



JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Although I did not get my wish for a white Christmas for us this year, I had a wonderful Christmas with my family nevertheless. So, no magical snowscapes, but also no digging out the driveway—I guess there's a reason you don't see snowplows in snowglobes! I hope the holidays brought the best of things for all of you as well: love, joy, friendship, togetherness, feasting, surprises (not just those intriguing packages under the tree), and fond memories of absent loved ones. As quilters, we bring the coziness to the holidays in the guise of the dazzling colors in the quilted tree skirts, wall hangings, table runners, vests, and the like. Of course, nothing is more comforting than the warmth of sleeping under lovingly crafted quilts. I well remember the happiness of being tucked in by my grandmother under the quilts handed down from her grandmother.

Our Guild Christmas party really put us into the holiday mood! The Hall looked so festive thanks to all of you who helped decorate and set up for the party. There was also plenty of sparkle sported in the Christmas sweaters—definitely not ugly! The lunch was even more scrumptious than usual. A really nice feature of the

party was having cards for everyone to sign to send to Guild members who are not as easily able to come as they once were to let them know how much they are missed. The left-right gift exchange game was modeled on a bus trip on the barn quilt trail. The imaginary trip was such fun that several people suggested that we plan on doing the real trip.

Now we head into a new year—2025. Although the Guild year does not coincide with the calendar year, as we come to the end of this year, I think we can agree that 2024 was an eventful year for the Guild. We enjoyed a wonderful schedule of programs and events, including the Pieces of Peace quilt show, the bus trip, the cookbook, the summer challenge, the Barn Star sew-along, and the picnic, among others. I like to think that balancing traditional Guild activities with newly conceived activities has been stimulating and enjoyable for everyone and I hope that together we can plan some more projects in the coming year.

Happy New Year to all!

Pam Fischer, President

WINNERS!!!!

Name Badge: Stephanie Sanidas
Raffle Baskets made \$! Rene Stiebing,
Barbara McMahon, and Phyllis Cherry
each won one of the three baskets.

Show and Tell held a raffle too! Those
winners were Mary Rutter, Betty
Zuercher, and Ann Eichelman.

Congratulations to you all!

PROJECT LINUS

At the December meeting we collected
fabric, 2 finished quilts and 3 quilt tops.
Please mark your calendar for the annual
Charity Sewing Day at our Thursday
February 20th meeting. Working on
Project Linus quilts is the scheduled
program. Members are encouraged to
use their talents to finish quilt bindings
(by hand or machine), sew provided quilt
kits into finished quilt tops, machine
quilt provided pin-basted small quilts,
cut fabric squares, or iron fabric. It is a
fun “retreat” day to sew and chat with
your friends. Contact me if you are new
to the guild and have any questions.

Did you know Village Quilters donated
125 quilts to Project Linus in 2024?
Amazing effort and I challenge you to do
the same or better in 2025. If you are a
Facebook user, follow Project Linus –
Howard County, MD to see photos of the
beautiful quilts we deliver bi-monthly.

Stephanie Sanidas

TREASURER’S REPORT

At the end of November, we had a bank
balance of \$17,563. November income
of \$619 was from raffles, cookbook sales
and membership. Expenses of \$643
were for speaker, rent, computer
equipment and gift cards for prizes.

Regina English

THE NEW VQ COOKBOOK



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

Cindy Hickman

FOOD PANTRY

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

Kay Worley

SUNSHINE

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

5 INCH SQUARE EXCHANGERS

Happy New Year! In January, we will
exchange 2 sets of 8 squares that have a
winter theme. Think snow, mittens, etc.

New exchangers are always welcome.
We have fun oohing and aahing over the
fabrics people bring & dream of how we
might use them.

Kathy Appleton & Bernadette Burley

PROGRAM

January is an especially exciting month for VQ. For our January meeting on 1/16/2025, we will feature an 'intercontinental' Zoom speaker. The Scottish needlewoman and award-winning author, Clare Hunter, will offer a presentation based on her book entitled, "Threads of Life", a history of the world through the eye of a needle. The book examines how people use "the language of sewing to make their voices heard, even in the most desperate of circumstances."

She will also speak to the therapeutic benefits of sewing. In the event of inclement weather, arrangements will be made for VQ members to tune in remotely. Kudos to Cathie Shanks for facilitating our connection to Clare 'across the pond'!

