

# **MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD**

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

*April 2024*



## **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 Lori Josephson at [lojo0617@gmail.com](mailto:lojo0617@gmail.com). The deadline is the first Friday of the month at midnight.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy Spring everyone! This is a beautiful time of year when all the flowers pop up and the trees fill out and bloom. Our guild is blooming as well. We have the elections happening soon and Opportunities to show off our artistry as well.

One of our open positions is now filled as well. Many thanks to Lori Josephson for volunteering to be our Quilt Show Chair this year. We can now look forward to another spectacular quilt show this fall and everything our show allows us to do during the year.

There are still some positions available so please consider helping out. Whether you are a New member or Seasoned member we need to fill these positions. It's a wonderful way to meet new friends and get together with those we've already met. Give me a call. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

I know it is another month away, but just a reminder that the MAY meeting is on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to a scheduling problem, it has been moved up a week. April's meeting is in our usual meeting room. I will remind you again for May but mark your calendars. The board meeting for MAY will be April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy the days as they warm up! See you at the Guild meeting **April 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Lynne  
Lynette Pisani  
President, MVQ

**Next Meeting:**

Scheduled for April 18, 2024

Guest Speaker – Sue Michaels “How to Tame Your Stash Before It Eats You!”

Sew & Know – Bev Valle will present “How to Organize a Cutting Marathon”. She’s got cutting techniques that you’ll not want to miss.

Member responsible for refreshments with the last name beginning with M – Pa

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 April 24, 2024, at 6:30 PM. I will send the Zoom link the day of the meeting.

## **PRESIDENT'S BLOCKS**

Thank you to everyone who has participated in making the President's Blocks for Lynne Pisani for her years of service as president. They will be available again at April's guild meeting if you have not gotten a packet. Please bring your finished blocks to the April, May, or June guild meeting.

Please email Jamie Ruh with any questions at [truh@comcast.net](mailto:truh@comcast.net).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Lots of fun expected! Come join us and signup where applicable.

1. **April 18<sup>th</sup>**: Lecture "How to Tame Your Stash Before It Eats You" – [Sue Michaels](#)
2. **April 20<sup>th</sup>**: Workshop "Not Your Grandmother's Nine Patch" – [Sue Michaels](#) (FULL)
3. The cost of workshops has changed from \$35.00 TO \$37.00 starting in January.
4. For more information about upcoming workshops and lectures, you can follow this path on the website: [Lecture Schedule/ Workshop Schedule « Merrimack Valley Quilters \(mvquilters.org\)](#)

## **COMFORT QUILTS**

This year's comfort quilts are going to **Lazarus House** in Lawrence. They aim 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 on set-up day September 26th and displayed at the quilt show September 27th and 28th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Ruh at [truh@comcast.net](mailto:truh@comcast.net).

## SEW AND KNOW

Janice Jones

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

**Sew and Know** for our April Meeting:

Bev Valle will present "How to Organize a Cutting Marathon". She's got cutting techniques that you'll not want to miss.

**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, who has a favorite quilting tip or technique? Something you've been working on and want to share? Please email me!! **Remember, I am searching for presenters for our May, and June meetings.**

### Membership Information

It's that time of year when we start our Membership Drive for the 2024-2025 year. Make sure you continue the fun of associating with your quilting friends by renewing your membership. Dues are an important part of our budget and are necessary to provide quality speakers and guild activities. A standard membership is \$40, seniors (age 65+) pay \$35, and student memberships are only \$5 for ages 13-19.

The new 2024-2025 membership form can be found on our website. From there you can print it, fill it out, and either bring it to a guild meeting or mail it to the MVQ PO Box with a check. Better yet, you can save some time by easily renewing online using our secure PayPal/credit card checkout. Get started either from the MVQ Home page or the "Join the Guild" page. Remember to return to MVQ ("Return to Merchant") after completing your credit card payment so you can fill in your membership information.

I'll also have some membership forms at our guild meeting. Keep in mind that your dues must be paid by the end of June to remain a "member in good standing" and be eligible to put a quilt in our fall quilt show.

Renew your MVQ membership soon so that you can continue to enjoy the inspiration, joy, and camaraderie of our friendly guild!

Linda Lydecker  
MVQ Membership Chair



# MVQ Quilting Retreat

Info & Updates

April, 2024

Hi everyone!

Our spring retreat at The Valley Inn in Waterville Valley, NH. will be held from Thursday, May 16th to Sunday, May 19th.

We have 28 people registered for the retreat and we have 2 more slots available.

If you are interested in attending, the information is on the MVQ website under guild activities. Please let me know if you would like to join us in May.

The Fall Retreat dates are November 7-10, 2024.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me.

*Phyllis Lauria*

PMLAURIA17@GMAIL.COM

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April, 2024

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 Board has approved the updated Sunshine guidelines and that information is 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)



# 2024 MERRIMACK VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD CHALLENGE

## *Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall*

This year's challenge is to make a banner-sized quilt similar to last year's challenge. The theme is pretty simple...think of your birthday. What season does it fall in: Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall? Make that decision and you've got the beginnings of a challenge quilt!

