

Homespun Harbor News

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Santa is due any day. You can check exactly how many hours by asking any 6 year old! Luckily we have one, so we are up to date!

Well, here we are again. The Holidays are upon us even though the weather is more like Labor Day than Thanksgiving.

It's a little late to start a Queen size quilt. (Although there are a few of you out there who would prove us wrong) But for most of us, it's no longer an option. HOWEVER, there is PLENTY of time for smaller projects like Stockings, Table Runners, Tree Skirts, Totes, Pillowcases and Aprons. We have tons of samples to inspire you and quite a few kits. A handmade gift is from the heart.



We always reflect back at this time of year. It is almost impossible to believe that we are about to celebrate our 6th Christmas in Hollister. It's no longer odd to spend Christmas Day inside with a fire going, rather than hitting the beach. We have made so many good friends in the past six years, and we all feel very connected with the community. We're happy, the kids are happy, the animals are happy and our lawn has very few weeds. When we sit back and think about it, what else could we possibly need?

From Homespun Harbor to all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Hopeful New Year!

It's a Party!!! You're Invited!

Okay, maybe not **QUITE** this fancy! Okay, maybe not even **CLOSE** to this fancy, but it's a Party nonetheless! And you are invited!

Friday December 12th 4 to 9 P.M.

Saturday December 13th 10 to 4

We started this last year and have expended on the theme this season.

Here are some of the fun stuff we have planned:

Many Shop Samples & Models will be for sale.

Sheila will have finished quilts, runners, wallhangings, toppers, aprons, stockings and totes for sale!

25% off all kits! (Yes you **CAN** finish them by Christmas)

A beautiful basket you can win! All proceeds will go to the Food Pantry of San Benito County.

Hourly giveaways!

A famous author will be on hand to sign her books! It's a mystery! Hint — read the next page to find out who!

Demos Demos Demos! We have a few really cool things for you to see.

Plus, the best news of all. It's gonna be catered! **YAYAYAYAYA!**

To help us plan, if you are pretty sure you are going to stop by, please drop us a note or give us a call. We don't mind getting too much food, actually that sounds like plan. But the thought of not having enough will cause Ghleanna to lose sleep!

And, if you haven't mailed off that gift quilt yet, **PLEASE** bring it by for Show and Tell. Seeing the final product is **SO** much fun for everyone!

Oh and one more thing. If you come wearing a Santa Hat, you will get one free fat quarter of your choice!

We will be closed from noon to 4 on Friday the 12th to let the Elves to their work.



Terri Thayer Book Signing At Homespun!

WOO HOO! Famous mystery writer Terri Thayer has graciously agreed to come down to Homespun Harbor to sign her books! For those of you who have read "Wild Goose Chase" and "Old Maid's Puzzle" you are already familiar with her great quilting murders! We laughed so hard at some points. We're sure we recognize some of the characters. Of course, none of them are US!

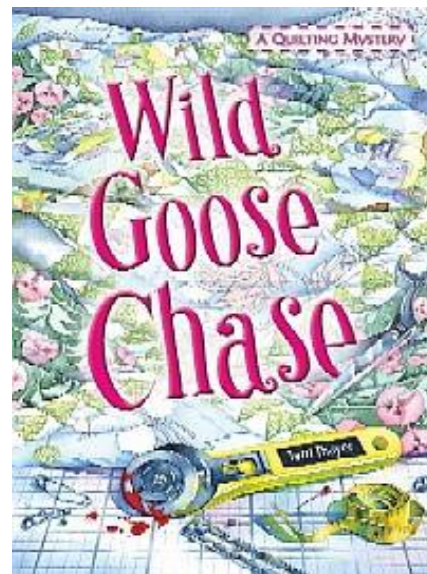
If you already have a copy she will be happy to sign it.



Or you can pick one up at the shop on the 13th. What a great gift for a quilting buddy! Most quilters like to read. (Why that's so we

don't know, because most quilters also tend to skip as many instructions as possible in a pattern. We think quilters were the inspiration for the "When all else fails, read the manual" remark.)

