



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Celebrating the Art of Quilting

By Maribeth Nolde

"The history of America can be seen in the history of quilts: in the rich heritage left us by those thrifty, self-sufficient women who helped settle this land, in the families whose history is sewn into quilts one patch at a time, and in the legacy of the quilting arts passed on to children and grandchildren so they may carry them forward to the future."

From [Quilting In America](#)

The new UUFW art show, opening on Sunday November 6, is called "Old Traditions, New Inspirations." It will evoke the rich history and evolving styles of quilts up to the present day.

The history of quilting, as described on the *Quilting in America* website, began long before European settlers arrived in the New World. People all over the world used padded fabrics for clothing, bedding, and even armor. The arrival of English and Dutch settlers in North America meant that quilting became a big part of life in their new country.

The actual word "quilt" comes from the Latin word, *culcita*, which means "stuffed sack". It is used as both a noun and a verb (a quilt and I am quilting, for examples). In its early days, quilts were mostly utilitarian to provide comfort and warmth. In the first years of the American settlement, most colonial women were so busy spinning, weaving and

sewing clothes for their families that they had no time for artistic quilting. They quickly, however, found that piecing together fabrics and stuffing them before placing a backing on the quilt was a fast way to make a warm comforter. It was also a way to use every bit of material from clothing that could not be worn anymore—the early days of recycling! In the years between 1750 and 1850 quilts became more artistic in nature and took years to make because of the elaborate designs. These became cherished heirlooms to their families and were preserved. Fancy stitching and appliques became a popular way of embellishment. Many designs and craftsmanship were added as time went on, from embellished quilts to daily used comforters that were "tied" instead of quilted. Quilts became gifts from a woman in the family to a new bride or baby. Comforters were made of cast-off fabrics during the Depression and to raise money during WWII.



A quilting revival began in the 1970s and 80s as part of the anti-materialism of young people. Today, quilters create their wonders as part of relaxation, a hobby or as an artistic pursuit.

Quilting, while sometimes still being present in the traditional patterns, continues today with bold adaptations, colors and patterns that sometimes pay homage to these past quilt masterpieces but also hold their own in newer designs and more artistic expressions. The quilt has become a canvas, inspiring creativity and artistic expression in its art quilters.

The UUFW art show will feature two artists, B.J. Berlo and Peggy Anders, both master quilters who have been quilting most of their lives. Their quilts are the “new inspirations.” There will also be quilts offered, for your viewing pleasure, made by family members from Anne Armentrout and Maribeth Nolde. These are the “old traditions,” with some of the older quilts being 100+ years of age.

This show will be up through December 25th with many of the new quilts for sale. Please come on Sunday and listen to the two artists talk about their quilting experiences and view both the new inspirations and the old traditions in the quilts and comforters on display. All of them have a story to tell if you just look and listen.

New Member Spotlight



Roberta Brunson is our newest member, but she is not new to Unitarian Universalism. She and her sister, our long-time member Barbara Wright, grew up in a UU

family in Hanover County near Richmond. Her only other church experience was as a young mother when she and her husband attended a Baptist church “for the kids.” It didn’t last long. According to Roberta, “I wasn’t going to bring up kids with so much hell and damnation!”

After divorcing when her children were still young, Roberta became a business woman. Over the years, she owned two businesses, an alteration shop and a work-place services business that did drug testing for other companies. She also sold real estate.

Before moving to this area, Roberta lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan near her daughter, where she often attended a huge UU church. She also has a son in North Carolina and another daughter in Massachusetts, plus five grandchildren.

In retirement, Roberta has many hobbies and interests. Last year she crocheted over 100 hats, which she donated to charities such as Disciples Kitchen and the Valley Mission. She recently moved to the Gateway Senior Apartments in Fishersville.

Member News

Grace Leery has moved to Choice Healthcare, 355 William Mills Drive in Stanardsville 22973. She does not have a phone, but you can call the nurse’s station at 434-985-4434.

Eric Milnes is progressing well at Charlottesville Health and Rehabilitation Center, 505 Rio Road West. He would appreciate cards and visits. If you plan to visit, call him first at 540-416-8757.

