



# Around the Quilt Patch

Pieces & Patches Quilt Guild  
Vol 44 Issue 4 Jackson, Michigan November 2024

## From the President

Hello Guild Friends!



I would like to introduce myself, and tell you a little about me. My name is Valarie Howard, I have been married for 28 years, and have 2 kids and 3 grandkids. I was a stay-at-home mom for most of my life, and then branched out to kindergartners. What better thing to do than to work with kids! It was my favorite job and most rewarding job I have ever had! Of course, besides being a mom. Now my favorite thing is being called a grandma! My 3 grands call me Ginny, and they are my sunshine!

I am excited to be a part of this great group of ladies and can't wait to see what the guild has in store for us! I am looking forward to the 2024-25 guild year.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president,

Here's to a great Year!!

Valarie Howard



**Guild Meetings are normally the last Monday of the month and are held at:**

**Ella Sharp Museum  
3225 Fourth Street, Jackson MI**

**Demonstrations** begin at 6:15 pm  
**Meetings** begin at 7:00 pm

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Pieces and Patches Quilt Guild Jackson Michigan is now on Facebook. Like the page. Become a friend. Share your quilting activities and discoveries. Also find us at:

- [PiecesandPatchesQuiltGuild.org](http://PiecesandPatchesQuiltGuild.org) (website)
- [Fb.com/PPQuiltGuild](https://www.facebook.com/PPQuiltGuild)
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### **November 18, 2024**

**Guild Meeting:** Veterans Quilts

### **November 22-23, 2024**

**Quilt Day Camp:** 10 AM – 8 PM

**Location:** The Coop, Leslie, MI

### **December 2024**

**Guild Meeting:** No Meeting  
Merry Christmas!

### **January 27, 2025**

**Guild Meeting:** “The Creative Art of Finishing”  
Gayleen Fitzgerald  
**Zoom Meeting**

## **IN & AROUND THE MITTEN**



### **Original Sewing & Quilt Expo**

Suburban Collection Showplace  
Novi, MI

November 14-16, 2024

<https://www.sewingexpo.com/Events/Novi-MI>

### **Shipshewana Quilt Retreat**

Blue Gate Garden Inn, Shipshewana, IN  
November 12-17, 2024

<https://shipshewanaquiltretreat.com/product/november-2024-retreat/>

## **Quilt Show Recap**

Our quilt show was held October 12th and 13th at Heritage School in Stockbridge, was a huge success. This is due to the hard work put in by the committees, but also because of you. The volunteers and your spouses and family. We had so many family members show for set up Friday night and take down on Sunday. We could not have done it without them and you. I believe I heard that we had more people in attendance than in 2022. I will have a future report after our show follow up meeting November 4th. All the vendors were very happy and I believe everyone did well.

The raffle quilts were won by the following:  
The guild quilt by Mary Ann Rankin  
The large white one donated by Kris Rulison was won by Jennis Smith.  
The Bonnie Hunter quilt donated by Jan Roy's was won by Calee Resinger  
The Fall Fence Rail donated by Rosie Paddock was won by Jenny Rich.  
The Scarecrow quilt donated by Marie Fisher was won by April Koenig.

We already have one quilt that has been donated for the 2026 show. If you would like to donate a quilt for the next show just let us know.

A big thank you to those who donated items to the boutique and the general store. A special thank you to Dorothy Lowe who contributed an overwhelming amount of her quilting stash.  
Watch for an updated article after our November 4th meeting.

Cindy Shong  
Quilt Show Chairman



## Upcoming Programs

Hello my quilties. WOW! Last year's quilt guild just flew by! And we are already into month 3 of the 2024-2025 guild year!

If you missed the kickoff for this year September's meeting was a blast! 😄 What do you get with a room full of quilters having a potluck and games? A ton of delicious food and lots of laughter!

I hope by switching tables before the left, right, center game started you were able to introduce yourself to someone you hadn't met before. That was the purpose of switching tables. We always have a tendency to sit with the same people at the same table! Try to make it a point when you come to a Guild meeting to meet at least one new person and introduce yourself. You never know the person you introduce yourself to may become a good friend!

