



Threads of Thought

A Quilter's Exchange

We're
42 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

Vol. 42, No. 6 Feb-March 2021

Website Address: richmondquiltersguild.com

A Few Words From Sherry

As we head into 2021, it seems that the maladies of the past year are moving forward with us. Pandemics don't abide by our time designations!

Thanks to Piecemakers Chapter president, Jan Humphreys, your board has been able to meet throughout the pandemic by using Zoom. We have found it so effective that at our most recent meeting, we voted unanimously to create a one year account for the guild. The timing was right as Zoom was offering a 25% discount on a one year membership.

Some of our members use Zoom (or other platforms) regularly for work or staying in touch with far flung family member and friends. They are mostly comfortable with the format and have mastered the relatively simple learning curve either from experience or by watching YouTube videos on how to navigate Zoom. Yes, there are occasional glitches that require you to take a deep breath, acknowledge that neither you nor the system is infallible and say, "YES, I am willing to learn something new!"

The reward for the small amount of individual effort is the ability to visit with friends in the next-best way to being together (think FaceTime with lots of people). You're able to see each other as you chat and even hold a sew along or a guild meeting. Do you see where this is headed? YES - a Guild meeting! **We are planning a spring meeting for Saturday March 20th.** Program chair Elma Cooper is contacting teachers around the country and closer to home to find an exciting program for our first online Guild gathering. More information will be coming when plans are complete, and a few days before the meeting you will receive an email invitation to "attend" the event.

If you have not yet "attended" an online live program, prepare for an enjoyable experience. The lighting is excellent and you need not strain to see around the people seated ahead of you or to hear the speaker over the sounds of the friends who are gossiping beside you. Wish that you could see the details of the intricate quilting on the teacher's example? You can, because there will be a camera close up to show it!

General membership and board meetings are not the only avenues open to us for using Zoom. We are planning to facilitate individual chapter meetings where I would issue the invitation to chapter members, open the meeting and then turn it over to the chapter president as co-host to run the meeting. As a paid membership we are not limited to the forty minute limit of a free account.

Each of us has an opportunity to make our lives richer by learning and expanding our experiences. Will we make mistakes? You betcha! To quote the old aphorism, "It's not how many times you fall; it's how many times you get up". So I invite you to join this old dog and learn some new tricks. That's enough cliches for this letter. *Sherry*

Quilt Chair Resigns

After working diligently for two years as Quilt Show Chairperson, Lisa Adams has found it necessary to step down in order to give the necessary attention to her business. We appreciate the enthusiasm and innovative spirit that she brought to the planning. The Board is not actively seeking a new chairperson pending a clearer view of when it will be safe to mount a quilt show that the public would feel safe attending.

Program News

We're going to have an Annual Meeting this year, Ladies! Thanks to Zoom, we will be able to see one another, chat a little, conduct our annual business and have a program provided by a national teacher. Golly, that sounds great! Mark your calendars for the morning of March 20, 2021. Details, including guest speaker and time, will be announced soon.

Elma Cooper, Guild Program Chair

News From the VA Quilt Museum

The Virginia Quilt museum, like other organizations and businesses, has found it necessary to frequently reschedule programs and plans they have made and their monthly emails have reflected these changes. As is usual at this time of the year the Museum itself is closed to visitors, but the staff is continually trying to keep quilting, quilters, and quilt history available. In December they offered virtual talk video by Mary Kerr on "The Art of Making Do." Tickets to make the video available to viewer cost \$10 per person. The video was released on December 18 and was available to view at the time of your choice after that date. Check with the Museum to see if you can still purchase a ticket and hear from this award-winning Virginia quilter.



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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Have you noticed
we're getting older?
We turn 43 in April!

Chapter News

Crazy Quilters

This chapter has continued making charity quilts, and has been donating them to Hilliard House, a short-term shelter for families and teens in Henrico Chapter. You can Google it to find out more.



Bits and Pieces



James River Heritage

Happy New Year!
I hope your holidays were safe and as joyous as possible under the current circumstances.



Our chapter is once again unable to meet in person for the time being but we are considering a virtual option moving forward.

Stay healthy and keep on quilting!

