



Threads of Thought

A Quilter's Exchange

We're
44 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

Vol. 44, No. 3. August-Sept. 2022

Website Address: richmondquiltersguild.com

What's Barbara Thinking About Now?

Two months down and I am humbled by all the talent that surrounds me. Not just quilting talent, but those that lead, organize, effectively communicate, participate, create, teach, and plan - to name a few. Linda Thompson and I were able to visit two chapters in our "official" capacity - James River and Crazy Quilters. I'm a member of Bits & Pieces so I'll count that as three down with two to go! It is my goal to visit as many times as possible over the next two years. I'll be watching for really cool events especially if there is cake or pie involved...just saying.

We've hit the ground running with our first official board meeting. The Fall Meeting on October 1st is shaping up to be a fun event! We officially launched the Quilter's Care Team led by Sherry Whitford and presented the idea for developing a Back-to-Basics curriculum to share amongst all the chapters. There's plenty of work to do and we discussed a lot. Check out the meeting minutes for a more detailed look at the workings and plans of your Guild Board.

I'm very excited about formalizing a team of volunteers to assist overwhelmed quilters or their family members. We joke about our fabric hoards, but only we understand the intricacies of our quilt rooms. Currently mine overwhelms me. I recently inherited a girlfriend's sewing room after she passed away and although I shared many items, I also kept a few boxes. I've gone crazy at Quilter's Corner with their going out of business sales and every time we travel, I stop at the local quilt shop. I recently discovered three bins of fabric and projects that I had removed from my sewing room during a previous clean out and never circled back to complete the organizing. I can barely move around the room and when I begin one organizational project it somehow manifests into three. I started to cut up my scraps using Bonnie Hunter's scrap system and before I knew it, I found myself creating an entirely new way to organize fat quarters! Oy Vey!

Does this sound like you? Please tell me I'm not the only one! What it would be like for someone to come into your sewing space without you there. Are your scraps kept together? Are your fat quarters organized? What about your projects? Do you have everything to complete one stored together? Do you hang completed quilt tops together? Do you keep your sewing machine service records in an easily identified file? Assisting with a recent sewing room clean-out reminded me that someday someone may be faced with cleaning out my sewing room. As of today, it would be an overwhelming job. My personal situation and the loss of my quilting friend has motivated me to push for a formalized team of volunteers to assist families of quilters in the event they are tasked with cleaning out a sewing room. Expertise, guidance, and even helping hands is what the Quilter's Care Team can offer. If you are interested in being on the volunteer list, please contact Sherry Whitford. More information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime look around and consider what you could do now to ensure an easy clean out of your own sewing room. Make a plan, reach out for help if needed, donate fabric and projects you no longer enjoy, and finish those long overdue ones. Just sew one block today and before you know it you'll have the entire top completed!

I hope you are all enjoying a relaxing summer and that the resurgence of COVID skips right over you and your families! My oldest daughter, her husband and their 7-month-old daughter are all sick with COVID. It's stressful since the baby is our first granddaughter but so far, their symptoms are manageable and no one seriously ill. If you are sick or know someone that is, will you please let me know? It's important to me to stay in touch with everyone, even those that can't join us at our meetings whether temporarily or long term.

I hope to see you in October! Keep on stitching! *Barbara Vonada*, President, RQG 804.433.9735

From the Editor: I'm Moving!

Dear RQG Friends,

I have been a member of the Guild almost from its beginning. I was its President from 1981-1982, was active in Friendship Circle and later in Hospitality chapter, and have been the editor of the Guild newsletter twice — 1983-84 — and again from August 1995 until today. I calculate that in those years I have produced 143 issues! That surprises even me.

But changes come, and it will for me this year when I move from Richmond to the little town of Fort Defiance, VA., (15 minutes from downtown Staunton). Age 87 it seems a good time to activate my long-term plan to live with my older son and his wife. They are moving this week (7/13) from northern Virginia to a big old house on route 11, and as soon as they are a little settled I will join them there. Many of my friends and acquaintances have rolled their eyes at this... "Living with your daughter-in-law? I see trouble ahead." I assure them that, while there certainly will be a period of adjustment, I have taken many trips with these two, to Europe and in the US, and we know how to get along very well. My DIL is a thoughtful and loving young woman and the two of us have also taken several delightful trips together. I will have a little suite of my own: bedroom, bathroom, and sewing room.

