Pieceful Times

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QUEEN OF HEARTS

I had always wanted to be a lawyer, and who I work for notwithstanding, most days, I like what I do and think I've picked pretty well when it comes to professions – at least my job choice suits me, and that's what's most important. Thus, when it came time to have children, I was pretty sure that I could continue practicing law and still manage to raise a couple of children to be decent, law abiding citizens. After all, if I could sling together billion dollar deals in two weeks, I could control the universe of a tot!!! (This was a surprisingly naive assumption on my part, but that's a story for another day.)

Of course, I did not factor into the equation that there would be MANY women out there trying to intimidate me for not staying at home 24-7 with my two children. Like the first time my youngest wanted to invite a friend of his from nursery school for a play date, the mother of the invitee called me, and upon learning that the housekeeper would be present that day and not me, proceeded to ask if we kept guns in the house, was anyone seeking treatment for mental illness, and had anyone had electro-shock therapy in the family. (I am not making this up!) I was in turn torn up with guilt for not being an at-home mom and admiration for her being able to think of all those things to grill someone about at one time! Then there was the time that I was chastised by the nursery school administrator for letting my child go to school in a costume for Halloween that she deemed too violent – he was wearing a homemade dinosaur outfit!

It became clear early on in nursery school that we worker moms just weren't quite the thing. About the only area in which I COULD lead the mom pack (worker bees and stay at homes) was making cookies. Yes, folks, it's true – I am a closet cookie baker.

Both my boys have early September birthdays – usually falling around the time school starts. Early on, around the time of nursery school, we settled into the habit of bringing cookies (they weren't that into cupcakes) to celebrate their birthdays and the start of school. Both being the sort who could milk a situation for all it's worth, they would really bring on the dramatics – oh the misery and agony of GOING TO SCHOOL!!!! The younger one, especially, with his big eyes, big curls and performances worthy of a Dickens character, could really gnaw the scenery! Therefore, these had to be REALLY SPECIAL cookies, with lots of GOOPY icing, and DECORATIONS and be something that NO ONE ELSE HAD!!!! (I hope you are starting to get the picture!!!). My older son Tom picked green lizard cookies with

yellow eyes and pink toenails. All displayed in gooey, buttercream icing. (Apparently the little gourmands weren't satisfied with visual impact – it had to taste good too.) Sam, the baby, was born trying to show his brother up, so he picked black and white cows with pink udders and pink pigs with red hots for eyes. I actually felt a little better about myself when I overheard one of the stay-at-home moms tell another that obviously someone's mommy had too much time on her hands if she could make cow cookies!! She should have been at my house at 3:00 a.m. that morning!!!

By the time the boys started elementary school, the cookie making settled into a routine. And that's when I found my "mommy" niche. I define a "mommy" niche as something for which your child is envied by other children for having YOU as their mother (something that isn't illegal, immoral, etc.).

The first year my oldest was in Kindergarten on Valentine's Day, my craft gene surged out of control, and I decided we would make paper Valentines for his class. Tom spent about 3 seconds gluing some pieces of black construction paper together, and that was enough for him. The adults in the house then spent the next 8 hours and about $47 in materials making 20 valentines that I'm sure were used for placemats later the next day. My husband pointed out that perhaps this was a more rewarding experience for me than it was for Tom! The next year, I glanced at something in a children's magazine at the pediatrician's office which gave me an idea for Valentine's Day. I would make cookie necklaces. According to the article, it seemed simple enough. Use a sturdy sugar cookie recipe, and use a straw to cut out the hole. String the cookie on ribbon or cord, and voila! A necklace!

My sister, whose idea of gourmet food consists of putting frosting on everything, insisted that the cookie be frosted. I allowed as how I had a nice recipe for colorwashing the cookies that would hold up pretty well. She gave me that look that sisters everywhere have patented – you know, the one that says you're too stupid to live!! "Use the buttercream!" I pointed out that it would get all over everyone's clothes and hair. Her next remarks were along the line of, "So what – that's what Valentine's Day is for!" (Gee, I didn't know that! All my life I'd been enjoying civilized bunches of flowers and cards when I should have been "wallering" in food! Who knew???)

