



NEWS NOTES

Summer 2021

*Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program
...where volunteers make a difference*

Patriotic Quilts

By Kate Seal

The word 'quilt' is from Latin origins, meaning 'a stuffed sack' (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/quilt>). Personally, I think of it more like a sandwich: a top layer (typically the most decorative), the middle layer (the 'stuff' that makes it warm) and then the base layer. Hence: quilt (noun) - a thing that covers us and warms us while we rest.

However, in order to turn these three separate layers into one blanket, we must turn the noun 'quilt' into a verb. We must 'quilt' the 'quilt' by stitching through the three layers to hold them together. Bind the edges and *voila* - the fusion of our craft! It sounds simple enough, but quilts are typically anything BUT simple. They take a tremendous amount of time to make and the effort involved in picking out patterns and color combinations is quite sophisticated.

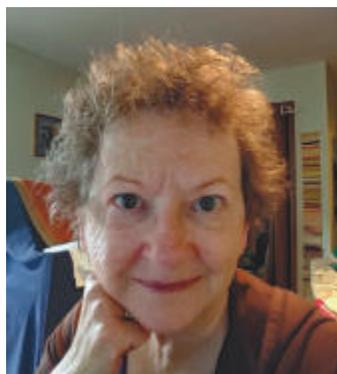
Quilts have been around since the 34th Century BC, and while they were originally more of a functional item for bedding, they have evolved into complex pieces of art, often with elaborate meanings. Some are patterned to honor specific traditional milestones, like marriage. Historically, they may have been sold to raise money for community or political efforts. But personally, here at RSVP, we view our volunteer-crafted quilts as expressions of love and creativity, symbols of benevolence and comfort. We feel that giving and receiving quilts is a grand gesture. This is why we make them and donate them.

All of the quilts that RSVP Group Projects volunteers create and donate are unique and special. They all warm the hearts and bodies of community members who could use a little more warmth and comfort. Specifically, our red, white and blue quilts are crafted to honor the patriotism that lies in the hearts of our local veterans. We set aside our patriotic quilts for a very special group of people in our community.

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Audrey Boushon, RSVP volunteer, displays the Patriotic Quilt that she made.



(Left) Lea Gough in her Madison Studio



Patriotic Quilt made by RSVP volunteer Lea Gough

RSVP Board Notes

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Hello everyone and welcome to the Summer issue of News Notes. It's hard to believe that over 13 months have passed since COVID-19 raised its ugly face, yet here we are moving forward with what we do best, following the mission of RSVP: "Seeking to improve the quality of life for all Dane County citizens through significant volunteer service."



Committee participation is one way to help RSVP. Committees form the backbone of RSVP. Your talents are invaluable and provide a great source of information. Here is a list of RSVP Committees who would welcome your presence: Assessment Committee, Development Committee, Diversity Committee, Financial Oversight and Planning Committee, Grant & Funds Committee, Marketing Committee, and Personnel Committee. RSVP is always in need of individuals with a variety of experience, skills and interest. If you need more information about serving on a committee, please contact Margie Zutter or Diana Jost to express that interest. All committee meetings will be continued via Zoom until further notice.

Volunteers form the nucleus of our services. What better way to put your time and efforts to use. Recommending someone to serve is valuable and the best source for recruiting new volunteers. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on our volunteer base. If you know someone who might volunteer and is willing to be contacted by our staff, please call Margie Zutter or Diana Jost.

Speaking of our volunteers, many continued to provide their time and talent during the last 13 months. We thank all of our volunteers who were able to serve as well as new volunteers who stepped up to help.

RSVP staff has been working hard during the last 13 months also. The next time you visit with or see a staff member, please thank them for what they do.

Last but not least, thank you to all our donors and funders who have been supporting us during these difficult times.

Richard

Richard Hoffman
 President, RSVP Board of Directors

From the Desk of...

*Margie Zutter
Executive Director*

Each year, RSVP holds a Sweepstakes campaign to raise important funding to support our programs. Last year, despite the pandemic, over \$11,000 was contributed through this effort. One of the challenging things about creating a sweepstakes appeal is to find enough prizes that would inspire people to donate. This year, in addition to asking our board, staff, and others who have contributed prizes in the past, we sent an email message to our volunteers asking if they could help. We received some gift cards and contributions for the

cash prizes, and RSVP volunteer Renee offered to help secure prizes from businesses. She has a background in marketing and sales and has helped some other nonprofits with their fundraising efforts. Renee made all the calls and alerted me to businesses that needed more information about RSVP. She also picked up prizes and delivered them to our office.

