

MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD

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

September 2025



Executive Committee **2025 – 2026**

President: Nancy Scarfo

Vice President: Beth Bell Lavoie

Secretary: Wendy Ward

Treasurer AP: Theresa Bourque

Treasurer AR: Zena Runkel

Go to 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**. The deadline is the first Friday of the month at midnight.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the summer cools down, my sewing room is heating up! I was "persuaded" to join an embroidery Block of the Month (BOM) program, which I quickly fell behind on by approximately six months. I also joined another BOM and am currently only one month behind. Additionally, while sorting through a "bag in the corner," I discovered another Unfinished Object (UFO) that I had completely forgotten about.

Naturally, I did what only a sane person would do: take a week off work to focus solely on sewing. My embroidery thread case is now lighter, my sewing machine oil is slightly depleted, and my scrap bag is fuller. I consider this a significant achievement.

I hope that everyone else was able to take some time this summer and catch up on or complete their projects.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 18th.

Nancy Scarfo
President, MVQ

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for **September 18, 2025 – Annual Ice Cream Social**

Refreshments will be provided by the Ice Cream Social program.

This meeting is IN-PERSON at NECC (Hartleb Technology Center).

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but doors open at 6:00 pm.

Guidelines for Coming to the Northern Essex Community College Campus

While NECC is a Mask Flexible Campus, there are times that we strongly recommend wearing a mask, such as if you are considered a close contact, have completed the quarantine phase but are still within 10 days of your positive COVID-19 test, or are experiencing minor cold symptoms.

It is recommended that you wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently. Certain types of masks offer higher levels of protection than others. KN95 and N95 are more effective than cloth or surgical face coverings at protecting against the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Please respect and support your fellow community members by staying home if you are ill, including if you have tested positive for COVID 19.

Updated 01/25

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 Wednesday October 1 at 6:30 PM. You will receive the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our guild is strong! We have over 100 members who have joined or rejoined for the 2025-2026 year. Thank you! Still, it is always a good idea to get the word out about our guild. Convince a friend to join or perhaps a grandchild as student member.

It's easy to forget people's names, especially when we've been apart for a few months. So, wear your nametag at our meetings to help others remember you. If you can't find it, make a new one. The Hatchet block is an easy pattern and can be found on the Membership page of our website. As an added incentive, you will receive a door prize ticket when checking in if you have yours on. Your nametag also gets you a discount on the Fabric Raffle.

Another way to learn who's who in the guild is to have your picture in our Photo Roster. If you haven't given me your photo or yours needs to be updated, you can either send me one (I'll crop it to a headshot), or I can take a photo of you at our meeting. Don't be camera-shy! The roster is for our use only and will never be published on the website. Updated Member Lists and Photo Rosters will be emailed in early October.

When checking in at the meeting, make sure to pick up your membership envelope. They will contain your new membership card and raffle tickets which are yours to keep. We know you have been busy quilting, so let us see your work. Bring a quilt (or 2 or 3) for Show and Tell. We are a talented group and as usual, our fall Show and Tell will be amazing and inspiring.

Linda Lydecker
Membership Chair

Quilt Show Volunteers Needed!

THANK YOU to all of you who have volunteered for our quilt show. Except for only a few, almost all our members have committed to helping make our show a success. However, there are 187 slots to fill (above and beyond all the work the Area Chairs are doing) which is far more than there are members. As a result, 32% of our slots (about 60) are still open. If your schedule allows, it would be great if you could sign up for an additional shift. We especially need help hanging and taking down quilts. To sign up, use the Volunteer Signup link under the Quilt Show tab on our website. It will link you to Sign Up Genius where you can see what slots are still open as well as who is working when. I'll also have sign-up sheets at our meeting. If you need help signing up or you cannot volunteer due to time constraints or other issues, email me and we can work out a solution.

All volunteers are admitted to the show for free no matter what day they work or what day they attend the show. When you come to the church for your volunteer shift, be sure to sign in at the Admissions table. Also remember to wear your nametag at all times during the show. MVQ members are “ambassadors” for our guild.

SEW AND KNOW

Janice Jones

janicemaejones@gmail.com

There will be no **Sew and Know** for September as the meeting focuses on preparation for our quilt show.

Sew and Know presenters are needed for:

October, January, March, April, May & June

Please keep Sew and Know alive by choosing one of the above months to demonstrate your favorite technique so that we can all learn together.

So, who has a favorite quilting tip or technique?

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

Please email me!!

2025 Quilt Show: *Hidden Treasures*

It's almost here! Less than 3 weeks to go! We have more quilts in the show than ever before! We have so many people volunteering to work at the show! This is just so amazing! We're so excited — but, of course, we still have so much to do!

Important Dates:

- **Judging Day:** Monday, **September 22, 2025** – Bring your judged quilts to the Merrimac Library from 7am – 730am.
- **Set-Up Day:** Thursday, **September 25, 2025**
- **Show Days:** Friday, **September 26, 2025** and Saturday, **September 27, 2025**

At the **September guild meeting**, there will be a table set up in the atrium with all your quilt show information. Be sure to **pick up your baggies**, which include instructions on how to label your quilts and bags. A **quilt entry list** will also be available so you can get your **quilt numbers and row letters** for each quilt entered. We'll be there to answer any questions you may have!

Penny Raffle & Donations

Please **donate a basket** to the **Penny Raffle**! We're also still collecting **fat quarters** and **scratch-off lottery tickets**. Look for **Lisa Arsenault** or **Patty Hochmuth** at the September guild meeting to give them your donations.

