



Threads of Thought

A Quilter's Exchange

We're
41 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

Vol. 41, No. 5 —Dec 2019/Jan 2020

Website Address: richmondquiltersguild.com

A Message From Sherry

Is autumn everyone's favorite season or is it my favorite because my birthday month falls smack in the middle? As quilters, we all probably appreciate the rich hues of the season. Living in Virginia gives us an opportunity to celebrate a gamut of colors and find inspiration for our art in the beauty of nature surrounding us "as the swift seasons roll".

This fall has been especially busy as RQG welcomes West End Quilters (WE Quilt) Chapter to the Guild. Many members from existing chapters enthusiastically spent time helping this dream become reality and it is encouraging to be growing the Guild with entirely new members as well. We especially appreciate Chadwick's generosity in providing a place for the group to meet. You can frequently see tangible evidence of the appreciation in the number of bags of fabric and supplies that depart with the members who shop before and after the meeting!

Here's a special thanks to the WE Quilt members who stepped up to take leadership rolls for the new chapter: Michelle Pease - president, Joyce Lillian Boschert - Vice President, Karen Hayes - secretary, Marcia Reeves - treasurer, Diane Finnegan - program chair. If you live in the West End, plan to stop by and visit at a chapter meeting for a big dose of enthusiasm. Meetings for November (19th) and December (17th) 10:30 at Chadwick's, are both moved forward a week to avoid conflict with holiday celebrations.

Enjoy the upcoming season and enjoy a cup of cocoa - or your beverage of choice as you finish up the gifts you're creating.

Smiles and good cheer, *Sherry*

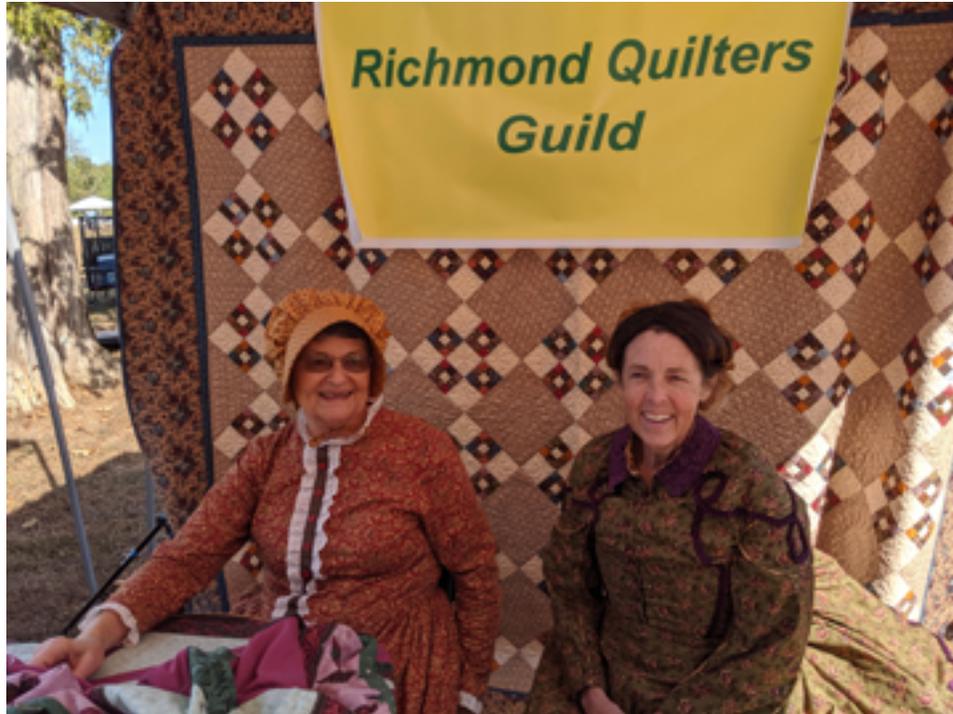
News from the Virginia Quilt Museum

On December 14 the Virginia Quilt Museum will close for the winter, but before that there will be a Winter Tea, Saturday, December 7 from 1 pm to 4 pm. It will be held on site with quilt historian Fawn Valentine talking about American Quilt history. Attendees are invited to bring their heirloom quilts to share, and you will have a chance to see the Museum decorated for the holidays. Tickets for this event are available on the museum website (\$40, seating limited to 25)



Do you have some VQM Admit One guest passes? Use them soon, because the style is changing, and beginning January 1, 2020, only the new VQÂ Guest Passes will be accepted. If you renewed your membership in 2019 and have old passes, they will send you new ones!

Deadline for February.March issue of Threads of Thought is January 13, 2020. This is the issue which should include chapter and Guild slates of officers, so please do include that information when sending news.



Back in October Nancy Buckland and Katia Simmons dressed up and represented the Richmond Quilters' Guild at Eppington Plantation!

Threads of Thought is published 6 times a year by the Richmond Quilters' Guild. Send news items, inquiries, advertisements and suggestions to the editor, Ann Shibut, at 804 Derby Drive, Richmond, VA 23229 or use e-mail: ashibut@comcast.net. Telephone: 741-1374 or cell, 276-591-8546. Newsletter deadline: 2nd Monday of the month. **For changes of address please notify your chapter treasurer.**

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Chapter News

Bits & Pieces

Bits & Pieces will meet Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Laurel Hill United Methodist Church in Varina. We will have our annual holiday potluck.

Please bring a covered dish to share with our fellowship. We will also turn in our annual NICU baby quilts for donation to the VCU/MCV Hospital's newborn NICU unit. Please bring any completed pillow cases and charity items. Don't forget Show n' Tell!



