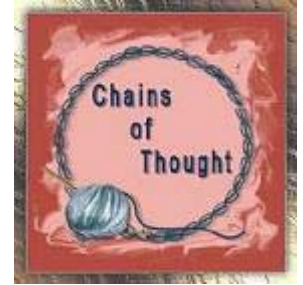


Summer Vacation

2008 Summer Edition



Letter From the Editor . . .

Looking at the calendar and realizing that half the year has passed ... wondering where it went. Mark and I took a drive last week and headed to Mary Maxim in Paris, Ontario. We took a scenic route there, seeing many combines in the fields harvesting the wheat fields. We made a comment that before we know it summer will be over and the children will be back in school. Once at Mary Maxim, Mark bought me a floor lamp—Daylight Ultra Slim. I was able to use a gift certificate I received from my best friend Cathy, and picked up a couple of Christmas gifts as well. I love the floor lamp.

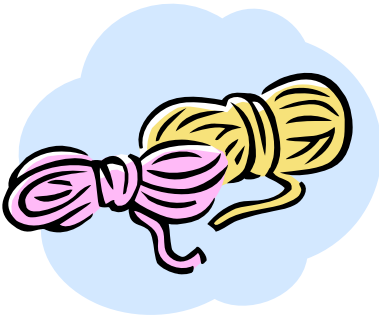
Reporters

Anne Fatato
Jacqui Simmons
Linda Gelb
Maria Lits
Patsy Schultz
Connie Hoffman
Margaret Fraleigh
Tina Fraleigh
Theresa Gilmer

The beginning of this week, I was working on the computer, my window was open, gentle breeze coming through and I stopped and listened. I could not believe my ears. The cicadas were singing in the trees. When you hear the cicadas or tree toads as we call them around here, it is said its 6 weeks till frost. I was just getting used to summer.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Chains of Thought. We are always looking for new ideas. If you would like to submit an article or perhaps a photo of a project you have finished, pass them on, we would love to include them in future editions.

~ Margaret Fraleigh ~



Crocheting for Charity

by Anne Fatato

The first time I joined in the CLCAT Chat room to meet everyone I was not sure what to expect. After all these were people who regularly met once a month to chat & had a chance to get to know one another over their crochet projects. There was also the fact that there was a charity challenge going on and I was not working on something for charity of the month. Could I join in the fun? Should I join in the fun? Would they be upset that I was not working on an item for the charity of the month?

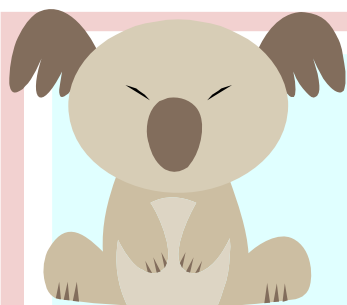
Well, I just joined in and introduced myself and discovered I had nothing to be afraid of .. Nothing! Everyone was friendly and no one minded that I was working on something other than the charity challenge. As we got talking I realized that not everyone was in a position to donate every month to every charity and that was okay. The chat time was a great deal of fun to spend time with others who shared their love of crochet. Other areas of interest would show up as we continued to chat. The best thing I learned was that if all I could manage was to make one item each month, that one item was just as important and needed as the four or five items that someone else may have been able to pledge & send.

Let's face it, some of us are on tight budgets so it can be difficult to pledge to send items out ... first there is the cost of the yarn to make the item, then we need postage too not to mention packaging the item ... yes it can add up. But and here's the important thing to realize ... when I find the packing items at the dollar store or at Wal-Mart I can usually get more than one box or envelope fairly reasonably priced when I have a few dollars to spare. When I look through my stash there is always some yarn that was left over from a large project or purchased on a whim because it was on sale and would be just right for the charity items needed that month. As for postage, really when only sending one or two items it isn't that expensive to send. Okay so you may not be able to send every single month but you can send a couple times during the year and that little bit really does make a great deal of difference in someone's life.

How can I be so sure? Well I volunteer my time at the Alpha Pregnancy Care Center near my home. I go there once a week to help teach young women to crochet and another volunteer comes to help them learn how to knit. Together we are blessed to see them learn these skills and see the projects they make. I have seen firsthand how the director gets tears in her eyes over every beautiful donation that comes in from complete strangers ... she tells me how important each individual item is because they all make a difference to the families that receive those donations. If that weren't enough I've seen some of the women who get to "shop" in the stork room and how they react to the items they can choose from as they consider that others cared enough to send such nice items for their use.