### 2024 Rules

- **Dimensions:** 12" x 36"
- **Technique:** Pieced, appliquéd, paper-pieced; it's your call. Are you comfortable making something pieced? Great! Want to try something new? Go for it!
- **Quilting:** Any way you like.
- **Get creative:** Add embellishments if you wish: embroidery, buttons, beads...wherever your creativity takes you!

Banners will hang together from left (*Winter*) to right (*Fall*) at the quilt show and they will look spectacular!!

Judging details to follow.

If you have any questions, please email Jamie Ruh at [truh@comcast.net](mailto:truh@comcast.net).

***Looking forward to your creations! Happy sewing!***

### **Reminder:**

April 15, 2024, is the deadline for submission of nominations for the 2024-2025 Executive Committee. Nominees will be announced at the April 18, 2024, guild meeting.

The election will take place via "ElectionRunner" (an online service provider) from April 27, 2024 to May 3, 2024. The election results will be announced at the May 9, 2024, guild meeting.

If you would like to nominate someone for a position (with the nominee's approval) or have any questions, please contact this year's Nominating Committee: Liz Swan, Chair and Jamie Ruh, Vice Chair

## March Guild Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 03/21/24

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

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

Lynne welcomed the group.

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

The February meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

### **Treasurers' report(s)** – Diane Kelley/Liz Swan

The report hasn't been mailed out yet due to Diane being on vacation. A new full report will be ready for next month.

### **Membership** – Linda Lydecker

No new members this month. There were 3 guests.

### **Open Positions** – Quilt Show, Travel Raffle, UFO

Thank you to Lori Josephson who has volunteered to be the Quilt Show Chair.

We still need some to volunteer to be the Travel Raffle Chair. This is an important position that allows us to sell raffle tickets and get the guild some publicity. Please speak to Lynne if you are interested.

We need a UFO Auction Chair for next year. This is an important fundraiser and is one of the group's favorite activities. Thank you to Stacey and Sue for the amazing job on the UFO auction.

Stacey thanked everyone who helped with the auction, donated items and purchased items.

Silent auction made about \$1400. The live auction made about \$1600, and the grab and go made about \$700.

### **Nominating Committee**

Liz Swan has volunteered to chair the committee. Jamie Ruh is the vice chair. If you desire to run for a position, you will need to send an email to Liz by April 15<sup>th</sup> stating your intention to run for a position.

### **NEQE** – Gail Forthoffer

Thank you to those who have signed up to sit at the table. There is 1 slot left on Friday afternoon that needs to be filled. The start time on Thursday has been changed to 9:30. The guild will pay for the tickets for those who have volunteered. You will need to pay for the ticket and then get reimbursed. Gail will send the link and discount code to the volunteers.

### **Retreat** – Phyllis Lauria

Retreat registration has opened. Twenty people have already registered. We are limited to 30 participants.

### **Sunshine** – Phyllis Lauria

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

### **Raffle Quilt Committee** - Mary and Ann



Mary showed a few samples of the completed blocks. There is a sewing day at the Red Barn on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 3:00. Space is limited. Kits are ready to sew. Participants will receive a 10% discount on purchases that day.

**Programs** – Terry Taylor and Pat Johnson

Terry and Pat did a brief presentation on their upcoming plans for programs. They will be sending poll and ask people to please take a few minutes to complete the poll so that they can ensure the desired programs can be offered.

**Door Prize/raffle Drawing**

The winners were: Mary Stobbs, Theresa Bourque, and Pam Murphy.

**Fabric raffle**

The winner was Ruth Caisse.

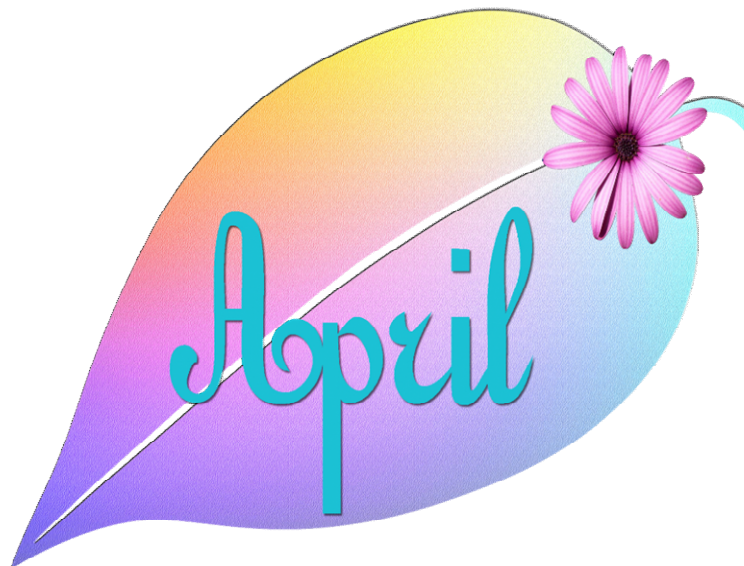
**Show and Tell**

Members showed their beautiful creations.

Amy Friend of During Quite Time, presented a wonderful truck show that was enjoyed by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ward, Secretary.



All members in good standing are welcome to submit a business card for publication in our newsletter. Please send your card to Lori Josephson, Newsletter Chair.



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