

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD

Volume IV, Issue 3 November 2007



FROM SUZANN . . . The holidays are getting closer and I'm reminded once more of the many blessings in my life. Near the top of that list is YOU. You are all so talented and so generous! You have made 14,000 blankets, served more than 20 hospitals and responded to needs across the country.

We helped Donovan celebrate his 1st birthday and his parents thanked us for the blanket he received. His mother has gone on to be a great fundraiser for Project Linus with help from her fellow employees at McGraw Hill. They have donated over \$300, blankets and supplies in their latest effort.

Our first fundraiser was a Tupperware party hosted by Dee W. Ieye at the lovely home of Barbara Rittenberg. Kevin Farrell becomes Dee, a former Miss Tennessee, and gives the most entertaining Tupperware party and did we laugh!! Kevin is donating all his profits from this party which may pass \$600. Over 40 people came to the party. Thanks go to Kevin, Barbara, and all of you who purchased Tupperware.

For the second year in a row, the ladies of Blue Shield (located in Warner Center) donated 70 fleece blankets and raised money for Linus. Whatever they raise, Blue Shield matches and this year we were presented with a check for \$7,000.00.

This chapter of Project Linus has become a force that I never could have imagined and with your help we continue to serve so many children and their families.

As for me, I left healthcare administration after over 30 years, including my last job of 20 years. While I don't miss any of it, I have worked since I was 14, so the last two months have been nothing but fun. BUT there is a plan. During the summer, I purchased an APQS Millennium Longarm Quilting Machine and as of November 1st, I will be *the Ladybug Quilter*, providing quilting services and supplies to the public. Many of you know about my plan and have been extremely supportive and for that I cannot thank you enough. It is a new chapter in my life made possible in part by the spirit of Linus. Thank you.

. . . . Your Coordinator, Suzann

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 7 years of blanketteering.

*HANDMADE HUGS is an organization of volunteers dedicated to comforting kids with security blankets. This is a local chapter of **PROJECT LINUS**.*



"The ref says I have to keep my eye on the ball."

FLASH from BUELLTON . . .

"Greyhound" Gretchen sends her thanks to everyone who collected scraps of fabric and batting for making beds for the dogs. She adds that now she has quite a collection of fabric scraps but always needs batting because a greyhound bed full of fabric scraps is very heavy. So divert your scrap fabrics to the Indian reservation and just send batting and fleece scraps. Anyone who is going to the retreat at the beginning of December can take donations to Creation Station for you.



De Olde Editor Cornered

Suzann wanted me to point out that the number of quilts Diane Reynolds has made was mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin. She says that this is the only time you'll hear her cite quantity because she is thrilled with each and every blanket Linus receives.

Didn't we have fun making blocks for veterans' quilts at the Airtel in September? Lois Brestoff, and Joann and Kathy Milbrand rounded up piece-makers to put together packets *carefully* assembled by Pat Rosemary and her crew.

The term "afghan" originated with the early American settlers who first brought "Afghanistan blankets" from

We have
enough youth.
How about a
Fountain of Smart?



More Ed

European trading ships. Later, they crocheted their own with scraps of yarn left over from knitting.

If *you* have leftover yarns of different weights for scrap afghans, combine two or more strands of a lighter weight yarn to achieve the weight of thicker yarns. Two or more strands of baby or sport-weight yarn can be used to equal one strand of worsted weight yarn. Two strands of worsted weight, or one strand of worsted and one strand of sport, can be used for one strand of bulky yarn.

One quilter's take on the amount of yarn or fabric to buy: "Enough never is!"

Instead of binding quilts, you can insert rick rack trim between top and back (right sides together and batting on top, sew and turn). When you turn the quilt right side out, the rickrack makes a nice tactile finish.

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

If you wash your fabrics before you cut and piece, snip off all four corners of the yardage, then wash and dry. Fraying will be controlled and you'll have a reminder of which fabrics you washed.

What's your favorite quilting tool? Mine is a sturdy chopstick that I use to pull bobbin threads to the top of the quilt.

If you're a pattern designer, don't forget those items to draw around: cups, saucers, cookie cutters, baking pans, jelly molds, knick-knacks. (Does anybody still have knick-knacks?)

The baby above is the same baby mentioned in the February '07 issue, He and mom are doin' fine.

