

Homespun Harbor News

Spring Is On The Way - Sorta

Can you believe the weather last month? Temperatures in the TEENS! Yikes! We don't know about you guys, but our yard looks like the Garden Center Graveyard. Snow on all the hills - okay, THAT was great! And then weather warm enough to push up our daffodils!

The next few months are going to be really busy. We have the first annual Pinnacles Guild Quilt Show in April, the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Guild show in May, and the Shop Hop in June.

For all our beginning quilters, you need to think about entering your first quilts in the San Benito County Fair! Yes, yes you do! First of all it's fun and exciting! It's a juried show which means you will get a critique of your work. You will get advice on how to improve your future quilts. Hey, and a nice blue ribbon never hurt!

We got some very cool fabric in. Meadow Farm from Makower features Border Collies. They are VERY cute and very realistic. The artist really captured their spirit. The only difference is our fabric sits still! And just when you thought all the possibilities of yellow and blue had been done, in comes Antiquarian by Alice Cornell for Moda. And as usual Alexander Henry outdid itself again. We have a bolt named "Born To Ride" with skulls and roses. And two great tropical fish prints.

The year is flying by so far. In May and June we will start putting out our Fall and Holiday lines! It's not too early to start thinking about those holiday projects. Actually, now is the right time to start planning! This could be the year you get things done early and not "Just In The Nick Of Time"! That is always our goal, which as of yet we have never reached. Hmm, maybe this year we will.



Spring in the Pinnacles April 28-29 Veterans Building

Be a part of the FIRST ANNUAL HOLLISTER QUILT SHOW! This is a joint venture between the Pinnacles Quilt Guild and the Downtown Association. As we all know, small downtown areas continue to disappear across America. Malls, Outlets, Big Box stores and available parking erode small communities steadily each year. It's the future and it's the now. But how can you compare an anonymous trip to the mall to a trip into town where you actually chat a bit with your fellow residents? Or stop for lunch and know a great many of the people sitting at the next table? Downtowns don't offer the variety or the pricing of larger urban centers. But they DO offer a sense of community, a sense of identity. Hollister maintains a great deal of it's identity. In large part because so many born and raised here still ARE here. And being 12 miles off the beaten track has helped. Ask most people outside what they think of Hollister, a great many will say, "UM, yes, isn't that the place where the biker rally is?" Or, like us before we moved here, "I don't know. I have driven by the exit a gazillion times on 101, but I have never been there". San Benito County has a lot to offer. Wineries, chocolate factories, fabulous fresh produce, a rich history, an historic Mission, plus a TERRIFIC Quilt Shop! (heh heh) A quilt show will bring people to our town that normally might not take the detour. They will admire the work of our world class quilters, and hopefully wonder around a little to see what else we have to offer. We recently were at the Pajaro Quilt Guild show, and several people commented on Hollister's love of quilting. They were impressed with the quality and quantity of our little county's production. We see this as an opportunity to show off a little. We encourage all of our quilters to show off YOUR quilts. This is not a juried show, so there is no need for any anxiety. It's just for fun! Plus it is a great chance to get involved. You can participate in the Quilt Show by contacting the Pinnacles Quilt Guild or you can contact the Downtown Association www.downtownhollister.org. Events like this bring people together. And it's a lot of fun! We have quilt entry forms at the shop. GO Hollister!



Here is a great way to store completed blocks. Take an empty waxed paper or aluminum foil box and remove the serrated edge. Roll the blocks onto the empty tube. This will prevent those sharp fold lines. This is not for long term storage, as the cardboard has the dreaded acid.

Do you ever misplace gadgets while working on a project? You use a special little ruler, only to discover 3 minutes later you can't find it? A carpenter's apron works perfectly to avoid losing stuff. We can't tell you how much time we waste looking for a gadget we just used! Just slip everything into the pockets after you use it.

If you are using freezer paper for appliqué, and need to make multiple templates of the same pattern, try this. Put 3 or 4 pieces of freezer paper together. Give them a quick hit from your iron. Draw the pattern on the top piece. Then cut all of them out at the same time!

