

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD

Coordinator's Corner

VOLUME IV, Issue 2 July, 2007



It is a great time to say thank you to all of you once again. Our chapter just turned seven years old and we have passed the 14,000 blanket mark. We will celebrate this and YOU at our big trip planned for August 4th. Councilman Zine is providing the bus and there will be pick-ups in Reseda and Pasadena. The response has been wonderful, so if you are planning to join us on the bus or just for lunch, please RSVP so we can plan for this fun-filled day.

I have just returned from National Conference with great news and lots of surprises that I will share with you at lunch on August 4th. I am so excited, but I will keep silent until then. It was a time for lots of sharing and everyone received a charm bracelet with charms for any conference they have attended in the last 10 years, and we got lots of credit for that and many other ideas they copied from our wonderful chapter. I was very proud.

What's the latest count, Suzann ?

One idea from the Phoenix coordinator was a personal security wand for finding pins in blankets— a great helper. While I'm mentioning this, please be reminded to double check your blankets for pins of all kinds as pins left in blankets present a very real safety issue for all of us but especially the little ones we serve.

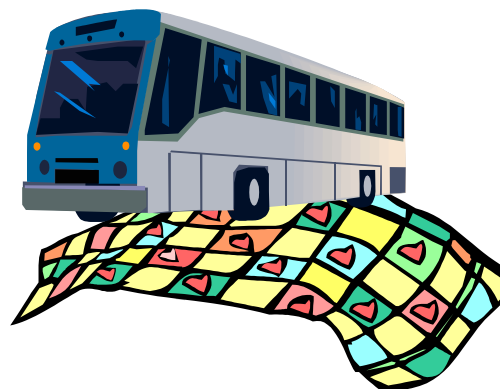
Starting this summer, I will be bringing copies of blanket patterns for you to take and use for Project Linus. Quilting, knitting and crochet patterns will be available starting in July.

It is time to register for our next Retreat in Buellton, August 10, 11 and 12 . . . Please contact me if you are interested. Our last retreat was full so sign up now.

Your Coordinator
SUZANN



RUTHIE . . . And a little visitor to Keystone in Van Nuys who got a quilt!!



, 818 994 9675).

AUGUST 4 . . Phone Suzann to reserve a seat.

TO FOLD . . . TO TAG . . . PERHAPS TO BAG

Besides sewing beautiful quilts to make some child happy, I noticed recently that there are other aspects of my hobby to which I was not paying attention. I've spent a lot of Saturdays at Pasadena happily displaying my quilts, admiring others' charming quilts, sewing, eating (oh, yes), chatting and then packing up MY stuff and going on my merry way until the next time.

One Saturday, at the end of the day, I found that the quilts and afghans we make for Linus still need a few steps done to them before they can be distributed to area hospitals.

First of all, a lot of the quilts need to be labeled. Large donations come in from people who haven't labeled so this task must be done.

They need to be sorted by size, small and large. A small is anything less than 42 x 42 inches. After sizing, they are folded approximately into thirds, PRETTY SIDE OUT, and a corner with the label showing. Label on top makes it easier for Suzann and helpers to attach the Handmade Hugs poem card. The quilts are then put into bags, 12 small ones to a bag and 6 large ones to a bag. All these bags must be carried out (and we're talking about considerable weight here) to Suzann's car. Then she can store them and/or distribute them according to the needs of the recipient hospitals and agencies. Check your bad back at the door when you volunteer to help with this part of the day, or just ignore any infirmities and consider volunteering.

The job sounds simple, doesn't it? But . . . multiply the labeling, folding, and tagging by 150 or 200 blankets each Blanket Day at Pasadena and it is a daunting task for one person, even for two or three.

Sue "I Can Teach You How" Campbell

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

Check the Handmade Hugs web-site for day and time of meeting..

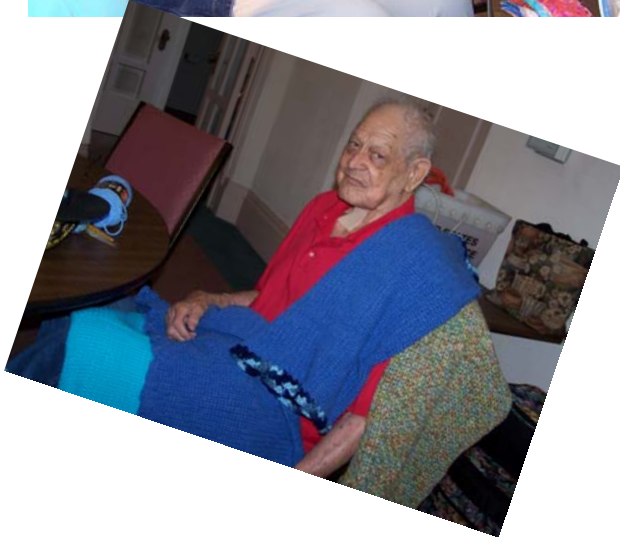
*handmade can not accommodate
any sewing machines
Knitting, crochet and hand
sewing
are welcome.*



LOIS BRESTOFF and ANN GALLAGHER walked April for the California Organ Donator Registry Walk for Life in memory of Jonathan McGinnis.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE how much of a particular fabric to buy? Marge in Tennessee likes Quiltmaster John Flynn's formula: "Figure out the exact yardage, double it, and add a yard."





