

## **Quilt Labels**

### **Why make a label?**

To add value to your quilt (tangibly and intangibly). Diane Stevenson describes the 3 P's – pride, protect, preserve.

For posterity.

To find a lost or stolen quilt.

### **What to put on the label?**

At a minimum, your name, date, and location (but address, phone number, e-mail, website are good additions).

Title if you have one.

Consider the five W's: who made it, where was it made, when, what or for whom, why.

Acknowledge sources (including the person who did the quilting if different than the quiltmaker).

You could add instructions about quilt care.

You might want to write a message of love or congratulations.

### **What kind of label?**

Consider a label that ties in with the theme on the front of the quilt.

Could incorporate a miniature version of a block on the front.

Could use prepared fabric labels, with handwritten or embroidered text.

There are many different techniques: pieced, appliqued, phototransfer, embroidery, stamping, printed, painted, computer-printed, foundation-pieced.

Antique linens can be used.

Can use an envelope label, with documentation of the quilt inside the envelope, and even including scraps from the fabric in case a repair job is needed.

Especially on a child's quilt, you can even create a small cloth book about the quilt, to attach as a label.

You can apply the label before the quilting so that the label cannot easily be removed, or you can quilt through a simple label, then apply a fancier label over top.

There are now StoryPatch labels where digital images or video can be attached to the quilt (or what about sewing in a memory card – just don't wash it!)

### **How to write on a label?**

If writing by hand, it's helpful to stabilize the fabric with freezer paper first.

Pigma pens (among others) work well, but test first – some will "bleed". Good idea to also heat-set the writing.

You can prepare the whole label as a paper version, then do a phototransfer of that paper label.

It is good to write in a hidden area of the quilt (such as the raw edge under the binding or under a hanging sleeve) in addition to your visible label.

### **References**

There are a number of quilt books and CD's about labels (see our quilt library or check with Millie)