When aligning quilt tops, batting and backing, fold each one in half and mark the center with a pin or a marking pen. As you layer it, match the center marks. This is especially important when you have a pieced back that needs to be centered.

Do you continue to forget to close your rotary cutter??? You KNOW how we feel about this! If you find you are guilty of this, charge yourself 25 cents each time you notice the blade is open. Get a box to put the money in. But you don't get to use the money for yourself! Put it towards a gift for a fellow quilter, or towards a charity quilt, or a donation to your Quilt Guild. The big plus is it will make you aware of your very dangerous bad habit, and it is cheaper than a trip to the ER.

Some fabrics are really hard to mark for quilting. Try quilting them from the back. Mark the design on the back and quilt from that side. Not recommended for stitching in the ditch, but for most others, this works well.

Paper templates can be a real pain. They don't hold up, and the edges aren't strong enough. Trace the patterns onto paper. Then laminate the whole sheet. You can then cut them out, and reuse as often as you like.

Looking for a cool quilting template? Start rummaging around your kitchen. Cookie cutters make GREAT quilt design stencils.

Do you ever find that when you are appliquéing onto a background block, when you are finished with the appliqué, the background block has shrunk? To solve this problem, cut the background block an inch larger than called for. When you are finished, cut the block to the right size. Viola!

Community Food Pantry

Don't forget, our Food Pantry barrel is an ongoing campaign. Since November, we have emptied the barrel 3 times! Pretty good for a little quilt shop. A few extra cans of food in your pantry goes a long way to help feed families less fortunate than most of us. People don't just get hungry around the Holidays. Our goal is to fill that barrel once a month! Try to remember to grab one can a month for the barrel



Project Linus



Project Linus was started in 1995 by Karen Loucks. After reading an article about a young girl who was comforted by a blanket during her chemotherapy, Karen recruited some of her quilting friends and began to supply blankets to the children at a local cancer care facility. Project Linus is a non profit organization that provides handmade blankets to children in need of extra comfort.

Our Hollister Project Linus Chapter was started by Sharon Johnson. Her 3 year old grandson Christopher was undergoing chemotherapy at Stanford, and he loved the blanket she made for him. After his death she remembered the comfort that blanket gave him. She learned about Project Linus while watching an episode of Simply Quilts. She immediately knew that was something she wanted to start here in Hollister. She believes that blankets can offer a sense of security and inner warmth to children who are seriously ill or have been traumatized. After a 3 month application process, Sharon was notified in November of 2002 that she could form a Hollister Chapter.

Project Linus got it's name from the Charles Schultz Peanuts comic strip. We all remember Linus "Happiness is a thumb and a blanket"

Twice a year Sharon organizes a "Make A Blanket Day." She needs volunteers to make the blankets, and to donate fabric and yarn.. Some of the local organizations the blankets are donated to are Hazel Hawkins Hospital, The American Red Cross, The Compassion Pregnancy Center, Emmaus House and the Hollister Fire Department. All blankets are distributed within San Benito County.

The rules are simple, The blanket or quilt must be new and handmade. Become a part of something really special. Sign up for the next "Make A Blanket Day" Sharon can be reached at 637-2971.

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April 2007

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3 Beginning Glue Stick Applique 6 to 9 PM \$25	4 Waffle Time Runner 9:30-12:30 \$25 Rose Garden Runner 1 to 4 \$25	5	6 A Million 1/2 Square Triangles 9:30-12:30 \$10 Binding 1 to 4 \$25	7 Beginning Quilting Session #110:30 to 3:00 \$25
8	9	10	11 Bursting Bloom Runner 10 to 2 \$25	12	13	14 Beginning Quilting Session #2 10:30 to 3 \$25
15	16	17	18 Foxtrot Quilt 9:30 to 4:00 \$25	19 Beginning Glue Stick Applique 10:30-2 \$25	20 Quilted Purse 10:30 to 3:00 \$25	21 Block of the Month 9 to 10:30 Beginning Quilting Session #3 11:00 to 4:00 \$25 \$25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Springtime In The Pinnacles Quilt Show
29 Pinnacles Quilt Show	30					

