



Website: <http://www.mahonebayquiltersguild.com/>  
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Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/people/mbqg/>

## President's Message

Happy April!

Not to speak too soon, but I think we may be experiencing the advent of Spring. Maybe we can have a Monday without a snowstorm! Not only do we move to evening meetings this month, but our meeting is actually April 13, because April 6 is Easter Monday. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7 pm. We're going to try to limit the business part of the meeting to under 30 minutes to make sure that all goes briskly!

We had a dedicated group of members, led by Betty Learning, sort and organize our storage area in the basement of the church in March. Then Sandy Morrow and her husband took away all the donations and are organizing them into lots for our big auction at the May meeting, with all proceeds going to the Guild. Thanks to all the volunteers for this work!

March also saw another successful Open Sew Day, an amazingly busy and bustling Cuddle Quilt Day and a packed workshop with our own Judy Reade where we made truly fantastic fabrics! What a great month!

We have many events and projects in the works for the spring to the end of the Guild season in June.

## Executive Members

**President** – Nina Scott-Stoddart –  
[president@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:president@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Vice President** – Vacant

**Treasurer** – Jill Rafuse –  
[treasurer@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:treasurer@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)  
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**Secretary** – Dawn Pritchard  
[secretary@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:secretary@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Communications** – Cheryl Borden –  
[communications@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:communications@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Membership** – Betty Learning –  
[membership@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:membership@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Library** – Heather McEwan, Pam Hancock  
and Diane Binmore –  
[library@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:library@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Past President** – Annette Fralic –  
[pastpresident@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:pastpresident@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Workshops** – Josie (Pina) Wall and Didi Morton-Spaan –  
[workshop@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:workshop@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)  
or 902-693-2018

**Monthly Program** – Sandy Morrow-  
[program@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:program@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Newsletter** – Sheena Gibbs–  
[newsletter@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:newsletter@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is **April 13, 2026 @7:00pm**.  
Doors open at 6:30pm. It will be in-person  
only at the Trinity United Church.  
\*see page 17 for meeting reminders!

For Information on Slow Quilting, Sew Zoom  
and other Guild Activities check out our  
Website Calendar:  
<https://mahonebayquiltersguild.com/events/>

At the April meeting we will be voting on the 26-27 Budget that was discussed at the previous meeting. The proposed budget will be included with the documents before the April 13 meeting.

Also at the April meeting we'll unveil where we are with Cheryl Borden's Mystery Quilt project - if it's done, that's great, if it's just a quilt top at this point, that's fine, too! I really enjoyed doing a quilt on point, which I'd only ever done once before.

If you've made a quilt, you may have some orphan blocks left over (or if you've just tried something that didn't really work). Sue Aylesworth is starting a new monthly project to start with one of our orphan blocks and make monthly additions to it until we have a full quilt or wall hanging. See her first challenge later in this newsletter.

As my term as President winds down, I've finally chosen a project as my President's Challenge. I'd love us to make a new banner for the Guild to be hung at the Quilt Show in September. See info on the website and in the newsletter.

Speaking of the Executive, we are looking for some key Executive members to be installed in June. See Annette's message in this newsletter.

I hope you have a marvellous April and I hope to see you at the meeting!

Nina

Two Colour Mystery Quilt - reminder that the unveiling of members mystery quilt projects will be at meeting April 13th. Bring along your creations to share, whether they are finished, flimsies or blocks.

## **Volunteer of the Year Nominations OPEN!**

It's that time of year again where we come together to honour a person who has made outstanding contributions to the Guild over the past year.

Starting at the upcoming April meeting and continuing through to the May meeting, nominations will be done in-person by filling out a ballot that will be available at the sign-in desk. All votes are anonymous.

In the event you are unable to attend the meeting, you are also able to vote via email by sending your nomination to Katie at [kaitlinmariechen@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlinmariechen@gmail.com). **Please note, by doing so your vote will no longer be anonymous.** Email votes will be accepted until Monday, May 25 2026.

Katie will be collecting and recording the votes until the big reveal at the June meeting!

## Presidents Challenge



As my term as president of the Guild comes to an end, I'd like to announce my challenge to make blocks and assemble this new banner for the Guild to be hung at the Quilt Show in September.

