

# **MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD**

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

*September 2023*



## **Executive Committee** **2023 – 2024**

President: Lynette Pisani

Vice President: Jamie Ruh

Secretary: Wendy Ward

Treasurer AP: Diane Kelley

Treasurer AR: Elizabeth Swan

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 Liz Swan at [elizabethswan@comcast.net](mailto:elizabethswan@comcast.net). The deadline is the first Friday of the month at midnight.

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Hello Everyone,

It's Show time! Everything is on schedule for our Show, and we owe a huge thank you to Jamie Ruh, Linda Lydecker and everyone who works behind the scenes to make this happen. They have it down to a science and it promises to be another spectacular show.

The David Sirota workshop on October 21<sup>st</sup> is over half filled so this is the time to get your seat reserved. Sign up now either online through our website or at the guild meeting this month.

Just a reminder...we have a social hour before each meeting which also includes a Sew and Know demonstration beginning at approximately 6:20. This is our Ice Cream Social Meeting as well so break time will be delicious ice cream from Jay Gees again this year.

This promises to be an exciting year again and we will keep you updated with all the particulars on our website, the Newsletter, the Facebook Members page, and the MVQ google group emails so be sure to put the [MVQgooglegroup.com](http://MVQgooglegroup.com) in your address book so it doesn't go to your junk mail.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or any of the executive board members. We are always happy to assist in any way possible. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Lynne Pisani

## Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Sept 21st.

All are welcome – you do not need to be a guild member to attend this meeting.

This meeting is IN-PERSON at NECC.

Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

Refreshment responsibility last name beginning with S – Z

The meeting will be in the [Technology Center](#)

## **Guidelines for Coming to the Northern Essex Community College Campus**

When on the NECC campus, you are asked to follow the protocols as set out by the federal, state, and local government.

- Although we have seen a promising decline in COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, the NECC Public Health Response Team still recommends taking all necessary personal precautions against infection.
- NECC is a Mask Flexible Campus. We encourage mask wearing while indoors. Be mindful of those around you and their comfort level. Keep a mask in your pocket just in case!
- Based on updated CDC guidance, if you are a close contact of a COVID+ individual, you are required to wear a mask on campus.
- If you have been exposed, are not feeling well, or have tested positive for COVID-19, we request that you not attend the live meetings on campus.

## **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 Lynette Pisani at least 2 days before the meeting and request an invitation.

## **SEW AND KNOW**

Janice Jones

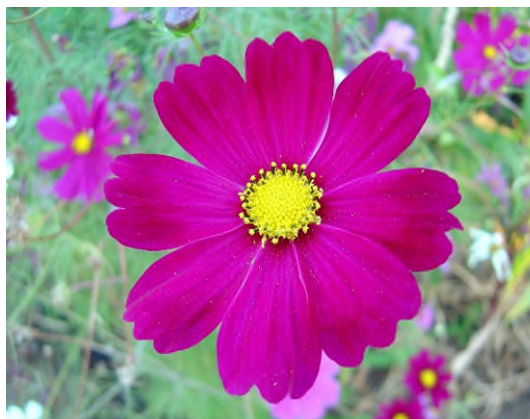
[janicemaejones@gmail.com](mailto:janicemaejones@gmail.com)

The September meeting will be focused on our upcoming quilt show, so there will be no Sew and Know presentation. Please be reminded that Judging day is September 27th @ the Merrimac Library, Merrimac, MA. Set-Up day is September 28th @ Hope Church, Newburyport, MA, and show days are September 29th & 30th. For detailed information visit the website: [mvquilters.org](http://mvquilters.org).

**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 learn a new tip or technique.

I know you all love to see the tips and techniques our members share so let's keep **SEW AND KNOW** alive. In order to do that, we need members to come forward and show or demonstrate their favorite techniques so we can all learn together.

So, 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.





## 2023 QUILT SHOW: *Summer's End*

The quilt show is only weeks away!

**Judging Day:** Wednesday, September 27, drop-off 8-8:30 am at Merrimac Library

**Set-up Day:** Thursday, September 28, 8:00-4:00 at Hope Church

**Show Days:** Friday & Saturday, September 29 & 30 9:00-4:00 at Hope Church

A table will be set up in the atrium with quilt show information at the September guild meeting. Pick up your baggies with information on how to label your quilts and bags. An quilt entry list will be on hand for you to get your quilt numbers and row letters for each quilt entered. We will be there to answer any questions you may have.

