

# **MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD**

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

*November/December 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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy Holidays, Everyone. This is the season for Celebrating and Giving as we look forward to the New Year. There is so much in store for us in the coming months. Our Holiday Party is well underway and promises to be another fun gathering.

In January we begin again in earnest with our activities. We need to fill open positions, think ahead to the next quilt show as well as enjoy our speakers and workshops. Our UFO auction is in February, and we will begin collecting after the New Year. A little birdie told me that there will be many wonderful items just waiting for new homes. It's all very exciting and I look forward to another great auction.

So... watch for announcements in your email, the Newsletter and on our website as well as the member's Facebook page for information and/or updates.

As always, if you have any questions or need information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Have fun and I wish everyone the best Holiday Season!

Lynne  
Lynette Pisani  
President, MVQ

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.

## **Next Meeting:**

Holiday Party is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

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.

All Committee Chairpersons are expected to attend the Board Meeting. Please make note that the next Zoom Board Meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2024 at 6:30 PM. I will send the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

Greetings Everyone!

We are organizing for our Holiday party and have a few items to share with you.

This year for our Charity effort we will be partnering with the Merrimack Holiday Helper Program. We wanted to contribute to this effort in Merrimack in part because we are very appreciative to be using the meeting room in the Merrimack Police station for our workshops.

Here is some information about the Holiday Helper Program:

The Merrimack Holiday Helper Program was started within the Merrimack Elementary Schools over 30 years ago. It has grown into a town wide initiative with many organizations assisting in making the holidays brighter for our Merrimack families.

The Merrimack PTO, The Lions Club, The Merrimack Garden Club , The Winner's Circle Running Club, MerriHill Tree Farm and many more.

Our goal is to support our Merrimack families in need during the holidays and throughout the year.

What they indicated they still need at this point are **\$25 gift cards** for local supermarkets (Market Basket and Stop n Shop) and **socks** for adults and children. If you can contribute to this effort, please bring our **unwrapped** donation to our party on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to need volunteers to contribute to our Pot Luck event. We need more Main Dishes and side dishes. Even if you do not know exactly what you are bringing enter your name in the available slots so that we know we will have enough for everyone attending.

We are going to play games again this year and part of the fun will include a gift swap unlike any you've done before! So bring a gift valued at \$20 to the party to be part of the fun. It does not have to be quilting related. Wear your holiday colors, ugly sweaters are welcomed.

So, December 7<sup>th</sup>, remember to bring:

- Charity donation
- Swap gift
- Your pot luck dish and any serving utensils needed

We'll have a great time!

## **COMFORT QUILTS**

This year's comfort quilts are going to Lazarus House in Lawrence. Their aim is to provide what is needed most by families and individuals facing material poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity in the areas of shelter, clothing, food, advocacy and community resources. These core ministries work simultaneously to provide emergency care, holistic programming, hope for a good future, and life skills to gain independence and sustain self-sufficiency.

Their needs are full, twin, lap, and crib-sized quilts. All comfort quilts will be collected and displayed at the quilt show, September 27 and 28. Elianna Urena, who runs the women's transitional housing site Capernaum Place at Lazarus House, will be joining us at the January guild meeting.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Ruh.

## **PENNY RAFFLE**

We are a little late with this. It's heartfelt, nonetheless. Thank you, MVQ members, who made the Penny Raffle a success. We created 3 baskets from all the Fat Quarters you donated. Twenty-seven baskets were on display for quilt show goers. THANK YOU for creating quilt-themed and non-quilt themed baskets. The lobby looked lovely and festive!

These local quilt shops donated to the Penny Raffle, too: Angel's Sewing and Vacuum Center; Red Barn Sewing and Yarn Center; Sew Together Quilt Show; Nashua Sew and Vac; Aunt Mary's Quilting; Quilted Threads; Pine Tree Quilt Shop; Quilter's Common; Sewing Diva Quilt and Gift Shop; Victorian Cupboard; and Fabric Place Basement. If you're shopping at one of these shops, let them know you appreciate how they support our guild.

If you're someone who plans way ahead, shop around for holiday items that are on sale to create a basket for the 2024 quilt show.

Thank you, again. From the Penny Raffle Co-Chairs: Beth and Mary Lou

## **SEW AND KNOW**

Janice Jones

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

Due to our holiday schedule, the next Sew and Know is scheduled for our January meeting when Liz Swan will be presenting a session for our new members. She will have lots of information on how to navigate the MVQ website and answer any questions that new members have as they acclimate themselves with the guild.

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!! I am looking for presenters for our January, March, April, May and June meetings.



