

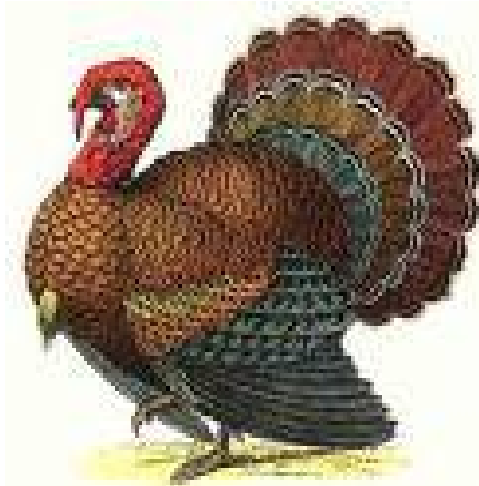
Homespun Harbor News

HINT HINT - BOO! GOBBLE! JINGLE!

We hate to be a nag, but the Holidays are coming and they are coming FAST! Think about it. Seems like yesterday Summer started, and today the kids are back in school. Yup, it's true. You can run, but you can't hide. To make your life easier, we have been working really hard. We have all kinds of small, doable projects. You can decorate your house and still have plenty of time to help decorate all the houses of your family and friends! Table Runners, Table



Toppers, Table Cloths, Tree Skirts, Totes, Wall Hangings, Wine Bottle Cozies, Pillowcases, Aprons — WHEW! Okay, we're tired. But we're happy, because we have chosen really cool projects that don't take weeks, or even days to make.



Our Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas fabric has pretty much arrived.

We have received a fabulous line of veggie prints, and more to come in September from RJR. If you are a fruit and veggie freak (which we are) you are going to LOVE these prints. We have received a vineyard print from Kaufman that all we can say is WOW! And another beautiful wine print is due in any day.



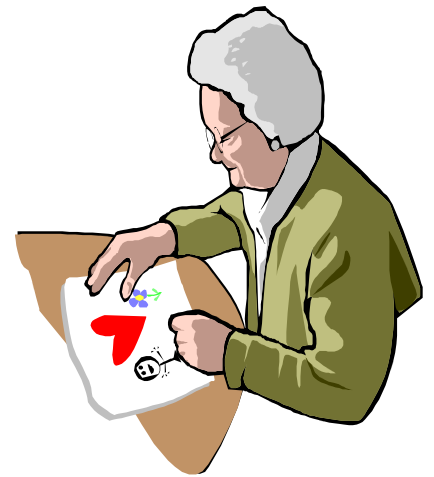
Now is the time to live up to that New Year's resolution. Remember? THIS year you were going to get started EARLY!

Quilts - Lost and Found

There is a very cool web site that is dedicated to helping people find lost or stolen quilts. It is www.lostquilt.com In our shop in Honolulu we had a small Trapunto sample quilt stolen right off the wall! It belonged to our Long Arm quilter Amie. She put a picture and a description of the quilt on this site. It is still listed today, so someday that quilt just might make it home. They also list found quilts. Sometimes they are found along the road, or left behind at an airport. The really cool part of the site is to browse through, and see the word RECOVERED! It actually does work!

A Special Way To Say I'm Thinking Of You!

I recently heard this from another shop owner. A woman came in and bought 12 different prints in one yard cuts. The owner asked what she planned to do. The customer was a Grandma whose oldest granddaughter was about to go off to college. She wanted to do something special for her. She figured other family members would be sending her granddaughter the usual care packages, and she had already made her a quilt to take with her. So the Grandma decided that every month she would send off a pillowcase. And each pillowcase would coincide with that particular month. That way the girl would receive a goodie each month. And because the cases are small, it wouldn't be a problem storing them.



We thought this was such a cool idea! There are so many ways to say we are thinking of someone special. Aprons for cooks, Holiday pillowcases for kids, Totes for shoppers - the list goes on and on. We can't make a quilt for everyone we know for every occasion. Sometimes it is nice to simply make a little gift to let that special someone know we care.