**Volunteer sign-ups:** To work the show, you can sign up at the September guild meeting at the membership table or on Sign-Up Genius. Go to [MVQuilters.org](http://MVQuilters.org), click **Quilt Show 2023**, then click **Volunteer Sign up 2023** and you will be directed to the volunteer list. Scroll down to find the jobs you like to do most! Members are required to work a minimum of 2 hours at the show. If you can do more, it is greatly appreciated!

Please donate a basket to **Penny Raffle**. **Fat quarters** and **scratch-off lottery tickets** are still being collected. Look for Mary Lou Monteiro in the atrium at our September guild meeting. Our local quilts shops have been very generous in donating door prizes for Penny Raffle. Please support them by shopping local whenever you can! Thank you!

Bring these items to Hope Community Church, 11 Hale St., Newburyport on set-up day, Thursday, September 28th:

- Penny Raffle baskets
- Comfort Quilts
- Boutique items
- Silent Auction items
- Non-judged quilts
- White Elephant donations
- Kitchen donations

**Both show days:** Bring your scissors, knives, and garden tools to be sharpened. A classroom behind the gym will be set up with this service.

Please **wear your MVQ name badge** on set-up day and during the show.

All quilt show information is on our website:  
[MVQuilters.org](http://MVQuilters.org), click **2023 Quilt Show**.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jamie Ruh  
[truh@comcast.net](mailto:truh@comcast.net)

Linda Lydecker  
[lindalyde@comcast.net](mailto:lindalyde@comcast.net)

## **Quilt Show Volunteers Needed!**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of a successful quilt show, and WE STILL NEED a lot of volunteers to make this show flourish! Because the show can't be successful without everyone's help, the guild has a requirement that each member must work at least two hours in some capacity. The show has 200 volunteer slots to be filled and at this point we have 75% of them filled. If you do the math, we also need members to volunteer for more than one slot if their schedules allow. "Floaters" are especially valuable as they allow us flexibility to assign people to where they are most needed. A MILLION THANKS to those who have already signed up!

To sign up, use the Volunteer Signup link under the Quilt Show tab on our website. It will take you to the Sign-Up Genius app where you can see what slots are still open as well as who is working when. I'll also have sign-up sheets at our meeting. If you need help signing up or you cannot volunteer due to time constraints or other issues, email me and we can work out a solution.

All volunteers are admitted to the show for free no matter what day they work or what day they attend the show. When you come to the church for your volunteer shift, be sure to sign in at the Admissions table and pick up your Volunteer Favor. Also remember to wear your nametag at all times during the show. MVQ members are "ambassadors" for our guild.

## **Quilt Show Silent Auction**

I am excited to report I have received some amazing donation items for the quilt show's silent auction, but we are in need of many more. The charity we have selected to support with the silent auction profits is Emmaus in Haverhill ([emmausinc.org](http://emmausinc.org)). Since 1985, Emmaus has served more than 40,000 homeless women, men, and children.

I ask that you please consider donating a handmade or unwanted item that is in good condition. If you have any questions regarding the silent auction, please feel free to reach out to me at [wardwl@yahoo.com](mailto:wardwl@yahoo.com) or at 978-852-0661. Thank you! Wendy Ward

## **Cafe at the Quilt Show, Time to get the Cafe organized!**

*We would like to ask those who would like to donate snack and drink items to sell at the cafe to let us know what you are bringing, and what day you are bringing them, either Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> or Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>. For added convenience, we will have a signup sheet at the September guild meeting for you to sign up there. The cutoff date to sign up is **September 25**. This would allow us time to take inventory and fill in what is missing.*

*Some of the items that are needed are things like a 12 pack of sodas (Coke, Diet Coke, Ginger ale, Pepsi, Root beer, etc.), 16-ounce water bottles. Individually wrapped snacks like chips, cookies, granola bars, peanuts, peanut butter crackers, etc.*

*Please be specific when you let us know what you will be donating, so that we end up with a variety and not too many of anything. Thank you so much for your donations.*

*The cafe will provide lunch items on Thursday for a good will offering to those who are working there all day. Contact information Beverly - [valle.b@verizon.net](mailto:valle.b@verizon.net) and Terry - [ttylr@hotmail.com](mailto:ttylr@hotmail.com).*

## **Membership News**

Our guild is strong! We have over 100 members who have joined or rejoined for the 2023-2024 year. Thank you! Even so, it is always a good idea to get the word out about our guild. Convince a friend to join or perhaps a grandchild.

