

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 13, Issue 6
February 2021

President's Piece

Dear Friends,

Well, this being the day after Groundhog Day I can't help but comment on what the rodent soothsayer might be telling us, but it seems that any marmot worth his salt will have stayed put in the warmest part of his burrow. With a storm like this one there is nothing for him to see. But the flip side of six more weeks of winter is that spring is coming in six weeks (not taking into account mud season).

On matters closer to quilting, our next few meetings should be quite enjoyable and educational as well. For February, it's a Pajama Party with our own Helen Short who will take us on a short journey through her personal quilting adventure complete with some of her quilts and the stories to go along with those quilts. Helen will also discuss and demo a recent quilt she's working on; the pattern is *Mysterious* by Doug Leko. Helen will continue the Pajama Party into the guild's next Sew Along on February 21st. She'll share some tips and lessons learned while making Doug Leko's *Mysterious* quilt.

Michelle Renee Hiatt, a Certified Studio 180 Design instructor, will be our guest speaker in March. She'll be doing a trunk show at the March guild meeting followed by a workshop on Saturday.

And in April, Natalie was able to snag Gudrun Erla, of GE Designs, for our guest speaker. I recently made a crib quilt using her pattern and its quilt-as-you-go technique. The process was fun and the outcome tickled the toddler part of my heart. I look forward to hearing more from her in a couple months.

Ordered your seeds yet?

John Rouleau, 2020-2021 President

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

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 Trunk Show with
Gudrun Erla, GE Designs

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
January 20th, 2021 via Zoom**

The meeting was opened at 6:30 pm using the Zoom platform by President John Rouleau. We are now in the 11th month of the Covid-19 Pandemic. There were 28 members in attendance joining from 26 different locations, some near and some far.

The Consent Agenda passed on a motion from Helen Bicknell, who joined us from sunny Florida, and seconded by Sharon Perry.

Chair Reports:

- **2022 Quilt Show** will be co-chaired by Barbara Pratt and Helen Short.
- **2021 Charity Quilt:** To date, there has been no request by a non-profit for our annual Charity Quilt. Sharon Perry will ask Alex Lehning if the St. Albans Museum would like to receive it to raffle using the proceeds to support their textile displays. The Museum has the quilt made by the St. Albans Face Mask Group as well as other quilts of historical significance. The guild will formally present the Covered Bridges of Franklin County Quilt, the 2013 raffle quilt, to the museum once the weather improves and the vaccine is more readily available in the community. Nanc Ekiert will approach the Fairfax Community Theater and Jean Anne Branch will ask Brady's Golden Goodness. Letters from non-profits desiring the quilt should be mailed to Helen Short at 12 Burnell Terrace, St. Albans, VT, 05478, and should state how the quilt will benefit their organization and how they plan to sell tickets in order to generate at least \$1,000.
- **Program:** Natalie Good reported that she has secured Gudrun Erla of GE Designs for our April meeting. Gudrun hails from Iceland. She currently lives in Minnesota and is the inventor of the Stripology Rulers by Creative Grids. She has authored many pattern books. Her latest is Stripology Mixology 2. The "Mixology" parts are the cocktail recipes she includes in the book. Gudrun has a blog and a Facebook group, Gudrun's Quilt Crew. She hosts live shows on Facebook and YouTube; those shows are Topsy Tuesday, 7:00 pm EST, and Happy Friday, 4:00 pm EST. Her website may be viewed at: <https://gequilt designs.com/>.

- **Comfort Quilts:** Denise Chase has quilt tops that need quilting. If you are able to quilt one or two, please give Denise a call. She has kits you may pick up at her house. Please call ahead to make arrangements so social distancing can be maintained. Her number is 802-370-1104.
- **Newsletter:** The Sugarhouse Gazette is up on our website at least one week before our meetings. Be the first to read it and find the Mystery Word for a prize by notifying Sharon Perry by email at vtquilter@gmail.com.
- **Sew Alongs on Zoom:** The first one in 2021 will be held on Sunday, January 24th, under the theme of Winter Blues. The second one will be on Sunday, February 21st, with the theme, Pajama Party.
- **Zoombomber:** Marti DelNevo, board chairwoman of the Vermont Quilt Festival, was this month's Zoombomber. She started quilting in the 1980s, is currently retired, and works part-time at Yankee Pride. There will be a VQF Quilt Show in 2021; it will be a virtual quilt show. In addition to the quilt contest, there will be a Vendor Mall of all your favorite VQF vendors. Instructions are on the website, www.vqf.org, about how to enter your quilt.
- **Projects:** Instructions are in the January Sugarhouse Gazette about this month's step for the Round Robin quilt.
- **January Program:** Natalie explained to us how batiks are made. They really are a labor of love if you make your own.

