

July 22, 2025 MHQG Monthly Membership Meeting (in person, no zoom)

Present: 20 members, no guests (see attendance list)

Joyce Dicianna created the agenda and she and Emmy Alford ran the meeting.

### **Business Meeting**

#### **Quilt Show**

The show is only 3 months away and members were encouraged to get their quilt registrations to Sandy Bonomo ASAP. It was noted that if you want Bev Desforges to do your quilting, you'll need to get it to her ASAP, as she is quite busy already with show quilts.

Re The Giving Project, we had the items completed to date at the meeting in an effort to inspire people, and for Louise to take a photo of them for the next newsletter in order to convey more inspiration. We had Susan Lockwood's pie carriers, Joanne Haller's knit winter hat ornaments, Nancy Cyr's tea wallets, Louise Prescott's podlets and folded fabric flower ornaments, Martha Keagle's catnip fish toys, and a few of my (Sue Gervais) chicken pincushions and some other Christmassy potholders and ornaments I'd purchased at the last show or made myself.

Many baskets were brought in tonight for members to take in order to think about/start putting together raffle baskets.

Visitor Center Items: The first of 3 Welcome Center set ups (to advertise the show) is the month of August. Dorothy Mammen is setting that up at the Guilford Center. Several people brought her quilted pieces for that tonight. Joyce has had more ideas for these set ups (in addition to Show posters and bookmarks, sewing machine and quilted pieces) including quilt books, rulers and tape measures. It occurs to me as I write up these notes that we can also use Giving Project items, if needed. It sounds like Dorothy will have plenty of things for her display, and will pass on any extras. Peg Allen is setting up Fair Haven for September, and Sue Gervais and Louise Prescott are setting up Sharon for September.

**Field Days:** It's a week earlier this year, from July 29 to August 2. Sandy Bemis has a crew ready, and they can pick up their free entry passes at Quilter's Corner. Quilts can be entered right up until July 28. Sandy and crew will sell raffle tickets for the Show quilt and talk with people about quilts. Sandy will be bringing back her cow. It's a paper cow mounted on foam core, and the kids glue small scraps of fabric on the cow. She plans to quilt it when the cow is filled in.

**Upcoming August meetings** include breakfast at Rosie's on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Sit 'n Sew on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the next monthly membership meeting is on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **The 2025-2026 Challenges:**

Emmy made a request to think about challenges, and people immediately came up with several ideas. Louise Prescott's idea is to come up with as many variations of disappearing 9 patches as we can. Martha Keagle's idea is to make handsewn appliqued/embroidered medallions for the 2026 semiquincentennial. Sandy Bonomo's idea is to make sampler quilts of orphan blocks. Dorothy Mammen's idea is to put text in quilts – and mentioned a bit about this challenge not only being what words are used, but the texture of the text. The idea comes from info Dorothy Hayes sent her about a woman in Scotland who does this. This woman does lectures, and the Dorothies thought she'd be a great speaker for the 2026-2027 schedule (assuming the time difference can be worked out). Jenn Barber suggested a fat quarter swap: those participating could bring in 5 FQs, trade them, and make something out of what they end up with.

**The 2025-2026 Program Newsletter** has almost been finished by Joyce. She'll give it to Louise to design in MS Word, and then Louise will send it to the Little Pressroom to be printed.

**Membership Renewal:** Nancy Cyr, Membership Coordinator, said she would like to begin 2026 membership renewal at the August meeting so as not to be inundated in September. If there are no address/email changes and a member consents to their information being shared, it will be a quick process. If there are any changes, a form will need to be filled out. Dues are \$20. Sandy Bonomo noted that membership has to be up to date in order to enter quilts in the Show.

**2026 Vermont Quilt Show:** There was quite a lot of discussion and interest in this. A group called A Quilter's Destination (AQD) puts on quilt shows. They are looking to replace the Vermont Quilt Festival. They have secured the Doubletree Expo Center from June 18-20, 2026. They did a show in Lancaster-Lebanon, PA that Dorothy Hayes went to and she thought it was excellent. She highly recommends AQD's show. They also have shows in Wooster, OH, Richmond, IN and Paducah, KY. For us, this would have to be an "off year" show, so June 2026 would be doable, but we would not have a raffle quilt at that time. That would leave raffle baskets for us to sell, or small items, to raise money for the Guild. We would need to provide 20-40 quilts in exchange for a free booth. It would be a chance to show challenge quilts that would not be eligible for our 2027 Show. They have free admission (therefore big crowds, but also people would come because they miss the VQF), free lectures and a huge vendor mall. Dorothy said the vendors were great. The quilts were great. The National teachers taught great classes.

If we were to participate in this show it would require someone to coordinate it, and it could only be done in non-show years.

Here is a link to the website for the show:

<https://www.aquiltersdestination.com/burlington-vt>

As of July 24 when I am writing up these notes, Sandy Bonomo has obtained more information about questions members had about this show. A very brief summary is that AQD has invited "3-4" Guilds depending on how many quilts they can bring, so it sounds like they need as many that gets them to the "200+" quilts they want, and so far there is one Guild that has committed, and that is the Franklin County QG. Green Mountain and VT Modern QG have expressed interest. We can sell ready made products but not anything that will compete with their "45+" paying vendors. AQD hangs the pipes and the Guild must hang the quilts. AQD will provide Security. Criteria for the quilts is "bring the best quilts from your guild, small to full size." So nothing about what year the quilt was made and whether it has been shown previously. There are 38 committed vendors to date.

Concerns (and there were mostly concerns, not enthusiasm) raised as a result of obtaining this additional information: hanging the quilts ourselves (safety concerns), is it worth the time and trouble for a small-ish return? Would it diminish the enthusiasm and effort needed for our 2027 show? Security of the quilts. The dates are in conflict with the Billings Museum Vermont Sampler show (which is juried and judged, AQD is neither).

This subject will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

**Other Business:** Emmy reported that the quilt received \$200 for a quilt made by Suzanne Douglas that was sold at the Sheldon Museum. And \$140 has come in from sales at Neat Repeats.

**Door Prize:** Dorothy Hayes was the winner of the Aurifil thread. Nancy Cyr asked if there was interest in having different prizes, or choices. Ideas suggested were the Quiltfolk magazine that the Guild subscribes to, fabric, and a gift certificate to the shop. Nancy is going to work on getting an inventory, and allow the winners going forward to choose from things like the aforementioned.

The Super Show & Tell was fun and inspiring with stories about first quilts, mother's and grandmother's quilts, in law's quilts, purchased quilts, new quilts, Mary Engelbreit pillows, and then there was Jeanette Van Bueren's amazing School Bus!