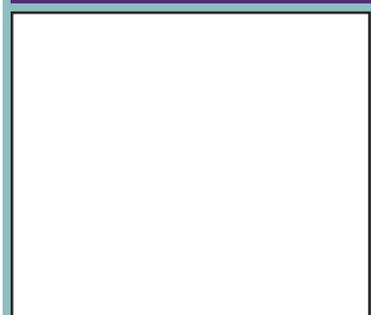
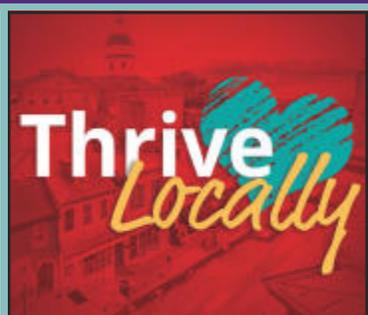
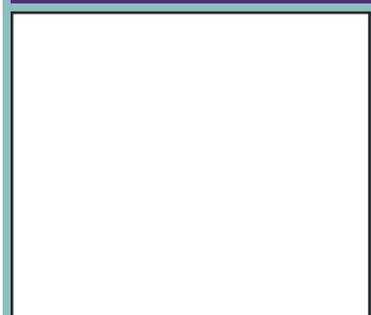
Due to the generosity of local businesses, Renee has transformed this year's Out and About Sweepstakes to include more than



Krishna Sijapati

100 wonderful prizes valued at almost \$5,000. Prizes include professionallymade quilts, an overnight stay at the Hilton

(continued on page 4)

<p>MOVING <u>or</u> Overwhelmed by Too Much Clutter?</p>  <p>SEGUIES</p> <p><i>Senior Move Specialists</i></p> <p>608-345-1942 262-442-4200</p>	<p>AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!</p> <p>ADVERTISE HERE NOW!</p> <p>Contact Jeff Parkinson to place an ad today! jparkinson@lpicommunities.com or (800) 950-9952 x5887</p>		
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(continued from page 3)

Garden Inn, gift cards, cash, a custom made bracelet, and a ride (plus stopping for lunch) in either a Ferrari or Austin-Healy. Please see below for a detailed list of the Sweepstakes prizes. Also, please look for your sweepstakes brochure to arrive in the mail in early July and consider making a contribution if you are able.

In addition to securing prizes, Renee has created new partnerships with businesses including quilting shops who will alert their customers to give fabric, yarn, and sewing supplies to RSVP for our Group Projects/Homeworkers volunteers. Thank you, Renee, for all your efforts and stepping forward at the perfect time!



Gael Boyd (right in photo), Owner of Blue Bar Quilts, delivers a quilt kit sweepstakes prize to Kate Seal while touring the RSVP Group Projects/ Homeworkers Store Room.

More prizes than ever for RSVP's 22nd Annual Fundraising Sweepstakes

Over 100 prizes valued at almost \$5,000!

1. **Quilt** by Shirley Coulter - valued at \$700
2. **Ride in Ed Adib's Ferrari (or classic Austi-Healy) with a lunch stop plus a Jim Jenkins hand drawn print** - valued at \$500
3. **One Night's Stay at Hilton Garden Inn** donated by Hilton Garden Inn in Sun Prairie - valued at \$269
4. **Twinn Quilt** made by Village Creek Quilts valued at \$250
5. **\$300 Cash Prize**
6. **Tory Burch Wallet** donated by Shopbop Community - valued at \$248
7. **Nikki Lissoni Interchangeable Bangle Bracelet + \$25 B's Jewelers Gift Card** donated by B's Jewelers - valued at \$201
8. **\$175 Quilt Kit** donated by Blue Bar Quilts, Inc.
9. **\$100 Brennan's Market Gift Card** donated by Brennan's Market
10. **\$100 Cash** - five winners
11. **Quilted Table Runner + \$30 Kwik Trip Gift Card + Pottery Mug from Door County** - Gift Card donated by Margaret Jensen & Mug donated by Isabel Hubbard - valued at \$95
12. **1 Pint of Culver's Custard Each Month for a Year + \$10 Prairie Town Laundry Gift Card** - Custard donated by Culver's of Sun Prairie and Gift Card donated by Prairie Town Laundry - valued at \$64 - two winners
13. **2 Bay Golf Suite Reservation at Vitense Golfland** donated by Vitense Golfland - valued at \$90
14. **Free Bundlets for a Year Coupon, Happy Everything Bowl + Candle** donated by Nothing Bundt Cakes - valued at \$85
15. **Pillow, Hot/Cold Pack, BIOFREEZE + Water Bottle** donated by LSM Chiropractic - Madison East - valued at \$85
16. **Quilted Table Runner + \$50 Cash** donated by Village Creek Quilts - valued at \$85 - two winners
17. **Handmade Shawl** created & donated by Susan Wolf + **\$25 Target Gift Card** donated by Connie Wall
18. **\$25 Bonefish Grill Gift Card + \$50 Cash** - Gift Card donated by Bonefish Grill
19. **\$25 The Old Feed Mill Restaurant Gift Card + \$50 Cash** - Gift Card donated by The Old Feed Mill
20. **\$75 The Electric Needle Gift Card** donated by The Electric Needle
21. **\$50 Target Gift Card + \$25 I'm Board! Games + Family Fun Gift Card** - Gift Card donated by I'm Board! Games + Family Fun plus Target Gift Card donated by Target Hilldale
22. **\$25 Fontana Sports Specialties Gift Card + Madison Mallards Hat**; Gift Card donated by Fontana Sports Specialties plus hat donated by Madison Mallards - valued at \$37
23. **1 Pint of Culver's Custard Each Month for a Year + \$10 Prairie Town Laundry Gift Card** - Custard donated by Culver's of Waunakee and Gift Card donated by Prairie Town Laundry - valued at \$64
24. **Madison Mallards Hat + Mock Jersey** - donated by Madison Mallards - valued at \$62
25. **4 Summerfest Tickets** - donated by Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. - valued at \$60
26. **\$50 Jung Garden Center Gift Card** donated by Jung Garden Center
27. **\$50 Target Gift Card** donated by Target - Hilldale
28. **\$25 MISSION BBQ Gift Card + \$25 Pick 'n Save Pharmacy Gift Bag** donated by MISSION BBQ + Pick 'n Save Pharmacy in Sun Prairie - two winners
29. **\$25 Eddie's Alehouse & Eatery Gift Card + \$25 Pick 'n Save Pharmacy Gift Bag** donated by Eddie's Alehouse & Eatery + Pick 'n Save Pharmacy in Sun Prairie - two winners
30. **Book Bag with Books & Gift Card** donated by Half Price Books - Madison East
31. **Fraboni's Italian Specialties & Delicatessen Gift Box** donated by Fraboni's - valued at \$48
32. **\$25 Clasen's European Bakery Gift Card** donated by Clasen's European Bakery - four winners
33. **\$25 Buck & Honey's Gift Card** - donated by Buck & Honey's in Sun Prairie

