

Homespun Harbor News

Spring Has Sprung - Time For A Sale!

Yesterday we wrote our Christmas/New Year's newsletter. Well, it SEEMS like yesterday! And speaking of yesterday... We have been here in Hollister 7 years! We have been in business 17! We have a grandson in High School! How is this possible???? Honestly, we just don't get it. Years ago, our oldest grandson Ka Na'i was in an elevator with us. We were going to a doctors appointment. A little old lady entered with her 40 something year old grandson. He looked at Ka Na'i and said, "Someday you will be doing this for YOUR Gramma". And as a typical 3 year old, he replied "Oh Gramma, don't worry, I will!" Well, not too long ago we were all crossing a busy parking lot, and he took my arm and said "Be careful, there is a big hole there!" Now, part of that could be his knowledge that I have a history of breaking things .. like bones. It also could be the first sign of that Rite of Passage. Yet, neither Dennis or Ghleanna feel "old". There are places we always wanted to see - and we have seen most of them. There are things we wanted to do (Ghleanna wanted to climb a mountain. She did it - certain she was going to die - but glad she did it young enough to be able to cross that off her list. If she tried to do it today she WOULD most likely fall off) And with all the big things we wanted to do, there are the many small things we also talked and dreamed about. We have people everyday that say to us "Oh, one of these days I really want to take up quilting". Well, in the words of Nike - "Just DO it!" It is SO much fun. And you get to hang out with fun and creative people. People ask us when we think we are going to retire. About 15 years ago, a customer asked if we thought we would still be schlepping around bolts of fabric when we were 70. Well, Dennis will be 70 in November, and he never thinks of retirement. There is an old saying that goes like this - "If you find a job you love doing, you will never work a day in your life". And luckily for us, we have that job. So, we guess the point here is - if you wanted to take up quilting, and just never got around to it - NOW is the time!



Oh, and speaking of sales - Turn the page :)

Spring Cleaning Sale!

It's that time again! We are about to put out our Halloween/Thanksgiving/Christmas fabric. And of course, looking around, we realize once again, some stuff just HAS to go! We do this pretty much twice a year. Once, when we put out our Holiday stuff, and again just before we put it all away. Read on for the details.



May 18 through May 22.

- **STOREWIDE EVERYTHING 20% Off!**
Fabric, Notions, Kits, Books and Patterns
- **50% Off All Asian Fabric**
- **Fat Quarter Frenzy.** A big favorite! Buy 25 Fat Quarters for \$25.00
- **30% Off End of Bolts.** We will set aside those pesky, hardly anything left on the bolt bolts. And we will mark them accordingly. However, if you buy ANY bolt, and take all that is left, you will receive the 30% discount! If you have had your eye on a fabric that would make a cool background or backing, NOW is the time to grab it!
- We will have our usual Bag O Scraps! Fit as much as you can into a gallon Zip Lock Bag—close it, and TADA — \$5.00!
- **Selected Kits, Notions, Patterns, Books and Fabric up to 75% off!**
- **All precut panels — \$3.50!** We got a little carried away with the Panel thing, and now they are driving us nuts

Remember our hours are:

Tues, Thurs, Fri 10:00 to 5:00

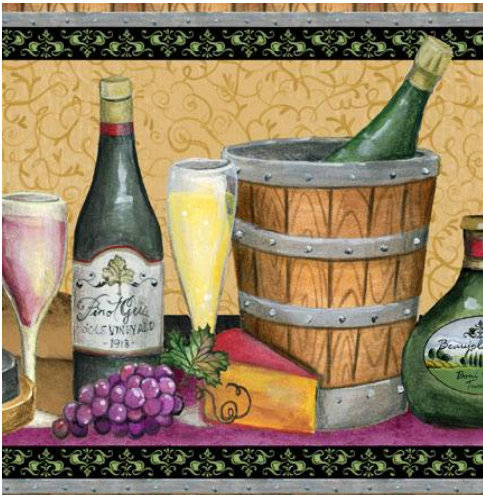
Wed 10:00 to 3:00

Sat 10:00 to 4:00

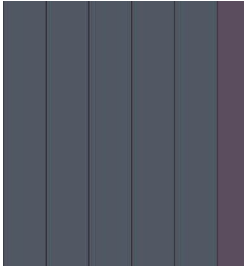
Closed Sunday & Monday

Some New Stuff

A preview of just a few of the fabrics we just got in:



Design Walls



We are design wall fanatics. Sometimes fabric that looks great fanned out in your hand, doesn't work like you thought it would when it ends up in the quilt. A lot of the time it is the contrast. Either too much, or too little. And then there is always that ONE color that just sits there and screams at you! Before we commit to cutting and sewing, we either fold pieces and stick them on the wall, or cut small pieces to see what it will look like. We also walk away, turn around and look at it from a distance. Sometimes you will be amazed at the difference it makes. You can buy design walls that fold up for storage. In the shop we have a Twin size batting pinned to the back wall of the classroom. Most of us don't have an entire

wall at home that we can dedicate to a design wall. (If you do you are going to make EVERYONE jealous, so maybe keep that bit of into to yourself) One alternative is to tack a piece of batting to the back of a door. It generally is out of sight, and most importantly always available. You won't get a whole quilt up, but enough to see if your choices will produce the end result you want. It is a little bit more work up front, but in the end it will save you time and money.



Hailey Hula

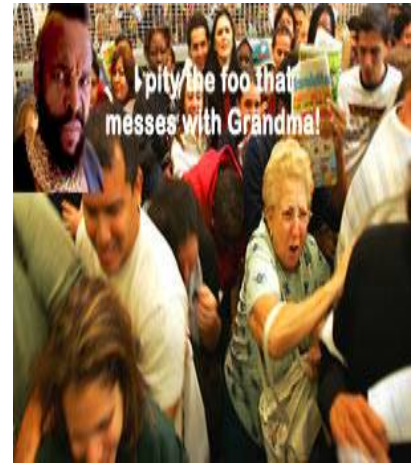
As many of you know, our granddaughter Hailey is very involved in Hula. Unfortunately she is very involved in Hula in San Jose. We stopped being open late on Tuesdays because that was her Hula night. Recently she moved up to Intermediate, so now her Hula is on Wednesdays. This means the store will close at 3:00 on Wednesday afternoons. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the hours are 10:00 to 5:00. Saturday 10:00 to 4:00.



I am not Hailey,
but I do look JUST like her
Pug Tank

Shop Hop By The Bay

We know it's still early days, but be sure to mark your calendars and grab a friend to spend a few days visiting a BUNCH of Quilt Shops. Shop Hop By The Bay this year is Wednesday June 23rd through Sunday June 27th. GREAT prizes! The Grand Prize is Empty Spools at Asilomar. The Kids Grand Prize is a SEWING MACHINE (for kids 17 and under) Thirteen \$100 Gift Certificates, and 13 fabulous baskets! This is always fun! Strap on your roller skates, grab Granny and ROLL!



Food Banks - The Need Continues



Funny thing about food - you keep needing it, like every day. If only it was a one time shot! ALL Food Banks across the country have seen a huge upsurge in the numbers of people needing help. Not only in more people, but in people relying MORE on their local Pantry. 60% of people using our Food Bank are Seniors and Children. They serve over 3,700 meals a day which comes to over 110,000 meals a month! Food Banks operate on Donations, Grants and limited government contributions. They pretty much inch along on the charitable hearts of their local communities. Our local Food Bank is in desperate need. Grants that

were due in April have been pushed out until June. Hungry families simply can't wait 2 to 3 months to have food on the table because that's how long it takes for the wheels of bureaucracy to turn. And this is not just San Benito County. Wherever you live, take a few minutes to check out how your local Food Bank is doing. Our San Benito Food Bank employees and volunteers are working harder than ever to put food on the tables of our hungry. If you can, please donate money, or canned goods or time. Mary Anne Hughes is the Executive Director of the San Benito Food Bank. Give her a call. (831 637-6340) She will gladly show you the operation, and explain exactly how it works. It can be as simple as letting your church or quilting group know the need is great. We are a small community, and because of that we have the ability to make sure NONE of our neighbors go hungry!



Be sure to label all your quilting equipment. A small return address label works great. That way, when you inevitably leave something behind after a class, I can get it back to you!

When you prewash your fabric (and we know ALL of us do this!) open it up. That way the fold doesn't rub and fade.

Ok, THIS is extreme! But, it will work. If people (meaning every member of your family) insist on using your good scissors to cut the plastic off their CD's, get a small combination lock and snap it through the handles. Try not to forget the combination.