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May 2007

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	Majestic Beauty Stained Glass 10 to 2 \$25	3 Quilted Duffle Bag Session #1 10:30 to 3:30 \$30 (Covers both ses-	4	5 Fiesta Star Quilt 10:00 to 3:00 \$25
	7	8	9	10	11	12 SCVQA Quilt Show
13 SCVQA Quilt Show	14	15	16 Season's Beauty Table Runner 9:30 to 12:30 \$25 Sew Fast Sew Easy Table Runner 1-4 \$25	17 Beginning Quilting Session #1 10:30 to 3:00 \$25	18 Duffle Bag Session #2 10:30 to 3:30	19 Block of the Month <u>9:00-10:30</u> Binding 12 to 3 \$25
20 Sew Day 10 to 4 Free	21	22 Preparing Your Quilt for Longarm Quilting 7 to 8 PM Free	Trip Around The World 10 to 2 \$25	24 Beginning Quilting Session #2 10:30 to 3:00 \$25	25 Any Occasion Ta- ble Runner 9:30 to 12:30 \$25	26
27	28	29	30 Double Delight 10:00 to 3:00 \$25	31 Beginning Quilting Session #2 10:30 to 3:00 R25		

Northcott Flower Of The Month

One thing we are really excited about is the Northcott Flower of the Month. Each month we receive 3 bolts of fabric dedicated to the flower of that month. So far we have received Carnations for January, Violets for February, Daffodils for March, and Daisies for April. They each come with a free pattern and Sheila is making a sample each month.



*Flower of the Month Club
Violet Black*



by Nancy Mahoney



*Flower of the Month Club
March Daffodil*



We will have kits available for each flower pattern. (For those of you receiving this in the mail, please log on to our website to see the pictures in color) All the quilts are approximately 29 inches square. This is a great way to find a special spot in your home to hang a quilt, and change it out occasionally. You can also use them as table toppers. Stop by and have a look, we know you will love them!

Quilted Purses Totes and Duffle Bags



We have had the good fortune to persuade Irene to teach us how to make those fabulous bags she carries! She is a master at making them, and can show you how to be one as well. What a PERFECT gift to make for the Holidays, Graduation, Birthday - Heck ANYTIME! We can make quilts, but every time we open up a bag pattern, we may as well be reading it upside down! Now we don't have to worry - We have Irene! And you do too!

Spring Challenge Winners!!

We are very proud to announce the winners of our Depths of Winter Hoping for Spring Challenge!

1st Place: Debi — For that fabulous flower! That's not an embroidery machine. She did this herself on her sewing machine! Talk about Threadplay!

2nd Place: Kim - The flowers, the fence the bees - Who could resist voting for this one?

3rd Place: Christina - Her second quilt ever! Keep an eye on her, she is going places!

All the quilts were so great that people had a hard time picking their favorite! You all did a FABULOUS JOB!!!

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Half Square Triangles - And Ditto For Binding!

Do you struggle with your half square triangles? Do you hold your breath, try to do everything right, only to discover they AREN'T PERFECT? Or maybe you are eyeing a quilt pattern that takes 450 of them and thinking - NAH! Well, Sheila has the class for you!! There are a BUNCH of ways to make them. Some will guarantee you are more precise, and some will save you TONS of time! Different types of paper, rulers, and cutting techniques will allow you to pick the one or two that best suit your needs. We highly recommend this class for beginners.



And binding! We can't tell you how many customers admit to having a closet full of quilt tops, that have remained quilt tops because they never learned how to bind a quilt, or forgot how or just simply hate the process. TADA! Sheila to the rescue again! She will demonstrate traditional binding, bias binding, and best of all her famous NO HAND SEWING BINDING! Woo Hoo! Get those quilts out of the closet and the quilt out of your head! Keep an eye on upcoming class schedules.