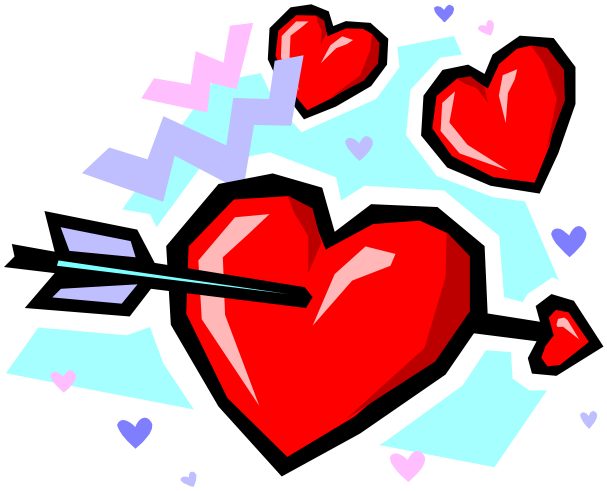
Well, buttercream it was. We sent something like 25 prettily decorated heart cookie necklaces in pink, red, or white, with jimmies, sprinkles, and colored sugar, and satin cording dangling from each one. I figured everyone would say "oh how pretty" and then take them home to admire for a while before eating. Boy, was I wrong! When we picked up Tom at school that day, there were 24 little imps running around with a string around their neck, and icing all over their shirts. Apparently they had eaten the cookies right off the strings. The big surprise was the one <u>big</u> imp with the string around her neck and icing all over her chest too – the teacher! I figured I was going to get a lecture about putting string around little kids' necks! Nope! All she said was – "Someone was out sick today, and I got his cookie!!!"

When Sam started elementary school the next year, as Valentine's Day approached, I received notes from his and Tom's teachers, asking if I was going to make the necklaces that year. I called to see if this was a problem. Oh no! But could you please make a few extra for the office staff? Over the next seven years, I made

over a hundred necklaces a year for school – and at no time did my children's classes combined ever exceed 48 students! However, the kitchen staff, the library staff, and the custodial staff joined the office staff (along with a few favored extra people around the school) in wearing cookie hearts around their necks over the years.

What always amazed me was how many adults would put these gooey things over their heads and wear them. In all those years we saw as many adults as kids walking around with pink, red, or white icing on their chests. Dang! I hate when my sister is right – Valentine's Day is for "wallering" in food!!!

Both my children are out of elementary school now, and this will be the first year in almost eight years that I don't have to make cookie necklaces for Valentine's Day. I actually kind of miss this because it was a great validation of my craft gene and my full-fledged mom-status. It's tough when you lose the crown for Queen of Hearts!



Andrea Gribble
President

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The following is our schedule for speakers:

February: Sarah Pavlik trunk show
March: Ann Littleton "Joys and Pitfalls of Group Quilts"
April: Linda Pool on 3D Appliqué
May: Kit Robinson trunk show

We still have openings for both our February and March workshops. Sign up and supply lists for both classes will be available at the February meeting. In addition, a sign up list for those interested in a spring buying trip to Lancaster County will be circulated.

Because we must commit to a bus and inform the stores, I need to know how many are interested. I am thinking about scheduling this for Monday, May 2. The route would include stops at Weaver's, Burkholder's, Sauder's, and, time permitting, a stop in the town of Intercourse, home of Zook's and The Old Country Store.

Depending upon the size of the bus required, the need for pit stops, and whether participants want to schedule lunch, bring lunch, or have box lunches provided, I will determine what best to do and the feasibility of a trip.

If members are not going to be at the next meeting and would like to take a workshop or are considering the buying trip, please call Amy Berger at 703/757-2885.

