

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 13, Issue 5
January 2021

President

John Rouleau

Vice President

Teri Brunelle

Secretary

Helen Short

Treasurer

Deb Dusablon

Newsletter

Sharon Perry

Librarian

VACANT (future needs TBD)

Programs

Natalie Good

VACANT

Project Coordinator

Helen Bicknell

Lucie Fortin

Membership

Penny LaRochelle

Quilt Show

Barb Pratt

Helen Short

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2021 (formerly 2020) Raffle Quilt

Denise Chase

Sharon Perry

2021 Charity Quilt

Helen Short

President's Piece

Dear Friends,

Well, the orchids that came into the house to avoid the cold in September have pretty well finished their blooming season. They won't bloom again until next summer. Meanwhile, the flock of amaryllis bulbs has been brought up from the cellar and they are in high dudgeon, sending up many flower stalks. The New Year opens in amaryllis season. Soon after they open the seed catalogs will arrive in the mail and then we will sense the slow thaw of winter which heralds mud season. We have a lot to be hopeful for in the New Year.

I am proud of the way that you all have responded to the restrictions that attended the pandemic. Sharon Perry got us all collected into the Zoomosphere, and as I watched the video of the December meeting it seemed as lively, informative and fun as our in-person meetings of yore. The spirit of the Guild is alive and well. Congratulations to you all!

On a personal note I want to thank you all for the heartfelt support you gave me while I was off in the weeds this year. Your cards and messages were a big part of finding my way back onto the track.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 20th.

John Rouleau, 2020-2021 President



2020 – 2021 Guild Calendar

**ALL MEETINGS CONDUCTED ON
ZOOM STARTING AT 6:30 PM**

September 16th Ice Cream Social

October 21st Christmas in October
with Sharon Perry

November 18th Flying Colors
Trunk Show with Timna Tarr

November 21st Zoom Workshop
with Timna Tarr (sign up with Timna)

December 13th Zoom Open Sew Day

2020 – 2021 Guild Calendar

**ALL MEETINGS CONDUCTED ON
ZOOM STARTING AT 6:30 PM**

December 16th Holiday Meeting

January 20th Making Batiks

January 24th Zoom Winter Blues Sew Day

February 17th Pajama Party
with Helen Short

February 21st Zoom Pajama Party Sew Day

March 17th Trunk Show with
Michelle Renee Hiatt, Studio 180

2020 – 2021 Guild Calendar

**ALL MEETINGS CONDUCTED ON
ZOOM STARTING AT 6:30 PM**

March 20th Zoom Workshop with
Michelle Renee Hiatt, Studio 180

April Quilt Show Cancelled

April 21st TBD

May 19th Quilt Restoration
Trunk Show with Stephanie McCall

June 16th 30th Anniversary Celebration
2021 Raffle Quilt Drawing

Franklin County Quilters Guild Monthly Guild Meeting Minutes December 16th, 2020 via Zoom

The December Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm, with 30 members present in 26 different locations and 3 guests from 2 locations! Helen Short presided due to John Rouleau's leave of absence.

Consent Agenda: Sharon Perry moved, 2nd by Jean Anne Branch, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Chair Reports:

- **Quilt Show:** The 2022 Quilt Show Chairs will be Helen Short and Barbara Pratt. Helen plans on contacting the St. Albans City Hall to make reservations for the show right after Christmas.
- **Sunshine Coordinator:** Nadine Froebel did this job previously; it involves sending cards to members for various reasons to bring them a little sunshine on rainy days. Diane Comeau agreed to pick it up. Penny LaRoche will make sure to email Diane the membership list.
- **2021 Charity Quilt:** Letters are needed from any charity that wishes to be considered to receive the quilt. They should be able to sell at least \$1,000 in tickets. Letters should be sent to Helen Short, 12 Brunell Terrace, St. Albans VT, 05478, as soon as possible.
- **Program:** Natalie Good reported January will be a talk about Marbling instead of Batiks. February is a pajama party with Helen Short, and she will talk about Doug Leko's Mysterious Quilt. March will be Michelle Hyatt with a workshop on March 20th. The project is Periwinkle Swirl; more info will be coming about this.
- **Round Robin:** December is a catch up month - no new instructions until January.
- **Comfort Quilts:** Denise Chase reported that FCQG has distributed 86 quilts this year. There are only about 38 finished quilts in stock: 3 for breast cancer, 6 for fire with the rest lap quilts for Home Health. There is a request for a fidget quilt. Laurie's House doesn't need any at this time. More quilts will be needed to build up the stash. Many kits are made up - contact Denise to arrange pickup.
- **Mask and Ornament Challenge:** The snowman mask, made by Nanc Ekiert, won the most votes winning Nanc a prize. Nanc and Penny

