

Newsletters in June 2013

Courage

June 20, 2013

Good morning my friends,

Another day and still no baby! I have a new grandson due this week. I had hoped he would come between teaching trips this month. Four days ago, I got home from a wonderful trip to the Minnesota State Quilt Show. Wonderful classes and many new friends. In my Feathers are Flying workshop, I had 2 gals from Norway and 1 twelve year old unaccompanied quilter. She was the first one to "birth" her puffin. It is so exciting to see a young girl embrace the possibilities of fabric. By the expression on her face and the shine in her eyes, I am pretty sure she is hooked already!

Tomorrow I am off to the Quilt Colorado state council meeting to do a lecture, trunk show, and workshop in Haxtun. It's 97 degrees there. Pray for air conditioning or this will be my new



fashionable teaching look. ClipartOf.com/4651

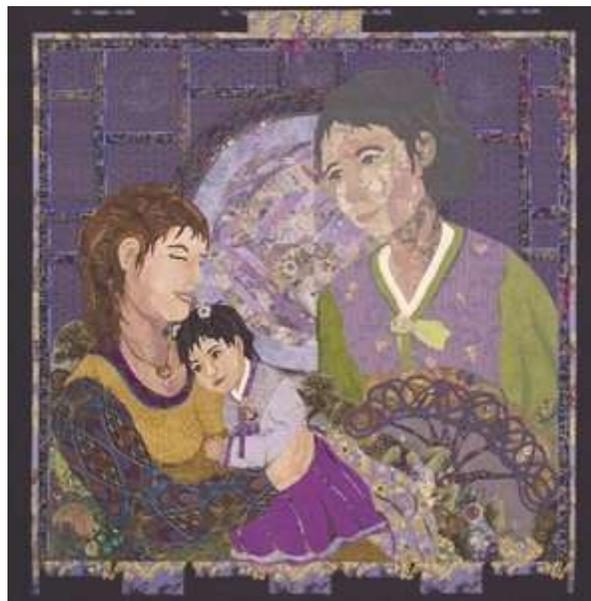
I am really excited to see my many, many quilting buddies and my editor friends. Irene Berry fluffed my wings 15 years ago when she started featuring my quilts in "Quilters Newsletter Magazine". We all need mentors; someone to boost our confidence and encourage us to take flight.

Exciting news for two of my students this month. Shawnie Kaminski had her quilt "River of Gold" juried into the Pacific West Quilt show. It was so much fun to say, "I told you so." Val Ursulak won 1st place in Applique in a Regional British Columbia Quilt show for her beautiful rendition of "Audubon's Christmas". Congratulations!! Keep those pictures of your quilts coming. I love sharing them on my students gallery.



My husband Bruce is a professional quilt photographer. He does all the photography for my web site and for the photos of my quilts for magazine articles. He did the entry photograph work for River of Gold. We shoot at my home studio where we have the appropriate lighting and hanging system. If you need professional photo work - e mail him at walrusdesigns@aol.com Attention Bruce in the subject line. \$80.00 includes a CD. You will be fascinated by the process of picking the perfect picture for color.

News From Walrus Designs - "Tea for Two" is a small wallhanging project that will be featured in Quilter's World winter edition. The pattern is included in the article.



The Brigham City Museum in Utah will feature two of my quilts this summer. "**Courage**" is my youngest daughter Mei Li's quilt. It is dedicated to her and her birthmother. *The courage to love takes many forms*. Since we consider ourselves a bi-cultural family, it includes celtic and asian quilting patterns and designs. The figure of the birthmother is covered with silk organza to make her seem more ethereal. I can never thank her enough for having the courage to let her little one go to a life filled with opportunities that she was not able to give her. *Our daughter is an amazing young woman*. Mei Li works full time, is getting her MBA degree, and is currently on vacation in Belize somewhere caving in some jungle. She better text her mother soon! "Dancing Cranes" traveled down also to share the spotlight.

Tip for the month.

Working with metallic threads. Remember the inscription of Jingle Bells at the bottom of my most recent quilt in last months newsletter? (It is not on my website because it has not been in a major show yet).

Do you have a Love/Hate relationship with metallic thread? Love the looks....hate working with it in your machines. Try these tricks. Use a top stitch needle. 90/14. They work better than the metallic needles and are useful for any heavy weight threads too. Use Bottom line 60 weight thread in your bobbin. It is so skinny and slick that it does not try to grab the metallic thread as forcefully. You will have less breakage. You will have to turn your top tension down. You might try putting your metallic thread on a table based spool holder or in a cup next to your machine (if you do not have a multi professional spool holder built into your machine). Slow down a little and I think you will have better luck. I did.

I will be on vacation all of July to help with the wee one. Have a wonderful summer and I will catch up with you all in August.

Hugs Kathy

www.kathymcneilquilts.com