Bits & Pieces will meet Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Laurel Hill United Methodist Church in Varina. Program host is Susan Cook and program is to be announced. Please bring any completed pillow cases and charity items. Don't forget Show n' Tell!

Anna Williams

Crazy Quilters

Crazy Quilters will meet on Tuesday, December 3. As this will be our Christmas holiday potluck meeting, we will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church, corner of Atlee Road and Signal Hill Road. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Our program that evening will be our fabric exchange so if you care to participate, please bring one yard of quality quilting fabric in a brown bag.



The first meeting in 2020 will be Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church. Our program that evening will be brought to us by Ollie Morton. She will show us how to make the JOY wallhanging.

Crazy Quilters continues to hold monthly mini-retreats at the Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church. Our final retreat dates for 2019 are December 12, 13, and 14. Pending final approval from the church, as of January 2020, we will hold the retreats the same weekend as our monthly meetings. January dates will be January 9, 10, and 11. The price remains the same -- \$10 for one day, \$20 for two days, and \$25 for all three days.

Please join us when you can for good company, good food, and great quilting.

Piecemakers

December 11 Piecemakers meeting will be our Christmas Party and Brunch. Bring a dish. Alice Sandridge tells me the entertainment will be sweet and enriching. In lieu of gift exchange, we will collect monies for the Hanover Christmas Mother. Wear your prettiest Christmas frock and we'll have fun.



January 8, 2020 we will celebrate the new year with Barbara Kline's trunk show and class in the afternoon. All guild members are encouraged to join us. Susie Rikard is making the arrangements and you may contact Susie for more info.

Mary Noel, Program Coordinator

WE Quilt

WE Quilt (West End Quilt Chapter) is the newly formed chapter of the Richmond Quilt Guild. We meet at Chadwick Heirlooms, 12501 Patterson Ave, Richmond, VA, on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meeting time is 10:30 am -12:30 pm. (Note that the Dec meeting will be on the 3rd Tuesday, Dec 17th, rather than 4th to avoid holiday conflicts.) Please park around back at Chadwick's.



Our December 17 meeting will be a simple get-together for fellowship and fun during this busy season. Bring your own lunch and a hand project to work on, if you'd like. This will be a great opportunity to chat and get to know one another.

Our January meeting (Jan 28th) will be a New Year's Party, featuring a Sew Many Items Silent Auction. You may bring up to 3 items to be auctioned off. Proceeds will go to the WE Quilt chapter to help fund future programs.

Please join us and share in our excitement about our new chapter!

Polly Oliver for Dianne Finnegan

Chapter News

James River Heritage

Sorry, but James River Heritage did not submit any information about their programs for December and January. They meet on the first Wednesday evenings of the month at 7 pm, at Bon Air Christian Church, Buford Road. (Editor's note: I am sure they will delay their January meeting to the 8th)



Hospitality

Hospitality chapter meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 (social time) with business and the program beginning at 10. We meet at Community of Grace Church, 2240 Cranbeck Road.



On December 4 we'll again have our Holiday Party with everyone bringing covered dishes according to the first initial of their last name. (Sign up with Haxall or Gerri to assure a good assortment of dishes.) There will be a "Best Holiday Accessory contest, i.e., hat, scarf, jewelry, antlers, sweater, etc. Also please bring holiday related show and tell... it doesn't have to be new.

On January 8 (note: this is the second Wednesday... we don't want to meet on New Year's Day) Ann Shibut will tell how she goes about quilting on her domestic machine, even up to pieces size 90"x 90."

Haxall Ward



A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande-Jatte by Georges-Pierre Seurat. Read about it in the color article on page 5.

Tidbits About Colors

From *The Secret Lives of Color*.



Green

The colors red and green are associated with Christmas. I'll save red for a later *Threads of Thought* and deal this month with the color green.

This is a color strongly associated today with ecology and environmental politics, but it also is still used to indicate someone is “green with envy.” Many cultures associate the color green with gardens and spring. Muslims associate gardens with “Paradise” and so it was a favorite color of the prophet Mohammed. That is why green appears on the flags of many predominately Islamic countries, including Iran, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Surprisingly, the color green was not used often in ancient times. There was confusion about how the color was created. Plato insisted that green was made by mixing red and black. Pope Innocent III wrote in 1195 that for liturgical uses green would be chosen for holidays and Saint’s days when neither white, red, nor black are suitable “because it is a middle color between white, red and black.” It thus was not used then in the churches, and it never appeared in more than 5% of heraldic coats of arms.

Because we now know that green is the result of mixing blue and yellow we find this odd, but it’s more understandable when you learn there was a long-standing taboo against mixing different substances together. There were even laws prohibiting blue/black dyers to work with red and yellow dye substances. Anyone caught dyeing cloth green by dipping it in first woad (a blueish/lavender) and then weld (a yellow dye) could face large fines and perhaps even exile!

Artists had inferior green pigments until new copper greens were discovered by a Swedish chemist in 1775. It was still difficult to create a stable green pigment that would not blacken or had good tinting strength and luminosity. Look at Seurat’s *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* (see it on page 4), where the grass in places looks withered in patches; this was the result of “mis-behaving pigments.”

Perhaps these problems and misunderstandings contributed to green being symbolically linked with poison and evil. Since some copper pigments used in dyeing cloth and paper used to wrap baked goods, etc. contained lethal amounts of arsenic resulting in many deaths they weren’ completely off the mark. But there was also “petty prejudice.” In Shakespeare’s day green costumes were considered bad luck on stage. In 1847 “a French author threatened to withdraw his work from the Comedie-Francaise because an actress refused to wear the green dress the author had specified for the character she was to play.

(More interesting details about various greens will be covered in a subsequent column.)