



Threads of Thought

A Quilter's Exchange

We're
43 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

Vol. 43, No. 6. Feb.-March 2022

Website Address: richmondquiltersguild.com

A Few Words From Sherry

Actually, this is a few words from your editor, standing in for Sherry who this week was feeling a little bit overwhelmed. She has had extra duties to perform in caring for her husband who is just recovering from hip replacement surgery. Additionally, Hospitality Chapter called on her sort of at the last minute to facilitate its January Zoom meeting in view of the uptick in Covid cases. And on top of that, her laptop decided to freeze up and make communications and planning work as they should!

Every member of the Guild should give Sherry a pat on the back and a thank you for being such a stalwart leader during the past three years. The Covid crisis struck just when we would have been electing new officers, but in view of the unusual circumstances Sherry and all the other Board members as well as many of our chapter officers, agreed to continue in their positions, never dreaming that the problem would hang around for so long. Sherry helped get us get set up with ZOOM and has been the person (host) who has made our Guild and chapter ZOOM meetings take place. She has continued to be the public face of RQG. Who knows how many telephone calls and e-mails that has involved?

The widespread chapter membership probably does not realize that the Board has continued in the months since March 2020 to meet via ZOOM regularly, to discuss possible future plans for our Quilt Show, Annual meetings, etc. The chapter officers have also been faithfully working to keep the "ties that bind" firmly in place. When you see them, thank them for their efforts and, more importantly, volunteer to serve in their places in leadership positions so they can have well-earned rest!
AS



Guild Treasurer's Year End Report

Anne Wright, Treasurer of the Richmond Quilter's Guild, has reported that despite a year when, thanks to Covid restrictions, membership in the various chapters has dropped, the meeting limitations also resulted in fewer expenses for programs, leaving the Guild's finances in a fairly good place. The year-end balance in the checking account was \$9214.19, and the balance in the Quilt Show account, including the refund of our RIR deposit for the show that didn't happen, is \$20,727.16. If you have questions about the Guild's finances, feel free to check with Anne.

She also reported that current Guild membership stands at 309, well below previous years' numbers.



**Logo of the
Richmond Quilter's
Guild**

**The Virginia Quilt Museum
says:**

We're open, come see us Tuesday-
Saturday 10:00-4:00!

Exhibits on Display

What the Bees See: Botanical 3D Quilts by
Andrea Finch . Through Feb 9

**Hometown Girl: Appliqued quilts of Mimi
Dietrich.** through Feb 9

Treasures from the Vault: Art Quilts. Through
Feb 22

**Visiting Virginia by the Springfield Chapter of
Quilters Unlimited.** Through April 16



A Few Sewing Tips

1. Cut up ugly fabric into smaller pieces and spread them around your scrappy quilt.
2. A wooden skewer makes a great stilleto..fabric sort of clings to it.
- 3.Gray thread will just disappear on most fabrics.
4. Use a soap sliver to mark dark fabrics; you can see it easily and it does wash out beautifully.

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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**Newsletter Schedule
2021-2022 Guild
Year**

The deadlines for the coming month:

April/May issue- March 14

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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday and is healthy, toasty warm and busy quilting as we hunker down with the cold weather and Covid spiking.



Our January meeting was canceled for safety sake. Hopefully we will meet on February 2 for our Valentines for Veterans program.

JRHQ Slate of Officers (that was to have been presented at our January meeting) is President: Elma Cooper; Vice President: Jane Miller; Secretary: Anne Wright; Treasurer: Anne Malcolmson; Program : Sandra Armantrout, Kathy Morand, Frances Engesser, and Cindy Lyles

We met in December and had a delicious potluck dinner. We had a representative from ASK come to update us on their current activities. She left with a car load of donated quilts from our members.

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.

Happy Quilting, *Frances Engesser*

Hospitality

January's Hospitality meeting was on Zoom! RQG gift of Zoom to all of our chapters is certainly a blessing! We had a good business meeting, amazing show and tell, not to mention a great time of fellowship with one another.



