



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

During our March meeting, we were enthralled by another wonderful presentation—kudos to Mary and Penny for developing a varied program with such great speakers. Suzi Parron treated us to a vicarious trip on the barn quilt trails around the country. On the surface, the barn quilts were visually appealing, but the stories behind the blocks depicted were especially compelling, be they to honor an individual or convey an idea. The way the barn quilts brought people together, such as having all the school children paint a square, or the reaching back to find the maker of a quilt to dedicate a barn quilt to her memory, was inspirational. Yet again, I was struck with how quilts are threaded into the life of the community in both a contemporary and historical context. I hope our Guild may travel one of the Maryland barn quilt trails together.

It's officially Spring and we begin to think about planning for the summer and the coming year. Earlier, you had voiced your preference for the Board to propose ideas for upcoming programs, activities, and special events for selection by the group, so the VQ Board held a planning retreat in March to brainstorm about what

everyone might enjoy. For example, last year we introduced some summer activities, such as the four elements challenge, the summer sew-in, and the picnic, and we need to decide whether to continue those activities and/or begin some new ones. We will present some ideas for your consideration in the next couple of meetings.

I was so pleased that a bunch of you took up my challenge to make a carrying bag for utensils so that we can cut down on our use of plastic. It was great fun to discover how everyone interpreted the challenge—no two designs were alike! I thought it was fun to make my “cutlery roll” but I was surprised at how much more I enjoyed eating with silverware. Let's face it—plastic is not mouth-pleasant! Of course, we will continue to offer it at the potlucks, but perhaps more of you will also wrap up your own flatware (and show off your bag!).

Pam Fischer, President

MARCH WINNERS

Congratulations to the following:

Name Badge – Cindy Reisberg

Raffle Baskets made \$133:

Debbie Cook, Kathy Schleicher, Patty Stenpeck, and Cindy Reisberg

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of February, we had a bank balance of \$16,994. January and February income was from membership, raffles and workshop fees. Expenses were for rent, speaker and workshop fees, and kitchen supplies. The required annual report to the State of Maryland was filed.

Regina English

PROGRAM

We are so pleased to announce that our speaker for the April meeting will be Dr. Joan Gaither. She will be joining us in-person. Dr. Gaither is a documentary story quilter, artist, and educator who believes that "quilts are more than decoration, beauty, comfort, and protection." She uses "meaningful fabric, traditional patterns, and collages of text and image to tell narrative personal stories. In her words, she seeks to "tell the human story, the ones that need to be told." This is sure to be a unique and intriguing presentation.

In further news, the Program Committee is in search of new members, in addition to Penny and Mary, to join our team as we plan for an exciting year ahead. We welcome those who would like to have a voice in this process. The various roles one could assume might include any of the following:

- helping to devise an overall planning framework. For example, number of in-person speakers vs Zoom presentations, number of outside speakers vs those from within the Village Quilters, etc.
- researching new speakers

- helping to plan workshops for guild members
- learning how to manage the audio-visual components of the presentations
- planning an in-person event with a nationally known speaker, perhaps partnering with other guilds to make this happen

As you can tell, the Program committee is 'fired up and ready to go'! We welcome anyone who would like to join the fun!

Penny Clifton and Mary Rutter

LINUS PROJECT

WOW! I have so much good news to report. We had wonderful attendance at our annual charity sewing meeting; we



accomplished so much and had a fun time. We raised \$253 for Project Linus in memory of Robin Dodd. Thank you for fulfilling Robin's wishes of supporting one of her favorite charities. I encourage you to follow Project Linus - Howard County, MD on Facebook to see how much our quilts are loved and appreciated. At the February meeting we collected 16 finished quilts, 25 quilt tops. 5 crochet blankets, and 1 fleece blanket. Also, at the March meeting we collected 21 finished quilts, 7 quilt tops, and fabric donations. This is a great start for our next charity sewing event in 2026. I cherish your support and generosity with your time and talents. Keep up the fabulous work quilters!

Stephanie Sanidas

“A QUILTERS DIARY WRITTEN IN STITCHES”

Our block for this month from Mimi's book is "Home". You can find block choices on pages 38-41 of your book.