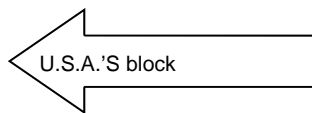


It's not too late . . . To sign up for 2007's last Brown Bag Retreat November 30, December 1 and 2. The theme is "Favorite Holiday." Decorate and dress if you like, we're sure to have a good time. See Suzann for registration forms.

QUILT OF BELONGING

The Quilt of Belonging consists of 263 11-inch fabric squares, 70 representing Aboriginal groups, 193 featuring all immigrant nationalities in Canada and the Canadian block.

The **QUILT OF BELONGING** is a collaborative work of art that recognizes Canada's diversity, celebrates its common humanity and promotes harmony and compassion among people.



NEXT YEAR IN 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 two Brown Bag weekend Retreats exclusively for Project Linus Blanketeers .in 2008. See the Handmade Hugs website for dates. .

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..



ANOTHER FABRIC TIP . . . “The only time I go out and buy fabric is for a specific project. Those “must-haves” are in 3 to 5 yard cuts (occasionally in bolts) and already fill half of my fabric room, so I guess my answer to “How to you use them?” is , , , I place them over the cutting table, and I look at them, and I touch them and . . . I keep them safe from harm by locking up my rotary cutters and fabric shears.

, , , Tricia Camp, McCalls Quilting

MOUNTAIN MIST OFFER . . . If 100 UPC labels from Mountain Mist Batching 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

ANGELS MAY PLAY beautiful music or they may bring special messages, or even guard you every moment, awake or sleeping, but Handmade Hugs recognizes another kind of angel—one whose selfless and tireless work brings comfort to children.

Ruth Falls was just such an angel and it is in her memory that we pay tribute each year to the blanketeer who has made the most quilts for Project Linus.

Once an angel, always an angel and those so honored number seven: Linda Huber, Dot Calvin, Lisa Burroughs, Mary Jensen, Sue Campbell, Ann Bagne and the newest angel, Diana Reynolds who has made 155 quilts.

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 for events and venues.



A
Quilter's
Bill
Of
Rights

- A quilter has the right to buy quilting supplies that aren't really needed.
- A quilter has the right to expect that their son will marry a quilter.
- A quilter has the right to be secure in their own home with their own stashes of fabric without the fear of unlawful search and seizure by spouses, ungrateful relatives, neighbors and any other person trying to "straighten them out."
- A quilter has the right not to finish any quilt or project started in a class.
- A quilter has the right to have the required number of pairs of glasses to enable them to thread needles.
- A quilter has the right to collect as many sewing machines as they want . . . whether they use them or not is their business.
- A quilter has the right to use the wrong side of the fabric if that looks better.
- A quilter has the right to be proud of even their ugliest quilt.
- A quilter has the right to chat with fellow quilters even if they're supposed to be working.
- A quilter has the right to define how flat is flat, how square is square, and if points really need to come to a point.
- A quilter has the right to keep a project for themselves no matter how much a friend or family member may plead for ownership.
- A quilter has the right to take side trips on family vacations that will take them to new quilt shops to explore and support.

THANKS TO QUILTER'S HOME Magazine and editor and publisher MARK LIPINSKI.

Quilting
Hath
Charms!
As well as
Challenges!!!

Challenges are fun . . . some of the most beautiful quilts we've made are answers to Suzann's challenges. For December, the challenge is anything to do with stars. participation is voluntary but creative stretching is always enjoyable.

SUZ' NOOZ . . . The current . . . emphasis on all things "green" has directed a spotlight on bamboo as a natural and sustainable resource . . . It benefits from cutting and will regenerate itself rapidly. The bamboo staple fiber is incredibly soft, long wearing, adapts to the body's temperature and wicks away moisture. Bamboo quilts?

Carol St John tells us about fabric for the Indians and praises our generosity. If you have scraps of fabric or batting that you would like the Navaho, Hopi and Apache reservations to have, pack them in boxes along with notions, knitting needles, clothing patterns, and magazines with patterns in them. Carol's church visits these venues twice a year, but her friend Marian Ziegler will take your contributions if you pack them in sturdy *easy-to-handle* boxes and take them to PATCHWORK PENGUIN clearly marked with Marian Ziegler's name (she teaches there). Let Crissa know in advance, please.

You can also call Marian directly at 818 365 7351 to arrange a time to drop donations at her home in San Fernando.