

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD

Volume iii, Issue 3, October, 2006

COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS Thank you for your continued support. Our chapter continues to provide top-quality, new, washable blankets to critically ill children in our local hospitals. I am honored to deliver our blankets and know that many lives are touched by the love you put into each one.



We're nearing the end of another year and more special events are planned in addition to our regular calendar.

October 28 . . Make a Difference Day

Blanket day at Patchwork Penguin in Tujunga and a special Blanket Day at **Luella's Quilt Basket in Redondo Beach.**

November 18 . . Special blanket day at Candy's Quilt Works in Northridge (Not in Van Nuys as shown in the calendar).

December 1, 2, & 3 . . Brown Bag Retreat in Buellton - advance paid registration.

Our knitters and those who crochet have been having fun on the first Thursday of each month at **handmade**, a needlecraft studio in Burbank. Led and coordinated by our own very talented Michelle Feather, the blankets coming from this location are truly special.

As we prepare for our next National Make a Blanket Day on February 17, 2007, we're lucky that once again Tim Brown of **KINGDOM SEWING** is sponsoring a drawing for a new Janome sewing machine at both his Northridge and Simi Valley Stores. Just make a quilt (and for this event it does need to be a quilt . . . pieced and quilted by you), put a Linus label on it and take it to one of his stores and you'll have a chance to win for every quilt you submit . . . Beginning November 1st and continuing through February 16. The drawing will be held on NMABD February 17, 2007. Your quilt will be received by the chapter within 2 weeks of your donation . . . It will not be held until February. You must drop off your quilt in person. Hint: if you make several quilts, take address labels with you to save some time and effort writing out information . . you'll just need to add phone and email for the record.

**GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN
QUILTING FOR LINUS**

Project Linus

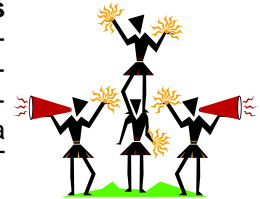
Project Linus has a two-fold mission:

- First it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need with gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "Blanketeers."
- Second, it is our mission to provide a fun-filled, rewarding service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

PROJECT LINUS has more than 340 chapters representing all of the United States and as a result of the combined efforts of these dedicated "Blanketeers," almost 2,000,000 blankets have been donated to children in crisis since its formation in December of 1995.

Handmade Hugs

is a totally volunteer organization dedicated to comforting kids with security blankets. Handmade Hugs is a local chapter of PROJECT LINUS



COORDINATOR Suz tells us that in six years, Handmade Hugs has distributed over 11,000 blankets to more than 20 local hospitals and agencies.

FIND OUT MORE about 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 blanketeering.



DID YOU KNOW . . . That there is a new tool for blanket makers who don't want knots in their fleece? It's a special blade for your rotary cutter (you can see a cutter with this blade in the lower left hand corner of the picture at left) that will make it easier for you to crochet edgings around fleece blankets. This "skip-stitch" rotary blade does away with marking and piercing the fleece with awl or ice pick, and makes crocheting beautiful borders like the ones at left and below so much easier. The beautiful blankets shown here were made by **Lenore Strong** .



. . . the white one is particularly lovely with its lacing of pink ribbon. There is a Leisure Arts booklet "*Baby's Choice Crocheting Edgings for Fleece*" with instructions for six different edgings. Suzann has information regarding ordering this blade.

The EDITOR . . . Cornered

From "Quilt Connections:" "When I need accurate copies of a pattern, I go to my local blue-printing shop where the copy machines have no distortions . . . especially good for paper piecing."

"PROJECT LINUS delivers an average of 939 blankets per day, 365 days a year. That means that about 39 blankets are delivered every hour of the day, or about 1 every 1.5 minutes."

Did you spill coffee on one of your projects? Get the stain out by making a paste of baking soda and water and rubbing on the stain. Rinse and dry.

Bread is delivered to the grocery store 5 days a week . . . each day has a different color twist tie or keeper: Monday is blue, Tuesday is green, Thursday is red, Friday is white and Saturday is yellow.

Then there was the high-school Home Ec teacher who wore falsies (in the era before Victoria's Secret, they were made of cotton) and used them as pin cushions. The students paid pretty close attention, I'll bet.

Coordinator's Mailbox . . .

From the UCLA PICU, "Just to let you know, the parents of our patients are so touched when they come in and see one of your blankets. . . Please let your volunteers know that their blankets . . . brighten the lives of our children and their families."

