

# VIRGINIA CONSORTIUM OF QUILTERS

February 2026 Volume 43 Issue 1



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

VCQ ended 2025 in the manner for which we have become famous – an outstanding virtual workshop that left the participants enthusiastically proud of their blocks. David Sirota kept us laughing while convincing the doubters that his paper piecing method really can be mastered by everyone. The only downside of the day was that not everyone who wanted to join could get into the class because it sold out so quickly. We had so many members and newcomers on the waiting list, we sent reminders to everyone who had registered. We were expecting almost a hundred in the class. But we didn't get that. Over 30 didn't come and that was a great disappointment to those who made the arrangements and those who couldn't take the class. Next time, let us know if you can't come. We usually have a waiting list and we worry. That's a royal "we", I worry.

Thanks to Kathy Hippeli who made all the arrangements for our New Year's Eve Day program and for the other two Virtual Programs last year. Read further in this newsletter to find information about our Storm At Sea class on February 14 with David Sirota. If you were shut out of NYED, this is your chance to learn his method.

The Board met in-person in January to write the budget, update the Policies and Procedures, report on their special areas and work on Celebration. You have chosen a wonderful group of women to lead our organization. Every year we elect one half of the Board. This is an even year when we elect a new President, Secretary and Historian. Our Nomination Committee consists of Janice Willis, Sue Knapp, Susan Fulton and Deb Harding, all Area Reps. If you are interested in any of those offices or know someone who is perfect but hesitant to ask about it, contact someone on the committee. Addresses are in this newsletter. We welcome Lisa Frieman as our new Membership Coordinator and Judy Seltz as Newsletter Editor. Karilyn Pittman and Constance Horne have been reelected as Vice President and Treasurer.

At our Board meeting, the Board decided to continue the Come Quilt With Me Zoom sessions as they have been established since the pandemic, but we need more members to host the sessions. Phyllis Keesee will continue to host the first Tuesday afternoon each month. We need help with the third Saturday morning meetings and occasional help with Sunday afternoons. Contact me at [president@vcq.org](mailto:president@vcq.org) to volunteer for a session.

Who doesn't love a Mystery? Coming in March, VCQ will bring you an original mystery quilt designed by Meghan Shafer. The clues will be presented in the Members Only section of our web site. Details have not been worked out as to when during the month the clues will be posted, but we will give plenty of notice before you need to start to cut and sew. We are planning for about six months so you can finish before 2026 is over. This is free to members; you can access only if you are a paid up member.

See you in Williamsburg and on-line ...

Stay safe and keep quilting,

Kathy K:)



### Dates for Newsletter Submissions

April 15th, 2026 for June 13th In-Person Meeting in Blacksburg

August 15th for October 17th In-Person Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach

Please send material electronically to [newsletter@vcq.org](mailto:newsletter@vcq.org)

Remember to check the Calendar tab on the VCQ website for meetings and events at [www.vcq.org](http://www.vcq.org)



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026**

<b><i>Board Position</i></b>	<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>E-mail</i></b>
President	Kathy Gray	president@vcq.org
VP	Karilyn Pittman	vicepresident@vcq.org
Secretary	Karan Fisher	secretary@vcq.org
Treasurer	Constance Chappell Horne	treasurer@vcq.org
Membership	Lisa Frieman	membership@vcq.org
Historian/Documentation	Kitty Bull	historian@vcq.org
Programs /Virtual	Kathleen Hippeli	programs@vcq.org
Programs /In-Person	Jan Farrow/Debi Harding/Madeline Moonan	programs@vcq.org
Facilities	Jan Farrow/Debi Harding	facilities@vcq.org
Newsletter	Judy Seltz	newsletter@vcq.org
Web Mistress	Tammy Halstead	webmistress@vcq.org
Publicity	Kelly Zuber	publicity@vcq.org
Celebration Chairs	Kelly Zuber & Kathy McCrea	celebration@vcq.org
Community Service	Karin McElvein	Karinlisa7@gmail.com

### **AREA REPS**

Northern VA	Kathy Gray	kathythequilter@verizon.net
Shenandoah Valley	Vacant	
Lynchburg	Vacant	
Culpeper-Madison	Janice Willis	Willis.janice5575@gmail.com
Richmond	Vacant	
Fredericksburg	Susan Fulton	Fultonsusan24@yahoo.com
Southwest	Paula Golden	paulacgolden@comcast.net
Peninsula	Sue Knapp	sunapp1@yahoo.com
Tidewater	Debi Harding	debi.harding@cox.net



**THE VCQ BOARD NEEDS YOU!**

## **BE AN AREA REP**

The VCQ Board is looking for members to be the Area Reps for Lynchburg, Richmond, and the Shenandoah Valley. Area Reps stay connected via email or Zoom and visit their local quilt shops and guilds. The term is usually two years but there is no limit.