Terri will be at Homespun on Saturday December 13 from 12 to 4. It's a great chance to meet a famous author, get a book signed and have a lot of fun. ALSO a great chance to promote that unwritten novel that has been rolling around in your brain for 20 years. We're sure no one has ever offered her any ideas before! (Note to self: Don't send this newsletter to Terri)



Food Pantry Holiday Drive

This is the time of year for the annual San Benito County Food Pantry Holiday Food Drive. Schools, Corporations and Churches traditionally participate. We have a barrel in our shop all year long. Any and all donations are GREATLY appreciated. This past year has been a challenging time for the Pantry. The coming year may well be an even bigger challenge.

This year at our Christmas Party (December 12 and 13) when you donate to the barrel you will receive a Fat Eighth of your choice FREE! YAY Food! YAY Fabric!



Whenever you complete a project, take a picture. Put it in an album with all the important information — Date, Place, Occasion and the person you made it for.

Have you made a Jelly Roll quilt, or any other quilt that has a LOT of strips? Where do you put them? You can lay them on your bed, but eventually you have to sleep there! TADA! Go to a store like Staples. Buy a tri fold "Science Fair" board. Lay the strips over the top. The board stands up fine on its own. When you are finished working, you simply fold the board back up, with the strips still hanging over the top. Easy to store, and when you get back to the project, all your strips are still in order, plus they aren't a wrinkled mess.

Speaking of "Science Fair" boards. These also make GREAT portable design walls! Great for classes and great for home too if you don't have a wall you can dedicate.

Have you ever bought a book or pattern twice? Duh! Get a cheap address book. Fill in the names of the patterns you have alphabetically. We realize some of you will have to get MORE than one book, but that's okay. Better than buying something twice.

Do any of you have old pillowcases? We mean REALLY old pillowcases. We found one not too long ago that HAD to have been purchased in the 80's! Don't toss them. These are great to put on the ironing board to protect the cover when you use fusible web.

Remember sandpaper boards? They go back to hand piecing days. But today, if you have to trace a template you don't need to buy a board. Just go to the garage, get a piece of sandpaper, tape it down to your kitchen counter and draw! Nothing slips!

Like a lot of you, Homespun Harbor's Vice President of Model Division and Director of Education (otherwise known as Sheila) hangs her scissors around her neck. We live in fear she will trip and impale herself. This hint is for HER, and all of you out there LIKE her. Get one of those protective rubber tips used for knitting needles. The sheath that comes with the scissors is easily lost. The bright large blue or orange knitting tips don't get lost, and will SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Okay, you have cut out a quilt. You have HUGE stacks of varying colors and sizes. The wind blows, or the cat swings its tail, and BAM, it's all on the floor. Here is what you do to prevent that. Take each stack, and simply run a piece of thread through it. You can easily pick off the top one as you sew. If it falls over, or falls to the floor, you simply pick up the whole stack. If you are travelling with them use longer piece of thread and tie a bow. And to make it even easier, attach a piece of paper with the size and the pattern unit to the bottom of the stack. They won't come apart, and you won't sew the wrong pieces together.

Need a Quilt Label? Talk to Patti

As we recently announced, Patti Mauerman is offering custom embroidered labels for your quilts. Personally, we plan on never making another label ourselves. If you like, Patti will meet you at the shop with her handy dandy lap top to help you decide on a perfect design. Or you can fill out a simple form and she will mail the finished product.

Patti will be at our Christmas Party to demo all this for you. Trust us, this is VERY cool!

Christmas Wish List

Did you ever get something for Christmas you already had? Or didn't want in the first place? Do your friends and relatives dislike giving gift certificates? Well, we have the answer. Simply register at Homespun for the stuff you really want. That certain gadget, book or pattern - even fabric. We have a gift registry and this way your special someone or really good friend can come in and buy exactly what you want. It only takes a minute and guarantees everyone is happy! Especially YOU!



Birthday Month Discount

We started this plan more than a few years ago. But so many of you are not taking advantage! It's a simple plan. Pick one day during your Birthday month, drop by and you will receive a 20% discount on everything you purchase. Fabric, books, patterns and notions (Does not apply to sale items, classes or machines) What could be easier? On the way home you can sing "Happy Birthday To ME"!



