



# Threads of Thought

## A Quilter's Exchange

We're  
44 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

Vol. 44, No. 2. June/July 2022

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

### Introducing Barbara

My first public letter to the entire guild membership and I don't know where to begin. I have so many questions, yet I'm bursting with so much excitement! Maybe I should tell you about myself because my past experience may yield a better understanding of why I do what I do?

I'm an Army Veteran with service in Iraq. I work full-time at Fort Lee for Army Museums. I'm the wife of a retired Army Veteran. Mother to three grown daughters and grandma to a five month old grand-daughter. I started my Army career as a musician and transitioned to Human Resources which is my chosen profession today. I've volunteered all my life and give fully of my time, talent, and treasure. I'm of the thinking that all problems have solutions, but not all solutions can make everyone happy and sometimes you have to embrace the suck. You will often hear me say that "challenges are opportunity in disguise". I never have enough time to sew and I have a fabric hoarding problem. I love my four cats.

I have two major pet peeves - duplication of effort and telling me how busy I am. Two people doing the same thing because they didn't communicate or were poorly managed is a waste of time and resources. Drives me nuts! Telling me I'm busy is not breaking news - I choose, control and am very aware of my busy. My busy is never my excuse for being unavailable. I'm pointed and direct, a little rough around the edges, and I swear a little, but don't tell my dad!

I threw out my motto for the next two years - SURVIVE, REVIVE, and THRIVE. It's a simple motto that will keep me grounded and focused. We survived COVID and all that it taught us about ourselves and this organization. We will survive this transition in leadership. During the following months we will revive - revive programs, meetings, classes, volunteer activities, community relationships, etc. I anticipate the revive phase lasting through the tentatively planned May 2023 quilt show. This culminating event will catapult us into the thrive phase where all the hard work pays off. We will have a year of statistics to reflect upon for planning well in to 2024.

It's a lot and it's exciting. So while I continue over the next few weeks to get my feet firmly planted under me, I encourage you to take this time to hang out in your sewing space and sew a block. Just one block. I mean, it's only one block.

Sew it like you mean it, *Barbara Vonada*  
President, RQG



# Minutes of the 2022 Richmond Quilter's Guild Annual Meeting

The Richmond Quilters' Guild met for its Annual Spring meeting via ZOOM on March 26, 2022, and President Sherry Whitford called it to order at 10 AM.

The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$9071.79 and a balance in the Guild Quilt Show account of \$11,212.97. The Audit Committee (Jennifer Johnson, Linda Thompson, and Sherry Whitford) will be meeting shortly to audit the books.

The proposed budget as published in the April/May 2022 *Threads of Thought* was approved. Elma Cooper presented Anne Malcolmson (James River Heritage) and Linda Thompson presented Margaret Burke (James River Heritage) for Life Membership. Neither lady was there and will be notified at a future time.

Out-going Vice President, Bobbie Stein, told that she had made a quilt for out-going President Sherry Whitford in appreciation for her three years of service to the Guild. A picture of the quilt will be in a future issue of TOT. Sherry expressed her thanks, and then her appreciation to the Board and all the Chapter Presidents for their support and work.

The nominees for office were presented: President: Barbara Vonada, and Vice President- Linda Thompson. A quorum being established, the vote was held by a show-of-hands and these two were duly elected. Barbara spoke briefly, announcing that her theme would be "Survive, Revive, and Thrive."

The business meeting concluded, but in the gap of time before the speaker was on-line a discussion of suggestions for future meetings and Guild activities followed.

Elma Cooper introduced the speaker, Heather Kojan, who talked about UFOs - what they are, how to manage them.

*Ann Shibut*, Secretary

**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.**

### Richmond Quilters' Guild Officers

President	Sherry Whitford	787-566-1928 or sherry.whitford@gmail.com
Vice President	Bobbie Stein	804-364-5544 or bobbiemstein@aol.com
Secretary	Ann Shibut	804-741-1374 or ashibut@comcast.net
Treasurer	Anne Wright	804-520-1426 or anneqlt@aol.com
Prog. Chair	Elma Cooper	804-320-8773 or elmacooper@gmail.co
	Nancy Buckand	804-347-7674 or L2Quilt@hotmail.com
Web-master	Marina Hernandez	rvaguild@gmail.com

### Newsletter Schedule 2021-2022 Guild Year

The deadlines for the coming month:

**August-Sept issue- July 11**

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

# Chapter News

## James River Heritage

James River meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm at the Bon Air Christian Church on Buford Road in the small room on the left.



