



# Threads of Thought

## A Quilter's Exchange

We're  
43 years old!

Richmond Quilters' Guild, Richmond, Va.

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



### A Few Words From Sherry

A while back, I "agreed" to become president of RQG. Let's be honest, there's not a hot contest for this "top spot" as there might have been back in high school or college days. Now we have multiple commitments and demands on our time along with a limited amount of energy. My perception was that I'd run a few meetings and be involved in general guild activities. It seemed like an opportunity to get to know more members and better understand and facilitate our goals. And it has been, but with an unexpected bonus - requests that arrive through our website.

Many people find us through our web page and for those looking for a connection to a quilting organization, that page is a doorway to joining a delightfully positive and creative group of people. Each time I am able to pass along more information about our chapters and put someone in touch with a chapter president for more information I feel a glow at the potential for new friendships that will possibly evolve along with inspiration and creativity.

Recently, I received a request from a woman who had just moved from Ontario, Canada, to Richmond. WOW! My southern hospitality kicked in big time and I nearly drowned her in information about various chapters while asking in what part of Richmond she had settled. She was probably still shaking her head over my response when she replied that she had moved from Ontario to Richmond, CANADA! Our website is definitely farther reaching than I would have expected!

*Sherry Whitford*

### Fall Meeting Plans

We will have an in-person Fall Meeting this year! Hope you're as excited as I am about being with other quilters. After not meeting in person for two years, this is a great opportunity to get together. The Fall Meeting is not a business meeting but an opportunity to learn new techniques, enjoy the company of other quilters, and to see a lot of quilts!

We have gone through a period of flux and frustration. When planning for this meeting began we were at home and few things were open. We hadn't yet invested in Zoom, but decisions had to be made. I reached out to Guild members to make this event a success.

Our Fall Meeting will take place on Saturday, September 18, at Shady Grove Methodist Church and the morning speaker is Cindy Lyle. She will describe the procedure to take part in the annual Hoffman Challenge and show the many quilts she has created as a part of this challenge.

In the afternoon there will be three different presentations from which you select one. Anna Williams will demonstrate numerous ways to use the Rail Fence pattern. It is surprising how many options she has produced! Debbie Quitquit will share her expertise about in Celtic quilting. You'll be able to try your hand at this creative approach. Stephanie Edmondson will present a program on all those 'disappearing' blocks (4, 9, pinwheel, hourglass, etc.). It's going to be hard to choose just one of these offerings. Sewing machines will not be required for any of these presentations.

We will rely on "Bring Your Own Lunch" this time. It seemed to be the best option at this point.

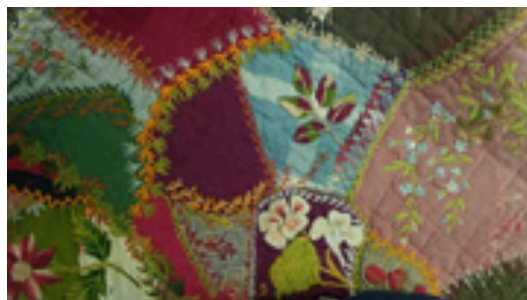
You will receive a registration form for general attendance and choice of afternoon activities at a later date. There is no charge for this event but we need to know numbers for planning purposes.

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Meeting on March 26, 2022. Heather Kojan will be our guest that day. Looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Meeting!  
*Elma Cooper*, RQG Program Chair

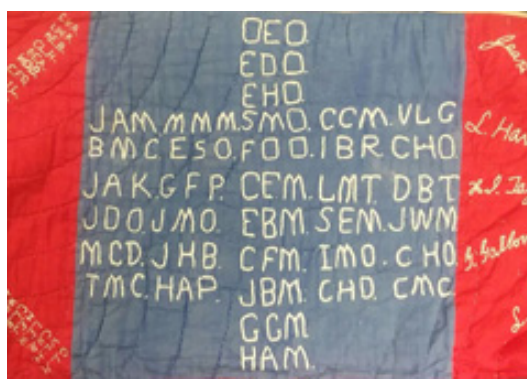
## Chesterfield Historical Society of VA to Present Quilts from the Past:

