



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I think our January meeting represented our first international venture as we hosted Clare Hunter from her home in Glasgow. Thanks to Mary and Penny for finding such treasures for our programs and to Cathie for her smooth running of the Zoom (including activating sub-titles for Clare's charming but challenging burr). I had expected Clare to focus on the physical effects of sewing on the maker, both beneficial and deleterious, but was very pleased that her talk took a different direction towards historical aspects of needlework. I was sufficiently intrigued by her remarks to seek out her book, "Threads of Life." Although I have only read about half of it so far, I wholeheartedly recommend it to all of you. At some level, we all know how needlework of all kinds is important, but this history demonstrates the myriad ways sewing has expressed aspects of life across time and cultures, including how coded messages have been sewn, especially in wartime, and how both the process and products of needle work have been therapeutic for people who suffer from physical and mental disabilities. As I read, I come across something that I have to look up, which leads me to something else, and on it goes. I have a new

appreciation of the richness, variety, and ubiquity of needlework in the world and in our lives.

Now we look forward to our annual charity sewing day for our February meeting. This is an event that everyone enjoys immensely because Project Linus is such a worthy project and because the camaraderie of the day is so enjoyable. Stephanie is impressively well-organized in setting up the day to maximize the output while minimizing the effort! The materials for the Linus quilts will be prepared in advance so that everyone will be able to choose what part of the quilt they want to work on, from cutting and pressing, piecing, quilting, or binding. It's a great pleasure to do good while having a good time! Thanks to Stephanie for her tireless work on behalf of children in need.

See you at the sew-in!

Pam Fischer, President

WINNERS!!!!

Name Badge: Mary Brown

Raffle Baskets: Mary Ellen Kolbe,

Kathy Schleicher, Gwen Cooley

Congratulations to you all!

ANNUAL CHARITY SEWING DAY

At the January meeting we collected fabric, 9 finished quilts, and 2 quilt tops. I hope to see you all at our annual charity sewing day on February 20th. There will be many tasks to work on during the meeting. Think about what brings you joy and bring your necessary supplies and a brown bag lunch.



Here are some of the tasks you can choose to work on:

- Hand stitching binding – Bring sewing needles, scissors, thimble, needle threader, eyeglasses, extra light if you need it. Thread and quilts will be supplied.
- Cutting fabric squares for quilt kits – Bring rotary mat, rotary cutter with new blade, ruler to cut 5- or 6-inch squares. Fabric will be supplied.
- Ironing fabric for cutters – Bring ironing board, iron, water bottle, starch or best press.
- Sewing quilt tops, Machine binding, or Machine quilting – Bring sewing machine and sewing supplies you would pack for a retreat. Kits, basted quilts, and thread will be supplied.

An extension cord may also be needed if you need access to power. Contact Stephanie Sanidas if you have questions or suggestions.

Stephanie Sanidas

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of December, we had a bank balance of \$18,449. December income was from raffles, cookbook sales, membership and workshop fees. Expenses were for rent, membership booklet printing, and gift cards for prizes.

Regina English

THE NEW VQ COOKBOOK



Cookbooks are still available!
The price is \$15 each.

Cindy Hickman

5 INCH SQUARE EXCHANGERS

Hi, Exchangers, and welcome to our new group members! For February, our theme is Valentine's day. Please bring 2 sets of 8 5" squares to exchange with others.

Also bring something you have made using your squares. It can be small (glasses holder or potholder, etc.) to large –quilt top, maybe to give Stephanie for Project Linus, since this is our charity sewing month.

Kathy Appleton & Bernadette Burley

FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring your non-perishable donations for the food bank. Thanks for your continuing support.

Kay Worley

PROGRAM

Remember the annual charity sewing day is during our next meeting, February 20. Stephanie has all the details and what to bring in her newsletter article.

Our next presentation will be in March, since we will be engaged with our charity sewing projects in February. Our guest will be Suzi Parron, a quilt-maker and folk art collector whose special love is barn quilts. In fact, she literally wrote the book on the topic, entitled "Barn Quilts- the American Quilt Trail Movement." This program dovetails nicely with the Village Quilter's Barn Star Quilt Project, which concluded in 2024. Suzi and her husband Glen have traveled across the country in years past speaking to quilters and civic groups about this grassroots public arts project. Though they are not on the road anymore, Suzi continues to share her wisdom about this unique and deeply meaningful folk art from her home in Florida, via Zoom. So come and join in the fun at our meeting hall or join us on-line for a delightful presentation!

Penny Clifton and Mary Rutter

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.



Cindy Hickman

KITCHEN HELPERS

Thank you to all our wonderful January helpers!

For February, we bring bag lunches because it is charity sewing day. Therefore, if you signed up to help at lunchtime, you will not need to do anything this month. However, we will still need set-up people in the morning and clean-up helpers after lunch.

Morning: We could use one more helper

1. Michon Sennon
- 2.

Clean-up: One more helper here would be useful.

1. Erica Arnold
- 2.

Sodas

2 2-liter bottles of clear (caffeine-free) – Erica Arnold

Need the following:

- 2 2-liter bottles of diet clear
- 2 2-liter bottles of real cola
- 2 2-liter bottles of diet cola,
- 1 caffeine-free

Please contact me or Joan Costello if you can fill any of these spaces. Thank you.

Thanks to all helpers,

Kathy Appleton & Joan Costello

"A QUILTERS DIARY WRITTEN IN STITCHES"

Sorry for missing the January meeting. I enjoyed the speaker from the comfort of my own home because of illness. We will share the January block and February block at our next meeting. It will be our guild charity sewing day and I will try and make it quick.

As I write this, it is snowing outside. Bad weather is always a good reason for me to stay in my sewing room and LOVE my fabrics. I take opportunities like this to prepare for upcoming retreats and ongoing projects. It slows my pace down a lot and helps me appreciate the things around me.

Our February block is from the "First Love" section. Patterns can be found on



pages 30-33 of your book. You may make any block suggested or a favorite block of your choice. I chose the "Hearts and Flower" block. I

used the fusing method with a blanket stitch to finish the raw edges of the fabric. I personalized it by selecting fabrics that are the colors of the birth months of my children, husband and myself. I embroidered the birth dates on the leaves of our children and my anniversary date on the heart. We just celebrated our 30th anniversary and I wanted to commemorate it.

I hope you get creative and original with your choices. It is always nice seeing your blocks and the stories behind them.

Stay safe and warm and find time with your fabrics,

Patty Cirulli

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

SUNSHINE

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



NEXT VQ MEETING

Thursday, February 20, 2025