

# Riverwalk Quilters Guild

Volume XXIII Issue 6 December 2016

## **President's Message** **Cheryl Sleboda**

[rqgpresident@gmail.com](mailto:rqgpresident@gmail.com)

Winter is here, or at least the weather is. I like winter for quilting. Something about it feels cozy. It's also that time of year when quilts are given as gifts. In fact, our show n tell often has quilts that are "going to be gone" by the following month. It makes my heart feel good that we give the gift of our handiwork to our loved ones.

Have a wonderful holiday season and see you at the meeting!

Cheryl

### ***What to Bring December 13***

- Name Tags
- Treats if you signed up and favorite mug
- Philanthropy Items

## ***December 13, 2016*** ***Melissa Wraalstad,*** ***"Treasures from the Vault"***

Take a journey through quilting history and see some of the highlights from the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts' permanent collection. Melissa will share the stories behind a number of quilts that the museum does not often get to exhibit and give you a glimpse into the museum's collections. We will take a walk back in time—from quilt patterns popular in the 1930s and 1940s to those from the mid-1800s.

Melissa Wraalstad is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts. Previously, she was the Historic Sites Manager for the Milwaukee County Historical Society and was responsible for managing programs, tours, operations, events, and maintenance at four historic properties in Milwaukee County. She also worked as the Exhibit Developer for The Morton Arboretum and as the Special Event Coordinator for Old World Wisconsin. She has a Master of Arts degree in History-Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program of Cooperstown, New York, and a Bachelor's degree in History & Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

**January 10, 2017  
Holiday Party  
“An Evening in Paris”**

Come and enjoy an "Evening in Paris", the theme for our annual guild members holiday party, on January 10, 2017! The evening begins at 6:30 pm, a bit earlier than our usual meeting, with a pot luck buffet starting at 7:00 pm. This year the guild will be providing the main course ~ fried chicken. We respectfully request members bring a dish to share as follows:

Last name      S- Z: apéritif (appetizer)  
                      J - R: plat d'accompagnement  
                      (side dish)  
                      A - I: dessert

Following dinner, we will enjoy a performance of THE BEDQUILT, performed by professional actress Michèle LaRue.

**As is our tradition, a donation of a non-perishable food item, toiletry or paper product for Loaves and Fishes would be gratefully appreciated!**

J'espère te voir!

Doreen Tout



Dorothy Canfield Fisher's **The Bedquilt** follows the suspenseful journey of an unlikely heroine: Aunt Mehetabel is a downtrodden, elderly spinster, taken for granted by her New England family. Otherwise unskilled, she *is* "clever in the

way of patching bedquilts." Mehetabel grows throughout the story, winning admiration and finding self-respect, as she painstakingly devotes herself to the realization of her ideal: "a pattern beyond which no patchwork quilt could go."

**The Bedquilt**, written by Canfield Fisher in 1906, is introduced by the gleeful account of **A Quilting Bee in Our Village**, penned by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, eight years earlier. In Freeman's little town, good food, gossip, and games make a successful bee—it's not just about the sewing. LaRue concludes the program with Fisher's surprising description of how she wrote **The Bedquilt**.

LaRue, who specializes in tales from America's Gilded Age, creates a dozen distinctive characters in her energetic and empathetic performance of **The Bedquilt** and **Bee**. Stories from this period return us to a time when literature was written "for the ear," she explains, continuing: "Before radio, family and friends made their own home entertainment—reading aloud by flickering candle, kerosene lamp, and gaslight. Today, only the lighting has changed: adult audiences still hang on every word. Despite TV and films, the Internet and special effects, we still crave simply to listen to a tale well told."

LaRue has twice presented **The Bedquilt** at the invitation of the American Quilter's Society International Quilt Show and Conference. "You had the audience in your command," declared her host: "We could have heard a pin drop as they listened to your every word." In Seattle, last year, audiences exclaimed, "I was spellbound!" and, "Riveting—twice—I would love to hear it again!"