Amy Berger

LOVE AND THE POSTCARD

Love those postcards! Postcards and love! So hard to keep those two apart; so check it out. By popular demand, there's an addition to the theme for this month's VQU Postcard Swap. Join in by making a postcard(s) that represents Starry, Starry Night **OR** your favorite Valentine Theme. Your choice.

What's most important is that you participate in the fun. You can deliver your February postcards to the VQU Meeting on February 15th or mail them in advance to Jenny Klostermeyer or Kathleen Kurke. (Call us to let us know they're coming!). Jenny: 703-641-0249 or Kathleen (703-352-2341).

Remember, Postcard Themes:

February: Starry, Starry Night or Be My Valentine!
March: Spring Fling
April: Black and White and "Red" or "Read" All Over
May: **H**ow Does Your Garden Grow?
June: Anything and Everything Goes.

VQU CHALLENGE . . . ARE YOU WONDERING IF THERE IS ONE?

So are Jenny & Kathleen! Since we couldn't come up with an idea that inspired us, we decided to abandon the traditional quilt challenge. Instead, we challenge you to join the Postcard swap fun! There have been more than 400 Quilted Postcards shared among VQU Members since we kicked off the Quilted Postcard Swap this summer. Have you been one of the lucky ones to open your mailbox, only to let out a little squeal of delight when you found a piece of art tucked between the cable bill and the food ads? Been the delight of the water cooler crowd when you've brought them into the office to show off to your colleagues? If yes, you know exactly what I'm talking about. If NOT, then now's the time to take the challenge and participate in AT LEAST ONE of the monthly Quilted Postcard Swaps.

February is the perfect month to join in the fun; we've got TWO theme options. Certainly, one of them will spark your imagination and get you into the fun. Once you start, you might not want to stop, but that's OK. Starting is what's most important. Take the challenge and take the Postcard Plunge. Remember, for every Postcard you turn in for the swap, you get one back. How great is THAT? Hope you'll join us for the fun and for the challenge.

P.S. Neither Jenny nor Kathleen will be able to attend the February meeting. Audrey Mirsky-Ashby has agreed to collect postcards for us at the February meeting; so please turn you postcards in to her. Thank you to Audrey in advance for being such a great pal!

QUILT SHOW 2005
June 3-5 - It's not too late!

Bring your quilt and entry form to the February 15th meeting, and we will measure your quilt, check it over to see if it complies with the readiness check list that was attached to your entry form, photograph your quilt and you are good to go. You will keep your quilt (and do a little more quilting if necessary) and turn it in at the May 17th VQU meeting. It will be insured and taken to the show on June 2nd to be hung for the show June 3-5.

If you are having trouble with the sleeve directions, feel free to call me and I'll talk you through it. If you need an entry form, I would mail it to you if asked. They will be available at the meeting or you can get one from the QU web page:
http:www.quiltersunlimited.org/doc/ShowEntry05.pdf
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If you are not quite ready for the February 15th meeting, and another week or so will help you to finish, (sleeve, label, quilting), you can bring your entry to my house to be measured and checked over and entered on Monday - Thursday February 21-24 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or on Monday the 28th from 7:00-9:00 p.m.. No entries will be accepted after that; we hope you will save it for the next year.

I'm looking forward to all the wonderful entries that will make our show fantastic!

Joan Gifford
9406 Talisman Drive, Vienna
703-255-9366
giffordj@georgetown.edu

QU BOARD POSITIONS

I'm Nominations Chair for Big QU, and we are inviting Vienna members to consider serving on the board for the coming year. There are 7 positions to fill: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter, Quilt Show and Nominations. For more information about the positions, you can call or email me or Karla Vernon.

Linda Cooper
703-425-5965
cooperate@cox.net
or
Karla Vernon
703-291-0738
kvernon@cox.net

RETREAT IN APRIL

The VQU retreat is April 1 - 4 at New Windsor, Md.

Costs: 2 nights - Single occupancy - $182; Double occupancy - $162

3 nights - Single occupancy - $259; Double occupancy - $229.

Payment in full is due by March 15.

