



# West Virginia Quilt Festival Newsletter

Newsletter of West Virginia Quilters, Inc. since 1993

April 2026

501(c)(3)

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

**We are grateful for the 2026 West Virginia Quilt Festival's sponsors:**

***Rene's Fabric and Gift Shop and Bolts and Quarters Quilt Shop***

## President's Message

Hello, Fellow Quilters!

Happy Spring! Like others, I love seeing the blooms and leaves, and feeling the warm breezes of the season.

We have been busy getting everything ready for the West Virginia Quilt Festival in September. While we are working on all the moving parts and plans for this year's event, have you picked your quilts for the WVQI Quilt Festival, September 17-19 yet? It always amazes me what our quilters send us each year. Your imagination, your work, and your creativity are astounding. Remember, the quilt entry deadline is June 30. It will be here before we know it!

We will have the WVQI Quilt Market again this year. Please consider making a donation for this fundraiser. Last year, it was a huge success. It helps us cover the cost of the event.

The theme for this year's Festival is "Happy Birthday, USA!" in honor of the greatest nation in the world (I may be a little prejudiced.) We will have a ribbon for the quilt that best fits and reflects this theme; there is a box on the entry form for you to check if you wish your quilt to be evaluated for this

special ribbon. Your quilts will go through the usual NACQJ judging process. After the judge has made her determinations and the quilts are hung, those quilts so designated by you will be judged only on the show theme- not technique or ability- by a special, separate team who will tour our Show after hanging to make this determination.

This Festival Newsletter is packed with information. Please read carefully, and remember to check the box on page one of the entry form if you want your quilt to be considered for the Theme award.

If your guild or group would like someone to visit and talk about the categories and the judging process, contact me or one of the officers, and we will do our best to accommodate you. We want to know your thoughts, and we want to answer any questions you have about our State Guild, our Festival, and our activities.

In Loving Stitches,

Connie Forth, President.

**Do you know of a business who might also be interested in sponsoring the 2026 West Virginia Quilt Festival? We are seeking more sponsors! Please see the enclosed sponsor descriptions sheet!**

## WVQI Dates to Remember

### Spring Meeting

April 25, Saturday at noon, John Hensen Senior Center, Hurricane, WV 25526

**Quilt Entry Form Deadline** June 30

**Festival Class Registration Form deadline**  
August 31

**Shipped Quilts Deadline** August 31 –  
September 5

**Quilt Festival in-person drop-off** Tuesday,  
September 15. 9am – noon, at Vocational Building

### Quilt Festival 2026

September 17 - 19. Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley

### Summer Meeting

September 18, Friday, 7pm, Jackson Hall, Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley

### Fall Retreat

November 10 - 15, Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley

### Fall Meeting

November 14, Saturday, 1:00 pm, Cedar Lakes Conference Center

### Festival Hours

**Thursday 9 am – 8 pm**

**Friday 9 am – 5 pm**

**Saturday 9 am – 4 pm**

Daily admission wrist bands will be sold at the door.

**Adults: \$10**  
**Children Under 12: \$5**  
**Children Under 2: Free**

## Message from the Coordinator, Barbara Green

WVQI is excited to be back at Cedar Lakes with the annual festival! Here are a few changes from last year:

- The judging, along with quilt drop-off and quilt pick-up, will take place in the Vocational Building.
- The classes this year are extensive! Ashley Maass has done an outstanding job of organizing our selection of classes. Would you like to paint a barn block? Do you want to take a class from our judge, Sue Cortese? Please take a look at the class descriptions and send in your form! All classes will be held in the Vocational Building.
- We are pleased that the West Virginia Modern Quilt Guild has agreed to provide quilts for a special exhibit! Look for that in the Assembly Hall.
- We are working on getting a bus company to offer transportation between buildings.

**LODGING** There will be rooms available at Holt Lodge for overnight guests. There are other buildings with private rooms that can be rented by groups, such as Mountaineer Lodge. Please call Cedar Lakes directly to reserve rooms in one of those buildings. 304-372-7860

Ripley also has several hotels from which to choose.