As I made my blocks for this chapter, I immersed myself in fond memories of



days at my dad's cabin in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The cabin was my father's pet project and home. Going home was always exciting, and many great memories were made with him and my children. I also made the "House in the Village" block. I fused this block and finished it off with a



small blanket stitch to secure the raw edges. This block reminds me of our guild pin and was a must for my diary

quilt.

We will be coming to an end for this project in June. I encourage those who are participating to continue and double up on the chapters if you want. I am hoping to have a Show & Tell to show our work and finished projects in the 2025-2026 year. More information to follow once I plan is confirmed. I look forward to seeing all your new blocks in April,

Patty Cirulli

5 INCH SQUARE EXCHANGERS

Happy Spring! For April, we will exchange 2 sets of 10 squares with spring flowers on them.

In March, we enjoyed seeing Maryellen Kolbe's lovely jacket which she made using 5" squares cut into the tumbler shape and sewed together. She cut apart a sweatshirt and covered the pieces with her blocks, then sewed it back together. Thank you for sharing, Maryellen.

If anyone else has made something using 5" squares, we would love to see your items.

Kathy Appleton & Bernadette Burley

RAFFLE BASKETS

Please continue to look through your notions and stashes for additional treasures you are willing to share to create enticing offerings in each of the upcoming month's raffle baskets.

Janet Ruehl

FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring your nonperishable food items for the food bank. Thank you.



Kay Worley

KITCHEN HELPERS

Kitchen Helpers for April 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped with our March meeting. The helpers who signed up for April are as follows:

Morning: Please arrive at 9:00 to check food in & label for allergens.

1. Susan Flajnik

Lunchtime:

1. Cathy King
2. Susan Flajnik

Clean-up:

1. Erica Arnold

Sodas – You may have signed up for a different soda assignment, but we have some on hand in the cabinet.

We need:

1 - 2-liter bottle Coke – Caffeine-free -- Erica Arnold
1 - 2-liter bottle Diet Coke -- Cathy King
1 - 2-liter bottle Caffeine-free diet Coke – Cathy King
1 - 2-liter bottle diet clear soda – Erica Arnold



Thank you!

Kathy Appleton & Joan Costello

THE NEW VQ COOKBOOK



Cookbooks are still available!
The price is \$15 each. Get yours while they last!

Cindy Hickman

SUNSHINE

Need some sunshine or know someone who does? Send any Sunshine requests to Janet Ruehl.



MIMI DIETRICH

Mimi Dietrich's *Hometown Girl Quilt* exhibit will be at FACES, the Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore, in Denton Maryland from March 19 - May 17, 2025.

NEXT VQ MEETING

Thursday, April 17, 2025



QUILT BINGO 2025

The 2025 BINGO will be held at the Elks Lodge of Severna Park on Saturday, October 18, 2025, starting at 2:00 pm, with doors opening at 1:00 pm.

1. ****Bingo Tickets****: I won't be at the meeting this month to sell bingo tickets. However, if you need tickets and can't wait until May and June, I can arrange to get them to you.

2. ****Quilt Donations****: We received our first quilt made and donated by Beth Bohac! What a beauty! We request that quilts be lap size or larger. Please make sure you label your quilt.

Here is an example:

[Name of quilt] "Summer Beauty

[Made by] Jane R, Sue B, Kaye F, Terry

[Made for] Village Quilters Bingo 2025

Quilts can be turned in to Sharon Adams or Cindy Hickman

Fran Noyes and Patty Cirulli will collect the Consolation Prizes. Smaller quilts, table runners, placemats, and a set of pillowcases are also appreciated and can be used as consolation prizes.

3. **Raffle Baskets**: If you plan on putting a basket together, please list the items in the basket so Carol Phillips knows and can make a form for the auction. You may also just bring in the items. Carol and Penny Clifton will put them together.

4. Patty Cirulli and Fran Noyes are collecting Door Prizes. They are looking for smaller items: candles, soaps, lotions, note cards, or gift cards. If you want to contribute, you could buy a cookbook and donate it as a door prize.

5. A few members have asked if any of our longarmers could quilt a few tops. Your name would be on the quilt label as well.

I appreciate your support, and let's make this event a great success!

Cindy Hickman

Email: vqchickman@yahoo.com