

# Franklin County Quilters Guild

## SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

### Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

[franklincountyquilters@gmail.com](mailto:franklincountyquilters@gmail.com)



Volume 16, Issue 6  
February 2024

#### President

Laurel Schaap

#### Vice President

Bonnie Evans

#### Secretary

Diane Kane

#### Treasurer

Deb Dusablon

#### Newsletter

Sharon Perry

#### Programs

Deb Trahan

Cathy Carlson

#### Project Coordinator

Lucie Fortin

#### Membership

Penny LaRoche

#### Quilt Show

Helen Short

Teri Brunelle

#### Website

Scott Perry

#### Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

#### 2024 Raffle Quilt

Sharon Perry & Denise Chase

#### 2024 Charity Quilt

Laurel Schaap & Gale Weld

#### President's Piece

Do you enjoy puzzles? I like to play Wordle every morning, and I go from there to the Mini Crossword and the new game Connections. (These are all free on the New York Times.) My mom played Scrabble online with a number of her friends. She said she was trying to keep her brain working.

I think the same thing is true of quilting. Reading patterns, cutting out multiple pieces, and fitting everything back together is wonderful exercise for our brains. Sometimes the pieces don't quite fit, and we have to figure out how to solve that puzzle. Just this week, I made a major mistake and had to rework the whole project. But I'm really happy with the results. There's a kind of adrenaline rush that comes from figuring out a solution. It's like the satisfaction we get from finishing a project, especially one that's been hanging around for a while.

The news is pretty depressing, I think. I try to stay up with things (again, my mom read the paper front to back every day, in order to keep up.) But when I get to my sewing machine, I'm soothed by the progress I can make. I can't do anything about the world's problems, but I can contribute some beauty to someone and express my love through my quilting.

Piecefully,

Laurel Schaap, 2023-2024 President



#### 2023 – 2024 Guild Calendar

September 20<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social  
Brown Bag Exchange & Strip Poker  
(Doors open at 5:30 pm; food at 6 pm)

October 13<sup>th</sup> Trunk Show  
with Norma Ippolito

October 14<sup>th</sup> Quilting Workshop  
with Norma Ippolito

November 15<sup>th</sup> Quilt Market Wrap-Up  
with Tina de la Bruere, Owner of  
Vermont Quilter's Schoolhouse

December 13<sup>th</sup> Potluck and Gift Exchange

#### 2023 – 2024 Guild Calendar

January 17<sup>th</sup> What Makes A Quilter Tick  
with David Sirota, Quilt Maven Dave

January 20<sup>th</sup> "No More Tears" Paper-  
Piecing Workshop with David Sirota,  
Quilt Maven Dave

*February 21<sup>st</sup> Trunk Show with  
Andrew Lee, The Combat Quilter*

March 20<sup>th</sup> Spring Members' Demos

April 5<sup>th</sup> Quilt Show Set-Up

April 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Quilt Show

#### 2023 – 2024 Guild Calendar

April 19<sup>th</sup> MacDuff Bag and Jacket  
Trunk Show with Janice Roy

April 20<sup>th</sup> MacDuff Bag Workshop  
with Janice Roy

May 15<sup>th</sup> Pillow Talk Trunk Show  
with Diane Comeau, CaDi Corners

May 18<sup>th</sup> Pillow Talk Workshop  
with Diane Comeau, CaDi Corners

June 12<sup>th</sup> Trunk Sale



## Franklin County Quilters Guild Wednesday, January 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Sharon Perry for our online Zoom meeting.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Helen Bicknell and 2nd by Penny LaRochelle to accept both Treasurer's report and Minutes of the December 2023 meeting. No discussion. Motion carried.

**Membership (Penny LaRochelle):** Penny reported the guild currently has 54 paid members to date. A total of 26 members were in attendance, "Zooming in" from 23 locations.