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia and Chesterfield Department of Parks and Recreation will open a new exhibit at the Chesterfield County Museum on Saturday, June 26 at 10 a.m.: Quilts from the Past: Memories and Traditions. The quilts, selected from Chesterfield Historical Society's Collection, will be removed from storage and **exhibited through December 31, 2021**. These treasures date from the 1850s to the 1970s, and document women's lives and their social, political, and family connections. Some are "planned" quilts that utilized purchased fabrics, and others are informal quilts, pieced together with leftover scraps of fabric that held special memories. Among those displayed will be quilts that were said to have been buried in a creek to hide the family's silver during the Civil War, crazy quilts, an African-American patchwork quilt, and a "signature quilt" that raised funds in 1938 for the Chester branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This quilt contains 340 embroidered names/initials from area residents. The public is encouraged to identify any of the names or initials that may belong to their ancestors. County Museum hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, excluding holidays. The museum is located at 6813 Mimms Loop, on the Historic Courthouse Green along Route 10/Ironbridge Road in Chesterfield. For more information

or to volunteer, please visit [www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com)



Section of a crazy quilt in the exhibit,  
c. 1900



Section of a WCTU quilt in the exhibit  
with signatures

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### Richmond Quilters' Guild Officers

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Web-master	Marina Hernandez	<a href="mailto:rvaguild@gmail.com">rvaguild@gmail.com</a>

## Newsletter Schedule 2021-2022 Guild Year

The deadlines for the coming months:

Oct/Nov issue — Sept13, 2021

Dec/Jan issue — Nov 8, 2021

Feb/ March issue — Jan 10, 2022

This last is the issue for slates of officers for the coming year in the chapter new if we are back to regular meetings. 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 6, 2021. 2 PM**

Sherry Whitford, President, called the meeting to order at 2 o'clock. Attending via Zoom were Bobbie Stein, Ann Shibut, Elma Cooper, Barbara Vonada, Sandy Collins, Linda Thompson, Jan Humphreys, Michelle Pease, Regena Young, Dianne Finnegan, Linda Killmeier, and Lisa Adams.

The minutes of the February 21 as corrected were approved. Treasurer, Anne Wright, was not present, but had sent a report that the Guild's bank balance is \$9748.22 and the Quilt Show account balance is \$11512.97. This report was also approved and filed.

Lisa Adams, former Quilt Show chairman, reported on the possibilities for having a show once more. She favors starting with a smaller show, perhaps sharing a show with another similar group. Finding a location is the most important step in order to have a show of any size. 8000-9000 square feet was the recommended space size needed and the spring of 2023 was the proposed date. Some buildings at the Chesterfield Co. Fair site were suggested as possibilities. A chairman or co-chairs for the event are also needed.

Linda Thompson made a motion that the Richmond Quilt Guild renew its contract with Zoom for another year. Linda Killmeier seconded the motion, and discussion followed. The motion was passed.

Elma Cooper reported on the Fall Meeting plans for September 18. In order to specify the meeting place a decision was needed regarding the choice between a morning program only or a morning program with lunch and small class/workshops to follow. After some discussion it was decided that the latter was preferred, with the lunch to be a box lunch for those who wished (at their expense), or others could bring their own. In September Cindy Lyles will be presenting a program on her long participation in the Hoffman Quilt Challenge. Elma also reported that she has engaged Heather Kojan for the March 26, 2022, Spring Program.

Michelle Pease made a motion that Guild members who are asked to present major programs to the Guild be entitled to a \$100 honorarium, and members who give shorter workshops or programs receive a \$50 honorarium. Elma Cooper seconded the motion. Following some discussion, the motion was passed.

Linda Thompson asked if there was a policy or regulation regarding chapters or the Guild allowing advertisements in Guild or chapter newsletters by members of their quilt-related services. This will be investigated.

