



Green Mountain Quilters Guild

“MOUNTAIN PIECERS”

Spring 2025 Newsletter



Happy, Quilty Spring!

What do you love about spring? When the snows recede and the grass greens up, I like to take the quilts I made over the winter and hang them on the fence for photo shoots. They look so much better outside than they do inside on a bed, a wall, or the floor. This winter I worked on a bunch of long-standing UFO's, including, the *Dear Jane* I started in 2023. Maybe I'll even finish it in time for next year's GMQG spring meeting!

This winter several family members and friends received table runners, pot holders, and table toppers featuring the “Snowflake” Bentley fabric I talked about last fall. Did you make anything with that somewhat hard-to-find panel? If so, please bring it along with your other show and tell items to the spring Green Mountain Quilters Guild meeting May 10 in Randolph. For me, show and tell is a highlight of each of our meetings.

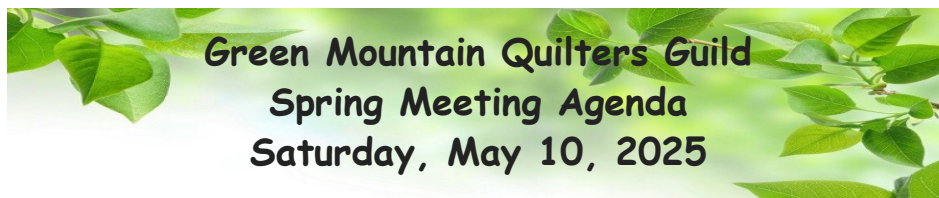
We have an exciting program for you in May: a fascinating speaker, a Quilters Auction, election of new officers, door prizes, and, as always, opportunities to meet and learn from quilters from all around Vermont and New Hampshire. Being a part of this group has made me a better quilter by opening my eyes to new techniques and designs. It's a chance to “fluff up” this old quilter's brain.

This will be my last “president's message” to you, and I want you to know how much I have enjoyed meeting you all and working with the very dedicated, creative board members. We managed to keep going through the COVID pandemic, encouraged a growing interest in barn quilts, and we learned a lot from speakers and each other. I am looking forward to sitting back and enjoying guild meetings as “just” a participant.

Thank you all for your good will, great ideas, enthusiasm, and faith in the guild.

Marianne Kotch, President





**Green Mountain Quilters Guild
Spring Meeting Agenda
Saturday, May 10, 2025**

9:00 am	Doors open for refreshments; sign up for Show and Tell, enter door prize and raffle block drawings; visit vendors; browse and bid on Quilters' Auction
9:30 am	<p>Business Meeting, Marianne Kotch presiding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Announcements ◆ Introduction of GMQG board members 2023-2025 ◆ Nominations & elections of officers for 2025-2027— Soni Johnson ◆ Corresponding Secretary/Webmaster's Report – Sandy Wilmot ◆ Treasurer's report – Robin Mascitti ◆ Membership Chair report & introductions of new members – Ginny Poplawski
10:15 am	<p>Morning Speaker – Susan Damone Balch</p> <p>Award-winning quilter, teacher, organizer, and fly fisher Susan will offer a trunk show of some of her fish quilts, intuitive or "liberated" log cabin quilts, and other art work. She will also talk about her involvement with Fletcher Farm School and the development of CreateTogetherVT in the Ludlow area.</p>
11:15 am	Time to visit vendors and the Quilters Auction
11:30 am	Plans for the 2025 GMQG Raffle Quilt – Soni Johnson & Robin Mascitti
11:45 am	Show & Tell – Soni Johnson
12:30 pm	Time for lunch, shopping, up-close viewing and voting on show and tell items, and last chance to bid on Quilters' Auction items
1:15 pm	Mystery speaker to be announced
1:45 pm	Show and Tell awards, Quilters' Auction, door prize and raffle block drawings
2:30 pm	Good bye, plans for 2025-2026 and Clean Up

Remember to Bring:

- ◆ Nametag
- ◆ **Snacks** to Share
- ◆ **Beverages** of choice & Lunch
- ◆ Show & Tell items
- ◆ Quilter's Auction items (come early with those)
- ◆ **Dues and Cash** for shopping
- ◆ Block(s) for swap

To Do at the Meeting:

- ◆ **Check in** at Membership Table.
- ◆ **Sign in items** for **Show and Tell**
- ◆ Drop off **Raffle Block(s)**
- ◆ Drop off **Refreshments**
- ◆ **Check out** the Quilters' Auction
- ◆ **Shop** the vendors

Susan Damone Balch Headlines Spring Meeting



If you attended the Vermont Quilt Festival back in the 1990s and 2000s, you may have been as awestruck as I was when you saw Susan Damone Balch's fish quilts. To me, they were abstract and realistic at the same time, often with muted colors and interesting piecing. These award winners were inspiring and among the first art quilts I encountered in my own quilting journey.

