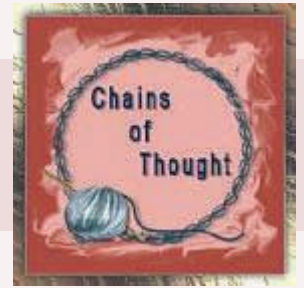


Spring Edition March 2009



Letter from the Editor . . .

Greetings everyone. Spring has arrived . . . at least on the calendar. It usually takes the weather awhile to catch up. Just today while out doing errands, there were scattered snowflakes floating in the air. Not enough to say it was snowing, but they were there just the same.

I have daffodils that are coming up on both sides of our front step. A promise that spring is coming.

The birds seem to be singing earlier, louder and longer. Some are already busy scouting out the best place for their nests. Another promise that spring is coming.

On our drive to Chatham yesterday, we could see the winter wheat turning green. Another promise that spring is coming.

I love spring!! We have chosen Spring as our theme for this newsletter. It is our hope that our newsletter will get you excited for Spring.

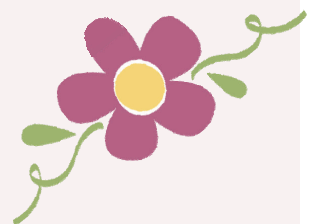
I would like to thank all those of you who have contributed to this newsletter in some way. It is only through your help that the newsletter is possible. Thank you Tina for your dedication to putting the newsletter together beautifully for all of us to enjoy.

Margaret Fraleigh

Spring has returned.

The earth is like a child that knows poems

~ Rainer Maria Rilke ~



Crochet Musings

By Anne Fatato

This year is well underway and I wanted to take the time to think about my crochet journey. It all began when as a young girl I witnessed the relationship my grandmother and aunt shared while they would sit and crochet the day away. I desired the ability to sit and make some of the beautiful items I saw them make. Beyond the creative process is the ability to have relationships with others who love the creativity crochet releases.

As you struggle to master a new technique or understand the pattern as it's written have you ever stopped to realize you are not alone? So many others have faced the same challenges you have. Many have not only survived the challenges but they excelled in the process, and some have revisited the same challenge a few times before mastering it. But in the end all have gained some level of wisdom, self-growth, and opened up new avenues of creativity.

For me I have found a love for making large afghans ~ I can't begin to explain this to myself so I certainly can't explain this to you. What I do know is there is something incredibly exciting to me about the whole process of selecting a pattern. Sometimes I opt to design the afghan instead. This can be more work than some may deem necessary (when there are so many beautiful patterns available) but for me I think being in control of how the end result will be based on the decisions I make along the way is worth the challenge or extra work. The larger the afghan the better I like it ... my favorite one, okay my favorite 3 because I loved making all three have been the king sized purple & green afghan I made for my son. I used 12-inch granny squares for his and the reaction he had when he saw it was worth every stitch! The burgundy one I made for my niece's bridal shower ... solid with two entwined hearts centered, worked in puff stitches, but the best feature was I made it so the top fit a queen size mattress, then worked the sides & foot sections so that the corners were free allowing this to be tucked in easily. Again the reaction to the final result is well worth the effort put forth. Taking a place in my top 3 was the one I created for my daughter. Knowing how much she loves bright colors I wanted to give her the sun (rise) so I made her a full/queen sized afghan based on a photo of the sunrise taken on our flight home from a missions' trip. The end result was not the way I envisioned it but it certainly turned out well enough for me to give as her bridal shower gift.

Besides the emotional ties to the people & my projects is the incredible opportunity to meet new people along the way. You see I always carry at least one project with me where ever I go just in case there is some "down" time ~ you know those unexpected times where all you can do is wait. So if I happen to encounter such a time I'm prepared, which always seems to draw a comment from others enduring the "wait". Such as when I sit in a doctor's waiting room & I'm asked what are you making? Or the doctor asks are you making that for me? I always enjoy the conversation that ensues. And sometimes I'm surprised by the reactions and stories shared with me, all because I have my crocheting with me.