LaRoche, who made the lighted mask, wore their masks worn in public earning both a prize. Kay Benedict won the prize for making the winning ornament, the beautiful beaded ball.

- **20 in 2020:** Five members completed the 20 in 2020 Challenge. Congratulations to Shirley Babcock, Helen Bicknell, Cathy Carlson, Laurel Schaap, and Helen Short who each won a prize. Get your lists ready for 21 in 2021!
- **Zoombombers:**
 - Nanc Ekiert introduced our Zoombomber Esterita Austin, her favorite teacher that she met at MQX. Esterita talked about her process for producing beautiful quilts using photos and various materials. She showed many beautiful photos of her projects and those of her students.
 - We had two more Zoombombers; Santa and Mrs. Claus visited during this very busy time for them. They talked about how busy they and the elves have all been getting ready for Christmas.

A gift of several goodies was prepared by a small group of "elves" for each member of the guild. They can be picked up at Denise Chase's home. Thank you Kay Benedict, Helen Bicknell, Nanc Ekiert, Rose Rixon, and Sharon Perry!

Show & Tell was presented. There were so many things presented, I forgot to keep track because they were all so beautiful.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted by Penny LaRoche



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- January 20, 2021**

Opening Balance	\$8,382.68
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Funds Collected

Membership	\$220.00
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QS Raffle tickets	\$166.00
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<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$386.00
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<i>Sub-Total</i>	\$8,768.68
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Funds Paid Out

Timna Tarr, Flying Colors Nov Trunk Show	\$400.00
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Denise Chase, Charity quilts fabric	\$137.05
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<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$537.05
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Grand Total	\$8,231.63
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2020 YTD Collections: \$3,419.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

OPEN SEW ALONG DAYS ON ZOOM

The guild started hosting open Sew Along days on Zoom in December. The first Sew Along was held on December 13th. Thank you to the 9 guild members who joined Sharon Perry during the Sew Along. We had a lot of fun and good discussions. And some were actually able to get a bit of sewing done even if it was only a couple of blocks.

The next one is the Winter Blues Zoom Sew Along on Sunday, January 24th. Sharon Perry will open a Zoom session starting at 10:00 am and will keep the session open until 4:00 pm. The Winter Blues Sew Along will focus on making comfort quilts. However, members do not have to make a comfort quilt to participate in the fun. To make things interesting, there will be a drawing at the end of the Sew Along. The prize is a copy of Bonnie Hunter's latest quilt pattern, Winter Blues, along with a bundle of blue scraps for variety to make your own Winter Blues quilt.

The February Pajama Party Sew Along will be on Sunday, February 21st, and yes, you're invited to wear your pajamas to the Sew Along. Following Helen Short's demonstration of Doug Leko's Mysterious quilt pattern at the guild meeting, we invite guild members to make their own Mysterious quilt during the Sew Along. Kay Courson, of Country Thyme Vermont, has the Mysterious quilt pattern (\$9.00) and Doug Leko's Mini Simple Folded Corners Ruler (\$13.00) available for sale. If you buy both, the pattern and ruler bundle price is \$19.99. Call Kay at (802) 744-2795 to reserve yours. As a note, members do not have to make the Mysterious quilt to participate in the Sew Along.

January is National Soup Month. These are some of this newsletter editor's favorite soups.

