

March 2018 Newsletter

Hi Blanketeers!

Our Make a Blanket Day is finally here - Saturday March 3 from 9am to 3pm (at St. Jude's Episcopal Church 20920 McClelland Re Cupertino) and we're looking forward to sharing it with you. Here's what you need to know:

1. Set up will be Friday March 2 at 1pm. We need about 10 people. Please let me know if you can help. sjlinus@comcast.net or 408-252-1858.

2. As usual, our February/March meeting will be held at 11am during the event, followed by the potluck lunch. You welcome to attend the 'whole day' or just come for part of it.

3. We will be having an 'Applique Challenge' and Raffle (as discussed at our last meeting), since we are expecting about 100 plain fleece blankets that will need 'adornment'. PLEASE bring some appliques (eg crocheted characters or cute fabric designs from your stash or scrap that can be sewn on to the fleece, with designs large enough to be seen on a teen sized blanket) and then 'adorn' some of the plain blankets for us at the event and you'll be entered into a special 'thank-you raffle' - 1 ticket for each blanket completed. If everyone can do a few, it'll be a BIG HELP – and if you're inspired to do more, all the better! Thanks!

4. 'Novelty Fabric Challenge' & Raffle - With the number of 9-strip quilt kits we have been making last year and the beginning of this year, we are low on novelty cotton quilt fabric suitable for 3-5 year olds, particularly for boys. If you have any of this type of fabric (minimum ½ yard pieces) that you can donate, bring them to the MABD. You will receive a raffle ticket for each ½ yard donated. Thanks and good luck!

5. We will have some kits quilt kits available at the event, as well as fleece skip-stitch kits, yarn for knit-crochet plus other non-blanket projects (eg labels & tags, mailing prep) as well as 'blanket repairs'.

BIG NEWS! Our new website is up and live, thanks to Isabelle Wimmers. She and I worked on multiple options and then she put together the new site with Wix. When you go to www.sjlinus.org now, you may need to click the refresh icon (the circle with an arrow) to get to the new site. THANK YOU Isabelle! It looks great!

2018 Mystery Quilt Contest – The response to the Exploring the World With Ethan contest was tremendous! 10,034 votes were cast raising \$10,034. Thanks to all who participated in the challenge and to everyone who voted for their favorites. The first place winner was our very own Elizabeth Tang-Kong! Congratulations Elizabeth! Enjoy your prize of the new Janome 3160 QDC-B Sewing machine. To see a photo of her winning quilt, use this link: <https://www.projectlinus.org/contest/>.

A bit more info on the **Make a Blanket Day (MABD)**:

* The raffle prizes for the 'Novelty Fabric Donation Challenge' will be packs of Moda Fat Quarters put together by Barb. (Norma says they are stunning.) So consider being generous with your donations of fabrics for 3-5 years olds (minimum ½ yard) and let us help you clear out some your stash. ☺ Donation tax receipts available on request.

* For the 'Applique Challenge' and Raffle, I'll have some fleece with the Peanuts characters on it, available for appliqueing - it should make some cute appliqués if you'd like to use that instead of your own appliqués or fabric. The prizes for this challenge will include a stylish Project Linus tote bag with black handles, an adorable (Hallmark) Linus mug and a gift card. So bring your appliqués or 'appliqué-able' fabric and help us spiff up those 80+ plain fleece blankets that arrived last night.

* **Blanket Stats**: In January, we received 629 blankets and we distributed 450 blankets. Recipient groups for this month included: CASA, El Camino Hospital – NICU, Good Samaritan Hospital – NICU, KAPFA, Kaiser Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, 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, and Valley Medical Center. To date, our chapter has donated 82,102 blankets.

* We received a couple sweet **thank-you's** that I wanted to share:

- Good Morning, My child received a blanket from Project Linus and loves it! I am so grateful for the work you all do for the project. What a wonderful idea. Thank you to you and everyone at Project Linus for giving love and security to children in the area. Have a beautiful day, Amalia

- Hi there, I am a recipient of a blanket from your project. THANK YOU so much for the warm care. :) I'd like to send a proper thank you card; can I please have your address? Thank you! Danielle

* **URGENT NEED:** We are in urgent need for a new sorting/bagging coordinator to replace Kathy Wuerz who moved late last year. The assignment is to chair the bagging event every other month (the last Thursday of the month in the odd numbered months). If the blankets don't get sorted and bagged, they can't be distributed and the children won't get them. This role is important to our overall process. Elizabeth Tang-Kong leads the Saturday bagging days in the even numbered months. Both Elizabeth (etangkong@yahoo.com) and Barb (sjlinus@gmail.com) can answer any of your questions about the process and the role. Please contact them or chat with them at the MABD for more information.

* **Looking for a liaison for the Jo-Ann Fabrics store in Mountain View:** We may have the opportunity to have that store be a drop-off location for us. If so, we need someone who can stop by the store every couple weeks (or upon request, they'll call if they get lots of blankets), pick up the donations and prepare them for bagging (do a quick quality check, add labels and tags if needed, and log the blankets received on the sign-in form/envelope) before taking them to Mary's house sometime before bagging day. We have many wonderful liaisons who would be happy to talk with you about this fulfilling role if you are interested in helping out in this way. Please contact me (Sharon) or Barb with any questions and we can also connect you with other liaisons.

* National has a new issue of their **quarterly Blanket Beacon newsletter** available. You can link to it on our new website www.sjlinus.org and you can also sign up to receive it directly. There's lots of info about good things going on all over the country in Project Linus (Our 80,000th blanket cake photo is featured on the front page!). Take a look.

* We have a request from Project Sanctuary for blankets for their next retreat, this month. Elaine McGregor is coordinating the request. Thanks Elaine.

* Looking ahead we plan to support the TAPS Good Grief camp again this Memorial Day. We will be sending red, white and/or blue blankets of all kinds to their camp. We are already collecting blankets in those colors, so feel free to start turning them in now. We will need them by the end of April. Also we will be requesting funds to help with the shipping costs. Checks can be made out to Project Linus and include "TAPS shipping" on the memo line. Thank you!!

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

- Please remember to return any unused yarn that you received from us when your skip-stitch and knit-crochet projects are done. We need it for other PL projects.

- Remember to sew only the short edges of your blanket labels to the blanket, creating a loop through which to tie the paper tag's yarn. Always tie the yarn/string in a knot, else it will come untied and fall off the blanket.

- If you take the '10 packs' with both cloth labels and paper tags, but only tie on the paper tags, we need you to always return all unused cloth labels (and tags) with your finished blankets. We have to buy the labels from PLHQ so we don't want to waste any, and they will still need to be sewn on to the blankets before the blankets can be distributed.

* The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center (OFJCC) has asked for help with their Make a Blanket Day on Saturday April 21st. They plan on 20-30 volunteers making blankets that day. We need 1 or 2 people that can help with that session. Please contact Sharon if you can help. Thank you!

* Our next bagging day will be Thursday March 29th, so please drop your finished blankets off in time for that day.

* Our next meeting is currently planned for Tuesday April 24 at 7pm_at the home of Mary Kelly - [1366 Milton Way, San Jose](http://www.sjlinus.org). Mark your calendar.

Thanks 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 blankets.

Happy blanketeering!