

# **MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD**

*Encouraging the art of Quilting in the Merrimack Valley, MVQ was established in 1980*

*October 2024*



## **Executive Committee** **2024 – 2025**

President: Nancy Scarfo

Vice President: Beth Bell Lavoie

Secretary: Wendy Ward

Treasurer AP: Theresa Bourque

Treasurer AR: Zena Runkel

Go to [MVQuilters.org](http://MVQuilters.org) and look under the board member section for the full list of all the board and standing committee members.

To reach any committee member, please address any correspondence to:

MVQ Guild, PO Box 566

Haverhill, MA 01831

Newsletter submissions can be sent to Lori Josephson at **[lojo0617@gmail.com](mailto:lojo0617@gmail.com)**. The deadline is the first Friday of the month at midnight.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I feel compelled to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the extraordinary efforts that went into organizing this year's quilt show. Truly, many hands make light work; it takes a village. The success of this event is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and teamwork of our guild members.

I am genuinely honored to be part of such an incredible group of talented individuals who all share a passion for quilting. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment—the quilt show was simply amazing!

One of the highlights for me was walking through the aisles and marveling at the stunning array of quilts on display. The beautiful variety of styles, from traditional to modern to contemporary pieces, was inspiring. Each quilt told its own unique story, and it was a joy to appreciate the artistry and craftsmanship that our members poured into their work.

Thank you once again for making this quilt show a memorable experience. I look forward to our future projects and gatherings and am excited to see what we can accomplish together next.

In addition to the quilt show, September was special because we celebrated long-standing member Diane Kelly with "Quilter of the Year". The guild is lucky to have such a talent among us. Congratulations Diane, much deserved!

Nancy  
Nancy Scarfo  
President, MVQ

## **Next Meeting:**

Scheduled for **October 17, 2024**

Trunk show given by Valarie Poirier

Sew & Know – Liz Swan - from 6 to 7 PM welcoming new members and making sure they have important information and are familiar with navigating the MVQ website, etc.

Refreshments will be provided by the guild.

This meeting is IN-PERSON at NECC.

Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

## **Guidelines for Coming to the Northern Essex Community College Campus**

When on the NECC campus, you are asked to follow the protocols as set out by the federal, state, and local government.

- Although we have seen a promising decline in COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, the NECC Public Health Response Team still recommends taking all necessary personal precautions against infection.
- NECC is a Mask Flexible Campus. We encourage mask wearing while indoors. Be mindful of those around you and their comfort level. Keep a mask in your pocket just in case!
- Based on updated CDC guidance, if you are a close contact of a COVID+ individual, you are required to wear a mask on campus.
- If you have been exposed, are not feeling well, or have tested positive for COVID-19, we request that you not attend the live meetings on campus.

## **Board Meetings**

Until further notice, all board meetings are virtual on Zoom. They are scheduled in advance on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 6:30 pm. The dates are listed on the MVQ website under "Calendar of Events". All members are welcome to attend by contacting the President at least 2 days before the meeting and request an invitation.

All Committee Chairpersons are expected to attend the Board Meeting. Please make note that the next Zoom Board Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM. You will receive the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

# 2024 Quilt Show: *Destinations*

Our quilt show has drawn to a close for another year!! Thank you to every single person in this guild who made it such a great show! We needed every one of you to make this event a huge success again this year! Over 500 people attended the show and got to witness your creativity, kindness and joy at doing something you love so much! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Now on to planning for 2025!!

Lori Josephson and Jamie Ruh  
Quilt Show Chairs 2024

**From Bev and Terry** - Bev and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your contributions to the quilt show kitchen, affectionately known as "Valley's Cafe". We believe the kitchen plays a crucial role in our annual success, as it encourages people to buy food, relax, and spend more time and money at the show. Thanks to your generosity, we have extra items left over, which will be put to good use during our guild meeting and retreat. No need to bring snacks in the October meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Our guild continues to grow. We are now up to 116 members. We have a lot of new members so make sure you introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

THANK YOU to all of you who volunteered for our quilt show. Volunteers are a critical part of a successful quilt show and we passed with flying colors! Many members offered to help even though their shift had ended or had not yet started. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all the time volunteers spent helping our show be the great success it was.

I recently sent out updated versions of our Membership List and Photo Roster. Please check them and let me know if anything needs to be changed. This includes missing phone numbers and photos. I'd also love to hear how you feel about the Photo Roster being ordered by First Name. Helpful? Confusing? Love it? Hate it? Remember that these documents are for our internal use only. You can print them out and keep them with your meeting supplies and/or download them to your phone so they're always available.

Liz Swan has graciously agreed to host a New Member Info Session from 6 to 7PM just before our October meeting. (Janice Bye and I have to man the Membership table.) Liz will review some of the guild activities and, of course, answer any and all of your questions. The session is geared toward new members, but anyone is welcome to attend. Thank you, Liz!