### Comfort Quilts (Denise Chase):

- Denise recently sent out a request for baby quilts and she got many quilts from members for Home Health, plus some extras.
- Denise has several quilts that need quilting, plus there are kits available to take home to make quilts. She has one large quilt that needs quilting; this quilt will be for someone who has experienced a fire in their home.
- Denise reported out on the number of comfort quilts from 2023:
- At the beginning of 2023, Denise had 89 quilts on hand. She took in 69 quilts and distributed 182 quilts.
- At the start of 2024, Denise has 56 comfort quilts in stock (2 Queen, 12 Twin, 23 large Lap, 11 Lap, and 8 Baby quilts.)

**Quilt Show (Helen Short and Teri Brunelle):** On April 6 & 7, 2024 with set-up on Friday, April 5.

- Helen thanked the people who have offered to help with the quilt show.
- April Walker has been in charge of the press release. Posters were available at the December meeting and can now be put up in public places.
- Helen reported that to date, two people have signed up to sell items at the boutique during the show. The guild takes 10% of what the members earn. Donations of made items are needed for the guild to sell at the show. Handbags were a popular item at last year's boutique.
- Helen reminded members about the Challenge Quilt this year, "Something Blue". The description can be found on the FCQG website.
- Penny LaRochelle reported that there are 11 registered quilts. The deadline to register a quilt for the show is March 1, 2024. The form can be found here.
- Helen reported that Nanc Ekiert will be handing off the job of getting sponsors for the show to Kathy Katz for the 2025 quilt show.
- Gale Weld reported that there are 5 business vendors who will be at the show. The quilt shop Gypsy Moth in Barre will be closing their doors, but they will continue their online shop. They have paid for their 2 tables to be a vendor at this year's show.

- Shirley Babcock is coordinating volunteers during the show weekend. More volunteers are needed at the members' boutique (2 people have volunteered so far) and for the charity quilt table. Shirley will get the sign-up sheet to Sharon Perry, who will post it online in two different settings: by time and date, and by last name/first name. Please go to the online signup sheet to fill in any areas that still need volunteers and if you need a reminder of when you signed up to volunteer.
- Helen announced that students from the Northwest Career and Technical Center Building Trades Program will be volunteering to help set up the quilt show on Friday, April 5th.

### 2024 Raffle Quilt (Sharon Perry and Denise Chase):

- Sharon showed the raffle quilt that was hanging in back of her. (A picture of the charity quilt is online.) She will be mailing raffle tickets to members who have not picked up their tickets. Members are asked to sell at least two books of tickets (or 6 tickets). The tickets are 1 ticket for \$2 or 3 tickets (one book) for \$5.
- Penny LaRochelle reminded members of the challenge to meet or exceed her goal of selling 99 tickets.
- All monies from the ticket sales and the ticket stubs will be collected by Sharon.

### 2024 Charity Quilt (Laurel Schaap and Gale Weld):

- Three charity quilts are being made this year, one by Laurel and Gale, one by Denise Chase and Helen Short (to be quilted by Beverly Cook), and one by Helen Bicknell and Lucie Fortin.
- The three charities receiving these beautiful quilts to raffle are the Enosburgh Food Shelf, The Meeting House on the Green in Fairfield, and Rock Steady Boxing in St. Albans.

**Sugarhouse Gazette (Sharon Perry):** The newsletter can be found online here. Each newsletter comes out at least 2 weeks prior to each meeting. Items for the next newsletter are due to Sharon by January 31st, which is the last Wednesday of the month.

**24 in 2024 Challenge (Sharon Perry):** Sharon let the members know that there is a new form on the website for the new Challenge. She suggested printing it and putting it next to your sewing table. Then the form will be there to fill out as you get your 24 projects done this year.

### Block of the Month (Lucie Fortin):

- The BOM for February will be posted online on the guild's website.
- Please bring your completed January and February blocks to the March in-person meeting.



