

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD

VOLME V, # 1, February, 2008

Hello !! Drum roll please

As of December 31,2007, we passed the **15,000-blankets-donated** mark and YOU made this happen.



This February 16, we'll celebrate our **8th ANNUAL MAKE-A-BLANKET Day** and we have a great day planned so I hope your calendar is marked and you plan to come! Bring all your finished blankets to donate because for every finished blanket, you'll receive a ticket for an opportunity ticket to win one of the great gift baskets that has been donated for this event with YOU in mind.

Remember to bring the current challenge blanket so that you can get the beautiful charm that Tanya Reimers will have for you. You can meet this challenge by making the Hopes & Dreams pattern quilt in the latest issue of *Quiltmaker*, OR a quilt with a heart theme OR knit or crochet a pastel color blanket.



We will be making blankets on this day as usual and lunch is being provided at a cost of \$5 per person payable at the door. Drawings for all the wonderful prizes will be held at 2pm and you must be present to win. Lots of surprises, so don't miss this event!

The new *Blanket Challenge* due in June will be announced. Remember, though, we have no deadlines . . . so if you're still working on a past challenge, let me or Tanya know when it is complete so that you can receive the appropriate charm if it still in stock.



There is still time to make another blanket for the 16th . . . you'll be glad you did !!!

Suzann McGinnis,
Handmade Hugs Coordinator



OH . . . LABEL, LABEL, LABEL . . . Once again the subject of labeling and folding crops up. As for labeling . . . a lot of us take labels home and put them on quilts as we finish while some wait and add labels the day of surrender. Whichever is your time preference please be sure to attach the label securely as **close to a corner** of the blanket or afghan as you can. The blankets are folded, finished side out, with the labeled corner turned back . . . that's why the label should be close to a corner.



Won't YOU be one of the crew that does the folding and tagging and packaging of the quilts on our days in Pasadena? The activity usually starts a little after lunch and if many hands are helping, the time spent is about an hour.

MORE SOURCES FOR FREE PATTERNS . . .

www.clothworkstextiles.com

Many, many patterns some of which can be scaled down for smaller quilts

www.byannie.com

A charming Block-of-the Month program that makes a calendar for a child.

We cannot do great things; only small things with great love.



—Mother Theresa



THE PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN in the picture above is ERIN VENTURA who comes to Tujungta to sew with the Blanketeers there. Erin is 16 and this is her third quilt , , , she has quite an eye for color.



THE BLANKET BEACON . . . Is the name of Project Linus National Headquarters new quarterly newsletter. You can read the first issue by going to www.projectlinus.org and follow the instructions. Then you can register your email address to have subsequent issues emailed to you..

There are quite a lot of letters expressing thanks for blankets in time of need . . the editor warns you to have Kleenex ready. Plenty of free patterns here, too.

ORPHANAGE NOW OPEN

Nan Maples would like any of the "orphan blocks" you have stashed away. Maybe you made some in a class or started a project that never quite came together or tried a few fabrics to see how they looked . . . maybe you have one . . . maybe you have 20 . . . If you can part with them.



Go through that cupboard and pull out those blocks and send them to Linus for Nan to put into a quilt. This is an ongoing collection, so bring them to a blanket day or mail them to Suzann and she'll get them to Nan.

THE EDITOR . . . CORNERED

This is my soap box and I promise to use it only for the good of Handmade Hugs members and not publish anything that is false or misleading.

Are you a sewer? I never liked being called that since in print it comes across as a drainage ditch (and not a nice one at that). I have heard the term "seamstress" bandied about but that's very Victorian. Then there's "dressmaker" or "couturier," and neither term applies to quilts. One I heard the other day was "sewist." How does that strike you?

Did you have smelly cooking hands after you deboned the fish or cut up the garlic? Simply run a stainless steel utensil over your hands under running water.

If you drink coffee while you quilt, there's the danger of spilling. Oops! You can remove the stain easily by rubbing a paste made of baking soda and water on it.

Why make a wall hanging? A while ago, my grandson made a hole in the dining room wall. His mother covered it with a little wall quilt. Nobody asks why she has this little quilt hanging just a foot off the floor.

