

“The Blanket Review”



October 2008

Newsletter

Issue # 20

The North bay / Sonoma County Chapter of Project Linus, est. May 2003

Personal Stuff

Well, here we are in the middle of October—can you believe it???? I can't! Wasn't it just Easter and now we're getting ready for Halloween. Where does the time go? Funny thing—my mother used to always say that and I got so sick of hearing it that I said I'd never say it... So, I've turned into my mother—who hasn't! Didn't all of our mothers say these things; “Don't make those faces—your face will stay like that” or “The older I get, the faster time goes” or my personal favorite “You just wait until you have a daughter—I hope she's just like you—then you'll know what it's like”... Bring back any memories?

Anyway, I just got back from a 9 day bus tour with 8 other women!! We went to Memphis—saw Graceland and where Elvis recorded his first record—Sun Recording Studio. Then to Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry. Stayed at the Opryland Hotel(boy is that a huge place, got lost all the time), Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B(where 100's of rock and roll, country, etc. hits were made). Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Smokey Mountains and then to Atlanta Georgia. Phew! We were up everyday and to breakfast at 6:30 or 6:45(way to early for me) and on the bus at 8:00 and not back in our rooms until 9:00 or so that night. It was a fun trip, saw lots of new and interesting things, lots of giggling and laughing but it was also very tiring. It's not really my idea of a vacation— I like to go when and where I want to. On the bus you're rather limited, but you learn so much about the area you're visiting. The tour guide use to be a school teacher and she was wonderful- kept the group in line(just like she probably did the classroom) and was constantly telling us about the area, the history, and people(living or dead) from the

Cont.

area. It was all very interesting. But, sometimes we were on the bus from 8 until 4 or 5 and that's a long time!! There were times when I couldn't keep my eyes open—I kept nodding off every time I'd blink!!

The colors were changing in the Smokey Mtns., so it was absolutely beautiful! Oh, and we went to the Peabody Hotel in Memphis—ever hear of it? For 75 years they've been having the “march of the ducks”! 4 ducks live up on the roof(in a duck house) and at 11:00 every single morning, the red carpet is rolled out in the lobby and the duck master goes up to the roof, leads the ducks into the elevator, brings them down the elevator and they march across the red carpet and jump into the water fountain that's in the middle of the lobby. They stay in the water until 5:00 in the evening when(you guessed it) the red carpet goes out, and the ducks are marched back up to the roof for the night..... This goes on everyday and night and has for 75 yrs.—can you believe it? It is the most adorable thing I've ever seen. And you should see all of the people that line up to watch this. It is a huge sightseeing event!

Anyway, I'm back and somewhat rested up. Oh, and guess what? I flew United and everything went perfect! I tried to get an upgrade on the flight to Memphis and was told that there weren't any. Then when I got to my gate —I'd been given an upgrade. I asked the girl at the gate “why”(not that I was complaining), she said that they had a problem with the plane and had to change planes to a smaller plane. They had to shuffle everyone and they moved me to economy plus... I was thrilled— I got my upgrade and didn't

**BLANKETEERS LIKE YOU AND CHOCOLATE MAKE
LIFE MORE BEARABLE.....**



even have to pay for it!!!! So, I've changed my mind about United. It's just Chicago airport that I have the problem with and will avoid at all costs from now on.....

I'm now home for a week then we (hubbie and me and his family and half of Petaluma) go to Boomtown on Oct. 19 thru the 21st for the Giacomini Blackjack Tournament. This is an event that they've held for the last 22-25 years in April and October. Lots of fun, visiting (like I said half of Petaluma goes), drinking, eating and of course gambling. I do lots of visiting, some drinking!!!! and very little gambling. I don't really like to gamble- I like to watch. If there's anyone out there that'd be interested in going to this event- let me know, there's always room for more and everyone that goes tells us that they have the best time.....