It will be hard to leave friends, my church, my doctor, my dentist, etc., but fortunately I will maintain contact with all of you, as Barbara Vonada has asked that I continue as editor of TOT and I also will continue producing Hospitality Chapter's monthly newsletter, all made possible by modern tele-communication. Of course this move means I will no longer be a physical presence at meetings, so it is more important than ever that you all send me your news, your items of interest to share with the Guild, photos, etc. **Please note that in planning for this move I have changed my email address to annshibut@gmail.com.** My old address is active for a few more months, but then it will go away.

I'm sure I'll find quilters in that part of the Shenandoah Valley, and in future issues of TOT I'll let you know how things are going. *Ann*



My new home

Fall Meeting Plans

The Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2022, at Shady Grove United Methodist Church. We are planning quilting classes, a jelly roll race, a "Freebie" table and a quilt fashion show. Our main event will be an introduction to the Hoffman Challenge and the sharing of many quilts that have been part of a Hoffman Challenge.

The entire day is free to you. This is an educational opportunity. In September you will receive registration information. You'll get all the details then. I am looking forward to your participation in this event."

Elma Cooper, Guild Program Chair

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: annshibut@gmail.com 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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Newsletter Schedule 2021-2022 Guild Year

The deadline for the next issue:

Oct.-Nov. issue- Sept. 12

I love getting photos and news which would be of interest to Guild members, so send them along at any time.

RQG Board Meeting June 26, 2022

The June 26, 2022, Zoom meeting of the Board of the Richmond Quilter's Guild was called to order by President Barbara Vonada at 2:01 p.m. Those present were Barbara Vonada, Elma Cooper, Sue Ann Bickert, Anna Williams, Sherry Whitford, Cathy Fibich, Karen Steele, Anne Wright, Donna Booth, Jennifer Johnson, and Ann Shibut.

The minutes of the June 5, 2022, RQG officer's meeting were read and a motion to approve them as read was made, seconded and passed.

President Barbara Vonada reported that visits to the chapters are underway, that she has prepared membership cards and will be getting them to the various chapters, that she had received ten free tickets to the October Quilt Expo and will distribute two each per chapter for raffling, and that she attended the Amelia Lavender Festival and sold \$400 worth of raffle tickets there. (The winner will be chosen at our May 2023 Quilt show).

Secretary, Ann Shibut, is tendering her resignation as Guild Secretary as she is moving from Richmond. She will continue to edit the Guild newsletter utilizing the internet.

The Treasurer, Anne Wright, reported a balance of \$10,985.29 in the RQG account, and a balance of \$11,512.97 in the Quilt Show account. She received a check in the amount of \$54 representing the money due back to the Guild upon the chapter's dissolution. She further stated that Guild membership now stands at 239.

Program chair, Elma Cooper, presented a draft proposal for the agenda of the Fall Meeting to be held on October 1, 2022, at Shady Grove Methodist Church. The day's plans include a Hoffman Challenge presentation, several class offerings, a fashion show of quilts, a Jelly Roll Race and Back to Basics. Scissors sharpening will be offered, as well as a space to "sit and sew" for those not taking classes. We will also celebrate the Guild's 44th birthday.

The President had sent copies of the revised Guild brochure and requested any necessary changes or corrections before they are printed.

Individual chapter reports were given with planned yard sale, charity quilt-a-thons, growth in membership among the details mentioned.

As a means to educate newer members and inspire additional members there are plans to create a Back to Basics curriculum which will be given to each chapter for use as they choose. Experienced teacher, Dianne Portwood and Bradleigh Barthel will be asked to chair this initiative and develop the program.

The President asked that each chapter send her an inclusive list of quilting and quilt-related events for the upcoming months which she will use to create a rolling calendar to be printed in each issue of *Threads of Thought*. These need not necessarily be guild-connected, but of interest to the guild or events that could better connect us to our community.

On July 16 there will be a Quilter's Yard Sale of the quilt items donated by surviving charter member, Ruth Ann Puckett, hosted by Bits & Pieces chapter at the Varina Ruritan site. Sherry Whitford moved that \$100 from the proceeds of this sale go to Bits & Pieces to defray their hosting expenses and a thank you for their help. Jennifer Johnson seconded the motion and it was passed.

Barbara discussed the advisability of updating/refreshing our website and she will work in conjunction with our Web Master, Marina Hernandez to accomplish this. Barbara is forming a new Quilters' Care committee to be a "quick reaction" team when help is requested by people who need guidance and/or help in disposing of a family member's quilting supplies for whatever reason (death, moving, etc.). Sherry Whitford agreed to be the committee/team lead. Barbara would like each chapter to send her an inclusive list of the charities that they have currently and previously supported. She would also like a list of those Guild Members, or former members, who are now housebound and unable to attend meetings or continue sewing because of infirmities.

