



# Pieceful Times

January 2024

Vienna Quilters Unlimited

## President's Notes

Dear VQU Members,

I hope you are having a good beginning to your 2024. We have been approached by Sacred Threads, [www.sacredthreadsquilts.com](http://www.sacredthreadsquilts.com), who is looking for involvement in creating a robust Travel and Mail Exhibition. If you would like to represent VQU in this endeavor, please reach out to me so I can provide contact information. As you contemplate how to be of service in this new year, I would encourage you to get involved in VQU governance. As my 2nd year of Presidency winds down, we will be looking for someone to fill my shoes. There are other anticipated openings as well. Please set up a call with me or another Board Member to gain insight and see if this is a good fit for you. Although her role is in the quiet background of our chapter, I would like a shout out to Ruth Nowjack-Raymer as our Sunshine Coordinator for her positive thoughts and tangible cards. She sends timely notes to our members just when they need encouragement. I'll see you either virtually or in-person at our next meeting on January 16 at Thoreau Middle School.

In Sharing and Innovative Sewing,  
Heidi J. Graff,  
VQU President

## Upcoming Activities

Mtg	Jan. 16, 7pm	Diane Murtha, "Challenges I – Accept the Challenge & Win a Prize"	Thoreau & Zoom
Event	Feb 3, 3-5pm	Saturday Sit N Sew	Zoom
Mtg	Feb. 20, 7pm	Pat Speth, "Five Inch is a Cinch"	Thoreau & Zoom
Event	Mar 2, 3-5pm	Saturday Sit N Sew	Zoom
Rtr	Mar. 15-18	Spring Retreat	Claggett Ctr.
Mtg.	Mar. 19, 7pm	Lea McComas, "Making Faces with Lea McComas"	Thoreau & Zoom
Event	Apr 6, 3-5pm	Saturday Sit N Sew	Zoom
Mtg.	Apr. 16, 7pm	Ellen Lindner, "Confessions of a Fabric Whisperer"	Thoreau & Zoom
Event	May 4, 3-5pm	Saturday Sit N Sew	Zoom

Mtg.	May 21, 7pm	Beth Helfter, "Accordion Sewn HSTs"	Thoreau & Zoom
Event	Jun 1, 3-5pm	Saturday Sit N Sew	Zoom
Mtg.	Jun 18	End of Quilt Year Celebration	TBD

### **Information on Meeting Place at Thoreau Middle School**

Most of our meetings take place at Thoreau Middle School in Eagle Hall - 2505 Cedar Lane in Vienna. Our programs start at 7pm but feel free to come at 6:30 to socialize. Please enter through Door 8 on the backside of the school.

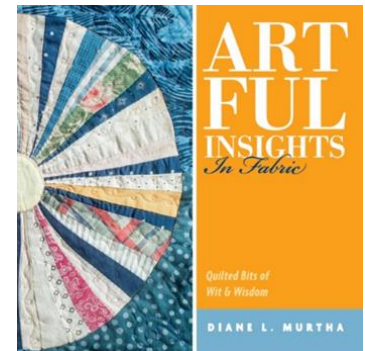
### **Doldrum Project**

January got you down? Need a post-holiday pick me up? Think PINK! Make some heart coasters for all your friends <https://quiltingdigest.com/display-these-pretty-coasters-for-valentines-day/> or this lovely mini quilt pattern from Cluck Cluck Sew <https://cluckclucksewshop.com/collections/pdf-patterns/products/i-heart-you-mini-quilt-free-pdf-pattern>

Valentines not your thing? How about some stacking containers? <http://quiltingdigest.com/sew-it-yourself-stacking-fabric-boxes-are-so-handy/>

### **January 2024 Program**

This month we are pleased to have Diane Murtha present on "Challenges I – Accept the Challenge & Win a Prize". Diane will provide an informative and humorous perspective on her quilt challenge experiences, including a trunk and slide show. She'll discuss what she has learned from various challenges, other ways to challenge yourself and sources of inspiration. And most importantly how challenges can expand your quilting skills and inspire all your quilting!



Some of you may know Diane as she has previously held several positions in Burke QU and most recently has released a book, "Artful Insights In Fabric". This book has 40 full-color quilts that blend traditional and modern techniques in original contemporary designs. The book is more than just a showcase of beautiful textile pieces - it's a personal journey that reveals Diane's delusions of grandeur, successes, and failures, along with the stories that inspired each quilt.

### **Future Workshops**

No workshops are currently scheduled, but there are several possibilities depending on member interest. Please check out (and sign up for) proposed workshops using [the Workshop Interest Sheet link](#) included in the newsletter email body. When we have enough interest in a particular workshop we'll get it scheduled. Contact Vicky if you have ideas for other workshops or any questions. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fFGBLviT2nNZ\\_R84vyRQzXUzFDP0X8V6/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=101150277011133228228&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fFGBLviT2nNZ_R84vyRQzXUzFDP0X8V6/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=101150277011133228228&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### **Retreat Update**

Join us for a long weekend full of sewing and solidarity and creation. There are still retreat spaces available. The deadline for changing the room reservation at Claggetts is early February so get your paperwork in to Karla by the end of the month.

## **Raffle Quilt**

There's still time to buy your raffle tickets—and to ask your friends to join you! Get raffle tickets to sell from Stephanie at the meeting.