Then in 2 weeks we'll be going to Washington to visit the grandkids for a few days. So, I've done very little traveling the whole year and am now fitting it all into the last few months of the year! I don't think that's the way you're suppose to do it, but I never seem to do things the way you're suppose to....Oh well, as long as I get to go places- I don't really care how it gets done...

VERY EXCITING NEWS.....

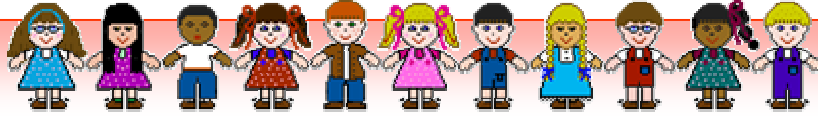
Now that I've brought you up to date on me and mine, let's get onto more important things- like what's going on with our chapter...This next item is the MOST EXCITING thing to happen to us.

I had a man call me a month or so ago. He'd seen the article in the paper about our chapter- did you all see it? It was nice wasn't it? Anyway, he lives in Lake County and his wife was an avid quilter and had lots and lots of quilting fabric around. She passed away last year and he was now wanting to get rid of the fabric. He wanted to donate it to Project Linus and would even deliver it to me. Now, I sometimes am leery about fabric donations, as you don't know what you're going to get from people-just little pieces, fabric not useable, etc. He said that it was all quality fabric;

Debbie Mumm, Thimbleberries, etc. and that he had (wait until you hear this) over 6,000 yards of it!!!! I asked him again just to make sure I heard it right and yes 6,000... Where would I put all of that?? I asked at the Bank where I used to work- they have a huge room upstairs that they don't use and they said that I could use it anytime I want, for however long I wanted to. So, this is what I'm doing-he'll deliver it to me and we'll store it at the Bank. I'm offering, to any of the coordinators in the U.S., as much as they would like- all they have to do is pay for postage. Then, any of you blanketeers can have as much as you'd like provided it's for blankets. Otherwise, I'll sell the rest for a dollar or two dollars a yard to anyone who wants it and this money will go to our chapter of Project Linus and maybe to headquarters also (if I make lots of money). One coordinator had this sort of thing happen to her and she opened her house for a couple of weekends and had the fabric all over her house so ladies could just come over and buy it- not sure if that's what I'll do or what- I'll let you know. But, right now I'm just waiting to hear back from him- he was having it appraised and then going to contact me. So, keep your fingers crossed that all goes as planned and we'll make lots and lots of money so I can go and buy lots and lots of yarn, etc.... Any groups or ladies that you know might be interested in getting material-let them know. Any ideas you might have- let me know, they're always welcome!

I heard back from him and he's delivering it on Monday (the 27th).. So, please, please tell anyone- any quilting guilds, sewing groups, etc., that you think would be interested and let me know if you're interested-then we'll go from there...





This n That

I've found a couple of new places to give blankets to-thanks to you folks for telling me about them.

Pregnancy Counseling Center in Santa Rosa

Child Start Therapeutic Center in Napa(took blankets there last year, but they contacted me and want them on a regular basis-that never happens)

Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa(reconnected with them- the contact that I had several years ago left and I've never been able to get back with them)

Kaiser in Petaluma-this one I was so surprised at. I just went out there one day-(how long have they been there-I just never thought about them before). I went into the Pediatric Dept., left my brochure and they called me a few days later and were so thrilled that we were around. They'd never heard of us and couldn't wait for some blankets..

So, all in all, last month was a really good month for delivering blankets. Summer was pretty slow-but it usually is and then in winter it picks up. I'm not sure that's a good thing -that we're needed so much- but it's good that we're here doing what we do...

One of our volunteers let me know about Memorial Hospital needing blankets for the preemies. They

cover the isolets with the blankets to keep the light out, etc. So, I have a call into them and hopefully that will work out and then I'll have another home for small blankets. Thanks Fran!

