

# **MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD**

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

*March 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](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**

Hello guild members!

With warmer weather approaching, Lori Josephson and I traveled to Maine to attend an embroidery class at Olde School Fiber & Craft. The experience allowed us to learn a new skill, explore a shop we had not previously visited, and connect with others who share an interest in fiber arts.

Living in an area rich with quilt shops and craft stores, the trip reinforced the value of traveling with a friend to discover new destinations and engage in hands-on learning experiences. In 2026, why not plan a day trip with a friend and visit a quilt shop you've never been to before? Experiences like these remind us that creativity, connection, and inspiration are often just a short journey away.

With warm regards,  
Nancy Scarfo  
President, MVQ

**Next Meeting:****Scheduled for March 19th – Christa Nee – Body Mechanics**

Refreshments will be provided by members whose last names begin with D-F.

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

Sew & Know – Cathie Harnisch – How to Make Continuous Bias Binding

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 April 1, 2026 at 6:30 PM. You will receive the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

It was great to see so many members at our UFO Auction. That night we also had 16 guests some of whom joined our guild. This brings our membership total to 139 - a new record!

Remember to bring your finished Raffle Quilt units to our March meeting. See Fran Caruso-Daneault or Susan Nelson.

You should have received an email from me with the updated Photo Roster and Member List documents. Along with wearing your nametag, these documents are important for helping us to get to know each other better. Print them and keep them with your meeting things so they are an easy reference. You could also download them to your phone so they're always at your fingertips. If you can't print, let me know or ask for them when you check in at our meeting. As always let me know if any of your contact info needs to be updated or if you want to replace your photo.

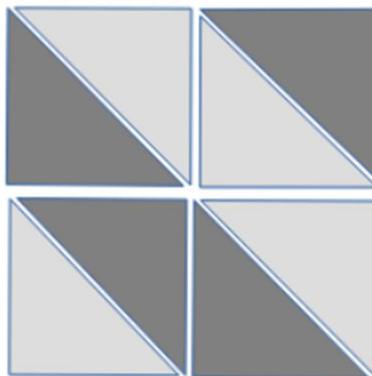
Linda Lydecker, Membership Chair

## **2027 RAFFLE QUILT UPDATE**

Thanks to the many volunteer sewists that took baggies to make the rectangle parts for the raffle quilt. Please bring them to the March meeting. If you have not returned your baggie of HSTs please bring it/them in now as they'll be used in other segments of the larger block.

The good news is that there are more block parts to make! YAY! See Terry Leeman and pick up a baggie or 2 and make some triangle blocks. Here's a preview of this month's task. All you have to do is sew 2 HSTs together twice and then sew them together. We have a diagram showing where the lights and darks go included in each baggie to remind you when you get home.

Make a block with lights and  
darks in these positions.  
Block should be 4.5" square.



Contact us with any questions.

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

## SEW AND KNOW

Janice Jones

janicemaejones@gmail.com

Cathy Harnish will present "Making Continuous Bias Binding" at the Sew and Know table before the start of our March meeting. Come early and check out her technique starting around 6:30p.m.

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 brief, casual, and stress free. Plus it's a great way to meet and chat to other guild members; and whether you are a 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!

## PROGRAMS

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

1. 3/19 -- **Christa Nee** – Body Mechanics – Christa will be addressing posture, body mechanics, joint protection strategies and stretching exercises that you can do throughout your time quilting. She will also review equipment that is out there which you may find helpful in improving your overall quilting experience.
2. 3/21 -- **Handmade Space** – Please stop by and pick up your materials. There is prep work that is required before class starts. If you have not received information regarding this class, please contact Pat or Terry. Waiting list is empty so if you want to take the class, please add your name to the list so that we are able to contact you in case of cancellation.
3. 4/16 -- **Barbara Graceffa** -- Secret Codes in Quilts from the Underground Railroad
4. 4/10 -- **Bus trip** -- there are still spots available. We will be sending out the name for name tags during the first week of March. If you are even thinking of joining the trip, please reach out to Pat or Terry by March 6,2026.
5. 5/21 -- **Timna Tar** – Flying color trunk show
6. 5/23 -- **David Sirota** – Storm at Sea
7. 5/03 -- **Phillis Lauria** -- Spring retreat
8. 6/18 -- **Kathie Beltz** -- Secrets from the Judging Center
9. 6/20 -- **Timna Tar** – Map making with fabric
10. October meeting -- **Brownbag big reveal** – looking forward to everyone's creations. Final due date will be announced during March guild meeting.



# SENDING Sunshine

MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS

March, 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](mailto:pmlauria17@gmail.com)).

Phyllis

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





# MVQ Quilting Retreat

Info & Updates

March 2026

Hi everyone,

Our Spring 2026 Quilt Retreat will be held at The Valley Inn, Waterville Valley, NH. from Thursday, April 30 to Sunday, May 3, 2026. Registration is now OPEN.

Information and forms can be found on the MVQ website, under Guild Activities-Quilt Retreats.

Please refer to the email blast that was sent on 3/4/26, which has directions for registering.

If you have any questions, please email me.

*Phyllis Lauria*

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM

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## **FEBRUARY 2026 GUILD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: February 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

### **President's Remarks – Nancy Scarfo**

- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped prepare for this evening's auction.
- The Brown Bag Challenge due date will need to be changed.
- Patty will provide the new due date at the March meeting.
- Fran is looking for people to take a raffle block to sew.
- Volunteers are still needed for NEQE.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to Barbara Ullman.

### **Secretary's Report – Wendy Ward**

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

### **Treasurer's Reports – Theresa Bourque**

- The January Treasurer's report was approved as circulated.
- There are two outstanding checks that haven't been cashed.
- Please see Theresa to have the checks reissued.

### **Membership – Linda Lydecker**

- We have 135 members.
- There are several guests in attendance.

### **Programs – Terry Taylor and Pat Johnson**

- Thank you to those who completed the survey.
- The survey results were on the foyer table for everyone to review.
- There are bus trip phone bag kits in the foyer for those willing to help make them.
- There are still openings for the bus trip for anyone interested in attending.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ward, Secretary.



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