The November meeting has our very own Janet Rochefort doing a presentation to local veterans thanking them for their service to our country. Beautiful red, white and blue quilts, kits that Janet donated, have been put together by several guild members. Quilted and bound by several other members and will be the quilts presented. You definitely do not want to miss the November Guild meeting it's going to be a beautiful memorable meeting!



The month of December there is no Guild meeting. Enjoy this time to celebrate the holidays with your family and friends!

January 27, 2025 will be a zoom meeting featuring a presentation from Gyleen Fitzgerald. She will be discussing the "Creative art of finishing!" How many of us have a tendency to start a project and then move on to another one before you finish the first one? 🧑



Gyleen will help us not get bogged down with our unfinished projects. She will be showing us creative ways to reconfigure or upscale orphan projects to get them finished. You really don't want to miss this January zoom meeting!

As you can see the guild year is moving very quickly!

Be sure to check your emails, visit our webpage and members only Facebook page for all the exciting things happening with your PPQG!

Our first workshop will be March 31 & April 1. You will want to watch for more details as they are posted so you do not miss anything!

Sew on my Quilties!  
 Angie Townsend  
 Programs Director 24-25  
 ☐☐☐☐

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## Day Camp and Retreat

In November we will be having a Day Camp! If you're like me there is never enough time to get all those projects done. Also, if you are like me your husband or significant other is off to the woods for hunting. (That's his story anyhow). So, what better way of spending the weekend, SEWING! November 22&23 at The Coop in Leslie, MI will be the date. If you would like to join us, please get your form and money into myself or Patty Ray. You may also send it to the guild P.O.Box.

Our Spring retreat will be once again in May. Our dates are May 1-4. At Creative Passions Retreat Center in Chesaning, MI. This is same place we held our retreat last year and we all had a blast. I will be taking money for a deposit to hold your place starting at our October meeting. If you are interested in joining us this year, please fill out a form and place your \$50 deposit. This will hold your place and the deposit will be placed toward your total due. The total cost is

\$260.00 and this will include the early arrival fee. If you choose not to do early arrival the cost will be \$230. The final payment will be due January 10,2025. More information will be available in a packet at the Welcome table.

Hope to see you all soon.

Valarie Howard



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## 12 Days to Fill Your Stocking or Gift Bag

Get ready for a festive countdown as we embark on a delightful journey to fill your stocking with the perfect treats and treasures! Starting Monday, December 2nd, watch your email for a collection of amazing items that will bring joy and excitement this holiday season, all while enjoying fantastic discounts! Email [countrystitchesquiltshop@gmail.com](mailto:countrystitchesquiltshop@gmail.com) or call us for more details.

## Membership Suggestion Box

At each monthly meeting, members have access to a Suggestion Box where they can submit questions, concerns, and suggestions. As Director at Large, I take these questions, concerns, and suggestions to the monthly Board meetings for review and discussion. The following suggestion was submitted in August and reviewed by the Board in September.

Suggestion: Start the meeting at 6 p.m. or limit Show & Tell. A lot of us don't like to drive in the dark. We get later every month; 9:20-9:30 p.m.

Response: Thank you for the suggestion! The Board discussed options regarding changing the meeting time. It was determined that the meeting time will remain at 7 p.m. due to many reasons. Those reasons include accommodating schedules of those members who work, demos that are scheduled and held prior to the meeting, and Ella Sharp Museum hours. The Guild president makes every effort to streamline the meeting by asking those who are on the agenda to line up and be ready to give their reports. Also, remember that the January and February meetings are held via Zoom.

All members are encouraged to share their Show & Tell projects. We love to see those projects and appreciate the skill and art. The Board will continue to discuss and work at streamlining the monthly guild meeting.

Keep your suggestions coming! Please remember, you can submit your suggestions anonymously.

