

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD

Volume iv, Issue 1, February, 2007



FROM YOUR COORDINATOR . . . (see picture at left of herself, Suzann, up to her shoulders in quilts and afghans)

It is a new year and we are doing GREAT! You passed the 12,000 blanket mark and we're going strong. Brian Williams, NBC Nightly News highlighted Project Linus briefly on the evening of January 19th, and this broadcast resulted in several telephone calls and emails from talented people who want to make blankets for Linus. Some had blankets ready to donate!

Speaking of new people, if you bring a brand new blanket to our National Make A Blanket Day (February 17th) I will have a treat for you and your guest. And remember, I also promised a drawing for a prize for those who bring a "Having a Ball" quilt. Lunch will be catered and we are asking for \$5 per person to cover. THERE WILL NOT BE A POTLUCK THAT DAY. . . . one less thing to fix and bring . . more time for fun.

Linda Bennett, the new owner of QUILT 'n' THINGS, has donated large amounts of new fabric in the past and is very supportive of Project Linus. As a result she would like us to come and make blankets for Linus at her shop in Montrose. We are trying something new. She will host a blanket day at Quilt 'n' Things the first Tuesday of every month from 10am to 3pm. Space is limited, so we are asking that you call Suzi Carrion to reserve a seat even at the last minute so you will know there's space for you to work and be comfortable. Thank you, Quilt 'n' Things!

Last week I was contacted by a young lady who works for a large company in Woodland Hills whose community service committee picks local charities for fundraising. Her reason and spirit in nominating us is that her son was born by emergency C-section at Holy Cross Hospital and he was transferred to St Joseph's Hospital without mom. She stayed at Holy Cross for eight days and didn't see her baby until her release. She writes: "One of the first things I saw when I walked into the NICU was a different blanket draped over each isolette. From then on, every day I walked into the unit, I would look for the blanket with the basketballs, soccer balls and volley balls. It offered a reassuring and very personal way to tell my son from the other babies resting in the isolettes. I owe a big debt of gratitude to your organization, and to the anonymous person who put together my son's blanket. Thanks again! It really made a difference."

In addition, I was contacted by "KIDney Quilts" again and they will need 120 lap or cot size quilts for two local camps—one in July and the other in the fall. Lap size is 40 inches by 40 inches, and cot size would be 45 to 50 inches by 72 inches. If you'd like to make quilts for this particular need, please make sure they are large enough and safety-pin a note on each quilt stating "KIDney Quilt Camp." These camps are for children on dialysis . . a wonderful opportunity!

We had dinner with Theresa Costin in Friday night at Road to California. She was visiting from her new home in Texas. She loves Texas but she really misses her friends and says that there's nothing like our group where she is and she doubts anyone could duplicate what we have.

Always in stitches,
Suzann



GIT ALONG LITTLE DOGIE and enter your Cowboy Quilt in Handmade Hugs next challenge. Make a quilt with a Western theme or crochet in Cowboy colors. Due March 3, 2007
Please be reminded . . participation is voluntary but fun!!



THE FAMILY THAT QUILTS TOGETHER . . .

The loveliest thing about the Handmade Hugs chapter of Project Linus is the amazing number of related quilters involved. There are several groups of sisters and mother-daughter pairs as well—not to mention a very active dad.



The active dad belongs to Eleanor Ozuna and her mom Isabel, pictured above. He crochets beautiful afghans with a pattern that is intricate but solid and won't catch little fingers. Isabel cuts and presses and supervises while Eleanor does the sewing. Teamwork at its best.

Pictured immediately below are Cindy Reimers and her sister Debbie Hoffman. Cindy is responsible for our Pasadena meeting place (with an occasional assist from Jana Schneider) and Debbie was the challenge charm procurer, that job has been turned over to Cindy's daughter-in-law, Tanya Riemers. Just in passing, the sisters are both USC graduates and spend a lot of time circling the hall singing the SC fight song.



Mother-daughter pair Wynn and Linda Cronshagen grace the group at the Pasadena gatherings, always busy, always cordial.

We don't often get to see Cindy Miller and her daughter Christine but when we do, it's a special treat.

Jana Schneider is a double-threat, or should we say double-thread . . . she crochets and quilts. Her mom is Sandy Wallace who comes up to Pasadena from Mission Viejo. Jana is often Cindy Reimers' right hand man, opening the hall in Pasadena on Saturday mornings when Cindy can't get there early.