The quilt "was such a nice surprise and will always be a warm reminder of the kindness your organization brought to us."

'We wanted to thank you for the time and love that you put into making these special comforts for the children.'

MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE DAY . .

. Saturday, October 28 in two locations: Luella's Quilt Basket (1512 Aviation Blvd, Redondo Beach) or Patchwork Penguin in Tujunga. Celebrating extraordinary deeds performed by ordinary people on America's largest day of doing good.



TALK ABOUT PROJECT LINUS . . . wherever you go! Talk when you're visiting a new fabric store or at your favorite fabric store. People are always interested in why you're buying fabric so tell them it's to make quilts that make kids feel a little more comfortable, a little safer. Talk at church, talk at PTA, talk wherever you can and if somebody you talked to joins our merry band of Blanketeers because of what you said, everyone's ahead.

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



**ANGEL OF THE YEAR . . .
ANN BAGNE**

A smiling face and soft falling tresses are trademarks of this year's "Angel of the Year," an award given to the most productive Blanketeer and named for Ruth Falls who was a Blanketeer until her death in 2001.

Besides making quilts for children, Ann is a "digger" . . . She and her husband Ed enjoy anthropological and historical sites for digging and discovering pot shards and mule shoes, arrowheads and belt buckles. She's an ardent hand-quilter and has hand done some truly beautiful "big" quilts in earth and fall colors and plaids.

Our congratulations to Ann . . . Handmade Hugs' "Angel of the Year."



**FOR SALE—Singer Featherweight
\$300 . . . will accept payments
Suzi Carrion
626-483-9587**

SOMEBODY we don't get to see very often but who does a very important job for Handmade Hugs and Project Linus is **NAN MAPLES**. Nan takes all the "orphan" blocks brought to her and makes them into beautiful little blankets for the "Angel Babies." These blankets, though diminutive in size, offer comfort and dignity to the families of these tiny heaven-bound babies. The coverlets are a good way to use fabric remnants and pieces of batting that aren't big enough for the larger Linus quilts. They are sized from 12 inches by 15 inches to 20 inches by 24 inches. Why not make some yourself or bring your leftover blocks to Nan?



QUOTABLE QUOTES . . .

"FABRIC has served its purpose if it inspires you." — C. Barnes

"ANYONE of any age can help these children. It's within your power to make a difference."
—Project Linus HQ

HABITS & PREFERENCES

(Lenore Strong passed out a questionnaire when 30 of Handmade Hugs Hearties were retreating in Buellton. Some answers she's received:)

BLANKETEER CAROL THILLE is a triple talent who sews, knits and crochets. She learned to sew at age 10, to knit a year later, and when she was 23 learned to crochet at Sears.

CAROL is always on the lookout for bright kid-friendly prints. If she doesn't have something specific in mind, she'll buy 2 yards.

CAROL's favorite quilting tools: a wooden drafting board larger than a cutting mat to give the mat stability when she cuts on it. A mouse pad with wrist support pad to keep her machine foot control in place. She puts the control on the mouse pad with the wrist rest on the far end, away from her.

CAROL's favorite batting is Warm and Natural.

CAROL will sometimes tie quilts with pearl cotton or crochet thread. For crocheted blankets, she likes to make a Granny Ripple pattern with Red Heart yarn.

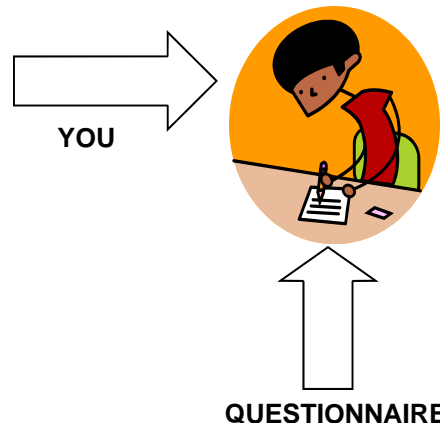
CAROL bought a 6-foot-long folding table for sandwiching quilts. She has it raised to save her back and uses binder clips (buy them at office supply stores) to hold the fabric and backing together.

CAROL loves the anniversary outings and thinks that Suzann McGinnis is a fantastic coordinator. She also likes the good fellowship.

CAROL's WORDS OF WISDOM: "Enjoy what you do and use colors, fabrics, etc, that you like."