(continued from cover page)

Just about every quarter, we get a request for these patriotic-themed quilts from Heartland Hospice's Volunteer Coordinators. These ladies present our intricate, flag-toned works of cozy art to the veterans in their in-patient Hospice Care Program. This idea was started by the Heartland Hospice Veterans Committee. The veterans are given our quilts that their families will someday inherit in their honor and memory. It is humbling to be a part of this noble and respectful tradition.



RSVP of Dane County's Bus Buddy Program Teaches Inexperienced Bus Riders How to Open a Whole New Road to Independence.

Limited transportation options are a big stumbling block to accessing many of the opportunities in our community. Often seniors and people with disabilities are isolated because they are not able to drive or are afraid to drive in the city. Those that have never taken the bus, or have not in a very long time, can feel overwhelmed. People tend to not venture out or go places they may want to go. Teaching them to utilize public transportation helps increase independence, enabling them to get out, see other people, be involved, and go to a variety of events and locations. The Bus Buddy program was developed to help those 60 and over learn to navigate the Madison Metro Bus System. RSVP's Bus Buddy Coordinators meet with new passengers, teach riders about the bus system, routes, the bus stops nearest them, scheduling, transfers, accessibility (ramps, kneeling bus), and seating. They accompany the passengers on the first one or two trips and continue to accompany them until they are comfortable to ride on their own. The coordinators provide them with the training and confidence they need to be able to use this low-cost transportation.

The Bus Buddy Tour Program started in Aug of 2014 offering seniors the opportunity to learn to navigate the bus while creating a fun social outing for those involved. Not only do these trips help teach participants how to navigate the bus system, but these trips also facilitate the integration of all participants forming a wonderful community promoting friendships, support and understanding.

The program was on hold during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the program will resume with two trips in September and October. Participants will be asked to follow any current COVID-19 safety guidelines. The Bus Buddy Program also offers individual training for those that prefer not to be in a large group.

For more information, please contact Jan Karst by email Jkarst@rsvpdane.org or by phone 608 441-7891.



Couple Gives Back to the Community

By Kari Rilely

Seeking a way to volunteer together, Rick and Kathy Lyngaas eagerly responded to an ad they saw three years ago on the *Nextdoor* website for home-delivered meal drivers in the Fitchburg area. This was a great opportunity for them to give back as a couple. Kathy was familiar with home-delivered meals because her mother received them, so she knew that recipients of the program not only received healthy, nutritious meals, but also some much-needed social interaction.

The couple enjoys volunteering together and said it gives them a sense of doing a good deed. They enjoy developing relationships with the seniors they serve and connecting with clients who are isolated, especially during the pandemic. The couple emphasized that the volunteer role is very flexible and that the staff at the Fitchburg Senior Center is very supportive. Kathy said, "I would highly recommend trying volunteering as it is easy and a small time commitment."

In their spare time, the couple enjoys reading, gardening, taking exercise classes, and traveling together. Individually, they each pursue several interests. They have both volunteered in schools in the past, where they read to students. Rick is in his 45th year of selling real estate, and Kathy worked for the Madison Metropolitan School District as a speech pathologist and a school and district improvement specialist for 35 years. She retired five years ago, after working for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for five years helping to improve outcomes for low-performing students.



Rick grew up in Madison, the oldest of five siblings. Kathy grew up in Monroe and also has five siblings. The couple met at UW-Madison where they both attended college. They have two sons, one who lives in Minneapolis and the other in Milwaukee, and they have one granddaughter.

Senior centers across Dane County use home-delivered meal drivers to help ensure area seniors receive the nutrition that they need to maintain their independence. This is a no-contact volunteer position where meals are dropped off at the recipient's door. Hours are flexible and mileage reimbursement is available. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Co-Manager, 608-441-7896 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.