The Green Mountain Quilters Guild is honored that Susan, a resident of Reading, will be speak-

ing at our spring meeting on May 10 in Randolph. Susan will offer a trunk show featuring her fish quilts as well as later works which have mostly been "liberated" log cabin quilts. She will tell us about her experiences teaching quilting at the Fletcher Farm School until last year when it took a pause and now organizing and teaching at the new CreateTogetherVT in Ludlow.

Susan's website, <http://www.fishnquilt.com>, offers a brief biography and some photos of her quilts for sale. She started quilting in 1978 and, as she says, "a desire to capture the beauty and intrigue of fly fishing and nature in fabric led her to create stylized pictorials using smooth curved lines." She enjoys choosing just the right fabrics for her work and often lets the fabric tell her what to create with it. This has led her to more intuitive piecing which she currently teaches. Susan's blue and white liberated log cabin quilt (above) won a Juror Award at the 2023 Billings Farm Museum show.

Marianne Kotch, President



Members Can Be Vendors - For Free!

Vendors can be YOU hoping to rid your shelves of kits you won't make, fabric you don't want to use, tools that duplicate others you have. I'm sure you'll find others that are happy to buy your goods.

Maybe you have made sewing items or other crafts to sell. We've seen some lovely handmade items by other members, so plan to bring some of your goods to sell.

Members vend for free, simply by contacting GMQG Corresponding Secretary Sandy Wilmot at sandy.wilmot@yahoo.com before the May meeting. Let Sandy know if you'd like a whole 3' x 8' table or a half, and we will have one waiting for you when you arrive. If you can spare a modest door prize to be given to an attendee, that would be great. See you there!

Sandy Wilmot, Corresponding Secretary



Spring Cleaning? Remember The Quilters Auction!

One quilter's trash is another quilter's treasure! After the long winter stuck (ha!) inside quilting, does your sewing room now need a thorough spring cleaning? Gather up all your unwanted, unneeded items and take them to the GMQG spring meeting. The Quilters Auction is a popular part of the day and our main fundraiser of the year. Akin to a "teacup auction" or "trick tray auction," our auction works this way:

- ◆ Anyone can bring items for auction to the May 10 meeting. If your home contains smokers, please give your donations a good airing before bringing them. The more items there are, the greater your chance of "winning" something.
- ◆ Definitely bring quilting-related items, but bundles of fat quarters, yardage, thread, notions, books, yarn, beads, embellishments, homemade jam, baskets, plants, books, and more are welcome.
- ◆ Arrive at the meeting early to give your donations to our volunteers. Or, feel free to give your items to a GMQG board member before the meeting for delivery that day.
- ◆ Volunteers will receive and set out the items for bidding. They may decide to combine items by theme or divide them up, depending on what else is available.
- ◆ Tickets for bidding will be sold before and during the meeting (\$10 for a card of 21 tickets).
- ◆ Each item or group of items will have a paper bag taped to the table in front of it. Put as many tickets as you'd like into the bag. The more tickets you put in, the better your chances of winning.
- ◆ Winners will be drawn toward the end of the day so that you can take your items home. If you need to leave early, ask a friend to take your winnings home.
- ◆ All proceeds will help GMQG offer more excellent programs in the future.

Marianne Kotch, President



Call for Board Nominations

Positions Up for Elections

- ◆ President
- ◆ Vice-President
- ◆ Recording Secretary
- ◆ Corresponding Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer

It is time to elect (or re-elect) GMQG Board Members.

All positions are elected for 2-year terms. If you have questions about position duties, are interested in running for one of these positions, or would like to recommend someone, please reach out to Soni Johnson @ denisondej@gmail.com no later than 4/15/25.

The slate of candidates will be sent out to members for their review in advance of the May meeting.

Soni Johnson, Vice President

Buy A Raffle Ticket, Help Your Guild



The lovely turquoise, gray, and navy blue Green Mountain Quilters Guild raffle quilt will be shown at our May 10 meeting and is ready to travel around the state. This queen-sized quilt should attract quilters and non-quilters alike to support and promote the guild. The raffle drawing will be at our fall meeting, Saturday, November 8. You don't need to be present to win, although of course we hope you'll attend the meeting.

Creating the quilt truly was a group endeavor. During the winter months, GMQG Vice President, Soni Johnson put all of the blocks made by board members together and Barre long arm quilter, Marie Gross quilted it beautifully with a curvy design. Membership chair, Ginny Poplawski bound the quilt and Treasurer Robin Mascitti

designed and embroidered a label. The board set the ticket price at \$5 for one and \$10 for three.