**LOCAL GUILD PROGRAM AVAILABLE** Connie has offered to come and talk to your guild about how to figure out exactly in which category your quilt belongs. Please reach out to her directly. 304-633-2290 cell

**SUPPORT THE WEST VIRGINIA QUILT FESTIVAL** We depend on our fellow quilters for the success of the event! Please consider helping by doing one of the following:

Enter a quilt \* Find or be a sponsor \* Make a Little Quilt for the Auction \* Donate an item for our new WVQI Market \* Take a class \*

**Judge Sue Cortese, from her website**



My name is **Sue Cortese**. I'm a quilter, fabric dyer, artist, long-arm quilter, teacher, vendor and a quilt judge.

I started quilting and dyeing fabric in 1995 while living in Green River, WY. My original quilting goal was to make a quilt in every style and pattern. This goal has led me to experiment with various techniques and styles over the years. On my third or fourth quilt, I started going my own way and altering designs and patterns. I wanted my quilts to be unique. Thus, I began changing the colors, dyeing my own fabric, and using different borders and settings. I enjoy traditional quilts as well as art quilts, machine quilting as well as hand quilting, bright colors as well as toned... why limit yourself!

I grew up in Buffalo, New York, and attended State University of New York at Fredonia. After moving from Wyoming to West Michigan, I began working and teaching at a quilt shop. I took full advantage of nationally known teachers brought in every other month by the local quilt guild. I still live in West Michigan, where I long-arm quilt for others, teach out of my home studio, as well as judge, teach and lecture for quilt shows and guilds. My work has been recognized in local and regional quilt shows, Quilt National, Form Not Function, Excellence in Fiber & Quilts, AQS Shows, Quilter's Newsletter Magazine, and Muskegon Museum of Art. I am currently a Regional Rep for SAQA and am a current member (past board member) of the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges.

**Special Exhibit:  
The West Virginia Modern Quilt Guild  
By Kit Hambrick**

The West Virginia Modern Quilt Guild is honored for the opportunity to share modern quilting during the West Virginia Quilters Inc. quilt show. We appreciate the opportunity to share modern quilting with an organization that has long supported fiber arts. Members of the West Virginia Modern Quilt Guild believe this is an opportunity to exhibit diversity - it's merely a matter of perspective. We look forward to sharing our art with your guild as well as those who will be in attendance.

**From the judging room  
By Connie Forth**

**Entering Your Quilt in This Year's Festival.  
Placing Your Quilt in a Category:**

**First**, is your quilt made by one person from beginning to finish, two people, or three or more? Pick the appropriate category... Individual, Duet or Group.

The remaining categories are Non-Judged and Youth.

**Second**, is your quilt Pieced, Appliquéd or a Mix of techniques? This should narrow your choices to two or three possibilities.

**Third**, our newest category, Art, Fiber, & Textile highlights innovative construction and themes.

**Fourth**, Measure the outside or the perimeter of your quilt and check the box that fits your quilt. Reminder —Your quilt must have been completed after January 1, 2021.

**Finally...Sleeves**— All quilts must have a 4-inch hanging sleeve securely attached to the back of your quilt. This sleeve should measure 86 inches from the bottom of the quilt to the top of the sleeve. See the Festival Entry Instructions for more information or visit our website.

**LOCAL GUILD PROGRAM AVAILABLE** Connie has offered to come and talk to your guild about how to figure out exactly in which category your quilt belongs. Please reach out to her directly. 304-633-2290 cell

**LABELS** You must have a label with the title of your quilt and your name on the back of your quilt. It is especially important that we can connect your quilt to your entry form at the show.

