

## The Procrastinating Quilters Guild April 2026 Newsletter

Sylvan Abbey United Methodist Church  
2817 Sunset Point Rd, Clearwater, FL 33759

PQ website: [ProcrastinatingQuilters.com](https://www.procrastinatingquilters.com)

PQ Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/469944486465125/>

### 2026 Officers and Committee Chairs:

#### President

*Mary Ann Pickard*

#### Vice President

*Linda Steinport*

#### Secretary

*Angela Morrison*

#### Treasurer

*Judy Wedekind*

#### Audit

*Robin VanScoy*

#### Community Outreach

*Gale Pittman*

#### Fifty/Fifty

*Vacant*

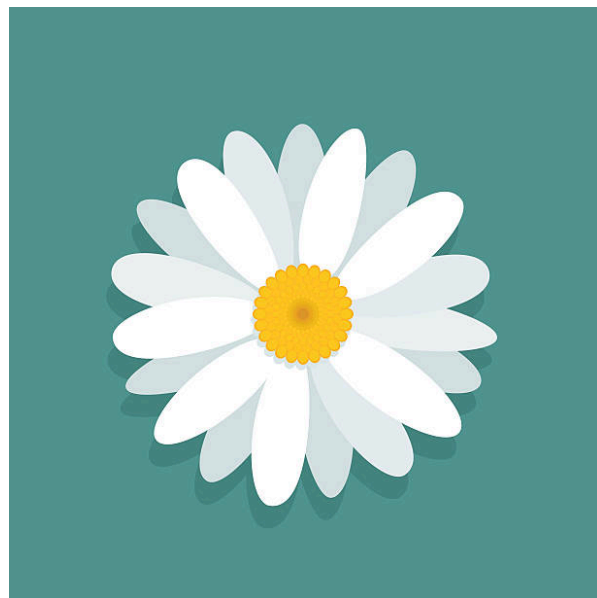
#### Historian

*Tahnee Eaton*

#### Membership

*Vacant*

*Interim: Denise Appleman*



### President's Message

Mary Ann Pickard

Happy April,

Look up for inspiration in between those April Showers.

SKY AWARENESS WEEK - The last full week of April is National Sky Awareness Week (SAW). The goal is to get people to look up and notice sky conditions, variant colors, the clouds, and how they're moving.

**Brown Bag Challenge***Pat Holliday***Newsletter editor***Amy Mullins***Nominating Committee****Parliamentarian***Penny Black***Party Coordinator***vacant***Party Blocks***vacant***Programs***Robin VanScoy**Gretchen Vautier***Retreat Planner (2026)***Judy Wedekind***Sunshine***Penny Black***Website***Joan DeSantis*

While you are looking up, it is a good time to see the trees budding with blossoms and leaves. The word April can be translated as the opening. The sky colors are great as background for quilt blocks. The birth flowers are daisy and sweetpeas, so add some of those for spring themes. Sweetpea Embroidery has lovely examples of these flowers in their block of the month designs.

I am also excited about our retreat starting April 30th! See you there!

For the love of quilts,  
Mary Ann

## Community Outreach

*Gail Pittman, Chair*

This is a listing of the items that the community needs. At times, I will announce that the requests for a certain item is heavy, and we can concentrate on that item for a bit. However, I will still collect the other items that you have ready to donate as well.

These items listed are things that I will always be able to donate. I do not want anyone to think or feel that this is required by the members. You are welcome to do as much or little as your life allows at the moment.

**BABY QUILTS:** These are donated to Morton Plant Hospital which sends them to many local hospitals. We also donate quilts to Healthy Start Pinellas. They work with expectant moms doing educational programs. Quilts can be square or rectangular in shape. There is no strict size requirement. If they are

baby quilt size up to a twin or throw size quilt, I can find a home for it! Shop your stash. Try a new pattern or technique. It can be a panel print. They do not have to be something that would go in a quilt show. Try something new without committing to a big project. All skill levels are welcome to participate. They need to be sturdy so machine quilting is preferred. The quilting can be as simple as a walking foot going around the block or diagonally. It is a great time to try a new pattern or technique if you only have a small project to make. You may use any batting you have on hand. It's a great way to

join your pieces of batting to use in a project or FrankenBatt as some call it. I would like you to show them at the meetings. They have been truly beautiful and moms are so happy to have them.

INFUSION/CHEMO CENTER QUILTS/ LAP SIZED QUILTS: If you have fabrics to use that are not good color or print for babies, you can make a quilt for a man or woman to be distributed to patients at the hospitals who come in for treatment. The rooms are cold, and they may not have brought a sweater or blanket from home. Lap quilts can be used as well. They prefer NO BATTING on these quilts. They can be backed in cotton or in flannel. Use your best judgement for the sizes. I will find a home for them!

TEDDY BEARS: These are made for the kids who go through the ER. They are given a bear to hold and then take home after their trip to the hospital. They are so cute when they are done in fun prints. No buttons or ribbons are to be attached for safety reasons. Pattern is on the PQ website.

DEVELOPMENTAL HEARTS: These are small flannel unstuffed hearts. They place one next to mom's skin and then under the baby's head to help with bonding. They are fast to make and use up stash from your sewing room. Flannel is nice but you can also use cotton. The nice thing about these is that they take very little fabric. The pattern is on the PQ website.