**THANK YOU to all of you who have volunteered** for our quilt show. There are still a handful who haven't signed up for a slot yet. Check out the Volunteer Signup link under the Quilt Show tab on our website to see what slots are still open. I'll also have signup sheets at the meeting.

It's easy to forget people's names, especially when we've been apart for a few months. So, **wear your nametag** at our meetings to help others remember you. If you can't find it, make a new one. The Hatchet block is an easy pattern and can be found on the Membership page of our website. As an added incentive, you will receive a door prize ticket when checking in if you have yours on.

Another way to learn who's who in the guild is to have your picture in our **Photo Roster**. If you haven't given me your photo or yours needs to be updated, you can either send me one (I'll crop it to a headshot), or I can take a photo of you at our meeting. Don't be camera-shy! The roster is for our use only and will never be published on the website. Updated Member Lists and Photo Rosters will be emailed in early October.

When checking in at the meeting, make sure to pick up your membership envelope. They will contain your **new membership card and raffle tickets** which are yours to keep. We know you have been busy quilting, so let us see your work. Bring a quilt (or 2 or 3) for Show and Tell. We are a talented group and as usual, our fall Show and Tell will be amazing and inspiring.

## **2025 Raffle Quilt**

The packets for the new raffle quilt will be available for pick-up at the Quilt meeting. Thank-you Ann and Mary Stobbs ams01938@hotmail.com

## **Mystery Quilt**

I am happy to announce we will be offering a monthly mystery quilt program again this program year. We have received permission from a local designer to use one of their patterns. The designer and pattern name will be provided in the last set of instructions.

The pattern is a traditional pieced pattern. There are no y seams, applique, half square triangles or flying geese but it does call for snowball corners on some of the pieces. The finished size is about 57 by 70 inches.

Each month, starting at the September meeting, a set of instructions will be available if you would like to participate. After the meeting, the instructions will be uploaded to the guild website for those who were unable to attend the meeting. We would like to have a show and tell of everyone's quilt top or finished quilt at the June meeting.

If at any time you have any questions regarding the instructions, please feel free to reach out to me at [wardwl@yahoo.com](mailto:wardwl@yahoo.com) or at 978-852-0661. Wendy Ward

## **Programs Committee**

Terry Taylor and Pat Johnson will be stepping into Jamie Hart's shoes as chairs for programs. We're looking for volunteers to assist from time to time in the many activities around setting up speakers and assisting with workshops. Pat and I will do most of the heavy lifting but realize there will be times where we can use a few more hands to help our presenters set up and pack up. We also want to be ready in case there is a time when neither of us can be on hand to host a workshop. Rather than waiting for the last minute, we would like to develop a list of 3 to 4 people we can reach out to when help is needed. Please let us know if we can count on you to assist.

[ttylr@hotmail.com](mailto:ttylr@hotmail.com) or [patknoerl@gmail.com](mailto:patknoerl@gmail.com)

### *January Journey Event*

Every year our quilt guild benefits from listening to quilting journeys from two or three of our members. The goal is to share experiences, lessons learned, and enjoyment of the journey whether beginning or end. If you would like to participate and volunteer to share your story, please contact Pat Johnson or Terry Taylor, Program chairs. You can bring your quilts or create a presentation with photos or a combination of both. If you need assistance gathering your thoughts, setting up a presentation (digitally or physically) we can help. We need your voices, memories, enthusiasm or aha moments. We have our first volunteer; thank you so much! Would you be the next one?





**SENDING**  
*Sunshine*  
MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS

**Hi everyone and Happy Fall!**

**I'm the new Sunshine chair. More information about what a "Sunshine" is and how it works at MVQ will be detailed in the next newsletter.**

**In the meantime, if you know someone who needs a little sunshine or cheer, please let me know!**

**Best,**

*Phyllis*

**PHYLLIS LAURIA  
PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM**







# Fall 2023 Quilting Retreat

**Our Fall 2023 Quilting Retreat will be held at The Valley Inn in Waterville Valley, NH from Thursday, November 16 to Sunday, November 19.**

**The retreat is limited to current paid members of the Merrimack Valley Quilters Guild who have fulfilled their volunteer commitment at our 2023 Quilt Show.**

**An email will be sent out when registration is open.**

**Thanks!**

*Phyllis Lauria*

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM

## MVQ June General Meeting

June 15, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Lynne Pisani.