Here's another pair for you . . Pat Pancino and Mary Jensen. Sometimes they make this a generational thing by including Mary's daughter Maddy. These three are also very active with the Children's Theater Experience that performs at the San Gabriel Civic Theater.



And now we have the Three Graces of Handmade Hugs, Nellie Dewey and her sisters Rita and Elsie. Sometimes they wear matching shirts that they designed so that there's no mistake as to who's related to whom. Nellie's quilt was the popular winner of the Ice Cream challenge last year.



Another multi-generation group is Dot Calvin (Ye Olde Editor), daughter Peggy Terzian and granddaughter Haley Terzian. Peggy is a color specialist *par excellence* and has worked with the scout troop she leads as well as other Girl and Boy Scout troops to make blankets for Linus. Haley has turned in enough quilts to get a Linus patch as well as working on quilts with her Girl Scout troop.

Then there are sisters Joanne and Kathy Milbrand You may have seen their picture in a previous issue in Kathy's new Mustang which she won in a raffle. Her license plate reads "PrzPony." Joanne is a teacher and Kathy works for a health club.

We are so blessed to have these family groups be a strong part of Handmade Hugs. Apologies are in order if any family has been overlooked. Maybe there are other sisters or mothers who should be brought into the Linus fold. Bring 'em in!!!



Favorite Bumper Sticker
**"Borrow money from a pessimist . . .
he won't expect it back."**

FOR THOSE WHO KNIT AND CROCHET

The following is excerpted from an article written by Nancy Bradley in the Project Linus Online Post.

"Time spent in proper finishing of our knitted and crocheted blankets can make a world of difference in the appearance and durability of the blanket.

Working in Ends . . . It is easier to hide ends in crocheting than in knitting. With knitting especially in most stitch patterns, it is best to end a yarn at the end of a row or sides/ends of the blanket or panel. In crocheting, ends can be hidden more easily in the middle of the blankets, but this depends on the looseness of the stitch pattern. **Always** leave long ends when beginning and ending a yarn color . . . at least 6" long. To work in ends, use a large eye needle; then work end under several stitches of the same color - under stitches that are close together where possible (e.g. several stitches in a shell) or wherever the end will show the least. THEN (**important**) - go back in the opposite direction, working end under several stitches again, preferably under different loops than before, if possible, to eliminate bulk; this will help prevent end from pulling out when blanket is pulled and stretched.



It is also possible to crochet or knit over and end for several stitches as you begin working with it, but be sure to leave a long enough end to work it backing the opposite direction later. It is also possible to use a crochet hook to do the above, but it sometimes hard to keep from getting it caught in the yarn. The looser the knitting or crocheting, the more stitches you should go under to hide the ends; it may be necessary to go back and forth in opposite directions more than once. Hiding ends under the border/trim stitches or where joining panels, where possible, is often a good place to hide them.

In knitting, if it is necessary to end/start in the middle of a row, sometimes you can do duplicate stitching (depending on weight of yarn and how bulky it will become) - by threading end back, following the actual yarn stitch for several stitches; but again, be sure to go back in the opposite direction to anchor it. Splitting the plies of the yarn and working them separately will reduce bulk.



COME KNIT AND CROCHET

Blankets for Linus . . .

Bring your own yarn or buy some at this great yarn store

handmade

A Needlework Studio
2112 No. Glenoaks Blvd

(just north of Scott Road)

Burbank, CA 91504
818 846 0346

*Bring your projects at 7pm
the first Thursday of every month.*

*handmade can not accommodate
any sewing machines
Knitting, crochet and hand sewing
are welcome.*



THERE IS STILL TIME - to bring your finished quilts to Kingdom Sewing Center and get a chance to win a new Janome Sewing Machine. The deadline is February 17 before noon - and Tim Brown, the King at Kingdom, will draw the winning ticket that day.

**KINGDOM SEWING CENTER
(2 Centers)**

**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**





Here is the baby and the blanket mentioned in the Coordinator's article on page 1. This little one looks like he's ready for a scrimmage or a jump-ball.

THE COORDINATOR'S IN-BOX . . .

