



*Mt. Vernon Chapter
Quilters Unlimited*



October 2021 Newsletter

Mount Vernon Chapter Officers 2020-2021

President - Dianne Tippins

Vice Presidents - Sharon McAuliffe and Helen Shaver

Secretary - Ginny Mayes

Treasurers - Sandra Kennedy and Kathy Watson

Nominating Chair - Martha Dyckes



President's Message

Wahoo!

Storage solution...

Sally Barber has graciously offered her garage for MVQU to store our items. So if you are storing 'stuff' in your garage or basement, please call Sally to schedule a drop off. 703-765-8052. Thanks to Sally!

Help has arrived!

MVQU has hired a porter to assist us with tables, chairs, bins, and navigating property. Her name is Josie Barnes. She has already proved herself valuable to the members' needs. We are fortunate to have her.

Thank you, Josie.

Farewell

It is with sadness that MVQU said goodbye to a wonderful talented quilter Pat Alfredson. Her obituary was at the Cunningham Funeral Home website. Her quilting has been featured in Traditional Quiltworks magazine. MVQU hopes to borrow one of her quilts to be displayed as a memorial quilt at the quilt show. Pat will be missed.

Refreshments

Mary Stauss is heading up the signup for refreshments. We will begin in October. MVQU has cups, plates, and cutlery purchased. Now just goodies!

Sunshine

Ruth Roush has volunteered to be the sunshine person. Please let Ruth know of any members who should receive a get well card or other appropriate greeting. ruthnnva@comcast.net.

Update

MVQU is meeting at Washington Farm United Methodist Church. So far it is meeting our needs. Ro Coller has offered an iron, ironing board, and cutting mat to have on hand to use. Thank you.

PROGRAMS will continue to be virtual through January.

Last news heard was Hollin Hall Senior Center may open in October.

Mary Mazzuchi, charity, has contacted Ronald McDonald house and other groups who will gladly accept our donations.

Mary Downey, Ro Coller, Rickie Frost and Dianne Tippins are teaching women to sew every Saturday for 12 weeks. The expectation is these ladies could start a business by selling items they make.

Bark and meow continues. Fabric scraps and batting are great for dog and cat beds. Donations can be dropped off at Dianne Tippins house, finished beds too! Since September, MVQU has donated 16 beds to the Alexandria Animal Shelter.

Sally Barber and husband continue to turn out masks. If you are interested, contact Sally.

Ginny Mayes continues to support Project Linus with many donations. If interested, contact Ginny.

MVQU membership is at 48. Great! We welcome new members or members from other chapters which have not resumed in person meetings.

Dianne

October Calendar — Note: all meeting times are 12:30 pm
At Washington Farm United Methodist Church (until further notice)

October 5 - quilting

October 12 - quilting

October 19 - quilting

October 26 – Program: Suzi Parron via Zoom

Charity Quilt Update & Storybook Quilt Program

Ladies,

Thank you for all the charity quilts you are making. The needs have certainly increased over the summer and we are receiving more requests. Hopefully over the next month we will be able to return to the senior center and all of the material we have stored there. We are hoping to set up more kits and possibly even have workshops. We will keep you posted.

In the meantime we have received a request to do the storybook quilt program at the Falls Church Library. For those of you who are new, our members made quilts based on children's storybooks about quilts or that have quilts in the story. We take the quilts and the associated books and show them to the children along with a

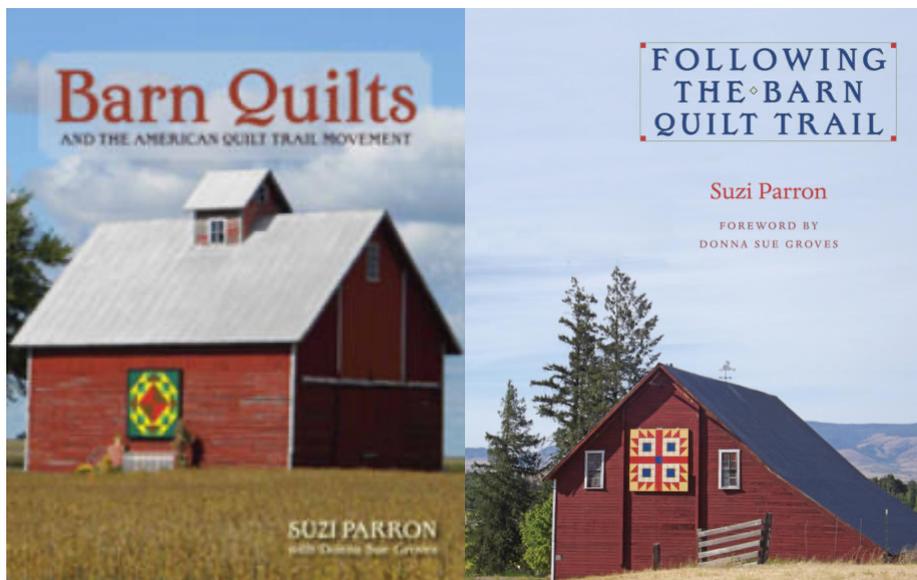
detailed explanation about the process from buying the fabric to the finished quilts. We have quilt patterns on paper for the children to color, muslin squares for them to make a quilt square and fabric squares for them to play with and design their own small quilt square.

