

About McLean QU

Standard Monthly Meetings

We usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in September through May from 10-12:00 a.m. Meetings are held at St. Peter's Church, 4250 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, and sometimes also by ZOOM.

September is the annual business meeting, November is our Auction, and December & May have traditionally been holiday potluck lunches with show and tell and socializing. In addition, the program committee arranges for programs for the meetings held in October, January, February, March, and April.

Bees: During this time, Bees are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month also at St. Peter's. Bees are a nice opportunity to chat informally with others and to get advice on projects if desired. Any changes to this routine are announced in advance.

From June through August, we hold Bees on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Additional Bees are sometimes added, and occasionally we conduct an all-day sew-in at St. Peter's in lieu of a bee. The church provides tables for members to lay out their sewing machines and work on projects while socializing with other members.

Samples of Past Programs

We have 5-6 guest speakers a year at our monthly meetings including well-known speakers from the US and abroad. We have learned from Diane Harris, aka *The Stash Bandit*, and other notables including Carol Lyles Shaw, Daisy Aschenhoug, and Cindy Grisdela. We also draw on talent within our own chapter for lectures and demos.

Small Zoom Groups

Throughout the year, small groups of members have met weekly by ZOOM to work on a technique or to make blocks together for a quilt. For example, we have had groups focusing on Star Blocks, Curves, Applique work, Dear Jane quilts, and Farmer John quilts. New small focus groups can be formed whenever members desire.

Finishing School

McLean Finishing School: This group is focused on completing UFOs (Unfinished Objects – quilt projects that have been started but not yet completed). Participants assign a number to each unfinished project they hope to complete and then, at the beginning of each month, the leader pulls and publishes a random number. During the next month, participants work on completing the project that number was assigned to. The completed projects are then shown at the next meeting during “show and tell.” It's great motivation to get those partially completed projects finished and exhibited.

Yearly Challenge Quilt

Each year, our members are given a challenge to make a quilt with specific requirements. The challenge for 2024 is to make a *One and Only* quilt; that is, use one and only one size of one, and



only one shaped patch throughout the quilt. The quilt may have borders. Members are encouraged to have fun with the challenge and be creative.

Community Service Quilts

Members create quilts usually from donated fabric for various charitable organizations. Over the past year, we have donated baby quilts to military families, quilts to refugees arriving from Afghanistan and Ukraine, and heart pillows for breast cancer patients.

Heart Blocks

Members are encouraged to create a few 3-1/2" blocks with appliqued hearts to give as "Farewell Quilts" for departing members.

Private Facebook Page

Our chapter has a private Facebook page where we ask questions, share information, and post pictures of member's quilts and other projects shared during show & tell at our meetings.

Workshops

Several times during the year, we hold workshops, either in person or on Zoom, to teach new skills to our members. Workshops require a fee, which usually averages between \$30.00 - \$50.00 to cover costs. Sometimes participants are requested to purchase a kit or materials for the workshop.

McLean Guild Auction

This is a Fundraiser held in lieu of the November Monthly meeting. Members contribute fabrics, notions, kits, and equipment that they no longer want or need, and some members offer services as well. The donated fabrics and notions are organized into attractive groupings to be sold during a Live Auction, a Silent Auction and at the Buy-It-Now tables. It's great fun and great deals abound!

Quilters Unlimited Quilt Exhibition (non-juried)

We anticipate that there will be an on-line Quilt Exhibition in the summer. Note: This replaces the in-person Exhibition that was conducted annually before Covid. The most recent exhibition can be viewed by going to the Quilters Unlimited website on-line. Volunteers are always needed to help organize and put on the show, so if you have the inclination, please volunteer! It is a great way to meet other quilters and contribute to the quilting community in northern Virginia.

Other Activities

Members created pillowcases and doorknob quilts for Alzheimer's sufferers, along with masks and caps for medical personnel during Covid.

As you can see, McLean QU offers a variety of activities to strengthen your quilting skills while enjoying the company of other quilters.

Join in the fun!