October

Fall is such a rich season. Harvests give us a sense of security and hope for the future. We invite you to make these pumpkins, simple and quick with senior citizens in mind.

 In a change from tradition for each pumpkin that you make write the name of a senior center of your choice. We will draw a name(s) and donate to that center pumpkins to decorate their dining or common areas.

Fabric Pumpkins

What you need:

Fabrics: Fall Colors of; cottons, batiks, homespun, silk, wool corduroy, burlap, YOU Choose!

Strips of "leaf" type fabrics 1- 1½ "wide and 3-5 inches long. These can be pinked, torn or rotary cut.

Polyester quilt batting fluffed up or purchased polyester fluff.

Sewing thread,Crochet Cotton, Pearl Cotton, Embroidery Floss or Jute.

Hot glue gun or very good fabric glue.

Optional:

Rafia could also be used decoratively in place of pearl cotton if care is used

Cinnamon Sticks, twigs, or some material of your choice to represent stems.

These instructions work for any size. Suggestion would be enough to cut a 6" circle up to a 12" circle. Again your choice. Would not suggest much smaller than 6". I often use dinner plates to get my circles.

With a large eye needle and thread to match your fabric; make a knot and run a gathering stitch ¼" from edge of circle all the way around to where you began. Pull up to gather, gently narrowing the top but not closing. Stuff pumpkin firmly and finish pulling up the gathers until the top is closed tight. Tie in a knot. Trim thread. With matching or contrasting Pearl Cotton or one of the heavier threads thread a needle and knot at the end. Sew through the top of the pumpkin down to the bottom center. Repeat this procedure several times pulling your thread tight to indicate the ridges of the pumpkin and spacing the ridges 1 ½ - 2 inches apart.

Prepare your fabric strips for the leaves. Tie two strips together in the center with a narrow strip of matching fabric. Glue a small raffia bow in the center with a hot glue gun and then your leaves and stem pieces.