Happy quilting,
Frances Engesser

WE Quilt

Michelle Pease reported that WeQuilt is now working in coordination with Stitchers, a local group that has organized an effective means of making quilts and, especially important in these Covid times, delivering them to groups still willing to accept them. This enthusiastic new chapter may be out-growing their meeting space at Chadwicks, but as meeting restrictions ease new arrangements will be made.



Hospitality

In September of 2020, Hospitality began what is known as a Quilt Round Up!



From the hours of 10-11 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, our regular meeting time, members of the chapter drive around the circular driveway at our meeting place to drop off quilts. They are asked to place their charity quilt in the trunk of the car along with a note indicating their name, volunteer hours and the charity where the quilt is being donated. Hospitality has a masked member that represents the different charities to gather the quilt from the trunk and the driver is on their way. We always have a good group of members socially distanced and masked, circling the driveway for a time of chatter while we wait for the next car.

One of the charities that we focused on was the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Christmas Mother. From September through December we were able to donate 100 quilts for the Senior Citizens registered with Christmas Mother.

We look forward to continuing the Round Up until we begin meeting again.

Sandy Collins, President

Piecemakers

President, Jan Humphreys says that cold weather has caused and interruption in their outdoor meetings, but they plan to resume them in March. They continue to make charity quilts for several different organizations. She mentioned especially the Hanover Adult Center and the West Point Convalescent Center.



Regarding Guild and Chapter Nominations and Elections:

This is the issue in which nominations for chapter and Guild offices are usually announced. In these unusual times when we have not been able to meet, as far as I know, all current officers graciously have agreed to continue in their positions for another year. Therefore there are no nomination announcements included for the Guild and Chapters.

Oops! Your editor forgot to include the minutes of the September RQG Board meeting in the last TOT, so they are printed here, followed by the minutes of the January 10 meeting. This brings you up to date with the Board's activities.

The Board of the Richmond Quilter's Guild ZOOM meeting, September 27, 2020, 2.P.M.

Explanatory note: Usually minutes contain only what was actually DONE at a meeting, i.e., votes, but no votes were taken at this meeting other than to approve the minutes of the August meeting. However, the secretary felt that especially when many chapters are not meeting, all the members should know what the Board discussed and is considering, so brief descriptions of those discussions are included here.)

(Those attending were Sherry Whitford, Ann Shibut, Sandy Collins, Bobbie Stein, Michelle Pease, Anne Wright, Linda Thompson, Jennifer Plate, Regena Young,, Nancy Buckland. Jan Humphreys, Lisa Adams, Barbara Vonada, Elma Cooper, and Kathy Morand.)

Sherry Whitford welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:10. The minutes of the Augusts 2, Board meeting were approved as corrected.

Chapter Reports: Linda Thompson reported that James River Heritage's first "live" meeting since the Virus was held outdoors in September with 19 members present reporting 39 quilts made for ASK and a goodly number of masks made to donate. Michelle Pease said that WEQuilt group had an outdoor meeting at St. Martins Church with many of their (now) 44 members present, plus one member's cat which is in training to be a therapy cat! Jan Humphreys said that Piecemakers is planning their first "live" meeting for October 11, also outdoors.

Lisa Adams and Barbara Vonada reported on their investigations for holding the Quilt Show at the James River Winery. The winery trimmed back their proposal drastically, and with a cost of \$6000 for one day only, which is what we have paid for the Richmond Speedway location for three days. They are pursuing other options, including Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (indoors and out, perhaps). They welcome suggested venues from other members. The consensus that we will likely need to scale back the size of our show when dealing with newer venues unfamiliar with Quilt Shows. They also asked that members continue to make items for a future boutique.

Treasurer Anne Wright reported that the Richmond Speedway has refunded our \$1000 deposit. The current Guild balance is \$10,870.94 and the Quilt Show account balance is \$11,689.36 for a combined balance of \$22,560.30. She also reported that the electronic directory has been completed and distributed to members. There will be periodic updates so that members can keep the directory current. The Directory contains only those who have renewed their memberships, which are good for two years, and those renewals or new members joining from now on will be paying for the usual one year membership. Nancy Buckland commented that her mailing list has been purged to reflect only paid-up memberships.