The **Bedquilt** and of **A Quilting Bee in Our Village** are two of thirty stories in LaRue's repertoire of vintage *TALES WELL TOLD*.

She has performed these, collectively, in 400 venues, from Massachusetts to Washington State. A Chicago native, she has made her

home in the New York City suburbs for . . . a very long time. **LaRue** is a member of both actors' unions—Actors' Equity and SAG-AFTRA—and a much-published theatre writer and book editor.

**Dorothy Canfield Fisher** (1879 – 1958), has been called “one of the most popular and engaging American writers of the first half of the twentieth century.” She wrote more than forty books, including translations and nonfiction, as well as novels and short-story collections.

**Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman** (1852 – 1930) spent most of her life in Randolph, Massachusetts. The people she knew and the scenes witnessed there form the background for most of her tales of New England rural life.

**February 14, 2017**  
**Valli Schiller**  
**“My Life in Quilt Years”**

**"MY LIFE IN QUILT YEARS" LECTURE** is a trunk show of approximately 20 of Valli's bed and wall quilts and the stories behind them. Her style ranges from traditional to contemporary, with an emphasis on innovative machine techniques. Quilters of all abilities will be encouraged and inspired as Valli shares her life in quilts.

Valli Schiller started sewing as a child and shows no signs of stopping any time soon. She's been making quilts since 1990, right around the time she discovered rotary cutters and computerized sewing machines. She's an avid machine stitcher who loves experimenting with new techniques and sharing them with others.

Valli's quilts are exhibited nationally and have won multiple awards, including blue ribbons at the IQA judged show in Houston and the AQS judged show in Paducah. Her Mille Fleurs quilt was featured on the cover of Quilter's Newsletter magazine. Her Common Threads quilt was a finalist in the 2007 \$100,000 Quilting Challenge.

Valli lives in Naperville, Illinois. She's a member of the Riverwalk Quilters' Guild, the Pride of the Prairie Quilters, and the Professional Art Quilt Alliance.

## **Programs** **March- June 2017**

### **March 14, 2017**

Maggie Weiss  
*“The Sacred Feminine in Fiber”*

### **April 11, 2017**

Philanthropy Sew- In

### **May 9, 2017**

Lisa Binkley  
*“Adding Sparkle & Texture to your Quilts”*

### **Workshop: May 10**

Bead Embroidered Mini Quilts

### **June 13, 2017**

Susan Cleveland of Pieces Be with You  
Lecture TBA

**Workshop June 14 TBA**

## **RQ Inventory**

We are establishing a list of all supplies and equipment currently owned by our Guild. We know that many of our members have kindly stored items at their homes. Please email the Secretary, Lenore Hrejsa, if you have any items to add to the list of inventory. The list would include irons, ironing boards, quilt racks, suitcases, decorations, tablecloths, etc.

Thank You!

## **By-Laws Committee**

The itty bitty by-laws committee" will meet at 6:00 pm (before the board meeting) on Tuesday, December 6, at Grace Church. We're in the homestretch, but need some fresh eyes to help. If you are interested in being a part of our awesome committee, please email us at [info@riverwalkquilters.com](mailto:info@riverwalkquilters.com) or just show up!

## **Hospitality**

**Tracy Husch-Lissak & Sandy Alfaia**  
[rqghospitality@gmail.com](mailto:rqghospitality@gmail.com)

We want to thank all the ladies that brought snacks to share at our November meeting. Please know we have only one person signed up for December snacks. So if you want to bring something, savory or sweet, it will be welcomed! Finally, a reminder to bring your favorite mug for coffee, tea or water.

Thank you!

Sandy Alfaia & Tracy Husch-Lissak

## **Library News**

**Carol Rubek & Judy Long**  
[rqglibrarian@gmail.com](mailto:rqglibrarian@gmail.com)

We are looking for suggestions for books we might order for our library. Please send suggested book titles to:

[carolrubek@gmail.com](mailto:carolrubek@gmail.com)  
[jemb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jemb@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you so much

## **Membership**

**Yvette Thorn & Linda Kurcz**  
[rqgmembership@gmail.com](mailto:rqgmembership@gmail.com)

There were 63 members and 1 guest in attendance at our November meeting. We extend a warm welcome to new members Barb Mellens and Debbie Wiesbrook. The total membership is currently 106 members.

