

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 17, Issue 6
February 2025

President's Piece

A "hearty" greeting!

It's Heart month! Love is in the air...everywhere! Valentine's Day, February 14, always gives us an opportunity to spread the love we have for our families and friends. The question for February: Is your heart in it?

We recognized "Wear Red for Women" on February 7th highlighting awareness of women's cardiovascular health. It is the number one cause of death for women in our country. The medical community along with many other entities provide information we need to take care of our hearts. How can we do that? Eating well, exercise, limiting alcohol, not smoking all steer us toward good heart health. But, wait, there's more!

A valuable component to overall health is finding a way to live with passion. Maybe it's cooking or skiing. Maybe it's knitting, reading or volunteering. Maybe it's quilting or community service. Perhaps your passion is a combination of activities that complete you! We quilters take on challenges regularly and dive in with "gusto" creating quilts to comfort others. We surely "put our hearts in it" every time we sit at our machines.

Quilters also seem to open their hearts to one another. We share our skills, knowledge, fabric, utensils and rulers to help one another. Witnessing and experiencing the generosity of this quilting community is heartwarming.

As we move through 2025, let's make a commitment to find ways to put our hearts to the test. Choosing a way to improve a skill or acquire a new one could feed our passion. Volunteering for the Guild either for the quilt show or taking on a leadership position can benefit the entire quilting community. Whatever you choose, face it with your heart fully "in it"!

Is your heart in it?

Piece by piece,
Jean Anne Branch
2024-2025 Co-President

Mary Jane Rossi
2024-2025 Co-President



Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch
Mary Jane Rossi

Vice President

Bonnie Evans

Secretary

Gale Weld

Treasurer

Deb Dusablon

Newsletter

Sharon Perry

Programs

Cathy Carlson
John Rouleau

Project Coordinator

Carol Stanley

Membership

Penny LaRochelle

Quilt Show

Mary King
Beth Mouser

Website

Scott Perry

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2025 Raffle Quilt

Laurel Schaap

2025 Charity Quilt

Sharon Perry & Denise Chase

2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

September 18th Trunk Show
with Debi Montgomery
& light refreshments

September 19th Mystery Quilt
Workshop with Debi Montgomery
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Swanton)

October 16th Trunk Show with
Denise Chase, Ice Cream Social,
and Brown Bag Exchange

November 20th Trunk Show
with Karen Abrahamovich

2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

November 23rd Workshop with Karen
Abrahamovich, NMC Conference Room

December 18th Holiday Potluck
and Gift Exchange--MTG STARTS AT 6PM

January 15th Virtual Trunk Show
with Linda Diak ON ZOOM

February 19th Pam Weeks' Lecture on History of
Soft Protest Storytelling in Textiles ON ZOOM

February 22nd Workshop with Nanc Ekiert,
NMC Conference Room (see page 6)

March 19th Guild Members'
Skill Sharing Session

2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

March 22nd Quilted Jacket Workshop with
Janice Roy, NMC Conference Room

April 4th Quilt Show Set-Up

April 5th & 6th 25th Annual Quilt Show

April 16th Strippers Night!

Left-Right-Center Strip Poker Game

May 21st Modern Quilts with Jess Peck
Brown Bag Exchange (return)

June 18th Potluck & Trunk Sale
All proceeds to benefit the guild
(Doors open at 5:30 pm; potluck at 6 pm)

Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Mary Jane Rossi

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes for General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:30 pm by Jean Anne Branch for our monthly meeting. She greeted all members in attendance and shared with the group how she was recently asked to be interviewed by her young grandson for his school project. After several exchanges (in-person, text, and e-mail), Jean Anne recognized it had become an opportunity for her to reflect upon her lifetime experiences and revisit fond memories. She reminded us to consider doing the same, that is, to revisit past photos and documents - taking time for personal reflection.

Jean Anne shared information about Maya Angelou, and read one of her remarkable quotes: *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

Finally, a reminder the deadline for charity quilt nominations is 1/31/25.