Volunteer Drivers needed for Seniors & Veterans

- * Drive to medical & other important appts.
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For information on driving seniors: Mary Schmelzer,
441-7896 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org

For information on driving veterans: Lorrie Hylkema,
238-7901 or lhylkema@rsvpdane.org

"I could not afford taxi service to Madison, where my primary doctor & specialists have their offices.

If not for RSVP, I would have to move to a facility in Madison."

— RSVP passenger





Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon... A BIG Event is being planned for 2022!



By Diana Jost

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been unable to host our Annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon in 2020 or 2021. We are busy planning a big in-person celebration in 2022 to honor RSVP's 50th Anniversary. Look for more information on this event soon.

We want to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for all they do in our community, and especially want to honor our volunteers that would have received either the Length of Service Award (20 years of service) or the Presidential Award (4,000 hours of service) in 2020 and 2021. Length of Service winners will be mailed their certificate in the mail, and will receive their pin at the 2022 event. Presidential Award winners will receive their certificate and pin at the 2022 event. Below is the list of 2020 volunteer award winners. We will honor the 2021 award winners in our fall News Notes. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

2020 Length of Service Award Winners:

Marge Bucholz
Mary Lee Eaton
Marlene Gerner
Robert W. Hoffman
Lee Ihlenfeldt
Margaret Jensen

Ethel Lamboley
Louise Maier
Pat Osborn
Suzanne Penfield
Charles Rose

2020 President's Lifetime Achievement Award Winners:

Betty Elsner
Margie Krauskopf
Francis C. Long
Pat Osborn
Mary Kay Palmer
Doris Zweifel



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Mercy Dollz

By Kate Seal

“Special Projects” in the RSVP Group Projects & Homeworkers Program are requests from nonprofit agencies for volunteer-crafted donations that are not common, like those routinely listed on our *Request For RSVP Handmade Items* form. Special Projects are an exciting challenge, a break from the ‘norm,’ and often attract volunteers with specific skill sets.

A recent special project of ours was requested by an international nonprofit agency called *Mercy’s Light*, through *Ininitely More Life* (<https://www.facebook.com/mercyslightfamily>). Their mission is to turn TRAUMA into TRIUMPH in lives around the world. In Kenya, they specifically reach out to girls who are pregnant (often through trauma), abandoned and alone. They provide shelter, food, medical care, education, and life skills.

The *Mercy’s Light* directors contacted RSVP to request help in creating prototypes and patterns for something they call Mercy Dollz. They are currently teaching young Kenyan mothers-to-be how to sew, and sell Mercy Dollz as a way to financially support their young families. While most of our volunteer-crafted donations stay right here in Dane County, there is an occasional exception, like this one, that helps a select group of individuals in a powerful way without taking away from our own local needs.

Fortuitously, one of our hugely talented and artistic Group Projects volunteers has experience (and enjoys!) making dolls. **THANK YOU, Mary Miller**, who accepted the *Mercy’s Light*, Mercy Dollz Special Project challenge! Mary developed a pattern, templates, and four beautiful rag doll prototypes for Mercy’s Light to bring to Africa in the month of June. We hope this gift brings great success to the women in Kenya.



Got 5 minutes?

Make Your Voice Count!

Dane County is looking for your thoughts and ideas that will help improve programs and services for residents as you age. Your responses will help develop a plan for 2022-2024 that will guide our work and funding of existing and needed programs.

Please take this survey before July 31st!

To access the online survey go to:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCAging_2022_2024



Rukia will be helping young moms in Mobasa, Kenya, to learn how to make these dolls.



Mercy Dollz designed and made by RSVP Volunteer Mary Miller

How do you stay connected to your students and school during a Pandemic?

By Diana Jost

Benjamin Franklin said, “Out of adversity comes opportunity.” This was very true for our school volunteers this year.

When the schools closed in March of 2020, the biggest challenge was how Intergenerational and Foster Grandparent (FGP) volunteers stay connected with their school and students. With little or no in-person learning in area schools, finding ways for tutors to help was a big challenge. Many teachers were still adapting to virtual teaching or hybrid methods of teaching and felt they were unable to take a volunteer in their virtual classroom.

A few Intergenerational and FGP volunteers were able to continue to work with their teacher and connect with their students on Zoom. Although sometimes a challenge, it was also very rewarding.

Virginia Scholtz, FGP volunteer said *“I’m grateful for the joy of spending time with a group of young people. (That includes the teachers, who are young to me). This year we “zoomed with a UW student teacher who is currently living in her home country: CHINA. I think I was able to be of special help to my “Star Student” who was struggling with reading, concentration, broken glasses, a distracting home situation (younger siblings), and a tricky internet connection.”*

Virginia’s student: “Thank you, grandma Ginny, for helping me with my work and doing all the stuff you could. Thank you for taking the time to help us and teach us things. You were very patient and kind to all of us, even when we were being very difficult. You put a lot of time into the school.