I went to Italy with my mother just this past September (2008). I had my crocheting with me (as always) and several people commented as usual. However the best part was that when we



***"Is it so small a thing
To have enjoyed the sun,
To have lived light
in the spring
To have loved, to have
thought, to have done . . ."***

~ Matthew Arnold ~

Chains of Thought ~ March 2009

reached our last stop we were spending a week with my mom's cousin and her family. Every single day I sat and crocheted on something. Before the week was up whoever came to the house would ask me, "What have you made today?" They all loved to watch me sit and crochet. And I was blessed to see the beautiful crocheted pieces our cousin had made and some pieces her mother had made. She did such beautiful work. I was able to leave a couple of stitch markers with her (they didn't have them available in her area) as well as many scarves that I made all week long just for her. I left some pieces for the rest of the ladies in the family too, and they loved all of them. It just proves how easily crochet touches lives in many ways. From the baby gift to the simple scarf that dresses up an outfit and provides some warmth around the neck to an elegant table cloth to a full sized afghan or an intricate bedspread. There are so many things to make with a hook & yarn, or thread that there is no reason to get bored with this beautiful craft. There is every reason to reach out and touch someone else with this gift. By making them something or better yet by teaching them how to crochet for themselves. And the best is the time spent with another fiber artist sharing the love for the craft of all things done with yarns and hooks or needles. I've had a wonderful journey thus far & look forward to many more years of pure enjoyment with my hooks, yarns & patterns! I hope you enjoy your crocheting / crafting journey too.

Crochet List Slipper Exchange (CLSLX)

Crochet List Slipper Exchange is the place to be when your feet are cold or naked. They hold 2 month rounds. Christy posts assignments at the beginning of the month and the slippers are due to your pal by the end of the next month.

In the summertime when it's just too hot for slippers, they like to do flip-flop exchanges. It's fast, it's fun and your feet will be fashionable.

There are no exchanges for the months of November-December. All CL members in good standing are welcomed to participate and your JIC has been sent to Theresa.

Sound like fun? Then please contact Christy McMahon at bumbles1974@verizon.net or Theresa Gilmer at dragonscrochet@yahoo.com to get you started.

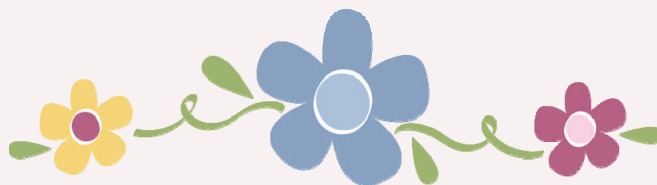
Oh, give us the pleasure in the flowers today;

And give us not to think so far away

As the uncertain harvest; keep us here

All simply in the springing of the year.

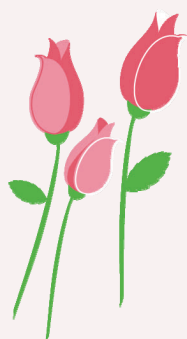
~ Robert Frost ~



Chains of Thought ~ March 2009

Crochet List Bookmark Exchange (CLBMX)

The CLBMX fondly known as the bookmark exchange is made up of a fun group of crocheters that stretch from America to Canada and whose skills range from beginner to advanced, from yarnaholic to thready and are always willing to have some extra fun each month crocheting a bookmark for a partner. This exchange is monthly and you receive “1” partner on the first of the month and your bookmark is due to your partner by the last day of the month. Some months they have themes, some months they don’t, no matter what they always have a good time. They are always looking for new members, the only requirements is that you are in good standing on Crochetlist and that you send in a JIC bookmark and stamp before you receive your first partner. So if you are interested please email Maria Lits at Mal1go2@aol.com, they would love to have you.



*“The beautiful spring came;
and when nature resumes her loveliness,
the human soul is apt to revive also.”
~ Harriet Ann Jacobs ~*

Crochet List Birthday Fun Exchange (CLBFX)

The CLBFX also known as the birthday fun exchange runs every three months, April—June, July—September, October—December, January—March. Birthday groups will be approximately 4 members (including yourself). This exchange runs for three months. Requirements in a birthday fun package are one skein of yarn or ball of thread depending on your partners preference (at least 3.5 oz), crochet hook to use with the yarn/thread and a pattern to make with the yarn/thread and hook and a birthday card; you may include more if you wish. Little extras such as pictures, recipes and notes are often included so that exchange members can get to know each other better. As with all exchanges you must be in good standing on Crochetlist and an angel package is required and it is to be the equivalent of a regular birthday package. If none of the angels are used there is an end of exchange raffle. It is a great way to celebrate your birthday. If you are interested email Maria Lits at Mal1go2@aol.com, they would love to have you join.

Chains of Thought ~ March 2009

Crochet List Crochet A Thon (CAT)

Crochet List's Crochet A Thon also known as "CAT" happens every month from January to October - starting on the third or fourth Friday of the month (check the schedule in the CL Database or CLCAT database) at 9 pm eastern time and ending on the third or fourth Saturday of the month at 9 pm eastern time. The event is held at #crochet on Starlink-irc.org and listers will have an opportunity to chat and crochet for charity and to win a Monthly CAT PAC. It is a great way to meet new people, to talk about your love of crochet and to use your yarn stash so you can go and buy more of course. What goes along hand in hand with the CAT Chat is the Crochetlist Charity Challenge. Each month a different Charity is selected and pledgors have an opportunity to use their skill and craft to create something for someone in need, calendar announcements go out weekly and a schedule of the Charities can be found in the [Crochetlist database](#). If you are interested and would like to participate and/or would like more information, email Maria Lits at Mal1go2@aol.com.