Programs (Cathy Carlson and John Rouleau): Cathy then introduced speaker, Linda Diak, a Vermont textile artist specializing in art quilts. Linda has been a textile artist all her life. Cathy found Linda's quilt work when viewing the Quilting in Vermont group Facebook page. She reminded us to visit her website, [Linda Diak Quilts](#).

Linda Diak stated she resides in Chester, Vermont. She is a self-taught, raw-edge quilt designer and machine quilter. She presented a slideshow of the many beautiful art quilts she has designed and quilted. We learned that her work captures an emotion, a memory, a special place in time. She also offers edge-to-edge quilting as well as custom work.

Drawings: Linda Diak, our Program speaker chose #17, and Helen Bicknell won the membership door prize.

Business Meeting started 7:21 pm lead by Mary Jane, Co-President:

Consent Agenda:

- A motion was made by Penny LaRoche and seconded by Carol Parks to accept the December 18th meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Denise Chase and seconded by Deb Trahan to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Bonnie Evans, Vice President, informed members she had conducted research on new meeting location sites and described each.
- The following sites were considered via online poll voting:
 - Elks Lodge: Cost per meeting \$150. Location, Gricebrook Drive (off Route 104), St Albans. No set-up required.
 - Greg Brown Lodge: Cost per meeting \$150. Location Hard'ack Recreation Area, St. Albans. Set-up (tables) required.
 - Holy Trinity Church: FREE. Location Grand Ave (Route 7), Swanton. Set-up required. Requires changing meeting day (Tuesday or Thursday).

- Members were asked to select their choice using their cursor to hover over selection and or by touch, if they had a touch screen computer. It was recognized that only one member could vote on a Zoom location (26 locations). Some locations had more than one member present, total of 29 members.
- Initial vote: Holy Trinity. It was noted that by adding the remaining 4 members to the Elks Club vote it resulted in a 13/14 outcome. There were 3 votes for Greg Brown Lodge.
- It was decided to re-vote. The second vote was for either Elks Club or Holy Trinity. Sharon Perry reported the final outcome (by a close vote) was Holy Trinity Church. This meant that the day of the monthly meeting would need to be changed. The guild members voiced Tuesday rather than Thursday. Cathy Carlson mentioned that the change in day will not impact the remainder of the Program events.
- A motion was made by Sharon Perry to move guild meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Helen Bicknell 2nd the motion.
- Helen Short reported she would e-mail the Reverend to secure the 3rd Tuesday of the month for our monthly meetings.

Chair Reports:

Membership (Penny LaRoche): Membership via zoom meeting: Sharon Perry reported 29 locations, with 32 in attendance and 2 guests.

Comfort Quilts (Denise Chase)

- A quilt inventory for 2024 reveals 91 made, 66 distributed.
- There are a lot of quilts in her inventory that do not make up a twin size.
- **There is a need for Twin size quilts.**
- We cover the Veterans Center in Northfield and Spectrum requesting twin size quilts.
- If you are making your own quilts and they are not quite 60" x 80", please contact Denise for fabric to add a border to the pieced top to make this size.
- A bed size listing will be posted in the next newsletter.

Quilt Show (Mary King & Beth Mouser):

- Helen Short reminded the group that Yipes Stripes is going out of business end of January. They have put the dates on our quilt show banner. This should be considered before their closing.
- Jean Anne mentioned there is a location in Williston and that this concern has been brought forward to the quilt show committee.

2025 Raffle Quilt (Laurel Schaap & Sharon Perry): For those members who have not yet collected their raffle tickets, Sharon Perry will be mailing their tickets later this week.

