



Threads of Thought

A Quilter's Exchange

We're
43 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

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Website Address: richmondquiltersguild.com

A Few Words From Sherry

Let's admit it; this pandemic is getting old and it's wearing us down! Each of us finds ways to deal with the feelings of depression that sometimes sneak up on us as we deal with the inevitable disappointment of anticipated plans that must be cancelled meetings, retreats, classes! That's why we treasure the special times that we are able to enjoy with family or friends even if that time involves wearing a mask.

Despite my grumbling times, I frequently remind myself how much easier it is for us dealing with this pandemic than it was for people in past generations who lived through equally scary times. We have unexcelled information, entertainment and communication available.....that's for the general population. But we're quilters and additionally we have fabrics and patterns and books and online classes and demonstrations and friends who share ideas and supplies and lots of people to gift with quilts and quilted items. So we have lots of reasons to be happy. I feel better already just thinking about all the creative time just waiting for me!



Featherweight Care

Do you own and use a Singer Featherweight sewing machine? They are jewels of little machines, so wonderful to take to workshops and coveted by many. (I noticed when seeing an image for an illustration that someone is offering one for sale for \$4364, though there were others for a more modest cost. I know many of you do, so I want to share information which Cathy Tyler was kind enough to send for me to pass along to you.

Even though I don't have a Featherweight myself I thoroughly enjoyed watching this YouTube video, listening to the delightful British accent of Alex Askaroff as he gives step-by-step instruction in dis-assembling, cleaning and oiling the machine. Cathy said that from it she learned several things she had not known before, so I imagine you may learn something from it, too. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IAxiYZ2630>

RQG Board Meeting, September 12, 2021. 2 PM

Sherry Whitford presided over a relatively informal Zoom meeting of the Board of the Richmond Quilter's Guild attended by Anne Wright, Barbara Vonada, Jennifer j. Plate, Sandy Collins, Linda Thompson, Michelle Pease, Linda Killmeier, Ann Shibut, and one other member (could not identify Galaxy ID).

Prior to the beginning of the meeting attendees discussed the current situation of their groups relating to meetings, wearing of masks, etc.

Dealing with minutes and treasurer reports were dispensed with.

Barbara Vonada has agreed to serve as Chair for the Guild's next Quilt Show, which is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2023 at the Chesterfield County Fair Grounds.

The Fall Meeting of the Guild set for September 18 was changed from live to a Zoom format and members have been asked to contact Sherry to receive a Zoom invitation.

Sherry reported that a church group in Mosely is seeking a speaker on quilts from the Guild. Several members will seek more information about the sort of speech the group wants and will try to find someone to do this. Sherry also said the Epping Plantation representative had invited us to participate again in their event, but in view of adverse reports from Nancy Buckland who had done this in the past, Sherry declined the request.

Anne Wright suggested that chapters plan to man a booth at the next Chesterfield Co. Fair, as it has been a successful place to sell quilt raffle tickets.

Barbara Vonada said that Bits & Pieces Chapter has decided on a new chapter logo, and will send information about it to the TOT Editor and the Guild President.

The next Board meeting will be held on January 16, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned by 3 PM.

Ann Shibut, Secretary

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Newsletter Schedule 2021-2022 Guild Year

The deadlines for the coming months:

Dec/Jan issue — Nov 8, 2021

Feb/ March issue — Jan 10, 2022

This last is the issue for slates of officers for the coming year in the chapter new if we are back to regular meetings. I love getting photos and news which would be of interest to Guild members, so send them along at any time.

Chapter News

Hospitality

Hospitality continues to "quilt along"...quite literally!

One of our members brought 23 mystery quilt fabric giveaway bags. If you volunteered to receive a bag you were asked not to peek at the contents, no trading of fabric. The challenge was to create a quilt top for the October meeting. Of course prizes will be given for those who choose to participate in the challenge!

We enjoyed our very fun bargello quilt program presented by Avery Quarles. On Thursday, October 7, we will have a program from Heather Kojan followed on November 4 by "The Bag Lady," Haxall Ward. If you are in the Chesterfield area on the first Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.please join us.

Sandy Collins



James River Heritage

James River Heritage chapter meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:30pm at Bon Air Christian Church on Buford Rd in the 'small' room. Sit n Sews are the 3rd Wednesday from 10-3 in the big room.

The October 6 program will be a demo by Diana Vourron using water soluble film with fabric to make beautiful things like table runners and clothing. I'll do a short demo on making a thread bowl. Sit n Sew is scheduled for October 20 from 10-3.

November 3 is our auction! Your donations to the event is another's opportunity to get their Christmas crafting shopping done.

The September 1st meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Ida and related safety concerns. Quilts for ASK can be turned in in October. Our thanks go out to Debbie Quitquit for quilting so many of our charity quilts for us.