Tickets will be sold online at greenmountainquiltersguild.com or in person. We are now looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets around the state this summer and into the fall. We can supply you with tickets, change, a quilt rack, the quilt, and handouts about the guild. If there's a fun activity planned in your community, please contact the GMQG board with details (email greenmountainquiltersguild@gmail.com) so that you or other guild representatives can be there. And if you happen to see someone from the guild selling raffle tickets, please stop by and say hi.

Marianne Kotch, President



Membership Report

Just a reminder - May 1 to April 30 is our membership year. Dues are \$20. You can mail them to me ahead of time (allowing up to a week for snail mail) or pay at the meeting. We will have forms available.

Ginny Poplawski, Membership Chair



Down the Garden Path Raffle Block

Unfinished Size: 12.5 inches

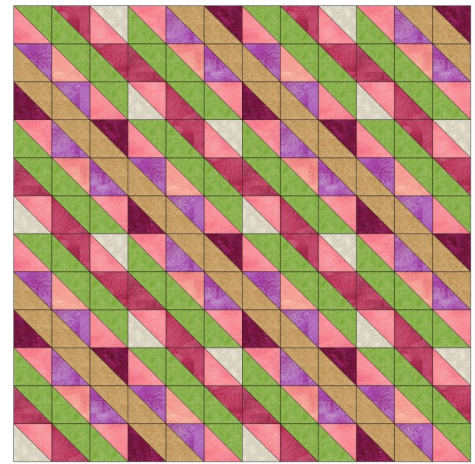
This is a simple 9-patch made up of half square triangles (HSTs) and is all about color. The fun will really start when you win the block raffle and can play with the layout of your garden path!

Fabric Needs

Enough 5-inch square scraps to make [9] 4.5-inch HSTs. You will need bright flower fabric for the flower beds and greens, browns, and grays for the garden paths.

Block Construction

Use your favorite method to make [9] HSTs. One side will be part of the flower bed and the other part of the garden path. Trim each HST to 4.5" x 4.5" and sew together to match the layout diagram below.



Example: Quilt top from [16]
Down the Garden Path Quilt Blocks.



Garden Paths

Think greens,
grays, and
browns.

Flower Beds

Use bright floral
prints/colors.

Soni Johnson, Vice President



Show and Tell—Spring 2025

Finally, Spring has arrived (though it is snowing as I write this), and it is time to get ready for the May meeting. I hope that everyone had a lovely and productive Winter – I can't wait to see what you've been working on!

I have always been too shy to bring any of my own work to share. At the last meeting, I pledged to “take the plunge” and bring a project to show this Spring. If you have never entered anything in the GMQG Show & Tell before, I invite you to join me at this meeting and your name will be entered into a special prize drawing!



Categories for Show & Tell this year include:

- ◆ Bed Quilts
- ◆ Lap Quilts/Throws
- ◆ Baby/Crib Quilts
- ◆ Wall Hangings & Table Runners
- ◆ Quilted Garments, Bags & Totes
- ◆ Miniature (no side longer than 15” and made to scale)

Please bring your projects to share with the rest of us. No matter your style or your skill level – all entries are welcome!

Soni Johnson, Show & Tell



2025 Quilting Events!



State of Maine Shop Hop, Shops across Maine invite you to Shop Hop. April 1-30, 2025. [Maineshophop.com/home](https://maineshophop.com/home)

A Vermont Quilt Sampler, Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock, VT. June 28 to September 1, 2025. 10 am to 5 pm daily. [Quilt Exhibition - Billings Farm and Museum, Woodstock, Vermont](#)

Maine Quilts 2025. Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME. July 24-26, 2025. 9am to 5 pm Thursday & Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday. [Maine Quilts 2025 – Pine Tree Quilters Guild, Inc.](#)

Sew Many Quilt Shows, Listing of New England Quilt Shows & Fiber Arts Events 2025. [Calendar](#) | [Sew Many Shows](#)

Bennington Quiltfest, Mount Anthony Union Middle School, Bennington, VT. September 13-14, 2025. [Bennington Quiltfest - Quiet Valley Quilters](#)

All New England Shop Hop, Shops across New England invite you to Shop Hop. September 1 to October 31, 2025. [All New England Shop Hop | September 1 - October 31](#)

GMQG Treasurer's Report

Financial Summary: May 1, 2024—April 1, 2025

Checking					
Starting Balance		Total Expenditures	Total Deposits	Ending Balance	
5/1/2024	\$ 1,508.36	\$ 1,222.26	\$ 1,778.00	3/31/2025	\$ 2,064.10
Savings					
Starting Balance		Total Expenditures	Total Deposits	Ending Balance	
9/30/2024	\$ 2,112.10	Transfer	\$ 2,000.00	3/31/2025	\$ 92.14
		Bank fees	\$ 20.00		
Certificate of Deposit					
Starting Balance		Accrued Interest	Total Deposits	Ending Balance	
11/1/2024	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 28.39	--		\$ 2,028.39