Sugarhouse Gazette (Sharon Perry): Mary Jane announced:

- The newsletter can be found online [here](#). Each newsletter usually comes out at least 2 weeks before each meeting.
- Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, January 29th.
- **Please READ the newsletter for detailed information about the upcoming Zoom meetings as well as other good information.**

25 in 2025 Challenge (Sharon Perry)

- Form for 2025 Challenge is in the newsletter.
- How to participate: Find 25 projects (do not need to be all UFOs). *(Minutes continued on page 4)*

TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025

**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD
Treasurer's Report -- February 19, 2025**

Opening Balance \$10,624.67

Funds collected

QS Raffle sales - Members	\$30.00
QS Raffle sales - Craft Fairs	\$186.00
QS Boutique sales	\$55.00
Nanc Ekiert, Feb Workshop	\$30.00
QS Sponsor (1)	\$200.00

<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$501.00
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Subtotal \$11,125.67

Funds paid out

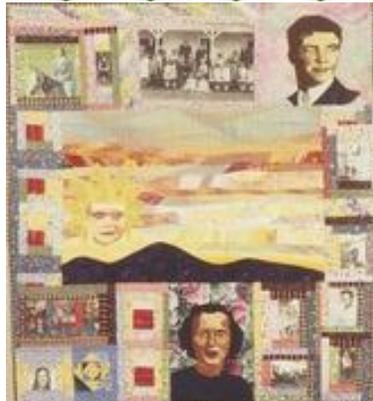
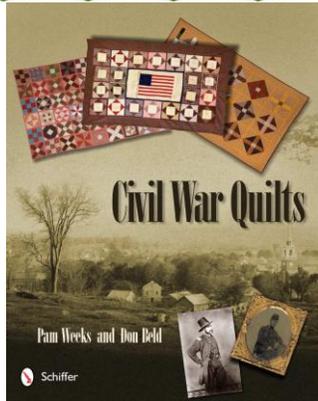
Acadia Ins Co, Property & Casualty ins	\$400.00
Sharon Perry, Survey Monkey & Postage to mail raffle tkts	\$119.54
Linda Diak Quilts, Jan Zoom presentation	\$150.00

<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$669.54
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Grand Total \$10,456.13

2025 YTD Collections: \$501.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer



NEW HAMPSHIRE QUILTER FEATURED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Pam Weeks, an author and quilter from Auburn, NH, will be doing a lecture on the Soft Protest Storytelling in Textiles for the guild on Wednesday, February 19th; **the February meeting will be on Zoom.** Her lecture will focus on the history of storytelling, raising social awareness and protest in textiles and quilts. Pam shares how stories were quilted into bed coverings as early as 1400, and protest quilts go back to 1830! You can learn more about Pam [here](#).

MONTHLY MEETING FORMAT

Unless otherwise noted, the monthly guild meeting will follow the following format for in-person meetings.

- 6:00 pm Doors open
 Sign in at membership table
 Sign up for monthly drawing if you haven't won this year
 Sign up for BOM raffle if you made one
 Sign up for comfort quilt drawing if you made a comfort quilt
- 6:30 pm Business Meeting
 Program for the evening
 Short Break as appropriate
 Show and Tell

**January 15, 2025 Guild Meeting Minutes (Cont.)**

- Three Rules:
 - You complete projects and keep track of your accomplishment.
 - At the end of day in December 2025 OR when you are done, send Sharon an e-mail with attached list at: VTquilter@gmail.com
 - Sharon will not accept notice of completion if you send to our Guild's e-mail. If you do not e-mail to her personal g-mail, then you will not be added to the list. She expressed that it is hard for her to check multiple e-mails to collect who submitted a form, so please comply with this request.

Block of the Month (Carol Stanley):

- Carol presented a sample of the February Block of the Month called "Twin Sisters", a pattern from 1825. Carol shared a story about the history of the block and then described and displayed how to put the blocks together.
- Instructions will also be posted on the guild FB page, as well as on the FCQG website under "Projects".
- Sharon Perry cautioned us to be aware this pattern creates a block that has all bias sides and to be careful not to stretch when pressing. TIP: Stay-stitch 1/8th-inch around the entire block to avoid stretch.
- Helen Short asked whether we needed to sew the sash-strips to the block, and Carol indicated that we do not. Just include them with your blocks for donation.
- Members are encouraged to complete blocks and bring all completed BOM blocks (December, January, February) to the NEXT in-person meeting which will be held in March.

