

HANDMADE HUGS

VOLUME iii
Issue #2
July, 2006

Handmade Hugs is a totally volunteer organization dedicated to comforting kids with security blankets. Since June 1 of 2000, our Chapter has been listed as East San Fernando Valley, Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena. As of March 27, 2006 our new listing will be Burbank, Glendale, San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys and Los Angeles. This is a local chapter of
PROJECT LINUS

ONCE AGAIN . . . It's time to celebrate the founding of our branch of Project Linus. Councilman Zine is providing a bus . . . and with gasoline over \$3 a gallon, it is a very welcome gift . There will be two pick-up places: the Orthopedic Medical Center in Reseda and the New Apostolic Church in Pasadena. Let Suzann know (SuzQuilt@aol.com or leave a message on her machine at home, 818 994 9675).

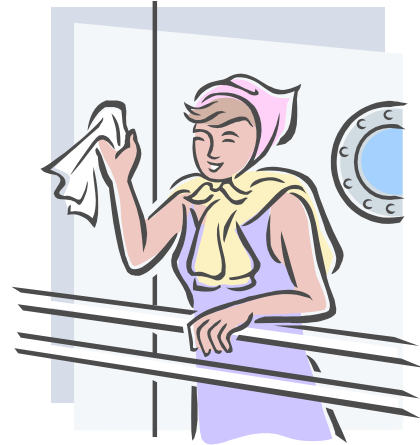
The destination of the bus and others who will converge by auto is M&L Fabrics in Anaheim. This is a wonderful veritable palace of fabric—most of it cotton and lots of it selling at \$1.69 a yard. Fleece galore and fancy fabrics too. We'll descend on the place like noisy birds, calling to each other from table to table and stack to stack.

Lunch at Hof's Hut in Buena Park and a visit to two (count 'em, two) quilt shops in Anaheim. Side by side, they are Timeless Treasures and the Quilt Cupboard.

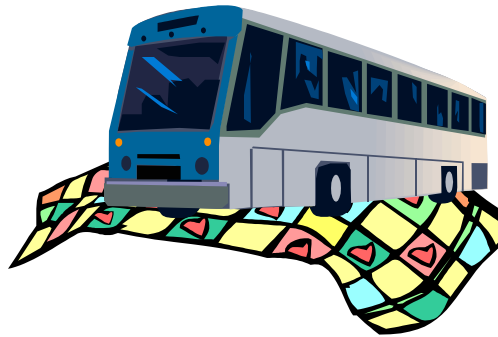
Suzann has prizes and surprises for us and we'll just have another dog-gone good time!!!!



ANCHORS AWEIGH FOR COORDINATOR SUZANN



BET SHE'LL have a million neat stories to tell us about her quilting cruise to Rome and the Greek Isles. Welcome home, Suz!!!



FIND OUT MORE about the anniversary celebration and other Project Linus functions at our website:

www.handmadehugs.org

Blanket days and locations, pattern information, links, and archived newsletters are listed, along with information about where our blankets go and how many we have made in our 6 years of blanketteering.

COORDINATOR

"WORD COMES TO ME

from Sergeant Francine Spada reminding me about the Los Angeles Police Department's Labor Liaison Section raising and donating \$1,000.00 to Project Linus and specifically to our chapter. Sergeant Spada is a member of Handmade Hugs and has crocheted blankets and spear-headed the donations from her section for Project Linus. Moreover, she pledges to continue to raise money for PL. We must get word of this accomplishment out so that Sergeant Spada and her fellow cops can show that they do more than just extend a hand to take from Project Linus. They can also participate to keep these efforts going and encourage other policemen to help in any way. Well said, Sergeant Francine Spada".



THEY WENT TO BUELLTON . . . And the rest is history. The Central State area of California has a quilters' run just like the southern part of the state and our friend, Dawn Farrier, at Creation Station in Buellton offered space for us to create a display of Project Linus information to interest traveling quilters in our mania. Peggy Terzian and Dot Calvin trucked to Creation Station where Dawn and husband Patrick had outfitted a big room with challenge quilts and displays not only for PL but for Retiring Greyhounds and Meals on Wheels. There were over 20 challenge entries and visitors were asked to vote for their favorites. Upwards of 500 women passed through the "quilt room" from Friday to Sunday.

Tim Brown of Kingdom Sewing is helping with a display on July 15 in con-

(continued Page 5)

Quilting Hath Charms! As well as Challenges!!!

Did you stick your hand in the paper bag and pull out a Beanie Baby? Did you rise to the challenge and make a quilt to feature that Beanie Baby? If you did, you turned it in on July 8 and got a charm!! The charm was a tiny Noah's ark, and if you wanted to, you could buy a bracelet that day to hold that charm and all the others you've earned.

An Ice Cream Cone for a quilt or blanket that featured any kind of ice cream theme or print. The quilts and afghans were spread out over the pews in the church and the array was stunning.