Renee Nelson,  
Director at Large





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\*\*\*\*\*  
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**HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 7<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY SALE DATES:**  
Tues., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> - Sat., Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

**PLEASE NOTE: We will be CLOSED from Tues., Dec.24<sup>th</sup> - Mon., Jan, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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## Year-end summary of P&PQG 2023-2024

We had an overall good year. There was an average of 75 people at the monthly meetings at Ella Sharp Museum. We have 121 members at this writing. This is the year we plan our bi-annual quilt show to happen in October 2024.

We brought back our September potluck to meet and greet each other with an overwhelming number of people. We however lost a dear member, Sharon Bannister. There was a sale of her stash which brought in \$2000 towards our new quilt racks. We held 6 workshops with an average of 17 attendants each.

We are very fortunate to have some spacious venues for our workshops: the Coop in Leslie, MI and the Toy House Community Room in Jackson, MI. There was one retreat in May at Creative Passions in Chesaning, MI. 23 people attended. Day camp was a new concept that was very well attended. It consists of two, one day-time days. Lunch and dinner are provided so the

campers can have sewing and social time. An average of 12 people enjoy this new time.

In March, we also brought back the National Quilt Day celebration. A lot of members and some non-members enjoyed a daylong of classes taught by our own members and enjoyed a very yummy pot luck.

There are 12 advertisers supporting our guild. We really appreciate them. We run their ads in our newsletter and at each in person meeting on the screen. We encourage our members to support them.

There are three Charities that we support yearly. 1. Together we can make a Difference House- children and teens--Christmas stockings (1789), Bibs (12), Quilts (3), Baby Blankets (8), Burp Cloths (34); 2. Cage Comforter for Jackson County Animal Shelter--dogs (6) and cats (33); and 3. Jackson Child Advocacy Center for abused children and teens--Quilts (120). We take a monetary love offering for each charity in the Spring/Summer months.

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Currently we use GoDaddy and HostGator websites. We have website backups, security health, server downtime, software and plugin updates to keep our communications services up to date and running smoothly. We are always using ways to optimize use of the website.

At each of our monthly membership meetings we continue to record the show and tell items made by our guild members. As the year closes, the yearend reports are updated to individualize each board members job. There is a record retention policy in place for the website and each area of record.

Each month before our meetings, there are demonstrations of various ways to enrich our knowledge of short cuts or new techniques. Our members have so many talents to offer each other.

Due to member input and winter months of possible bad weather, we decided to have our January and February presenters via zoom. We had a wonderful calendar of speakers including Jenny Doan in January via zoom, and also Meg Cox in February via zoom.

Facebook is very well received by our members. So far everyone that can is able to access our members only Facebook page. We can list any special meetings or announcements. This was so helpful in advertising our quilt show in 2022, that we reached a large enough area of people to bring in over 600 attendees. As of Sept 18, 2024 we have 718 followers on Facebook.

We have a very active suggestion box. These are reviewed at board meetings and responses are posted in quarterly newsletters. A suggestion was asked if there are any exercise/stretches for sewing and quilting. An article is now included in the newsletter quarterly.

An annual financial review of the 2023-24 fiscal year was completed by guild treasurer and two board directors. All transactions were found to be in compliance with Guild/accounting policies and that the annual financial review was approved by the executive board.

We continue to have very informative newsletters that are published quarterly. These are emailed to members that can print them or put them in a file on their personal computer. Also, they are mailed to those who don't have a computer or email.

In closing, we have a great group of members that are doing a wonderful job of making sure the guild is running smoothly, professionally and with a lot of enthusiasm. Thank you to all our members for participating in these wonderful programs and meetings. We appreciate YOU!!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bev Smith,  
 Immediate Past President 2023-24



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## Healthy Sewing -- Eye Health

**I**t doesn't matter whether you are working on 5-minute crafts or large month-long quilting projects, good lighting is important to lessen eye strain and keep you happily quilting and sewing for longer. Good lighting: Poor lighting will make you squint, which can lead to headaches and fatigue when quilting, sewing and crafting. More importantly, poor lighting leads to "leaning" in to see better. No matter what job we're working at, we always want to "bring our work to us" rather than bringing our eyes, neck and shoulders down to our work. Readers, cheaters and bifocals help with this, but good lighting is essential.