Did you ever cut a 12 inch square per the instructions, then appliqué your design onto it, only to discover the 12 inch square is now 11 1/2 by 12 3/4? Cut the background block at least an inch bigger. Then when you are done appliquéing, cut it down.

When you sew your binding to your quilt, always use your walking foot. It will keep everything from bunching up.

If you bring a tiny swatch of fabric to the shop to match colors, get an inexpensive wallet photo thingy. You will be able to find it in your purse, and it will keep the swatches from becoming a ball of threads.

If the thread cutter on your machine is in a odd place, or dull, tape the cutter from a dental floss container to your machine.

If you want to tilt your machine toward you, just get a couple of rubber door stops and place them under the back of the machine.

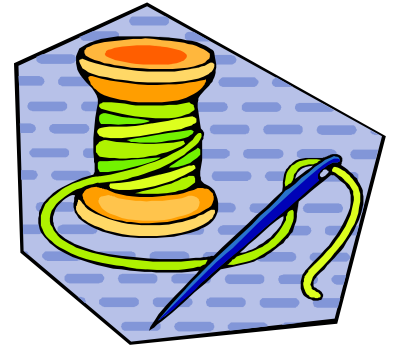
I haven't tried this but I hear it works. If you are using Steam A Seam for appliqué, and you end up fusing it to the wrong spot, get a dryer sheet. Use it as a pressing cloth and it will loosen the glue so you can reposition it. I have no idea if the residue on the boo boo spot will be a problem. You might want to try this on a scrap.

When you are changing feet, lower the feed dogs. It gives you a little more room and keeps you from damaging the feed dogs and scratching the foot. Also, PLEASE remember to turn the power off to the machine. (Turn the machine off when you are changing needles as well.)

Everything rusts eventually. If you are putting away a project to finish at a "later" date, be sure to remove safety pins, straight pins and clips.

A Needle Runs Through It

Ok, this is exciting! As you know, Anneke moved her long arm machines to a studio in San Juan Bautista. Well, now she has a new and exciting venture. She has expanded her studio by knocking out a wall and in that new space she is opening a shop that will sell handcrafted items created by local textile artisans. That includes us quilters! Yup, we are "Textile Artisans"! The theme for this gallery is "A Needle Runs Through It" The idea is to basically set up a co-op. (This is the last and only time I will use this word. It makes me shudder! I think of Granny Crafts in an old musty garage. Trust me, THIS place will be anything but) A "Needle Runs Through It" naturally makes me think of a quilt, being a quilt shop and all. But it is much more than that. Needles also sew, and knit and crochet. I'm not sure, but I think loomed items qualify, if you think of that shuttle thingy as a gigantic dull needle. I know as a quilter, I have a TON of stuff I've made. I didn't make it for anyone in particular, I just wanted to make it. It would be great to have an outlet to sell those items. Her goal is to make this shop as diverse as possible. Her grand opening is June 12! Be SURE to stop by! If you are interested in selling some of the wonderful stuff you all create, give Anneke a call for an appointment. (831)623-4330.



Wanna Quilt your own Quilts?



This seems to be the Anneke page! The Last Stitch is proud to announce that they have acquired their number THREE quilting machine! My first thought was "OK, I want to see her run THREE machines at a time". I am thinking Guinness Book of World Records. Well, actually YOU get to run the third machine! The machine is a Gammill Premier. It has an 18" throat and a stitch regulator. Basically, you take a training class to learn how to use it. Then, VIOLA — you schedule a time and rent the machine and quilt it yourself. I could say "Sign up now and be the first to take the training class", but that would not be possible as "I" have used my influence and arranged to be FIRST!!!!!! I think this is SO cool! I have so many tops, and only so much money. Some people love quilting their own quilts on home machines. I am not one of them. I am so looking forward to being able to quickly stipple a small quilt, without the bother of moving all that fabric on my machine. We think this is perfect!

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Birthday Month Discount!

For years we have had a Birthday Month Discount. Over the years we have noticed that a good deal of our customers are not taking advantage of this "Happy Birthday To You" discount!

The way it works:

Come in ANY day during your Birthday month, and get a 20% discount on everything you buy that day! Doesn't have to be your actual birthday day, just anytime within that month. When your next "Big Day" rolls around, remember to say "Happy Birthday to ME!"

It's that easy!

(Does not apply to sales items, and does not earn punches)