Duties include:

- Send emails to members reminding them of upcoming events like Come Quilt with Me, Zoom sew-alongs, registration deadlines for Zoom and in-person workshops, etc. You just create a contact group, then write and send a short note.
- Visit or ask another member to visit local guilds to promote VCQ. VCQ Area Reps are vital to letting people know about VCQ and to building our membership.
- Attend VCQ board meetings every other month on Zoom. (About one hour.)
- Attend VCQ annual board retreat the second Saturday in January.

Benefits to being on the VCQ Board:

- Be part of the decision making process that drives VCQ.
- Provide feedback from your area members to the board on issues or concerns that are important to them. Keep that line of communication open.
- Make life-long quilting friends.

*If you would like to learn more about being an Area Rep, or to volunteer in your area, contact Kathy Gray at [president@vcq.org](mailto:president@vcq.org)*

Some of you have served on the VCQ Board in a variety of positions and know the pleasure of having quilting friends you can call on.

## *Thank You Quilt for our VCQ President*

The current president of VCQ, Kathy Gray, will be completing her term of office in 2026. As a thank you to each president for their dedication to VCQ, the guild presents the outgoing president with a quilt created by the members. An email has recently been sent out to all members, except Kathy, with the chosen block and colorway. The blocks are simple and quick to make. You will use your stash, following the fabric and color guidelines included in the block instructions. You will then piece your block, add your signature where it says to in the instructions. Use a fabric marker for your signature and not a Sharpie®. A longarm quilter has generously offered to quilt the final quilt! If you prefer to mail your block to me, email me for my address or find it on the member roster in the Members Only section of VCQ.org. A single block can be mailed in a regular size envelope. You may also give it to me at any of our in-person meetings throughout the year or at Celebration 2026. **The deadline to get your block to me will be the October 2026 in-person meeting.** If you have any questions, please email me at [vicepresident@vcq.org](mailto:vicepresident@vcq.org). Remember: this is a secret! Don't be left out! Get your block to me on or before October 17, 2026. Thanks for your help with honoring our outgoing VCQ President and showing her how much we appreciate all of her hard work!

Karilyn Pittman, VCQ Vice President

\*\*\*\*\*



## **COME QUILT WITH ME ON ZOOM!**

First Tuesday of the month from 1PM-4 PM

Third Saturday from 9 AM-noon

Every Sunday 2PM-5PM

COME QUILT WITH ME (CQWM) is an opportunity to sew with your friends from all over the state and beyond. We chat, share our quilting questions and projects. It is low key – you can come and go as you please. The Zoom link is in the Members Only portion of our web site. Your log in information is on the back of your membership card or you can phone or Direct Message a board member for help. For Direct Messages, please make sure your platform has end-to-end encryption (E2EE). If you are not certain, make a phone call. Texting without E2EE is not secure.





## *STORM at SEA*

**Saturday, February 14, 2026**



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR February's Day Virtual Program on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Back by popular demand following our New Year's Eve Day program...please join us in welcoming back, **David Sirota!!!** It's going to be a Sweet Heart of a Day!

David brings his versatile, graphic, complex, quite simple Storm at Sea pattern with his “No More Tears” © method of paper piecing. Although we won't be finishing the entire project in class, you'll have a good start, and the tools you'll need to finish it at home, in half the time you'd expect from paper piecing.

With the popularity of David's virtual programs and limited ZOOM capacity, this will no doubt make this a quick sell-out! A supply list and cutting instructions are included with your registration and can be found on David Sirota's website: [STORM at SEA](#) and the [VCQ Program page](#). The **STORM at SEA** free pattern and further program details will be announced separately following the close of registration, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to all participants.

The registration fee is \$45 for VCQ Members and \$55 for non-members.

