

MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD

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

January 2026



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

Welcome back, Quilt Guild! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and had the chance to relax and recharge. As we move forward, let's keep the spirit of creativity alive by supporting one another and celebrating our achievements, both big and small.

This year offers countless opportunities to grow as quilters—whether you're tackling your first quilt or refining your craft. Let's encourage each other to step outside our comfort zones and explore new patterns, fabrics, and techniques. Together, we can make 2026 a year filled with beautiful creations and lasting friendships.

Looking forward to a creative and inspiring 2026 together!

With warm regards,
Nancy Scarfo
President, MVQ

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for January 15th – Members Quilt Journey

Refreshments will be provided by all members.

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

The doors open at 6:00 pm. The Sew & Know starts at 6:20 pm. The meeting starts at 7:00 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 February 4, 2026 at 6:30 PM. You will receive the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

CALLING ALL HALF SQUARE TRIANGLES

If you took a baggie or 2 to make HSTs for the **2027 Raffle Quilt**, now is the time to bring those completed beauties back. Please try to bring them back to the January meeting. These parts will be used to make more parts that will be combined to make blocks for the quilt. Thanks for helping out and there will be more opportunities to sew next month.

UFO AUCTION – FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Next month is our annual UFO Auction! For those of you who are new to the guild, this is our biggest fundraising event, next to the Quilt Show. It involves a huge silent auction where you have the opportunity to bid on baskets of donated fabric, a live auction of not quite finished kits and quilt kits and a pay as you go table, where you can buy fabric and notions outright! AND YOU GET A PADDLE, JUST LIKE A REAL AUCTION! You can also bring a non-member to the auction to take part in all the fun!

*****WE ALSO NEED DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EVENT*****

HOW TO DONATE:

- Contact Hélène Parenteau (see below) for pick up.
- Bring items to the January Guild Meeting (Hélène will be collecting items)
- We cannot accept donations on the day of the auction.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER:

SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE OUT FOR JANUARY GUILD MEETING.

YOU CAN ALSO USE THE LINK TO THE SIGNUP GENIUS BELOW TO VOLUNTEER!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA4AB22A2FF2-61582142-ufoauction>

Sorting and setting up will take place at NECC beginning at 11am on the day of the auction, February 19th.

Please take this opportunity to recycle your stash and make room for new projects! And, if you know any non-member quilters that would like to make fabric donations (perhaps they are moving?), please mention our auction to them. Hélène or her team may be available to meet people and/or come to your homes for pickups.

We would like donations of quilting cotton fabric, unfinished quilt projects, quilting supplies, embroidery, knitting, vintage sewing items and any other items you think would be of interest to your fellow quilters. (No books or magazines at the auction. Please save those for the White Elephant room at the quilt show!)

Thank you so much for your help in making this another successful auction!

Hélène Parenteau
Contact Info:
helene@organizingspecialists.com

2026 CHALLENGE QUILT PROJECT – “I GET AROUND”

Cruising the strip at the beach this past summer, with the top down, wind in my hair, and the Beach Boys “I Get Around” on the radio, inspiration struck and a challenge was born!

For 2026, let’s tackle curves! You know, the block that engenders fear and trepidation... Take out your circle, squiggle and orange peel templates, your applipops, your “Make It Curvy” sets, Sew Kind of Wonderful Quick Curve Rulers, or your brand-new Sue Pelland “Rotary Cut Applique” rulers... That’s just some of the tools I’ve stocked up on to do curved piecing.

But let’s not stop there; how about template free curves like improv, bias tape, applique, fusible, embroidery, or embellishment – there are so many methods to choose from. Select one, two, or as many techniques as your wish and make a wall hanging that incorporates at least one curved element. Note that a curve does not have to be a complete circle, it just has to be identifiable as a non-straight line within your project, so even curves created by foundation paper piecing (which would be a series of straight lines that create a curve) would qualify.

Your project must be no larger than 18 inches wide by 22 inches long, include a top, batting, and backing, and a finished edge. Please include a hanging sleeve for display.

Quilts are due for the September 2026 Quilt Show.

Have fun, get silly, learn a new technique!

Beth Bell Lavoie

Guild Vice President

SEW AND KNOW

Janice Jones

janicemaejones@gmail.com

In January, Christine Clarke-Swift will be presenting her Crocheting Skills. You can find her at the Sew and Know table in the lecture room from around 6:20 p.m. to the start of our meeting.

Let's keep Sew and Know alive!

So, who has a favorite quilting tip or technique? Something you've been working on and want to share? Please email me so that I can put you on the schedule.

Thanks!



January, 2026

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](mailto:pmlauria17@gmail.com)





MVQ Quilting Retreat Info & Updates

January, 2026

Hi everyone,

Our retreats for 2026 have been booked! They will be held at The Valley Inn, Waterville Valley, NH.

The Spring Retreat will be held Thursday, April 30th to Sunday, May 3rd, 2026.

The Autumn Retreat will be held Thursday, November 5th to Sunday, November 8th, 2026.

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

Phyllis Lauria

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM

DECEMBER 2025 GUILD MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

President's Remarks – Nancy Scarfo

- As 2025 draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for what a fantastic year it has been. Thank you all for your shared enthusiasm, creativity, and friendship. Whether it was through our show-and-tells, workshops, quilt retreats or collaborative charity projects, your contributions made our guild meetings truly special. I'm already excited about the possibilities for 2026 and can't wait to see what amazing things we will create together next year.
- Wishing you all happy holidays and peaceful stitching!

Secretary's Report – Wendy Ward

- The October meeting minutes were accepted as circulated.

Treasurer's Reports – Zena Runkel & Theresa Bourque

- The Treasurer's report was accepted as circulated.

Membership – Linda Lydecker

- We have 135 members.
- The door prize winners were Marilyn Yee, Kim Schweisberg, and Wendy Ward.

Programs – Terry Taylor and Pat Johnson

- Instead of having t-shirts made for the bus trip, that money will pay for admission to the show.
- Terry will schedule a sew day to make name badge holders.
- The David Hastings workshop will be via Zoom.
- If you have registered for a class and know that you will not be able to attend, please let Terry or Pat know as soon as possible so that the spot can be given to another member.
- Poll will be sent for next year's programs.
- My Handmade Spaces signup is open.
- If you would like to teach a workshop to the group, please let Pat or Terry know.
- If you would like to participate in the Brown Bag Challenge, bring your 5 fat quarters to the January meeting.
- The completed project will be brought to the June meeting and returned to their owners.

Quilt Show Challenge – Beth Bell Lavoie

- The Quilt Show Challenge will be "I get around" and can be anything with a curve.
- Further details will be in the next newsletter.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:25 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.