



# Threads of Thought

## A Quilter's Exchange

We're  
42 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

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Website Address: [richmondquiltersguild.com](http://richmondquiltersguild.com)

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### **A Message From Sherry**

There is nothing profound that I can write about this pandemic isolation time that multiple people have not already expressed more profoundly. So I'll begin by saying, "I miss being with my quilting friends! I miss the laughing together, the inspiration and the mutual help." But as creatives we are fortunate to have ways to keep our lives interesting even as we are required to isolate from others.

Many members have been helping hospitals, service organizations, retirement homes and friends, neighbors and family members by making face masks as well as caps for health workers. I'll attest that this is NOT fun sewing, but so worth doing. A real plus is that the number of volunteer hours in our chapter and Guild records is going to be astounding!

Looking ahead, your board has voted to postpone our quilt show - originally scheduled for October of this year - until October of 2021. Plans are continuing and the show committee will resume meeting in person as soon as that is safe.

Our exhibit at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens was curtailed and they are storing our quilts until I am able to arrange returning them to each person who had quilts on display.

When we shall be safely able to resume chapter meetings, as well as our fall and spring guild meetings, is still uncertain and disappointing, but "disappointing" tops "dead" in my book any day!

My prayer for each of you is that you remain safe during this strangest of times until we can find a comfortable way to be back enjoying our time together.

*Sherry*

### **Quilts at MidAtlantic Festival**



Not knowing how many members were able to attend the Mid-Atlantic quilt Festival in March it is worth passing along kudos to Polly Oliver (Hospitality) and Katia Simmons (Crazy Quilters) who had quilts displayed there. Thanks to Bobbie Stein who passed along this news, and apologies if we have omitted mentioning any one else who also had entries.

## Calling all quilters: it's time to sew for suffrage

*Disclaimer: Edith Fensom sent this to Mary Noel who sent it to me at the beginning of the year. I don't know if the challenge is still going on, but if interested, check with the Library of Virginia to find out...*

The Library of Virginia is issuing a CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS to quilters and textile artists for creative textile banners addressing the theme of Women's Suffrage to coincide with our upcoming exhibition, "We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia," commemorating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Our goal is to involve Virginia's artist and artisan communities in creative expression around women's suffrage and equality, both historic and current. Banner submissions will be curated and then displayed in the Library from mid-August through November, 2020.

Sizing and Preparation for Submissions: Banners should be sized between 18" to 22" wide and 24" to 28" tall. There should be a 2" pocket along the full length of the top so that the Library can insert a dowel for hanging.

Deadline for photo of submissions: July 27, 2020. Please send photos to exhibitions coordinator, Barbara Batson at [barbara.batson@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:barbara.batson@lva.virginia.gov)

Notification of Acceptance: July 31, 2020

Accepted work should arrive at the Library of Virginia no later than: August 10, 2020

To sign up and get more information, go to <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/quilting/>

## In Memoriam

Since the last issue of Threads of Thought there have been many obituaries printed in the local newspaper, and several of them honored some of our past and present members, and I did not want them to unnoted here.

First I must mention Kathleen Van Paasschen, a long time member of Hospitality Chapter who was in charge of its 50-50 drawing at each meeting. The Quilt Guild was by no means the recipient of her volunteer activities. She served her church in many capacities, she was an assistant at Westover Hills Public Library, a mentor at Greene Elementary School, she knitted hats and visited the elderly and sick. She died on March 16 and was well remembered at a Zoom service on April 18.

Mary Helen Kennedy's obituary appeared in the April 5 Richmond Times Dispatch. She had been a member of Hospitality chapter until recent years. Her love of quilting, along with other creative activities, was mentioned in her memorial.

Leonard Cake passed away on April 2. Perhaps a few of you will remember that Leonard was a member and a past President of Friendship Circle, the original chapter of the RQG. I have not been able to find the dates of his membership, but I recall that he was a delightful gentleman who did not hesitate to participate in what generally was considered a woman's activity. His obituary even mentions his hand piecing and hand quilting and that he had won some ribbons for them.

**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](mailto: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.**

### Richmond Quilters' Guild Officers

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## Editor's Note:

Since there is obviously not much news to share in this most unusual time, the "color" article will be a bit longer than previously. Enjoy.