THERE ARE PEOPLE IN OUR MIDST

WHO deal with sticks and string, whose fingers fly as they fashion beautiful wrappings to warm and charm the unfortunate children. An estimated 10 to 15 percent of the blankets sent to our recipient hospitals and agencies are crocheted or knitted.

Clockwise from upper left: Marlene Hopp and Sharon Rose gossip and laugh while they knit and crochet away. The hands are those of Margaret while Linda Cronshagen adds an edge to a pretty pink blanket.

Piles of finished afghans, knitted and crocheted await tagging and bagging and US Marine Corps Sergeant Johnnie Ozuna, dad of Eleanor, husband of Isabelle . . . draped in his crocheted output..

There is a monthly gathering for yarn enthusiasts at "handmade," a yarn shop in Burbank. See the advertisement on page 2.

Talk to your friends and neighbors who crochet, the ladies at church and even at the bowling alley . . . Many of them are devoted "sticks and string" people and might be looking for a place for spending time and sharing talent.



“Sweet”
400

SUNBONNET SUE on dainty pointe . . . will dance across some child’s bed very soon. Shown above is **Blanketeer Sue Campbell’s 400th quilt** for Project Linus, and she’s not slowing down!!!

THE QUILTER’S HOME z BILL OF RIGHTS . . . Mark Lipinski, Editor, *Quilter’s Home*

1. A quilter has the right to combine any colors they want without criticism or comment— unless asked.
2. A quilter has the right to combine hand with machine quilting.
3. A quilter has the right to accumulate a stash any size they determine necessary . . . but not the responsibility to keep it organized.
4. A quilter has the right to make a quilt any size they want and not have to justify it.
5. A quilter has the right to eat as much chocolate as can be justified to make the perfect quilt.
6. A quilter has the right to sew what they want when they want.
7. A quilter has the right to think out of the box.
8. A quilter has the right to own as much fabric as their house and budget can stand.
9. A quilter has the right to sew all night, barefoot, and in their underwear if they want.
10. A quilter has the right to the establishment of quilting guilds or other quilt-related groups.
11. A quilter has the right to **send quilts to a long-arm quilter** without guilt.
12. A quilter has the right to burn gasoline for a complete shop-hop . . . If only for one fat quarter.

MORE OF THESE INALIENABLE RIGHTS IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER . . . We added some ideas for knitters and crocheters for finishing their projects. The tips came from the on-line post of PROJECT LINUS.

Continuing . . .

STEAMING FINISHED BLANKET. . . Most blankets will look much better if a little steaming is done (best done after washing it) .

. to flatten out curled edges or corners and square up the blanket. This can be done on an ironing board sometimes if the project is small, but as you steam, the blanket will probably stretch. It is best done with the blanket laid flat on a table or board, preferably with grid markings, so you can attempt to square up the blanket with the grid lines.

Then, go over the entire blanket with a steamer or steam iron, not actually touching the yarn with the iron or steamer head, but letting the steam alone do the work. Patting out edges or uneven or "bumpy" spots with your hand or "stretching" tight spots as you go along can work wonders (just don't burn yourself.).



Blankets that are very misshapen (e.g. changes in tension; use of different brands of yarn with slightly different bulk; granny squares or sections made by different individuals) can often be miraculously redeemed by a good steaming job . . by actually pinning the edges of the blanket to the grid (a board covered with padding or quilted fabric under the grid works well) . . . and better yet, using blocking wires treaded through the edge stitches then held with heavy straight pins. Always let the blanket cool and dry while it is flat on a table or board, so it doesn't stretch out of shape again.

Be sure not to "oversteam" blankets (machine knitters call this "killing the yarn") and be especially careful with areas where you want the texture and bulk of the stitch to be maintained . . e.g. bobbles, popcorn stitch, 3-dimensional patterns, etc. Generally, just going over the blanket one time lightly is all that is needed . . The preliminary pinning and lining up with the grid should be the time consuming part.

—Nancy Bradley, Illinois



OFF WE GO TO BUELLTON again to spend 48+ hours quilting and visiting with just Blanketeers. This weekend is specifically for Project Linus and although you can work on anything you'd like you have to be a Blanketeer to get there. August 10, 11 and 12. Make a reservation with Suzann.

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

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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.



