



Seacoast Modern Quilt Guild
DISCOVER THE FUN OF MODERN QUILTING
February 2026 Newsletter



February 2026 at a Glance

Guild Meeting: Saturday, Feb 7 (Exeter Public Library) | 10:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

Program: Disappearing 9-Patch Block – Hildreth Curran

Board Meeting (Zoom): Monday, Feb 9 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Sunday Sew Day: Sunday, Feb 15 | 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Merrimac Police Station, Merrimac, MA

Big News: We're Moving!

Beginning **March 7**, SMQG will have a **new permanent meeting home** at the **Exeter Community Center, 10 Hampton Road, Exeter, NH**. While the Exeter Public Library has been a wonderful host, they are no longer able to offer the meeting room after April.

Thanks to Julie Avant, we've secured a larger space with **easy parking**, **Zoom capability**, and — best of all — **no 1:00 p.m. closing time**, which means we can extend meetings into sew days! Reminder emails will be sent throughout February.

March 2026



January Guild Business

• **January Meeting Highlights**

Our January meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and was well attended, with 33 members, 2 guests (Deb and Mabel), and a warm welcome to three new members: John Skafides, Kim Asacker, and Margaret Lima. We're so glad you're here!

Julie Avant presented the Treasurer's Report, sharing the great news that the guild is in stronger financial health than last year. This is a direct result of members' dedication, volunteering, and support. Give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back — your efforts are allowing SMQG to offer a full and exciting calendar of programs and events for 2026!

[January Guild Business, continued](#)

• **Community Outreach**

Brenda Scolaro and Karen Kenney announced our **first COD Sew Day** at the new location on **March 7 from 12:00–4:00 p.m.**, immediately following the member meeting. A sign-up sheet will be shared for those interested in sewing, pressing, cutting, or designing.

Members also voted unanimously to partner with **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, a national nonprofit with a local Rochester, NH chapter whose mission is “*No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.*” They provide beds and bedding for children in need and are requesting **lap-size quilts** to place at the foot of each bed. Learn more at shpbeds.org.

• **Yuletide Fair 2026 – Planning Ahead**

Beth Diamond and her Yuletide Fair committee (Janet Cass, Maggie Skafides, and Mary Lee Welling) are already planning for our **second year** at this popular fair, held **November 21, 2026**, at Cooperative Middle School in Stratham, NH.

Based on last year’s success, the most requested items were:

- Card holders & gift card holders
- Bowl cozies
- Baby quilts
- Table runners



We’re focusing on **fewer item types with higher quantities** this year. Members who have patterns to share or recommendations are encouraged to email the guild. Questions can be directed to **Beth Diamond** (diamondbeth66@gmail.com).

• **Spring Retreat: Margaritaville!**



Our **Annual Spring Retreat** is just around the corner — **March 26–29** at the **Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunkport, Maine**. Jane Boulay is preparing registration packets, and attendees may arrive and set up sewing stations at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.

This year’s theme is “**Margaritaville**” — think neon colors, bold geometry, lime green, pink, and plenty of fun! Meals will be on your own, with many walkable dining options and shared kitchen amenities available. First-floor accommodations are available by request. Two or three night stays are available.

Megan Donnelly (mmegan@aol.com) is coordinating raffle baskets and welcomes member input to help better align basket costs and fundraising outcomes.

Programs

Charlene Smith, Vice President and Program Chair, has been hard at work building an engaging program calendar for 2026, beginning with our February meeting where our own **Hildy Curran** will present an expanded version of on her demo derby presentation on the **Disappearing 9 Patch Block**. Hildy will showcase her take on developing quadrants and experimenting with playful layouts. Hildy's designs transform the simple 9 patch into multiple intricate patterns!

- **Monthly Program Calendar**

March	Teresa Hebert. English Paper Piecing (EPP). Teresa will share her love of English paper piecing, must-have tools, tips & tricks! Not to be missed!	August	Summer break: no formal meeting. There will be a scheduled sew day at the Exeter Community Center at 10 am. Either bring lunch or we can order out.
April	QuiltCon attendees will share their experiences and swap stories! Many members will have just returned from the guild's retreat - let's have lots to share in show n tell!	September	Darlene Price of Quiltscapes by Darlene combines photography with sewing to create stunning Thread Painted Quilts . She will share her journey from beginner quilter to award winning innovative art quilter.
May	SMQG Demo Derby 3 of our members will demonstrate an area of particular specialty, whether it be a ruler, handiwork, technique (i.e. curves, half-square triangles)	October	Sue Michaels of Dragonfly Art, well known designer, bag maker and dynamic speaker joins us this month - along with our Annual Yard Sale where lots of treasures will be found!
June	Leila Gardunia of Leila Gardunia Quilts presents on Turning Traditional Blocks into Modern Quilts . She is a pattern designer who thinks there is nothing better than to draft quilts and play with fabric. She is here to help us have fun, be creative and find joy.	November	Jen Sorenson who will speak about using scraps and negative space . Mystery Quilts Revealed! 9 months of clues come together as we show and share our mystery quilts.
July	Holiday. No official meeting. Celebrate our Independence! A sew day will be scheduled in July.	December	Holiday Party

