

## **BMQG, Inc.**

The Belknap Mill Quilters Guild, Inc. (BMQG) was founded in May of 1978, meeting at the historic Belknap Mill. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the art of quilting and fiber arts. Our goals are to provide educational opportunities in the quilting arts for our members by presenting workshops, classes and demonstrations on the basics of quilting as well as on the newest techniques and art forms available. Membership is open to any individual and our membership ranges from beginning quilters to experienced quilters and teachers.

### **Meeting location and time**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon Street, Laconia, NH. Our social time begins at 6:00 PM followed by a business meeting and monthly program starting at 6:45 PM. Programs have included trunk shows, lectures, and demonstrations provided by members or invited guests and member show & tell.

### **Cancellation of Meetings**

Guild meetings will be cancelled due to inclement weather when school is cancelled in Laconia. However, our President will make a final decision by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting and a mass e-mail will be sent to our Membership.

## **Dues**

Annual dues are \$25.00 per fiscal year and are due on May 1 of each year. The fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30 each year.

### **Committees and Activities**

All guild activities are voluntary; however members are always encouraged to participate in the Quilt Show/Journey and sell raffle tickets for the Raffle Quilt.

### **Annual Quilt Show & Journey**

The Guild hosts a Quilt Show, "*Harvest of Quilts*" each year in the fall. In 2021, we combined our Harvest of Quilts Show with the Mysterious Quilt Journey that we ran in lieu of the Quilt Show during the 2020 pandemic. This two day event is our major fund raiser for Guild activities and charitable donations. All members from the Guild are needed to make this show a reality and all volunteer participation is GREATLY appreciated. Beginning in 2021, we will hold our Quilt Show in downtown Laconia beginning at the Belknap Mill, Laconia Senior Center, and Lakes Region Mental Health Center-Conference Center. The Mysterious Quilt Journey will once again be held at businesses throughout the downtown Laconia area.

The Quilt Show includes quilts of all sizes and designs. It also includes Vendors, Food Tent, Attic Corner (used items), Quilted Treasures (new items), Baskets Galore, Viewer's Choice Awards and is always well attended. We encourage our members to submit their beautiful quilts for viewing.

## **Community Outreach**

Each year our Guild makes over 100 beautiful lap size quilts to donate to local healthcare community support organizations. These organizations include but are not limited to the Belknap County Nursing Home, New Beginnings Women's Crisis Center, The Belknap House, Child Advocacy Center, and Laconia Senior Center. We also provide placemats and clothing protectors to the Meals On Wheels Program. We are fortunate to have a special connection to the Spaulding Academy & Family Services where we provide personalized bed quilts for each of the residential students.

### **Fund Raising Quilt**

Each year the guild creates a BEAUTIFUL quilt to be raffled off at the annual quilt show. Some years, this is a group effort with members making individual blocks at a sit & sew guild meeting. The quilt is assembled and quilted by guild members. Raffle tickets are sold throughout the summer and fall with the drawing at our Quilt Show in September. These funds, along with the Quilt Show revenues, are used for our charitable funding both locally and to the NE Quilt Museum in Lowell, MA.

### **Hospitality**

The Hospitality committee arranges for coffee and refreshments for each monthly meeting. Members are asked to bring their own beverage container to meetings for safety reasons.

## **Newsletter**

Our newsletter, **Material Matters**, is published in May, July, September, November, January and March of each year. It contains information on workshops, programs, events, general news and updates and advertisements. The newsletter is distributed the weekend before the membership meeting and will be sent to members electronically via email. Submissions for the newsletter must be sent to the editor before midnight on the Friday after the monthly Board Meeting. An archive of our previous newsletters can also be found on the membership side of our website.

## **Fabric Raffle**

Each month, members are asked to participate in a free fabric raffle. We currently do Fat Quarters and 2-1/2" Strips. For each piece you bring to the meeting, you receive a raffle ticket and the drawing will be during the business portion of the meeting. A list of monthly themes for the type and size of fabric will be posted on the website.

## **Programs & Workshops**

Programs are arranged by the Program Chair. Our Chair arranges for programs of interest for monthly meetings and coordinates workshops of interest sponsored by the Guild.

Dinner meetings are held twice a year in May and December and coordinated by our

Special Events Chair. The May meeting is the annual membership meeting highlighted by installation of officers and awards. The December meeting has a holiday theme and is the time that the Guild challenge is unveiled for completion by a designated spring meeting.

## **Membership & Door Prizes**

The membership committee welcomes members and guests to every meeting. New members are presented with a copy of the by-laws for the Guild, a membership booklet, membership card and instructions on making the Guild name badge. If there is an outside guest speaker, a guest fee of \$5 is collected from non-members. A door prize is given out at each meeting. Eligibility for the door prize chances include attending the meeting, wearing a name tag, and a project for show and tell. Member birthdays are celebrated each month with a selection of fat quarter "birthday candles" and the birthday song.

## **BMQG Challenge**

Each year the BMQG challenges members' creativity. At the December dinner meeting a challenge packet or theme is shared. The finished project is submitted anonymously in a brown paper bag at a designated spring meeting. Members vote on the best response to the challenge. This is always lots of fun and full of surprises.

## **Scholarship Program**

Each year a scholarship is given to a student entering college in the arts/fiber arts program. This student is selected through the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation and awarded to them in the Spring.

## **The Get-Away**

Each year, BMQG sponsors a spring weekend "Get-Away" Members and others interested in spending a weekend sewing, sharing fun and frolic and possibly learning a new technique have a great time!

Revised 4-24-2024



# **Welcome To the Belknap Mill Quilters Guild**

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WEBSITE:

[www.bmqg.org](http://www.bmqg.org)