The deadline for the August/September issue is July 13.

# Chapter News

## WE Quilt

*Dianne Finnegan, Program Chair*



## Piecemakers

*Alice Sandridge*



## Hospitality

Like other chapters, Hospitality has not been meeting, but Janet Bettinger reports that she has had turned in:

8 quilts for k9 for warriors

2 Doorways

10 total

Reminder: I know we are all diligently working on Charity Quilts. Labels may be made by using a Pigma pen on most fabrics. Simply write: Made with Love, Hospitality Quilters 2020



## James River Heritage

Other than cancellations of everything in the foreseeable future, I got nothing!  
Stay safe and stay healthy! Keep on sewing!

*Frances Engesser*



## Bits and Pieces

*Anna Williams*



## Crazy Quilters

*Jennifer Johnson*



Someday soon we'll all meet again.  
Meanwhile, keep those machines  
humming, and stay well!

## Tip Time...

A few ideas to improve and add consistency to your piecing:

When stitching keep your eye on the spot where the needle enters the fabric, not the needle going up and down.

Careful cutting saves time and insures successful alignment of your pieces.

Practice getting consistent 1/4" seams by sewing some 9 Patch blocks. Then, use your practice blocks to make a table runner: join them in a row, add borders and you have it!



## Virginia Quilt Museum News

Due to the Virginia governor's order for non-essential businesses to remain closed through June 10, 2020, the Virginia Quilt Museum has decided to reschedule its spring events as follows:

Summer Speaker: Betty Ratliff

Rescheduled to August 22, 2020, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Fragment Fabric Workshops

Rescheduled to September 19, 2020, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Bag Making Class with Lynne Daconta

Rescheduled to September 12, 2020, 1:30 pm - 3:30

**Please don't forget that unlike our neighboring museums, we don't receive state and federal funds, it is through private donations and sales that we do our work. Please consider making a donation to help us survive. Thank you!**



## Online Diversions

Did you know that quilter Alex Anderson has been offering little live one hour (approximately) quilting lessons on a variety of subjects via YouTube and the Quilt Show every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1 pm. Currently she is teaching how to piece various blocks part of a quilt pattern called the Sequoyah Sampler. In addition to learning how to piece, fuse, and press, etc., you will get a glimpse of Alex's life in California during this period of social isolation. Sometimes you get to see the results of Alex cleaning out her closets, her cat Sparrow passes by, you hear what's going on in her neighborhood, etc. Alex's televising skills are increasing as she learns how to manage all the technology involved and it is altogether a delightful and instructive way to spend a little time. The shows are archived and accessible on both YouTube and The Quilt Show and probably on Alex's own website.

Also, our local quilt star, Augusta Cole, has been giving mini-quilt lessons on FaceBook every Wednesday.. Something for everyone!

And for you music lovers, on Saturday, May 9, Ricky Tims had a 4 note composing challenge with Jonathon Long, keyboardist for the country music group, Lady Antebellum. In one week's time they each composed an original piece based on the notes Eb, G, Ab, and C. It was amazing to hear these compositions. This also can be found on YouTube by searching for Ricky Tims vs. Jonathan Long Keyboard Challenge.



## Splashes of Color

From *The Secret Lives of Color*.



Red



Have you been seeing spots before your eyes in the past three months... ugly, spiky red spots? Many depictions of the Corona Virus (COVID19) that I have seen both in publications and on television have been colored red, and for this issue of *Threads of Thought* I chose to write about that color which actually is a favorite of mine, making this a “red-letter day!” (The church used red to mark important holidays and saints’ days in their calendars... hence the saying.)

Author Kassia St. Clair in her book *The Secret Lives of Color*, began her general discussion of the color red by telling that a 2012 study published in a journal for the hospitality and tourism industry advised waitresses to wear red because, it found, when they did, male patrons increased their tips 26%. (No effect, apparently, on female tippers.) Psychologists have created many tests dealing with red’s influence on we humans. They found that persons being required to solve anagrams in tests with red covers performed worse than those with black or green covers. At the 2004 Olympic Games combat-sport competitors wearing red won 55% of the time, and in a study done since WW2, British soccer teams wearing red are more likely to be champions and finish higher in their leagues than teams wearing other colors.