And finally, remember to wear your name tag at our meetings so others can get to know you, as well as to be eligible for a door prize and discounts on fabric lottery tickets.

Linda Lydecker  
MVQ Membership Chair

## **Upcoming programs**

**October 17, 2024** – Valerie Poiter will be our featured speaker. Valerie, a talented crafter, completed her first quilt in 1971 and began her professional art training in 1981. Her textile work, which has been exhibited nationwide, includes mixed media, collages, and portraits, often highlighting human rights issues. Valerie is a distinguished member of the New England Quilt Museum teachers' association.

**October 19, 2024** – This project is scrap-friendly, allowing you to choose an assortment of 5" or 10" squares for leaves and fat quarters for the background, or you can use all 5" squares. Check out the supplies list on our site. You will also need the QCR Mini ruler and the book *Mini Wonderful Curves* – each student must have their own copy. If you'd like to purchase it from Linda, use the link below for a 15% discount on the bundled price of both items. Linda will bring the books and rulers to class, saving you both the shipping fee and sales tax. <https://square.link/u/KVEPHBKe>

**November 16** – Sit and Sew for the holiday stockings at the Merrimack police station. Join us to sit and chat while you finish your holiday stocking project.

**December 5** – Holiday event. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to eat, laugh, and celebrate our commonalities and differences. Join us for our inaugural Holiday Stocking Event! Pat Hochmuth has generously volunteered to kick off the holiday festivities with a fantastic idea for the guild to unleash their creativity. At the September guild meeting, a show of hands revealed that 30 members are eager to participate. Kim Schweisberg has volunteered to work on centerpieces but is looking for a partner to lend a hand. In the coming weeks, we will be asking for volunteers to help make this event a success using Signup Genius. If you already know how you'd like to contribute or have a great idea, please email Pat and me.

**January 16** – A quilt journey is the personal and creative process of making quilts, encompassing the learning, experiences, and growth that come with it. Depending on the presenter, this journey can take various forms, from sharing the trials, mishaps, and successes to storytelling about what sparked your interest and what keeps you sane and happy. This is your unique story to tell, and only you can share it in a way that resonates with you. No matter what you do, you are among friends who likely identify with some of your stories and are here to support you.

## **SEW AND KNOW FOR OUR OCTOBER MEETING**

Janice Jones

janicemaejones@gmail.com

Liz Swan will be doing the October Sew and Know. She will be focusing on information for new guild members and will present information on how to navigate our MVQ website, tips for new members, and answer any membership questions. If you are new to the MVQ guild or have questions regarding membership, this is for you.

I am currently seeking presenters for our 2025 guild meetings to come forward and show or demonstrate their favorite techniques so that we can all learn together. Please contact me to schedule what month works for you.

Sew and Know presentations take place before the meeting, typically at 6:20 and 6:40 p.m. It's a great time to mingle with other members and learn a new tip or technique.

So, who has a favorite quilting tip or technique?

Something you've been working on and want to share?

Please email me!!



# MVQ Quilting Retreat

Info & Updates

October, 2024

Hi everyone,

Our Fall Retreat is scheduled for November 7-10, 2024 and will be held at The Valley Inn in Waterville Valley, NH.

So far, we have 24 people registered and we can accommodate up to 30 people. Registration info and price list is on the MVQ website under guild activities/retreats.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Phyllis Lauria

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM



October, 2024

Hi everyone!

This is a friendly reminder that I am the Sunshine Chairperson for the guild. I have appreciated that people have been letting me know of people who are in need of cheer!

The updated Sunshine guidelines are posted on the MVQ website, under Committees, then Sunshine Guidelines.

Please let me know if you know of anyone in the guild that needs some sunshine.

You can text or call (978-609-1050) or email ([pmlauria17@gmail.com](mailto:pmlauria17@gmail.com)).

Phyllis

PHYLLIS LAURIA  
[PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM)





## **SEPTEMBER 2024 GUILD MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** September 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

President's Remarks - Nancy Scarfo

- Nancy welcomed everyone back for the new program year.
- We have a full agenda this evening.

Secretary's Report – Wendy Ward

- June meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Mystery Quilt – Wendy Ward

- We will be offering a Mystery Quilt Program again this year.
- The first month's instructions are on the table in the foyer and will be uploaded to the website.

Treasurer's Reports - Zena Runkel & Theresa Bourque

- The treasurer's report was approved as circulated.

Quilter of the Year – Linda Lydecker

- The 2023-2024 Quilter of the Year award was given to Diane Kelley.
- The guild members thanked her for all her wonderful contributions over the years.
- The award was well deserved.

Membership – Linda Lydecker

- We currently have 113 members.
- There were 10 new members this evening.
- There was 1 guest this evening.
- Make sure you pick up your membership envelope out in the foyer.
- If you wear your name tag, you get a free door prize ticket and fabric raffle tickets are 2 for \$1.00.
- Please double check your picture on the photo roster. Linda will take a new picture if you would like it updated.
- In order to be a member in good standing, you need to pay your dues and volunteer for at least 1 slot at the quilt show.
- You need to be checked in by 7:00 (before the meeting starts) in order to get a door prize ticket.
- You cannot go to the quilt retreat if you are not a member in good standing. If you have a question, look for someone wearing an "Ask Me" badge. Seasoned members are encouraged to wear an "Ask Me" badge.