**January 17 Guild Meeting Minutes (Cont.)****Program and Workshop Announcements for 2023-24**  
**(Deb Trahan and Cathy Carlson):**

- Deb described the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting program: Trunk Show with Andrew Lee, The Combat Quilter, which will be via Zoom.
- The March 20th meeting program will be Members' Demos.
- Also at the March meeting, please bring your brown bag project, which will be distributed during the meeting.
- Deb introduced our guest speaker for the January meeting: David Sirota (aka Quilt Maven Dave), who presented "What Makes a Quilter Tick" on Zoom. His class will be held on Saturday, January 20th via Zoom ("No More Tears" Paper Piecing Workshop);
- For information on the April through June programs, please see the front page of this newsletter.

**Other Business:**

- Nominating Committee:
  - There is a new nominating committee (members are Jean Ann Branch, Denise Chase, and Mary Jane Marchelewicz) who will be contacting people for next year's quilt guild executive positions.
  - So far these people have agreed to continue next year: Deb Dusablon as Treasurer and Bonnie Evans as Vice President. Additionally,
  - Cathy Carlson will step up for Programs; she is looking for an additional person who will help her.

**Program:**

- David Sirota gave a humorous talk about his quilting journey.
- He showed off a few samples of the quilt that the members will be making on Saturday at his class.
- To find out about other classes David has available, please go to his website: [Quiltmavendave.com](http://Quiltmavendave.com).

**Drawings:**

- Mary Jane Marchelewicz won the membership door prize.

A motion was made by Laurel Schaap to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Deb Dusablon. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Kane, Secretary

**FEBRUARY MEETING ON ZOOM FEATURES  
THE COMBAT QUILTER ANDREW LEE**

**The February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be on Zoom.** Andrew Lee will be the guest speaker. As a combat veteran, he'll be talking about his quilting journey, how it has helped him deal with PTSD, and his support to Quilts of Valor.

**QUILT SHOW: 65 DAYS AND COUNTING**

The 2024 Quilt Show planning continues behind the scenes. Continue reading to see how you can help.

- **WE NEED QUILTS!!!** It's all about the quilts!!! As of the 1/30/2024 weekly tally guild meeting, we had 18 quilts registered, and we need lots more to fill the City Hall Auditorium. The deadline to register your quilts is March 1<sup>st</sup>! You can find the registration form [here](#).

- **We need help getting quilt show posters posted!!!** April Walker has posters for the quilt show, and she needs help getting them out into our communities and to quilt shops throughout Vermont and in neighboring states. Please call or email April (802-933-5149, [dawalker328@gmail.com](mailto:dawalker328@gmail.com)) to get some posters.

- **We still need volunteers too!!!** Shirley Babcock is in charge of getting volunteers for all the jobs. The jobs available are varied and only require a small amount of time. You can find the list of jobs still open [here](#). Please look at your personal calendars and sign-up for at least one job at the Quilt Show. If you've already signed up for a job or two and cannot remember the specifics, you can look at this list [here](#). It is organized alphabetically by last name.

- **We need your raffle tickets!!!** Sharon Perry 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 don't forget, Penny LaRochelle has challenged guild members to sell 99 raffle tickets. As a reminder, each member is required to sell (or buy) two books of raffle tickets to remain a member in good standing.

- **Don't forget to complete and register your Something Blue Challenge Quilts!!!** There's still plenty of time to make something for the challenge. Challenge instructions/requirements can be found [here](#) on the guild website.

- **Don't forget to complete and register your 2023 Block of the Month Quilts!!!** If you've completed a 2023 Block of the Month quilt and want to display it in the quilt show, be sure to register it. You can find the registration form [here](#).