Programs (Cont.) (Cathy Carlson):

- Cathy reminded members about the upcoming, February 22nd workshop with Nanc Ekiert and that there are a few openings left. Cost to participate is \$30. Please inform Cathy if you want to attend, and send your payment to Deb Dusablon. Once you have registered, a supply list will be sent via e-mail.
- Cathy reminded paid members to collect their scraps as Nanc has made up kits for each registered participant.
- Deb reminded members that the check should be made out to Franklin County Quilters Guild.
- Reminder to complete your "brown bag mystery". Bring it to the May meeting.

- Upcoming Event: February 19th, Pam Weeks' Lecture on History of Soft Protest Storytelling in Textiles (ZOOM meeting).

Other Business: Show-n-tell deferred to the next convened meeting due to Zoom connectivity difficulties.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Chase, 2nd by Carol Stanley. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Gale Weld, Secretary

OF NOTE: After the meeting it was deemed that every member's vote matters to determine Guild's new meeting location. The following e-mail was sent to all members RE: **"Guild Members' Survey on New Meeting Location"**

Hello all,

In the spirit of inclusion, we are giving you an opportunity to vote for a new meeting place for the rest of this year.

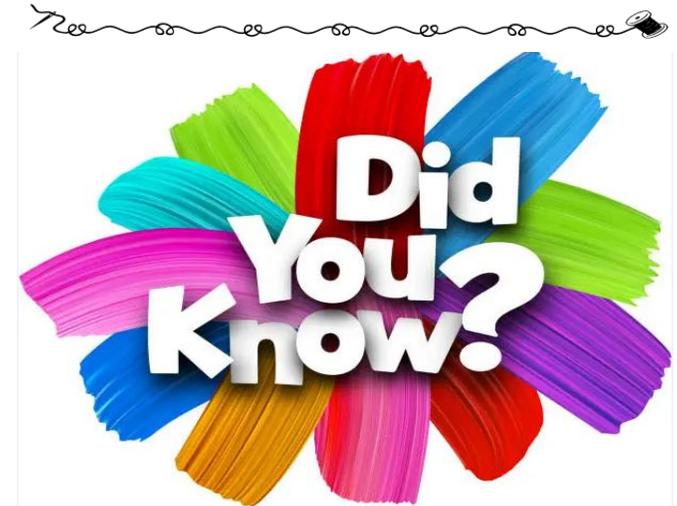
Sharon Perry has designed a survey which you will receive by email. You will be instructed to follow a link where the options will be provided and you can cast your vote anonymously.

Please take the time to have your voice heard as we move forward together during these changing times.

Piece by piece,

Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch Mary Jane Rossi



A regular column submitted by Peggy Paradee

ONLINE QUILT SHOPS

Did you know? There are three guild members who are local long-arm quilters that available for hire to topstitch your quilt on a long-arm.

Beverly Cook: You can reach Bev by phone or text message. Her contact is (802) 370-0934.

Sally Krupp: She prefers to be contacted by text messaging. Her contact information is (802) 466-2212.

April Walker: She prefers to be contacted by phone (802) 782-4631.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

The block handed out at the December meeting is called Black & White & Red All Over; instructions for the block can be found [here](#). Carol Stanley, this year’s Project Coordinator for the guild, says to use black, white and gray strips and red squares.

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.