## IN PERSON IN WILLIAMSBURG!

VCQ will meet **IN-PERSON March 21, 2026 in Williamsburg**. The schedule for the day includes three GREAT workshops to choose from and a Come Quilt with Me (CQWM) option for your personal machine sewing or handwork.

**Meeting Location:** King of Glory Lutheran, 4897 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg, Va. 23188

### **Lodging**

VCQ does not block rooms, so we hope you will call and ask for a discount at the hotels close to the venue. Most hotels offer AAA, AARP, Military and senior discounts. Also review hotel rates on [trivago.com](https://www.trivago.com); [trip advisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com), and [booking.com](https://www.booking.com).

### **Quilt Stores**

**Halo's Inspirations Quilt Shop**

**151 Kristiansand Dr, Suite 115**

**Williamsburg, VA 23118**

**757-808-5947**

**Friday: 10 am - 5pm**

\*\*\*\*\*Registration\*\*\*\*\*

You may register online or by mail. Register online: <https://forms.gle/rGWEa1pUofEQp8JE7>

If you are registering by mail, your registration form and check to VCQ **must** be postmarked by February 28, 2026 (3 weeks prior to the event). **Registrations will close after this date without exception. Any registrations postmarked after February 28, 2026 cannot be accepted and will be returned.** If you are mailing in a registration the week of Feb 23, 2026 please email [inpersonprograms@vcq.org](mailto:inpersonprograms@vcq.org) or call/text Jan Farrow @ 540-287-5822 to let us know the registration is in the mail. Please fill out your registration form completely as this information is vital to ensure proper email confirmation.

**You will receive an email with Confirmation of your class approximately 2 weeks prior to the event.**

NO postcards will be mailed.

**Any cancellations must be made by March 7, 2026 (2 weeks prior to the event) to obtain a refund.** Email [inpersonprograms@vcq.org](mailto:inpersonprograms@vcq.org) or call/text Jan Farrow @540-287-5822.

**Please wear your VCQ or Guild name tag to the meeting, so we can put names and faces together.**

### **Saturday March 21, 2026 Meeting Schedule**

8:05-9:00 AM Registration

9:00- Noon Workshops

Noon-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:25 Business Meeting

1:30 - 3:30 Workshops Continue

3:45 - 4:15 Show and Tell

## WORKSHOPS \*\*\*\*\*WORKSHOPS \*\*\*\*\* WORKSHOPS \*\*\*\*\*

**Workshop A: Melissa Manring-[m79.manring@gmail.com](mailto:m79.manring@gmail.com)**

### ***Jelly Roll Placemats or Rug – Machine Class***

In this class we will be making either 4 Jellyroll placemats or a Jellyroll rug.



4 Placemats or 1 Rug

**Skill Level Required: Beginner**

**Kit Fee: none**

**Supply List:** Sewing machine (dual foot or walking foot preferred) that can sew with an adjustable zig zag stitch, zig zag stitch plate, foot that can do zig zag stitch, sewing table/tray, clover tube maker, coordinating colored thread for assembly of the rug (will be seen), needles (jean needles work best), scissors, glue stick, stiletto, 3 full bobbins (use coordinating thread as it will be seen), clips

1. Optional: water spritz bottle or Best Press spray bottle or Magic Spray bottle, wool mat
2. 1-Jellyroll of 42 strips – before class you can join strips end to end – on the diagonal (mitered seams), if making rug join all 42 strips, if making placemats join 4 sets of 10 strips (1 jellyroll makes 4 placemats)
3. Katahdin Batting 2 ¼" x 50 yard – can be purchased at your local quilt shop or Amazon

**\*\*Tube makers – both of these tube makers will work.**



<https://a.co/d/29J7sed>



<https://a.co/d/djludah>





My name is **Melissa Manring**. I have been quilting for over 15 years and enjoy creating colorful and wonderful works of art. I own several Bernina machines that help me turn beautiful fabrics into quilts, bags, rugs, pillows, and giant bows just to name a few things. I enjoy learning and teaching new techniques with other fellow passionate quilters.

#### **Social Media**

- FB: Melissa Manring
- IG: rosebudcreations15
- TT: melissa.rosebudcreations

**Workshop B: Amanda Maxwell Lightfoot - [amandaelightfoot@gmail.com](mailto:amandaelightfoot@gmail.com)**

**Cathedral Stars – Machine Class**

This pretty 70x70 quilt is deceptively easy to make. Made with some strip piecing and folded curves giving the stars an almost floral appearance. The free pattern is by Donna Jordan.