Happy Quilting, *Frances Engesser*



Crazy Quilters

Crazy Quilters meet on the first Tuesday of each month,, beginning at 7 pm at the Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church, corner of Atlee Road and Signal Hill Road. We also have resumed our regular mini-retreats on the weekend after our regular meeting. The next ones will be October 8,9,10, and November 6,7. & 8.

Until further notice, we are requiring that masks be worn correctly at all times regardless of vaccination status.

Jennifer Plate Johnson



More Quilt Tips

gleaned from old quilting magazines...

1. Print photos of your quilts the size of post cards. Write a message on the back, print mailing address, add postage and send to friends to wish happy birthday, get well wishes, or thinking of you.
- 2.If you don't have enough of a fabric you want to use as a binding (when cutting strips 2 1/2" wide) made do by cutting this fabric only 2' wide and other fabric strips cut 1" wide. Sew the strips together along their length creating a single 2 1/2" strip, fold in half and press. When attaching to the quilt place so the desired fabric will show on the outside and the other will be hidden behind the fold. Adjust widths to get different width strips.
- 3.If you like to make designs with chalk but don't like how it rubs off so easily, draw the design, then spray with starch and let dry. When you have finished quilting, brush off marks with a clean dry toothbrush.

Chapter News

WE Quilt

WE Quilt (West End Quilt) continues to have many volunteer hours adding up with the pillows for heart patients being made. As of the middle of August our members have made and delivered 74 pillows to the From The Heart Stitchers. All of the supplies needed to make the pillows have been donated and colorful pillow coverings are from our members "fabric stash". Our other project has been making quilt blocks for charity quilts. Christa Burr is chair of this project and has come up with delightful designs for quilt blocks, We are encouraged to make an extra block for a member raffle quilt. The winner makes that quilt! Our President Michelle Pease made attractive name tags for everyone using her laminating machine. Thanks so much Michelle!



Programs for Fall are : September- Quilts With a Story. Members who have older family quilts or quilts they have made with a story behind them will be shown. October program will be with Becky Wickline showing how to make an umbrella using an umbrella frame and your own fabric. She will have handout directions. November meeting will be Quilter's Yard Sale. A great way to make money for the WE Quilt group and clear out those unneeded, hardly used sewing notions and fabric we collect. All used items (except fabric) and minimal prices!! You can't go wrong and also may find just what you were looking for! There will not be a December Meeting since it will fall 4 days before Christmas. The Holidays will be upon us soon!! Join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, behind Tucker HS.

Dianne Finnegan



Piecemakers

Piecemakers chapter meets on the second Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at the New Bethesda Baptist Church in Mechanicsville. Our October 13th meeting will have a program by Phyllis Mondak of Quilting Adventures Block of the month animals and trunk show. On Nov. 10 Susie Rikard will lead a class on a Christmas table runner in 2 sizes. Each member should bring Christmas fabric for their project.



Our July fabric sale brought in \$3,609.75 for our chapter. A donation of \$400.00 was given to the church for allowing us to have the sale there. In August we had a "Shop Hop" attending the four local shops. The shops that participated were All Brands Service, Center, Bobbin & Bolt, Chadwicks Heirloom, and Quilting Adventures. Each participant received a "swag bag" from the chapter and each store provided favors and discounts making this a real fun day. The September meeting on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., September 8th, had 2 visitors and 21 members present. The July and August volunteer hours combined were 326.5 hours. Our guest speaker for September was Colette Boring with Penny Slate Designs from Boydton, VA. She spoke about a press and peel applique process she had patented and provided a screen presentation. Afterwards, there was a trunk show displaying numerous designed quilts with her product. To know more on her designs and tutorials, go to coboring@kerrlake.com She had several of her products to view or purchase followed by a question and answer period.

We continue to meet on the third Friday at the church from 9:30-2:30 p.m. for our sit and sew. Anyone can come to work on their project or a charity project. Please bring your lunch and enjoy social time with friends.

Alice Sandridge, Program Chair

Chapter News

Bits & Pieces met on Sept. 14 and were excited to have 15 members attend! So many faces that we hadn't seen, including Susan Jinnette who was deathly ill and hospitalized for six months! It was truly a miracle that she recovered and we were very glad to see her! We will have a sew day on Sept., with the Zoom Fall meeting being viewed on a computer while there. s



Our next meeting is on 12 October, 7pm in the lower-level conference room at Varina Library, 1875 New Market Road, Richmond. We are negotiating for a more permanent home and will have the info soon.

We continue to sell our raffle tickets for the whole cloth, white on white, hand stitched queen size quilt lovingly donated by one of our charter members, Arie Brandon. She is simply a gifted quilter and does most of her work, to include piecing, by hand. The drawing for this quilt was supposed to occur at the October 2020 Quilt Show, but after a long year we decided to finish selling the tickets and will draw the winner on 16 October.