A tiny pair of scissors for "Piece-ful" quilt. How many fabrics did you use in yours? How big was the smallest piece?

A little letter L for Linus for one of the early challenges and a number 2 for the two-color blanket.

A leaf for whatever holiday you chose to portray and loveliest of all, a hand with a heart . . . that stands for "Handmade Hugs."

There are a number of sites on the web where bracelets and charm holders and neck chains can be purchased reasonably. A jeweler has advised that you purchase "slip" rings at a craft or jewelry finding store and you won't have to have the charms soldered on to keep from losing them. Another little tip: toss an Alka Seltzer tablet in a glass of warm water and put your bracelet or necklace in it. By the time the water is cool, the bracelet is as shiny as new.

Two good internet sources for charm holders and chains (wear your charms around your neck on a decorative holder) are

www.bluemud.com

&

www.timelesscharms.com

A pretty charm bracelet can start a conversation about Project Linus.

SAY "AU REVOIR" AND NOT GOODBYE

THERESA COSTIN

Lovingly known as the "Cruise Director" and the "Jar Nazi" and bringer of sunshine to so many of

the Saturday gatherings of Handmade Hugs. Creator of beautiful sophisticated stylish frocks and winner of block competitions, she is possessed of such broad textile vision

that she has kept surprise after surprise coming from the flying needle of her beloved Pfaff. For all the years of HH's existence she was our traveler on the Yellow Brick Road and now she's embarking on another road, one that leads east to Texas. Do the Texans know what a treat they have in store?

Theresa and her charming husband, Richard (the

only male with seven quilting shipmates on an Alaskan cruise) are moving to Dallas. Donna Ryan (Jar Supplier of note) put together the house blocks that the group made into a huge quilt . . . to remind Theresa that there would always be room in Southern California for her. We all wish them well and really rather look forward for the first "home-coming." She'll be the Queen, of course.



OL' 300

Your HHH reporter is proud to point to the picture above . . . Titled "Ol' 300." This is Sue Campbell's 300th quilt made for Project Linus since she started counting about four years ago. What must be told is that Sue Campbell is very frugal person, known by some to pinch pennies and pinch people who don't pinch pennies.

Most of the quilts she has made have been fashioned out of donated material . . . no scrap too small to be considered for any of her quilts and no shared pattern overlooked.

She is generous with her talent as well, helping anyone who asks with advice or piecing tips. Congratulations, **Sue Campbell**. What's your next goal?



MOUNTAIN MIST OFFER . . . If 100 UPC labels from Mountain Mist Batting can be collected, Mountain Mist will offer a 45 yard bolt of batting for \$15.00. Bring the labels to Pasadena or mail them to:
 Pat Rosemary
 11716 Monogram
 Granada Hills, CA 91344

The EDITOR . . . Cornered

So much is said about the blankets that we make and donate but the fact is that a good percentage are not quilted but come as comfort in the form of knitted and crocheted blankets and afghans. And now our knitters and crocheters have a venue of their own where they can meet and wield their needles. They gather on the first Thursday evening of each month, 7pm to 9-ish at

**"HANDMADE"
"a needlework studio"
2112 North Glenoaks Blvd
Burbank, CA 818 846 0346.**

No sewing machines allowed because of limited space. Meet Blanketeer Michelle Feather there.

HANDY HINTS . . . To keep your chimney clean, occasionally throw a handful of salt on the fire. This will not work for kitchen floors. . . . Stainless steel to the rescue: rub your hands over a stainless steel spoon under running water to get rid of fish, onion and garlic odors. Rub the back of a stainless steel spoon on a cramped calf muscle..

LOOK IN THE LAUNDRY SECTION of the supermarket for the "dye-catcher" product sold there. They are disposable cloths the size of a dryer sheet meant to absorb any excess dye in the water.

Lots of quilters don't wash their fabrics because they don't want to have to iron all of it. Here's a hint to solve the twisting/ironing problem. Use the delicate cycle of your washer and the same soap you'd use to wash a quilt in. Then put a dry hand towel and a dryer sheet softener in the dryer along with your wet fabric. Dry and remove before cooling occurs and *voila!* No ironing. Just fold and store until needed. Remember too, if you're a pre-washer, that a little piece snipped off each corner of your fabric length will keep the raveling at a minimum.

QUILTER AND COLUMNIST Helen Squire says "When you make the same mistake twice, it's called experience. Three times and it's a nasty habit." She also says that red is the hardest color to quilt through.

UTILITY is where you find it. Turn points using a Phillips-head screwdriver. The point is the right shape and size and will not poke through the fabric. Try a chopstick for the same task or to pull threads out from under the foot of your machine.