[Programs, continued](#)

- **David Owen Hastings Workshop**

In addition to our monthly educational programming, we are pleased to offer an exciting workshop this fall. On September 26th we will offer an all day workshop by **David Owen Hastings**. It will be from noon through 6 pm. David will lead us by Zoom from the comfort of our homes to design and create a **“Seams Out” pillow**. This program is limited to 20 ppl. Members \$70. Ticket

<https://davidowenhastings.com/portfolio/workshop-seams-out-quilted-pillow/>

[Hospitality](#)

Diane Foos (dianemfoos@gmail.com) reminds members with last names beginning **D, E, or F** to bring a light snack to share. Please note: **February will be the final meeting with provided drinks**. Beginning in March, members will bring their own beverages due to storage limitations at the new location — snacks will continue!

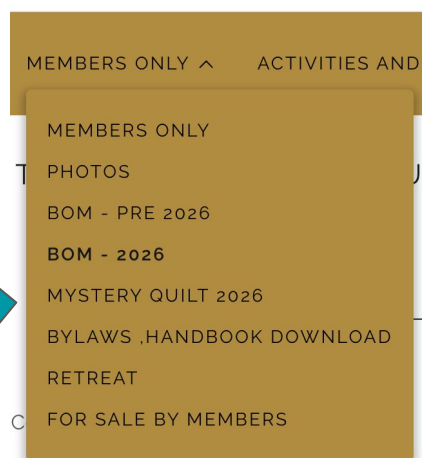


[Lottery Block](#)

The **February Lottery Block**, designed by Kathy Box and Joyce Pracuta, is titled **“February Ice.”** The finished size is 6” × 6” with a white (not cream) background and icy blue fabrics. Directions are available in the [members-only](#) section of our website, under BOM - 2026. February’s special is **2 blocks for \$1** — a great time to make extras!

[Mystery Quilt](#)

Our **9-month Mystery Quilt**, led by Suzanne Wulf and Gail Forthoffer, continues. Fabric requirements and cutting instructions are posted in the [members-only](#) section, under Mystery Quilt 2026. The final reveal is planned for November.



[QuiltCon Update](#)

Thanks to Susan Hadyniak’s quick action in submitting our proposed quilt, **our guild quilt has been accepted to QuiltCon 2026!** QuiltCon, the largest International Modern Quilt Show, will be held in Raleigh, NC Feb 18-22. There are many vendors, lectures, classes and, of course, quilts to see! (Note: opportunities are available to volunteer which can get you into some of the lectures for free!) Members who are attending will be sharing their experiences with us in our April meeting! QuiltCon 2027 will be held in Atlanta, GA.

Badges

Please continue to come to meetings wearing your badge! We have so many new members, and wearing your badge is a great way to appear more approachable. As an incentive, everyone wearing their name badge will receive a raffle ticket and there will be a drawing for a door prize during the meeting. (If you forget your badge, but would still like to enter the raffle, tickets are available for \$1)

Congratulations to **Shannon Daugherty**, winner of this month's door prize — a color wheel. Don't forget to wear your name badge!

The name badge pattern is found in the [members-only](#) section of our website!

Looking Ahead/Miscellaneous

Sunday Sew Days: these are held every third Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., at the Merrimack Police Station

Additional fairs: we're exploring several, including the New Castle Fair in July. If you know of events we should consider, please contact Joanne.

Raffle quilt: We are also seeking a raffle quilt for 2026 to benefit programs — more information coming soon.

Google Group Etiquette: If you reply to a group message, it will go to the entire group. If you want to reply to one person, send your message to their specific email. We will continue to look at alternatives.

Executive Board Meetings: these are held via Zoom the Monday following our membership meeting from 6p -8p. All members are welcome to attend. Minutes available by request. Our committee chairs should check in at the board meetings, either at the start of the meeting or giving a written update to Joanne at the membership meeting to present to the board. You are not expected or required to stay for the entire meeting, but it is important we receive an update on each committee. Thank you for all you do!

Chinese Patchwork MFA Exhibit

Diane Foos reported that the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has a small exhibit on Chinese Patchwork that is well worth attending. Check your local library for free or reduced price passes. The exhibit runs through May 3, 2026.

<https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/one-hundred-stitches-one-hundred-villages>

Show and Tell

A reminder that you can view members' amazing quilts on our [Quilt Stories](#) section of the SMQG website!



February Meeting Checklist

- Name badge
- Hospitality table donation (if D-E-Flast name)
- Lottery Block and dollar bill(s)
- Show 'n Share quilt or other item
- Quilt(s) to donate to Community outreach