National Tie One On Day

This is not what you think! November 26th, the day before Thanksgiving was actually National APRON DAY! Yes, apparently there is such a thing. Anyway, who doesn't like aprons? They are great for kids, for cooks and especially good of people that seem to make a mess at whatever they do! They also make GREAT gifts. If you are making a table runner, think how cool it would be to make a matching apron? Generally aprons take about 1 yard of fabric. Two yards if you want to line it or make it reversible. We prefer lined aprons. But if you don't want to spend too much, we recommend a really nice print for the front and line it with high quality muslin. (We also highly suggest prewashing. An apron is going to be washed a LOT) And then you can really go nuts. You can appliqué designs, add ribbon or put that high powered embroidery machine to good use. The beauty of aprons is the sky's the limit!

We kind of dropped the ball on this one. Our plan was to give aprons to our local Women's Shelter just in time for Thanksgiving. The official Tie One On plan was to make an Apron and put a loaf of bread into the pocket. We decided to put a bottle of bubble bath instead. Unfortunately we ran out of time to organize a Sew Day.

But now we have a new plan! We are calling it Tie One On For Christmas! We think it would be great to make aprons for everyone at Emmeaus House (or your chosen shelter). This would mean aprons for moms and aprons for every kid. Being in a shelter is a scary lonely time, but being in a shelter at Christmas has to be especially hard, for everyone involved. But life goes on, and Christmas comes. Cooking Christmas Dinner with Mom in a brand new specially made apron may make the day a little easier, and maybe even create a happy memory in a difficult time. People in need, ESPECIALLY children, need to know that not only is an agency helping them, but their community cares. If you have a stash full of beautiful fabrics that you can no longer remember why you bought them this is a terrific way to put that fabric to good use.

December 14th we will have an Apron Sew Day.. It will be from 10 to 4, and you can drop in any time. Bring something to munch on - plus we are sure there will be scrumptious goodies left over from the Party. Homespun will donate all the muslin for linings.

Be sure to include a bottle of bubble bath, shower gel or pretty soaps.



Speaking of Aprons

We have found what Sheila and Ghleanna believe is the best apron pattern ever! So good, that Ghleanna can't seem to stop making them! Pretty soon her granddaughter Hailey is going to need an extra closet. But they are so darn cute! From one yard you can generally get two child size aprons. One yard is enough for an adult. (2 yards if you want it reversible or lined) AND, they make perfect Teacher gifts! Forget the apple mug, make an apron! The pattern is not frilly, so you can make an apron for your grilling guy featuring his favorite sport.

Block of the Month

We are just about at the end of our 2008 Block of the Month. Don't forget, if you finish your quilt top by the February meeting Homespun will give you your batting for free!

This year we are going to do something different. Instead of a Block of the Month, it will be a SURPRISE OF THE MONTH! Each month will be a different small project. Sheila plans on designing most of them herself. Some will be intricate blocks, the one's you always wanted to try but were too much of a fraidy cat. These will be incorporated into pillowcases, table runners, aprons, totes, Christmas Stockings and more. One month she will show you the hints and tricks to making Advent Calendars. Very cool stuff.

The cost is \$5.00 per month. And each month you will receive a demo, plus written instructions. The nice part is you can use your stash. You don't have to buy a bunch of fabric up front. With these economic times it makes sense to either use your stash, or buy small amounts for each project.

It's a great way to learn new stuff, and a fun way to spend the 3rd Saturday morning of each month!

If you have something special you would like Sheila to design and teach, let us know. (Another note to self: Don't send this newsletter to Sheila)

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Support Your Independent Quilt Shop

As we are all aware, times are tough. And could get tougher. We often see the statement "Support your Local Quilt Shop", and while that sounds cozy comfy, it's not right. Your "Local Quilt Shop" cannot possibly support all your needs. And we have found most people DO support their local quilt shops. We think a better slogan is "Support Your INDEPENDENT Quilt Shop". As we all know, each shop has a different flavor. And that's because each shop owner picks out that fabric specifically for his or her shop. And a great part of that buying decision is geared to that shop's customers. If you want Civil War, you know of a shop that has a huge selection. If you want soft florals and shabby chic, you know exactly where the largest choices are. Independent shops provide this service. Plus, you get lots of advice (quilter's love to share info) and guidance. And classes - it's hard to take an online class for most of us. If your local quilt shop doesn't have what you need, try calling another favorite shop. Most shops are happy to mail stuff out. If you saw a great shop on your travels this summer, give them a call before you start surfing the Web. Check out the Brick and Mortar shops first.

Just try to remember, when in doubt - GO BRICKS!