead necklace at Chain Link '99, and Sue Kenyon has been inspiring crocheters to crochet with beads all around Chicagoland and taught the beaded cord at Embellishments '99 in Portland, OR. I asked her if she was quite the "fashion item" and Elsie replied, "I was to me!"

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