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Types of lighting: Natural lighting is always optimal for crafting, sewing or any focused work. If you have big picture windows, positioning yourself by these can be a really big help. On cloudy days, you need to replicate natural or focused light within your working area. Instead of just switching on your living room light, you'll need a bright light that will ease your eye strain as you work and highlight the area you are working in.

1. Invest in adjustable LED lighting to avoid working in dark spaces
  2. Always have task lighting for focus in other rooms
  3. Take your lighting with you as you craft
- Save your eyes! Use the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes take a 20-second break and focus your eyes on something at least 20 feet away. This will help reduce eye strain, which in turn will reduce headaches.

Instead of bringing your head down to your work, bring your work up to your eyes. There are products available that you can place your work on that will bring it closer and allow you to rest your arms as well.

You can use magnified lighting or dollar store reading glasses to bring work closer still.

(This information was pulled from the site <https://www.healthyquilting.com/post/how-to-adjust-your-lighting-for-crafts-and-sewing>. Please reference for additional information and resources.)

Renee Nelson  
Director at Large  
□□□□



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## Veterans Quilts

First, thank-you all that took kits to make some of these quilts for our November 25, 2024 meeting. Our great member Jan Lentine made all of the stars and even took some to quilt! Some of you members have given me names and I look forward to meeting your friends, neighbors and families that will be receiving them. I have reached out to American Legions along with Vietnam Vets to get their names of men and women that deserve a remembrance of their time in service willing to fight to keep our democracy.

Five years ago, at the guild was such a memorable meeting that I wanted a repeat, and so as a late birthday present to myself I have given the gift of buying the fabric, batting and backing to complete the project. We will have a display on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Christ Episcopal Church, Pleasant Lake with the quilts arranged on the pews. We will be having coffee and donuts there from 11:00AM to 1:00 PM! I hope you can join us to see this moving display.

When I got this idea, I had no knowledge that I would be having two heart operations back-to-back so I will need some help with the bindings. I will be having friends over to my home to help quilt them, give me call at 517-745-8214 if you want to help.

We will be having at least one World War II veteran, which is very special. Please wear red, white and blue to the meeting and give your thank you to those that kept us free. I believe this is great publicity for our guild and how we can help our community.

Janet Rochefort



## BLOTTO BLOCK: Christmas Star and Cross

Finished Block Size 5 1/2 inch square.

Color choices: Beight or Cream, Red and Green.

(Optional star colors of winter or holiday fabrics are an accepted substitution for red and green.) Let's use up our scrap stash!

Blocks due March meeting 2025. First in person return.

\*\* This block is an archive Blotto block pattern from our own newsletter, August 2004. It was submitted by Rita Parsons.\*\*

Blotto Rules and Procedures:

All blocks must be turned in prior to the beginning of the night's meeting at designated entrance table.

Members can enter up to 3 completed blocks. Please turn in a piece of paper with each entry for the drawing. A member will be able to win once per drawing.

be sent with a representative for the Blotto night. Please use a quality quilt fabric (Not fabrics from Hobby Lobby, JoAnne's or Michaels unless it's designated quilt fabric)

First winner drawn gets first choice of a block grouping. **THE MORE PARTICIPATION THE MORE BLOCKS AND WINNERS!!**

Linda Kinney-Kozioł



4 - 1 1/2"	Red squares	
4 - 1 7/8"	Red squares	
2 - 1 1/2"	Green squares	
1 - 1 1/2" x 3 1/2"	Green rectangle	
7 - 1 1/2"	Beige Squares	
4 - 1 7/8"	Beige Squares	

**Star Block Diagram**

1. Draw diagonal on wrong side of each 1 7/8" beige square. Place the right side together with the right side of the 1 7/8" red squares.
2. Stitch 1/4" away on each side of the marked diagonal.
3. Cut on diagonal to yield 8 red-beige units.
4. Assemble remaining blocks as indicated.

# Quilt Show Photos





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## Pieces & Patches Quilt Guild of Jackson P.O. Box 6294 Jackson, MI 49204

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