The June 1 meeting will be a bed turning. Please bring a quilt and a short story that you can share about it. We don't meet in July but will meet up again in August for our charity sew day and evening meeting.

The May 6 meeting was a program by our Debbie Q on how to make a Bargello quilt. All it takes is straight seams, itty bitty stitch length and a bit of organization. The May Sit n Sew was on Wednesday May 18.

Happy Quilting, *Frances Engesser*

## Hospitality

Greetings from the Hospitality Chapter! We meet the First Thursday of each month at Community of Grace Church in North Chesterfield. We meet from 10 a.m. to noon. Whether on Zoom or in person we have enjoyed excellent programs all year long. From mosaic quilts to zipper bags to a rainbow of hexagons, to the 9 patch humble workhorse....the list goes on and on.



On July 7 we will have our Charity Sew-In support of our many charities. August 4 will inaugurate a whole host of great new programs. Tune in to see when you would like to join us!

We look forward to seeing you.

Sandy Collins

*Sandy Collins*

## Piecemakers

Piecemakers meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at 9:30 a.m. for social time, and 10:00 for our meeting. We also meet the third Friday of each month for an all day sewing day.



On June 8 our program will be a demonstration on the "Britta Hoopster Basket" by Deborah Pinion. June's third Friday will offer a short demonstration of baby gifts, with plenty of time for charity quilts or work on individual projects. July 13 will be our annual "Shop Hop." And our third Friday short demonstration will be on key chain wristlet bracelet. Looking farther ahead, the August 10 program will be a presentation by Betty Pompey on "Won-key House" Quilt.

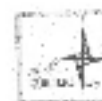
All skill level of quilters are welcome.

*Deborah Pinion. Programs*

*Tammy Weston. President*

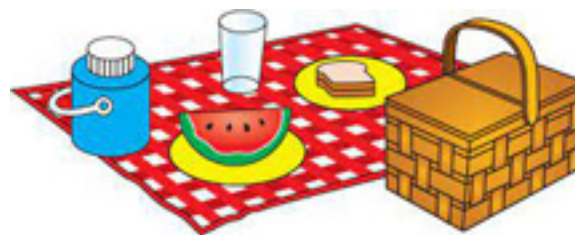
## Crazy Quilters

Crazy Quilters meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church, Atlee & Signal Hill Road.



At the next meeting Crazy Quilters will learn how to make 3-dimensional decorations to create seasonal banners/pennants to use for parties and home decorating with fabric or paper.

*Sherry Whitford, Programs*



# Chapter News



Bits and Pieces meets at the Varina Ruritan located at 8081 Recreation Rd., Richmond on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Doors open at 9am to set up your work station if you choose to stay for afternoon sewing. 10am membership meeting with door prize drawings, fat quarter exchange, a planned program, and show and tell. At the conclusion of the meeting members and invited guests may stay until 3pm for open sewing.

Upcoming Programs: May 21 - Upcycle (an easy raw-edge scrap quilt) - instructions provided in class. Need to bring a sewing machine, scotch glue stick for fabric, a 10x10 square (white or cream this is the background), and a pile of little scraps. You will leave with one block completed.

June 18- (TENTATIVE) Day trip to the Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg - the Ruritan is not available for us to meet so we will take our meeting on the road! Details soon!

July 16 - Work on Polaroid Block Exchange Blocks for August Drawing and learn how to fussy cut! Need a sewing machine and supplies listed at this link:

<https://myteaandbrie.com/polaroid-block-sew-along-guide-fabric-requirements-and-trimming/>

August 20- Quilt Olympics with Hotdog Lunch (bring a dish to share)

Polaroid Block Drawing

Barbara Vonada, *Program Chair*

## VA Quilt Museum News

The newest exhibits at the Harrisonburg museum have opened. "Something New is Looming" offers textile creations by nine local weavers. "The Rainbow Connection: The Colors, Pigments, and Dyes" features quilts illustrating how fabric has been colored from the 1850's to today. Both these exhibits end on June 18. "Modern Pop" offers works by the Winchester Modern Quilt Guild made in response to a challenge to create a 30" x 40" quilt using only two colors: gray background plus a "pop" color of their choice. AND, the "pop" color could only be in the shape of a triangle. See how 21 individuals answered this challenge. These quilts will be hanging until August 13.



