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[Club Scene @ Metro]

With only 16 more letters to go, Dana Williams crochets her ABC Baby Blanket at weekly meetings of the Metro Crocheters and Knitters Club.



While you wait:

Metro Crocheters and Knitters Club members find a way to relax, cherish the moment and create wearable works of art, all at the same time.

- Mantra: "You never know where a needle and thread will take you or who will meet along the way!"



Club Pres. Donna-Lee Watson and member Sandra Perez crochet 'granny squares.' Below, Fe Alcid-Little displays her "boteh" scarf. Named after the Italian word for boot, each "square" is crocheted in the shape of a boot.

(August 28, 2008) Ever have time on your hands? A group of knitting and crocheting enthusiasts have found a way to fill up those troublesome nooks and crannies with busy needles that churn out beautiful afghans, sweaters, scarves, shawls and other works of art during downtime when the rest of us are counting sign posts on the train ride home or leafing through old magazines in a waiting room.

Centuries old, the cottage industry of knitting and crocheting is alive and well at Metro, thanks to the Metro Crocheters and Knitters Club, which meets every Wednesday at noon in the Imperial conference room on the 12th floor of the Gateway Building.

The room is abuzz with all levels of expertise, from beginners ready to take on a first project to accomplished enthusiasts who regularly submit ribbon-



New member Angelia Watkins learns a stitch. Below, Dixie Patterson is turning a pattern she loves into the real deal: A blanket for the family cabin.



winning pieces to the L.A. County Fair.

Pres. Donna-Lee Watson (Construction) and officers Avis Brame (Treasury), Sandra Sandoval (System Security and Law Enforcement), and Fe Alcid-Little (Contract Administration) provide a nurturing environment that's become a classroom, experimental lab and showcase all in one.

Other than an interest in the craft, there are no requirements for membership. Drop in for the fun of it – if you stick around, you get a free binder full of lessons and helpful strategies, plus a roomful of artists willing to share techniques and patterns.

"It's relaxing," said Watson, "totally therapeutic." In her thoroughly occupied downtime, Watson has put together a tri-colored shawl, a baby afghan and outfitted a flamenco dancer doll for the L.A. County Fair. Vice-pres. Avis Brame submitted a crocheted ABC Blanket, a Raiders Granny Square Blanket and Baby Granny Square Blanket. Knitter Cynthia Shavers (OD&T) submitted two knitted sweaters.

All are expected to be on display at the "Village on Broadway" exhibit that opens Sept. 5 and continues through Sept. 28.

Winners are not notified. "We won't know what is selected for exhibit until we see it on display," she said.

For more information, check in with Pres. Donna-Lee Watson at watsond@metro.net or (213) 922-5204.

-- from Gayle Anderson

Crochet speak. Lingo is included in the lessons. For starters:

- Stitch: simple block or a single
- Blocks: striped, shell and textured
- Styles: Granny square, log cabin and ripple