The next Board meeting will also be held by Zoom, on September 12 at 2 PM.

*Ann Shibut, Secretary*

# Chapter News

## Hospitality

Hospitality's first in-person meeting since March 2020, will be on Thursday, August 5th, at 10 am.....and we couldn't be happier!!! **Please note the change of meeting day: because of schedules at our host church the Board elected to change our meeting day to the first Thursday of the month.)** Our program on the 5th is "The Best Ever (and probably the longest) Show and Tell"

We're looking forward to a wonderful gathering.

The September 2 program will be presented by Avery Quarles of All Brands Sewing. Looking forward to "Avery Does The Bargello Boogie"! What a perfect opportunity to learn how to make this amazing quilt!!

The Hospitality Quilters gathered in July for a USA "sew-in" to celebrate the men and women who have served our country. The day-long event garnered 12 completed quilt tops as well as several tops that were taken home for completion. These quilts will be donated to the VA at McGuire Hospital.

*Sandy Collins, President*

### A Quilter's Cheer



## Crazy Quilters

Crazy Quilters meet 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!

### Special Announcement:

**Our next meeting is on Tuesday August 3, 2021, at a special time! All RQG members are invited to a charity "Sit 'n Sew" with dinner provided! 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., please sign up (or text as per below) so we know how many pizzas to order. Also,**

- **Sewers are desperately needed, so please bring a machine if you possibly can.**
- **Please text your RSVP to Linda Killmeier, 804-824-4694**
- **Please bring your own drink**
- **If you have large pieces of charity fabric for backings, and wish to donate, please bring. Otherwise, all fabric will be provided from Crazy Quilters' charity stash.**

Crazy Quilters has resumed monthly mini-retreats **on the weekend following our monthly meetings.** Upcoming mini-retreat dates are: August 5, 6 and 7; September 9, 10 and 11. 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. If you choose, you can participate in our potluck lunches or bring or go out for your own meal. At this time we are not doing dinner, but that may change back in the future. We will have access to make coffee, tea and will have access to the fridge.

*Jennifer Plate Johnson*

## Bits and Pieces

No news was received from this chapter for this issue.

## James River Heritage

No news was received from this chapter for this issue.



# Chapter News

## WE Quilt

WE Quilt outgrew our meeting room at Chadwick's; we so appreciated the use of the room as well as being able to shop for their wonderful fabric after our meetings. Needing a larger meeting room, WE(West End) Quilt now meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month (no December Mtg) at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, on 9000 St. Martins Lane, just off Homeview Ave., between Broad and Parham and behind Tucker High School. We welcome anyone interested in the Richmond Quilt Guild, and/or just meeting other women who are interested in sewing and just love quilting and meeting others who feel the same.

This past June was a FUN as well as an INFORMATIVE WE Quilt meeting at St. Martin's Church on Homeview Ave. with nearly 29 members attending. We really enjoyed meeting and renewing our friendships in person after so many months on Zoom. Our Block of the Month Program was most well received at the June meeting so we will continue making 12 1/2" blocks, often with a theme such as red, white and blue star blocks for July. Christa Burr is the Coordinator for the project this year. The blocks will be sewn into a Charity Quilt by a WE Quilt member. All of the blocks were beautiful! We Quilt has selected the charity "From the Heart Stitchers." The July meeting involved all the members helping to make Heart Pillows for those people recovering from heart or breast surgery. Tricia Ennis and June Bosch, volunteers From The Heart Stitchers, attended our June meeting, showing us the many items they make as well as the Heart Pillows. We assembled kits with fabric, pillow filling and muslin during the July meeting so members can take the bagged kits home for assembly.

Our August 24 Meeting will have a program by Arlene Goldberg on making Flange Binding. Very attractive! On September 21, Leslie from All Brands Sewing Center will show our group the steps and good hints in making T-Shirt Quilts. She has made many and makes the process quite easy.

*Dianne Finnegan*



## Piecemakers

The Piecemakers chapter met on the second Wednesday, May 12th, at the New Bethesda Baptist Church in Mechanicsville with 25 members in attendance.



