

Welcome to the Merrimack Valley Quilters Guild

New Member FAQ'S

General Information

Guild meetings are held at Northern Essex Community College in the Technology Building in Conference Room 103B on the third Thursday of the month from September to June, with no meeting held in November and a holiday party held the first Thursday in December. The other exception is our May meeting, which is held the second Thursday of the month. Social hour from 6-7 PM, with our business meeting starting at 7 PM.

Visit our website at <http://mvquilters.org>. Check out the Board Member and Committee Member pages. They list who's who within the Guild. There are links for you to be able to reach most of the Board and Committee members via email. The website tells about MVQ, it's history, how to join, and includes the by-laws. Guild Activities include meetings, retreats, projects, sewing get-togethers and more. Lectures/Workshops will explain what's coming up in the future. Quilt Show gives information regarding the Quilt Show. There is a list of Board meeting dates. Newsletters can be read on-line, or a paper copy is available for a small fee to those who have no computer access. Links and Resources list website links and forms you may need. Show and Tell has pictures of members Show and Tell. FAQ's are under New Member Information on the website. Calendar of Events – What's coming up in Calendar form.

How do I find information?

Check out our website, mvquilters.org. There is a monthly email newsletter with lots of information. If you need more information, contact the person in charge of the activity in which you are interested by clicking on the Board and Committee Members tab on the website.

Sign up for e-mail updates by scrolling down to the end of the right column on the website and click on the box.

What happens at a meeting?

First, sign in when you enter. Receive a ticket for the door prize. Wear your name-tag. We have a social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 PM before the meeting. Come early and meet other members in a more relaxed setting. If you come early, you can take part in Sew and Know, which offers great tips and instruction for many aspects of quilt making. Buy a chance at the raffle table. Check out other tables for information. Mingle with friends. The business meeting starts at 7:00 PM with guild announcements and general information. Show and Tell

follows. We then take a short break for refreshments and more opportunities to shop from the speaker's table, buy raffle tickets, check out projects and activities, sign up for workshops. After break, door and raffle prize winners are drawn. The speaker's presentation then begins. The meeting generally ends at 9 PM.

Nametags Patterns for the Hatchet Block nametag is attached and is available on the website. Nametags are needed to win door prizes. When you wear your nametag, other members get to know you, and you get to know them!

Door Prizes Tickets are drawn after break. You must be wearing your nametag to win. Get your raffle ticket by signing in at the membership table.

Raffle Prize Every month we offer a monthly raffle of fabric, notions, or the like. Tickets will be sold at the welcome table before meetings and during break times. Tickets are 2 for \$1.00 if you are wearing your MVQ nametag. Otherwise, tickets are \$1.00 per ticket. Winning tickets are drawn after the break. Again, you must be wearing your nametag to win.

Business meeting The guild president leads this section where the Guild's business is conducted, announcements are made, programs explained and news announced. Keep a pencil and paper handy for notes. We try to keep this brief and have details available at tables in the atrium during break and on the website.

Show and Tell Members share their recently completed quilting projects.

Refreshments Each month the newsletter publishes which groups of people (alphabetically by last name) are responsible for refreshments. Bring a snack of your choice. This is voluntary as you may bring refreshments to any meeting. Soda and water is provided.

Program Guild meetings typically feature a speaker and some kind of trunk or slide show. The guild is known for the high quality of speakers it has each year. Guests are welcome to attend at a \$5 fee when there is a paid speaker. The November/December meeting is usually a potluck dinner and holiday celebration.

What are Raffle Quilts?

Current Each year we create a quilt to raise funds for the guild. This quilt is taken to quilt shows and community events where tickets are sold. We are always looking for places to take the quilt. If you know of an event in your community, please let us know.

Quilt Sitting Members are needed to sit with the quilt and sell tickets at shows and community events. This is a great way to get to know other guild members. For each 2 hour

shift your name is entered into a drawing to receive the member's quilt which is made from the left-over blocks, if there are any left over.

Raffle Tickets Raffle tickets for the current raffle quilt are available for sale at each meeting. Encourage family and friends to buy tickets from you.

Future Members make a block or two to contribute to the construction of the new raffle quilt. When you sign up, you pay \$5 per block to get the instructions and/or fabric for the block. When you return your completed block, you get your money back. Blocks are due no later than January's meeting. Submit them sooner if you can.

What are the guild programs, activities, events and workshops?

Workshops Are held several times a year and are often given by the speaker of that month. The price is typically \$25. The workshops are usually held on the Saturday following the guild meeting, from 9:30 to 3:30, or times vary. They are held at one of several local venues: Plaistow Public Library, Merrimac Public Library, NECCO meeting room, West Congregational Church in Haverhill, Atkinson Congregational Church, Peabody Library in Georgetown, Hockmeyer Warehouse in Amesbury to name a few. Some teachers require a kit or pattern fee that is beyond our charge. Non-members are welcome to be put on a wait list (\$30) if the class is not full one month before. A list of workshops is on the website.

Comfort Quilt Project Each year, the vice president chooses a charity to support. Members are encouraged to make quilts to donate to the chosen charity. Finished quilts are displayed at the quilt show and the final donation is made in October.

President's Block This is the member's gift to the President for all her hard work. The President chooses a block design and color scheme. Completed blocks should be given to the Vice President in May.

Block Raffle This gives you an opportunity to make just one block for a chance on winning enough blocks to make a quilt without having to make them all yourself. A fat eighth (about 9" x 10") is provided for a \$1 fee. This is to be used in creating an 8" block of your choice. You may make as many blocks as you wish, as long as each is different. Complete directions are on the website.

Mystery Quilt New instructions are given every month and you won't know what the quilt will look like until you are done. First month has the fabric requirements.

Block Exchange Follow the instructions and complete a set of blocks by the designated time. The chairperson will mix them up and return to you a set of blocks made by other participants in the exchange. If you submit 2 sets, 2 unique sets will be returned to you.

UFO Challenge This is to encourage you to complete those unfinished projects.

Quilting Retreat Weekends There are usually two retreats a year, spring and fall, to the Franciscan Guest House Retreat Center in Kennebunk, Maine. These are open to all members. You bring your own projects to work on.

Who do I notify when a member is sick or has passed away or if someone from a member's family has passed away?

The Sunshine Chairperson is responsible for sending special cards to the members of our guild. She will also coordinate meals and other special help if needed.

How can I get to meet and know other members?

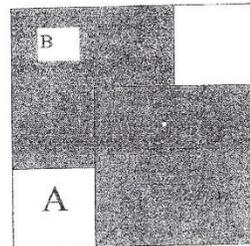
Volunteering is the best way to get to know other members. You could quilt sit, work on a committee, go on a retreat, participate in a block swap, or sign up for a workshop.

We also have drop-in sewing sessions during the month that are open to all. Check the website for current places and dates.

Name tag Instructions for Hatchet Block

Cut a 4 ½" square of white fabric. Block A

Cut two 3" squares of scrap fabric. Block B



Draw a pencil line corner to corner on the back of both B squares. Place one square B over a corner of block A right sides together and sew along the diagonal or drawn line. Fold B along sewn line toward corner and press. Do the same to the other 3" square on the opposite corner, forming a parallelogram of white fabric, with colored triangle corners opposite each other. Press. You may cut off excess fabric if you wish. Write your name in the white section with a permanent pigma pen.

Cut a piece of batting and backing fabric slightly bigger than the Hatchet Block. Layer batting, backing right side up, and Hatchet Block right side down. Sew almost all the way around. Trim edges and corners. Turn inside out. Push out corners. Slip stitch the opening closed. Quilt and embellish as desired. Sew a pin on the back.