In conclusion, I have learned the value of making even just one item whenever possible. I know there are times throughout the year that I just can't participate due to any number of reasons but when I can pledge and send out items I do my best. It is always worth while even for one small item to join in with everyone else's items, for it makes a difference to at least one

person. Just like that email story that tells the story of the star fish. You may have received it just like I have ... the story goes like this: A man was walking on the beach one day and he came across someone tossing a star fish back into the water. When the man looked at how many star fish were stranded on the shore he said to the person tossing them back into the water, it wouldn't make a difference since the star fish were going to die on the shore. Without stopping the person picked up another star fish & threw it back into the water and calmly replied, "made a difference to that one". You do make a difference. You make a difference to others in many different ways. You smile at someone and it can brighten up their day. You crochet one small bib, or pair of booties or maybe some 12 inch squares that get joined into a comfort afghan and it makes a difference to someone you may never meet. Making a difference one small item at a time is so much better than never reaching out because you can't provide more than one thing each month! I hope you will join us and see how much fun it can be to help others when you pledge & then send one item to the charities each month. If you can't do it every month that is fine, just try it when you can, I promise you will find it enjoyable!



NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

By Jacqui Simmons

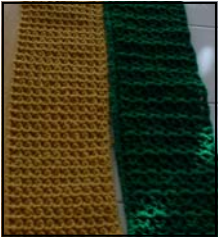
Here we are freezing while you are all basking in your warm sunshine. I must admit thought that I prefer the winter to the summer. Summers here are so very hot and humid. We don't have all that dessert for nothing. LOL.

We have just had the Pope here visiting for World Youth day. I don't know why it's called 'day' when it lasts for over a week. we have also had thousands of pilgrims here to celebrate. One night last week they all slept at a large racecourse out in the open. It's a wonder they didn't freeze to death as it was a very cold night. At least it didn't rain. In fact it didn't rain all week until the Pope left and then it started. It must have been divine intervention. Altogether it was a very 'moving' week. I didn't get to see him in person but watched a lot on the TV. I loved his red shoes and there was a lot of comments about them.

Crocheting has been a bit slow lately as we have been having a new kitchen installed. Now I have many more cupboards but I forget where I've put things! However, I am making a tablecloth. It has nine linen squares, all crocheted around and then joined together and a huge crochet border.

Hope everyone is well and happily hooking!!

HARVEST TIME LAP AFGHAN CROCHET - A - LONG



Hello Everyone,

We want to tell you how excited we are to share with you the first Crochet-a-Long pattern for the Chains of Thought newsletter. Isabel and I fussed over the design for a lap sized afghan we hope you will all enjoy enough to make time and again. We chose a lap afghan design in honor of our Editor-in-Chief, Margaret Fraleigh and her charity for this month's CAT. There are a lot of different options for varying this pattern. We will present it to you in at least 2 parts (possibly 3) over the span of the next few newsletters. If you run into any trouble, please don't hesitate to email either Isabel Pfister (pfister@quixnet.net) or me, Connie Hoffman (hooksnhugs@gmail.com) and we'll be happy to help you with anything we can.

Materials for Entire Afghan

20 oz Worsted Weight Yarn MC
(either all one color or 12 of one and 8 of another)
8 oz Worsted Weight Yarn
(color for joining and edging)
H Crochet Hook
Tapestry Needle for weaving in ends

Gauge

Strip A 4 rows = 1", 4 stitches = 1"
Strip B 2 rows = 1", 2 V-stitches = 1"

Finished Size

Approximately 36" by 36"

Special Stitches and Note

Sc Decrease (sc dec): Pull up a loop in first stitch, and in next stitch, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops on hook.

** Chain 1 at the end of each row doesn't count as a stitch

** Strip numbers are only guidelines. You can choose to make 5 of either A or B

Instructions Strip A - Make 3

With H hook, and MC, chain 22, turn

Row 1: (Right Side) Sc in 2nd chain from hook and each chain across. Ch 1 and turn. (21sts)

Row 2: (Wrong Side) Work a sc dec in first two stitches, *chain 1, work sc dec in next two stitches* repeat from * to * across ending with a sc in the last stitch. Ch 1 and turn. (10 sc dec, 10 ch 1 and 1 sc).

Repeat Row 2 until piece measures 33.5" from the beginning, ending on a Wrong Side row.

Last Row: Sc in each stitch and space across, ending with 21 stitches. Fasten off and weave in ends. Finished strip before edging should be 34"

Instructions Strip B - Make 2

With H hook, and MC (or second color if you chose), chain 22, turn.