The other exciting VQ January event will be a workshop on 1/9/2025 presented by our November speakers, Kara Mason and Teri Young of 'Through the Needle's Eye'. Their website is <https://www.needleseystories.com>. Kara and Teri will teach the basics of wool appliqué and ribbon work using the design 'Floral Elegance'.

The number of participants is capped at 25, in order to allow the presenters to offer individual assistance with the project. As of this writing, there are 8 spaces left. If you would like to join the activity, please contact Mary Rutter asap.. Also, Mary will be sending an email to all participants in the very near

future with important details for the class, including the supplies needed for the those who chose to receive the 'Ribbon Only' kit.

Happy stitching until we gather again!

Penny Clifton and Mary Rutter

Program - Continued

The speaker will be on Zoom so if there is inclement weather, we can still move forward with the program. Anyone who is not able to make it to the meeting in person that day will also be able to tune in via Zoom. The speaker is from Scotland and has an accent. I will plan to set up closed captioning in the hall so we don't miss anything. You should also see the captioning if you need to tune in remotely.

The link will be sent out a few days before the meeting but your homework in the meantime will be to watch Shetland, Outlander or any other show with Scottish characters to tune your ear to their lyrical accent.

Cathie Shanks



Workshop Choices

KITCHEN HELPERS

Thank you to all who helped in December for our delightful Christmas party. You are all appreciated.

For January, we need two morning helpers who should arrive by 9:00 A.M.

Lunchtime helpers:

1. Diane Moritz
2. Jan Barthel
3. Sue Brunt

Cleanup Helpers:

1. Jane Stolte
2. Rene Stubing

Sodas:

No one has signed up for sodas. The people signed up as helpers need to call each other to decide who will bring what sodas.

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

Thanks to all helpers,

Kathy Appleton & Joan Costello

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

"A QUILTERS DIARY WRITTEN IN STITCHES"

I hope this newsletter finds everyone warm & well.

Our January block is from the "Grandparents" section. This is a very special section for me because I have many fond memories of my grandparents. They were a big part of my upbringing and my life in South Dakota. My love of sewing comes from my grandmother. Her memory is also attached to my love of all things vintage and quilting. My granddad was the quietest and most hardworking man I knew. He could also speak with his eyes and not use words, if you know what I mean.

"Grandparents" can be found on pages 26-29 of your book. You may make any block suggested or a favorite block of your choice. I chose the Grandmother's flower Garden block. I love English Paper Piecing (EPP) and this just happens to be my favorite block.



Remember to create joy and be kind,

Patty Cirulli

SEW AND CHAT

Happy New Year! Why not make a New Year's resolution to sew every Thursday morning with friends and you don't even need to leave your sewing room. Tune in to the weekly Sew and Chat from 10 to 12. It is like going on a retreat without packing up everything.

From my own experience, I have been able to get to know my fellow quilters better and learned some new tricks and tips along the way. Born out of Covid and a need to connect, the weekly sew and chat has become something I look forward to and my friends and family know to not schedule anything for me or interrupt on Thursday mornings. This is therapy time. Thank you all who do share this time with me and I hope more will join in 2025. An email will be sent at the beginning of each week with the link to tune in. Hope to see you.

Cathie Shanks

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

PATTERN LIBRARY

Many of us remember when we had a book library at Village Quilters. It became too cumbersome to bring and set up heavy books and the decision was made to discontinue.

We are going to try a little twist on that idea and start a pattern library. I will be collecting the 6 X 8 patterns we see all the time in quilt shops, in raffle baskets, and on the free table. I hope to sort by seasonal, table runners, crafts, however it seems sensible. This size will be easier to carry back and forth to meetings.

Since they are donated, I'm thinking we don't need a check out, just take one you are interested in and return it (or not) when finished. I thought it might be fun, as you returned them, write your name and date you completed it and put it in the envelope. If someone else is interested, they will know you worked on it, and it would be a wonderful conversation starter.

This is the idea phase right now, so if you have any further suggestions, please talk with me. We will see if this is a usable, and used, addition to the guild. I will be accepting donations at the January meeting.

Paulette Chellis

NEXT VQ MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2025