"I wanted to thank you for the wonderful quilt we received . . . through TAPS. . . I hope to hang it as a reminder of my husband/son's father." This came from Cathy Burrier who included this inspirational quote of Helen Keller's: "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."

"I would be willing to wager, that as a blanket maker receiving a compliment on a job well done, you may have responded: Oh, it was so simple to make. I'm glad to have something to do with my time that benefits somebody. . .

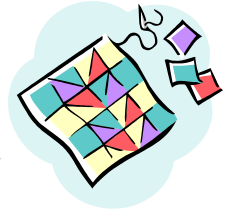
As a charitable organization, Project Linus reaches out . . . to comfort children by offering a soft, warm, protective gift that they can wrap up in, cuddle with, or lie on or beneath. . . an outward sign that someone cares. . . but we must look farther.

Sometimes when I speak on behalf of Project Linus, I . . . speak to young children. . . I asked a group of kids how a blanket can comfort. . . from a child's view a blanket is so much more. . . Cuddled, hugged, slept with, used as a tent, a Superhero cape, a tablecloth for tea parties, a long dress, a sleeping bag, a shawl, a turtle shell, a hiding spot, a cape for a king of queen . . . folded up and used as a pillow or wrapped around a secret treasure.

. . . If you have merged your time and talent, fabric or yarn into a blanket for a child, you have given them not only the gift of a blanket but fuel for their imaginations and a tremendous boost of joy! And you thought a blanket was such a simple thing."

- - Kathy Kihm, Project Linus, Cincinnati, Ohio

"This week, we heard that my husband's nephew, a Marine in Iraq, drove over a land mine. My husband and I have wrapped our own blankets around ourselves and waited for updates. Our nephew's injuries were not life-threatening, thank heaven, and we just bought fabric for blankets for him and his wife (Ed.note: grown-ups need comfort too!)"



"I saw many times over how those little blankets touched so many. In a large room filled with hospital cribs . . . the Linus blankets were sometimes the only color or holiday theme to be seen. . . . On the seventh floor, the blankets lined the little red wagons used by the toddlers . . . who had the run of the hospital . . . Some blankets were used to decorate the doors to their rooms.

Those who represent Project Linus have no idea of how many hearts those little blankets have touched."

"Last night My 14-month-old son and I received your beautiful quilt during a very difficult evening in the emergency pediatric ward. I have never been on the receiving end of this kind of selfless love manifested as art. I am an artist and art teacher. I've talked to my students in the past about the healing power of art. Now I feel I've truly experienced it in a time of real need."

from Maryland

All these messages come to Suzann from grateful mothers and fathers and families. Simple warmth and comfort seem like small things but many hearts are calmed and lifted by the presence of just such small things. Project Linus Blanketeers can be proud that the work of their hands is so far-reaching and can mean so much.

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.

**“The best kind of sleep beneath Heaven above,
Is under a blanket handmade with love . . . “**



**The
Editor
Cornered**

When you watch a lot of television, particularly during the daytime, there is a tendency to be less than a casual observer. The strangest things will catch your eye and you can become alert to things not quite right with the picture, like tire tracks in a movie about the old West or airplane contrails in a Civil War film. I have a habit of noticing quilts when they appear on screen - in “Little House on the Prairie” or other homey programs. In a film the other day, I noticed a particularly colorful quilt spread on a bed with a bright appliquéd design in one corner. Funny, though, as the camera shot from different angles, the appliqué didn’t move. Then I put my glasses on. The NBC Peacock was a lot clearer then.

Quilter’s Cache (www.quilterscache.com) suggests blocks for charity quilts. Look them up and print them out. *Card Basket, Children’s Delight, Churn Dash, Crazy Anne, Double Wrench, Fancy Stripes, Farmer’s Daughter, Fool’s Square, Gay Two Patch Quilt, Goshen Star, Home Circle, Jack in the Box, Mother’s Own, Plaid, Fail Fence, Single Chair and Knot, Snowball, Snowball Nine Patch, Snowchurn, Twist, Squares within Squares 2.* These patterns are all free for our use.

Any 12” block will work for a Quickie Baby Quilt. Make the quilt 3 blocks by 4 blocks and add a 2” border for a great Project Linus quilt. Or . . . 10” block, making the quilt 4 blocks by 5 blocks . . . no borders needed.