Crochet List Pick Me Up Exchange (CLPMUX)

This exchange sends out Pick Me Ups for Crochet List members in good standing who are going through a stressful time in the life. It can be from a natural disaster, an accident, loss of job, serious medical conditions, etc. The members of CLPMUX who wish to donate send their light-weight, compact items to a compiler who collects them and sends them as a single package to the recipient on a certain due date. These recipients are chosen by posts seen on CAT, on CL itself from exchange posts or personal observation.

If you are interested in donating to the Pick Me Up project and/or being a compiler contact Bonnie at johnboray@comcast.net.



*Spring is nature's way of saying,
"Let's Party!!"
~ Robin Williams ~*

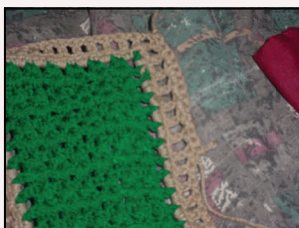
Chains of Thought ~ March 2009

HARVEST TIME LAP AFGHAN CROCHET - A - LONG

Below is the second part of the Harvest Time Lap Afghan Crochet-a-Long. If you run into any trouble, please don't hesitate to email either Isabel Pfister (pfister@quixnet.net) or Connie Hoffman (hooksnhugs@gmail.com) and they will be happy to help you with anything they can.

Instructions: Edging for First Strip

****Note for both strips: There must be an odd number of stitches counting from the middle stitch of the corner 3sc to the next corner 3sc.**

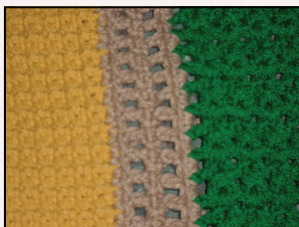


Round 1: Starting in the end stitch for the last row, join the edging color with a slip st. Chain 1 and work 2sc in same stitch. *Working on the long sides of the strip, work an ODD number of sc. When you get to the end of the side, work 3sc in the end stitch of the first row.* Repeat from * to * once, working last sc in the end stitch for the last row. Join with a slip stitch in back loop only of first sc.

Round 2: Worked in BLO (back loop only) Chain 4, dc in same stitch as joining. *Ch1, skip one sc, dc in next sc, continue to the corner. In the middle stitch of corner, work dc, ch1, dc (corner made). Work dc, ch1 across to next corner, work corner.* Repeat from * to * once. Work dc, ch1 across to first corner, joining with a slip stitch. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Instructions: Edging and Joining for Strips 2 - 5

**** Round 1 is edging, Round 2 is joining.**



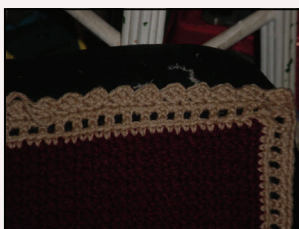
Round 1: Starting in the end stitch for the last row, join the edging color with a slip st. Chain 1, and work 2sc in same stitch. *Working on the long sides of the strip, work an ODD number of sc, when you get to the end of the side, work 3sc in the end stitch of the first row, and an ODD number across the short side, working 3sc in the end stitch of the first row.* Repeat from * to * once, working last sc in the end stitch for the last row. Join with a slip stitch in BLO of first sc.

Round 2: Hold strips right sides together. Worked in BLO, Chain 5, sl st in corner ch1 space on first strip, ch1, dc in same space as chain 4 on 2nd strip. Repeat down the length of the strip to the corner. Work bottom corner same as top corner. Continue to work the dc, ch1, dc in next dc, and working corners in the middle sc of previous corner, around, and join with a sl st in the 3rd chain of beginning chain 3. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Instructions: Afghan Edging

Round 1: With right side facing you, join edge color in any corner stitch, work 2sc in same space. Work sc around putting 1sc in each dc and in each ch1 sp, placing 3sc in each corner. Finish with 1sc in same space as first 2sc. Join with a sl st.

****NOTE** You should have 135 stitches along the longest sides and 121 along the short sides. This number does NOT include the centre stitches in the corners.**



Round 2: In same stitch as joining, chain 1, *sc, ch2, 2dc, 2 stitches.* Repeat from * to * around, working one repeat in each corner stitch, and ending with a sl st in the first sc.