CHEMO HEART SHAPED PILLOWS: These are used for comfort after surgery. They are used as a pillow to give added comfort in a variety of ways. They are stuffed, made from cotton fabric, and go to the hospitals to distribute. Pattern is on the PQ website.

BURP CLOTHS: These are made from flannel and are distributed to the new moms at the hospitals. The pattern is on the PQ website.

INFUSION PILLOWS/ SEAT BELT PILLOWS: This is a new project. They are small pillows that can be wrapped around the seatbelt and secured by velcro to add some comfort from the chemo ports.

SHAWLS: If you are a knitter or crocheter and want to make a yarn item that the patient can drape over their shoulders, there is a need. For example, a small crochet afghan that is about 38 inches wide and long enough to cover over the shoulders and neck area would be useful. These would go to Morton Plant.

ADULT BIBS: These are going to the rehab centers and are always needed. I have a pattern or you may use any pattern you have on hand. We are trying to go with an adult size to protect the patient's clothing. See me if you would like more information.

MESH BAGS FOR CHEMO DRAINS: I have a pattern for a mesh bag that holds the drains after surgery to help with showering. I will have fabric and specific instructions, as well as an example for you to see if you would like to help.

OTHER ITEMS: There are many good tutorials online or YouTube if you are looking for items to make that you enjoy doing, while using what you have at home. Please see me if you come up with a good idea so I can share with others.

SEWING WORK ROOM: If you would like to gather a few friends and have a sewing

group time, there is a need at Morton Plant. They have machines and supplies there on site; they just need more woman power. They are available to stuff the pillows or the bears if you have no stuffing at home. They can stuff and then stitch the openings closed. They can also add the twill tape to the mesh bags. Some who go there are not sewists but can do easy hand sewing.

#### ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:

If you would like to have your baby quilts go to All Children's Hospital/John Hopkins in St. Pete, Theresa Arrison will be the contact person for these donations. You may give them to her directly at the meeting or reach her by phone or text message.  
(727) 409-8442

## 2026 Annual PQ Retreat - 1 Opening

Judy Wedekind, Chair

Theme: April Showers bring May Flowers

We have ONE opening available. If you want to claim that last coveted spot, contact me directly or come see me at the April meeting with payment in full, \$130.

Friendly Reminder:

1. Your outstanding retreat balance is due at the April 16 th Meeting.
2. The cancellation cutoff is April 16th for refund; you must notify me!
3. If you plan on staying overnight at the hotel, you MUST reserve your room by midnight April 16th .
4. Location: Hampton Inn, 4017 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, FL
5. Dates: Thursday, April 30, 2026, at noon and concluding on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 3:00 pm. Please do not arrive early, as the Retreat committee is setting up.

Look forward to another wonderful weekend of quilting, friendship, laughs, and snacks.



## Programs

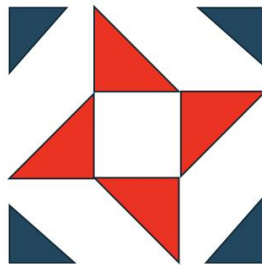
Robin VanScoy

Happy April PQers!

What a beautiful Spring we are having! Hope you enjoy it. From a Program perspective, we are still solidifying dates for the Dresden Houses with Robin Beall and the Collage Quilts with Cathleene Tokish. I hope to have dates nailed down by our meeting. Speaking of our meeting, I look forward to seeing all of the creative President's Challenge Projects this month!

May Program: Please note that due to lack of participation, PQs cancelled the workshop with Julie Luoma, on Friday 5-22. She will still be with us at the May meeting to share her improv way of "Dancing on the Borders".

June Gathering: Party Blocks celebrating Friendship and 250 years of America; last month we distributed pieced friendship stars and Redwork embroidery designs to be completed and returned to Robin VanScoy by the June Gathering. The kits include the background and instructions. There will be more at the April meeting. We ask for a \$1 donation for each. Two pieced or one embroidery block puts you into the raffle to win enough blocks to make a quilt! We will most likely have about 3 to give away!



### UFO Challenge:

We had 9 members finish their Feb UFO!! It was wonderful to hear the stories about the project and how happy they were to finally finish them! Each earned two entries into our UFO Challenge drawing in Dec. Check out also the pictures on our PQ Facebook page. In March we picked project #5. Bring your finished #5 item to show and tell in April and earn two entries for our UFO Challenge raffle! Taking a little longer than you anticipated? Don't worry, get them done and shown by December and you will earn one entry per finished project. There is no stress in quilting, enjoy the journey and be reminded as to why you started the project in the first place!

### 50/50:

Thank you to Amy Mullins for working the 50/50 sales in March, raising \$106 that night. Bring your dollars to play 50/50 this month and help fund our Annual Sylvan Abbey Angel Tree Donation! Small bills help, got to be in it to win it!



### April

04/10 Teresa Hicks  
04/22 Janell Cleveland  
04/27 Karen Pieczonka  
04/30 Michelle Crook

### May

05/02 Lynnette Schiffhauer  
05/06 Michelle Reinhard  
05/07 Julie Jacobs  
05/25 Paige Rapson  
05/29 Ramona Griffin

### **Upcoming Florida Quilt Shows**

- April 17-18 Country Road Quilters Ruby Jubilee Show in Ocala

### **And don't forget...**

- March 1 – April 30 All Florida Shop Hop