Although I have gone out some, I am not comfortable going into a situation with young children, Usually the groups are 6-12 elementary school age children (and often their younger siblings) and sometimes their parents stay to listen too. I have told Meredith, the librarian, that I am not comfortable committing to a program at this time and will evaluate for next year, but if anyone is interested, I can give you her number and I will be glad to help you. The programs at the library are on Wednesdays after school and she is scheduling for December into next year.

Thanks and stay safe and well.

If you have any questions my e-mail address is mazzuchimw@aol.com or phone is 703 960 0569.

Mary



Following the Barn Quilt Trail-Suzi Parron

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 12:30 pm via Zoom

Suzi Parron travels full time by RV, speaking to quilt guilds, libraries, civic organizations--whoever would like to hear more about barn quilts! Her talk will take you on a journey along the quilt trail, beginning with the very first barn quilt, which stemmed from Donna Sue Groves and her wish to honor her mother's quilting art. The presentation features over one hundred stunning photographs of barn quilts, some of which rival cloth quilts in their intricacy. You will hear stories of some of the individuals who have painted quilt blocks to honor loved ones or their local culture, along with a few humorous anecdotes. The presentation is both informative and entertaining, as she explores the way in which our quilting heritage takes on new meaning as this movement continues to expand. For further information, visit her website at barnquiltinfo.com/index.htm.

Dianne shares these web articles:

<https://www.chatelaine.com/living/real-life-stories/my-pandemic-quilt/>

<https://www.marthastewart.com/7836632/traditional-quilts-around-the-world>

Minutes from Mt. Vernon Quilters Unlimited Business Meeting September 14, 2021

The meeting began at 12:28 p.m. with President Dianne Tippins greeting the group.

Dianne informed the group that Mary Stauss will be arranging the refreshments this year. A sign-up sheet requesting four volunteers per meeting for the remainder of 2021 was circulated. Dianne said that some cups, cutlery and plates had been brought to the church but that Styrofoam cups were needed for coffee. Ginny Mayes said she had some and would bring them. Coffee and tea were and will be available, but Mary is unable to lift the heavy water bottle packages. Jeanne Farmer said she would provide water.

The Mt. Vernon Quilters Unlimited (MVQU) members will meet at the Washington Farm United Methodist Church on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, with Zoom program presentations on the 4th Tuesday which would not require in-person attendance. The schedule of activities and programs is in the MVQU newsletter. There are two options for meeting rooms at the church, with tables, restrooms and a kitchen available in the meeting room in the education building. The room is occupied by Alcoholics Anonymous until noon.

There was no unfinished business from former officers.

The members of the group present who had not previously voted were asked to vote on hiring a porter to assist members with carrying heavy items to the meeting room and navigating the stairs, if necessary. Sixteen votes in support of the idea had been previously received via email. Six more votes in support of the idea were given at the meeting. Dianne indicated that she had talked to Kathy Watson and Kathy was seeking a response from "Big QU" regarding any insurance or documentation or financial issues related to hiring the porter. Kathy was researching the issues. Carol Allen indicated that she had looked through the Budget categories to find an appropriate line item for the expenditure and she thought that the Facilities line might be appropriate. Carol indicated that MVQU would need to change its budget to incorporate the expenditure. The MVQU budget was to be finalized and sent to Nancy Moore by September 30th. Carol indicated that there were expenditures in the previous year that would not be in the current budget, such as purchasing the backup hard drive, and paying the Hollin Hall Senior Center (HHSC), so she thought that the budget could accommodate the expenditure. Mary Downey suggested that perhaps the "Administrative" line in the budget could be used for this expenditure. Dianne mentioned that Sue Linden had sent an email regarding the minimum wage for the Commonwealth of Virginia, that the current minimum of \$9.50 becomes \$11 in May.