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

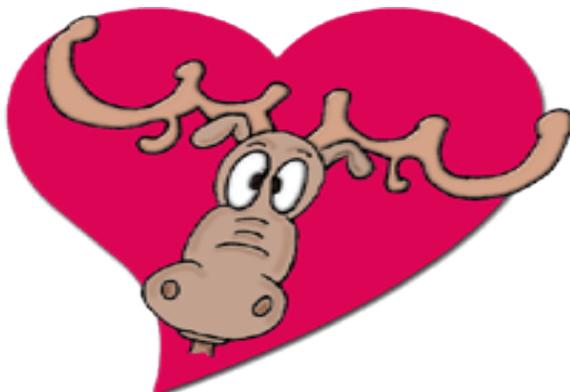
If you know of a guild member who is in need of encouragement or comfort due to an illness, bereavement, etc., please contact Diane Comeau, 802-310-1837. She will send out an appropriate card.



HOW TO MAKE AND ATTACH A QUILT SLEEVE

When preparing your quilts for the quilt show, you’ll need to add a sleeve to the quilt. The following links provide visual references for the proper construction of a quilt sleeve and how to attach it properly to the back of your quilt. If you’ve never made a quilt sleeve, check out these to see how.

- http://quilting.about.com/od/decoratingwithquilts/ss/quilt_sleeve.htm
- <http://www.empirequilters.net/pdf/sleeve01.pdf>
- <https://www.americanquilter.com/hanging-sleeve-instructions>
- <https://createwhimsy.com/projects/how-to-make-a-hanging-sleeve-for-a-quilt/>
- <https://jacquelynneveves.com/how-to-make-a-hanging-sleeve-for-a-quilt/>



Sally	Krupp	February	2
Virginia	Rasch	February	3
Rita	Dean	February	19

...and many more!!!





64 DAYS AND COUNTING...UNTIL THE 2025 QUILT SHOW

The 2025 Quilt Show is fast approaching, and the planning and preparations continue 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!!! Penny LaRoche has volunteered as the Quilt Registration coordinator and she wants to have the quilts registered sooner rather than later. **ALL quilts must be registered no later than March 1st**. The quilt registration form can be found [here](#). **As a reminder, all quilts, including those in the Small/Miniature category, must have a sleeve sewn (not pinned) to the back. The sleeve must be at least 4" wide.** See page 6 for instructions to put a sleeve on your quilt.

- **We need volunteers!!!** Shirley Babcock is in charge of getting volunteers for the quilt show. As an English proverb says, "Many hands make light work." There are jobs which remained unfilled. Be sure to take a look at the volunteer list found [here](#). If one of the remaining jobs fits in your schedule, please contact Shirley, 802-524-3768 or sbabcock2@hotmail.com, and let her know when you'd like to volunteer.

- **We need your raffle tickets!!!** Sharon Perry is the raffle ticket coordinator this year. 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. Once sold members can bring their sold tickets and money to the March guild meeting **OR** send the tickets and money (check(s) payable to FCQG) to Sharon Perry, PO Box 517, Montgomery Center, VT 05471. Be sure to include your return address on the envelope so Sharon can properly credit the ticket sales to your name. **All raffle tickets and money must be returned by March 19th at the guild meeting.**

2025 CHALLENGE QUILT – *MAKE IT 25!*

The 2025 Challenge Quilt is titled *Make It 25!* to commemorate the guild's 25th annual quilt show. Let your imagination run wild and include 25 somewhere, somehow in your challenge quilt. The perimeter of your Challenge Quilt must be no more than 100 inches. **A sleeve for hanging is required.**



QUILTCON 2025

QuiltCon is the largest modern quilting event in the world, hosted by the Modern Quilt Guild. With attendees coming from around the globe, QuiltCon features a vibrant quilt show full of competition quilts, community outreach quilts, and special exhibits as well as an enticing vendor hall, with all booths curated with the modern quilter in mind. QuiltCon also features lectures and workshops, available for registration with a four-day show pass.

QuiltCon 2025 will be held in Phoenix, AZ, February 20 – 23, 2025. You can find more information about QuiltCon [here](#).