Old tip: To ensure that your quilts will please your heirs, never store them in plastic. Instead, wrap quilts in a cotton sheet, pillowcase or acid-free tissue; then keep them in a cool, dry place. And this: if you store fabrics in plastic containers, make sure that the containers are ventilated on all sides..

If you should happen to get a grease stain on one of your works-in-progress, rubbing the stain with plain white chalk, then washing tently will get rid of the stain.

Since we're about to collect another charm, here are websites for chains and holders.

www.bluemud.com

&

www.timelesscharms.com

A pretty bracelet or charm holder can spark a conversation about Project Linus. Talk about Project Linus . . wherever you go! Talk when you're visiting a fabric store. Folks are always interested to know why you're buying fabric, so tell them it's to make quilts that give a little comfort to traumatized kids. Talk at church, talk at PTA, talk whenever and wherever you can.

—Until July, Dot Calvin

PROJECT LINUS is making itself known in Laguna Beach. At left is Debbie Hoffman who found a meeting place, put out some publicity and now there is a group meeting in a church once a month. Debbie says that the group may be small, but it's choice and enthusiasm is the order of the day. She says that she's been able to put her skills to work teaching those who are beginners and she's really gratified with the results. If you want to visit the group, look at HandmadeHugs.org and click on calendar and the location is there for you.



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



TINY MYSTERIES . . . Do we ever wonder where our blankets go? We hope deeply that the blanket or afghan we have created will bring some measure of comfort and pleasure to a baby or a young person. We care honestly that our work makes a difference now for a troubled child . . . But do we ever have the pleasure of knowing where the blankets go? Somebody did . . . A young family wrote, "Dear Sue Campbell, . . . About a year ago you made a beautiful quilt with chili peppers on it. . . Thank you so much for this lovely quilt that has meant so much to our family. . . My baby went from Northridge NICU to UCLA NICU and spent agonizing days trying to find answers. On her second day at UCLA the quilt that was placed under her made her bassinet seem cheery. We called her our "red-hot chili pepper" and told her that she was fiery enough to fight. After a month, she came home and is now a happy ten months old little girl

Again . . . thank you for your wonderful gift to my family . . . It gave us hope and is now actually a pleasant reminder of a more difficult time."



WHAT CAN YOU GET OUT OF ONE FAT QUARTER?

- 99 2" squares
- 56 2½" squares
- 42 3" squares
- 30 3½" squares
- 20 4" squares
- 16 4½" squares
- 12 5" squares
- 12 5½" squares
- 9 6" squares
- 6 6½" squares

Lyn Kelley

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 blanketeteers 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.



CROCHET or NOT CROCHET . . . not even a question. Faithful Pasadena attendee and Brown Bag retreator, **JANA SCHNEIDER** answered a bunch of questions for the Newsletter.

How long have you been crocheting? I first learned when I was about nine, then didn't pick up the hook again until 11. Then it was another 7 years before I finally got "hooked" and started crocheting regularly. That makes it about 25 years, give or take a year or two.

Who taught you to crochet? Three different people at different times. When I was about 9, it was my best friend's mother who taught me the basics of chaining and single crochet. There was my dad's mother Sese (SEEsee) who refused to be called grandma. She taught me to double crochet and about the turning chain. Last, my mother's friend Jeré taught me the jumbo-size Granny Square.

What is your favorite thing to crochet? What else? Blankets! Baby bonnets and baby hats.

What is the best thing you ever crocheted? Sentimentally, it was the layette (blanket, hat, booties and jacket) for my son Cameron. He came home from the hospital in the blanket and was baptized in the jacket, hat and booties.

What is your favorite time for crocheting? Whenever time allows or the mood strikes me. Sometimes I'll go out of my way to make time, especially when I'm obsessed with a new design idea or a new pattern.

Could you teach it if you had to? Yes, but I have a habit of making students rip out initial work and try again. . . Ask Cindy Reimers. I think I traumatized her . . . I haven't seen her pick up a hook in years.

What are your preferences of yarn, patterns and Ideas? I prefer Red Heart's washability and kid colors, so I shop at Michaels or Joann's. Sometimes I buy with a project in mind, sometimes I

just stockpile because I love the colors and there'll be a use somewhere. As for patterns, I stick to *330 Crochet Stitches* and *220 More Crochet Stitches*.

