

Homespun Harbor News

HO HO HOLLYdays!

Here we go again! It's about a month until Christmas. Yesterday it was FOUR months! The kids just keep getting bigger and bigger and bigger! Both boys are taller than Ghleanna. At 4' 11" everyone realizes this is not an Olympic feat, but it is the first adult they beat. Every kid she has ever known remembers the day they were just a tad taller. Luckily their gene mix will pretty much guarantee they will be a LOT taller! (NO jokes, we all know that would not take much)

Hailey is watching out for elves, hopefully not for the last time. The boys are helping her, because if you don't believe in Santa, then Santa doesn't come. Hah!



It has been a good year, filled with lots of laughs, lots of firsts, lots of love and a few challenges, and we look back and smile.. Ghleanna will be 60 in December, and she still cannot figure out how the heck that happened! How can you be 60 when you are 17 in your head? Ghleanna's mother had some great wisdom. When she turned 84 we asked her how that felt. She said, "I don't know how it feels to be so old - In my head I am 23. I only know I am not when I look in the mirror, or when I kneel down and try to get up. Luckily, I don't do much of either."

We saw so many of you grow as quilters. We had a number of our customers win ribbons at the San Benito County Fair and a variety of quilt shows. YOU GO!

From our Homespun Harbor family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, A Happy Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

1st Annual Homespun Harbor Christmas Boutique

Come join us for our first annual Christmas Boutique!
Friday night December 7 from 6 to 9, and Saturday
December 8 from 10 to 4.

We will be having a sale on a whole bunch of the class samples you have seen this past year. Quilts, Table Runners, Bags and Placemats! All for sale! We will have great food with holiday drinks. We also will have some special pricing on selected kits, as well as some Holiday fat quarter boxes. We will also be offering selected Janome Sewing Machines on sale during this time.



If you are stumped on a gift for a special person, or simply don't have the time to complete a quilt in time for Santa's Big Day, then be sure to drop by. If you have all your shopping done (imagine a bunch of people booing in the background) then stop by anyway to enjoy some fun!

AND, if you bring in a donation of food to our Community Pantry Holiday Barrel, you will receive a free fat quarter of your choice!

Calling All E Mails



Every time we turn around, the US Post Office raises postal rates! It's crazy. And every time we turn around, our mailing list gets larger. Okay, that is NOT so crazy. However, it gets more and more expensive to actually mail out the newsletters. We try to send them out about every 2 months. (FINE, we don't always actually DO this, but it is a goal!) But, the fact remains, it is very costly to mail these things out. You can help us by sending us your email address. Either stop by and write it down for us, or simply uhh, EMAIL it to us! It will really help with cutting down unnecessary costs. If you don't like email, or don't like computers, no problem. We will gladly send it via snail mail to you. BUT, if you do check your email often, then VIOLA!



Ever get interrupted when you are doing handwork? Next time use a piece of contrasting fabric or ribbon under the needle when you stop. It will be easy to see exactly where that needle is when you resume.

Do you ever store a needle on a spool of thread by running the needle through the wrapped thread? NOT a good idea! It will often break or weaken threads still wound, and that break or weakened spot will eventually cause you problems down the road. Attaching a small magnet to the top of the spool will keep the needle with the thread without damaging the entire spool.

Okay, this is the BEST use of fabric scraps ever. If you are making a quilt for a gift, use some of the scraps to make the gift card or tag. Simply use Steam A Seam on the fabric and iron it on card stock. We do this all the time in the shop for our fat quarter boxes and kits. This also is a great way to make Christmas gift tags!

Do you find yourself forgetting stuff when taking a class or a workshop? Some people have double of everything that they keep in a separate bag just for classes. That is probably okay if your last name is Rockefeller, but most of us don't want to spend our money on duplicate stuff. Here's a way to solve the problem. Get a bag designed just for classes, workshops etc. Then put a LIST of everything that should travel with you. If you already have some duplicate gadgets, this is a great place to store them. Just go through the list before you leave home and add what is necessary.

Use a super soft baby toothbrush to brush chalk markings off fabric. Sometimes a harsher approach actually pushes the chalk into the fabric fibers. Also, get the marks off as soon as possible. And NEVER iron over the chalk. It can set the chalk marks for life! (In Hawai'i the heat in the CAR would sometimes set them in! It gets hotter here in the Summer, so keep that in mind)

A scrap of batting taped next to your machine is a great place to trap threads, clippings and even bent pins and needles.

You can clean off scissor blades and rotary blades by using a cotton ball and rubbing alcohol. This is important when you have been cutting through anything adhesive. Oh, and NEVER EVER use your good scissors with batting!

An empty boutique tissue box is a great little waste basket. The clear film keeps everything inside if it is tipped over.

If your machine foot pedal keeps moving away from your foot, use an old mouse pad under the pedal. And most of us have a "few" old mouse pads laying around.

Don't wet the end of thread. It actually makes the thread expand. Wet the eye of the needle. It will help grab the thread to guide it through.