THE EDITOR . . . CORNERED

A victim of the packrat syndrome and powerless to medicate, and recuperate from this crippling disease, your editor is prone to tucking away little bits of paper with pithy things written on them that would seem nice to share. Then, looking frantically for the "tucking" place, finally find them and decide that some of them weren't that pithy after all. But, I have decided to share one thought (a child of insomnia): *There is a time in our lives when we discover we are no longer parents and that our children have taken on the role of parenting us. Let us hope that they can be as good at parenting as we thought we were.*"

Quilter/Author/Teacher Judy Martin . . . On pinning. "I've noticed that pins seem to be out of favor with some quilters. When I see ruffled borders and triangle patches stretched out of shape (Ponderous Question: if a triangle is stretched out of shape, is it still a triangle?), I know the quilter didn't pin. And I know pinning would have prevented those problems.

Pinning takes a little extra time, but if you are frustrated about your piecing and would like to do a better job, you should try it. If you will simply pin your borders, joints, and the ends of patches (especially big ones) with bias edges, you should see immediate improvement.

Can't remember exactly how your block or your quilt went after you took it off the design wall?, Take a picture with a digital or a Polaroid camera.

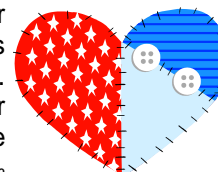
Former quilt store owner Jim has a few comments regarding high fabric prices. "First, the fabric companies have been tremendous in keeping their prices down. Moda, for example, held its prices steady for at least three years and then only raised their wholesale prices by 10 cents a yard. . . Financial pressures are forcing increases in wholesale prices that are now unavoidable. . . In the two-and-a-half years that I had the store, my shipping costs went up by more than 300%. . ." Once again, the answer is rising fuel costs.

THE QUILT OF BELONGING In Houston this fall, this stunning work will be exhibited for the first time in the U.S. The quilt is 120 feet long and represents 263 ethnic groups or nationalities., each invited to create a single block signifying a unique characteristic of their country or culture.

TIPS FROM SUPERIOR THREADS . . . "Can I quilt with serger thread?" Bob Purcell, Superior Thread Professor says "Yes, but why would you? Most serger thread on the market is the cheapest type of spun poly thread. When used to serge, multiple strands of this thread are overlocked, resulting in a strong and secure stitch. However, if used as a single thread for quilting, it is weak and fluffy. It just isn't intended for single thread use."

. . "Will poly thread tear my quilt?" Bob: The answer is No. If thread ever tears through the quilt it is because it was stronger than the fabric. Poly thread is perfectly safe to use . . . Choose it by its quality and for the effect it gives and ignore the myths.

Reprinted with permission from Bob Purcell, Superior Threads. www.superiorthreads.com



THREADER MISERY? From quilter Marilyn Schrader tore three needle threaders apart before getting this tip. Use a dental floss threader. It works like a needle threader except that there are no pieces to pull apart. Ask your dentist.



THE PICTURE ABOVE is a "tip of the iceberg" ;look at the kinds of donations we get. Yarn, fabric, books, notions . . . somebody will always manage to put it to use for Project Linus. And if the idea strikes someone as a good one, gift certificates will also be put to use. Last month Handmade Hugs was the fortunate recipient of over 40 boxes of fabric, and just a few months ago another bonanza of 250 yards came our way. There may not be trucks backing up to our door from Walmart, but word does get around that donations are very welcome.



DEAR LINUS PROJECT VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you for donating your time, energy and artistic skills to make blankets like the one in this picture . . . Keeping my son William warm. William was born 5 weeks early at USLA Santa Monica on February 24, and my wife Debbie and I were finally able to bring him home on April 6. The blanket came home too.

The weeks in the hospital were tough but knowing that there are people out there thinking about ways for it to be a little easier meant a lot to us. In an age when it seems like just about everything that's made comes off an assembly line in China, having our son nestled in a hand-sewn blanket was a great comfort.

Thank you for your kindness.
Mike Dieffenbach
Debie Brause
William Dieffenbach

Ed. Note: Carol Strong was the proud maker of this beauty.

DEAR PROJECT LINUS,

Our son Riley is 3 years old. He had a terrible accident about 3 weeks ago. He tripped and fell by the lawn mower and three of his toes were cut, one broken. It was horrible. My husband only turned away for a second to yell at the dog to stop chasing Riley.

A specialist was able to help Riley . . . one of his toes had to be pinned and he has to wear a cast for a month. We spent the night in the hospital and Riley was so brave.

The next day, one of the nurses gave Riley a blanket that you made and he loved it. He has used it ever since. . . . My husband, Riley and I wanted to say thank you for what you ladies do. It is wonderful and selfless . . . helping so many children to smile and feel better. We really appreciate what you do. God bless you.

—Brian, Rayo & Riley

**Quilting
Hath
Charms!**
As well as
Challenges!!!

HOW'S YOUR CHARM HOLDER LOOKING?

Did you get a snappy sombrero for your "Fiesta" offering? Will you step up to September's challenge subject "Transportation?" Challenge quilts can be turned in at any time and participation is purely voluntary (but you can't beat the fun!!!)

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