RECIPE CORNER: CREAMY HAM CORN CHOWDER

4 cups cubed peeled potatoes
2 Tbsp. chopped onion
½ cup butter
¾ cup flour
¼ tsp. pepper
Pinch ground nutmeg
4 cups chicken broth
4 cups half-and-half cream
2 cups (8 oz.) each shredded cheddar cheese
3 cups cubed fully cooked ham
1 pkg. (16 oz.) frozen corn, thawed

Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and cook for 10 to 15 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, cook onion in butter over medium heat for 2 minutes. Stir in the flour, pepper, and nutmeg; gradually add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in cream and cheese; transfer to a 5-quart slow cooker.

Drain potatoes and add to slow cooker. Stir in ham. Cover and cook on low for 3 hours.

Stir in corn and cook 30 minutes longer or until heated through and vegetables are tender. Yield: 12 servings. Recipe can be halved or quartered to accommodate your slow cooker size.

RECIPE CORNER: SLOW COOKER CHICKEN CHILI

1 onion, chopped
1 16-oz can black beans, undrained
1 16-oz can kidney beans, undrained
1 8-oz can tomato sauce
10 oz package frozen corn kernels
2 (14.5-oz each) cans diced tomatoes with chilies (check the spice level- I used mild)
Taco seasoning (recipe below bumfuzzle)
Salt and pepper to taste
2-3 boneless skinless chicken breasts

Combine onions, beans, tomato sauce, corn, diced tomatoes with chilies, taco seasoning, salt and pepper.

Place chicken on top and spoon a thin layer of chili on top. Cook on high for 5 hours.



About an hour before serving, remove chicken and shred in a separate bowl. Place shredded chicken into the slow cooker and stir in to combine with beans etc. Cover and place slow cooker on "low" setting for an hour to allow chicken to soak in the chili flavor.

Taco Seasoning

1 tablespoon chili powder
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon onion powder
¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
¼ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon paprika
1½ teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon sea salt
1 teaspoon black pepper

RECIPE CORNER: MINESTRONE WITH ITALIAN SAUSAGE

1 pound bulk Italian sausage
1 large onion, chopped
2 large carrots, chopped
2 celery ribs, chopped
1 medium leek (white portion only), chopped
1 medium zucchini, cut into ½-inch pieces
¼ pound fresh green beans, trimmed and cut into ½-inch pieces
3 garlic cloves, minced
6 cups beef broth
2 cans (14.5-oz each) diced tomatoes with basil, oregano and garlic
3 cups shredded cabbage
1 teaspoon dried basil
1 teaspoon dried oregano
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ cup uncooked small pasta shells
1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans or chickpeas, rinsed and drained
3 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a Dutch oven, cook sausage and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in the carrots, celery and leek; cook for 3 minutes. Add the zucchini, green beans and garlic; cook 1 minute longer.

Stir in the broth, tomatoes, cabbage, basil, oregano and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 45 minutes.

Return to a boil. Stir in the garbanzo beans, pasta and parsley. Cook for 6 - 9 minutes or until pasta is tender. Serve with cheese. Yield: 11 servings (about 3 quarts).

COMFORT QUILTS FEATURED AT WINTER BLUES SEW ALONG

Denise is busy making comfort quilt kits in anticipation of the upcoming Winter Blues Sew Along on Sunday, January 24th. You can read all about the Sew Along on page 3 of this newsletter.

The guild distributed 86 quilts in 2020. The supply of quilts is running low since we used up a lot of the inventory of quilts. Guild members made 38 quilts in 2020.

If you'd like to make a comfort quilt during the Winter Blues Sew Along, call Denise at 370-1104 and arrange a time to pick a kit up. As a reminder, members do not have to make a comfort quilt to participate in the Sew Along.

2021 RAFFLE TICKETS

Penny LaRoche is still collecting raffle tickets for the 2020 – 2021 membership year. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the guild's June meeting. If you still have your tickets, please send the tickets and money (check(s) payable to FCQG) to Penny LaRoche, 40 Meade Road, Fairfax, VT 05454. Be sure to include your return address on the envelope so Penny can properly credit the ticket sales to your name.