The Guild has a lovely banner that was made 10 years ago to mark the 25th anniversary, so I thought it was time to make a new banner to coincide with our 35th.

THE DESIGN: Colours pulled from the Nova Scotia provincial flag, with the addition of a pale blue. Fabrics supplied and will be available at the April meeting and events and meetings during April and May. Please note that the graphic above is a mock-up only, to show colours and possible effects of a variety of blocks. Members would choose their own block and colours within the palette, so it would be much more varied!



*Colorworks by Northcott - from top to bottom: Sunflower, Tomato, Cloud Nine, Liberty and Super White*

The banner will be approx. 32" long and 64" wide, bound and with a hanging sleeve.

For it we will need:

20 8" finished blocks (8.5" unfinished) - pieced by members

4 x - Our logo Ship block (each one in quilter's arrangement of colours)

6 x - simple blocks: four patch, 9 patch, HST, rail fence

4 x - intermediate blocks: stars, hourglass, etc.

6 x - advanced blocks: curves, complicated piecing, etc.

(Please note that these are not hard and fast categories -- if you have a specific block just pick the specific block you want on the form or let me pick one :)

Each volunteer chooses block, chooses fabric from possibilities, sews and returns blocks by June meeting

Centre panel with machine-appliquéd letters — 3 - 5 volunteers take one word or phrase each affixed to white background and machine appliqué them - they are then assembled into the centre panel.

Assembly, quilting, binding: Some of us members would then get together, perhaps at June Open Sew or over the summer, and assemble the banner, sandwich it, quilt it and bind it with a hanging sleeve at the top.

You can sign up using the below online form or by emailing me at: [president@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:president@mahonebayquiltersguild.com) or calling me at (902)-521-8577  
<https://mahonebayquiltersguild.com/2026-presidents-choice/>

Thank you so much for participating!  
Nina

## **Executive Position Search**

The time has come to fill Executive Positions for the Guilds' upcoming 2 years. These positions are a great way to meet your fellow Guild members and have a say in the direction the Guild takes moving forward. If you are interested in the behind-the-scenes decision making and planning for the Guild, then becoming an executive member is for you!

We will be needing the following positions filled at the AGM this June.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary (1 year only to complete the current term)
- Membership Chair
- Communication Chair

Give these positions some thought and if you feel you can help us out please come forward and send me an e-mail or find me at a meeting so we can discuss the roles and responsibilities.

I would like to hear from you at or before the May General Meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> so we can put together a solid plan for our future.

Thank you to everyone already in a position and those who are fulfilling other guild responsibilities. It really does “take a village “and I hope to talk to you about upcoming possibilities.

Talk soon,

Annette

## **Great fun and creativity were had at Judy Cooper's Fantastic Fabric Workshop!**

We began with simple fabric and built it up layer by layer—adding an irresistible assortment of shiny, sparkly bits and bobs, then topping it all with a veil of mesh. With metallic threads dancing under our needles, we free-motion stitched everything into place, transforming our humble beginnings into a whole new mystical material.

The room buzzed with imagination, experimentation, and that special kind of joy that comes from making something utterly unique with our own hands.

Thanks

Pina





## Workshop News

### **Tamarack Jacket/Coat Class with Kate O'Brien - Space is still available for this workshop**

Kate will lead us through the whole adventure — from whipping up your own mock-up jacket, to cutting the pattern, choosing fabulous fabrics, adding pockets, buttons, embellishments, and finishing it all off with elegant French seams.

### **Workshop Schedule**

- In-person kickoff: April 25 at Trinity United Church
- Online Zoom sessions: May 16, May 30, and June 13

### **Registration continues at the April meeting and closes April 11:**

- **Workshop fee: \$40 plus the Tamarack pattern \$28, due by April 11**

*(pattern will be given out at the workshop, April 25)*

### **Payments:**

- E-transfer payment to [mbqgtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mbqgtreasurer@gmail.com) and reference Jacket workshop
- Cash or cheque, payable to Mahone Bay Quilters Guild

### **Pattern & Supplies**

- Pattern Size charts will be available at the April meeting
- Pattern Ease (for your mock-up jacket) is also available to order
- Material list will be sent to new participants by April 11

### **Pop-up Shop with Kate - April 25 from 10-1 Trinity United Church**

Kate is bringing a pop-up shop to our April 25th session, and everyone is invited to browse and stock up on goodies. To make your shopping extra smooth, take a look at her website: [openquiltsstudio.com](http://openquiltsstudio.com). Pick out your favourites, place your order, and she'll have everything ready for you to pick up on April 25.