Proposed FY 2026 Budget: May 2025—April 2026

Transactions

FY 2025 through April	
Revenue:	
\$ 760.00	Membership dues
\$ 49.00	Guild donations
\$ 425.00	Spring Auction
\$ 280.00	Fall fat quarter raffle
\$ 80.00	Guest fees
\$ 84.00	Book Sale
\$ 100.00	Pop up Auction
\$ 1,778.00	Total Revenue
Expenses:	
\$ (34.84)	Newsletter postage
\$ (270.93)	Website Host
\$ (600.00)	Hall rental x 2
\$ (195.00)	Secretary of State
\$ (26.29)	Business Cards
\$ (75.00)	Quilting raffle quilt
\$ (20.00)	Bank Fees
(\$1,222.26)	Total Expenses
\$ 555.74	Net Gain

INCOME	
\$ 760.00	Membership dues (40@\$20 each)
\$ 80.00	Guest fees
\$ 425.00	Spring Auction
\$ 280.00	Other Fundraising/FQ raffle
\$ 25.00	Book Sale
\$ 50.00	Guild donations
\$ 1,620.00	Total Income
EXPENSES	
\$ (70.00)	Newsletter/postage
\$ (600.00)	Hall rental (May/Oct)
\$ (400.00)	Speakers/Mileage
\$ (300.00)	Website Host
\$ (50.00)	Secretary of State
(\$1,420.00)	Total Expenses
\$ 200.00	Net Gain

Robin Mascitti, Treasurer

Is Our Website Attracting Viewers?

Last 12 months

Last update: 11:25 AM (Updates every 30 minutes)

May 1, 2024 - Apr 8, 2025



We are into our 3rd year with a new website. We have measures that allow us to understand who visits our site, where they come from, and what they view. We can use this to improve the materials and information to encourage more visitors.

Here’s what we know. We’ve increased views by 38%(1,700) over the last 12 months and while most viewers are from the U.S., we also get international visitors. While many visitors already know our web address, we get referred to from search engines (like google), facebook and even the Billings Farm (from their quilt events). The most popular pages that our viewers visit are the Barn Quilt Trail, Vermont Quilt Guilds (the local guilds), and our Meeting page. We’d love to hear your ideas about additional materials to include.

An underutilized tool is our facebook page. We currently have 118 members but the activity is very low. Ideas on improving this would be great!

Countries	Regions	Cities
Top countries		
	United States	1,608
	China	28
	Canada	25
	Germany	17
	France	6
	Belgium	6
	United Kingdom	5
	Switzerland	5
	Philippines	3
	Ireland	3

Posts & pages	Views
Welcome	490
Barn Quilt Trail	338
Vermont Quilt Guilds	185
Meetings	136
News & Events	103
About	98
Featured Quilts	94
Newsletter	73
Membership	58
Contact	56

Referrers	Views
Search Engines	545
Facebook	71
billingsfarm.org	32

Sandy Wilmot, Corresponding Secretary and Facebook



GMQG BOARD MEMBERS

President - Marianne Kotch

Vice President - Soni Johnson

Treasurer - Robin Mascitti

Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Achilles

Corresponding Secretary and Facebook - Sandy Wilmot

Membership - Ginny Poplawski

Historian - vacant

Newsletter and Guild Liaison - Tess Greaves

Webmasters - Sandy Wilmot

Website: greenmountainquiltersguild.com

Join us on FACEBOOK! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1678830182330328/>

Contact any GMQG Board Member by email at: greenmountainquiltersguild@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendars

Our Fall meeting will be Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, Randolph, VT.

We welcome submissions from members and guilds for the newsletter. Deadline for the fall newsletter is October 1, 2025.



2025- 2026 Membership Form

Annual Membership is May 1st through April 30th

Please pre-register if possible.

To register, send these 3 items to: Ginny Poplawski, 5 Jalbert Road, Barre, VT 05641

1) a check for **\$20** payable to **Green Mountain Quilters Guild**

2) this completed Membership Form and 3) a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope

OR, you may bring your check and completed form to the next meeting.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY - THANK YOU!

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? Yes _____ No _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Are you a Long Arm quilter? Yes ___ No ___ Are you a quilt instructor? Yes ___ No ___

What do you teach? _____

To be completed by Membership Chair: New ___ Renewal ___ Check # _____ Cash _____



Green Mountain Quilters Guild
c/o Tess Greaves
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Hardwick, VT 05843