Linda

## **Philanthropy**

**Lucy Blasi & Kathleen Curtis**  
[rqgphilanthropy@gmail.com](mailto:rqgphilanthropy@gmail.com)

When a quilt top is donated to Philanthropy we will package it as a kit. Our goal is to make it easier for our members to finish. The kit will contain the quilt top, batting and backing. We do need your help in quilting. This is the perfect opportunity to try a new technique or test a new design. You can use either your regular sewing machine or a long arm. No fancy quilting is required. You can even straight line quilt it with a walking foot. It's up to you how you quilt it. Most of the quilts are smaller than bed size. You would be contributing to our Philanthropic projects which help those in need. Please stop by our table at the meetings or contact us directly to discuss.

At the November Meeting our Philanthropy Table was very busy. We added another table so that all the completed quilts are on display for our members to look at. The following is what we received from Members:

Quilt Tops  
Kathleen Curtis – 3  
Camille Padilla – 4  
Jean Hilderbrand – 2  
Peggy Getz – 1

### Quilts

Sandy Hess -2  
Myra Harcourt -1  
Sandy Lambert – 2  
Linda Yokelson – 1 (made by Mary Jo)

### Bird House Squares

Rosemary Sanza – 1  
Mary Walschot – 1  
Nancy Niswander - 1

### Pillow Cases

Donna Millican -1

### Heart Pillows

Joan Dolinar – 4  
Camille Padilla – 2

### Fabric Stash Contribution

Nancy Sturgeon  
Sharon Robson  
Peggy Getz

### Bird House Quilt

Pieced and Quilted by Kathleen Curtis

The following members have helped with finishing work:

Lynn Slaughter Binding - 1 Quilt returned  
Kathleen Curtis Quilting - 4 Quilts returned  
Orene Springstroh Quilting – 1 Quilt returned  
Pieced - 2 Quilt tops returned  
Nancy Sturgeon Quilting - 2 Quilts returned  
Took 2 Quilts for Long Arm Work  
Darlene Schille Binding - 1 Quilt returned  
Donna Millican Binding - 2 Quilts returned  
Mary Walschot Binding - 1 Quilts returned  
Wanda Jones Binding – Took 1 Quilt to finish  
Nancy Lindberg Binding – took 1 Quilt to finish  
Camille Padilla Binding - took 1 Quilt to finish  
Binding - 1 Quilt returned  
Margaret Zitt Binding - took 1 Quilt to finish  
Anita Nothdurft Binding - 3 Quilts returned  
Binding – took 1 Quilt to finish  
Linda Yokelson Binding – took 1 Quilt to finish

As always, if we have missed anyone we are very sorry.

We would like to recognize Gentler Times for allowing Kathleen to use their long arm to quilt our Philanthropy Quilts.

Thank you to all for your help with Philanthropy Sewing and for all you do to support us.

We give because we Care!

**Special Events**  
**Sue Damitz, Darlene Ebel and**  
**Nancy Ebel**  
**[rqgspecialevnts@gmail.com](mailto:rqgspecialevnts@gmail.com)**

### Member's Subsidize Sewing Retreat – February 25, 2017

Please join us on Saturday, February 25th, 2017 for a guild's member subsidize sewing retreat from 8:00 to 4:30. We are holding the retreat in our usual meeting room at the church. While we are still looking at the room layout, we know that 40 - 50 of us will fit. We had 14 signups at the November meeting, so there is still plenty of spaces for you to join in the fun. The signup cutoff will be at the January 2017 meeting or when we hit 50 people whichever comes first.