### **Karen Neary, Quilt Designer, 2 day Workshop - May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Mahone Bay Legion, 21 Pond Street**

**Registration continues** – sign up at the April meeting. Registration closes April 18<sup>th</sup>.

In celebration of the Guild's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are delighted to have Karen Neary for 2 days, offering two different workshops free of charge.

Each workshop has its own required kit, \$15. If you sign up for both, your cost for the kits will be \$30.

E-transfer payment to [mbqgtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mbqgtreasurer@gmail.com) reference May kit(s); cheque (payable to Mahone Bay Quilters Guild) or cash.

Supply list will be sent out early April.

**Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 -4 – Midnight Magic**



The main project is a wall hanging featuring Santa and his sleigh zooming across the night sky.

Before creating this piece, you will draft and sew a practice “swoosh” of flying geese. It will fit on a regular sheet of paper and can be used later in a small project of your choosing.

The technique used will be paperless paper-piecing (also known as freezer paper piecing) which results in perfect points but no messy paper to remove afterwards.

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 – 3 – Maritime Beauty**



A variation of a New York Beauty block, the Maritime Beauty makes an eye-catching centerpiece for your table or wall.

You will learn freezer paper foundation piecing, sew curved seam and apply bias binding to a curved edge with inside corners.

Some cutting of templates is required prior to class.

## ORPHAN BLOCK TO QUILT - A MYSTERY SEW ALONG PROJECT WITH SUE AYLESWORTH

Greetings Quilting Friends,



After a long winter, I'm in need of some creative mojo and I'm challenging myself to start and finish a small project over the next few months. I'd love it if you could join me.

This is my plan, please jump on board if it interests you.

Start with an orphan block - you know what I mean - that one block of a technique you tried, or maybe a leftover from a former project.

Each month I'll suggest a row or border to add, such as a technique or colour combo or ... please offer up any suggestions you might have.

Beginning in April I'm going to pull out my block and add to it, building on that each month. Use my monthly suggestion, or please add a border of your choice.

For April, May and June, I'll bring my project to guild for show & share and I'd love to see yours too.

I'll continue to offer up rows/borders challenges during July and August, but you do what pleases you.

For April, I suggest something with stripes. Use a striped fabric, or make your own. Add it to one side or all the way around your block.

Make a wide border or a tiny row.

I'm looking forward to seeing your orphans and your ideas!

## **Retreat Update**

Our Retreat planning is now well under way, and we even have a space left! If there is anyone interested in joining in the fun send me an e-mail at [aandbf@eastlink.ca](mailto:aandbf@eastlink.ca)

Our retreat is May 22, 23 and 24.

If you are attending and plan to stay at the hotel (Best Western Plus) in Liverpool I advise you to book your room now to guarantee your room.

If you would like to provide a demo or plan another type of activity just let me know and we can promote it through retreat updates.

Barb has suggested a show and tell program, and I think that Friday evening after supper, at around 7pm, might be a good time to do this. Anyone with something they want to show off please bring it along even if it isn't what you are working on during retreat weekend.

To all Guild members, you are welcome to come visit and shop at our pop-up shop provided by The Wooden Spool Quilt Shop in Granville Ferry. I will try to find out what the shop hours will be and have them for the May Newsletter.

Any questions regarding retreat can be sent to me.

Happy Spring,  
Annette

## Program News

At this month's meeting, there will be lots of laughter as we play some fun games, including one we played a year ago. Remember 'Strip Poker?' Don't worry; you can keep your clothes on! In order to take part in this game, please bring 15 2.5" WOF strips with you. There will be other games as well, with prizes. As always, there will be coffee, tea, and treats. If you have a treat to share, please bring it along.

In preparation for May's auction, please bring any fabric and/or tools you would like to donate, to this month's meeting. The more items we have, the more we can raise. Thank you!

This month's FQ draw theme is 'florals.'