The Contemporary Raffle Quilt for  
2022

Continuing exhibits include "Inspired by Endangered Species." And, a member of the Alexandria Chapter of Quilters Unlimited has donated a beautiful 66"x66" quilt as the 2022 Contemporary Raffle Quilt. Tickets are available for \$1.00 each with the drawing to be held on Saturday, December 10.

## **Richmond Quilter's 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. So here goes with the first "chapter" of our history. **This was originally published in March 2019.**

### **MARKING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR: WE WERE BORN.**

If you were a quilter in Richmond before 1978 and wished to meet others of like interests your options were few. The Virginia Guild of Needlewomen occasionally offered programs pertaining to quilting, some church groups quilted together, and more recently a small group of quilters had been collected to create two bicentennial quilts, one for the Valentine Museum and the other for Virginia Commonwealth University. But things were about to change. Several Richmond women attended the First Continental Quilting Congress held in Arlington, VA, in July 1978, and came home inspired to establish a quilting organization here. Participants in the first organizational meeting of what was to become the Richmond Quilter's Guild differ in their memories of exactly how this happened. One says that a notice was placed in the newspaper notifying those interested of the proposed group; others say that personal invitations were mailed to those Richmonders who had attended the Quilting Congress. Possibly both are true. In any event, eight ladies met at the home of Reverdy ("Ditty") Howley in 1978. These charter members were Ditty Howley, Marge Wolfe, Vicki Arnette, Ruth Ann Puckett, Frances Calhoun, Geneva Herod, Miriam Page, and Margaret Pecawicz. Everyone interviewed for this article volunteered the comment that Ditty was the real "spark-plug" for the group, and she became its first president.

It was agreed that in order to publicize the new group and enlarge its membership a gala quilt program should be held offering lunch and inspiring speakers. Accordingly arrangements were made to reserve the auditorium at the Thalhimers in downtown Richmond. Drawing upon talent from the Quilting Congress, Jinny Beyer and Marcia Aasmundstad were invited as speakers. [A personal aside: I had heard quilters at the Virginia Guild of Needlewomen talking about their new quilt group, but my life was quite busy and I resisted joining it until I saw how the new organization was going to turn out. My first experience with the Guild was attending the program at Thalhimers that day, September 29, 1979. I was so inspired by the speakers and the quilts that were shared that I knew I had to join.] Another meeting was held downtown on October 20, and then in November the group met at the Tuckahoe branch library.

Two of our charter members have passed away: Margaret Pecawicz and Miriam Page. Frances Calhoun moved to Lynchburg, but is a very active quilter whose work has won awards at Paducah and been pictured in many quilt publications. She occasionally returns to Richmond and gives programs to the chapters. The second Guild president (or Director, as that office was then termed) was Marge Wolfe. Marge was interviewed for this article and says she no longer does any quilting. Geneva Herod's health has deteriorated and she no longer is active in the Guild. Vicki Arnett's quilting is limited by her loss of vision, but she remains an enthusiastic member of the Guild. Ruth Ann Puckett continues an active and vocal member of the Guild, participating in two chapters. Of the 8 charter members Ditty Howley is the only one I have as yet been unable to track down. She moved from Richmond many years ago, but is said to have since returned to the area.

From this beginning the Guild has grown to its present size of over 380 members, and the original one chapter has multiplied into 7. Many similar organizations form, thrive for a few years, and then wither away from lack of interest. We can congratulate ourselves that the Richmond Quilter's Guild has not only survived, but grown, and can now celebrate 25 years of activities.

**Postscript:** *As of May 2022, Ruth Ann Puckett, who belongs to Hospitality Chapter, is the last surviving charter member in the RQG. She is moving to Williamsburg this month and is donating the bulk of her quilting supplies to the Guild to be used as we wish. Items and fabric will be distributed to the chapters as soon as they can be collected and divided as equitably as possible.*