

SHENANDOAH VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Notes from the President

Bev London shared with me this story from Sean Dietrich (blog: Sean of the South) – and gave permission to include it in the newsletter. I cannot write anything more inspiring than this, so enjoy ...

Last night the old quilting club got back together for the first time since the pandemic. Nine older ladies gathered in Denise's living room in rural West Virginia. They sat in a big circle, just like women did in days of yore. They had a kind of socially-distanced quilting bee. The group welcomed a new member into the fold. Andrea, who is 14 years old. She was the youngest in a roomful of women who were all over age 70.

The first thing anyone should know about quilting is that a quilt is NOT just a blanket. The women are clear on this. Especially not a patchwork quilt. Miss Denise, who founded this group 21 years ago, describes a quilt like this: "It's like building a four-bedroom house with a needle."

Miss Denise remembers her first solo quilt when she was 12 years old. She worked on it for a solid year using scrap material salvaged from her father's old clothes. She remembers laboring on this quilt while listening to the Everly Brothers sing "All I Have to Do Is Dream" on a record player. "I've been quilting for a long time," she says quietly.

On average, a large patchwork quilt takes about 100 hours to complete. Some quilts move quicker; others take longer. Either way, there is a lot more than just needlework involved in constructing the Great American Quilt. Denise tells me there's

CALENDAR

July

17 SVQG Mtg., 9:30am,
Sunnyside - Auction

July Birthdays

Margie Hockman	2nd
Josie Mott	2nd
Cerise Haas	4th
Dan Norton	4th
Kathy Christy	12th
Ofilia Harner	15th
Joyce Aigner	20th
Karen Jones	20th
Sandie Hammel	21st
Barbara Smith	24th
Carolyn Shank	28th
Linda Puhle	29th

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planning, drawing, gathering, cutting, arranging, sewing, fixing mistakes, and binding

The art of quilting is believed by some to date back to 3400 B.C. And to give you an idea of just how old that is: the Sahara Desert began to form around this period. The pharaohs used quilts. There is also evidence of quiltwork in ancient Asia. Medieval knights and men-at-arms wore quilted underwear beneath their armor.

Quilts in America probably arrived first during the 1500s, in the berths of square-rigged Spanish ships. By the 1700s, European colonists had made quilting our national pastime. Nearly all early American households had at least one heirloom quilt. But it wasn't until the mid-1800s that female American settlers took the simple craft of patchwork quilting and elevated it into a veritable artform.

No other people group has contributed more to patchwork quilting than the American woman. Quilting became what homesteading women "did." The practice of making a quilt was entertainment, a way to recycle fabric, a social event, it was a way to unwind before an open hearth. Headstrong women from nearly all ethnic groups, with their roughened hands and callused fingers, patched quilts together from swaths of old canvas, empty flour sacks, stockings, and any rags they could find. Many classic patterns from their era are the same patterns still widely used today. Patterns with olden names like "Churn Dash," "the Four Patch," "the Nine Patch" and the "Roman Stripe."

The women in my own family were quilters. My mother quilted. So did her ancestors. In fact, in my hall closet I have one such rag quilt made by my great-great-grandmother. To modern eyes this quilt is a visual disaster. There are no two fabric patches that go together. There are ugly purples, chicken-vomit greens, faded pinks, material from old sugar bags, scuffed denim, and shreds from wagon tarps. It's an eyesore. But to my family it is precious.

Because here's the thing. This quilt is probably about 150 years old. And here's something else that requires all caps: THIS QUILT IS STILL IN GOOD SHAPE. One hundred and fifty years of daily wear and the thing still works. Show me another household item that is half as durable not including pet rocks.

The oldest woman in Denise's quilting group is Wilma (age 88). I called her this morning to ask a few questions. She says her hands are gnarled with arthritis, but she can still operate scissors. Wilma recently received a vaccine and feels comfortable rejoining the group after a long year.

