

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 5
January 2026

Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch
Cindy Metayer

Vice President

Bonnie Evans

Secretary

Deb Trahan

Treasurer

Deb Dusablon

Newsletter

Sharon Perry

Programs

Helen Short
Cathy Carlson

Project Coordinator

Sandy Lane

Membership

Penny LaRochelle

Quilt Show

Diane Kane
Beth Mouser

Website

Scott Perry

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2026 Raffle Quilt

Denise Chase & Helen Short

2026 Charity Quilt

BINGO Quilt made by
FCQG members

President's Piece

The New Year has arrived! Let the bells chime as 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the birth of our United States of America. With its adoption, we, the people, were granted several "inalienable rights: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." As citizens of our great country, we have boundless opportunities in which we can pursue happiness. How will you seek happiness in 2026??

This week, I came across a concept that is quite familiar to all, but I didn't realize there was a name for it. GLIMMERS. What are "glimmers" and how can we find them?

Glimmers are those little moments in your day that make you feel joy, happiness, peace or gratitude. Let's make a deal to seek out glimmers every day of 2026! Perhaps you see a pair of cardinals flying about seeking berries or seeds. Or, on your walk, you see gorgeous, fluffy white clouds against a multi-colored blue sky. Or, you receive a call from a grandchild to excitedly share a big life event. If you look and keep an open mind, those daily glimmers will brighten your mood and lift your spirit.

Another way to experience glimmers is by sharing the beautiful quilts and other items you make to share with others. That look of awe and wonder when the quilt is unfurled is priceless and what joy the making and giving bring!! January and February, with no in-person meetings, present perfect moments for sewing, quilting and giving some quilts!

Happy 250th Birthday, America. Remember to join in the celebration by taking on our quilt show challenge of "Celebrating America"... all that red, white and blue will bring "glimmers" to all who see them!

Piece and joy,

Jean Anne Branch
2025-2026 Co-President

Cindy Metayer
2025-2026 Co-President



2025 – 2026 Guild Calendar

September 10th Novelty Ice Cream Social and "Snip, Rip, Drop, & Pass"
October 17th Stripology Trunk Show with Linda Leszczynski
October 18th Stripology Workshop with Linda Leszczynski (Making the Zoe quilt by GE Quilt Designs)
November 12th Panel Play Brown Bag Exchange (November 2026 Reveal)
December 10th Holiday Potluck with Gift Exchange & Canned Goods for VT Food Shelves MTG STARTS AT 6PM!

January: NO MEETING

2025 – 2026 Guild Calendar

January 24th: Sew-In at NMC
Conference Room 9:30am – 4pm
(Snow Day Makeup—January 31st)
February: NO MEETING
March 11th: What Do Judges Look for When They Examine Your Quilt? with Denise Chase
April 8th: TBD
April 10th: Quilt Show Set Up
April 11th – 12th: Quilt Show
May 13th: The Process of Getting Your Quilt into a National Quilt Show with Linda Wells
June 10th: Potluck and Trunk Sale
July 8th: The Temperature is Burning Strip Poker

2025 – 2026 Guild Calendar

August 12th: TBD
September 9th: Novelty Ice Cream Social and TBD
October 9th: "Thread, What's the Big Deal" with Nina Clotfelter
October 10th: How to Free Motion Quilt on Your Domestic Machine Workshop with Nina Clotfelter
November 11th: More with Panel Play (Reveal) and QOV Presentations
December 9th: Pot Luck with Gift Exchange and Food Shelf Drive

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- January 2026**

Opening Balance	\$12,639.87
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Funds collected

Raffle ticket sales - Montgomery Elem Craft Show	\$287.00
Boutique sales - Montgomery Elem Craft Show	\$20.00
Sponsor (1 check)	\$500.00
<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	<u>\$807.00</u>

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$13,446.87
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Funds paid out

Bonnie Evans, Dec mtg beverages/food	\$46.98
<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	<u>\$46.98</u>

Grand Total	Grand Total	\$13,399.89
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2025 YTD Collections: \$10,412.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW**GUILD CO-PRESIDENTS**

Happy New Year!