People began dying cloth sometime between 6000-4000BC and most of the scraps surviving from then until Roman times were colored a shade of red. In fact, in Latin the word for colored (*coloratus*) and red (*ruber*) were used as synonyms. Egyptians wrapped mummies in fabric dyed with hematite and Osiris god of the afterlife, was also known as “lord of the red cloth.” Chinese today associate red with joy and good luck as well as the color of their Communist party. Red, the color of blood, is linked with the idea of power, and red dye cochineal was reserved by the Romans for their generals.. And, recall that the British sent their redcoats to fight in our American revolution. And in today’s (5/10/2020) *Parade* magazine an article on the “Outlander” TV series had a drawing of Bonnie Prince Charlie clad in a fancy red uniform. Red is associated with both lust and aggression; the devil is often depicted dressed in red, and poor Hester Prynne was forced to wear that “scarlet letter” to proclaim her sinfulness. Red is often used by companies in their logos and advertisements. Did you know that Coca-Cola is identified with red and white because the source of the coca leaves and cocaine (used in its drinks until the 1920s) was Peru which has a red-and-white flag?



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flag of Peru

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The book describes seven specific reds: scarlet, cochineal, vermilion, Rosso corso, hematite, madder, and dragon's blood. **Scarlet** is prized as a prestigious and powerful color worn by Charlemagne (who wore scarlet leather shoes when he was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in AD 800), Shakespeare (he was given 4.5 yards of scarlet cloth for scarlet livery to wear at the coronation of James I), Pope Paul II decreed in 1464 that cardinals should wear robes of rich scarlet. Mary, Queen of Scots, removed dark outer clothes to reveal a scarlet undergown as she knelt for her execution. Scarlet... the color of martyrs.

**Cochineal** to this day is made from tiny insects.. *dactylopius coccus*. It takes around 70,000 dried bugs for a pound of raw cochineal which is one of the strongest and brightest colors ever known. The Aztecs and Incas, among other Central and South American peoples, knew of cochineal dyes, and when the Spanish conquistadors came they wanted the cocci bugs almost as much as they wanted gold. Today the cocci beetles contribute to the production of cosmetics and foods. It can be found in M&Ms, sausages, red velvet cupcakes, and Cherry Coke (where it is disguised in the label by being called E120.) Until 2012 Starbucks used it to color strawberry Frappuccinos, but this ceased after complaints from vegetarians.

**Vermilion** is mercury sulfide and is derived from the mineral cinnebar. The Romans especially, loved vermilion which needs only to be ground to be useful. Early excavations in Pompeii uncovered one luxurious home containing a large room painted with a large mural with a vermilion background...an extravagant use of the dye. It was once as precious as gold. Medieval artists used it as their red in the gorgeous illuminations in documents such as the Book of Kells.

**Rosso corso** gets its name from a challenge by the French newspaper *Le Monde* in January 1907: Who is willing to race from Peking to Paris by motorcar? Automobiles were new with few models for the five teams that took on the challenge to choose from. Prince Scipione Rodolfo Borghese of Italy chose an Italian 40 HP model made in Turin, painted a "strident poppy red." After some 12,000 miles over dusty, tortuous roads drivers and cars alike looked much the worse for wear. Borghese's team was the winner and in honor of this victory his car's original color became Italy's national racing color, adopted by Enzo Ferrari for his cars, "racing red = Rosso corsa."



Ferrari race car

**Hematite** is basically iron oxide (rust). It is red, not a bright red, and prized for centuries. It was used in shipbuilding, medicine and even ink. It was used for printed titles that the Latin word, *rubric* comes from *rubrica* = red ocher.

**Madder** is an ancient dye-stuff derived from the roots of a plant. Fabric dyed with madder were found in Tut's tomb and in a paint-maker's shop in Pompeii. The Turks used madder to make the famous "turkey red" fabrics so loved by 19th C. American quilt makers.

Finally, **dragon's blood**. It draws its name from numerous legends, some from a 1668 sighting of a dragon in England. Earlier, the Pliny tells of India having rivers ooze the blood of dragons and elephants. The truth is that the pigment is a resin drawn from the *Dracaena* genus of trees. Because the pigment took forever to dry and reacted badly with white lead pigments its use declined "without a widespread belief in dragons to sustain it."