February 3 will bring us TTT aka Techniques To Try. Four members of our chapter will share their expertise in a Round-Robin format. Can't wait to experience what they will share!

Speaking of techniques, on March 3 our speaker will be Heather Stockhard of the Bon Air Quilt Company. She will present a way of making T-Shirt quilts without using stabilizers. Interesting!

Join Hospitality at 10 a.m. the first Thursday of each month, either in person or on Zoom!

Sandy Collins, President

Piecemakers

Happy New Year to all our RQG members and welcome to 2022!



Piecemakers Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of the month beginning at 10 a.m. at New Bethesda Baptist Church in Mechanicsville.

We continue this month with choosing a slate of officers for 2021-2022 as well as making plans to review our total volunteer hours, charity organizations and quilts donated, as well as Blessing bags to various support groups in our area. We had 449 volunteer hours for December and will have a total for the next newsletter. The slate of officers is: President - Tammy Weston; Vice President - Debbie Agee (possible, depending on health); Secretary - Carolyn Lee and Sue Kochel; Treasurer - Chris Bell
Program Chair - Deborah Pinion

Our Sew Day is the third Friday of each month from 9:00-3:00 p.m. This should be a fun day of beginning the new year with a plan to get those UFO's to a manageable state. Bring a few, do them, and on to the next! This will be an ongoing project for 2022 and in no time at all some will be done! Let your motto be "one and done = won!"

Make a point to reach out to a friend you haven't seen or spoken to, listen to a new tutorial for an hour project, write a handwritten note to a member or new member. Do things that fill your soul! Look forward to a great year in 2022!

Alice Sandridge



Chapter News

WE Quilt

WE Quilt met last November at our usual meeting place, St. Martins Episcopal Church. Some members continue to make pillows for cancer patients and Arlene Goldberg discussed the idea of starting a Round Robin Quilt group. December was a month for Holidays so no meeting was held.

We hoped to resume our meetings in January but Covid/Omicron expanded so the meeting was canceled. We hope the weather does improve and the Covid does subside so we can resume our meetings for February. The February 16 program will be "My Beginnings in Sewing". Some members say they cannot remember back that far but we would like to have a show and tell of each person's FIRST(or there abouts) project in sewing or quilting. It is fun to share and look back on what we have done in the past and how we have grown into our current accomplishments. On March 16 we will work on a charity project but no sewing machines, etc needed . I have contacted Jill's Blankets and she provides the fleece and labels for making Fleece Coverlets for Chemo Infusion patients. We will cut some of the fleece, and she brings pieces as well with the edges cut in strips and members tie the edge strips in a "knot". Goes fast! Her org.has 4 or 5 areas in VA who do this and in the past 3 or 4 yrs have collected 4000 blankets. Another group has done this and they said it was fun, rewarding and easy. We hope our members will be able to join us in this project.

At TOT deadline, our slate of officers was incomplete. Come to the meeting to hear more about this.

WE Quilter's wishes everyone a safe and healthy winter. Remember we meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Martin's Church, off Homeview



In December, we celebrated with a holiday dinner gathering. Great meal, fellowship, fun and prizes! We collected 18 NICU quilt's, most made from our heart pattern challenge, to donate for the VCU neonatal isolettes. We had two tables playing "left, right, center" game and two winners that each took home 30+ holiday fat quarters! Along with a yummy cookie exchange, there were so many door prizes that almost everyone was a winner. A good time was had by all.

Effective January 15, 2022, **Bits and Pieces has changed their meeting time and location.** They will now meet the third Saturday of the month at 10am in the Varina Ruritan Club, 8081 Recreational Road, Henrico, VA. (Future dates/Note: Feb 19 location change will be announced; Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16, Aug 20, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17). This will enable us to have all day facility access for morning meeting/program and afternoon class and/or open sewing.