In view of the next significant birthday of the Guild, Barbara asked the Board to be thinking of the desirability of changing or updating the Guild logo. Does the current logo identify us to strangers as a Richmond group of quilters?

The next newsletter deadline is July 11.

Barbara asked everyone to mark their calendars with dates of future Board meetings as follows: **2022-** August 28, October 23, and December 18. **2023** February 26, April 23, June 25, August 27, October 22, December 17. **2024** February 25, April 28, June 23. She remarked that all of these meetings may not occur, she would rather cancel a date than try to find another one when needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Ann Shibut, Secretary

Chapter News

James River Heritage

James River meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm at the BonAir Christian Church on Buford Rd in the small room on the left. Our Sit n Sews are on the 3rd Wednesday from 10am-3 pm in the big room. We do not meet in the month of July.



Our annual charity sew day is August 3 in the big room. Bring your machine, a project to work on and a smile. We will sew from 10-5. This is an ideal time to bring your unwanted fabrics in your stash to share with others to use. The chapter will provide a pizza dinner for our daytime worker bees. Regular meeting starts at 6:30.

The plan for the September 7th meeting is to have small crafts with directions available for Christmas presents and to sell at the Quilt Show next year. If you have a small craft please come share it with us.

Happy Quilting, *Frances Engesser*

Hospitality

Hospitality meets the First Thursday of each month at Community of Grace Church in North Chesterfield. We meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon.



We will have a Charity Sew-in Day on Thursday, July 14, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in our usual meeting room. Bring a lunch, a drink, and some of that fabric you bought at the June fabric sale. There will be a sharing table where you may find that perfect piece to complete your UFO. If you have an extension cord, please bring it. If not, there will be some available. Come when it works for you and stay as long as you can.

On August 4, our program will be "A Favorite Quilt," presented by members of Hospitality.

On September 1, Phyllis Mondak, owner of Quilting Adventures, will present a lecture at our morning meeting. She plans an afternoon workshop entitled, "Quilting As You Go In the Round."

Cathy Fibich

Piecemakers

Piecemakers meet at 9:30 on the second Wed. of the month at New Bethesda Baptist Church in Mechanicsville.



For the August 10 meeting, Betty Pompey will present a program on "Wonkey Houses". Our September 14 meeting will be our annual trash to treasures gathering..

Deborah Pinion. Programs

Crazy Quilters

Crazy Quilters will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday August 2nd at Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church at the intersection of Attlee and Signal Hill Roads with a social time beginning at 6:30 pm. We welcome interested people to visit a meeting before deciding if they would like to join us as a member.



In August we will be making hexagon shaped coasters with a kit provided for each member. Each person should plan to bring a fine hand sewing needle, a pair of small scissors and a spool of fine thread (the scissors and thread can be shared between friends).

For the September 6 program Crazy Quilters will learn to make their choice of autumn flowers or snowflakes. This is part of a program that was postponed from earlier in the year.

Each month, following our meetings, we hold a 3 day mini retreat on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The cost is \$10 for one day, \$20 for two days and \$25 for all three days.

Sherry Whitford



Chapter News



The Bits & Pieces Quilt Chapter will host a quilter's yard sale on 16 July at the Varina Ruritan, 8081 Recreation Road, Henrico beginning at 10am until 2pm. Funds generated will benefit the RQG Education Fund and the Bits & Pieces charity work.

The August 20th membership meeting will also be held at the Varina Ruritan and features a hotdog lunch after tense competition in the Quilter's Olympics events. The Ruritan doors open at 9am for coffee, conversation and to set up a sewing station (for Olympic competitors and day sewers). The formal meeting begins at 10am. The Quilter's Olympics events begin at the conclusion of the membership meeting. Lunch served immediately following the competition medal ceremony, around 12:30pm. Please bring a dish to share! Hotdogs provided.

Also on August 20th beginning at 1pm, Janet Christopher will provide guidance on the Snails Trail Al Fresco Quilt (see photo). If you are interested in joining this group, please email sewpurfect@hotmail.com as there is prep work required. This class / sewing group will meet again in September and October at the conclusion of the Bits Barbara Vonada, *Program Chair*, Donna Booth, *President*



Virginia Quilt Museum News

There's a lot going on at the Virginia Quilt Museum throughout the summer. New exhibits and several programs which require advance registration.



Reproduction of one the museum's 1880s quilts made to be raffled as a museum fundraiser. Tickets available.