Two good monthly newsletters that will come to you on the web are: Judy Martin’s Quilting Newsletter (www.newsletter-subscribe@judymartin.com) and Quilt Connections by Sandra L. Hatch (Editor of Quilter’s World magazine). You’ll have to use a search engine to find this one.

And then there’s For the Love of Sewing with Barbara Weiland (Google it) and Talking Crochet with Carol Alexander (Google this one too).

Judy Martin’s newsletter is full of not only news about her books and quilt designs, but photos and some humor as well. “Do you realize that in about 40 years, we’ll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?”

Yet another newsletter - this one from Superior Threads which includes wise words from Mother Superior. “When quilting with a very smooth thread, such as metallics, Rainbows, and other smooth polyesters, the ends need to be secured by overstitching. Also, bury the ends to make sure they can’t work themselves loose.” There’s humor here as well. “Bob’s Superior Joke of the Month: A little girl asks her grandfather if he can make a sound like a frog. Grandpa says, “Honey, why do you want me to do that?” and the little girl answers “Because Daddy said that when you croak, we all get to go to Disney World.”


One town in Iowa holds an annual parade so short they send it around the block and run it past the spectators a second time.

Find quilt shops for your travels at www.quiltshops.com. And look for fabrics you need to finish a project but can’t find locally at www.missingfabrics.com.

Carol Babbitt at Project Linus HQ says “National Make a Blanket Day has taken on a life of its own, and now we enjoy the corporate support of Janome America, Quiltmaker Magazine and more.” Handmade Hugs is grateful to Tim Brown at Kingdom for his support - he is the Janome dealer who will be presenting a brand new Janome to some lucky Blanketeer on February 17.

This ends our commercial messages. We’re always looking for interesting things to share in this Newsletter.

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD is published three times yearly by the volunteer chapter of Project Linus.



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

For additional information, please contact Suzann McGinnis at the number above or email SuzQuilt@aol.com. To reach the National Organization, Project Linus email www.projectlinus.org. For local schedules and meeting places, go to www.handmadehugs.org.

The Handmade Hugs chapter of Project Linus has blanket-making events every month . . . why not join us? Check the Handmade Hugs website for the 2007 calendar of events and venues.



BEAUTIFUL BUELLTON!!

IN THE HEART OF THE SANTA YNEZ
VALLEY, JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS
FROM L.A.

THAT'S WHERE

- . . the anxiously anticipated and justly famous

BROWN BAG RETREATS

- . . are held !!

Hosted by Creation Station owners Dawn and Patrick Farrier, there will be three Brown Bag weekend Retreats exclusively for Project Linus Blanketeers this year . . . in May, August and December.

Barbecue Dinner on Friday night
Special Homemade Soup & Bread on Saturday night and although you need to be a Project Linus Blanketeer to attend, the weekend can be spent working on whatever you choose.

The retreat is held in an annex of the wonderfully artistic quilt shop. The room is large and well-lit and each attendee will have her own 6-foot table. The atmosphere is charged with creativity as well as fun. Each retreat has a theme and, if you like, you can decorate your work space and even come in costume on Saturday night

Email or phone Suzann for the registration papers.

Comfortable housing is not far away..

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

Does Handmade Hugs travel? (we have been known to)

Three opportunities to hit the road are headed in our direction . . . think about a carpool!!

SAN DIEGO CRUISIN' QUILTERS . . . 19 quilt shops in San Diego County, including the famous Sowing Sisters in Oceanside and Rosie's Calico Cupboard in San Diego. March 3 to 10 with weekday and Saturday hours of 9am to 7pm and Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Prizes at every location and opportunities to visit some of San Diego County's other kinds of entertainment. www.cruisingquilters.com

THE CENTRAL COAST QUILT SHOP TOUR . . . 13 shops from Carpinteria to Paso Robles. Gifts and favors including daily drawings for a Quilter's Dream Basket at each shop. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 1, 2, & 3, 2007. Pick up a tour pass from the first shop you visit and have it validated at every other shop. If you visit every shop, you'll receive 13 patterns, 13 chances to win a big prize and a chance to win one of **THREE GRAND PRIZES**. www.centralcoastquiltshops.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOP HOP . . . two Weekends in July - shops from Thousand Oaks to Palm Springs to Lake Forest. Details will be in the next issue of Handmade Hugs.