I'm getting a blanket together for a boy here in Petaluma-Joel Moquete. Joel is 10 yrs. old and is allergic to ALL food! He is on a solely liquid diet. Isn't that horrible. It's a very rare disease. So, a lady contacted me saying that she thought he could use a blanket. I contacted his mother, who is a teacher at Casa Grande High School and she was thrilled. Now the problem- he loves sports- not a problem, I'd just go to Joann's and get some sport themed fleece-right? She said his favorite color is PINK! Now that's a problem. Think I could find pink, sports fleece, without saying girls on it? Nope! So, I got some sports fleece and then I'm searching for pink, of some kind, for the back.

Make it two sided, I hope, otherwise, it'll just be sports and forget the pink... Funny huh? That's what I mean about never knowing what a kid will like. I remember Wilmar Center telling me that they had an older boy who absolutely loved a blanket that was pink/lavender with hearts on it! We always think of boys only wanting "boy" colors and themes, but you just never can tell what will mean the most to them...

Notice on the back page where I list the statistics of blankets, the National numbers of chapters has changed. It use to be 406 and is now 383. We've had a few close their chapters. Not sure why, but I think some have just decided that they've done it long enough and needed a break. Probably there was no one that wanted to take over and then the chapter just closes. Kind of sad, but maybe it's also a sign of the times- money and all...Anyway, we're here to stay(hopefully) and if I should decide to "take a break", I hope there'll be someone to take over.

Are you using "Good Search" for your search engine ? Try using it if you can(sounds like I know what I'm talking about with computers-doesn't it?) Remember- it makes money for Project Linus every time you use it.....

Urban Outfitters has the Linus blanket on sale for \$36.00 and a portion goes to Project Linus. It's adorable and soft too. Go to their website (if you're interested) www.urbanoutfitters.com and check it out.

Are any of you still working on sachet bags for CASA? Or interested in making some? They can still use more if you're interested but, you'll have to get a move on. They probably need them by the first part of November. Let me know.

Found a new yarn shop that is a big supporter of Project Linus. Sonoma Yarn, 17620 Sonoma Hwy. in Sonoma(actually Glen Ellen). Tillie is the owner and she has yarn that she will donate to Project Linus. So, stop in there and check it out.

I'm going to try and have a "Thank You" party for all you volunteers this year. Don't have a date yet(was hoping for Sat., Nov. 29, but that's the only night that I can have a 60th birthday party for my husband). So, maybe that Sunday- I'll let you know(of course).

FYI



Wish List

If you don't sew, knit or crochet, you can still help. We are always in need of cash donations, gift certificates for fabric, yarn or quilt shops. Postage stamps, paper, ink cartridges for printer and laundry soap. I know that sounds strange—but I go through a lot of laundry soap washing all the blankets. Anything you can do to help is always appreciated!!

Blanket sizes:

Toddler- 35"x40"
Child- 40"x60"
Youth- 45"x65"
Teen- 50"x72" These are approximate sizes and you certainly don't have to stick to them exactly— just try not to make them too small or oddly shaped...

Drop-off sites

When you drop off blankets, please put your name and address with them!!

Joann's Fabrics on Industrial Ave. in Santa Rosa

Beverly's— Coddington, Santa Rosa

Ilse's Gudehus— 539 Blackstone Ct., S.R.

539-9340 call first

Susan Guggiana— 2490 Shady Creek Ct., S.R.

538-5686 call first

Brenda Marshall-27 Warrick Ct., Petaluma

Judy Mesa-223 Carina Dr. S.R. 544-8878

Sandy Erich-7185 Circle Dr., R.P. 792-1327

Northgate Sewing & Vacuum-274 Northgate One,
San Rafael 415-472-1281

Contact: Jenny Giacomini

304 Maria Dr.

Petaluma, Ca. 94954

707-778-6875

jgiacom@comcast.net

www.orgsites.com/ca/linus

Chapter Report— As of Sept. 30, 2008, I've collected 4,197 blankets and donated 4,116.....

National Report— As of June 30, 2008, 2,493,964 blankets have been delivered and there are now 383 chapters of Project Linus.

OUR MISSION

Project Linus is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization with 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 through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers".



Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.