## **Sunshine**

Many of us recently enjoyed 1st Stage's ([1st Stage](#)) production of "Quilters", a musical that was based on the book "The Quilters: Women and Domestic Arts" that recounted the history of pioneer life from the diaries and letters of women quilters living on the plains in the mid-late 19th century. We've all been told how important it is to label our quilts, but have you ever wondered if there's an easy way to make available to future generations interesting stories about the quilts we've made or inherited?

At the New Year's Eve zoom meeting of the Virginia Consortium of Quilters ( [VCQ - Virginia Consortium of Quilters](#)), a representative of the Quilt Alliance ( [Quilt Alliance | Document, Preserve, Share](#)) made a presentation about its 30 year history as a non-profit organization whose mission is to document, preserve, and share stories of quilts and quiltmakers. One of its themes is "no more anonymous quilters".

Through one of its projects, called "The Quilters' S.O.S. - Save Our Stories", volunteers have interviewed over 1,200 quiltmakers, and now these stories are permanently archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. In addition to the in-depth interviews, a project called "Go Tell It" encourages guilds, bees and the quilting community to record 3 minute, individual videos with members about their quilts. The short videos are available to enjoy on the Quilt Alliance website, along with easy instructions on how to conduct recording sessions (interested?), and information about their podcasts and e-newsletters.

## **Membership**

We are excited to have 80 members! Keep spreading the word about how much fun it is to be a VQU member. We are planning some events so that our new members can get to know each other later in January and perhaps other times throughout the year.

## **Board Minutes**

VQU Board Meeting: Meeting called to order via Zoom at 7:00 on January 2, 2024

Attendees: Heidi Graff; Karla Vernon; Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, Audrey Mirsky; Jennifer Pickens, Stephanie Bridgewater

- Sacred Threads: Heidi will put it into her article for the newsletter.
- Retreat: Karla
  - Currently 30 people going.
  - Currently have 5 vacancies (have 35 reservations)
  - 4 people say they are interested but have not yet paid.
  - Invitation has already gone out to big QU.
  - We must submit final attendance numbers to Clagget 15 days before the event.
- Newsletter: No news
- Community Service: Quilters Studio has donated a LOT of fabric. Dennise and Deb have been notified. It will be brought to the next meeting to give to Deb and Denise.

- Membership: No new members this month. Audrey will try to set up new member events. (Heidi's house? The Caboose?) Audrey & Heidi will discuss dates. Karla wants to help. Ruth offered to bake.
- Diane Kirkhart will host the January sit 'n sew zoom.
- Board Meeting dates: Heidi will double check that dates in the newsletter are correct. March board meeting is March 5
- Treasury: Jennifer: No bank statement until tomorrow; everything is going as planned.
- Nominations: Need to start recruiting new officers now.
  - Elected positions
    - President: needs to step down
    - Program (Vice President):
    - Nominating:
    - Treasurer: Jennifer Pickens (possible protege who will take over the position in 2024-2025)
    - Secretary:
  - Volunteer Positions
    - Web
    - Newsletter: Karen will continue unless someone else wants it
    - Membership: Audrey will continue unless someone else wants it
    - Outreach: Stephanie is willing to continue
    - Community Service
    - Block of the month
    - Fundraising
    - Spring Retreat
    - Historian: Karla will continue
    - Sunshine: Ruth will continue
    - Zoom Master as possible new position
- Program Updates
- Raffle updates
  - Drawing is March 19
  - Janet Marney is taking the quilt to Fairfax
  - It's also being taken to DC Modern Quilts
  - Raffle sale at Web Fabrics sold \$195 worth of raffle tickets (thanks Audrey & Vicky)
  - Current income is \$1,715 for the raffle (less \$1,000 to pay for the quilt)
- Other Business
  - Stephanie has the heritage quilts that were at Heidi's. A group will continue to research and evaluate.
  - Ruth shared information about <https://quiltalliance.org/> and the "Share Our Stories" project

Meeting closed at 8:01

## **Board**

**Board meetings (all are welcome to attend, all meetings are held via ZOOM and begin at 7 pm <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/93312893739>**

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|--------------|-----------|
| ○ January 2  | ○ April 2 |
| ○ February 6 | ○ May 7   |
| ○ March 5    | ○ June 4  |

President.....Heidi Graff  
Vice President (Programs).....Vicky Watts  
Treasurer.....Jenifer Pickens  
Secretary.....Izetta Claybrook  
Nominating Chair.....Janet Tasker  
Hospitality.....Vacant  
BOM.....Shelia Teague  
Dinner (Dec. & June).....vacant  
Community Service.....Debbie Bacigalupo  
Outreach.....Stephanie Bridgewater  
.....Vicky Watts  
Webmaster.....Karla Vernon  
Membership.....Audrey Mirsky-Ashby

Fundraising.....  
—QU Boutique.....Barb Ross  
—Vienna Women’s Bazaar.....vacant  
—VQU auction.....vacant  
Newsletter.....Karen Gerstner  
President’s Quilt/Door Prizes.....J. Tasker  
QU show  
—Overall rep.....vacant  
—Demo.....vacant  
—Quilt Collector.....Karen Gerstner  
Spring Retrea...Karla Vernon & Tommie Curtis  
Historian (photos).....Karla Vernon  
Sunshine..... Ruth Nowjack-Raymer