

Shirley Adams' Trunk Show

On February 13th, 72 fortunate ladies saw Shirley Adams present her Trunk Show at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center. We learned creative techniques to change patterns and become our own designer. The day flew by and we left with smiles on our faces and our brains on overload! It was surprising how many of Shirley's beautiful creations were the result of too little fabric or a problem that she needed to fix. Therefore, the moral of the day was: Nothing is impossible, but some things take a little more time than others.

Her clothing racks stretched from one side of the room to the other, loaded with over 200 garments! She pulled each garment from the rack and explained her inspiration for it and her process to create it. It was so tempting to ooh-and-aah on each one, but we had to be quiet because of the recording – definitely a difficult task for so many women in one room!

Shirley is an extremely creative sewer and a charismatic, motivating speaker. She grew up sewing, her college degrees are in fashion, textiles, and multi-media, and she was a Professor of Clothing and Textiles and Director of Fashion Merchandising at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. She did 17 television series called The Sewing Connection. This PBS series has motivated sewers to think “outside the box”. Sadly, Shirley will not be replenishing her pattern inventory. When her patterns, books, and VHS tapes are sold out, they will no longer be available. So, many ladies left with large bags filled with patterns, books, and tapes. We were thrilled that she came to Corpus Christi with her car full and we helped her empty it! However, she is not slowing down. Her next endeavor is to create framed “pin-weaving” pictures for art galleries.

With all the information that Shirley shared, we were thrilled that we could watch and listen and not have to take copious notes. Fortunately, Flora's talented son, Les, and grandson, Josh, recorded the entire program for us and we will each get a DVD of the entire presentation. Also, we each received 25 handouts with all her tips and techniques that she had pointed out on the garments. In addition, a subject index from Shirley's TV books is now available on our website and library to help you research a particular technique or idea.

Many thanks to all the volunteers – LaRue Calisesi, Maggie Wachtel, Teresa Beck, Laura Davidson, Nancy Darnell, Lynn Harris, Elisabeth Chism, and Flora Boren. Special thanks to Karen Vaughn and the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center for letting us use your wonderful facility. It takes a great team to put on a great event!