First, it was so sad to have missed our holiday meeting last month due to safety concerns. In this year of change, let's focus on the present and embrace opportunities when we do meet.

Just a quick note on January being National Blood Donor Month: To those who can give, what a wonderful gift for a stranger during one of their hardest moments.

Much was carried out this year by the dedication and hard work of individuals and input of each member. Finding a new meeting location was challenging but the transition to the new site has been outstanding. Looking back, members will carry so many cherished memories from time spent at the Church of the Rock. The Guild also moved to a calendar year format with meetings to be held in July and August instead of January and February, eliminating regular Zoom meetings. Changes to the Bylaws and the creation of a Standing Rules document will allow a layer of resiliency to better pivot seamlessly in changing times. The Sugarhouse Gazette content creators continue to wonderfully document our changes, challenges, and so much more. What a great read!

So, let's celebrate our successful transitions as we look forward to new and awe-inspiring Guild activities through December. Reflecting upon 2025, let's celebrate the new friends we made and cherish our memories of those no longer with us.

Jean Anne Branch
2025-2026 Co-President

Cindy Metayer
2025-2026 Co-President

GUILD TREASURER

FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD FCQG Revenues & Expenses January - December 2025		
Description	Funds Collected	Funds Paid Out
Membership/Miscellaneous	\$2,008.00	\$45.00
FCQG Storage Unit		\$1,080.00
Insurance Premium		\$400.00
Gift Cards		\$210.00
Agenda/Business Miscellaneous		\$208.00
Block of Month		\$292.85
Presentations / Workshops	\$700.00	\$1,986.14
Beverages & food supplies		\$26.02
Comfort Quilts Quilting & Supplies (Fabric/Batting)		\$740.44
Raffle Quilt		\$223.99
Raffle Tickets Pre-Quilt Show Sales	\$1,895.00	
Raffle Tickets Quilt Show Sales	\$1,229.00	
Quilt Show Sponsors	\$2,150.00	
Quilt Show Vendors	\$200.00	
Donations	\$669.00	
Quilt Show Expenses		\$1,288.43
Quilt Show Member Boutique Sales	\$1,484.00	
Quilt Show Member Boutique Reimbursement		\$1,155.30
GRAND TOTALS	\$10,335.00	\$7,656.17
Year-End Cash on Hand	\$13,399.89	

GUILD COMFORT QUILTS

FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD Comfort Quilt Program January - December 2025					
	Baby	Lap	Large Lap	Twin	Queen
January 1, 2025 Starting Inventory	10	18	29	18	4
Quilts added in 2025	38	27	19	30	7
Subtotals	48	45	48	48	11
Quilts distributed in 2025	27	25	19	22	1
December 31, 2025 Ending Inventory	21	20	29	26	10



2025 GUILD PROGRAMS

January: Virtual Trunk Show with Linda Diak ON ZOOM

June: Potluck & Trunk Sale

February:

- Pam Weeks' Lecture on History of Soft Protest Storytelling in Textiles ON ZOOM
- Workshop with Nanc Ekiert

September:

- Novelty Ice Cream Social
- "Snip, Rip, Drop, & Pass" Game

March: Guild Members' Skill Sharing Sessions

October:

- Stripology Trunk Show with Linda Leszczynski
- Stripology Workshop making the Zoe quilt by GE Quilt Designs

April:

- 25th Annual Quilt Show
- Strippers Night! Left-Right-Center Strip Poker Game

November:

- Panel Play
- Brown Bag Exchange (November 2026 Reveal)

May:

- Modern Quilts with Jess Peck
- Reveal of the Brown Bag Exchange

December: Holiday Potluck & Gift Exchange (CANCELLED)



QUILT SHOW NEWS



26th ANNUAL QUILT SHOW: 94 DAYS AND COUNTING

The 2026 Quilt Show is a little more than 3 months away, and the planning and preparations are ongoing behind the scenes. As the event draws near, we depend on all guild members to ensure the quilt show is a huge success. Continue reading to see how you can help.