2021 Charity Quilt

(Made/donated by Helen Short and quilted by Diane Comeau; Frolic pattern by Bonnie Hunter, 2020-21 Mystery Quilt)

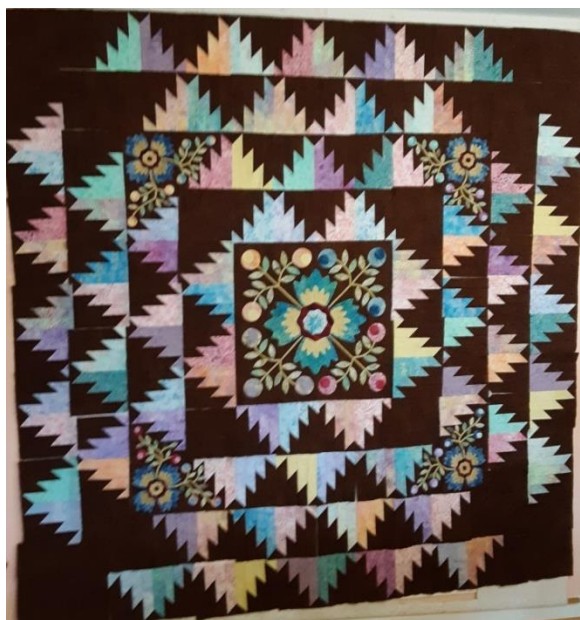


2021 Raffle Quilt

(Organized by Denise Chase and Sharon Perry; quilted by Bev Cook)



2022 RAFFLE QUILT



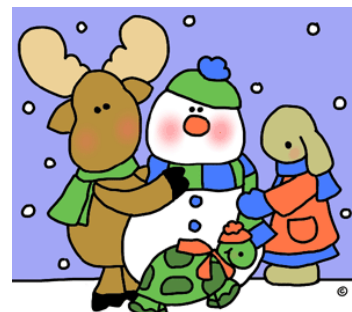
Organized by Denise Chase and Sharon Perry



January	4	Ali	Boren
January	13	Barb	Pratt
January	14	Gwen	Guyette
January	14	Deb	Trahan
January	20	Adrienne	Perrino
January	24	Carol	Stanley

...and many more!!!

*Let
It
Snow!*





For January, you will add a 6½-inch border that finishes at 6 inches. This may be a solid or pieced border. Your piece will now measure 39½ x 44 inches.

Here's what Helen Bicknell's and Lucie Fortin's projects look like so far.



QUILT TIPS

- Use plain water only when washing out water soluble marker pens from your fabric, and hand wash well, as detergents and ironing may set the ink permanently.
- When designing patterns for your quilt, don't forget you can use everyday items to draw around. Plates, cups and saucers and even cookie cutters all make great templates.
- Do not prewash your fabric when piecing miniature quilts, as the sizing in the fabric will help make it easier to piece.
- If having trouble threading your machine, especially while using dark threads, put a piece of white paper behind the needle.
- When you buy fat quarters, make sure the selvage portion with the color, manufacturer, and even the fabric collection name is on them. This will help if you need additional yardage.
- Plug your iron into a power strip along with a night light. When you leave your sewing room, you will know if you have left the iron on by looking at the night light.
- Use wooden chopsticks for a stiletto. Most Chinese restaurants offer these for free with the meal. The chopsticks can be sharpened in a pencil sharpener and if they break or dull they can be re-sharpened. Best of all they are free!
- Clean your machine! Clean your machine every time you use up the thread in a bobbin. Every other time take out that bobbin case when you clean and give the mechanism a drop of oil. Don't forget to change the needle often too! You and your machine will be happier.

SHOW & TELL ON ZOOM

Let's Zoom!



We'll still be enjoying the monthly show & tell during the guild's Zoom meetings. However, it will require some advance planning and actions.

If you want to display your completed projects during show & tell, please email a photo of each project to Sharon Perry, vtquilter@gmail.com, by the Sunday prior to the guild meeting. **For the January meeting, photos should be sent to Sharon no later than Sunday, January 17th.**

For each month's show & tell Sharon will create a slideshow with all the photos sent to her for that month. She will "share" the slideshow during the Zoom meeting. Members will be asked to briefly describe their projects as those projects appear on the screen.