# MVQ Quilting Retreat *Info & Updates*

November, 2023

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Hi everyone,

Our Fall Retreat at The Valley Inn at Waterville Valley was a smashing success! We had wonderful companionship, endless creative inspiration and delicious food. The weather was superb! We have booked our retreats for 2024 at The Valley Inn, Waterville Valley, and they are May 16-19 2024 and November 7-10 2024. We will let you know when registration is open in a few months.

Phyllis & Sue

*Phyllis Lauria*

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM

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November, 2023

Hi everyone!

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 Board is in the process of finalizing the Sunshine guidelines and we will put that information on the MVQ website when it is finalized.

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



# **GUILD MEETING OCTOBER 2023**

**Date:** October 19, 2023

The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 PM.

## **President's Remarks** – Lynne Pisani

Lynne thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the guests.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work on the quilt show. We are looking for a Quilt Show Chair and Vice Chair for the show next year. We also need a Travel Raffle chairperson. If you are interested in any of these positions, please see Lynne.

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

The September meeting minutes were accepted as circulated.

## **Treasurers Reports** – Liz Swan and Diane Kelley

Diane sent out Income and expenses. There were no questions from the group.

## **Kim Goulet** - The Community Giving Tree

Kim was impressed with the beautiful quilts. She thanked the group for the generous donations. The Community Giving Tree partners with social workers who come and shop for items for their clients for free. Additional quilts were turned in and given to Kim.

## **Membership** – Linda Lydecker

Linda reported that we have 8 new members and 11 guests in attendance. She reminded people to remember to pick up their membership envelope at the registration table.

The photo roster and membership lists were distributed a few weeks ago. Let Linda know if you need it sent again. These lists are for internal use only. Double check your information to ensure it is accurate.

Linda reminded attendees that if you have any questions, look for someone with an "Ask Me" badge.

## **Quilt Show** – Jamie Ruh and Linda Lydecker

Show Sub committee reports

Lynne thanked Jamie and Linda for their work on the quilt show. Lynne presented them with flowers.

Comfort quilts – 85 quilts were collected at show plus 10 more tonight. = 95

There were 578 paid attendees

\$3200 from white elephant

\$2231.00 penny raffle

\$1238.00 collected so far from the Silent Auction

\$20,593.00 deposited

This gives us a \$10,000 profit



**Judging** – Pat Harrison was the judge. There were 93 quilts judged this year. This is 30 more than last year. Pat wrote a thank you letter which Linda read to the group. Ribbons can be earned by judging, placing in category. Some also earn prize money. Judge provides comments on what is good and what could use work. The Challenge quilts were judged by a professional artist.

There were 17 categories.

Best of show – Liz swan

Judges Choice – Linda Buckley

Best Small Wall and Best Embellishment - Sue Dodge

Mystery Quilt - Gail Forthoffer

Art Quilt - Andrea Burshaw

Challenge Quilt - Pat Johnson

Best Domestic Quilting - Susan Wolfe

Best Binding and Best Hand Quilting - Maggie judge

Best First Entry - Andrea Ireland

Best Applique - Sanda McKay

Viewer's Choice and Judge's Choice - Beth Bell Lavoie

Congratulations to Susan Spinelli for winning the gull quilt.

Thanks for everyone's help. It was a fantastic show.

**Programs** - Terry Taylor and Pat Johnson

Terry reminder people about the sign-up sheets for the holiday party. If you have any questions see Pat or Terry.

The program chairs will periodically do surveys to gather information about speakers or events. The last survey revealed there was a lot of interest in "My Handmade Space" which is shop in Methuen known for their bag making supplies and classes. Terry and Pat will research options for a possible program presentation or workshop.

The quilt show video will be uploaded to the guild's website.

**Sunshine** - Phyllis Lauria

If you know anyone who needs some cheer, please let Phyllis know.

**Retreat** – Phyllis Lauria

The retreat is one month from today. There are twenty-seven people registered. Phyllis will be sending an email with more details for those who have signed up.

**UFO Auction** – Stacy Carruso

The auction will be in February. After the holidays, Stacy will begin collecting items. Please consider donating.

**Door Prize** -

The door prize winners were Pat Cressman, Sue Campbell, and Gail Dwyer.

**Show and Tell** -

Members showed their beautiful creations.

**Featured Speaker** – David Sirota

David shared a wonderful presentation with the group.

**Next meeting** –

The next meeting will be the holiday party on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to sign up to bring an item or help with setup/cleanup.

**Fabric raffle** –

The winner was Jean Elliot.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.



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

Follow I-495 to exit 111. Take Rt. 110 east and go 2.3 miles. We're on the right.