Regena Young gave an extensive report about Zoom memberships at different levels, their costs, what is covered, etc. Lengthy discussion followed with the outcome being to table any decisions on this until the next Board meeting, with chapters being polled to learn the degree of likely participation by members in potential Zoom meetings/programs. Board members felt they needed more information before the Board and the chapters could make decisions about Zoom and Regena will get some specifics to Sherry for dissemination to the chapter Presidents. Regena also told of the Global Quilt Connection which is offering on-line presentations by national and international speakers. Their next two hour presentation will be at 4 pm on September 30, with another on a date in October.

Elma Cooper and Nancy Buckland reported on their thinking about plans for the Annual Meeting in the spring, perhaps on March 20. "Keep it simple and local" is their thinking, with the Virus situation making planning so difficult and cancellation more possible.

(Sept. minutes, continued) Linda Thompson and Lisa Adams expressed the opinion that it would be good for the Board to issue a statement to the chapters suggesting that in view of the major interruptions during 2020 it would be very acceptable to request current officers to extend their tenure for one more year. Sherry will be appointing a Nominating Committee to search for the next Guild President and Vice President. It was felt that not knowing if these current office holders were willing to continue in office since they are now completing their two-year terms, it would be wise to begin a search so as not to be caught unprepared in the new year.

The next Board meeting, probably also by Zoom, will be on January 10, 2021, at 2 P.M.

Ann Shibut, Secretary

The Board of the Richmond Quilter's Guild ZOOM meeting, January 10, 2021, 2.P.M.

(Attendees: I am not sure I noticed everyone who was present. If you see someone I added in error or whom I omitted, please let me know.)

Those attending were Sherry Whitford, Ann Shibut, Bobbie Stein, Michelle Pease, Anne Wright, Linda Thompson, Regena Young,, Nancy Buckland, Jan Humphreys, Barbara Klear, Sandra Armantrout, and Elma Cooper)

Sherry Whitford welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:08.

Ann Shibut, Secretary, offered a brief recap of the minutes of the September 2010 Board meeting which were then approved. Subsequent to the September Board meeting Sherry Whitford and Bobbie Stein, current Guild President and Vice President respectively, agreed to remain in their positions for the coming year, meaning there is no need for nominating and electing new officers in those posts at a 2021 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Anne Wright reported the balance in the Guild checking account is \$10,861.94 and the Quilt Show account is \$11,512.97. A copy of the Treasurer's full report is included with the Secretary's minutes.

Old Business:

Sherry announced that she was delaying having more Guild book marks printed until more regular meeting schedules and locations are established.

Following discussion the Board decided to table selecting a new Quilt Show Chairman. Citing difficulty in setting a date for a show which might not take place until fall of 2023, it seemed sensible wait to try to make any plans.

Sherry reported that Zoom was currently offering a special 1 year membership price, featuring unlimited number of meetings for up to 100 participants. She is willing to serve as the host for Zoom meetings. Discussion which followed included how many other co-hosts might be needed, the possibility of chapters using the same Zoom license for their meetings, and other various details. Ann Shibut moved that the Guild purchase this special one year deal. Bobbie Stein seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Sherry will immediately work to get this set up.

Some chapter reports were given: Jan Humphreys for Piecemakers- the chapter met outside in October and November and will resume meeting in March. They had a good number of charity quilts turned in to several organizations (Hanover Adult Center, West Point Convalescent Center, Coal Pits). WeQuilt is working with Stitchers to make and distribute charity quilts, said Michelle Pease. Linda Thompson said that James River Heritage met in December and has a monthly newsletter to keep members connected. Hospitality Chapter also

(January 10 Boardminutes, continued) has a monthly newsletter and had charity quilt drop-off dates in October, November, and December. Crazy Quilters has been making charity quilts for Hilliard House, a short-term emergency shelter for adults and children in Henrico County.

New Business:

With the opportunity offered by the new Guild Zoom membership it was decided that the program chairs would pursue making plans for an Annual Meeting program for March 20, 2021, perhaps using a “name” quilter now offering Zoom programs.

The next Board meeting will be held on February 21, and will offer the chance to test our new Zoom account and to solidify plans for a hoped for Guild Annual Meeting Zoom program on March 20, 2021 .

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm.

Ann Shibut, Secretary

TOT Show and Tell Jan Humphreys sent two photos of quilts she has made "since Covid started." Wow...these are two impressive and detailed quilts. Do you have photos you can share of your work? Send them on please.