**Skill Level :** Experienced beginner or Intermediate.

**Kit Fee:** None

The free pattern by Donna Jordan is available for download here

<https://jordanfabrics.com/pages/cathedral-stars> (Please have all fabrics cut according to the pattern instructions ahead of class – if you are struggling and need help with cutting, text me at 757 593 1485 for assistance).

**Supplies: Notions**

Rotary cutter, mat and quilt ruler

Thread in a color that will work with your fabrics.

A sewing machine that will stitch a straight 1/4"

Your preferred 1/4" foot

Some straight pins

**Fabric Requirements:**

Background – 3 ¾ yards

Medium Print for star points – 1 ¼ yards

Dark accent for 4 center square – 3/8 yard

Sashing – 1 yard

Cornerstones – 1/8 yard



### **Amanda Maxwell Lightfoot**

Amanda was born and raised just outside Belfast, Northern Ireland, she is married to Michael and has only children with fur and four feet. She started sewing at the age of five on an old Singer treadle machine and has sewn ever since. In the early years she sewed doll clothes and customized her own clothes with ribbons, lace and sequins.

Eventually this progressed to taking a sewing qualification that included fine tailoring, craft sewing and home décor. Her journey with quilting started in the 1970's when her Mum taught her how to do English Paper Piecing using cardboard, newspaper and fabrics reclaimed at Jumble Sales, or whatever fabrics could be recycled.

Whilst Amanda's professional life led her into a long career in Human Resources and Management Development, Training and Coaching, she continued to sew and work in creative fields, including training professional painters in using decorate paint effects and glazing, paper crafting and scrapbooking. At various times she has done silk painting, silver clay jewelry, mosaics, stained and foiled glass, hand embroidery, cross stitch and knitting. Her sewing journey has led her to make her own formal ballgowns, jackets, drapes, decorative cushions, pillows and of course quilts.

She moved to the USA in 2010 and decided to take the opportunity to focus more on a creative career working first for an industrial embroidery factory (to learn all about machine embroidery and digitizing) and then, for the past eight years, working as an Educator with a local sewing and quilt stores. A year ago she decided to focus on her longarm business (Stitchery Do Dah) and retired from the outside “day job”. Her love of quilting continues to grow, and she is particularly interested in big bold colors and modern quilting.

Email [amandaelightfoot@gmail.com](mailto:amandaelightfoot@gmail.com)

### **Workshop C: Darlene Price - [darlene@quiltscapesbydarlene.com](mailto:darlene@quiltscapesbydarlene.com)**

#### **Kawandi Quilting – Hand Class**

Learn the technique for the Kawandi-style of patchwork. This class project is scaled to be finished in one day - perfect to see if you enjoy the process. Choose to make a square or an envelope pouch.



**Skill Level:** All- Be able to thread a needle and do a running stitch.

**Kit Fee:** None

**Supply List:** 10" square of backing fabric\*.

9" square of thin batting\*\*.

OR

6"x12" rectangle of backing fabric\*

5" x 11" rectangle of thin batting\*\*

Plus

o Scraps of fabric\* about 4" to make patches.

o #8 or #12 embroidery thread. Choose a color that will look good with your fabrics but not particularly matching. You want it to show. Variegated threads are fun.

- o Needle that threads easily with your choice of thread.  
Needle threader if you need it.
  - o Thimble, highly recommended.
  - o Straight pins (5-10)) and binding clips (not necessary but can be helpful).
  - o Scissors. You can use a rotary cutter and mat but not necessary.
- NO sewing machine. No rulers either. This is a low-tech process.

**Homework:**

Fold over and press 1/2" around the edges of your backing fabric.

\*Batiks are not recommended because they are harder to hand stitch (but I do use them).

\*\*Quilters Dream Request is ideal but any thin batting works.

Questions: [darlene@ quiltscapesbydarlene.com](mailto:darlene@quiltscapesbydarlene.com)



A good day is a day of sewing. Darlene Price has been sewing all her life, primarily clothes and curtains. After she retired as a Commercial Real Estate Paralegal her goal was to figure out quilting. In 2013, armed with a needle, thread, and cardboard templates she embarked on her first quilt. After making a few quilts and still wanting to sew, she turned her attention to art quilts and learning new techniques.