(If anyone else would like a questionnaire, pick one up at the next Project Linus meeting or send an email request to Lenore Strong at

Leeways11@aol.com



NATIONAL MAKE-A-BLANKET DAY JANOME . . . PROJECT LINUS

Once again, **KINGDOM SEWING & VACUUM** is participating in this annual event sponsored jointly by Janome and Project Linus. Quilts that are lovingly made, one at a time and donated by generous artists like the Handmade Hugs Blanketeers, are collected for this event. Quilts donated through our chapter are given to critically ill children in local hospitals or through other agencies. There will be two special sewing days: Saturday, November 18 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Candy's Quiltworks 2 doors south of Kingdom in Northridge and Saturday, January 13, 2007 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Simi Valley Store. The event will wind up nationally on Saturday, February 18, 2007.

You can participate in this great event in two ways: you can bring a quilt you're working on to donate and enjoy a wonderful day sewing with friends while making new "sewing friends." You can also bring quilts that you have made and drop them at the Northridge store or the Simi Store any time up to February 18, 2007. Each qualifying quilt you donate, earns you an entry to a drawing to be held on February 18 for a new Janome DC3050. Please note that while Project Linus accepts knitted or crocheted afghans, only sewn pieced quilts will qualify for the drawing. Blankets made from pre-printed panels or those that have been purchased will also not qualify. Contact Suzann McGinnis at the phone or email below right if you need more information.

KINGDOM SEWING

8923 Reseda Blvd
Northridge, CA 91324
818 993 8933

1790-D Los Angeles Avenue
(In the Palm Center)
Simi Valley, CA 93065
805 579 1571



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S McGinnis, Chapter Coordinator, 818 994 9675
D Calvin, Editor, 818 886 0184

Items of interest to Handmade Hugs members or Project Linus blanketeers 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.



"It was as if someone was giving our precious baby girl a great, big hug. Our baby was born six weeks early and her father and I were so scared . . . seeing her hooked up to all those monitors. . . something as [basic] as a blanket made with love . . . put smiles on our faces at such a scary time." —Wendy Garner

Seeing the beautiful pink blanket pictured above makes it a perfect time to remind all of our knitting and crocheting Blanketeers that a visit to

handmade,
a needlework studio
2112 N. Glenoaks Blvd
Burbank, CA

On the first Thursday evening of every month will find you plying your craft with other needlework enthusiasts. Lots of room to sit and work. See the Handmade Hugs website for times.

You don't need a magic broom to keep your work space clean . . . take advantage of the little tin pails at Patchwork Penguin, the little plastic trash holders at Keystone or bring your own receptacle to Pasadena. Clean up as you go along, stay a few minutes longer to help with the vacuum or the chair stacking. These wonderful places are free for our use . . . we can show our appreciation by making sure that nobody has to clean up after us.



—Ye Olde Editor

Will you meet the challenge?



Suz handed out half-yard pieces of very, VERY colorful fabric for our challenge due November 4. Use this fabric in a pattern of your choice or if you didn't get the fabric (a bolt only goes so far, you know) sew, knit or crochet something with a dash or two or a whole lot of brilliant yellow. Your answer to this challenge is sure to be charming.



ODDS & ENDS . . . An editorial thanks to Lenore Strong for her contributions to this issue of Handmade Hugs.

Don't forget that most of us have honorary memberships in S.A.B.L.E. . . . Stash Accumulated Beyond Life Expectancy. No pearls involved.

Marcia Hohn's QUILTER'S CACHE website continues to amuse and amaze. She comes out with easy directions for traditional blocks (along with names) and very creatively drafts her own designs. It's a site you can visit every day and always learn something and never get tired.

www.quilterscache.com

Starch isn't just for shirts . . . buy a quart or two-quart bottle of liquid starch and an empty

spray bottle. Mix one part liquid starch with four parts water in the spray bottle and you have an easily controlled way to starch cut out pieces before you sew them . . . great for triangles and curved edges.

A bar of oil-free soap (Ivory?) placed on a small dish makes a great pincushion. The pin points benefit from the soap's lubrication making pinning fabric easier and more precise.

Do keep your sewing machine covered when it's not in use. You'll save time (who wants to dust the machine?) and possibly repair costs.

If you've a lead foot on your machine pedal, consider keeping your glasses on while you're sewing. A needle broken at high machine speed can fly just about anywhere.

QUILT . . It's good for you!!