

MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD

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

February 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

Hello guild members!

Things may be cold outside, but the guild is heating up with activity!

Our annual UFO Auction is coming up on Thursday, February 19th, and promises to be bursting at the seams with layer cakes, jelly rolls, charm packs, yardage, and so much more. Make sure you have plenty of energy to shop!

The quilt show is also starting to ramp up, and many tasks have already been completed. Just about all quilt show chairpeople from last year will be staying on this year, which is amazing!! We are still looking for a few more volunteers—please see Lori Josephson, Jamie Ruh or Liz Swan to discuss opportunities.

I want to give a special shoutout to Sandy Mackay for having her Circle of Life quilt accepted into the AQS shows in Hartford and Paducah! This is quite an honor for her, our guild and her longarm quilter, our very own Liz Swan! Good luck to you!

Lastly, we have two open positions that need to be filled: Vice President and Secretary. These roles are essential for keeping the guild running. If you would like information on the positions, please reach out to Beth Bell Lavoie for Vice President details and Wendy Ward for Secretary details. If you'd like colorful details about either position, feel free to reach out to me.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the auction!

With warm regards,
Nancy Scarfo

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for February 19th – UFO AUCTION!!!

Refreshments will be provided by members whose last names begin with A-C.

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 March 4, 2026 at 6:30 PM. You will receive the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This is it! Our next meeting is the always fun, always profitable UFO Auction! The auction and our quilt show are the guild's two major fundraisers, so I encourage you to bid early and bid often!

- Be sure to pick up your paper plate bidding paddle when you check in. Use the back to make notes of any lots you're interested in or have bid on.
- Bring your cash and checkbook to pay for your treasures.
- There is no guest fee this month so invite all your friends to come and share this fun event!
- Arrive as close to 6:00 as you can to allow enough time to view all the auction items. The Silent Auction will close at 7:30 and the Live Auction will begin shortly after that.

Because the auction is so time-consuming, we need to eliminate a few things we normally do at our meetings. There will be no Sew and Know before the meeting – use this time to look over both the Silent and Live Auction lots. We will also not be awarding any door prizes (but please still wear your nametag). Lastly, there will be no Show and Tell – save your quilts for our March meeting.

I will issue updated copies of our MVQ Photo Roster and Membership List before the February meeting. Please check your photo and contact info. If your photo is missing or you don't like it, send me a new one or remind Janice or me to take one of you at the meeting. Also let me know of any changes that are needed for your contact info. Updates will be included when these important documents are reissued. Use them to get to know your fellow guild members.

Linda Lydecker, Membership Chair

2027 RAFFLE QUILT UPDATE

Thanks to the many volunteer sewists that made half square triangles (HSTs). We have reached the goal of 960+ HSTs! You rock! If you have not returned your baggie of HSTs, please bring them in now as they'll be used in other segments of the block.

But sadly, we're not done. See Fran Daneault or Susan Nelson and pick up a baggie or 2 and make some rectangles. We have an easy construction method of sewing squares to a strip and squaring up. We'll have demo templates with instructions in each baggie to remind you when you get home. And you can always contact us with any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you at the UFO Auction.

Thanks in advance,
Fran (774-270-7120) and Susan (603-933-0493)

PROGRAMS

Upcoming events for Programs. Don't miss the lectures and workshops ([Lecture Schedule/ Workshop Schedule ? Merrimack Valley Quilters.](#))

1. 2/13 – Poll closes
2. 2/21 -- 2/28 -- Sit and sew for the purpose of making the phone bags for the bus trip. See signup genius to [MVQ 2025-2026: Phone bag - Workshop](#)
3. 3/19 -- Christa Nee – body mechanics
4. 3/21 -- Handmade Space – Emails were sent to members who are participating. If you have not received an email, please contact Programs.
5. 4/16 -- Barbara Graceffa - Secret Codes in Quilts from the Underground Railroad
6. 4/10 -- Bus trip there are still spots available [Lecture Schedule/ Workshop Schedule ? Merrimack Valley Quilters.](#) Emails were sent to members who are participating. If you have not received an email, please contact Programs.
7. 5/21 -- Timna Tar – Flying Color Trunk Show
8. 5/23 -- David Sirota – Storm at Sea
9. 5/03 -- Phyllis Lauria - Spring Retreat
10. 6/18 -- Brownbag Big Reveal – Looking forward to everyone's creations
11. 6/18 -- Kathie Beltz - Secrets from the Judging Center
12. 6/20 -- Timna Tar – Map making with fabric

