

## *Newsletter #96, Month of August, 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](mailto:confuqua@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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)**

The monsoons are here and we have only two months left before more civilized temperatures return, so things are looking up. Our numbers have lowered to about 7 at meetings and 2 – 4 at Wednesday workday. Quilters come and go as the summer progresses and we never know who will be at the next meeting.

The Halloween quilts are still trickling in as several of us have moved on to other stuff. I have taken pictures of all the finished ones and, as soon as the rest come in, I will post the promised slide show of our fun, hard work.

You can see the closet is becoming overburdened with the results. Lynn has arranged to take the quilts to the first coffee in October to show the residents of Voyager what we've been up to this summer and troll for some donations. After that we will distribute them to the children we made them for.



Bev and Jan were instrumental in getting the Halloween project started ... they did most of the work last year ... and contributed a large part of the fabric we used this year. As soon as Halloween fabric goes on sale – should be soon – we will start piling up goodies for next year. If any of you see some bargains in your travels, feel free to add to our stash. Panels are great. Phyllis at the Desert Patch has been very generous as usual.

Claire and I worked on the Christmas raffle quilt. As soon as we find the right backing we will get it finished and ready to make money.



Anna has been delivering placemats to Mobile Meals (from Nimble Fingers) and brought us a request for a quilt for their fundraising silent auction. We voted to do so and Anna and Pat Rapp chose the pictured quilt as the most likely to be popular. See, Mavis, you built a winner!



I finally got to go to quilt camp last month as they had an opening and Jan asked me if I wanted to go. I jumped on the opportunity and had a great time. The food was delicious and so was the weather ... we didn't even need air conditioning. Fabulous time. We even ran into Joan Buswell at the local quilt shop. And here's a heads up for those of you who read this newsletter. Jan has finally reserved a weekend for Quilters 2 ... she's been trying for quite a while but it's a very popular retreat. The dates are February 17 to 20, 2011. So, if you're interested in being pampered while you quilt, save those dates and be prepared to pay a \$50. deposit to hold your place.

On a personal note, I have been very busy this summer packing up my quilting studio on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Boo-hoo!!! It was great while it lasted but it's not smart for me to keep it when my husband is retiring ... again ... and the rent will come due ... again. If any of you know anybody that's interested in a low cost park model in a great location, tell them to give me a call. It will need a little work to make it a residence again but I've kept all the parts I disassembled. Tom is convinced that I need to clear out all my junk so people can see what it really looks like and that is what I'm doing, but I am also trying to keep the sewing lanes open. Not a simple feat.

Jan Brink seems to be recuperating quite well from her hip surgery. She keeps us informed about her recovery and, I'm sure would love to hear from you. Alice also has had surgery recently ... he foot, I believe ... but we haven't heard from her. If any of you are in touch with Alice, we would love to find out how she's doing.

Hope you're all having a fabulous summer. We're looking forward to seeing you all soon.

**TIP FROM QUILTING DAILY and edited by AB**

It doesn't have to be a disaster if you run out of thread in the middle of a project. Try thread mixing ... layering different thread colors in your free motion quilting.

The advantages:

1. You don't come to depend on a particular color that might be discontinued or changed by the manufacturer.
2. You don't have to buy and keep every color in the rainbow or run out to find just the right color in the middle of a project.
3. Blending threads creates more depth and interest in your work than using one solid color.

If you've never tried layering or blending thread colors to create a new color or variations on one color, here's an exercise you might try. It's from internationally known artist Carol Shinn's excellent book *Freestyle Machine Embroidery: Techniques and Inspiration for Fiber Art*.

1. Paint a square in a medium-value color, then draw lines to create four equal quarters that will be stitched with different colors of thread. Note from AB: You can also use a piece of fabric, backed with stabilizer, and draw the squares with a sharpie.
2. Stitch the entire square with a color that matches the paint ... or fabric..
3. Stitch a second layer in each quadrant, using a lighter value in the first; a complement in the second; a grayed, duller color in the third; and an analogous color in the fourth.
4. Stitch a third layer that appears to be a mix of the original and the second layer colors.
5. Stitch a final layer of the basic color across the entire initial square so that only bits of the other colors pop through the thread matrix. Take a moment to note which color combination appears the smoothest or most evenly colored. Which appears the most textured?

Try this exercise with different colors and see what you can create. Keep track of your experiments, recording the colors you used, for future reference.