

Ericatorial

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As I write this with **my loving Beethoven** by my side, I can't help but mention that I hope you all have in your lives the wonderful gift that animals provide. "Tovey" has shared our home for over 18 years- longer than we had most of the human kids continuously at home! I no longer try to yell so he can hear me, since it seems plain that he can't, but I think he reads my lips when I greet him when he comes in the room or comes to see us when we get home from work. He always talks too, though he probably can't hear that either. He walks a little more slowly and carefully than he used to, and he's happy to accept a "ride" to the cutting table where there's a food bowl, instead of climbing the "condo" steps to get there. He still never fails to be on Dick's lap at night or in my arms when I lie down. We have lots of loves in our lives, and wonderful friends, but cats (or dogs) leave footprints on our hearts. If you don't have one, the shelters have loving fur-persons waiting for homes!

Speaking of the **Humane Society**, we were very distressed to have the donation box stolen during our Sidewalk Sale. In all the years we've had it, there's never been a problem. So the box isn't as accessible as before, but we're still eager for your donations, so don't let that stop you. Our cameras caught the guilty person taking the box, and in the parking lot getting into his vehicle, so the police got the report along with the name and address, so he didn't get away with it. It's still disheartening.

We've had fun sharing on **our Blog!** I still talk to people who don't realize that there's no commitment involved in following our Blog and think it will require something of them they may not have knowledge of or time for. Those who get the

automatic email with our weekly updates are telling us how much they enjoy it! The *Hot Dog Pillowcase* pattern was a real favorite. I've also gotten a lot of email about the *Broomstick Skirt from Hell*. Please join us! Add your photo to our community, (there are instructions below the photos) or at least put your email address in the box below, to receive our new blog entries in your email. I think you'll enjoy it. blog.ericas.com. (We're also on **Facebook** and **Twitter**, but the most content is on the blog.)

We're looking forward to two special events in October. **Sue Hausmann** will be here the 20th and 21st, and our first **Northern Indiana Shop Hop** is the 29th through the 31st. If you aren't signed up yet, please come in and sign up right away or online on our events page.

We're making **pillowcases for children** visiting the oncology department at Memorial Hospital. See dates listed in the newsletter to sew with us at the shop, or use the Hot Dog Pillowcase pattern (find it on our blog.ericas.com) and make them on your own. Please wash them and put each in its own zip lock bag and bring them in. Ronnie Van Overberghe is co-ordinating the project and will be sure they reach children who need a bright spot at this time in their lives. If you'd rather, bring in your extra bright colored or children's themed fabric, and we'll make it into pillowcases. If you'd like to try one of our sewing machines or sergers, visit our Sewing Department. You can try it by making a pillowcase for our project!

The summer was a whirlwind! Lots of fun times and celebration. The celebration continues for the rest of our **35th year**, so stay tuned! And **join us in greeting Sue Hausmann in October!!**

Happy sewing and crafting.



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