RECIPE CORNER

CHERRY COLA CAKE

2¼ cups miniature marshmallows
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 3 cups sugar
 1½ teaspoons baking soda
 1½ cups butter, cubed
 1½ cups cherry-flavored cola
 4 tablespoons baking cocoa
 3 large eggs, room temperature
 ¾ cup buttermilk
 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract

For frosting:

1½ cups butter, softened
 2 cups confectioners' sugar
 2 jars (7 ounces each) marshmallow crème
 4 tablespoons frozen cherry-pomegranate concentrate, thawed
 Fresh sweet cherries with stems

Preheat oven to 350°. Line bottoms of 3 greased 9-in. round baking pans with parchment; grease paper. Divide marshmallows among pans.

In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar and baking soda. In a small saucepan, combine butter, cola and cocoa; bring just to a boil, stirring occasionally. Add to flour mixture, stirring just until moistened.

In a small bowl, whisk eggs, buttermilk and vanilla until blended; add to flour mixture, whisking constantly. Pour into prepared pans, dividing batter evenly. (Marshmallows will float to the top.)

Bake 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans 10 minutes before removing to wire racks; remove paper. Cool completely.

For frosting:

In a small bowl, beat butter and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Beat in marshmallow crème and juice concentrate on low speed just until combined; increase to high and beat until smooth.

Place 1 cake layer on a serving plate; spread top with 1 cup frosting. Repeat with second layer. Top with remaining cake layer; spread with remaining frosting. Decorate with cherries.

CHERRY-ALMOND STREUSEL TART

Pastry for single-crust pie (9 inches)
 ⅔ cup sugar
 3 tablespoons cornstarch
 Dash salt

4 cups fresh or frozen pitted tart cherries, thawed
 ⅛ teaspoon almond extract

For topping:

¼ cup quick-cooking oats
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 1 tablespoon slivered almonds
 2 tablespoons cold butter

Press pastry onto the bottom and up the sides of an ungreased 9-in. fluted tart pan with removable bottom; trim edges.

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir in cherries; bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook and stir for 1-2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in extract. Pour into crust.

For topping, combine the oats, flour, brown sugar and almonds. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over filling. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes or until topping is golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

CHOCOLATE CHIP CHERRY BARS

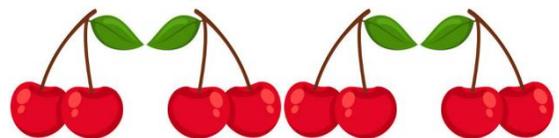
½ cup unsalted butter, melted (1 stick)
 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
 1 large egg
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 1 cup all-purpose flour
 ¼ teaspoon salt, optional
 ¾ to 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
 1 cup cherries, fresh or frozen

Preheat oven to 350F. Line an 8-by-8-inch pan with aluminum foil, spray with cooking spray; set aside.

In a medium microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter, about 60 seconds. Add brown sugar and stir to combine. Add the egg, vanilla, and stir to combine. Add the flour, salt, and stir until just combined, taking care not to over mix or the blondies will be tough.

Fold in chocolate chips and cherries; pour batter into prepared pan, smoothing it lightly with a spatula or offset knife if necessary.

Bake for 27 to 32 minutes, or until edges begin to slightly pull away from sides of pan and center is set. Allow bars to cool for at least 1 hour before slicing and serving. Blondies can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week or frozen for up to 3 months.



I'M NOT JUST FEBRUARY
by Annette Wynne

I'm not just February
With winds that blow
All day, and piled-up snow;
I'm Washington and Lincoln, too,
Who kept our country's flag for you!
I'm Valentine of airy grace—
With golden hearts and hearts of lace
And pretty cards that people send,
Quite as a secret, to a friend.
Though I am short of days and small,
I'm quite a big month, after all!

**FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR FEBRUARY:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqS8C3vTjIM>

Heart to Heart Quilt
Missouri Star Quilt Company



be
MINE



LINK TO BARN QUILT TRAIL OF NORTHERN VERMONT

<http://www.barnquiltsofnorthernvermont.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:

Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

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



February 20th is
National Cherry Pie Day



*"In February, every frosty morning holds the potential
for a brighter day." ~ Unknown*