Election News!

Well, not really election NEWS. But we do have election FABRIC. Yup, choose your side! We have Republican fabric. And we have Democrat fabric. We don't have Independent fabric, so we figure you just buy a little of both. If you are planning on having any kind of election party, you might want to add something made from this fabric. Let the games begin!

This tip is for those of us that have more than one quilt. Never mind, this is for all of us. Odds are that all the quilts are not out all the time. Especially seasonal lap quilts, quilts kept in the closet for guests, and quilts for when the grandkids come. They're kept in the linen closet most likely folded with the back side out. How about this. When you make the quilt, use any extra focus fabric to make a pillowcase. It's nice to have a matching pillowcase anyway. When it is time to put the quilt away, fold it into the case. That way when you store the quilt, it is more protected, plus you know right away which quilt is the Halloween lap, or the floral that Aunt Mille loves to use.

Do you find that all your quilts look a lot alike because you always are drawn to the same color? Do you want a change, but just can't seem to get out of that box? Try this. Make a Black and White quilt. This gives you a chance to NOT look at color, but does force you to look at contrast, the character of the print, different scales and textures and most importantly, DESIGN. You will certainly go back to your favorite colors, but you might use them differently. Your quilts will generally be more exciting and unique.

When you wash your fabric, ALWAYS open it up. If you don't you can get what is called an abrasion line on the fold.

When you buy large amounts of yardage (backs, or that sale fabric you could not live without) you know what a pain it is to find a place to keep that huge wad. Just ask us for an empty bolt board. You can rewrap it onto the board. It eliminates fold lines, and is MUCH easier to store vertically.

Remember when we said to always unthread a machine by cutting the thread at the spool and pulling the thread from the needle? Well, here is another tip. When changing bobbins, cut the loose thread right at the bobbin case. Pulling a long thread through the little slit can cause damage to the spring and eventually lead to tension issues.

Can't make up your mind on how to set the blocks in your quilt? Design walls are essential to see the actual layout, but when you have more than one (or three) options, it's hard to remember which one you liked the best. Each time you arrange the quilt on the design wall, take a picture. When you're satisfied you have tried all the variations, just compare pictures!

Okay, this sounds a little scary, but it might be fun. When you use photo fabric to make a quilt label, add a little picture of yourself! Think about it. If Great Grandma had had the technology, wouldn't it be wonderful to actually see the woman at the age she made the quilt?

Before you quilt your quilt, whether you do it yourself or you bring it to a long armer, run a lint remover over the wrong side of the finished top. This really helps remove pesky threads that might show up under the lighter fabric.

After you press your binding, roll it onto an empty cardboard tube. Easy to store, and keeps it from getting knotted. Not a good idea if you don't plan to use it right away. Sometimes there is acid in the cardboard that can damage the fabric..

Finally Finished!

This is great! First we got Anneke to give your quilt that "Last Stitch" Now we have Patti Mauerman offering a service that will truly allow you to yell "FINALLY FINISHED", Coincidentally, that is the name of her new business. Patti offers the service of professionally embroidered quilt labels!!!! YIPPEE! Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings - you name it she can create it! She has hundreds of designs, and every color thread you can imagine. A lot of our quilts don't have labels because, well, we hate making them! (This is a case of do as I say and not as I do. Ghleanna advises everyone to be SURE to label that quilt. Don't bother to look for labels on the samples she makes for the shop. They are label less) Anyway, Patti has several books at the shop. You simply browse, choose the pattern and thread color, fill out a little form, and TADA! Patti will pick up the form, make your label and deliver it back to the shop, or if you prefer, she will mail it to you. Now your label can be as unique as your quilt. And you will truly be "FINALLY FINISHED"



Community Pantry

As most of you know, Homespun Harbor is very involved with the San Benito County Community Pantry. Dennis is currently serving on the Board of Directors. We are very lucky to live in this County because our little county is very giving. MANY local farms and ranches donate on a frequent basis. The larger Farm and Ranch groups donate large quantities of fresh vegetable and fruits regularly as well. Some actually donate on emergency needs. If fresh produce is running low, they will make sure the bags are full! Local grocery stores are an integral part of making sure San Benito County residents do not go hungry. As we have reported before, the need keeps growing. Not because our population is rapidly expanding, but because the economy has forced families (families who never thought they would need this service) to ask for help. The Community Pantry is determined to make sure it fills the need. We have never seen a more committed group of staff and volunteers.