- **We need quilts!!!** It's all about the quilts!!! As of January 3rd, we had 28 quilts registered, and we need more to fill City Hall. Although the deadline to register your quilt is March 1st, please turn in your entry forms and photos as soon as possible so Penny LaRochelle has plenty of time to enter your information, plan a pleasing layout for everyone's quilts, and print all the cards and other information needed. You can find the quilt registration form [here](#).

- **We need volunteers!!!** Peggy Paradee has been signing members up for the many volunteer positions since the September meeting. She is appreciative of all who have signed up already. There are still a few jobs from which to choose. **We are especially in need of able-bodied volunteers to help with picking up the quilt poles before the quilt show and returning them Sunday afternoon.** We do have a truck and trailer for transporting the poles. You can find the list of jobs still open [here](#). If you cannot remember the jobs you have already signed up for, you can find a list by last name [here](#) with each member's jobs.

- **We need member items for/donations to the guild boutique!!!** Mary King is this year's coordinator for the Guild Boutique. Members can sell their items in the boutique; you will find the form to inventory your items [here](#). But if you don't want to sell your items, you can always donate items with all proceeds going to the guild.

- **We need your raffle tickets!!!** Sharon Perry is the raffle ticket coordinator again this year. We're getting a late start on the sale of raffle tickets by members this year, but hopefully we'll get a good number of tickets sold before the quilt show. Members can mail their tickets to Sharon Perry, PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471, or return them to Sharon at the March meeting. **Sharon asks that each member return the raffle tickets and money for the tickets in an envelope with the member's name written on the outside.** Sharon wants to be sure to properly credit the returned tickets and money to the correct member and avoid spending time tracking down unreturned tickets. As a reminder, each member is required to sell (or buy) two books of raffle tickets to remain a member in good standing.





QUILT SHOW NEWS

CONTINUED...



- **We need miniature quilts for the display cases at the I-89 Rest Areas!!!** Do you have a miniature quilt (preferably smaller than the challenge quilts) to loan to April Walker in order to decorate the rest area display cases? Or would you be willing to make one using guild fabric and have it be part of the display every year? Denise Chase has plenty of guild fabric you could use. If you're willing to help with providing a miniature quilt or making one, please contact April Walker, 802-782-4631 or dawalker328@gmail.com.

- **We need help distributing and displaying the quilt show posters!!!** April Walker plans to bring the quilt show posters to the guild sew along at the NMC Conference Room on Saturday, January 24. Please stop by if you can to pick up some posters and get them display in your local community. April also plans to drop some posters off with Denise Chase; her address is 55 Barlow Street, St. Albans, VT 05478. You can call Denise Chase, 802-370-1104, to arrange a convenient time to stop by.

GUILD SEW ALONGS AT THE NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER (NMC) PLANNED FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

All members are invited to the "Use Your Scraps" Guild Sew Along on Saturday, January 24th, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm, in the NMC Conference Room. If the "weather is frightful" on the 24th, a weather make-up day will be held the following Saturday, January 31st, same time and same place. This is the first guild sew along of the New Year with 2 more to be held in February and March.

Bring your scraps and your favorite scrap quilt pattern(s) along with your sewing supplies (machine, notions, etc.). Members will have an opportunity to share their scraps and learn about some fast and easy patterns for scrappy quilts.

Also, if you made some red, white and blue sawtooth star blocks for the Block of the Month program, bring those along as well. Sandy Lane will collect them and keep them until guild members have an opportunity to sew them into quilts.

More details will be shared in next month's newsletter about the sew alongs in February and March. Stay tuned...

In the meantime, join us for a fun-filled winter day sewing with others who share a love of quilting.

