

# “The Blanket Review”



July 2009

Newsletter

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

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## CONFERENCE (YES I WENT AGAIN!!!)

Well, I waited to put this letter out until I got back from my “annual” Project Linus Conference. Yes, I did go again this year but I did a few things different and it turned out to be a very pleasing trip to and from Illinois. Very uneventful, which was a good thing for me, but no horror stories to tell you about....Sorry( not really– it was much better for me..) I finally figured out that all my problems came from the short trip from Chicago to Bloomington and vice-versa. So, the only solution was to eliminate that part of the trip. My friend Peggy, a coordinator from Pennsylvania, has an office in Chicago and she always goes to Chicago to work for a few days and then

drives down to Bloomington. She offered to pick me up at the airport and we’d drive to Bloomington together. Then she’d take me back to Chicago and she’d go to work again for a few days before returning home. Saved me money( that short little flight always cost almost as much as the long flight) and saved me lots and lots of headaches....The only delay I experienced was in San Francisco for about an hour (not a big deal) and my luggage actually arrived with me-both to and from Chicago...I did fly American this time - not United, so that could have been some of the problem -who knows I’m just glad it went well...Conference was great as usual. Learned lots of things, saw lots of things, ate lots( that hasn’t changed) but the food has gotten better, got lots of freebies( always great) and lots and lots of ideas. Made more friends and reconnected with past friends....



## “MINI-CONFERENCE”

Now, onto LOTS( there’s that word again) of information. Conference is only going to be held every other year in Illinois( of course, now that I have finally figured out my flying problems). But in the off years, a smaller version of conference will be held on the west and the east coast so that the people who haven’t been able to go before can finally go. What they want to do is have it on a Fri., Sat.& Sun.. Remember this is all still in the planning stages, but Friday would be for the coordinators. They would have a general question/comments meeting with Carol and Mary from headquarters. Then Sat. Would be for volunteers & coordinators, it would be an Expo day just like we have in Illinois, with classes, raffles, freebies, give aways and lots and lots of fun. Expo is always the best day of conference. This year I had a huge bag that I filled up with “stuff” 3 times-(I had to keep going back to my room to empty it and then go and fill it up again)....So, here’s the really good news– we’re having “our mini conference” in Portland Oregon on Sept. 17 & 18, 2010!!! I will definitely be going and any volunteers that want to go-are welcome, in fact, they’re encouraged to go( if they can of course). It’s a great experience and well worth it. I know you’d have a great time. Look what I’ve gone through to get there– it must be worth it!! It’s an appreciation event for all that you do and Carol & Mary want to meet you and to know you’re appreciated... When I get more information-I will certainly let you know.

**“ IF YOU KEEP LOOKING BACK, YOU’RE GOING TO MISS YOUR WHOLE LIFE.”**



Another thing we found out about at conference was that Carol( President of P.L.) had been working with Avlyn Fabrics to create a line of fabrics that was just for Project Linus. The line is called “Komfort Kids” and it was designed by Patrick Lose. Well, they finished it and brought it to conference. The Vice President of Avlyn Fabrics( a very nice looking man) was there to tell us about it and to show us a quilt that they made up with the fabric. They also gave us a kit to make a quilt with squares of the fabrics... For those of you who aren’t quilters( like me) I guess Avlyn is a very well known fabric company. They will only sell this fabric to independently owned fabric shops-not Joann’s, Beverly’s, etc. So, any of you that shop at quilt shops and/or know the owners, let them know about the line of fabric so they can start selling it in their stores. Avlyn is donating 8% of their sales to Project Linus...Laurie Ferguson( one of our Blanketeers) has already been talking with different shops around (thank you Laurie) but the more people that ask about it, the more they’ll want to have it in their shop... The fabrics will be available to purchase in August and –drum roll please-I was able to purchase some of the fabric. We only had a short window in which to purchase it and you had to buy a whole bolt -so I did. It should be arriving any time. I’ll let you know when I get it and if you’re interested, you can have some. It’s for anyone who wants it for blankets-of course....

And...it keeps getting better. A challenge quilt contest using the Komfort Kids fabric line, with GREAT prizes, will be announced by Fons and Porter in an upcoming issue of their magazine! So be sure and be on the look out for it.

Patrick Lose, the designer of our Komfort Kids Fabric line has a great website and blog called "Party with Patrick." Please go to <http://www.patricklose.net/> for information on patterns, fabrics, tips, classes and much more. It's a great website! Be sure to tell your local quilt shop that you want to “Party with Patrick for it.!”

