

MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD

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

October 2026



Executive Committee **2026 – 2027**

President: Nancy Scarfo

Vice President: Andrea Ireland

Secretary: Fran Caruso Daneault

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

Thank you all so much for volunteering your time, talents, and energy to make our quilt show a **HUGE success!** Every contribution—from planning and set-up to welcoming guests, assisting throughout the event, and cleaning up afterward—helped make the show truly special. Your hard work, dedication, and teamwork brought everything together beautifully.

The quilts, displays, and warm hospitality reflected the creativity and spirit of our guild, and we could not have done it without each and every one of you.

I am deeply grateful for all you did. Thank you again for helping make this year's quilt show such a wonderful and memorable event!

And in other news.... we will be hosting our annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 3rd. A signup sheet is on the guild website, mvquilters.org, under Lectures/Workshops.

Note: I will be hosting the swap again this year, and I promise it will be better than last year's game. :-). If you are interested in joining the swap, please bring a \$20.00 gift wrapped. The gift does not need to be sewing-related.

Reach out to me if you have any questions!

With warm regards,
Nancy Scarfo
President, MVQ

**Next Meeting:
Scheduled for October 15th**

This meeting will be in person at NECC. It will begin at 7:00 pm.

Guest Speaker: Michelle Cain - Not-Your-Typical Jelly Roll Quilts Trunk Show

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

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our guild continues to grow. We are now up to **138 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.

Since we have so many new members, I have sent out updated versions of our **Membership List and Photo Roster**. You can print them and keep them with your meeting supplies and/or download them to your phone so they're always available.

Finally, remember to wear your **nametag** at our meetings so others can get to know you. Your nametag gets you a door prize ticket as well as a discount on fabric lottery tickets.

SEW AND KNOW

Janice Jones

janicemaejones@gmail.com

Chris Clarke-Swift will be doing "Card Making" for our October meeting.

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 share a new tip or technique.

Does anyone have a favorite quilting tip or technique? Something you've been working on and want to share? Please email me!! We are in desperate need of Sew and Know presenters for future meetings.



AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

Best of Judged	905	Elizabeth Swan
Judge's Choice	1009	Patricia Knoerl Johnson
NACQJ Award	414	Elaine Rando
Traditional Small		
1st	104	Susan Webster
2nd	102	Maggie Judd
3rd	110	Diana Irish
Traditional Medium		
1st	208	Susan Webster
2nd	214	Gail Forthoffer
3rd	202	Elizabeth Swan
Traditional Large		
1st	311	Beth Bell Lavoie
2nd	317	Pat Bandura
3rd	316	Elizabeth Swan
Art		
1st	414	Elaine Rando
2nd	416	Cynthia Baker
3rd	419	Linda King
Mystery		
1st	503	Deborah Conlon
2nd	501	Gail Forthoffer
3rd	508	Elizabeth Swan
Challenge		
1st	603	Susan Dodge
2nd	617	Linda Lydecker
3rd	620	Fran Daneault

Modern		
1st	704	Beth Bell Lavoie
2nd	706	Alvera Gaskins
3rd	708	Kimberly Crouse
Contemporary Small		
1st	811	Susan Webster
2nd	805	Carol Sullivan
3rd	810	Phyllis Lauria
Contemporary Medium		
1st	908	Linda Lydecker
2nd	906	Jamie Ruh
3rd	902	Susan Nelson
Contemporary Large		
1st	1010	Michelle Mailloux
2nd	1001	Jamie Ruh
3rd	1006	Gail Forthoffer
Quilt Chair's Choice	312	Fran Daneault
Quilt Co-chair's Choice	404	Maria Carter
Quilt Co-chair's Choice	402	Linda Lydecker
Best Longarm Quilting	316	Elizabeth Swan
Best Domestic Quilting	414	Elaine Rando
Best Use of Color	421	Susan Dodge
Best Binding	906	Jamie Ruh
Best Use of Embellishments/Embroidery	908	Linda Lydecker
Best Appliqué	311	Beth Bell Lavoie
Best Piecing	1010	Michelle Mailloux
Viewer's Choice – TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE NEXT GUILD MEETING!!		

PROGRAMS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Our full schedule of lectures and workshops is now available on the Merrimack Valley Quilters Guild website.

- Explore upcoming offerings: [Lectures/Workshops](#) View the full class descriptions: [PowerPoint Presentation](#).
- Share teacher suggestions using the [Suggestions for Programs](#) link within the lecture/workshop section.
- Holiday Party signup is open: [MVQ Guild: 2026 Holiday Party \(Scheduled Dec 3th\)](#) we can't have an event without you.

Sit & Sew

Three Sit & Sew sessions have been added to this year's calendar. Reserve your spot through Signup Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAFAF2CA3F4C52-65599178-2026> These sessions are designed to bring our community together and help everyone chip away at workshop prep or their stash.

Holiday Charity – St. Ann's Home, Inc.

We expect to receive a variety of wish lists soon. As soon as they arrive, I'll share them with the group and set up a Signup Genius. Our goal is to have each child adopted by the end of October and then let St. Ann's know which wishes the guild couldn't absorb.

Holiday Stocking Event

We're continuing our Holiday Stocking Event this year, with the goal of providing a handmade stocking for every child we adopt. It's a heartfelt way to add a personal touch to the holiday gifts we'll be giving. Let's make this happen together—and enjoy a little friendly competition along the way. Whether you stitch at home or join us during guild sewing days, every stocking helps brighten a child's holiday.