**Numbers for picking quilts up at 5pm on Saturday will be available at the Assembly Hall Entrance Table at noon on Saturday.**

### Quilt Documentation

Roberta Gellner and the documentation team will be in Holt Lodge documenting quilts. Please contact Roberta to make an appointment. 304-893-8324 or [umwelthund@frontier.com](mailto:umwelthund@frontier.com)

### Little Quilt Auction

There is an open Silent Auction Thursday – Saturday from 9am-3pm. Each day brings a different selection of Little Quilts for silent auction.

The Little Quilts contain a wide variety of techniques. Did you know that Little Quilt Auction bidders have become extremely interested in your machine-embroidered pieces? They have proven to be popular items. We would love to have some of your beautiful creations of any technique in this year's Festival.

Co-Chairs Claudia Covey and Jeanie Brown welcome your contributions. Please send them to arrive by August 31, 2026 to: Claudia Covey 49 Grapevine Circle Gassaway, WV 26624

We will also accept Little Quilts in person on Tuesday, September 15 at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center.

Please send a Little Quilt Auction form with each quilt that you donate.

### Sponsorships

We are very appreciative that as of April, two of our long-time vendors have volunteered to sponsor this year's Festival. Thank you, **Bolts and Quarters Quilt Shop** and **Rene's Fabric and Gift Shop!** There are still a few sponsorships left, so please contact Barbara Green if you are interested. (304-614-5452)

Please note that we have a non-vendor category of sponsorship that is perfect for non-quilting businesses, guilds, or individuals to donate to the festival. See the sponsorship description attached to this newsletter. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

### 2026 Theme: Happy Birthday, USA!

Our theme for the Festival this year is "Happy Birthday, USA!" A special award will be given for the entry that most successfully incorporates this theme.

The team awarding this ribbon will be separate from the Judging Room members and the NACQJ judge. On the Entry Form page 1, column 1, near the bottom, there is a line asking if you want your quilt considered for this award. Participate, show us your creativity, and have fun with us!

We look forward to seeing your take on the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the USA!

### WVQI Quilt Market

The WVQI Quilt Market will be stocked with finished items for sale. The proceeds from this endeavor will help with costs of the festival.

We are asking members and guilds to donate finished, saleable items. They may be similar to the items you make and donate for the Little Quilt Auction, or they may be different, such as pillows, potholders, aprons, Christmas ornaments,

placemats, etc. We are asking for your participation and talents...so please consider donating something or a few somethings for both of these necessary fundraisers. We will display it and price to sell it. Would you be willing to donate something or a collection of homemade "quilty" items? If we don't sell your donation, we will return it to you after the Festival.

You can mail your donations by August 25 to **Connie Forth at 1187 Big Bend Road, Barboursville, WV 25504** You can also drop them off at the Festival on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Please use the donation form included in the Newsletter.

### Vendors

Rene's Fabric & Gift Shop (\$2,500 WV Quilt Festival Sponsor) This family-run business is located in Clay, West Virginia. Owner René Moore now stocks over 5,000 bolts of quilter-quality fabrics, and is known for having a good selection of wide backings. She carries Jack Dempsey cross-stitched quilt blocks, a large stock of embroidery floss, yarns for knitting, many notions, and loads of quilt panels and novelty prints. She can meet most of your needs with a smile, and also ships her merchandise across the U.S. The shop is open six days a week. You can find them on Facebook at Fabric & Gift Shop or call 304-587-7411.

Bolts and Quarters Quilt Shop (\$1,000 WV Quilt Festival Sponsor) Brian McCoy has been building this Parkersburg quilting business for over ten years, but he has been quilting and designing for over 22 years. Brian is a Certified Instructor with Deb Tucker and Studio 180 Design. He offers classes, machine technical services, long arm rentals, and yards and yards of fabric. This quilt shop is open seven days a week.

Email [boltsandquartersquiltshop@yahoo.com](mailto:boltsandquartersquiltshop@yahoo.com) or call 304-428-4933.