## **Workshop D: Come Quilt with Me**

Bring your own hand or machine project or work on ALS Charity Quilt kits as you sit and quilt with other members and experience wonderful fellowship. During CQWM if you haven't made your block lotto Dresden plates for Celebration there will be an opportunity to work on them. Karan Fisher will be available to answer questions and show her video and samples.



## BLOCK LOTTERY – Half Square Triangles

At the March In-Person meeting in Williamsburg, VCQ is trying something different for VCQ, but which members do regularly at our local guilds. We will accept 4 ½ inch (unfinished) Half-Square Triangle blocks. For every block turned in you will get a ticket. Tickets will be drawn at the end-of-the-day ceremony at the same time as the door prizes. The winner will go home with a stack of blocks with which you can make hundreds of different designs.

Sew your blocks with your favorite method of making HSTs. Since it will be spring, use shades of pink and/or green with cream. Use any fabrics as long as they are fabric shop quality – batiks, prints or solids, just ensure there is a high contrast between the two halves. Bring them to Williamsburg, find the table to turn them in near registration or at lunch and take your tickets. Good luck!



## VCQ WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM - Williamsburg

Registration deadline: Saturday, February 28, 2026 (3 weeks before event). **Registrations will close after this date without exception. Any registrations postmarked after February 28, 2026 will not be accepted and will be returned.** If you are mailing your registration the week of Feb 23, 2026 please email [inpersonprograms@vcq.org](mailto:inpersonprograms@vcq.org) or call/text Jan Farrow @ 540-287-5822 to let us know the registration is in the mail. **Any cancellations must be made by Saturday, March 7, 2026 (2 weeks before the event) to obtain a refund.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Circle One:

Workshop A: Jellyroll Placemats or Rug with Melissa Manring, (Kit fee : none)

Workshop B: Cathedral Stars with Amanda Maxwell Lightfoot (Kit Fee: none)

Workshop C: Kawandi Quilting with Darlene Price, (Kit Fee: none)

Workshop D: Come Quilt with Me (Kit Fee: none)

### COST:

Member- Workshop or CQWM & Lunch \$50

Non-Member – Workshop or CQWM & Lunch \$60

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you bringing a sewing machine to Come Quilt with Me (CQWM)? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Were you referred or invited by a VCQ member? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, please write their name \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first time attending an In-Person workshop with VCQ? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Can you volunteer to be the Class Helper? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Paul's Deli will be preparing us 5" sub-Sandwich (tomato, pickles, mayo & mustard will be on the side) with chips, cookie & water

Lunch Choice: \*\*Gluten free available on request

\_\_\_\_ Turkey, swiss, lettuce

\_\_\_\_ Ham, salami, American, lettuce

\_\_\_\_ Veggie Sub - grilled onions, green peppers, mushrooms, spinach, broccoli, tomato, mozzarella, Greek dressing

Special lunch requirements: \_\_\_\_ Gluten-free Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** VCQ will try to accommodate special lunch requests, but if this has not been acceptable to you, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_ **I will bring my own lunch.**

Send workshop registration form and your check **payable to VCQ** by Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Jan Farrow, 234 Winchester Tr, Mineral VA 23117

Email: [inpersonprograms@vcq.org](mailto:inpersonprograms@vcq.org) or call/ text (540) 287-5822 with any questions.

See you in Williamsburg!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Don't Forget to Check out VCQ's Facebook Page

[VCQ Virginia Consortium of Quilters | Groups | Facebook](#)

### Reminder to Vendors

You are welcome to post an ad *The First Day of Each Month*  
on the VCQ Facebook Page.

## VCQ General Membership Meeting in Culpeper, VA

Saturday October 24, 2025

### Minutes

**President:** Kathy Gray called the meeting to order at 12:49pm. She welcomed everyone and thanked Deb Schupp, Jan Farrow and Phyllis Keesee for finding the facility to host the meeting. President Gray spoke of the “Button Game” where everyone that checked in received a card with a button on it. This game is to foster fellowship and to encourage attendees to meet other members they may not know. Next she introduced the Slate of Officers for the VCQ Board which were Karilyn Pittman for Vice President, Constance Chappell Horne for Treasurer, and Lisa Frieman for Membership Coordinator. She then opened nominations from the floor, which there were none put forth. She closed nominations and called for the vote. All slated officers were elected unanimously. She then introduced the board members with their reports.