SEW AND KNOW

Janice Jones

janicemaejones@gmail.com

Since our February meeting is focused on our annual Auction, there will be no Sew and Know presentation. However, I am always looking for volunteers to present throughout the year.

The membership loves to see new tips and tricks, so let's keep Sew and Know alive. The presentations are casual, brief, and stress free. Plus it's a great way to meet and chat to other guild members and whether you are new or a seasoned member, that's a good thing.

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

Thanks!



February, 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

February, 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

JANUARY 2026 GUILD MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 15, 2026

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

President's Remarks – Nancy Scarfo

- Welcome back everyone and we hope you had an amazing holiday!
- Wendy Ward, Secretary and Beth Bell Lavoie, Vice President, have decided to step down from their positions, effective June 2026.
- These two positions do need to be filled.
- If you are interested, please reach out to either Wendy, Beth or Nancy.
- Barbara Ullman will be handling the sign-ups for the NEQE which is taking place April 9th – 11th.
- Bits and Pieces has not sent out the volunteer requirements yet, but if it's like the last few years, we will need volunteers to sit with the quilt and help with show. \
- More details will be shared as they become available.
- February is the UFO Auction.
- Hélène Parenteau will need assistance setting up here at the college starting at 11:00 on February 19th.
- Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer as well as a link to sign up online.

Secretary's Report – Wendy Ward

- The December Secretary's report was approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Reports – Theresa Bourque

- The December Treasurer's report was approved as circulated.
- There are many checks outstanding.
- If you have lost your check and need it reissued, please see Theresa.

Membership – Linda Lydecker

- We have 135 members.
- Linda challenged everyone to complete a UFO project this year.
- Keep your eye out for young people who may be interested in joining the guild.
- Linda will be updating the photo roster so let her know if you would like to add an updated photo.
- Door prize winners were Barbara LeClerk, Lisa Arsenalt, and Susan Brostowin.
- There are no door prizes next month due to UFO auction.

Programs – Terry Taylor

- The bag making workshops will be on February 21st and 28th.
- Thank you to everyone who took a bag kit to make.
- Thank you to Liz Swan for quilting the material.
- More kits will be available at the February meeting.
- David Hastings Owens lecture is January 22nd, please plan to attend.
- The Sue Pelland workshop is on January 24th,
- Pat received a card from the Merrimac Holiday Helper Program thanking us for our donations.
- Thank you to everyone who donated.

- Please answer the polls to help with planning for the year ahead.

Brown Bag Challenge – Patty Hochmuth

- There are over 20 brown bags.
- Look in the bag after you have chosen to make sure it is not your fabric.

Sunshine/Quilt Retreat – Phyllis Lauria

- Please see Phyllis with any Sunshine items.
- The 2026 retreat dates are April 30th - May 3rd and the first weekend in November.

UFO Auction – Helene Parenteau

- Thank you to Mary and Ann Stobbs for their donations.
- Susan Nelson has offered to print the bid sheets.
- There will be a Grab and Go table and Make an Offer table.
- Helene will be by the table accepting payments for those two tables.
- Bring your large bags to bring home your purchases.

Travel Raffle Quilt – Barbara Ullman

- Two locations have been planned so far to sell raffle tickets – NEQE and Boxford Apple Festival
- Members are welcome to sell their creations at the apple festival.

Fabric Raffle – Nancy Dempsey/Dianna Doucette

- The fabric raffle winner was Diane Bowles.

Show and Tell

- Members shared their beautiful creations.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ward, Secretary.



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