Proposed slate of officers: President- Donna Booth
Vice- Anna Williams; Secretary- Bradleigh Barthel
Treasurer- Amy Christopher; Programs- Barbara Vonada

Bits and Pieces will meet February 19 (location to be announced) for our annual fleece blanket drive lead by Meade Welch. These fleece blankets are made and donated by our members to the VCU Massey Cancer Center chemotherapy rooms and used to keep patients warm and comfortable during their infusion.

Bits and Pieces will meet March 19 at Varina Ruritan Club for a program presentation by Dianne Portwood with the American Sewing Guild on making a Candy Wrapper Tote. More details will be provided but start saving some candy bags and labels. We will make one with those interested in an afternoon sew along.

Anna Williams

Chapter News

Crazy Quilters

Crazy Quilters meets on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Mechanicsville Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Atlee Road and Signal Hill Road, in Mechanicsville. All styles of quilting and quilters are welcome!



Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2022, depending on the state of COVID. We may elect to cancel the meeting and/or retreat, based on relative safety and how many are planning to attend. Our January meeting and retreat were canceled because so many elected not to come due to rising case numbers and weather.

Should the February 1 meeting occur, our planned program by Phyllis Mondak is a demonstration of a circular quilt-as-you-go technique, with a follow up workshop on the Saturday of the following retreat.

If we go ahead, Crazy Quilters also holds monthly mini-retreats on the weekend following our monthly meetings. We are considering a SignUp Genius to gauge participation. If not enough sign up to cover costs, we may cancel. Upcoming mini-retreat dates are: February 3, 4 and 5, March 3, 4 and 5, April 7, 8 and 9. The cost is \$10 for one day, \$20 for two days and \$25 for three days. Please contact us for more details, or we will see you there! No reservations are required, you can just show up and bring a dish to share, if you would like to join the potluck!

Finally, we are still in the process of recruiting officers for 2022-23. Anyone with interest please contact Jennifer Johnson. As of this date, the proposed slate is:

President: TBD; VP: Jennifer Johnson; Treasurer: Suzanne Kampschrorer; Secretary: Laura [(Brewer?) She has a last name, I just can't recall it right now, but we appreciate her!]; Programs: TBD; Charity Angel: Kathy Skelley; Retreat Cherubs: Becky McGeorge, Ann Millican, Linda Barker.

Jennifer Johnson



Needlework History Notes from the TOT editor

One chapter in *Threads of Life* entitled Connections 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. In the last issue I showed two of my family quilts from the 1930s. This time I have another interesting item to share.

When I was growing up it was always such fun when Mother opened her big cedar chest. She had so many interesting mementos in it. There was one sewing-related item that always fascinated me, and I am happy to have it now in my own cedar chest. It comes, as many quilt and stitchery things do, with a story.

Mother's uncle — my great-uncle — for many years was a medical missionary in China, beginning in 1916 until the summer of 1941 when he and his family were forced to leave by a combination of occupation by the Japanese and family ill-health. During all those years they regularly sent gifts back to family members, and on one occasion my Mother and her two sisters each received ... I don't know what to call it, and a Google search has not revealed anything like it. Bound in calico cotton but made of paper, it is designed for storing many items, and my Mother and her sisters used them for sorting and storing embroidery floss. Each girl's "case" was a different color calico, and Mother's was blue.

It opens like a book to reveal little folded sections, individual small ones which then each open to reveal larger "pockets," and on and on. The folded papers remind me now of origami, though I did not know about origami when I was a child. Mother did keep embroidery floss in it, but for many years now it has been too fragile for me to use. It still contains a lot of thread, though. These pictures give an idea of it. Have any of you ever seen anything quite like it? If so, I'd be interested to know.



Top right: The closed "case."

Lower, left to right. When opened like a book, this is what you see. Each individual little square opens, then a pair of two open, and the middle picture shows when you open up four "squares." The right photo shows the largest open section of one side of the case.