

Mid Summer 2018 Newsletter

Hi blanketeters,

We hope your summer is going well. As you may remember, our **next meeting is this Tuesday August 21 at 7pm at the home of Mary Kelly (1366 Milton Way San Jose)**. I hope you can make it. Stop by for some blanketeter camaraderie, new project supplies, news about upcoming events and what's been going on, drop off finished blankets, join in our 'thank you raffle' and share a blanket or two during show'n'tell. I always pick up an idea or two during show'n'tell plus see some AMAZING blankets! (Just a reminder to please plan to stay for a few minutes after the meeting to help reset Mary's garage/meeting room and help move all the blankets from the kitchen sign-in area. It's a huge help.)

* **Blanket Stats:** In June/July, we received 655/382 beautiful blankets and we distributed 455/565 blankets. Recipients for these months were: CASA, El Camino Hospital – NICU, Good Samaritan Hospital – NICU, JW House, KAPFA, Kaiser Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, Lucille Packard - El Camino Hospital, O'Connor Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, Parents Helping Parents, Public Health, Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Services, School Health Clinics, Unity Care and Valley Medical Center. To date, our chapter has donated **85,432 blankets** to children in need of support and comfort.

* Please note that **I will be away from Project Linus activities from August 26 through Sept 12**. I will have no access to emails or phone messages during that time. My house sitter will collect any blankets dropped off at my house.

* **HELP NEEDED:** We have a couple of events coming up in September where we need volunteers:

1. On Thursday September 6, the De Anza Lions Club of Cupertino will be hosting their 10th Make a Blanket Night 6:30pm-9pm. We need one or two people who can join them, and also potentially sew on the blanket labels. Please contact me (Sharon) by August 25th if you can help – I usually attend but I'll be away this year.

2. On Saturday September 15th 9am-Noon, Linda Skipper is again hosting a table for us at Lexus of Stevens Creek's annual Teen Fair. Hundred of students looking for community service opportunities will be there. We need 1 more person to help at this event. Please contact me or Linda (lskipper@pacbell.net or 408-374-6296, M: 408-472-1204) if you can help or for more details. THANK YOU in advance for helping out at these key events.

Other Upcoming Events: Mary Kelly will be hosting a booth for us at Bark in the Park on Saturday September 15th. Stop by and see her (with or without a pup). ☺

- Elizabeth Tang-Kong will be hosting a MABD at VMWare September 20.

- This weekend and last, Stanford On-Line High School is hosting blanket making events during their students' on-site weekend.

- Oracle is looking into holding a MABD session this fall onsite as well. It's great that we are expanding our group of corporate MABD partners this year.

- Saratoga Retirement Community is holding their annual luncheon on August 22 to honor Project Linus and the members of their Threads'n'Things crafting group who knit and crochet blankets for donation and for fund-raising for our chapter. Becky Guillett and Elizabeth Tang-Kong will represent the chapter this year at this lovely event and receive their blanket donations.

* **Fundraising News:** Thanks to Theresa Gadbois who made a donation along with her company Bristol Myers Squibb for a total of \$600. Becky Guillett sold a Civil War quilt that she made as a fundraiser for us, and as a result of the beautiful job she did remaking a 'loved to death' blanket, we also received a generous donation from the family that had requested that reconstruction. (Becky shared the blanket at a previous meeting – she did an amazing job on it!) And remember - if you participate in the Mystery Quilt Challenge this fall, your donation will be directed to our chapter if you list our chapter name (South Bay / San Jose, CA) when you register (starting this Monday). Sign up at www.projectlinus.org. Thank you so much to everyone for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the chapter. We'll be able to provide more batting, yarn and fleece because of your generous efforts.

* Thanks to Jan Ewers who has taken over as our liaison to Green Plan Yarns as Margaret McCartney has retired. Thank you both for your service.

* We received some **thank-you's** recently that I wanted to share them with you:

- I am a CASA volunteer with Child Advocates of Silicon valley...I had the pleasure of sharing the lovely quilt made by Becky G. with my current client...a lively little 3yr old...when I handed her the quilt she looked up at me and quietly said "mine?" -my reply "Yes, yours to keep"...she hugged the quilt tightly and when her grandmother reached for the quilt she replied "MINE!" and immediately ran to her room to place the quilt on her bed...it's just the right color, size and texture and she Loves this gift.

Again - THANK YOU Becky and the entire Project Linus team. Kathy C.

- Hello, Thank you for the donation. We received 20 baby blankets yesterday. Thank you, Pramila S, Early Start Coordinator, Parents Helping Parents

- My wife and I want to thank the Cub and Girl Scouts and Troop 30-Los Altos for the handmade blankets provided for our twin boys Logan and Evan. Your love and generosity is greatly appreciated. Mike and Kayla R.

* **Major donation:** I was recently contacted by the family of a local award winning quilter (Marlene Andre) who had passed away. They asked us to help them make decisions regarding her quilt legacy (including a local fair and State Fair winners) as well as her quilting supplies. I met with them, as did Norma Bauman and Becky Guillett. They greatly appreciated our guidance and suggestions, and they in turn donated many wonderful supplies to our chapter including 2 sewing machines, a cutting table, 9 boxes of color-sorted cotton quilting fabric and many more items. We greatly appreciate their generosity and appreciated the opportunity to see her gorgeous, hand-quilted works of art.

* In our "**reminder's for blanketeers old and new**" **topic** this month, we'd like to highlight:

- Please remember to **tie A KNOT** in the yarn or string of the blanket tag, so it doesn't untie and fall off your blanket. (Bows come unknotted easily with all the handling the blankets get.)

- Please only stitch the short ends of your blanket label when machine stitching so you can slip the paper tag's string through the loop to attach your tag, and be sure to **tie the string loosely** around the cloth label. Thanks! (For instructions with a photo, see our chapter web site www.sjlinus.org)

For Batting, Backing or regarding Fabric Donations: With Barb still away on her 'annual road trip' ('til November), if you need **batting**, contact Linda Cortez (savsgam@aim.com), and if you need **quilt backing or assistance regarding fabric donations**, contact Norma Bauman (nlbauman@earthlink.net).

* Gerri Smoluk is **collecting fabric and thread scraps for Sew for Love**. If you have some, bring your bagged scrap to the meeting or contact Gerri to make arrangements to get them to her. smoluk@comcast.net 408-739-0547).

* Again, **our next meeting** will be this **Tuesday August 21st at 7pm** at the home of Mary Kelly - [1366 Milton Way, San Jose](http://1366MiltonWaySanJose.com). Our **next bagging day** will be **Saturday August 25th**, so please drop any finished blankets off before then. For future planning, mark our **September 25th meeting** (time TBD) and **September 27th bagging**. Our October and November meetings will be combined at our **Make a Blanket Day Saturday November 3rd** (9am-3pm at St. Jude's Episcopal church Cupertino). As always for more details on any of our on-going or special events (and **for all your Amazon shopping**) see our web-site at www.sjlinus.org.

Thanks as always for being a part of our chapter and helping us accomplish our mission of providing comfort and support to local children in need through gifts of your wonderful handmade blankets.

Happy blanketeering!

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Barbara Ross Assistant Chapter Coordinator (on vacation until November)