Virginia’s teacher Kristin: “Dear Grandma Ginny, I APPRECIATE you so much! I would NEVER have been able to teach this year (or any year) without your help. Your patience, easy- going ways, and amazing ideas never go unnoticed. I hope you will consider joining us next year. Big thanks and virtual hugs!!

For volunteers that could not tutor or mentor virtually but wanted to continue working with students, we were able to offer another way for volunteers to stay connected with their students in the Computer Buddy Program. The Computer Buddy Program is a virtual pen-pal-type program and therefore was a program that not only was able to continue but grew during the pandemic. Computer Buddies is always a wonderful intergenerational program but took on a special meaning this year. It became a very important way that our volunteers and area elementary students could have someone to share thoughts, feelings, and ideas with during this time. Students and their buddies not only emailed to say hello, but checked up on each other and asked how each was coping during the pandemic, decreasing the feeling of loneliness or isolation felt by both. At the end of each school year, the student and volunteer buddies met for a party. How did this happen during a pandemic? On Zoom! About 60 students and volunteers were able to see each other, talk, and introduce their buddies to the rest of the class.



Computer Buddy Zoom Party

(continued on page 14)

RSVP Calendar

July

Friday, July 23, 1-2:30 PM, Volunteer Zoom Event, Recognizing RSVP volunteers helping in nonprofits and public agencies

Guest speaker Lauren Salzmann, Volunteer Coordinator at the Henry Vilas Zoo.

August

Monday, August 16, 1:30PM, RSVP Board Meeting. Sweepstakes drawing, contact Margie Zutter for Zoom link.

August, Volunteer Zoom Event, Recognizing Foster Grandparent and Intergenerational Program Volunteers,
Date and Guest Speaker TBA

September

September, Volunteer Zoom Event, Featuring September 11th Day of Remembrance.
Date and Guest Speaker TBA

Karl's Commandments

By Jan Karst

For many years Karl Stadler was the fix-it guy, the handy-man, the figure-it-out fellow, the go-to person for RSVP. He came to us as a retired electrical engineer "with some practical abilities," as he put it in 2006 when he contacted RSVP before he even moved to Madison from Appleton, where he worked as a field engineer in the Turbine Department of GE Power Systems. He wanted to get a head start on lining up volunteer work so he could hit the ground running – which he did. Karl installed a new railing, and he and his granddaughter, Sophia, also built a Little Free Library that stood outside the old CSCI building where RSVP had its office for many years. Although we couldn't take the railing or the Little Free Library with us when we moved, you can see some of Karl's handiwork in our conference room. We still have some of the donated cabinets that Karl had refurbished for RSVP many years ago! In addition to RSVP, Karl volunteered at CSCI, Porchlight, Agrace Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, and Habitat ReStore, serving 11,252 hours in fifteen years.

Karl passed away on June 15th. At his memorial service, Karl's family had a list of "Karl's Commandments" which he lived by in his own life. Anyone who knew Karl would agree that he lived by each one of them!

- Don't buy it if you can make it (and you can make anything).
- Don't replace it if you can fix it (and you can fix anything).
- Exercise (but don't pay for it).
- Work hard. Then take a shower.
- Help others always
- It's what's inside that counts.
- Tell the truth, Period.
- People are good.
- Never get to thinking you're better than someone else.
- Express love.

We are grateful for his service to RSVP and the community. We miss you, Karl!



Want to get in Touch with Us?

Simply dial 238-RSVP (7787) or e-mail us at info@rsvpdane.org—or you can reach individual staff members directly at the phone numbers/e-mail addresses listed at right. In the event we're not available at the time you call, our 24-hour voice mail will ensure you receive a prompt response.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Margie Zutter, *Executive Director*
663-7536, mzutter@rsvpdane.org
Diana Jost, *Assistant Director*
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Jack Guzman, *Office Support Administrator*
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Krishna Sijapati, *Accountant*
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441-7891, jkarst@rsvpdane.org
Vacant, *Intergenerational/Foster Grandparent Coordinator*
441-7894
Kate Seal, *Group Projects/Homeworkers Program Coordinator*
310-7280, kseal@rsvpdane.org
Mike Thomsen, *Triad Coordinator*
441-7897, mthomsen@rsvpdane.org

DRIVER SERVICES PROGRAM

Mary Schmelzer, *Driver Services Co-Manager*
441-7896, mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org
Steve Jaeschke, *Driver Services Co-Manager*
441-7892, sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org
Robin Heilprin, *Madison/Monona Ride Coordinator*
441-7898, rheilprin@rsvpdane.org
Kari Riley, *Driver Services Program Assistant*
310-7281, kriley@rsvpdane.org
Lorrie Hylkema, *Vets Helping Vets Coordinator*
238-7901,
lhylkema@rsvpdane.org
vetshelpingvets@rsvpdane.org

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Underground Railroad Quilts and Codes

By Margie Zutter

On May 21st, RSVP's monthly Zoom event featured Gayle M. Wanamaker, M.A. and her presentation on Underground Railroad Quilts and Codes. Gayle is a retired special needs teacher, historian, preservationist, and fiber arts quilter in Ohio. She loves teaching the history of quilts including Underground Railroad Quilts and Codes, and sharing stories of her quilts embedded with family history and events. Gayle is a volunteer facilitator at Covia/Front Porch where she has taught programs on Beatrix Potter, Spiders, Halloween, Christmas and crazy quilting.