Dianne informed the group that Libby Dudley had raised concerns about the W2 and W4 forms and questions regarding liability. For instance, if the porter were to drop a heavy computerized sewing machine and damage it, who would be liable? Dianne said that many years ago, Big QU had hired George Mason students to set up the quilt show and that it had been like hiring someone to perform lawn service. She was not sure what Big QU had been planning to do for recent shows. The issue was raised that the current MVQU insurance does not cover the church site. Mary Downey indicated that, in the past, when MVQU members were at a retreat or

a workshop in a location other than HHSC, we just called it in to get a rider to cover wherever the meeting was taking place. Dianne asked Carol to contact Nancy Moore and inform her that MVQU was meeting at the church. The soonest that MVQU could expect to meet at the HHSC again would be October of this year. HHSC has updated the HVAC system and updated the restrooms, painted the walls, and has requested bids to replace the flooring in the exercise room that MVQU meets in. The South County Senior Center that previously had been located at the South County Government Center is now meeting in the former Islamic Saudi Academy building on Route 1, and maybe there is better space available in that location.

Ruth asked how much the porter was necessary at the church and at HHSC, and whether the tables were always set up as they were at our meeting or whether the porter had to set the tables up. The tables are apparently always set up in the formation that was in place (four rectangular tables abutted to form one large rectangle). Dianne also noted that the church building was not handicap accessible but that the porter had been trained to assist the elderly in navigating difficult terrain and stairs.

Dianne had brought a lovely small quilt in bright autumn colors and displayed it on the table. She said that many years ago, MVQU had a challenge in which participants put a focus fabric into a paper bag and passed it to another participant who added to the fabric to create a small quilt top that then moved to another participant for another row, in a "round robin" fashion. Dianne had used a sunflower fabric as her focus fabric. Dianne had brought her finished quilt to share because Pat Alfredson, a MVQU member who passed away on Sunday, had done the applique row on Dianne's quilt, so for Dianne, the quilt is a loving remembrance of Pat. Rosemary Collier had brought with her a lovely applique quilt with white flowers against brown and green "tree" background strips that Pat had sewn. Mary Stauss suggested that someone reach out to Pat's husband to see if he would be willing to allow Pat's whole cloth, hand-quilted white quilt be displayed at the QU show in the In Memoriam section. Cynthia White Johnson had sent all of the information that she had regarding Pat's passing. Additional links to her obituary followed.

Dianne said that Big QU was sending out a survey to QU members as to whether they wanted to have an in-person or virtual quilt show in 2022. The intention is to survey all QU members on the roster at the time of the survey. Veronica Abrams is the MVQU representative both to Big QU and for the quilt show committee.

JoAn Stout has graciously offered to embroider name tags for any MVQU member who does not have one and would like one. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those who were interested.

It had been brought to Dianne's attention that on the Quilters Unlimited website, on the page for MVQU, Martha Dyckes was still identified as the MVQU president. Martha herself must log onto the website and change the designation to Dianne.

Martha and Zoe Ann Brown and others have been storing large quantities of donated materials, in the absence of access to the storage closet at HHSC. Sally Barber graciously offered that she has a large room atop a three-car garage where these donated materials may be stored. Sally asked that the items be transported to her home in containers. Sally will be having back surgery in a couple of weeks, so anyone who has donated materials to store at Sally's should make arrangements with Sally for transfer of the materials.

Jeanne Farmer asked if MVQU members would be able to sew at the church, and if sewing machines and supplies could be stored at the church. Dianne indicated that storage space is not available at the church, but that if someone could bring an iron and ironing board, she would be able to find space for it. Mary Stauss asked if we could call HHSC and request immediate access to our supplies stored in the closet in Room 216, but if the supplies could be accessed, it was not clear where it all could be stored and easily accessed.

Ruth Roush will be the MVQU Sunshine person. Ruth sent a card to Pat Alfredson's husband offering condolences from the MVQU membership. Kathy Watson took a bad tumble and is recovering from a torn rotator cuff.

Mary Mazzuchi reported that she delivered Helen Shaver's lovely large quilt to Ronald McDonald House and they were very appreciative. They had specifically requested quilts that were 72" by 72" up to 92" by 92" to put on the beds in their renovated rooms, but they will accept all sizes of quilts. Sometimes they will send quilts home with families in need, especially if the family has children who are siblings of the children hospitalized or receiving treatments. Jeanne Farmer said that one quilt group is specifically making the size of quilts requested and has been cutting up fabric into kits for their members to assemble. Mary suggested that maybe MVQU could supplement with other sizes if the group Jeanne mentioned was already providing the larger quilts.