Reynolds Sharpening Are you having issues with your scissors? What about your kitchen knives? Once again, Don Reynolds will be at the festival to

take care of all of your sharpening needs. You can contact him by emailing [sirdonr@yahoo.com](mailto:sirdonr@yahoo.com), or calling 304-872-4008 (H) 304-619-7594 (C). His website is [reynoldssharpener.com](http://reynoldssharpener.com)

Side Stitchin' Quilt Shop After a 35-year teaching career, owner Shirley Cox was able to retire from the classroom to open her shop in 2021. She now devotes all her time to her quilt shop. From pre-cuts and panels to wide backings and wool kits, Side Stitchin' has continued to grow with the addition of classes and online sales. Shirley focuses on meeting the needs of her customers, and welcomes you to visit her shop and let her help you make your next quilt a success. You may contact her at [sidestitchin@gmail.com](mailto:sidestitchin@gmail.com) or phone the shop at 740-780-4072.

### Classes

**CLASS FEES DO NOT INCLUDE ENTRY INTO THE QUILT EXHIBITS OR VENDORS.**

#### **Thursday, September 17**

1. 9am – noon, 2pm – 5pm  
"Think Big: Paint a Barn Quilt"  
Sue Royer 10 Max \$50 / \$60

Spend a creative, relaxing day at the Festival crafting your very own 2' x 2' outdoor barn quilt in this immersive, all-day painting class designed for all skill levels. Choose from two or three beautiful quilt block designs and enjoy step-by-step guidance at an unhurried pace as you learn essential techniques—from marking precise grids and mastering clean taping methods to applying paint with confidence and understanding how colors and finishes behave. You'll also discover the secrets to crisp tape removal and long-lasting protection with a professional topcoat. By the end of the day, you'll leave not only with a stunning, weather-ready barn quilt, but also the skills and confidence to create more on your own.

**Required kit fee of \$25 will be payable to Sue Royer at class.**

2. 10am – noon  
“Amp Up the Accuracy: The Precision Piecing Playbook”  
Ashley Maass No Max \$20 / \$25

Ready to take your piecing from “close enough” to crisp, clean, and accurate? In Amp Up the Accuracy: The Precision Piecing Playbook, you’ll learn the essential techniques that turn frustrating mismatched seams into beautifully aligned quilt blocks. We’ll cover practical strategies for improving cutting accuracy, mastering a true ¼” seam, nesting seams, and troubleshooting the small issues that cause blocks to go wonky. Through guided exercises and expert tips, you’ll build a toolkit of precision piecing skills you can apply to any quilt pattern. Whether you’re a confident beginner or an experienced quilter wanting sharper points and smoother construction, this class will help you sew with confidence and accuracy.

**Lecture style. No supplies needed.**

3. 1pm – 3pm  
“My Favorite Things: Quilting Notions That Actually Work”  
Sara Matheney 10 Max \$20 / \$25

Come join the fun in this engaging session all about the quilting notions you didn’t know you needed—featuring a mix of trusted favorites and exciting newer tools on the market. We’ll explore helpful items for your sewing space, from versatile iron features and can’t-live-without rulers to creative embroidery products and clever gadgets that can make quilting easier and more enjoyable. With a relaxed, approachable style, this class is perfect for anyone curious about what’s out there and how the right tools can simplify your process, improve accuracy, and add a little extra joy to your quilting time.

**Hands on. No supplies needed.**

4. 5pm - 8pm  
“Ins and Outs of Hand Stitching”  
Sue Cortese 24 Max \$35 / \$45

This class is to help to learn some tips and tricks to making hand stitching enjoyable and meditative. Hand stitches can provide a variety of textures and looks for your work. Learning how to start and stop without knots while using heavier threads like perle cotton can elevate your work. We will go through hand quilting, sashiko, and big stitch techniques. We will talk about different threads, needles and battings, as well.