****Special stitches and Note****

V-stitch: dc, ch 1, dc all in same space

** Chain 1 is ONLY done at the beginning and end, not between the v-stitches

** Chain 4 counts as first dc and chain 1

Row 1: V-Stitch in 5th chain from hook, *skip 2 chains, V-stitch in next stitch*. Repeat from * to *, ending with 2 chains left, ch 1, skip 1 ch and dc in last chain. Chain 4 and turn. (6 v-stitches and 2 dc)

Row 2: V-Stitch in each chain 1 space across, ending with ch 1 after the last v-stitch and dc in dc from previous row.

Repeat Row 2 until piece measures 34" from the beginning. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Look in the next issue of
Chains of Thought for Part 2 of the
Crochet - a - Long



Patsy's Pigeonhole

by Patsy Schultz

Where to start, with hook in hand
To make an item - something grand.
Not bought at Wal-Mart - no, they'll not do
Crocheted by hand, and just for you.

It's made with love, as it should be
One stitch, then two, and now its three.
The shape it takes transforms in stages
The patterns passed throughout the ages.
My mom, her mom, and some before
I know there's others - many more.

I now do what they once did
And on ebay they'll get a bid.

For we have moved ahead in time
But lose our craft? That'd be a crime.
So, next year when it's socks you see
Waiting under your Christmas tree.

Do not grumble or gripe or moan
As years it took that craft to hone.

Because easier it is instead to buy
Assembly line crafts, indeed - but why?
When someone takes the time to make

An item you'd appreciate

So be it afghans, doilies, or toys
Be they for girls or for boys.

With love we stitch in every way
This great craft that we have - Crochet!



HIDDEN EASTER EGG CONTEST

Congratulations

The winner of the Easter Egg contest is

DANIELLE SILVA-BAIRD

The hidden egg was on Theresa Gilmer's page, Hooks Away, in the 7th basket on the left side. Thank you to everyone that submitted their guess.

Danielle forward your snail mail address to mfraleig@ciaccess.com. Your prize package will be sent shortly.

NEW CONTEST

Answer the following questions and submit your answers to mfraleig@ciaccess.com. Those that answer will have their name put in the draw. Winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

1. How many stitches do you chain to begin the Crochet - a - long?
2. What stitch was a challenge for Cathy and Marg?
3. Where does Anne Fatato volunteer her time as a Crochet Instructor?
4. What recipe did Tina put in this newsletter?
5. Who was visiting in Jacqui's neck of the woods for World Youth Day?



Cathy's Coasters

Cathy & Marg's Crochet Challenge



Marg's Coaster

.....

Have you ever started a new project only to find there is a stitch that is confusing or difficult or just plain, the stitch from h.....!!!!

Well Cathy and I came across a stitch that was a challenge. We tried the bullion stitch one evening we were visiting, and let's say by the end of the evening, the bullion stitch had won.

But we were both determined not to give up ... so a couple weeks ago, Cathy and I grabbed some yarn, our hook, a cup of coffee and relaxed on the patio. We were determined to master the stitch.

Cathy had printed out a pattern of a coaster, which came with instructions on how to do the bullion stitch and we worked on the coaster and after a bit of frogging, rereading the instructions and more frogging and more rereading the instructions ... we were successful in completing the coaster. Cathy even went home and made a couple more coasters.

I have photographed the results of our evening to share with each of you (at the top of the page).

We were going to share the pattern of the coasters with you, but the pattern came from Annie's Attic, one of the daily patterns, so unfortunately we cannot post it here. Perhaps you saved it.

We have decided that we are going to get together every so often and work on a project that is new to us.

So, Cathy and I are challenging you to try the bullion stitch if you haven't tried it yet. For those of you who have already mastered it, congratulations. Our hats are tipped to you.

If you have made something with bullion stitch and would like to photograph it, send it along to mfraleig@ciaccess.com and we will include it in the next newsletter.

So long for now, we will share our next challenge with you in the next newsletter.

Heartmade Blessings lost a dedicated member,
Freddie Short.



She is going to be missed. Our thoughts and prayers
go out to her husband and family.

Chains of Thought wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to
anyone who has lost a dear one since our last newsletter.
We continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Recipes for the Crocheter

by Tina Fraleigh

When I was looking for a recipe to include in the newsletter, I thought I would use a
recipe that was handed down from my mom.

Marg's Banana Muffins

2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup mashed banana
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder

Mix all the dry ingredients together. Then add the mashed bananas and
mayonnaise. Put in muffin tins topped with brown sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 375
degrees F for 20 minutes or until a toothpick in center comes out clean.

This recipe can also be made into a banana loaf, the cooking time will be a little bit
longer.

Another variation that I use, is by adding chocolate chips, a guaranteed way to get
my son to eat them :)