Deborah Pinion, our Historian, asks members to send pictures of completed projects of quilts, also of their sewing room for Facebook to her email address. She will enter them on our Piecemakers Facebook under the Search symbol. We want to know how you get inspired and what your happy place looks like daily.

On August 11th, we'll have our "Shop Hop" and keeping it local with our first stop being All Brands Service Center, the Bobbin & Bolt, Chadwicks Heirloom, and Quilting Adventures. Each business will have a "special treat" for us, provide a tour, and offer some great buys.

We continue to receive the numerous charity commitments such as the NICU blankets for VCU NICU Unit, string lap quilts for Henrico Rehabilitation Center in memory of Margaret Jenkins, along with lap quilts for UM Children's Home, baby quilts for East End Pregnancy Center, sensory quilts for VA Deaf and Blind Children, lap quilts, pillowcases, and goody bags for Hanover Adult Center. In May we had a total of 192 volunteer hours.

For the September meeting, a presentation will be given by Colette Rose Marie Boring of Quilter's Nook Penny Slate Design from Boydton, VA. She will present a patented press and peel applique method to be used for quilting, clothing, or home decor. Her company has inspirational projects and user friendly applications for beginner to the advanced sewer.

Someone once said "If life were just one color, how boring would that be?" Thank goodness for fabric!

*Alice Sandridge, Program Chair*

## Needlework History Notes from the TOT editor

During this past year plus when we were more or less isolated in our homes with most shops and store closed and locked most of us gave thanks inwardly, if not actually orally, for our fabric stashes and our love of sewing. Making masks to protect health care providers and our families and friends became part of our stitching vocabulary. Making a quilt was an especially welcome way to spend days when we could not come to meetings or visit with friends.

In the same way quilting and stitchery of all kinds as provided comfort and even as a means of maintaining sanity during difficult times, and in her book *Threads of Life*, Clare Hunter has told stories about this. In the chapter titled “Captivity” she relates the story of the 500 women in Singapore who were marched 9 miles to a POW camp, carrying their babies, holding the hands of the older children, and carrying the one small suitcase they were allowed.

Conditions in the Changi prison were “dire and dehumanizing.” Families were separated and they lived with the uncertainty of how long they would be imprisoned and whether they would survive. One woman suggested sewing as a secretive way to keep in touch with their husbands, housed in an adjoining camp. They would make quilts — “one British, one Australian, and one Japanese — the last a decoy to convince guard of their innocent motives —. They told them that the quilts “were humanitarian gifts to comfort patients in the prison hospital.” The guards were so convinced that they actually allowed one woman to leave the camp to purchase thread from a nearby market. Each woman was asked to embroider “something of themselves” into a 6” square. Each of the three quilts was made of 66 of the small blocks bearing sewn signatures and a personal image.



Scene in men's Changi prison, 1941  
Allied prisoners have been rescued  
Notice how crowded.. men in cells  
and also sleeping in the corridors.



One of these quilts is archived at the headquarters of the British Red Cross in London. The author contacted and made arrangements to go and see this quilt for herself. She wrote that she was disconcerted and almost disappointed with how pretty it was; it had pale backgrounds and pastel threads and many stitched flowers. She wrote, “trapped in the squalor of the camp, surrounded by the uncertainty, these women embroidered motifs that symbolized what most sustained them. They stitched patriotism, hope, defiance, and love.” Thanks to the wonders of the internet, I searched for Changi prison quilts and found this picture of it.

At the Imperial War Museum, also in London, she found another Changi POW quilt made from fabric scavenged from what little worn clothing available. They unpicked thread from worn garments, they sharpened blunt needles on the stone floors, and gradually created a hexagon quilt. “Despite dangers and difficulties 72 hexagonal rosettes were cut and stitched together” and each girl had signed her name in thin stretches of thread.

Doesn't this makes our months of home isolation seem like nothing at all to complain about? But again, what solace we can get from our quilt making.