WINTER QUILT IN

The Big QU Winter Quilt In will be held Sunday, March 6th in the West Springfield High School Cafeteria at 6100 Rolling Road; Springfield; from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. There will be door prizes, a block exchange, potluck and show and tell. Join us for an afternoon of sewing and fun. See what quilters in other guilds are doing.

VQU QUILTER IN THE NEWS

Item from ***QU Digest:***. QUILTER IN THE NEWS (AGAIN!) - Karla Vernon (V) writes, "There was a package at my front door this morning. Inside was the notification that my quilt block, “Sparkling Stream," had been selected as one of the 19 First Place winners in the 2004 "Into the Woods" Quilt Block Contest sponsored by Fairfield Processing Corp.--manufacturer of POLY-FIL products. I received $25 cash and an assortment of Fairfield products. This is the fourth time I submitted a block and the fourth time I won (which goes to show that it's easy to win!!). I will submit the loaner quilt for the 2006 QU show; so look for it in 2006.

VIRGINIA QUILT MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Another item from ***QU Digest:*** "Imagination & Celebration: Contemporary Quilts II from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg" and "Crazy Quilt Treasures" from the VQM Collection will run from February 5, 2005 - April 25, 2005 at the Virginia Quilt Museum.

Museum hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, major holidays and between exhibitions. Admission: $5 adults; $4 seniors/students; $2 children 6-12; under 6 free. Address: 301 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

QUILT EXHIBIT IN OLD TOWN MANASSAS

A quilt exhibit entitled "Common Threads" is on display at the Center for the Arts (Caton Merchant Family Gallery) in Old Town Manassas until March 18th. The gallery is located at 9419 Battle Street, Manassas, VA. Gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Weekdays; and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturdays. There will be a reception on February 19th from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. RSVP to 703/330-2787.

The Center is located in the old Hopkins Candy Factory building and has an art gallery on the first floor where about 45 quilts will be featured. The show is free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY/MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2/3	Gayla Health
2/8	Steve Carr
2/10	Linda Bowlin
2/11	Gloria Sladek
2/12	Barb Bracy
2/14	Joan Gifford
2/15	Caletha Gould
2/21	Barbara Dean
2/23	Maryanna Fournier
2/28	Lynne Stierman
2/27	Dottie Reed
3/10	Kate Untiedt
3/11	Marcia Perkins
3/18	Christina Ferguson
3/21	Carole Farrell
	Louise Matthews
	Joni Seidenstein
3/25	Helen Foreman
	Sheilah Musselman
	Susan Sladek
3/26	Mary Jo Loder
3/27	Connie Sherrill
3/30	Andrea Gribble

VIENNA QUILTERS UNLIMITED BOARD 2004-2005

Executive Board:

President	Andrea Gribble andreagribble@hotmail.com 703/764-9331 (H) 202/736-0291 (W)
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Nominating Committee	Karla Vernon kvernon@cox.net 703/281-0738

QUILTING DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15	VQU Meeting at Kilmer Middle School (7:00 p.m.) – Sarah Pavlik Trunk Show
February 19	Sarah Pavlik Workshop on Crazy Quilting Techniques in Craft and Quilt Making ($25)
February 24	VQU Board Meeting
February 24-27	Mid-Atlantic Quilt Show - Hampton, Virginia
March 6	QU Winter Quilt In – Springfield High School
March 15	VQU Meeting at Kilmer Middle School (7:00 p.m.) – Ann Littleton on the Joys and Pitfalls of Group Quilts
March 16	Ann Littleton Workshop "Embellished Wall Hanging or Vest" ($25)
March 24	VQU Board Meeting
May 5	QU Annual Meeting - Guest Lecturer - Charlotte Warr Andersen
May 6	Workshop - Pieced Pictures - Charlotte Warr Andersen
May 7	Workshop - Appliqué for Realism in Brief - Charlotte Warr Andersen
June 3-5	QU Quilt Show

Clipart courtesy of Dawn Stewart at http://dlstewart.com/clipart.htm

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