**Vice President:** Karilyn Pittman welcomed the 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees and presented them with a small welcome gift. She then spoke of the VCQ Memory Quilt on display and announced the addition of two new leaves to the quilt in memoriam for Patsy Russo and Rebecca Gail Lane of Covington, VA.

**Secretary:** Karan Fisher announced the minutes of the June 14, 2025 were published in the August 2025 newsletter and asked for any corrections/amendments. There being none, the minutes stand as published.

**Treasurer:** Constance Horne reported the financials as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Gross Profit: [REDACTED]; Expenses: \$[REDACTED]; Money Market: \$[REDACTED]; Checking: \$[REDACTED].

**Membership:** Faye Hannah was not present, however Tammy Halstead provided her report in her stead. There are 356 current members. VCQ membership continues to grow which she accredits to VCQ’s publicity and marketing efforts and to Celebration 2026 registrations.

**Historian:** Kitty Bull addressed the box of documentation records she has and adding that data into an Excel spreadsheet. Previous spreadsheet data from the early 2000’s could not be recovered but the original documentation records are housed at the Quilt Museum. They are exploring possible grant funding for assistance in transferring the data from the paper quilt documentation days into digital format. She is continuing to sort through the current paper records from the 1990’s to early 2000’s to put on flash drives.



**Virtual Programs:** Kathleen Hippeli reported that the September 6, 2025 “Scrap-tastic” Virtual Program was a great success and that there were over 40 registrants that attended virtually. The upcoming New Year’s Eve Day Mystery virtual program was announced on September 6, 2025 and registration filled within 24 hours. David Sirota will be presenting his SCRAPPY CHEVRON STAR class. She then invited those present to come forward and give a parade of their SCRAP-TASTIC project from that class. About 20 members paraded their quilt tops/finished quilts and were very well received.

**In-Person Programs & Facilities:** Jan Farrow welcomed everyone in attendance and was very pleased with the turn-out of membership in support of these in-person meetings. There were 66 registered members, 3 teachers, and 2 teacher helpers. There were 9 no shows/late cancellations. The following are scheduled In-Person meetings for 2026: 3/21/2026 - King of Glory Church in Williamsburg, VA; 6/13/2026 - Blacksburg, VA and 10/17/2026 in Virginia Beach, VA.

**Newsletter:** Kitty Bull announced that the deadline for the next newsletter is January 15, 2026 for the March 2026 meeting and April 15, 2026 for the June 2026 meeting. She & Mary Grogan would very much appreciate it if you could provide your submission to the newsletter as early as January 10, 2026 and April 10, 2026. Kitty also announced that this is the last year that she & Mary Grogan will be producing the newsletter. She asked that the VCQ Board and the membership seek volunteers to fill that position. She and Mary are willing to support whomever fills this position with putting together the January 2026 newsletter issue.

**Web Mistress:** Tammy Halstead reported that the new website was set-up last Spring and so far things are working out well. The Tech Team support from a variety of VCQ Board members is strong and appreciated. Tammy asked that if anyone is experiencing difficulty with the website or has updates/changes to information posted on the website (i.e.: new quilt shops/closed quilt shops, quilting events, etc.) to reach out to her via email.

**Publicity:** Kelly Zuber reported the current rack cards are almost gone and that she will order new replacement rack cards the first of the year 2026. She continues to post VCQ info/events on VCQ Facebook page and other social media sites.

**Celebration:** Kelly Zuber stated that Celebration 2026 is not too far away and reminded everyone that the final registration payment deadline is February 1, 2026. She has a wait list of registrants, so if final payment is not made these registrants will have an opportunity to fill that vacancy. Karan Fisher is here with the remaining Block Lotto kits for purchase. Kitty Bull has some registration forms for the Quilt Challenge. The Silent Auction at Celebration 2026 is a fund raiser and if you have quality quilting items you wish to contribute, please bring them with you to Celebration 2026 to turn in.

**Community Services:** Karin McElvin reported that VCQ won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for all the donated quilts to ALS. She reminded everyone to please label their quilts and to

complete the paperwork on their donation to turn into her with the quilt. She pointed out the ALS table with kits made up and to please take one to make and donate.