Mary Beth Bellah's quilt form the exhibit "Seeing the Tree in the Forest" runs from June 21 through August 13. Feel the inspiration of the woodlands as you look at her pieces. Josephine Millet has an exhibit of a cross section of her work in the exhibit "My Quilting Journey by Josephine Millet." She began sewing at at 13 and eventually became an award-winning quilt maker. This exhibit also opens on June 21 but runs through September 17.

Workshops on creating quilt labels by Paula Golden and an opportunity to study appliqued quilts from the museum collection are two of the summer programs which you can learn about on the museum website. And on August 13 Suzi Parron, author of "Barn Quilts and the American Quilt Trail Movement" will give an illustrated presentation of her investigation of this phenomenon.

Learn more details and register online at vaquiltmuseum.org.

Our Guild History

A few months ago then Guild VP Elma Cooper suggested that a brief history of the Richmond guild be included on our website, and I recently sent one to the webmaster. To write it I referred to the Guild history articles which I included in *Threads of Thought* back in 2019. We have gained many new members in the three years since then and I decided to run them again, updating the information as needed. I gave the incorrect date for original publication of these history articles. They began in March 2003.

The Evolution of Chapters. (Updated & edited version first printed in TOT 3/ 2003) Almost from the very beginning it became obvious to the newly organized Richmond Quilter's Guild that they should split into smaller groups to meet the needs for different meeting times. Women working outside the home obviously could not attend weekday meetings and wanted to continue the Saturday afternoon meetings, while others preferred a weeknight evening time. Geography also played a part in the division, with the original group, named Friendship Circle, meeting on the north side of the river and a newer evening group [1980] meeting south of the James. They called themselves James River Heritage Quilters.

The Guild as a whole ordinarily met only twice a year: at a "Fall Seminar" using the format of the meetings which had so successfully provided momentum for the creation of the Guild, and at an Annual Meeting in the spring where the business of electing new Guild officers could take place. For a few years there also was a special "Summer workshop" offered when a particular teacher was available to teach. I especially remember one year when we had a teacher guiding us through Hawaiian quilting. The leaders of the Guild stressed the importance of the two Guild-wide meetings, so everyone and feel a part of the whole. The five Guild officers's main duties were to plan for and organize those two meetings, to prepare a Guild membership list, and to issue periodic newsletters to keep all the members informed. Guild Board meetings were relatively few. Details of how chapters would organize and run themselves were left pretty much to them, though early on it was decided that members' dues would mostly remain in the chapter treasury to cover the cost of their programs, etc., with a portion sent to the Guild primarily to pay for the newsletter. In 1987 the Board recommended and the Guild voted to become incorporated, and the constitution and by-laws were adjusted to gain approval of the State Corporation Commission.

As needs changed, more chapters were added. By 1982 "members of the Guild wanted a weekday chapter — added to for those not able to attend a night or weekend chapter." Hospitality Chapter organized on April 7, 1982, with 15 dues-paying members. A previously organized group of quilters in Colonial Heights decided to seek affiliation with the RQG. Colonial Quilters with 28 members became the fourth chapter of the Guild in September 1982. In May 1996, Colonial Quilters voted to withdraw from the Guild partly because it had become increasingly onerous for their officers to drive to attend Guild Board meetings and their members to come to participate in Guild events.

20 women formed Piecemakers Chapter in August, 1985 meeting the needs of many Mechanicsville area quilters. And growth continued with the addition of Bits and Pieces chapter in June, 1989. This east end group planned to meet in the evenings. They were followed closely by Country School Quilters who were formally added to the Guild in September 1989. Their members were drawn from western Hanover County and also chose to have evening meetings.

Following the departure of Colonial Quilters the number of chapters remained at six until Crazy Quilters organized and joined the Guild in April 2002. This active group consisted of 33 enthusiastic ladies from the Mechanicsville area. The number of chapters continued at a total of 7 until April 2013 when Country School chapter voted to end its affiliation with the Guild. Then in March 2015 Friendship Circle also left us. (Following the rules for dissolution which required them to dispose of the chapter property the members voted to give me their President's Friendship Circle quilt made by the members, including me, in 1982. Gratefully receiving it, it is on my guest-room bed).

The chapter total remained at 5 until the summer/fall of 2019 when quilters in the west end formed WEQuilt. Unfortunately, the arrival of the awful Covid pandemic in early 2020 played a large part in the early demise of the group. How could any new organization survive this disruptive and isolating disease? They struggled valiantly to continue until March 2022, leaving the Guild but hoping to continue as an independent quilting group.

Thus, in the summer of 2022 we find ourselves again with 5 stalwart chapters. Stay tuned to see what the future brings.