Door Prizes – Linda Lydecker

- The door prize winners were Nancy Scarfo, Pat Cressman, and Terry Nichols

#### Programs – Terry Taylor & Pat Johnson

- All of the workshops have been arranged for the program year.
- The contracts are being finalized.
- The first two workshops (Linda Pearl and David Hastings) have been opened for registration.
- All of the events and workshops are listed on the guild's website.
- We are entertaining the idea of having a Sit and Sew in November where the Christmas Stockings could be worked on.
- The stockings and holiday donations would be collected at the Holiday Party.

#### Newsletter – Lori Josephson

- Newsletter submissions are due by midnight on the first Friday of each month.

#### Communications – Cathy Harnish & Liz Swan

- The Program's page has been updated on the website to allow users to easily navigate to the various events.
- If you notice any errors, please let Cathy know so they can be corrected.

#### 2025 Raffle Quilt – Mary Stobbs & Ann Stobbs

- Mary and Ann revealed the stunning 2024-2025 raffle quilt which was quilted by Liz Swan.

#### Sunshine – Phyllis Lauria

- Please let Phyllis know if you know of anyone who needs a little sunshine.
- Roseanne Ricketson has been ill this summer and is in ICU. Please let Phyllis know if you would like Roseanne Ricketson's address.

#### Quilt Retreat – Phyllis Lauria

- Registration for the retreat is now open. The information and forms can be found on the guild's website.
- The dates are November 7th to 10th.
- There is a possibility we can stay until the 11th. If you are interested in staying the extra day, please add that note to your registration form.
- If you don't have a roommate yet, register as a single to hold your spot.

#### Raffle – Diana Doucette & Nancy Dempsey

- The fabric raffle winner was Karen Busanovich.

#### Special Announcement - Linda Gueli

- There are two weekly opportunities for open sewing at the Seabrook Library, Tuesdays 9:00 to 1:00 and Fridays 9:30 to 12:00.

#### Quilt Show – Lori Josephson & sub-committees

- Lori reviewed the set up and break down dates and times.
- Members need to park next door at the Newburyport Assembly of God.
- Be sure to pick up your quilt labels at the table in the foyer.

- All of the quilt show information can be found on the guild's website.
- Judging is tomorrow at the Merrimac Library. Drop off is between 8:00 and 8:30.
- Non-judged, Challenge and Mystery Quilts can be dropped off on Thursday between 8:00 and 10:00.
- Don't forget to bring your comfort quilts to the show. They can be dropped off at the admissions table.

#### Boutique – Diana & Marilyn

- You will receive 80% of the proceeds from the sales of your boutique items.
- Drop off on Thursday between 8:00 and 12:00.
- There are inventory sheets on the table in the foyer as well as on the website.
- No straight pins are allowed in the church.

#### Admissions and Volunteers – Linda Lydecker

- There are 200 volunteer slots. Only 80% of the slots are filled so far.
- You can see all the volunteer information on the website.
- If you need to change at the last minute, please text Linda.
- Volunteers get into the show for free. This includes family members who are assisting.
- Remember to sign in for your shift.
- Please wear your MVQG name badge during the show.

#### Pinning and Labeling Your Quilts – Beth Bell Lavoie

- No straight pins are allowed in the church, use safety pins only.
- The quilt number assignments are on the website.

#### Kitchen – Bev Valle and Terry Taylor

- Donations are needed for beverages and prepackaged snacks.
- Drop off your donations Thursday and Friday only.
- Please use Sign Up Genius so that there is an adequate assortment of items.
- Lunch will be available on Thursday for a goodwill offering.

#### Silent Auction – Carol and Jennifer

- Thank you for the wonderful amount of donations.
- Bidding closes on Saturday at 3:00.

#### Penny Raffle Baskets – Mary Lou and Beth

- Thank you for the wonderful amount of donations received.

#### Hanging Quilts – Lori Josephson

- Make sure you lint roll your quilts.
- Please bring a step stool to assist with taking down quilts.
- Extra help would be appreciated to assist with taking down quilts.

#### Open Positions – Nancy Scarfo

- The Travel Raffle Quilt Chair position needs to be filled as soon as possible.
- Please reach out to Nancy if you are interested in volunteering for this position.

#### Other Items

- Past member and past quilter of the year Mary Ginn passed away last week.
- Members enjoyed a wonderful sundae bar during the break.

#### Show and Tell – All

- Members shared their many beautiful creations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ward, Treasurer.



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Wednesday – Saturday 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Follow I-495 to exit 111. Take Rt. 110 east and go 2.3 miles. We're on the right.