Sunday Sew Day Sunday May 20th

We have been trying to get this on the schedule for what seems like forever. This is a Sunday where you come and sew. That sounds pretty cool itself. But the extra is - our teachers will be here! This is a great opportunity to solve some quilting problems you might be experiencing. Get some expert advice, and a few opinions tossed in as well. This is a day just for you! We will be sewing from 10:00 to 4:00. Come for the day, or come by when you can. We will be providing lunch and the cost for this ultra mini quilt retreat is - well - FREE!

Have you ever noticed Ghleanna wandering around the store, pulling a bolt off the shelf and putting it back.? What she is doing is making sure the bottom of the bolt is sitting on the shelf. Actually, she is fanatical about it! She can walk in the store, and zero in on that one bolt that is sitting fold side down. Not only does she think it looks ugly, there is an even better reason for her to fix this problem. If the fold side is down, as people pull and put back that bolt, the shelving is putting friction on the fold. After a short time, it will wear on the fabric and damage the fold line. Plus any dust that accumulates on the shelf is now on the fold. (and we all know that Quilt Shops are DUSTY places) By putting the selvage side down, it prevents the fold line from stress, and any dirt is picked up on the selvage, which is cut away anyway.



Pins are another issue. We fold the fabric down the middle of the bolt, and place the pin points facing the selvage. That prevents you reaching in for a bolt and getting stabbed. If you are not sure how to pin the bolt back properly, then just leave the pins on the shelf and put the bolt back painless. Trust us, Ghleanna will be there pretty quickly to put the pins back in!

Another safety issue is bolts on the floor. We have no problem with you lining bolts up in a row to make sure your future quilt is perfect. Leaning bolts against the shelving is fine. But leaving bolts lying on the floor is a real safety hazard. We have kids, elderly customers and pregnant moms walking around the shop. Tripping on a bolt could cause someone a real injury. Plus Ghleanna is a klutz and has the hip replacement surgery scar to prove it!

Often we find your purses either placed on the floor, or on a table. While we would all like to think every one is honest, we also know it isn't true. If you don't want to lug your purse around, please ask Dennis or Ghleanna to put it behind the counter for you.

Oh, and we have to mention this. Fabric is visually appealing, but it is also very tactile. We touch it all the time, we can't help it! And some people are more tactile than others. We often hear moms tell the kidlets, don't touch. Trust us, we have NO problem with kids touching the fabric as long as their hands aren't covered with cotton candy. We have wipes at the counter. It will make your trip to the Quilt Shop much more enjoyable if you know that we are not freaking out behind the counter as your little one can't resist reaching out and touching.

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Scheduling Your Quilt for Long Arm Quilting by Anneke

Like all great long arm custom quilters, Anneke is booked up for several months. Which means, if you have a quilt for a wedding that is in June, and you bring it in the first week of May, your quilt will take its place in line - in August or September! Right now Anneke has about a 2 to 3 month lead time. And we all know how disappointing it is to have that quilt finally ready, only to discover it can't be quilted in time. Here is what we suggest. If you know you have a quilt due for a special event, or a show, talk to Anneke early, even before the quilt is done. She can then reserve a spot in the future to be sure it is quilted when you need it. Her husband Gerry can design quilt patterns to exactly fit your quilt. You can discuss at that time if you need a special pattern. That will give Gerry time to create it. When your quilt is finished, make an appointment and bring it by for Anneke to look at. It will give you time to address any pressing issues, etc before you actually drop off the quilt. Your responsibility in this is to make sure your quilt is ready for the slot you reserved. If you miss your slot, unfortunately you go to the end of the line. For those of you who are planning to enter quilts in the San Benito County Fair, now is the time to reserve that slot. August and September fill up FAST!

This won't be an issue if we can get Anneke another set of arms, two more machines, and if we can train her canary to quilt! Also, keep an eye on the class calendar. Anneke schedules free classes to teach you what you need to know about preparing your quilt for longarm quilting.