How to you get materials ready to crochet? Not much you can do with yarn except *try* to pull the little "tail" out of the center of the skein (fiendishly hidden by the manufacturer) and hope you don't disembowel two-thirds of the skein in the process.

What is the biggest thing you have ever crocheted? A pool cover. Honestly. Okay, okay. Didn't think anyone would buy that. Actually, the largest thing was an afghan for a queen-sized bed—a Jumbo Granny Square.

Do you have any tips or suggestions for new crocheters? Start with simple worsted weight or sports weight yarn. Leave the fancy stuff for when you have the basic stitches down. Find a "How to Crochet" book that illustrates the steps of the basic stitches. This will give you a visual reference. Once you've mastered the four basic stitches—slip stitch, single, half-double crochet and double crochet - you'll be amazed at how easy all the patterns and "complicated" stitches are to master. Most importantly, have LOTS of patience when you're first learning and by lots, I mean *days*. You're trying to teach your hands intricate delicate maneuvers . . holding the yarn, keeping the tension "just right," moving the hook so that it pulls the yarn through properly without catching or falling off the hook. Don't expect to master it overnight. If you become frustrated, put your work down and try again the next day. If all potential crocheters accept that their first few attempts will not be pretty and understand that practice and patience will fine-tune their hands to all the subconscious nuances in working with yarn and hook, crocheting will be very rewarding and enjoyable.

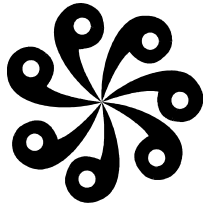


BLANKET ANGELS

(l to r) Mary Jensen, Dot Calvin, Sue Campbell, Diana Reynolds . . . missing angels are Ann Bagne and Linda Huber. This group has made the most blankets for Handmade Hugs.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS . . . Who are not quilters but who would like to help the Project Linus effort? There is always use for:

- ◆ Fabric . . New, 100% cotton
- ◆ Batting
- ◆ Cash contributions
- ◆ Yarn . . Acrylic and washable
- ◆ Thread
- ◆ Gift Certificates to Joann's, Michaels, or other fabric or yarn stores



**FABRIC IS NOT
A
DIMENSIONALLY STABLE
MEDIUM.**

Wanna bet?

—UNKNOWN

VOLUNTEERS

Are unpaid. Not because they are worthless

But because they are

PRICELESS

eQuilter.com

Quilting has gone the way of the internet, partly because of the efforts of a jet-setting fashion designer.

Luana Rubin and husband Bill, run a bustling Amazon.com-like business that handles some 20,000 fabrics, plus pattern books and other supplies. The fabrics range from patterns handmade in Bali to Spongebob Squarepants designs.

And eQuilter donates 2 percent of all sales to charity. Over the past four years, the company has given more than \$525,000 to charities.

Check it out!!!

MORE QUILTERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

- A quilter has the right to sew buttons for embellishment but not on shirts or other clothing.
- 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 hang out near their quilt at a quilt show to hear random viewers' comments.
- A quilter has the right to save ever scrap they've ever made.
- A quilter has the right to start their block-of-the-month quilt the week before its due, if ever.
- A quilter has the right NOT to follow the directions.
- A quilter has the right to take side trips on family vacations that will take them to new quilt shops to explore and support.
- A quilter has the right to delay dinner indefinitely in favor of working on a quilt.
- A quilter has the right to collect all gadgets (rulers, pencils, rotary cutters, scissors, software, etc.) as they want without criticism from others.

—Mark Lipinsky, Quilter's Home

"GREEN" FABRIC . . The current and hopefully everlasting emphasis on all things "green" has directed a spotlight on bamboo as a natural and sustainable resource - meaning it benefits from cutting, giving it the ability to regenerate itself rapidly. The bamboo staple fiber is derived from plants grown on managed farms (no chemicals) ensuring preservation of wild bamboo forests. Incredibly soft (similar to a rayon-cotton blend) long-wearing bamboo adapts to the body's temperature and wicks away moisture. The anti-bacterial nature greatly reduces natural allergens.

—from eQuilter newsletter



THESE ARE ALL the people who joined Suzann and daughter Crystal (center—behind sign) to walk for "Donate Life," a group united in their purpose to encourage organ donations. The group also sponsored and helped decorate a float in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena. Is the duck in the foreground looking for a new liver?