Wilma says, "I learned to quilt when I's 9 years old. Mama always quilted, so did Granny. It was just what we did back then."

Then she tells a story: "For lotta generations, girls in Mama's family would start sewing squares with a needle at, oh, guess around age 9. They did this each night till they had them a bunch of squares saved up. Mostly old family patterns from old Ireland and Scotland and such. Well, once a girl got engaged, she'd get her squares out and start piecing them together to make herself a big marriage quilt, and this quilt is what would cover her bridal bed. On Mama's wedding night, Daddy would've seen Mama's marriage quilt for the first time. And he wasn't just seeing a quilt, you understand, he was seeing Mama's whole girlhood."

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Wilma says the antique quilt still exists in her family. Not long ago, the heirloom was passed down to her grandchildren. And it gave Wilma great pleasure to point to certain squares and say, “See? my mama did this one when she was your age.”

At the end of her story, I ask Wilma why, after all these years, she still loves to help make patchwork quilts. “Oh,” she says. “I think it’s just a way of taking ugly old things and refitting them together to be pretty again. Sort of like God does with people.”

Shenandoah Valley Quilters Guild

Minutes

June 19, 2021

President Jane Crockett called the February meeting of the Shenandoah Valley Quilters Guild (SVQG) to order at 9:30 a.m. New and returning members were welcomed.

It was moved by Phyllis Hollowell, seconded by Linda Puhle and carried that the minutes from the May meeting be approved as published in the June newsletter.

Treasurer - Nina Jackson presented the Treasurer’s Report.

Service – Denise reported on the service quilt collection in May: 172 quilts, 35 pillow cases, 58 pillow/totes, and 36 drainage bags were donated to area organizations.

Ways and Means – Sue Jones updated the members about plans for the July Auction. The auction will be held in the Sunnyside Highland Room on Saturday, July 17th, with Denise Rudolph serving as auctioneer. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around. Sue will get in touch with volunteers in the coming week to confirm their assignment. Members are asked to assemble their donations attractively in baskets or bags. No magazines please. Invite friends. This meeting is open to the public. Nina suggested an outreach to the Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community residents.

Hospitality and Past President. Debbie and Linda are interested in ideas about the September brunch/social. It will be held at Hubler Lodge, Massanetta Springs Conference Center on Saturday, September 18th.

Newsletter – The newsletter deadline is Friday, June 25 at 12:00 noon.

After Show and Tell and refreshments, Terry Wiita presented the program on “Barn Quilts of Greene County.” She talked about the history and gave a handout and map outlining the barn quilt trail. Seven guild members who were present at the meeting toured the quilt display on Friday, June 19th and had a very enjoyable day.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Crockett for Cerise Haas, Secretary

SERVICE

It was great to be able to get together again and I am looking forward to meeting at Sunnyside in July!! This will be a great time to get some fabric for service quilts!!

Currently I am working on patriotic quilts. I am doing an eight inch (finished size) block using four patch pattern of white and red blocks and then alternating with an eight inch (finished size) blue “Navy” theme square. If I do 5 alternating blocks in each row and make six rows with a border around the edge this makes a

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nice size lap quilt and goes together pretty quickly. It takes 15 ea. of the two types of blocks. This works really good with any color scheme especially with a big print for the large 8” blocks.

A reminder of the lap quilt sizes – width 36” to 60” and length 45” to 60”. If you just want to make the top, give it to me and I will get it quilted and back to you the next month. Please attach your name on the quilt so I can get it back to you for binding. I do have batting and backing.

I have kits for pillow/totes and patriotic pillow cases. We are in need of breast cancer pillows/totes and the drainage bags because Augusta Health has been doing a lot of surgeries – **I will take these anytime!!!** If you need instructions, email me at drudolph@perryeng.com or call at 540-974-9782 and I will get them to you.

We will be doing our next quilt collection in November for Hospice quilts.

Quilting in the air conditioning!