Morning Motivation

When I woke up this morning lying in bed, I was asking myself;
What are some of the secrets of success in life?
I found the answer right there, in my very room

The Fan said . . .	Be cool
The Roof said . . .	Aim high
The Window said . . .	See the world
The Clock said . . .	Every minute is precious
The Mirror said . . .	Reflect before you act
The Calendar said . . .	Be up-to-date
The Door said . . .	Push hard for your goals

**Carry a Heart that Never Hates
Carry a Smile that Never Fades
Carry a Touch that Never Hurts**



HAVE A PURPOSEFUL DAY!!!!

Crochet List Big Square Exchange (CLBSX)

Have you ever wanted to have help making a lovely afghan for yourself or someone special? Then the Big Square exchange (CLBSX) is for you. Once a month you send a 12" square to a fellow exchange member and receive one back in return. A database is set up where you can list what colors you prefer so that you get squares in the colors you want. In a short time, you have a lovely afghan made of squares from all over.

For more information about this exchange, email the new coordinator Isabel Pfister, aka IzzyB at pfister@quixnet.net or Anne Fatato at a.lefty.crochets@gmail.com.

Crochet List Handbag Exchange (CLhandbagX)

CLhandbagX is the Crochet List Handbag Exchange. They exchange purses four times a year and the exchange rounds last three months, giving you plenty of time to make your purse. They exchange wonderful purses, bags, pouches, totes, and more! They are a lively group of talented crocheters and they trade some beautiful items. Purses are easy to make and there are many free patterns on the web. It's easy to get addicted to making and trading purses, so come and enjoy the fun!!

For more information about this exchange please email Jezmynne Dene at jezmynne@yahoo.com.

ICE - In Case of emergency!!

Many of us carry cell phones with important names and numbers stored in memory. However, nobody other than ourselves knows which numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call.

Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) campaign. All you need to do is store the number of an emergency contact person to be contacted under the name "ICE".

The idea was thought up by a paramedic. When he went to accident scenes, patients usually had mobile phones, but he didn't know which number to call. His idea: there should be a nationally recognized name for this purpose. Emergency responders and hospital staff could quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE". For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, etc.

A great idea that will make a difference.

Chains of Thought Contest

The winner of the August contest (yes that's right—that was the last newsletter) is . . .

Luanna Hayes

Thank you to everyone who participated in this contest.

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

Keep your eye out for our "NEW" contest in this issue of Chains of Thought.

Chains of Thought ~ March 2009

Crochet List Dishcloth Exchange (CLDCX2)

CLDCX2 the Crochet List Dishcloth Exchange is a monthly exchange of cotton yarn crocheted dishcloths. You will receive a different partner each month from their 27 members. They exchange January through December, with the option of being on hold for November and December, if you prefer. Cotton dishcloths are practical and easy to make from the many free patterns available on the internet. The group hopes that you will join them.



For more information on this exchange, please contact Grace Ogle at gracie3cats@yahoo.com.

Crochet List Granny Square Exchange (CLGSX)

If you like squares than this is for you, how about joining the CLGSX - Crochet List Granny Square Exchange.

They exchange two 6" squares each month with a partner. You only have one partner at a time so there is no worry of getting behind. Pretty easy, huh!

Then you end up with all these wonderfully beautiful squares that you can join together for a friendship afghan, or do what Theresa did and do a friendship scarf, hat and purse set! You can do just about anything you can dream of with the squares.

If you are interested, just send Theresa an email at dragonscrochet@yahoo.com and she will send you the rules right away.



*Everything is blooming most recklessly;
if it were voices instead of colors,
There would be an unbelievable shrieking
into the heart of the night*

~ Rainer Maria Rilke ~

Crochet List Ornament Exchange (CLOX)

The Crochet List Ornament Exchange is open all year round!! Yes year round. You can make seasonal ornaments or just stick with Christmas ones.

If you love the decorations around your home and you want to receive some ornamental cheer in your mail box then why not join CLOX! You make what season your partner likes and get what kind you request.

They would love to have some new energy and new members to exchange with. Your ornaments can be in thread or yarn. They do not have to be starched. Just made by you!! Just think how pretty your home or tree will look with some new handmade ornaments adorning them.

If you are interested in joining in on the fun, email Theresa at dragonscrochet@yahoo.com and she will send you a copy of the rules and regulations of the exchange right away.



Crochet List Potholder Exchange (CLPHX)

Potholders everywhere!! Please consider joining the CLPHX aka the Crochet List Potholder exchange! Each month they make and send a fun potholder to a partner. Just one partner a month and you have 30 days to get it made and received by them! They make them with 100% worsted weight cotton yarn so they work up quickly!