Welcome! We have a busy meeting this month. Thank you to those who sat with the raffle quilt. There are a few open positions that need to be filled for next year. Someone is needed to take over the Travel for the Raffle Quilt. Other open positions are Chair and Vice Chair for 2024 Quilt Show. If you are interested, shadowing this year's chairs is a great way to learn. Additionally, Newsletter and Publicity positions are open. Gail Forthoffer has volunteered to be our Museum Rep. Thank you to all those who volunteer.

We have good news! We have a new workshop venue at the Merrimac Police Station. It has plenty of space, a white board, microwave and many tables. The best news is it's free! Thank you to Sue Dodge for suggesting this new space.

*Secretary's Report* - May guild meeting minutes are accepted as circulated.

*Treasurer's Report* - The report is accepted as circulated.

*Installation of Officers* – Bev Valle installed our officers for 2023/2024

President - Lynne Pisani  
Vice President - Jamie Rue  
Secretary - Wendy Ward  
Treasurer - Accounts Payable - Diane Kelley  
Treasurer – Accounts Receivable - Liz Swan

### Committee Reports

*Membership* - Linda Lydecker – If you want to exhibit in the Quilt Show, renew by June 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 80 renewals so far with more coming. There are 2 new members tonight and 2 guests.

*Door Prizes* - Winners: Maggie Judd, Ruth Caisse, and Ann Stobbs.

*Quilt Show* - Jamie Ruh - everyone has an info sheet about the quilt show to take home. Please consider entering your Mystery Quilts in the quilt show. Ribbons may be given. Bring comfort quilts to set-up day. Stephanie Dinunzio from Community Giving Tree will receive them in October. We will have a scissor sharpener both days, so bring your scissors or tools that need sharpening. Mary Lou Monteiro is collecting fat quarters and lottery tickets for the Penny Raffle. In September, baggies with quilt labeling information will be available. Make sure your quilt has a 5" sleeve on it. Kim Schweisberg volunteered to bring posters to Newburyport businesses.

*Entry forms* - Liz Swan - deadline for quilt entries is August 1<sup>st</sup>. 24 quilts have been entered so far. Entry forms are on the table, online, and on the website. Please consider getting your quilt judged. If you need to change anything on your entry form after you have submitted it, send the new information to Liz Swan. Mail judging fees to the PO Box, or pay by PayPal online after your entries are filled out.

*Volunteers* - Linda Lydecker - 100 of 188 volunteer slots are filled. Signup sheets are on the table or via Sign-Up Genius.

*Boutique* - Marilyn Yee and Diana Grammont - Here is an opportunity to make money for the guild (20%) and the member (80%). Inventory forms are available online and from Marilyn and Diana. Please make a copy of your inventory sheet for yourself.

*Challenge* - Pat Johnson and Lyn Grenier - The theme is Time of the Season. Get inspired by the music and time of the 70's. Something old needs to be included in your quilt banner. Size is 12" x 36". The entries will be judged and if there are more than 8, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be awarded.

*Silent Auction* - Wendy Ward - Think about what you can donate for the Silent Auction.

*Programs* - Jamie Hart - There are still a few openings for Saturday's workshop. The 2023/2024 Program is in good shape, with an Ice Cream Social in September, David Sirota in October, A Holiday Party in December, Member Journeys in January, UFO Auction in February, Amy Friend program in March with an Adele Scott workshop, Sue Michaels in April, Debbie Wendt in May and June is TBD. The results of the survey for workshops are: October Collide-O-Scope, April Not You Grandmother's Nine Patch, and May Twirl a Tool.

*Mystery Quilt* - Wendy Ward – A more traditional quilt pattern will be chosen for next year's Mystery Quilt.

*Quilter of the Year* - Phyllis Lauria - This award is given to a member who has given her time and talent to the Guild. The current Membership Chair and Quilt Show Vice-Chair, and the 2023 Quilter of the Year is **Linda Lydecker**.

Thank you to the outgoing Secretary Maggie Judd.

*Show and Tell* - Mystery Quilt reveal, Linda Warren quilts and many more beautiful quilts!

*Fabric Raffle* - Winners: Kim Schweisberg and Wendy Ward

Adjourn business portion of meeting 8:20 PM.

*Program* - Guest Speaker - Linda Warren

Adjourn meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Judd, Secretary



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Wednesday – Saturday 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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