The cost to attend is \$10.00 which will cover a lunch box and holds a spot for you and is non-refundable. The following drinks will be provided: bottle water, coffee, ice tea, and hot tea that day.

Each of you will get a 6 foot or share a 10 foot table for your sewing area. In addition, the following areas will be available for all to use: layout, cutting, ironing, and lunch area. Due to possible wiring overload because of the power that irons take, we will be providing 5 - 6 ironing stations and request that you not use your own iron at your sewing station. To add to the excitement of the day, there will be door prizes provided.

This will be a day for you to sew on your projects. Philanthropy is willing to provide kits if any of you want to sew charity quilts. Let us know if you would like a kit so that we are sure there are enough kits available. Come sign up at the December meeting and join us for a day filled with quilting!

Sue Damitz

## Upcoming Midwest and Local Events

**February 2-4, 2017:** Bill Kerr from Modern Quilt Studio is lecturing and teaching.

**March 204, 2017:** Linda M. Poole lectures and teaches on whole cloth painting and applique techniques.

**May 6-8, 2016** Nancy Mahoney lectures and teaches two workshops on her paper piecing a pineapple block with a twist, in three sizes, and Granny's Squares.

Each artist has class limits. Full information is found at [illinoisquilters.com](http://illinoisquilters.com).  
Martha Ross-Mockaitis, IQI  
[mrossmockaitis@gmail.com](mailto:mrossmockaitis@gmail.com)

## Website

**Kathleen Pallardy**  
[rqgwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:rqgwebsite@gmail.com)

If you need something added or changed on the website [www.riverwalkquilters.com](http://www.riverwalkquilters.com), please email Kathleen Pallardy at the [rqgwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:rqgwebsite@gmail.com)

**Advertising rates** are based on one month's issue. Ads must be prepaid and received by the Editor by 4th Tuesday of each month.

Full Page	\$50.00 *	Half Page	\$25.00
Quarter Page	\$12.50	Eighth Page	\$ 5.00

\*Full page ad available for single month only.

The Riverwalk Quilters Guild newsletter is published monthly. To submit articles for inclusion, contact the editor at [rqgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rqgnewsletter@gmail.com) by 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Website: [www.riverwalkquilters.com](http://www.riverwalkquilters.com)

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Riverwalk>

**Riverwalk Quilters Guild meetings**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm

**Grace United Methodist Church**

**300 E Gartner Road, Naperville, IL**

**RQG Board meetings – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm**

**Grace Church**

**Riverwalk Quilters Guild  
2016-2017 Board & Committees**

<b>President</b>	<b>Cheryl Sleboda</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bev Parker</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lenore Hrejsa</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Vicky Laws</b>
<b>Programs/Workshops</b>	<b>Open/Co-Chair</b>
	<b>Various Bees</b>
<b>Contracts</b>	<b>Celeste Akre</b>
	<b>Susan Akre</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Yvette Thorn</b>
	<b>Linda Kurcz</b>
<b>PR/Publicity</b>	<b>Margaret Donahue</b>
<b>Philanthropy</b>	<b>Lucy Blasi</b>
	<b>Kathleen Curtis</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>Carol Rubeck</b>
	<b>Judy Long</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Tracy Husch-Lissak</b>
	<b>Sandy Alfaia</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>Sue Damitz</b>
	<b>Darlene Ebel</b>
	<b>Nancy Ebel</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sandy Bray</b>
<b>Back-Up assistant</b>	<b>Nancy Sturgeon</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>Kathleen Pallardy</b>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Kathleen Herbach</b>
<b>Small Quilt Auction</b>	<b>Rosemary Sanza</b>
	<b>****Co-Chair wanted</b>
<b>Nominating Chair (2017/2018 Board Year)</b>	<b>Maria Peeples</b>
<b>January Holiday Party</b>	<b>Doreen Tout</b>
	<b>Mary Walschot</b>
<b>Rummage Sale</b>	<b>Nancy Sturgeon</b>
<b>Raffle Quilt Chair &amp; Committee</b>	<b>****Open</b>