Summer Came and Summer Went!

Okay, where did Summer go? Talk about time flying!!! We all went to Disneyland in July & had a great time, and probably each lost 10 pounds just from the walking. Then we took the boys to Moosehead Lake in Maine. It was a FABULOUS trip! We spent 10 days there, and only got a day and a half of rain, which is pretty darn good for Maine. We had a family reunion, and maybe it is in the genes, but all 5 young cousins spent endless hours fishing! After a few days of fishing off the dock and catching 4 inch Shiners, Michael and Ghleanna went out on the lake and caught 20 inch Land Locked Salmon, Brook Trout and Lake Trout. Unfortunately none of this family LIKES fresh water fish so we cannot attest to the flavor. But they were appreciated by a few locals. Dennis and Travis spent a day golfing on one of the oldest golf courses in America. Right now it is about 8 degrees below zero there. Obviously Summer is the time to go! On the way back to Boston, the boys got to touch the Atlantic Ocean. So now they have touched the Middle of the Pacific, the east edge of the Pacific and the Atlantic. Only a few more bodies of water to go!



Michael - A boy and his Brook Trout



Sunrise Mt Kineo Rockwood, Maine.
The view from our cabin.



Travis - A boy and his Shiner

Classes

As usual we are running behind on getting the class list out. We would like to blame it on the Holidays, but even the Holidays have a limit! We will have it done by the first of the year. And it will be up on the Website www.homespunharbor.com, and we will have copies in the store of course. Our new Block of The Month will be starting in January. If you missed out on this year's, be sure to sign up for the 2008 version! We really did have a LOT of fun. It will continue to be the third Saturday of every month and the cost is \$5.00. That includes each month's block pattern, a demonstration by Sheila, coffee, doughnuts and Show and Tell! And we can guarantee a lot of fun. For those of you in this year's BOM, if you bring in your finished quilt top by the February meeting, Homespun Harbor will give you the batting FREE! Originally we said by the January meeting, but c'mon, that is downright cruel!

Second Harvest Food Drive

The San Benito Community Pantry has been providing food to those less fortunate in our community for over 20 years. They currently serve 3,500, of which 1,600 are children. This year's Holiday Food Drive is the most critical in years. Because of its move to a new location late last year, and the effects of the economy, they have seen a 35% growth, and need your help to continue their vital service. Canned food or other staples can be donated at our store and many other locations around the county. Donations are also needed. One dollar (\$1.00!) can provide up to 5 meals with the buying power the Pantry has through Second Harvest and other government programs. Last year we filled our barrel 3 times during the Holidays. Remember, if you bring in canned goods during our Christmas Boutique (December 7th 6 to 9 and Saturday December 8th 10 to 4 P.M.), you will receive a free fat quarter of your choice!

Machine Embroidery

As many of you know, we are selling Janome Sewing Machines as a sub dealer of Ray's Sewing Center in San Jose. Last June we went to Lake Tahoe to attend Ray's Embroidery Retreat. And what an education THAT was! We worked on the 11000 Janome Embroidery machine. It can almost wash our dishes and park our car. We learned a lot and met a number of designers.

Laurel Doll has begun to teach machine embroidery at Homespun and she is a MASTER at this! Not only does she teach with any available software, she designs her own patterns as well. Keep an eye on future class schedules for Laurel's classes. Laurel is most familiar with Janome machines, but she knows a few others. Except for advanced classes, she can most likely help you figure out how to accomplish the project on whatever machine you have.

We have started a Fun Embroidery Day here at Homespun Harbor. We have picked the third Thursday of every month to get together. This is a work on your own project, share new stuff and give a little help to each other kind of day. This is a free day for us to simply enjoy ourselves. We will start this up in January.

We are now carrying quite a few of the Dalco Appliqué software patterns. We have a number of samples made up for you to look at. These are GREAT patterns. Plus, if you haven't seen their 3D models made up, then stop by and be amazed!

Another line we are carrying is My Fair Lady. A FULL line for pillowcases, tablecloths, napkins, quilts - you name it. Plus, her Tassel Cards. Little 1 and 1/2 inch dresses! Use them as a greeting card, or make a bunch and dress up any bag or tote!

3D Butterflies and hummingbirds, tiny dress tassels - You can DO it!

Homespun Harbor, Ltd.
341 Tres Pinos Road #101
Hollister, CA 95023

Phone : 831 630-9438

Email: store@homespunharbor.com

Web Site: www.homespunharbor.com

Jim Shore

There is still time to pick up some of those **WONDERFUL Jim Shore Christmas figurines!** We have Santas, Angels, Snowpeople, Penguins and Polar Bears! And this year we came up with a novel idea - we **SAVED THE BOXES!!!** Just about everything has a box Woo Hoo! We have the Little Drummer Boy, his camel and a palm tree to add to your crèche. Time is getting tight, but we might still be able to special order some items if we are out of stock.