If this sounds like fun to you please let Theresa know at dragonscrochet@yahoo.com and she can get the rules and regulations to you right away.



Chains of Thought ~ March 2009

Crochet List Secret Pal Exchange (CLSPX)

Theresa Gilmer and Connie Hoffman, together coordinate all the fun for the Crochet List Secret Pal Exchange (CLSPX for short). They are also lucky enough to have the past coordinator Margaret Fraleigh in the exchange to help with any extra questions too!

This is an exciting exchange with themes that change for each round. Each round runs for 2 months, and it repeats 4 times a year.

If you like secrets and surprises, and giving and receiving a variety of different items, then this exchange is just right for you! If you want more information please feel free to email either Theresa at dragonscrochet@yahoo.com or Connie at hooksnhugs@gmail.com. They hope to hear from you for their next round.



Crochet List Caring Card Exchange (CLCCX)

Do you look forward to the mail? Are you disappointed when all you find are flyers, bills, and newspapers? If you are, CLCCX (Crochet List Caring Card Exchange) is for you.

CLCCX is a card exchange ... From January to October they have a monthly exchange. They have different themes for each month. In the past they have done the usual holidays that are in each month. Last year and this year they have been challenged to think outside the box. In February the theme was "Queen of your Heart", this month the theme was "March Winds - Kites".

In the past they have had umbrellas, flowers, birds, your favourite pet ... you never know what the theme might be. The cards may be store bought, hand made, computer generated, stamped ... the ideas are endless. Through their exchanges they have learned about each other and interesting facts about where everyone lives. It is so amazing the creativity of the participants.

During November and December they have their Christmas Card Exchange. Small items are allowed as enclosures in the cards but not mandatory. They strive to have fun exchange, with minimal cost. They welcome each and everyone of you to join them. If you are interested email Margaret Fraleigh at mfraleig@ciaccess.com.



Chains of Thought Contest

In this issue of Chains of Thought, you will be given 20 words relating to spring to unscramble. Once you have your answers, please email them to mfraleig@ciaccess.com with COT Contest in the subject line.

1. hunnssie
2. lswrfeo
3. grnhsimiudmb
4. ureiobhsds
5. iitlzoevnraiat
6. ptegmnrniis
7. raainfll
8. obgonmli
9. aopsgulrydn
10. ldpused
11. nsoibwar
12. soasne
13. ttsnhsoeurmrd
14. ulablerms
15. irfetbstuel
16. egndrsa
17. bornsi
18. saeallbb
19. edses
20. reecbbua

The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

Good luck everyone :)



Chains of Thought ~ March 2009



Cathy and Marg have challenged each other to try the flat braid joining method. They have talked about it for some time. So they chose the flat braid as the challenge for this newsletter.

See Cathy's results below.

They are challenging those who have not tried this method, to give it a shot. Crochet four granny squares - 3 rows each. You can choose the colours you would like.

Since the actual pattern for this joining is copyrighted, we are supplying you with the url. <http://priscillacrochet.net/free%20patterns/Afghan%20Edgings%20and%20Joinings.pdf>

There is also a video of this joining method found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qfBKZwqBgE> which both Cathy and Marg found very well presented.

If you take the challenge, we would love to see your results. Take a picture of your joining of the four squares, and send it to mfraleig@ciaccess.com and it will be included in the next newsletter.



JUST FOR FUN

Spring

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a message about Spring

T L E M W O N S S S A R G L A
G C Y C L A M E N S A L I L P
G N G R O W T H R L L L L R S
O Y I I D L S A R A I E S N N
L A L N K A I E B E R R O H E
F M L O A N F E S G M I P W W
E N A E E E S F I U L R R A L
I O B Q R A L E O E C S A B E
R S T U B E S C D D F O S W A
I A F I G R N N G L I N R H V
S E O N N R A E O N I L C C E
E S S O I D E W W B I R S B S
S I N X R G E E O A A R M E G
A Y F L P R O R N M L W P E O
E T E W S S P I L U T R S S R
R E T S A E P L A N T I N G F

ALLERGIES

APRIL

BASEBALL

BEEES

CROCUSES

CYCLAMENS

DAFFODILS

DANDELIONS

EASTER

EQUINOX

FLOWERS

FROGS

GOLF

GRASS

GREEN

GROWTH

IRISES

LILIES

MARCH

MAY

NEW LEAVES

PLANTING

RAIN

RENEWAL

ROBINS

SEASON

SNOWMELT

SOFTBALL

SPRING BREAK

SPRING CLEANING

TULIPS

WARMER

WET