## TIPS AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

- When your sewing machine starts to skip stitches it could be due to lint in your bobbin area. Clean the bobbin area regularly with a small brush or pipe cleaner and you may find that your stitches become more regular and your machine stops skipping!
- Those of us who are new to knitting or crocheting tend to find that when we cast on or chain, our stitches may be too tight causing our afghans to ripple or grow larger as we crochet or knit. When often we wonder how we end up with an odd shaped afghan, rather than a square when we’re finished. A simple remedy to that problem is to cast on or chain with knitting needles or crochet hooks that are a size or two larger than the one you plan to use for your project! An easy fix!
- Seams: When pressing the seams in your quilt block, always press the seam flat first, the way it was sewn. This sinks the thread into the fabric and reduces the bulk of the seam. This habit can eliminate the “hanging-up” on the walking foot while machine quilting.

Something else we learned at conference was about “weighted” blankets for Autistic children. It’s called Lili’s Hug. The first one was made for a little girl named Lili and she told everyone that the blanket felt like a big hug to her.. This was a very interesting and informative subject. If anyone has in interest in making some or knows of a place to give some to-let me know...



## QUOTES TO LIVE BY & SUMMER TRIVIA

**“ A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else.”**

**-Len Wein**

**“ It often takes more courage to change one's opinion than to stick with it.”**

**-George Christoph Lichenberg(1742-1799)**

**“ When you love somebody a whole lot, and you know that person loves you, that's the most beautiful place in the world.”**

**-Ann Cameron**

### **Did you know?**

The most cut flowers are bought for Valentine's Day, followed by( in order) Mother's Day, Christmas & Hanukkah, Easter and Passover.

The rose is the most popular flower with over one billion bought each year. Of course red is the favorite color, with pink, yellow and peach close behind.

Roses with tiny blooms are called tea roses.

Approximately three fourths of all cut flowers grown in the U.S. come from California.

### **Have you heard?**

Ladybugs are known as a sign of good luck.

Their wings beat 85 times per second when flying, but ladybugs won't fly if the temperature is below 55 degrees F.

Ladybugs hibernate in the cold months and live off their stored fat.

Colors vary from deep red to orange red, but all ladybugs have black spots, six legs and two antennae.



I don't know if I've told you or not-but I'm working again....I started working a few months ago at Valley Orchards, a retirement community in Petaluma( actually it's about 5 blocks from my house). I work every other weekend from 8:30-5:00 at the front desk. I'm really enjoying it-I'm there by myself-no one else around. Now the good part of that is; no bosses, but the bad thing is- I'm it. So, if anything goes wrong-I have to take care of it.... Toilet gets plugged-you guessed it-me! I've become quite an expert at "un-plugging" toilets. Not exactly what I wanted to become expert at. I answer phones, give people tours of the apartments, make up menu's, etc. Basically 90% of my job is to visit with the residents-how tough is that! Oh, on Sat. and Sun. they have movie day. I set up the movie, then go and make punch and popcorn for them to enjoy while watching the movie. 9 times out of 10 they don't like the movie and then I have to hear about it, but I don't pick the movies( thank goodness) so I just listen and say "I'm sorry".....Valley Orchards is really a very nice place-it's strictly a retirement place- not assisted living or anything like that. The apartments are large, nice and for the price- you can't beat it! I'm actually just working there to secure a place for myself in the near future( very near).....**UPDATE**-Starting Monday, July 13th I will not be working the weekends anymore. I'll be working a few hours everyday... I decided I had too much time on my hands and needed to work a little more. Besides my hubbie is working graveyard shift which means he comes home at 7:30 in the morning, goes to bed and sleeps until 2 or 3 in the afternoon, goes down to the couch and watches TV., has dinner and goes back to bed until 9:30 and goes to work.....Not liking this arrangement at all. I was just getting use to having the house to myself all day and now he's cramping my style. We aren't doing anything, going anywhere or getting anything done around the house( remember the kitchen remodel??). So, I decided it would be better for my( and his) sanity if I went back to work. Then I won't be able to see him doing nothing during the day, will I?? Phew, I feel much better getting that off my chest-maybe I need to pay you for a therapy session!! He,he

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:

Baby- 36"x36"  
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

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@att.net**

**www.orgsites.com/ca/linus**

**Chapter Report**— As of June 30, 2009, I've collected 4,914 blankets and donated 4,832.....

**National Report**— As of Mar.31, 2009, 3,005,973 blankets have been delivered and there are now 405 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.