HEAVEN'S GATES OPENED and the Lord gathered in two souls who will be forever missed. Coordinator Suzann McGinnis' son, Jonathan and Jeanne Bartel's husband, Bart, passed on and left all of us with heavy hearts. If memories can be a balm to soothe the aching hearts of those who loved Jonathan and Bart so well, then let those memories be plentiful and pleasant.

BOY SCOUTS of Troop 118 show off their contribution to Project Linus. The tied fleece blankets are warm and soft and colorful and an easy project for the boys to make. Peggy Terzian, pictured above at left with the Scouts and their leader, Yasmin Peebles was responsible for showing the eager scouts how to tie *another* kind of knot. Thank you, boys.



REV UP THE TIRED MACHINE . . . Two more places where your machine will be serviced and/or repaired:

**John's Sewing Service
818 346 1829
Bernina, Janome, Singer to name a few**

**Kato's Sewing Machines
5018 Lankershim Blvd
North Hollywood, CA
818 985 1877
Bernana, Brother, Janome, Sussman**

HANDMADE HUGS was given the opportunity to provide blankets to children who have lost a loved one to military service. The request for blankets in a patriotic theme of a certain size for Camp Good Grief was met with 101 beautiful responses. Many thanks to Orlando at Box Bros in Northridge for giving HH a great price on the shipping of boxes of blankets to Washington, DC.



In 18 of the first 23 days in September of 2005, Project Linus arranged for distribution of 20,239 blankets to Katrina victims.. This from National Headquarters

More news from Carol Babbitt, Project Linus National President: WalMart donated a total of \$24,000 in 2005 to local chapters. What a great resource. (Sometimes the cutest theme prints or child-pleasing can be found at WalMart and nowhere else).

BUELLTON (continued)
junction with the Southland Quilters' Run.
In addition to two big poster standards with wonderful pictures, there'll be some quilts made by HH members and patterns for people who might want them.

ABC QUILTS . . . The Board of Directors of ABC Quilts, an organization with goals similar to Project Linus, has announced that they have disbanded the organization. Our Project Linus leaders have assured the ABC people that their volunteers would be welcome at Project Linus.

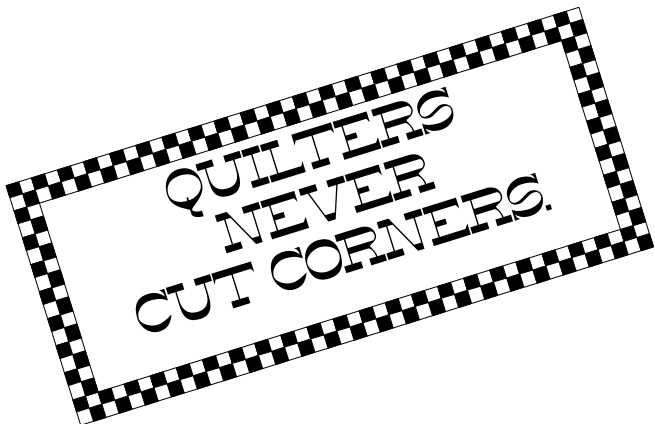
THIS IS A PICTURE OF **KATHY AND JOANNE MILBRAND** IN KATHY'S BRAND NEW SILVER MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE THAT SHE WON IN



A RAFFLE!!! This car was not found in a Crackerjack Box. It's a beauty.

MORE WINNERS . . . Two famous blanket-makers whose needle skills have made the quilts that made news . . . Ann Bagne was a blue-ribbon winner for Best Theme at the Glendale Quilt Guild Show and Lisa Burroughs quilt merited the Founders Award.

OH, THE LETTERS that cross Suz's desk!!! Marilyn, a blanket-maker, contacted Suzann for blankets for four children left after their mother's suicide. "I could not read the poem because I kept getting choked up. This was a way to show the children that they were loved and cared for." . . . "My 12-year-old daughter was admitted to the Grossman Burn Center with severe burns on her legs. She was so scared but she was handed one of your beautiful blankets and I could tell immediately that this was going to be something that comforted her during her hospital stay. This was such a touching and special gift that she'll always cherish." . . . "I surely do wish I could find the person who sewed the blanket that my daughter received in the hospital. If I could find her, I would hug her tight. . . . I'm blessed that my daughter is healthy now. The blanket from your organization added a little bright light to an otherwise traumatizing hospital stay." . . .



HANDMADE HUGS HERALD is published 3 times yearly by the Volunteer Chapter of Project Linus. S McGinnis, Chapter Coordinator, 818 994 9675 D Calvin, Editor, 818 886 0184

Items of interest to Handmade Hugs members are welcome.

For additional information, please contact Suzann McGinnis at 818 994 9675, or email SuzQuilt@aol.com or to reach the national organization, Project Linus email www.projectlinus.org. For local schedules and meeting places go to www.handmadehugs.org. Our chapter of Project Linus has blanket making events every month— why not plan to join us? Check the Handmade Hugs website for the 2006 calendar of events and locations.