Denise Rudolph
Service Chair

WAYS AND MEANS

Drum roll and a parade—we are back in our usual room at Sunnyside. And think, it is just in time for our annual (minus last year) auction. That means being cool and NO BUGS. Everyone look in your stash, ufo’s, projects not even begun that you will never do—package them up in a very pleasing manner and bring them for someone else to have and enjoy. Just remember that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure”. Invite all you’re quilting and or sewing friends. If you have not signed up to help, please get in touch with Sue Jones and she will find a job for you that you will enjoy doing. Also keep in mind the “apple challenge” which will be in October. There is still time to sign up for this. Get those thinking caps on.

Sue Jones
Phyllis Hollowell
Co chairman Ways and Means

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the August newsletter is Friday, July 23rd at noon. Please email any items to grahamvl@comcast.net.

Working on my scraps,
Vicki Graham, Newsletter Chair

NEWS FROM THE FAIR

from Bev London and Lori Schrock

The 2021 Rockingham County Fair will be held August 14-21.

Rockingham County and Harrisonburg City residents are encouraged to show their work from this past year.

There was a Fair Insert in the DNR recently (June 10th or so). For specifics about requirements and measurements for submission, you can also use the following link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dvo1MBvxKVm_3FR9iLGxHTVCsGL253nqDs3KdgUJjIE/edit

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Lori Shrock and Bev London will be in charge of intake Friday, August 13 from 4-7 p.m. Bev's company, Stone Hill, will be assisting with the hanging of the quilts, so they will be up nice and high - out of reach.

Pick up will be Sunday, August 22nd.

This is a great excuse to get the binding on that quilt that has been sitting, waiting for a month, a week, a year or ten...the quilt just needs to have been finished in the past year to be eligible.

Thank you, Bev and Lori for promoting and supporting quilting and the fiber arts and the County Fair Homemaking Division

SUNSHINE

Please call me if you know of a guild member who would be cheered by receiving a Thinking of You card/block. Please leave a message if I do not answer my phone at 540-867-9486.

Thanks,
Carolyn Shank

HOSPITALITY

We will be having finger foods at the July Auction...Yes, we can bring homemade foods again if we choose. We are expecting guests and would appreciate it if everyone, that is able, consider bringing a little something to share. Coffee and water will be provided.

Thank you,
Linda Quintrell

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Board Members:

President	Jane Crockett
President-Elect	Cindy Holland
Secretary	Cerise Haas
Treasurer	Nina Jackson
Program Coor #1	Terry Wiita
Program Coor #2	Linda Puhle
Immed. Past President	Debbie Jungling

Special Duties:

Facebook Facilitator	Debbie Jungling
Web Site Liaisons	Jane Crockett and Nina Jackson
SVQG/VQM Liaison	Jane Crockett/Trudy Van Dyke

Committee Chairpersons:

Service	Denise Rudolph
Ways & Means	Sue Jones and Phyllis Hollowell
Membership	John Hammel
Sunshine	Carolyn Shank
Hospitality	Linda Quintrell, Deborah Smiley and Shelba Bellamy
Publicity	Vacant
Newsletter	Vicki Graham

To join the SVQG, send \$25 annual dues and application to PO Box 913 Harrisonburg, VA 22803

PLACE OF MEETING: Sunnyside Room, Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community, Harrisonburg, VA

DATE OF MEETING: Third Saturday of each month unless otherwise notified

TIME OF MEETING: 9:30 AM

DIRECTIONS: From I-81 take Exit 247 towards Elkton (Route 33 East). Turn right on Route 687, Massanetta Springs Road. Proceed south for 0.8 miles and turn left onto Sunnyside Drive. Proceed straight and turn right onto Glenside Drive. Turn right at the first parking lot and the Sunnyside Room is on your right. Parking is available in front and below the building and on the street. Please do not park in the numbered spaces.

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PO BOX 913
HARRISONBURG, VA 22803