*The success of the guild's quilt show truly depends on the help of many volunteers. There are plenty of jobs available, so please be sure to sign up for a job (or jobs) which fit your schedule and physical abilities.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024****FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- February 21, 2024**

Opening Balance \$8,392.01

## Funds collected

Jan Workshop \$80.00

QS Vendors \$150.00

*Total Funds Collected* \$230.00

*Subtotal* \$8,622.01

## Funds paid out

David Sirota, Lecture & Workshop \$710.00

Acadia Ins, 02/04/24 - 02/04/25 coverage \$400.00

*Total Funds Paid Out* \$1,110.00

**Grand Total** **\$7,512.01**

2024 YTD Collections: \$230.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

**QUILT TIPS**

- Keep a roll of painter's tape in your sewing room. It can be used to mark the line on your ruler when you are cutting multiple strips of the same size. It makes it easier to see/find the measurement you are using over and over to save you time.
- Use painter's tape to mark the 1/4" line on your sewing machine. Are you sensing a theme here? This tape really comes in handy in the sewing room! Even if you have a 1/4" quilting foot, the tape line gives you additional guidance for your 1/4" seam.
- Keeping your pieces organized when you cut them is also key to a less stressful quilting experience. If you have your pieces labeled and stacked in the order they are needed, you won't waste time hunting for that one piece you need to finish the block.
- Another labeling tip...take some pins and make numbered labels for them with pieces of washi tape (you can also use the painter's tape). Use these pins to label blocks and rows that you're piecing together so you don't lose track of which block or row goes where.

- A bamboo skewer makes an excellent stiletto. Its texture helps grip the fabric, and you won't damage your machine if you accidentally hit it with your needle.
- Use a dry erase marker to temporarily mark the line you need to use on your acrylic ruler so you can see it better. When you are finished, wipe it off!
- If you have a fabric that bleeds, look for a product called ReTayne and use as directed. It will set the colors in the fabric so that they no longer bleed, and you will have a beautiful quilt with colors that last a lifetime! You can usually find ReTayne at a local quilt shop.
- Have you ever found yourself dealing with a dull blade and wondering when you last changed the blade? The next time you change your rotary blade, find your sharpie and write the date on it!



**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**







Join in the fun and make 24 quilted projects by the end of 2024 and your name will be entered into a special drawing held in December 2024. If you'd like to participate, fill in your name and 24 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 24 projects or you can remove a project, or swap out projects, etc...you just have to have ***24 Finishes in 2024*** 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 ***24 Finishes in 2024!*** You will maintain your own list, but you must let Sharon Perry know you are participating.

          Cut along dotted line          

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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5.	17.
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7.	19.
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9.	21.
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11.	23.
12.	24.

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**DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE**

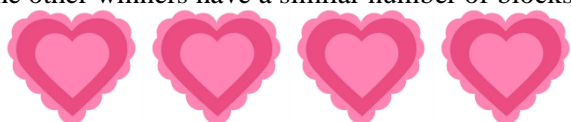
## BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM): TEN-MINUTE BLOCK

Lucie Fortin is the project coordinator for this membership year, and she's bringing back the traditional Block of the Month (BOM) projects.

Each month Lucie will provide instructions for completing the BOM to include color choices. This month's BOM is the Disappearing Pinwheel in purple and cream; instructions for the block can be found [here](#). Members are encouraged to make a block each month and turn it in for the BOM raffle the following month.

If you turn a block in, you get to enter your name in the BOM Drawing. You can make as many blocks as you want and enter your name a corresponding number of times. If you win all the blocks, they are yours to keep.

You can only win the blocks one time in a membership year which runs from September through June. If you win, you're asked to continue making the monthly BOM so the other winners have a similar number of blocks.



## 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 Diane Comeau, 802-310-1837. She will send out an appropriate card.



## FEBRUARY IS SPUNKY OLD BROADS MONTH!



I want to be an SOB...  
Spunky Old Broad!!!



Happy 33<sup>rd</sup> Birthday  
to the  
Franklin County  
Quilters Guild

*...and many more!!!*

Blessed are we who can laugh at  
ourselves... for we shall never  
cease to be amused!





# RECIPE CORNER

## HOMEMADE MOUNDS BARS

2 cups desiccated coconut

1 can condensed milk

7 ounces dark chocolate

In a mixing bowl, combine the coconut and the sweetened condensed milk.

Press the coconut mixture into a silicone mold, going edge-to-edge, and freeze for three hours.