Show and Tell (by slide show): As usual, our members made many beautiful quilts. If you want to show one of your quilts, email a picture to Sharon Perry.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.
Respectfully submitted by Helen Short



Look who joined the guild!

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- February 17, 2021**

Opening Balance		\$8,231.63
Funds collected		
Membership	\$50.00	
QS Raffle tickets	\$80.00	
	<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$130.00
	<i>Sub-Total</i>	\$8,361.63
Funds paid out		
Acadia Ins - Annual 2021-2022 payment	\$400.00	
	<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$400.00
	Grand Total	\$7,961.63

2021 YTD Collections: \$130.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

OPEN SEW ALONG DAYS ARE GROWING ON ZOOM

The guild started hosting open Sew Along days on Zoom in December. The first Sew Along was held on December 13th with 10 guild members participating. 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 January Sew Along, held on January 24th, had 20 members joining in the fun which included good conversations, much laughter, a treasure trove of free winter-themed patterns, and lots of sewing throughout the day. Helen Short won the drawing for Bonnie Hunter's Winter Blues quilt pattern along with a stack of blue fabric squares to get started. Six die-hard quilters (Shirley Babcock, Jean Anne Branch, Beth Brault, Teri Brunelle, Sharon Perry, and Helen Short) stayed for the entire day from 10:00 am until after 4:00 pm.

Don't miss out on the fun and sewing! The next one is the Pajama Party Sew Along on Sunday, February 21st, and yes, you're invited to wear your pajamas to the Sew Along! Sharon Perry will open a Zoom session starting at 10:00 am and will keep the session open until 4:00 pm. 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. Helen will be on board to share the lessons she learned while making the quilt. 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. And just like in January, there will be a drawing at the end of the Sew Along. The prize is a copy of Bonnie Hunter's latest quilt pattern, *Forever Mine*, along with a bundle of red and pink scraps for variety to make your own *Forever Mine* quilt.



RECIPE CORNER: THUMBPRINT COOKIES

1 cup Crisco
1 tsp salt
2 tsp vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
3 cups flour
½ cup cocoa
4 TBS milk
½ cup chocolate chips, chopped smaller

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream Crisco with salt and vanilla, gradually adding brown sugar. Blend in flour, cocoa, milk and chocolate chip pieces. Shape into balls, put on cookie sheet and make thumbprint in each ball. (I use a wine cork or bottle stopper.) Bake for 10 - 12 minutes. When cookies are finished cooking and still warm, roll in confectionery sugar before filling.

CHOCOLATE FILLING

1½ cups chocolate chips
1 tablespoon Crisco
2 tablespoons light Karo syrup
1 tablespoon water
1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt chocolate chips and Crisco together in double boiler. Cool slightly; add light Karo syrup, water and vanilla. Stir until mixed thoroughly. Fill thumbprints.

RECIPE CORNER:

TEXAS SHEET CAKE (BUTTERMILK BROWNIES)

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
½ teaspoon salt
1 stick butter
1 cup water
¼ cup cocoa
½ cup oil
½ cup buttermilk
2 eggs
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla

ICING

1 stick butter
¼ cup cocoa
⅓ cup buttermilk
1 box/bag (16-oz.) powdered sugar
1 cup nuts (optional)
1 teaspoon vanilla
Dash of salt

For cake:

Preheat oven to 400°. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, and salt. Set aside. In

small saucepan, melt 1 stick of butter; add water, ¼ cup cocoa, and oil. Bring to a boil. Pour over dry ingredients and mix well. Add ½ cup buttermilk, eggs, baking soda, and vanilla. Mix well. Pour into greased and floured 11" x 16" jelly roll pan. Bake for 20 minutes.

For icing: Start icing last 10 minutes of baking time. Melt 1 stick of butter in medium saucepan; add ¼ cup cocoa and ⅓ cup buttermilk. Bring to a boil. Add powdered sugar, nuts, vanilla and salt. Stir well, making sure there are no lumps of sugar. When the cake is finished baking, remove from oven and pour hot icing over the top. Use a spatula to make sure the entire cake is covered with the icing.

NOTE: If you don't have buttermilk on hand, make your own by mixing 1 cup milk and 1 teaspoon white vinegar.