Mary has 16 quilts to donate (before she received additional quilts at the meeting) and had called her daughter Elizabeth's school, Ronald McDonald House, and the visiting nurses in Fairfax County. It is not clear what types of items United Community is accepting. During the winter, they only accepted quilts for babies, but Mary has not heard from the contact (Jean) at United Community. Dianne mentioned that United Community seems to be in flux. The thrift store on Sacramento has closed and a lot of their work with the community has been absorbed by the efforts of Rising Hope. Jeanne noted that United Community used to set up apartments for the formerly homeless and that they used donated quilts for that purpose but that there is very little that United Community is in the news for now. Tina Wujick mentioned that the Arlington chapter of QU donates to Love Quilts and to Bridges to Independence, but Bridges to Independence is also most interested in the larger quilt sizes. Mother of Light is always willing to take our donated quilts, regardless of size. Mary Mazzuchi said that she had split our MVQU donated quilts between Mother of Light and Ronald McDonald House but was always open to additional ideas of organizations that could use them. Ginny Mayes mentioned that she was an assistant coordinator with Project Linus's Fairfax County chapter and that some QU chapters, including Reston, donated their quilts to Project Linus, but as Ginny has been trying to help Mary with MVQU charity efforts, she felt it was somewhat of a conflict of interest to raise Project Linus as a possible recipient organization.

Dianne referred to the request for masks for the Afghan refugees and where to take the donated masks. JoAn Stout had made a dozen lovely masks to donate. Sally said that she had found the email regarding the donation location for the masks and would serve as MVQU's coordinator for that effort as she was making masks, as well. Tina was going to provide Mary M with the contact information for the charity coordinator for the Arlington QU chapter. Sally had made dog beds which she provided to Dianne for delivery. Dianne said that many of the shelters had been closed. Fairfax County was not accepting the dog beds at this time. The Alexandria animal shelter does want the dog beds. Dianne took 47 dog beds to the shelter, where they asked that she just throw the beds through the door into the hallway to avoid contact.

Mary Downey said that a lot of donated fabric that was not well-suited to quilting had been donated from MVQU to Mother of Light Center for the sewing classes that Mary and Dianne are teaching. The fabrics will be useful for sewing tote bags and aprons and other items. Ro Coller and Mary Downey and others gathered supplies for the class. Five young women are being taught to sew, with a translator assisting Mary and Dianne with their instruction. Three of the participants have completed their first projects. The Mother of Light Center had purchased sewing machines for the class, but the sewing machines were more expensive and had more features than necessary. There had originally been some intention of giving the sewing machines to the students when they completed the program, but that did not seem appropriate with the current machines.

However, two other, more basic machines had been donated for that purpose. Jeanne asked if we could take up a donation to buy sewing machines and Mary Downey suggested that might be premature. Dianne suggested that thrift stores sometimes have sewing machines for sale. Cathy Marciano suggested the website Buy Nothing as a possible way to find available sewing machines. Veronica Abrams said that she has an old Singer sewing machine she could donate, and Jeanne has a Brother machine she could donate.

Mary Downey said that the sewing class members had sewn Christmas stockings that they may be able to sell. They had requested to be taught how to sew aprons, tote bags and skirts, but must first learn the basics of how to sew. The eventual vision is to start a cottage business to sew and sell items. To that end, the original idea had been to have them take home their sewing machines when classes ended, but the organization had purchased Janome machines that were too fancy for that purpose. Jeanne requested that MVQU be informed when graduation was near so that the women could be celebrated and the donated machines could be sent to them. Mary Downey suggested that the students should probably sew on the donated machines for the last few weeks of class so that they are familiar with the machine. Lisa Coakley said that she speaks Spanish and has retired and may be able to join Dianne and Mary in teaching the sewing classes.

Helen Shaver reminded the group of the upcoming Zoom lecture by Scarlett Rose on September 28th on Celtic Quilts from around the World.

The meeting concluded at 1:48 p.m. Show and Tell proceeded from there, with Tina Wujick, Veronica Abrams, JoAn Stout, Ro Coller, Mary Mazzuchi, Barbara Zygiel, and Ginny Mayes showing quilts and other projects.

October Birthdays

Rickie Frost Lee Hofmann Kathleen Sander



This Is Your Newsletter!

Our next newsletter deadline is October 26. Send your articles to mvqu.news@gmail.com.

