

Newsletter #97, Month of September, 2010

The Quilters II Newsletter is published monthly during the off season. Submissions for publication in the newsletter can be made either through the Newsletter Submission form located in the Members Only section of the website, or directly to confuqua@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on the 10th day of the month. The newsletter will then be placed on the website as soon as possible thereafter.

The purpose of the newsletter is to reduce the amount of announcements and related discussion at the regular meetings.

From the Editor (Adrienne)

Not too much to report this month. The summer is finally winding down ... we're getting promises of mornings in the 60's. At last!! Quilters are starting to return and it's the beginning of a new season. Hope to see you soon.

The Halloween quilts are still trickling in but I think we're about finished for this year. I am sending a disc of the photos to our webmaster and, hopefully, you'll be able to see them all very soon ... in the same place as the quilt show pictures. We have started buying Halloween fabric for next year and will add to the collection when JoAnn offers them at 50%. Lynne has arranged for us to show some of the quilts at the next coffee and ask for donations. We will also show the Christmas raffle quilt – Claire should be finished quilting it by then. Jan has been speaking with the social worker at UMC and will find out how many quilts they need. We don't want some of the kids being bypassed.

Sharon K., our Donations Chairman this year, has alerted us to the fact that the papers we pin onto the quilts to state their size have a tendency to tear. She has therefore instituted a new "protocol" ... all sizes will be written on a piece of muslin and pinned on near the label. She has set up a small box with pieces of muslin, pins, and a pen and conveniently located on the cutting table. Please, no more paper. Great job, Sharon!

Two tips:

We all get excited when we start a new project, but sometimes, between buying the fabric and actually getting started, things can go a little astray; for example, the pattern and the fabric might get separated. To avoid this frustration, make a copy of the book cover or pattern cover and insert the image, along with the fabrics, in a large, zip-style, see-through bag. No more wondering (or searching!) when you are ready to tackle the project.

Whether you are piecing by hand or machine, it's important to keep the choice of thread color in mind so that the stitches remain invisible. Award-winning quilter Jinny Beyer uses lots of different-colored fabrics in her quilts, so she finds that using a thread that acts as a "blender" works best for hiding her stitches.

Thread colors such as medium brown, dull blue, gray, and burgundy are among her favorites. She only uses white thread when sewing two white fabrics together. When sewing a light to a dark fabric, she recommends that you select a thread color that most closely matches the darker fabric; you are less likely to see stitches