**Block of the Month:** Karen Brewster announced the last BOM posting will be in November on the VCQ website. This BOM project started postings in March 2025 and will remain live on the website through February 1, 2026 at which time it will be taken down. Karen invited all of the members that participated in this BOM project to Show & Tell their quilt at the March 2026 in-person meeting. She hopes there will be a lot of these quilts on display.

**Area Reps:** No reports provided.

President Gray then dismissed everyone at 1:41pm to go back to their classes and to return at 3:30pm to reconvene. All members returned at 3:30pm and reconvened for Show & Tell and Door Prizes. President Gray called Jan Farrow to the podium. Jan Farrow introduced each teacher and her class attendees with their projects they completed/partially completed during class. President Gray then asked that anyone who brought ALS quilts to show their quilts and there was a very good amount of quilts turned into ALS. President Gray then asked for any general Show & Tell to be presented. Following Show & Tell, Karilyn Pittman gave out door prizes.

President Gray thanked all the attendees for coming and wished all safe travels. The meeting adjourned at 4:32pm

Submitted by: Karan Fisher, VCQ Secretary

Approved by: VCQ BOARD on January 10, 2026.

[Financial data can be found on the Members Only page of the VCQ website. It is redacted here for security purposes.]

---

## IN MEMORIAM

VCQ marks the passing of Ron Harriman, the widower of Elsie Harriman, VCQ's first President and founding mother. Not only was Ron a very supportive husband but also an active member of VCQ. He died on December 27, 2025 at the age of 99, having lived a long, fruitful life of service to his family and community. His obituary is at <https://www.hollomon-brown.com/obituaries/Ronald-E-Harriman?obId=46840913#/obituaryInfo>

# VIRGINIA QUILT MUSEUM

[www.vaquiltmuseum.org](http://www.vaquiltmuseum.org)

VQM has several exhibits that just opened in January and run either to March 14 or March 28. Check them out and plan an excursion to the museum.

## QUILTING BEYOND VIRGINIA

### **Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee 45th Quilt Show & Competition**

LOCATION: Knoxville Expo Center, 5441 Clinton Highway, Knoxville, TN 37912

DATE/TIMES: Friday, June 19, 2026, 9am-5pm; Saturday, June 20, 2026, 9am-4pm

COST: Daily admission, \$10; 2-day pass, \$15; Children under 12, free

CALL FOR ENTRIES: More than \$7,800 in prize money, 14 categories, including one for Juniors (age 16 and under), and 14 special awards. Deadline to enter is April 18, 2026, unless capacity is reached sooner. See website for entry forms and rules.

DESCRIPTION: More than 200 quilts on display. On Friday, quilt historian Merikay Waldvogel, assisted by Cindy Stuart will present an antique quilt turning at 11am and 1 pm. Show attendees are invited to bring a favorite quilt and record a brief video story about it that will be archived in the Quilt Alliance "Go Tell It!" project. Shop vendors and a boutique of unique items handcrafted by guild members. Scavenger hunts for the young ones. Quilt appraisals by appointment: contact certified appraiser Cindy Stuart at 865-386-0940. Free parking.

For more information, email [info@smokymtnquilters.com](mailto:info@smokymtnquilters.com); visit [www.smokymtnquilters.com](http://www.smokymtnquilters.com), or find us on Facebook and Instagram: Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ENTER YOUR QUILTS IN THE 2026 SMOKY MOUNTAIN QUILTERS SHOW**

The Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee invites you to showcase your quilts at the guild's 45th Quilt Show & Competition, June 19-20, 2026, at the Knoxville Expo Center in Tennessee. More than \$7,500 in awards will be made to quilters in 14 categories, including a juniors category (ages 16 and under), and 14 additional special awards. Deadline for entries is April 18, 2026. Please visit [www.smokymtnquilters.com](http://www.smokymtnquilters.com) for more information on the competition and for entry forms.

## Happy New Year from Your Celebration 2026 Committee!

The Celebration 2026 Committee has been working hard to prepare for the nearly 160 VCQ members, teachers, and presenters who will be joining us at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake April 16-19. We can't wait to see you there. About 40% of our participants are FIRST TIME attendees at Celebration! What a great group this will be!

By now you should have paid the remainder of your fees for Celebration 2026. They were due on February 1. You also need to make sure your membership is current so that you can receive the VCQ member rate discount for the event.