I connected with Gayle by signing up for her two virtual Underground Railroad Quilt programs in February through Covia/Front Porch. Afterwards, I contacted Gayle who was happy to be our guest presenter at no charge when learning that our May meeting would be honoring the over 200 Group Project/Homeworker RSVP volunteers. Over 40 RSVP volunteers and guests attended her Zoom presentation. Gayle included information about the Underground Railroad and travel routes. Through fourteen slides of different quilt patterns including the Carpenter's Wheel, Monkey Wrench, Log Cabin, Flying Geese, and Northern Star, she discussed the continuing debate about how these may have been used to help slaves escape through the creation and display of quilts. Gayle also recommended the following books on the topic. Some of these are children's books that can be shared with children or grandchildren. (RSVP selected five to give away as "virtual door prizes" at this event):

Lest We Forget: The Passage from Africa to Slavery and Emancipation, by Velma Maia Thomas
Follow the Drinking Gourd, by Bernardine Connelly
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt, by Deborah Hopkinson
Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky, by Faith Ringgold
Facts & Fabrications- Unraveling the History of Quilts & Slavery, by Barbara Brackman
A Path To The Civil War: Aurelia's Journey Quilt, by Sarah Maxwell and Dolores Smith

Underground Railroad Sampler, by Eleanor Burns & Sue Bouchard

Gayle also noted that Karen Biery is a great adult literature writer whose stories on the Underground Railroad are rooted in Hudson, OH which was an actual stopping point for the UGRR. "I love her work, she is an amazing writer."

It is obvious that Gayle has devoted considerable time to researching this topic that is part of our country's history. Thank you Gayle for your wonderful presentation!

*Covia/Front Porch is a non-profit that builds community, while cultivating meaningful programs and experiences that respond creatively to creating an elder experience. This program connects virtual participation for adults 60+ living anywhere in the U.S. All programs are accessible by phone or on-line and are free to anyone living in the U.S. For a free catalogue of classes please call 877-797-7299 or e-mail at coviaconnections@covia.org.



Gayle Wanamaker



Need Help Paying Your MGE Bill?

Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) would like to share some updates that may impact families who have fallen behind on their MGE bills.

As you may know, on March 18, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin lifted the disconnection moratorium, which means utilities can start disconnecting customers due to nonpayment.

- MGE is not disconnecting residential customers at this time.
- We recognize the hardship many of our customers continue to experience, and we are offering customers who contact us personalized payment plans that will help them avoid late payment charges and disconnection.
- Without a payment plan in place, customers with past-due balances will be subject to late payment charges starting April 1 and could face disconnection in the future.

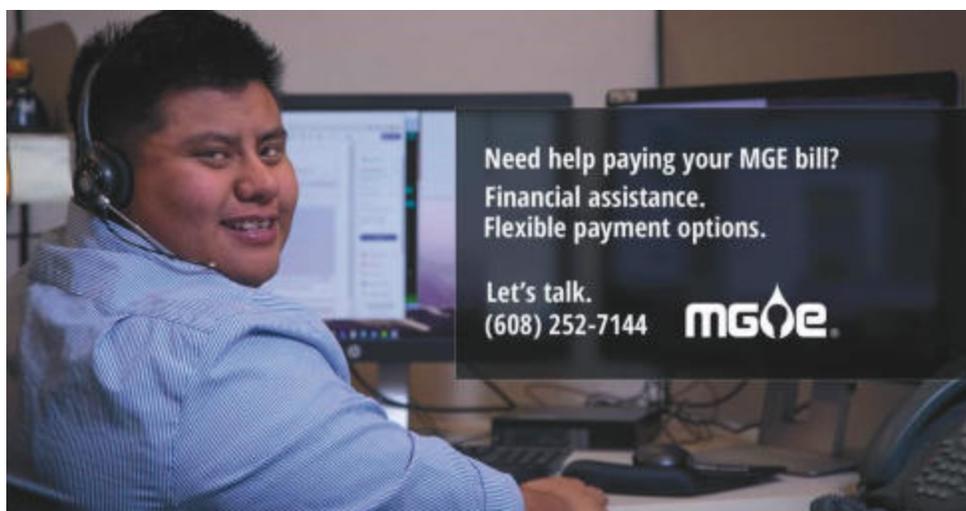
For more information regarding personalized payment for outstanding balances, visit MGE online. <https://www.mge.com/.../options/payment-arrangement...>

Information is available in three languages: English, Spanish, and Hmong.

Residential customers can call us weekdays at (608) 252-7144 (English), (608) 252-7120 (Spanish) or (608) 252-7033 (Hmong) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to set up their personalized payment arrangement.

Residential customers may be eligible for additional financial support from our partner, Energy Services, Inc. (ESI). Customers can visit <http://esiwi.com/> to verify their eligibility, schedule an appointment to speak with an ESI representative and apply for funds online. <https://energybenefit.wi.gov/OnlineApps/OnlineApp/Default#!>

They also can call ESI at (800) 506-5596.