**Required kit fee of \$30 will be payable to Sue Cortese at class.**

### **Friday, September 18**

5. 9am - noon  
“Featherweight 101: A Smart Start for Future & Current Owners”  
Norma Gensler 12 Max \$35 / \$45

Curious about the buzz surrounding the beloved Singer Featherweight sewing machines? Join us for Featherweight 101, an introduction to these iconic vintage machines that quilters can’t seem to get enough of. You’ll learn what makes the Singer Featherweight (models 221 and 222) so special—from its legendary straight stitch to its lightweight portability that has made it a favorite among quilters for generations. This class will also cover the basics of Featherweight care and maintenance, helping you understand how to keep these treasured machines running smoothly. Whether you already own one or are simply curious about the growing “Featherweight mania,” this class will give you the knowledge and confidence to appreciate—and care for—these classic machines.

**If you have a featherweight, please bring it, but it is not required. Supply list (maintenance items) will be sent later.**

6. 1pm – 4pm

**“Gaining Confidence with Free Motion Quilting”**

Sue Cortese 20 Max                      \$35 / \$45

In this class, we will learn and practice the basic shapes used in free-motion quilting. We will start the day by talking about threads, needles and basic techniques/skills. Then we will move into practicing free-motion quilting with these basic shapes moving from left to right. After that we will move into making those same basic shapes from all directions. Once we have gotten a bit comfortable with basic shapes, we will start combining shapes to make more complex shapes and fill patterns.

**Domestic machine needed for class. No kit.**

**Saturday, September 19**

7. 10am - noon  
Teachers' Medley                      \$20 / \$25

- Ashley Stephens: "Pattern Matching Your Strips for Binding, Borders, etc."
- Ashley Maass: "Dip, Dry, Quilt! A Quick Guide to Dunk Starching"
- Abby Hutson: "T-Shirt Quilts in Ten: An Intro to Making T-Shirt Quilts"
- Sandy Sheffield: "Let Me Show You Your New FAVORITE Sewing Tool"
- Erika Angel: "A Modern Spin on EPP"
- Norma Gensler: "Singer Featherweights...Why All the Hype!?"
- Eileen Farren: "Budget Buster Notion Dupes"

**Friday Night FREE LECTURE after the WVQI meeting in Jackson Hall**

**7:00 Lecture: “Learning to Look”**

**Sue Cortese**

This lecture is a start down the path of looking at quilts as artwork, whether traditional, modern or art quilts. We will explore the principals of unity, color,

and figure/ground relationships. It is meant to help makers analyze their own work as well as see through a critic's or judge's eyes. As there is no right or wrong in art, this lecture is meant to develop an eye for "good, better and best" perspective. This is an interactive lecture and will require the audience to be participants.

**2026 WVQI Officers**

**President Connie Forth**

1187 Big Bend Road  
Barboursville, WV 25504  
304-736-5396(H)  
304-633-2290(C)  
[cforth9339@aol.com](mailto:cforth9339@aol.com)

**Vice-President Sandy Fowler**

2210 Kay Neva Lane  
Charleston WV 25312  
304-552-7047(C)  
[sgfowler24@gmail.com](mailto:sgfowler24@gmail.com)

**Secretary Elizabeth “Ashley” Maass**

2970 Staunton Rd. Huntington  
WV 25702  
304-690-1256(C)  
[Maass.ashley@yahoo.com](mailto:Maass.ashley@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer Denise Persinger**

PO Box 134  
Pinch WV 25156

**Membership Secretary Joni Hoffman**

225 Black Birch Path  
Duck, WV 25063  
304-364-8537(H)  
304-532-7469(C)  
[jhoffmanwv@gmail.com](mailto:jhoffmanwv@gmail.com)

**Festival Coordinator Barbara Green**

433 Western Avenue  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-614-5452(C)  
[barb.wvquilterinc@gmail.com](mailto:barb.wvquilterinc@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor Sonya Holliday**

7985 Rine Ridge Road  
Proctor, WV 26055  
740-213-8529(C)  
[Sholliday2291@gmail.com](mailto:Sholliday2291@gmail.com)