Bus Trip

Pat and I would love to know who's excited to volunteer to run the August 4th bus trip to Connecticut! We're waiting on the quote for the Vermont Quilt Show and want to get a sense of how many members might be interested. If this trip sounds fun to you, let us know—you might be the spark that gets it rolling.

Zoom Meeting Support

We will continue offering Zoom access for most meetings so members can join from home or while traveling. To keep our hybrid meetings running smoothly, we're looking for a few volunteers who feel comfortable helping manage the Zoom session.

You can help in whichever way suits you best:

- From home — monitor participants, assist with muting/unmuting, and support members who need help joining.
- At the school — bring your laptop and help manage the Zoom session on site.

Your support helps ensure everyone—whether in the room or online—feels included and connected.



October, 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





MVQ Quilting Retreat

Info & Updates

October, 2026

Hi everyone,

Our next retreat will be held at The Valley Inn, Waterville Valley, NH from 11/5 to 11/8/26 and registration is now OPEN!!

Information, Registration Form, and Pricing List can be found on the MVQ website under Guild Activities/Retreats.

Please follow the instructions, mailing your registration and payment to me. We will likely have a waiting list.

If you have any questions, please email me.

Phyllis Lauria

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM

SEPTEMBER 2026 GUILD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:07.

President's Remarks – Nancy Scarfo

- Welcome back everyone! I hope you had an amazing summer! I'm looking forward to an exciting and busy year ahead of us.
- On a different note, I'm sorry to announce that Roseann Ricketson passed away on Tuesday. Roseann has been a member of the guild since 1995 and in 2007 she, along with Maggie Judd, were "Quilter of the Year". Phyllis Lauria has made a donation to the American Heart Association on the guild's behalf. The wake for Rosanne is on Saturday, September 19th at Conte Funeral Home, 17 Third St. North Andover from 11:00-2:00.as circulated.

Secretary's Report –Fran Daneault

June minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Reports – Theresa Bourque

July and August reports were accepted as circulated.

Membership – Linda Lydecker

We are up to 128 members and we welcome new-comers and new quilters. Members should pick up their membership packets including raffle tickets and membership card. Official photo register and list will be available in October.

Door prize winners: Guest Kristin Perry, Patty Hochmuth, and Ginette Lavoie.

Travel Raffle Quilt – Barbara Ullman

Raffle tickets and raffle blocks will be available at the Boxford Apple Festival this Saturday.

Brown Bag Challenge – Patty Hochmuth

The items made for the brown bag challenge will be revealed at the October meeting. 25 - 30 members participated by putting 5 fat quarters in a bag that was traded for someone else's bag.

Quilt Show – Lori Josephson

Getting ready for Sunkissed Quilt Show on September 25 and 26. 176 quilts will be displayed with 100 being judged. Set up on the 24th. Please be respectful to all Hope Church parishioners. Reminder to not prop doors open. Step stools needed for quilt hanging. Extra points if you put your name on it. The scissor sharpener will be there only on Friday from 9 to 2.

Penny Raffle – Lisa Arsenault/Patty Hochmuth

Lots of baskets are in the work including gift cards, and fat quarters. Bring baskets by 10:30 for organizing. List the items in the basket on a tag. Support and thank the shops that donated gift cards: Bits and Pieces Quilt Shop, Sew Together Quilt Shop, Mary Rose Quilts & Treasures, Pine Tree Quilt Shop, Seacoast Sewing and Quilting, Compass Point Quilts, The Red Barn Sewing & Yarn Center, The Quilted Stitch Co. formerly Angel's.

Silent Auction – Maureen Terrazzano

A buy-it-now option has been instituted for instant shopping. Proceeds to Our Neighbors Table. Please bring a food donation.

White Elephant – Helene Parenteau

Look for sewing machines, crazy quilt fabrics and a cutting table. Need 1 more baby scale for weighing fabric.

Boutique – Marilyn Yee and Diana Gramont

Accepting member-made pieces with 80% to maker and 20% to guild. 100 item limit with 10 of each type. Sold items may be replenished. Display containers are welcome. Drop off items with price tags and forms on Thursday.

Volunteers – Linda Lydecker

190 total show slots to fill with 75% already filled. Yay us! Sign-up Genius link has the current openings. Please wear your name tag. Check your name off the volunteer list daily. Pay pal is available to take payments. White gloves and members to use gloves to view backs of quilts. Used ones go in the brown bag.

Kitchen – Bev Valle

Still some slots left to fill. Please bring on Thursday or Friday.

Comfort Quilts –

Bring them in on Thursday for best show display but they will be accepted throughout the show. Requesting twin size or larger for St. Annes. Keep smaller quilts for another time.

Programs – Terry Taylor

Thanks for bringing your own water bottles. Pick up your MVQ water bottle sticker with your name. Holiday charity is St. Anne's Home. Adopt a child solo or as a group to make a child's dream come true. Holiday stocking event will still be judged but more stockings will be needed as we want to have one for each child. Terry and Pat will not be able to host the bus trip. Please consider taking over this field trip and work with them to continue this event. Please.

Fabric Lottery – Nancy Dempsey and Diana Doucette

Winner: Mary Lou Monteiro

Sunshine and Retreat – Phyllis Lauria

Please let Phyllis Lauria know of any sunshine needs. Registration for retreat will open this week. Registration must be mailed to Phyllis with postmark. Complete details shared in the email.

Adjourn Business Portion of Meeting at 8:20.**Show and Tell**

We saw a preview of the quilts that will be hung at the show.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Daneault



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