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler.

Unmold the coconut mixture onto a clean surface and slice the coconut mixture into six bars.

Using your fingers, round the edges of the bars so they resemble commercial Mounds bars.

Place the bars on an oven rack over a baking tray lined with parchment paper. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the bars. Freeze for a minimum of one hour, serve, and enjoy.

## HOT FUDGE

1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk

6 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped

$\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon kosher salt

Combine the sweetened condensed milk,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water, and salt in a small saucepan, and set over low heat.

Add the chocolate and stir to incorporate. Continue to cook, stirring slowly but constantly, just until the chocolate has melted and the mixture is shiny and smooth. At this point, you might want to add more water to loosen things up—add in 1-tablespoon increments until the consistency is sundae-worthy to you.

Add whatever flavoring you want to taste. Think: vanilla extract, instant espresso powder, ground cayenne, ground chipotle, bourbon, rum, and adjust the salt to taste.

Serve warm with ice cream (especially vanilla or coffee), frozen yogurt, Greek yogurt, pudding, you name it. Store any leftovers in the fridge.

## OREO TRUFFLES

38 chocolate sandwich cookies, such as Oreos, broken into large pieces

1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, at room temperature

8 oz. white chocolate, chopped

8 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped

Sprinkles or nonpareils, for topping

Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Add the sandwich cookies to a food processor and pulse to make fine crumbs. Add the cream cheese and pulse until completely combined and almost pasty.

Scoop and roll the cookie mixture into 1-inch balls; you should have about 36. Refrigerate until chilled, about 30 minutes.

Melt the white and bittersweet chocolates separately in double boilers set over low heat, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir until smooth and let cool slightly. Using a fork, dip half the balls in the bittersweet chocolate and place on a prepared baking sheet; repeat with the remaining balls and the white chocolate. Let set for a few minutes, and then drizzle the tops with contrasting chocolate or top with sprinkles or nonpareils, if desired. Refrigerate until the chocolate is set, about 10 minutes. Store in a tightly sealed container in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

## CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups cold heavy cream, divided

1 cup good-quality chocolate chips or coarsely chopped chocolate (6 ounces)

Garnish options: grated chocolate or crunchy toppings, such as chopped nuts, toffee, or brittle

Heat  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of the cream in a microwave-safe bowl for 1 minute. Add 1 cup chocolate chips and stir to combine. Set the bowl aside for 5 minutes for the chocolate to melt.

Whisk the chocolate and cream together until smooth. Set aside to cool while you whip the remaining cream.

Place the remaining 1 cup cold cream in a medium bowl. Beat with an electric hand mixer or with a whisk by hand until soft peaks form. Transfer  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup to a small bowl and refrigerate for topping the finished mousse before serving. Continue whipping the remaining whipped cream until stiff peaks form.

Fold the whipped cream into the cooled chocolate mixture with a large spatula in three additions. Work swiftly and gently and don't stress if there are streaks of cream in the chocolate mousse.

Divide the mixture between 4 ramekins or cocktail glasses. Refrigerate at least 1 hour and up to 4 before serving. Dollop with the reserved softly whipped cream and sprinkle with grated chocolate or chopped hazelnuts, if desired.



Chocolate  
is for  
Lovers





## LEAP YEAR

by Annette Wynne

Little month of February,  
You are small, but worthy—very!  
Will you grow up like the others,  
Like your sister months and brothers?  
Every four years with a bound  
With a leap up from the ground,  
Trying to grow tall as they—  
All you stretch is one small day!  
Even then you're not so tall  
But just the shortest month of all.

### FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR FEBRUARY:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw3X3V08Dg>  
Tea & Cookies for Two Themed Placemats  
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](mailto: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:

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Please email articles to Sharon Perry, to [vtquilter@gmail.com](mailto:vtquilter@gmail.com),  
or mail to PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471



*February is  
National Bird Feeding Month  
"February is the border between  
winter and spring." ~ Terri Guillemets*