We have a year long barrel at the shop. And we thank everyone who helps fill that barrel.

We want to extend a special thank you to The San Benito County Pinnacles Quilt Guild! They started a program in August that stated if you brought a donation (meaning as little as one can) to the monthly meeting, that person would get one free ticket for the basket raffle. The donations were dropped off the next day at the shop, and not only did they fill up the barrel, they almost filled ANOTHER! The Community Pantry has sent a great big THANK YOU to the Guild. We wanted to add our thanks as part of the quilting community. We know quilter's do a LOT more than quilt!

Morgan Hill Quilt Show

Yup, it's that time again. The 2008 Harvest Quilt & Fiber Arts Show by the South Valley Quilt Association will be held Sept 28th & 29th. This is also in conjunction with "The Taste of Morgan Hill" It's a beautiful show! If you haven't been, we highly



recommend it. The Morgan Hill Community Center is a perfect setting. Great vendors, FABULOUS quilts! Plus, just up the block the best food EVER! Oh, and did we mention there is also a very cool antique car show? Seems to us there is something for everyone!



PIQF Here We Come!

After 2 long years, we have finally been invited to be a vendor at this year's event! The show (Pacific International Quilt Festival) runs from October 16 through the 19th and is held at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Two shows pretty much in a row! If you have been in the shop, it is obvious we are going a little nuts. But we are also very excited. We will be in Booth #1101. See you there!

SPECIAL NOTE: We've arranged coverage for the store for all the days we will be at PIQF EXCEPT Friday afternoon. The store will be closing at 3:00 P.M. on Friday the 17th.

Hopefully This Is Not De Je Vu

The Atlantic Hurricane season has certainly gotten off to a scary start. As damages are assessed in stricken areas, Quilt Shops are notified of places of devastation and the need for comforting quilts. We will be checking in the coming weeks for distribution centers, churches etc. If you want to donate more than money (which is always needed and appreciated) let us know and we can give you the information we have. During Katrina we found several places to donate quilts, bedding etc. These were generally small local community centers and churches. We received personal thank you notes from the people who actually received the quilts. Right now the need is not huge, but if you have an extra quilt or two to donate that would be great. As the season goes on, if the need becomes critical, we will let everyone know. As usual, Quilters will come to the rescue!



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National Tie One On Day

This is not what you think! November 26th, the day before Thanksgiving, is 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 for 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 you can make it reversible. We prefer lined aprons. But if you don't want to spend too much, we recommend a nice print for the front, and lining it with high quality muslin. And then if you want to really go nuts, you can appliqué designs on, add ribbon or put that high powered embroidery machine to good use. The beauty of aprons is the sky's the limit. We plan on having an Apron Challenge for Tie One On Day. We haven't worked out all the details yet, so stay tuned!

The official guidelines call for making an apron, putting an encouraging note in the pocket, wrapping it around a loaf of bread and delivering it to a Women's Shelter. Most shelters proved plenty of food, so we thought it might be fun to wrap the apron around a big bottle of bubble bath! A hot bubbly bath relaxes the physical, but maybe more importantly, calms the spirit. Here in Hollister, the women's shelter is the Emmaus House on Sunnyslope. Check your local area for places to donate. Many shelters are safe houses, so you would have to deliver the aprons to the shelter office, and they in turn will get them to the actual shelter. Another idea is to make the donation to elderly housing, or an assisted living complex. Everyone who receives an apron is sure to smile!