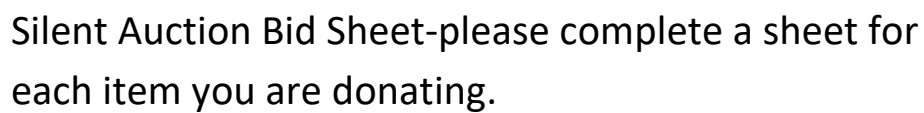
Because of the many requests for private rooms at Celebration 2026 we are using the Staff Lodge as one of our housing areas which includes comfortable private rooms with a shared bath down the hall in addition to the shared rooms in Reid Jones building and Hepler Jamison building. Many quilting groups are meeting at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Center but we are, by far, the largest.

What do you need to be doing now to get ready for Celebration 2026? Here's a list of things you can be working on to take advantage of all the FUN activities we plan to offer this year:

- **Star & Stripes Forever Challenge Quilt** – Please see the CELEBRATION tab on the [www.vcq.org](http://www.vcq.org) website for details about the challenge and don't forget to REGISTER your quilt before the event so we know how many racks we need to display your beautiful work.
- **Silent Auction items** – Clean out your quilting space and donate those items you don't plan to use to Celebration 2026.
- **Block Lotto** – Those of you who purchased Block Lotto kits at our recent in-person meetings should be working on your Dresden plates now. Turn them in at Celebration 2026 and receive a ticket for each. You could win a whole stack of Dresden Plates to make a quilt!
- **Strip Night** – Save your 2 ½" strips to turn in for strip night. You will get a ticket for each strip and have a chance to win a whole stack!
- **Square Dance Night** – Bring 10" squares of fabric and receive a ticket for each square. The squares will be bundled by our committee and you'll have the opportunity to win a stack to make a quilt.
- **Wearable Quilts** – Bring a wearable quilted item you've made and show it off at our fun fashion show Saturday night led by teacher Lyric Kinard. We will also be looking for several "models" (sizes 8-12) to display Lyric's creations during the fashion show too. E-mail us at [celebration@vcq.org](mailto:celebration@vcq.org) if you are interested in participating.
- **Scissors, Knives, Gardening Tools** – Mr. Snippy will join us again to sharpen items on site. Drop them off on Friday and get them back on Saturday. The cost is \$6.00 per item.

If you have any questions about Celebration! 2026 please contact us at [celebration@vcq.org](mailto:celebration@vcq.org). We can't wait to see you there!

Kelly Zuber  
Celebration! 2026 Chairman



Brief description of Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Email questions to [SilentAuction@vcq.org](mailto:SilentAuction@vcq.org)



**Virginia Consortium of Quilters**  
Application for Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*By providing my email address I understand that I will receive the newsletter electronically.*

New members are charged a one-time \$10.00 administrative fee. Your membership can be paid for multiple years (up to 5 years) with this form. This date will be on your membership card and at the end of each VCQ email. If dues increase during this period, yours will **not**.

( ) **New Member** ? (Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_) Membership  
\$30.00 calendar year and may be paid up to five years only. 2026 \_\_\_\_\_ 2027 \_\_\_\_\_ 2028 \_\_\_\_\_  
2029 \_\_\_\_\_ 2030 \_\_\_\_\_ SUB-TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \$10.00 ADMIN Fee

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( ) **Renewal** ? Membership \$30.00 / calendar year and may be paid up to five years only. 2026 \_\_\_\_\_  
2027 \_\_\_\_\_ 2028 \_\_\_\_\_ 2029 \_\_\_\_\_ 2030 \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*For renewals, include a SASE for membership card mailing to help defray costs.

( ) I am a member of a local quilt guild/group(s): \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I teach and/or lecture about quilting. Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I may be willing to drive others from my area to VCQ meetings.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VCQ AND MAIL IT AND FORM TO:**

Lisa Frieman  
Membership Chairperson  
8000 Driftwood Dr  
Norfolk, VA 23518-3028

**Questions:** email [membership@vcq.org](mailto:membership@vcq.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**For Membership Only** Area \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ CK Dep \_\_\_\_\_ AMT \_\_\_\_\_ CK NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Mem List updated \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Year \_\_\_\_\_ New Member Packet: Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Name Badge \_\_\_\_\_ Card \_\_\_\_\_

*Revised 01/1/2026*