Bits & Pieces will be fundraising on the following dates: Dorey Park, 9am-12pm on 25 September and 16 October. We will sell raffle tickets, baked goods and craft items. We will draw the quilt winner on 16 October at the conclusion of the Dorey Park Market. Dorey Park, 9am-12pm on 30 September. We would gladly accept donations from our sister chapters. :o) These dates should complete our fundraising activities for this membership year.

A huge shout out to Anne Wright for coordinating the booth at the Chesterfield County Fair. We sold about \$500 worth of raffle tickets as a result of this effort! A massive thank you to our volunteers Barbara Miler, Anna Williams, Martha Uzel, Amy Christopher, Janet Christopher, and Calvin Vonada for manning the quilt raffle ticket sales booth!

We have collected 18 pillowcases for the Virginia Treatment Center for Children and 3 Lutheran World Relief quilt tops. A lot of stuffing and donated fabrics from Janet Bettinger given to Easter Galloway for dog beds.

Our new logo is really an updated version of our long-standing emblem, the Varina Star. The Varina Star was designed by Arie Brandon a charter member of Bits & Pieces. Arie approved the digitization and colors for the final version after a round of membership voting. The logo was a combined design effort by myself and daughter, New York animation artist and adjunct professor at the School of Visual Arts, Courtney Vonada. The original block design was used for nametag construction and several members still wear their homemade nametags to our meetings. The updated version will allow us to easily create flashy marketing materials!

Lastly, our group is catching up on our block exchanges, something started in Barbara Vonada's first year (2019-2020) as president. Every quarter she would hand out a pattern and ask everyone to sew one block; at the next meeting we throw all the blocks on a pile and draw a name. Winner takes all! This was so popular that we often were able to break the pile into two and have two winners. Unfortunately, COVID put us behind and despite efforts to keep ladies motivated, our block assignments and exchanges was sidelined. Last night we turned in our house blocks - 8 total and the winner Diana Molnar donated them back to the group to use for a block packet to donate to the Charity Boutique at the May 2023 Quilt Show. I re-assigned the Maple Leaf pattern and we'll draw that one next month (October). I'll work my way back through my list with the Film at Five and Snail block exchanges occurring over the next few months.

Our motto: Sew one block because it's ONLY one block!

Barbara Vonada

Needlework History Notes from the TOT editor

One chapter in *Threads of Life* entitled Connections and it describes how some textiles become keepsakes, rarely used but “treasured for their sense of connection to a person, a place, a moment in time.” Author Clare Hunter tells how we save these things and pass them on to our children and grandchildren as evidence of whom we have come from, of who we are. And they are not just sentimental scraps, but as we are moved to stroke and handle them they may help us remember differences, our heritage. Cloth softens as it is handled, and it absorbs our touches and the odors that surrounded it during its making: sweat, spices, perfume, wood smoke. “Bury your face in a textile and you can nose up the scents of lives far away and long ago.”

This made me think of some of the many textiles I have in my own home and the stories or thoughts connected to them. I decided to take some pictures of some of them to share with you, hoping this spurs you to revisit some of your own textile treasures. To begin, at left is a picture of one of two



double wedding ring quilts (my sister has the other one) made by my Mother in the 1930s. As I child I often slept under this quilt, and when I was transcribing my Mother's diaries, kept during her college year through my birth, I learned some details about it. On October 29, 1932 she wrote "Started on my quilt tonight."

Keep in mind she was doing this all by hand... On the 31st she wrote "...spent the rest of the day cutting out quilt pieces." On Nov 1 "worked on my quilt most of the day & it is going to be beautiful!!" Nov 4 "worked on my quilt tonight & made 2 more circles for it." On Nov. 5 she mentioned making 2 more circles. Nov 9-" worked on my quilt and it has grown so much." Several more mentions of progress, and on Nov 17 she tells of going "out to the mills i.e., the textile mill in Greenville SC... so see about getting quilt scraps. On the 19th she noted that she had made her 27th circle. She has also been sewing clothes, working around the house and doing other regular activities, preparing for Christmas and frequently says that she sewed most of the day. Finally on December 20 she wrote "Finished the second quilt tonight. Two quilts in 6 days less than 2 months." Today this quilt is

very worn and fragile to use, but it means too much to me to throw away.

at right is another quilt my Mother made... actually a quilt fragment. When I dug it out of the cabinet when clearing out my parents' home I saved it although it was not in good shape and also is exceedingly heavy. The pattern is identified by Barbara Brackman as "Periwinkle." It is all hand pieced and hand quilted with a lumpy all cotton batting. It took up a lot of space and soon I cut it in half, gave half to my sister and kept this half. Why? I really don't know, as I am not going to use it in its current condition. It contains a great variety of fabrics from the '20s and '30s. But mainly I think I am holding on to it purely for the sentimental reasons, just as Clare Hunter described.

When I was digging out these examples I found some other wonderful textile treasures which I will share with you in the next issue.



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