RECIPE CORNER: FUDGE

1 jar (7 oz.) marshmallow crème
¾ cup butter or margarine
3 cups sugar
⅔ cup evaporated milk
1 pkg (12 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
1 teaspoon vanilla

Lightly grease 13 x 9-inch pan with butter or margarine. Melt butter or margarine in heavy 3-qt saucepan. Add sugar and milk; mix well. Bring to full rolling boil on medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue boiling for 5 minutes on medium heat or until candy thermometer reaches 234 degrees F, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in chips until melted. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour into prepared pan. Cool at room temperature. Cut into squares.

Variations:

Peppermint Fudge: Substitute white chocolate chips for semi-sweet chocolate chips & substitute 1 cup crushed peppermint candies (Brach's are the best candies to use) for the nuts.

Peanut Butter Fudge: Substitute peanut butter or Reese's chips for semi-sweet chocolate chips.





2021 Raffle Quilt

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

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.

2022 RAFFLE QUILT



The 2022 Raffle Quilt is finally finished! And it looks stunning hanging off the railing in Sharon Perry’s living room. Sharon designed the quilt pattern and pieced the blocks, and Denise Chase did all the appliqué. Once the quilt top was finished, Bev Cook did her magic with her long arm quilting. The quilt has been entered into the Vermont Quilt Festival (VQF) later this year. This year’s VQF will be virtual so Sharon was able to take the required pictures and get it registered for the contest. Sharon included the following statement in the entry, “Sharon loves to design and piece, Denise is a masterful appliquéer, and Bev turns quilt tops into heirlooms.”



2021 Charity Quilt

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

Yo-Yo You’re Sew Creative 2021 Challenge

The holidays are behind us, and you may find yourself with a few yo-yos! Well here’s your chance to be creative and use them up!

Make something using one or more of the yo-yos you received in your Christmas gift bag! What to make? Anything! Use them to decorate a pot holder or a hat. Make a wall-hanging or a floor rug, jewelry, ornaments, bags...anything goes!

Send a photo of your creation to Sharon Perry, vtquilter@gmail.com, by Sunday, June 6th. Let her know how many of your 10 yo-yos you used. For each yo-yo you used, your name will be entered in a drawing for a fabulous prize!

Entries will be judged by a special guest, and the winner will receive not only bragging rights but also a one-of-a-kind Franklin County Quilters Guild ribbon!



February 19	Rita	Dean
February 23	Susan	Burns
February 24	JoAnne	Champagne
February 24	Suzanne	Tracy

...and many more!!!



For February, you will add a 3.5 border that finishes at 3 inches. Your piece will now measure 45.5 x 50 inches. Here's what Helen Bicknell's and Lucie Fortin's projects look like so far.



FEBRUARY GUILD MEETING... IT'S A PAJAMA PARTY!

We will all wear our pajamas at the February meeting because it's a Pajama Party! Helen Short will share her quilting journey through some of the quilts she has made. She'll also do a presentation on Doug Leko/Antler Quilt Designs' *Mysterious* quilt pattern (pictured below), one of the latest patterns she's made. Helen will join the Sew Along on Sunday, February 21st, and give members further instruction on the *Mysterious* quilt if they wish.

Michelle Renee Hiatt, a Studio 180 Design Certified Instructor, will join us in March for a trunk show on Wednesday, March 17th, and a workshop on Saturday, March 20th, called Periwinkle Swirl (pictured below). You will need to sign up for the workshop. Michelle needs participants' emails 2 weeks before the workshop. The workshop will cost \$30 and will run from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm with a 1/2-hour break for lunch. Please send your check for \$30, payable to FCQG, to Natalie Good, PO Box 386, St Albans, VT 05478. Include your email if it is different from the one on the membership roster.

In April, Gudrun Erla, of GE Designs, will be the guest speaker. Her trunk show is called "Stripology Mixology." As described on Gudrun's website, "Put your stash to work! Learn the tricks behind Gudrun's cutting techniques and turn your stash into a useable collection of ready-to-go precuts. See the amazing techniques behind the quilts you can make from your collection and the newest releases from Gudrun."

February is



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 February meeting, photos should be sent to Sharon no later than Sunday, February 14th.**

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 February 17th meeting will be sent out on Wednesday, February 10th.**

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.

FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH

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

ROSES
 CHOCOLATE
 LINCOLN
 PINK
 SUPERBOWL
 FOURTEENTH
 GARDYLOO
 FLOWERS
 WASHINGTON
 VALENTINE
 PUNXSUTAWNEY
 CUPID
 CANDY
 ARROW
 KISS
 PRESIDENTS
 RED
 MARDI GRAS
 LOVE
 SHADOW
 HEART
 BOUQUET

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, February 24th, 2020**

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



“February is the border between winter and spring.”
 — Terri Guillemets