

September 2019 Newsletter

Hello blanketeers and Project Linus supporters. As we start into fall, we're looking forward to making warm, cuddly blankets and sharing our annual activities coming up.

* **Year- end meeting/event schedule:** Our **September meeting** will be **next Tuesday Sept. 24 at 7pm** at Mary Kelly's house (1366 Milton Way San Jose). We try to alternate day and evening meetings (August was a daytime meeting and our last 2 meetings this year will be daytime) so this meeting will be in the evening to enable those who can't make it to daytime meetings to attend. We try to alternate meeting times. We will have fleece kits for crocheting, 9-strip quilt kits and batting as well as 'challenges' to share, and our favorite "show'n'tell" with finished blankets – great for getting new blanket making ideas. We hope to see you there. **September bagging : Thursday Sept. 26 at 9am** (at Mary's house). **We need a couple more bagging helpers this month.** If you're interested in **helping with bagging** and seeing all the beautiful blankets which were donated this month, please **contact Gerri Smoluk** (gerri-smoluk@comcast.net or 408-313-2947 ASAP. Thanks!

* The combined **October/November meeting** will be held **during our Fall Make a Blanket Day (MABD), Saturday Nov.2** (MABD will run 9am-3pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church - 20920 McClelland Rd Cupertino), and **the meeting will start at 11am**, followed by the potluck lunch). **October bagging : Saturday Oct. 26** and **November bagging = Thursday Nov. 22** (a week early due to Thanksgiving). **MABD setup** will be **Friday Nov.1 at 1pm**. Please come and help us get ready for the big day

* Our annual year-end meeting will be **Tuesday Dec. 10 at Noon at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church** (15040 Union Ave San Jose, at the corner of Hwy 85 and Union Ave. exit) and it **includes a 'holiday finger food' potluck**. Bring a goodie to share as we wrap up another great year of Project Linus, celebrating all we've accomplished together. **December bagging = Saturday Dec 28.**

* **Thank you's:** There were no new thank-you's received this month, but we know your blankets are greatly appreciated by the children who receive them.

* **Blanket Stats:** With your help, our chapter continues to donate blankets monthly to many local entities which support local children in crisis. Donations to date are over **93,000 blankets** - that's fantastic! Nationally Project Linus has received over 7.7 million donated blankets.

* **Reminders for all blanketeers: 1.** Please **use only our chapter paper tag and the national Project Linus cloth label on your blankets.** Recently we've been receiving blankets with other tags and labels, and they must be removed before we can distribute the blankets. If you need labels and tags, you can pick them up at a meeting or from a drop off location listed on our website under Drop-off Locations as having them available 24x7 (not all sites have them). As a last resort, they can be mailed to you if needed. Contact me (Sharon) for mailing details.

2. When sewing on the cloth labels, only sew the 2 short ends (do not sew around all 4 sides). Use the loop created by the cloth label to loosely tie (and knot!) the paper tag string through. Tags tied on any other way often fall off. Some folks have been using safety pins to attach the tags – NO PINS please for safety reasons. Thank you for following these guidelines.

* **2019 Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge has begun!** See the PLHQ website (www.projectlinus.org) for details. This is the weekly mystery quilt reveal held once a year as a fundraiser for Project Linus. Registration is a \$15 donation to Project Linus (if you specify our chapter "South Bay / San Jose, CA" when you register, the funds will come to our chapter!).

Each week a “mystery clue” is revealed. Quilters of all levels of expertise who register for the challenge will be given detailed instructions and access to online videos as they complete their quilt. We have many chapter members participating again this year. Please share this with your fellow quilters. It’s great fun and instructional too. I can’t wait to see the mystery quilts when finished!

* **Follow up from Lexus of Stevens Creek Volunteer Fair - September 14:** Linda Skipper represented us again this year at this Volunteer Fair for high school students. Thanks Linda for introducing the new, prospective blanketeters to Project Linus. There was a great response and we expect to have a number of volunteers come to the **MABD on Nov 2** to learn how to make tied fleece blankets ‘correctly’. **We will need volunteers that can help the students get started with their tied fleece projects that day.** If you can help out with one student that day, please let me know. I’ll have a sign-up list at the meeting next week as well. THANKS in advance!

* **Reminder** – I know this is a repeat but we need everyone to **remember to PLEASE include your FULL NAME and CONTACT INFO in EVERY BAG of blankets you drop off (no matter how long you’ve been a blanketeter...)** We have lots of new folks helping with blanket intake who aren’t familiar with all the first names on the tags. Also please **indicate on that same slip of paper the number of blankets you are donating in that bag.** It helps us with our blanket donation tracking and following up with you if needed. We have new volunteers helping and they don’t recognize your handwriting. Thank you very much!

* **Items needed for our ‘Thank You Raffle’ gift bag:** If you have any items that you would like to donate to our ‘Thank You Raffle’ gift bag, please bring them to a meeting or the Make a Blanket Day, or bag it with your blanket donations (mark it ‘for Thank You Raffle’). It might be something you find really handy in your blanket making that other blanketeters may like as well or just a fun little item.

* Our next **meeting is next Tuesday September 24 at 7pm (EVENING meeting)** at Mary’s house and **bagging** will be there on **Thursday September 26.** Meeting details are posted on our website www.sjlinus.org. We will be **collecting fabric scraps for Sew for Love** at this meeting. (Also remember to **bring your empty ink cartridges** to any meeting or MABD.)

Finally, **a special thanks** to all who have been helping out with extra efforts while Barb and Mary were away, and I’m still limited a bit in my PL activities, as well as **everyone** who continues to donate their time and talents for **specific roles** within our chapter and **all our wonderful blanketeters.**

Happy blanketetering and thank you all for supporting Project Linus and the local children in crisis who we serve together.

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