MORE WINTER SEW ALONGS PLANNED ON ZOOM

In addition to the 3 in-person sew alongs mentioned above, Sharon Perry will be hosting guild sew alongs on Zoom in January, February and March. Those dates are:

- Sunday, January 11, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 14, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, February 8, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 11, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, February 22, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 18, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Again, join us for several fun-filled winter days sewing virtually with others who share a love of quilting.

25 IN 2025 CHALLENGE...AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Since the December guild meeting was cancelled due to the weather, I used a number-generator app to select the winners for the 25 in 2025 Challenge. Eleven guild members finished at least 25 projects last year. That means just those 11 finished a minimum of 275 projects last year. Congratulations to all who participated! Bravo for finishing your 25 projects.

The first randomly-drawn winner is Penny LaRochelle. I'll be bringing your prize with me on Monday. The second randomly-drawn winner is Deb Trahan. I'll get your prize to you soon...maybe at a sisters' sewing day. Congratulations Penny and Deb!

And...I was talked into doing another year...so look for the 26 in 2026 Challenge on the next page and get your projects lined up.





Join in the fun and make 26 quilted projects by the end of 2026 and your name will be entered into a special drawing held in December 2026. If you'd like to participate, fill in your name and 26 projects you'd like to finish this year on the list below. This is your list...you can add to it throughout the year if need be to have 26 projects or you can remove a project, or swap out projects, etc...you just have to have ***26 Finishes in 2026*** AND you must show each project at one of the guild's monthly show and tell. You can show multiple projects in one month. You also don't have to show a project every month, you just have to have ***26 Finishes in 2026!*** You will maintain your own list, but you must let Sharon Perry know you are participating.

 Cut along dotted line

NAME: _____

1.	14.
2.	15.
3.	16.
4.	17.
5.	18.
6.	19.
7.	20.
8.	21.
9.	22.
10.	23.
11.	24.
12.	25.
13.	26.

CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR'
DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

The block which would have been featured at the December meeting is called the Golden Peaks. Block instructions can be found [here](#).

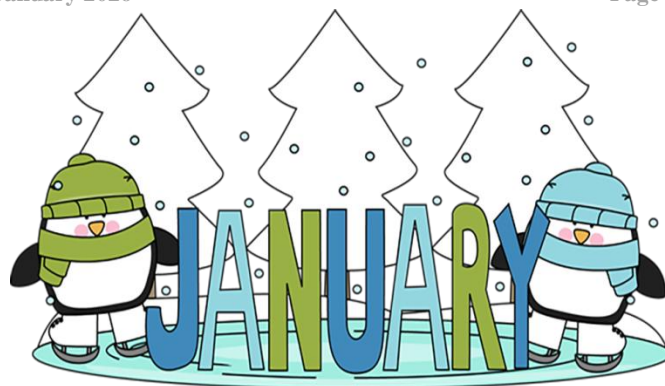
Sandy Lane is this year's Project Coordinator for the guild. She says make whatever size you'd like and in any colors you'd like.

This is a BONUS block of the month, and there will NOT be a drawing.



SUNSHINE CARDS FOR GUILD MEMBERS

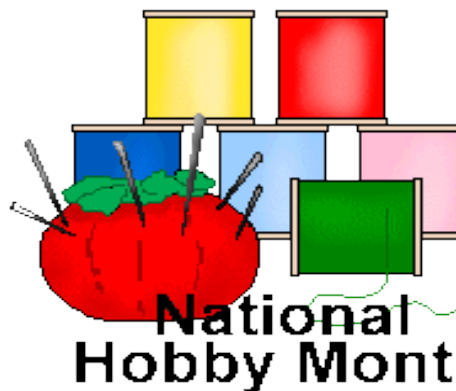
If you know of a guild member who is in need of encouragement or comfort due to an illness, bereavement, etc., please contact John Rouleau, 802-658-1438. He will send out an appropriate card.



Alyce	Bushey	January	2
Linda	Wells	January	10
Deb	Trahan	January	14
Beth	Mouser	January	15
Carol	Stanley	January	24

...and many more!!!