RSVP DONOR HONOR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge donations received from the following individuals and organizations since our last newsletter, and extend our thanks to each for their generous support.

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New Grants and Additional Funding

In April, RSVP was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Madison South Rotary Foundation for Group Projects/Homeworkers supplies. In May, RSVP received a grant of \$1,500 from the Endres Mfg. Company Foundation for Group Project/Homeworkers supplies. In June, RSVP was awarded \$5,000 from the Evjue Foundation for RSVP and FGP programs.

Thank you to the Madison South Rotary Foundation, Endres Mfg. Company Foundation, and Evjue Foundation for their support of RSVP volunteers!

(continued from page 9)

One new opportunity, a new way to tutor, a new way to connect with area students was through literacy videos. Volunteers read stories using a platform called Caribu. The videos were recorded and housed on RSVP of Dane County's Foster Grandparent YouTube site. The link was given to Dane County school principals and teachers. Teachers can share the videos with students during school time or can share the link with parents for students to listen to on their own time. You can check out the Literacy videos on our YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDSSP-qCpE6Xg4C9oKIuYaA>

Larry Orr, FGP volunteer stated " I enjoy reading stories to kids: this was true in the past as a parent and as a school librarian / media specialist, and true today as I read online to kids ages four to eight. I choose a book on Caribu and rehearse a couple of stories each week, and then record them. I "ham it up" a bit (well, ok, a lot), as I have always found that kids love that. I try to bring the kids into the reading, to read with me and to think about the things we read, mostly nature and personified animal adventures. I don't get to see the kids' reactions, which was such a joy in my in-person FGP days and in my old libraries and at home, but I can imagine the reactions and promote positive responses, always encouraging the wonderful adventure of reading."

Although the 2020 and 2021 school years were a challenge in some ways, in many ways the Intergenerational and FGP volunteers learned new and innovative ways to continue to tutor, mentor, and make a difference in their student's lives.

COVID-19 VACCINATION ASSISTANCE

Are you a **Dane County resident** having difficulty leaving home to obtain the COVID-19 Vaccine?

We can help you get vaccinated!

Contact the ADRC of Dane County for more information at **(608) 240-7400**.

The ADRC is your place for Information and Assistance related to Aging or Living with a Disability.

Email: ADRC@countyofdane.com
Website: www.daneadrc.org
Facebook: [ADRC Dane Co](https://www.facebook.com/ADRC Dane Co)



Make Your Voice Count!



2021 Senior Advocacy Training

Presented by the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County's Legislative/Advocacy Committee

Tuesdays, 27 July and 3 & 10 August 2021, 9am-Noon, Online Via Zoom, Free

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- Understand County level legislative & budget processes
- Learn effective advocacy leadership skills

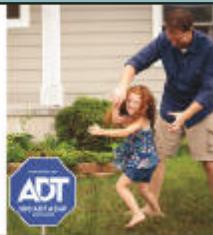
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DHS Approved 4/22/2021

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RSVP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

...where volunteer make a difference

Life is never so busy that there is no time to serve. - author unknown

SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VERONA SENIOR CENTER needs **Front Desk Volunteers** to help answer phones, greet guests, help register people for programs, meals, and rides. They also need help with preparing meals for Meals on Wheels and drive thru meal pick-up.

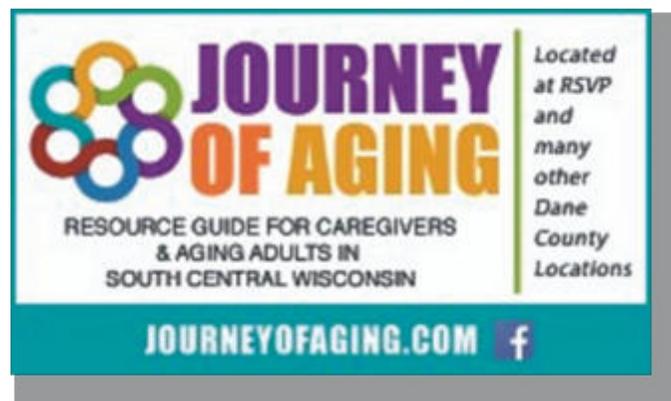
HENRY VILAS ZOO is now open and ready for action! Volunteers are needed to be **Gate Greeters** at both entrances. Meet the whole community and have fun outdoors, safely distanced and masked! **Carousel Crew** volunteers are needed to help run the ride, clean off animals after each ride during COVID-19 times, and help welcome guests. The **Zoo Train** is back in action and needs volunteer drivers, as well. Safety protocols are in place and every day is an adventure!

CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL CENTER needs many volunteers from now through October to help with planting, weeding, and maintaining their **Food Pantry Garden** at the Emmett Schulte garden. No experience necessary: a garden coordinator will always be on site. Sessions are mostly Monday and Wednesday evenings 5:30 – 7:30pm. Plenty of space for safe social distancing in the great outdoors!

SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK needs volunteers to pack Food Pantry boxes at the main warehouse. Second Harvest is making prepacked boxes that get delivered to the Food Pantries so they can pass them out at drive thru pantries. Safety protocols are in place and there is plenty of space for social distancing.

ART AND LITERATURE LAB is a gallery and work space for creative artists and writers. They need volunteer Gallery Greeters, Reception Staff, Administrative Support, and Photo Editing.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call Jan at: 441-7891 or email at: jkarst@rsvpdane.org.



RSVP Volunteer Virginia Hefty: Made a difference for Dane County Neighbors in Need
 In memory of Virginia Hefty, 8/12/1927 - 5/2/2021
 by Mary Schmelzer

Hard work and kindness were Virginia Hefty's middle names -- Hefty was raised by parents that modeled both attributes every day on their farm in Blue Mounds and instilled a strong work ethic in Virginia and her sister and brother. Virginia moved to Madison as a young woman to work and soon met her future husband, Alvin, at a dance. After the couple married, they moved to the Hefty homestead outside of Mt. Horeb, where Alvin and his 15 siblings were raised on a Century Farm that has been home to the Hefty family for 120 years.

Virginia and Alvin enjoyed many happy years together there, milking, farming, and raising their sons Dennis and Scott. Sadly the family lost Dennis to cancer in 1959, when he was only 6 years old, leaving behind a hole in their lives. Alvin and Virginia, and later Scott, carried on, working the farm until Alvin passed away in 1999, when Scott took on the role. Virginia was blessed to have Scott, his wife Janice and their kids, Emily and Tim, sharing life on the farm in a home right next door to hers.

Growing up, Virginia's mother was the family seamstress and taught Virginia to sew and crochet when

she was 13 years old – lucky for us. She used those skills off and on throughout her life. In 1973, Primrose Lutheran Church's quilt group started up and Virginia became a founding member, in fact she was the only founding member still active with the group. It was RSVP's lucky day, when the group joined the organization's volunteer ranks in 2003, as they produce a couple dozen quilts to donate each month.

Virginia was the primary quilt top maker—sewing over 1,000 quilts tops, and over 1,000 lap robes. She also made baby and regular size afghans, stocking caps, and baby sweaters. “I sew right in my kitchen, no fancy sewing room, just right in my kitchen,” said Virginia in 2017. “I just like knowing that something I do will help someone else,” added Virginia.



Virginia was a big part of RSVP, making thousands of quilts and afghans. Her hands always seemed to be busy and her jokes made every gathering a memorable time. Virginia volunteered 25,471 hours since joining RSVP on 6/11/2003. Incredible! We were honored and humbled to have Virginia share her talents with our RSVP family, and entire community.



MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES



Memorial and tribute gifts to RSVP are a meaningful way to honor someone special and to extend the services provided by volunteers. Every dollar contributed allows us to enrich the lives of many children, families, and older persons.

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN MEMORY OF

Virginia Hefty by Linda France

Virginia Hefty by Deb Jameson

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO RSVP IN HONOR OF

Richard Hoffman by Diane Muehlmann

Margie Zutter by Amy and Art Keleny



Memorials and Tributes

Please use this form to make a contribution to RSVP in memory or honor of someone special

Enclosed is my gift of _____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Personal tribute _____

Check payable to RSVP of Dane County Credit Card: MasterCard Visa PayPal
(Pay online with PayPal at www.rsvpdane.org/donateonline.html)

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____ Signature _____

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Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

If you would like, we will send an acknowledgement of your tribute or memorial to the person(s) listed below.

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY, 6501 Watts Road, Suite 250, Madison, WI 53719

WELCOME New Volunteers

We enrolled 26 new volunteers from April, 2021, through May, 2021, serving in a wide variety of assignments throughout Dane County. Do you know someone who might like to volunteer? RSVP volunteers are our best recruiters as they spread the word about why they like volunteering and the need for more volunteers. Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or neighbor and tell them what RSVP means to you!

Betsy Abramson
Edward Barman
Marnie Beebe
Jan Brady
Cindy Daggett
Gretchann Dalgaard
Courtney Demoe

Lindsey Gennrich
Jeffrey J. Haen
Edmund C. Heskin
Katherine P. Heskin
Jay R. Hotchkiss
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Kay L. Truman
Diane M. Venden
Patricia Watson
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Jeffrey S. Wise



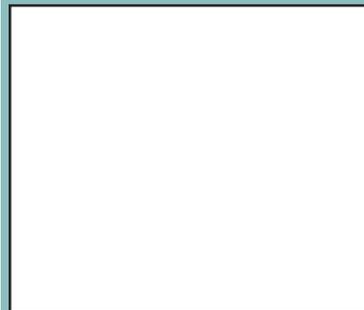
“We would be lost (without our RSVP volunteers) for sure! We are so appreciative of the strong core of volunteers we have and the influx of new people we have seen in the last few months to keep us moving!” - Volunteer Coordinator, American Red Cross

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INCLUSION STATEMENT

RSVP is committed to a culture of inclusion and connectedness. RSVP volunteers and staff come from many backgrounds, and this makes us stronger. Individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our volunteers contribute, represent the service and compassion we offer our community.