We also need baskets for the Penny Raffle. We ask you (or a group of you) to donate a wrapped and clearly labeled basket. Need ideas? Gardening tools and gift card, Coffee/tea items and a gift card, Halloween and Fall decorations and fabric (or any holiday), cookbooks and quilt books, Pampering themed, such as jewelry or bath and lotion, Chocolates, Suitable for newborns, with baby quilt, board books, pacifiers, and other useful items. Baskets need not be quilting/sewing themed! Bring wrapped and labeled baskets to our quilt show set-up day, Thursday, 9/25.

Our local quilt shops have been incredibly generous with raffle prize donations. Please support them by **shopping local** whenever possible!

Bring These Items to Set-Up Day

Location: Hope Community Church, 11 Hale St., Newburyport, MA

Date: Thursday, **September 25, 2025**

- Penny Raffle baskets
- Comfort quilts
- White Elephant donations
- Kitchen donations

- Non-judged quilts
 - Silent Auction items
 - Boutique items
-

Quilt Show Kitchen


We would like to ask those who would like to donate snack and drink items to sell at the cafe to let us know through Signup Genius. The Quilt show kitchen contribution signup is now available using this link – [MVQ 2025-2026: Quilt Show Kitchen Contributions](#). This format will give everyone visibility as to what is needed and some suggestions as to what to donate. Please provide only what is on the list. We always have so much extra food for this event. If you have any questions, please send an email to Bev or Terry for guidance and assistance. The cutoff date to sign up is **September 24**. This would allow us time to take inventory and fill in what is missing.

Extras for Set-Up & Show Days

- Wear your **MVQ name badge** during set-up and throughout the show!
 - If you have a stepstool or cart, please bring along!
-

Stay Informed

All quilt show details can be found at:

 [MVQuilters.org](https://www.mvquilters.org) → Click **2025 Quilt Show**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Lori Josephson – lojo0617@gmail.com

Jamie Ruh – truh@comcast.net



MVQ Quilting Retreat

Info & Updates

September, 2025

Hi everyone,

Our next retreat will be November 20-23, 2025 at the Valley Inn in Waterville, NH.
More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

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

Phyllis Lauria

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM



September, 2025

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).

Phyllis

PHYLLIS LAURIA
PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM



JUNE 2025 GUILD MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 26, 2025

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

President's Remarks - Nancy Scarfo

- Nancy warmly welcomed everyone.

Secretary's Report – Wendy Ward

- The May member meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Reports - Theresa Bourque

- The Treasurer's Report was approved.
- Beth Bell Lavoie made a motion to donate \$500 to the Merrimac Police Station, \$100 to the Merrimac Library and \$2,000 to the Lowell Museum.
- Sue Kiberd seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Installation of Offices – Elizabeth Swan

- The 2025-2026 officers were installed.
 - President – Nancy Scarfo
 - Vice President – Beth Belle Lavoie
 - Secretary – Wendy Ward
 - Accounts Payable - Theresa Bourque
 - Accounts Receivable – Zena Runkel

Quilter of the Year – Liz Swan

- Last year's winner was Diane Kelly.
- Last year's winner selects the next year's winner.
- This year's winner is Jamie Ruh.
- Congratulations to Jamie for this well-deserved award.

Membership - Linda Lydecker

- If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so as soon as possible.
- So far 70 people have renewed the membership.
- You need to renew your membership by June 30th in order to be eligible to put a quilt in the show.
- There are 2 guests at the meeting.
- Thanks to those who have volunteered to help with the show.

- It is a requirement of membership to volunteer for at least 2 hours at the quilt show.
- Signup Genius will send a reminder 3 days prior to your shift.
- The door prize winners were Beth McCloskey, Linda Guile, and Linda Buckley.

Sunshine – Phyllis Lauria

- Long time member Betty Hastings has passed.
- Arrangements will be posted online once they are available.
- A donation will be made to the organization her family chooses.

Retreat – Phyllis Lauria

- The next retreat will be November 20-23, 2025.
- More details will be announced in the fall.

Programs – Terry and Pat

- Programs have been arranged for the 2025/2026 program year.

Mystery Quilt – Wendy Ward

- Participants revealed their creations.

Quilt Show – Lori Josephson

- The quilt show will be on September 26th & 27th.
- Set up will be on September 25th.
- The judging will be on September 22nd.
- Quilt entries are due by August 1st.
- Donation quilts should be brought to the church on September 25th.

White Elephant - Helene Parenteau

- Helene is available to pick up donations in July and August or they can be brought to the September meeting.

Penny Raffle – Marilyn Yee

- The guild is collecting fat quarters and scratch tickets and themed baskets.
- Baskets available in foyer.
- The donation baskets should be wrapped in cellophane.

Boutique – Marilyn Yee

- Members receive 80% of the sale of their items and the guild receives the other 20%.
- The items must be handmade by you.
- There is a limit of 10 identical items (10 potholders, 10 bowl cozies, etc.).

- You will be allowed to restock your inventory as items are sold.

Comfort Quilts – Beth Bell Lavoie

- Please remember to bring comfort quilt donation for Wellspring.

Challenge Quilt – Beth Bell Lavoie

- Beth reminded everyone about the challenge quilt.
- Details can be found on the website.

Brown Bag Challenge – Patty Hochmuth

- Members shared the beautiful creations they received.

2026 Raffle Quilt was revealed – Terri Leeman

- Next year's raffle quilt was revealed.
- The pattern is called Hidden Wells.

Fabric raffle – Nancy and Diana

- Janice Bye was the winner.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ward, Secretary.



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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.