January is





RECIPE CORNER

SLOW-COOKER MEATLOAF

- ½ cup tomato sauce
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 small onion, chopped
- ⅓ cup crushed saltines (about 10 crackers)
- ¾ teaspoon minced garlic
- ¼ teaspoon seasoned salt
- ⅓ teaspoon seasoned pepper
- 1 ½ pounds lean ground beef (90% lean)
- ½ pound reduced-fat bulk pork sausage

For the sauce:

- ½ cup ketchup
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¾ teaspoon ground mustard
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cut three 25x3-in. strips of heavy-duty foil; crisscross so they resemble spokes of a wheel. Place strips on bottom and up side of a 4- or 5-qt. slow cooker. Coat strips with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, combine the first 9 ingredients. Crumble beef and sausage over mixture and mix lightly but thoroughly (mixture will be moist). Shape into a loaf. Place meat loaf in center of strips.

In a small bowl, combine all sauce ingredients. Spoon over meatloaf. Cover and cook on low 3-4 hours or until no pink remains and a thermometer reads 160°. Using foil strips as handles, remove meat loaf to a platter.

SLOW-COOKER BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon dried basil
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon browning sauce, optional
- 4 bone-in chicken breast halves (8 ounces each)
- ½ cup chicken broth

In a small bowl, combine the first 7 ingredients and, if desired, browning sauce; rub over chicken. Place in a 5-qt. slow cooker; add broth. Cook, covered, on low until chicken is tender, 4-5 hours.

WHITE LASAGNA

- 9 lasagna noodles
- 1 pound bulk Italian sausage

- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ cup white wine
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 3 ounces cream cheese, cubed
- ¼ cup minced fresh basil
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh oregano or ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 cups shredded white cheddar cheese
- 1 ½ cups 2% cottage cheese
- ¾ pound fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced
- 1 ½ cups shredded Gouda cheese
- Optional: grated Parmesan cheese and red pepper flakes

Preheat oven to 375°. Cook noodles according to package directions for al dente. In a large skillet, cook sausage, celery, onion and garlic over medium heat 6-8 minutes or until sausage is no longer pink, breaking up sausage into crumbles; drain.

Stir in wine. Bring to a boil; cook 3-4 minutes or until liquid is reduced by half. Add half-and-half, cream cheese, herbs, pepper and salt; stir until cream cheese is melted. Drain noodles.

In a small bowl, combine egg, cheddar and cottage cheese.

In a greased 13x9-in. baking dish, layer 3 noodles, half the sausage mixture, half the cheddar cheese mixture and half the mozzarella slices. Repeat layers. Top with remaining noodles; sprinkle with Gouda cheese.

Bake, covered, until bubbly and cheese is melted, 50-60 minutes; uncover and bake until light golden brown, 10-15 minutes longer. Let stand 15 minutes before serving. If desired, sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese, red pepper flakes, and additional basil and oregano.



JANUARY

Author Unknown

Sparkling winter sunshine, faces all aglow

Making resolutions, and angels in the snow ~

Steaming cups of cocoa, a year that's fresh and new...

All of this is magic unfolding just for you.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR JANUARY:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtDTHReZk6s>

Foundation Paper Piecing
Series 3 – January
Shabby Fabrics



LINK TO BARN QUILT TRAIL OF NORTHERN VERMONT

<http://www.barnquiltsfornorthernvermont.org/>

NEWSLETTER IDEAS WANTED: Do you have a recipe you'd like to share with guild members? Or maybe you've found a great quilting website or blog you'd like to share. Or you've visited a quilt shop within an easy drive which had bargains or a fabric selection no quilter should miss. If so, send an email to vtquilter@gmail.com, and the newsletter editor will do her best to include it in the next newsletter. Although welcome, your input doesn't have to be a complete article. It could be a few bullets which convey your message. The editor will fill out the article as needed.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter:

3rd Wednesday, January 21st, 2026

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



January is Hot Tea Month



“This January, be brave enough to begin what others are afraid to start.” ~ Debbie Moore