## A Very Successful Cuddle Quilt Day 2026!

Cuddle Quilt Day on March 21 could not have gone better. The room was buzzing with activity from cutting batting, to matching backing, to ironing and sandwiching the quilts, to the machine sewers for quilting and to the hand sewers for sewing on the binding. The people and machines were going full tilt. There were 6 sewing machines humming on one side of the room for the Cuddle Hugs (capes) and 6 sewing machines humming on the other side for the Cuddle Quilts. And we could have used even more sewing machines! The batting station did an amazing job of Frankensteining the bits of batting to use up every bit that was useful. We found 6 large bins/bags of leftover batting during the storage room clean-out. It is now all gone and only the batting bolts remain. The leftover bits of polyester batting will be given to Cheryl Borden for the making of dog beds.

The completed items we have so far are 10 lap quilts, 11 child quilts, 4 wheelchair quilts, 2 walker caddies, 1 wall hanging (suitable for care home), and 3 lap-size dementia fidget blankets. But there were many Cuddle Hugs and Cuddle Quilts taken home to be finished there. So, our count will rise considerable by distribution time of late April and May - still plenty of time to make an item from scratch and donate it! In the next couple of weeks, I will be calling around to the various institutions

and homes to see what is suitable where. Already there are 8 child quilts on their way to IWK Ronald MacDonald House (thanks Barb) and 10 lap quilts ready for the Brigadoon graduates (thanks Sheena).

We had a donation of an 86" x 64" YoYo quilt partially finished. The hundreds of YoYo's are attached to a yellow background fabric. We cannot use it for donation so if anyone would like to take this quilt home for your own use, please let me know and I will bring it to the April meeting. Otherwise, it will be donated to another group.

Long-arm Help Please - We need help from a long-armed to quilt one lap quilt. It was too large for our machine sewers to handle comfortably. So, if you are a long-arm quilter and can do this for us, please let me know. The top, batting and backing are ready for assembly.

Cuddly Quilt Day 2027 will need a new Co-ordinator as I will be stepping down. But if the new coordinator would like me to stay on as Co-chair to help them transition, I would be happy to do that. In my view, it is a very satisfying position.

A Sincere Thank You to all members who came out to help with Cuddly Quilt Day 2026!

Betty Learning







## Library News

The library committee is happy to report that we have new orders on the way!

We have the ruler, clearly perfect slotted trimmers as well as, arriving soon, a new book, 'Gathered 2' by Jen Kingswell which sounds great !

"It celebrates quilting traditions and the stories stitched into each piece. Jen draws from her vast collection of vintage quilts and provides 13 quilt and cushion projects which reflect the charm of bygone eras."

We hope to have these available at our April meeting.

Our organization of the library cupboard is an ongoing project!

Submitted by

Diane Binmore

Library committee

## Sew Day #2

Our second Sew Day on March 7th was every bit as successful as the first one in February. Eleven enthusiastic members showed up in spite of Mother Nature's dump of snow the previous night. Everyone had a project of their choice in hand and it's always wonderful to see the wide assortment represented. We all enjoy having a look at what everyone else is doing and tips and tricks are happily swapped. Betty Learning treated us to a demo of a very nifty nine-patch trivet and even had supplies on hand for each of us to make one ourselves. Elizabeth was so taken with the technique that she's gone into mass production of them!

As promised when this event was launched, we're ready for re-branding! We received a good number of name suggestions and it was very tough to whittle the list down. The following four are the finalists:

1. Sew Often Day
2. Sew Happy Together
3. Sewcial Day
4. Sew Birds

Please vote by choosing one name from the list and forward your vote to Nina at:

damncats@gmail.com The deadline is Saturday, April 11th. Both the winning name and the member who suggested it will be announced at our monthly meeting on April 13th.

Our next (soon to be renamed) Sew Day will be Saturday, April 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There's always room for more so plan to come for the day or even a part of it. These fun days are included in your membership fee, so bring your project and any equipment you need along with

your lunch and a if you wish, a snack to share. We'll provide coffee, tea, irons and ironing boards. Most of all, come prepared to laugh, share and have a lovely time with your fellow quilters.

See you there,

Nina and Didi



## Meeting Reminders

Meeting is at Trinity United Church Hall, Mahone Bay:

- Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7:00 pm
- Wear a name tag, please
- Meetings are scent free
- Treat to share (optional)
- Floral themed fat quarter(s) for draw

Sheena Gibbs, Newsletter Chair