ZOOM PLATFORM BRINGS CHANGES TO GUILD MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Guild meetings will be conducted on Zoom in a virtual format; in-person meetings are cancelled for the 2020-2021 membership year. The executive board will re-evaluate when to restart in-person meetings next year.
- Guest speakers will present virtual lectures and workshops also using Zoom.
- Guild members will need to send pictures to participate in the monthly show & tell.
- Guild members will join the guild meeting by clicking a link or launching the Zoom app on their computer/device/smartphone. Sharon Perry will send all the particulars for joining one week before the meeting. **The invite for the January 20th meeting will be sent out on Wednesday, January 13th.**

ZOOM BEST PRACTICES

- Make sure your camera is connected and available to the Zoom app.
- Check your microphone and speaker settings before joining the Zoom session.
- Close all apps except for Zoom on your smartphone/device/computer.
- Plug your computer/device/smartphone into a power source.
- If using wi-fi, make sure your wi-fi is not overloaded (think multiple phones, devices, cameras, etc.).
- If you have a limited/unreliable internet connection, try directly plugging into your internet router.
- If you are hard of hearing or in a crowded/public space, use a headset for better sound.
- **Mute your microphone** when not actively speaking.
- Be aware of your surroundings and behavior (**We can see you!**).
- Add questions/comments in "Chat" section to be addressed by Zoom moderator.
- "Raise hand" if you would like to address the group.
- Make comments short and succinct; mute for responses.

IDEAS FOR GUILD MEMBERS WITH UNRELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTIONS

Here are some ways to join the Zoom meetings if you have a limited connection:

- Plug directly into your internet router.
- Disconnect all other devices using wi-fi during the Zoom meeting. You'd be surprised how many devices are connected to your wi-fi (think printers, smartphones, cameras, appliances, lights, etc.).
- Try using the internet connection at your local library from your car.
- Join a fellow guild member at their home as long as everyone is observing COVID-19 guidelines and have not been exposed to COVID-19.

JANUARY WORD SEARCH

J	E	O	A	A	E	W	S	E	R	B	P	R	E
A	D	W	A	T	C	J	N	M	O	O	O	E	W
C	A	T	C	I	A	R	O	O	H	O	R	P	I
K	R	N	N	N	P	E	W	O	G	K	D	I	N
F	A	S	S	A	R	S	S	N	N	I	W	P	N
R	P	N	N	U	I	O	T	O	I	C	O	H	I
O	R	O	O	G	C	L	O	O	Z	A	N	A	E
S	E	W	W	U	O	U	R	M	E	R	S	N	T
T	V	F	M	R	R	T	M	F	E	N	W	Y	H
E	O	L	A	A	N	I	P	L	R	A	O	O	E
N	G	A	N	T	U	O	U	O	F	T	Y	T	P
R	N	K	E	I	Y	N	O	W	E	I	N	A	O
A	A	E	O	O	R	W	S	N	E	O	T	U	O
G	H	E	P	N	G	W	R	E	T	N	I	W	H

INAUGURATION
 WOLF MOON
 FREEZING
 JACK FROST
 CARNATION
 WINNIE THE POOH
 SNOWSTORM
 SNOWDROP
 EPIPHANY
 RESOLUTION
 HANGOVER
 CAPRICORN
 SNOWMAN
 SNOWFLAKE
 WINTER
 PARADE
 SOUP
 GARNET
 BOOK

LINK TO FRANKLIN COUNTY BARN QUILT TRAIL

The Franklin County Barn Quilt Trail,
 previously found on the FCQG website, can now be accessed at
<http://www.barnquiltsofnorthernvermont.org/>.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter:**Wednesday, January 27th, 2020**

Please email articles to Sharon Perry, vtquilter@gmail.com,
 or mail to PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471



*"I love beginnings. If I were in charge of calendars, every day would be
 January 1st." — Jerry Spinelli*