

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 6
February 2026

Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch
Cindy Metayer

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Bonnie Evans

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Deb Dusablon

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Denise Chase

2026 Raffle Quilt

Denise Chase & Helen Short

2026 Charity Quilt

BINGO Quilt made by
FCQG members

President's Piece

Greetings,

Here is hoping this newsletter finds our merry band of creators in good health and spirit. The howling winds and freezing temperatures can certainly be discouraging for many of us. May we all find a nice warm fleece, fabulous fabric challenges, stitching success, fellowship, and wonderful memories to enjoy and warm our bodies and hearts.

Speaking of hearts, just a reminder that February is American Heart Month. It is a great time to seek ways to maintain our heart health and possibly lend support to others in need. The CDC website message indicates "You can't control the traffic, but you can control your risk for heart disease. Learn more at [cdc.gov/heartdisease](https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease)." You can show your support on National Wear Red Day, February 6. May you find a shade that day that suits you and remember, one member says she "never met a red she didn't like."

Yes, February 14 highlights a day for love and passion. May each of us make time for those warm feelings not only on that one day but for as much of the month as our hearts can hold and share with others.

February is "y mis bach" the "little month" in Welsh. The month may seem to fly by for many of us as we focus on finishing up those quilts we hope to display at the April show. Looking forward to our next meeting, March 11, to enjoy the companionship of the group, presentations, and seeing fabulous show-and-tell quilts.

Piecefully yours,

Jean Anne Branch
2025-2026 Co-President

Cindy Metayer
2025-2026 Co-President



2026 Guild Calendar

January: NO MEETING

January 31st: Sew-In at NMC Conference Room,
8am – 4pm

February: NO MEETING

**February 28th: Sew-In at NMC
Conference Room, 8am – 4pm**

March 11th: What Do Judges Look for When
They Examine Your Quilt?
with Denise Chase

March 14th: Sew-In at NMC Conference
Room, 8am – 4pm

2026 Guild Calendar

April 8th: It's All About Labels with Carolyn
Babcock & Sharon Perry

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

August 12th: Scrap Quilting with Lisa Torres

2026 Guild Calendar

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 Panel Play (Reveal)
and QOV Presentations

December 9th: Pot Luck with Gift
Exchange and Food Shelf Drive

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- February 11, 2026**

Opening Balance		\$13,399.89
Funds collected		
Sponsors		\$350.00
	<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$350.00
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$13,749.89
Funds paid out		
Acadia Ins Co, Property & Casualty ins		\$400.00
	<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$400.00
	Grand Total	\$13,349.89

2026 YTD Collections: \$350.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

QUILTING PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR 7 TIPS AND TRICKS from A Quilting Life

Clean up Your Sewing Area: Do a quick clean-up of your space. Don't get overwhelmed by this step. You don't need to completely declutter your space or reorganize your stash. Just do some basic housekeeping so that you can move forward. If your area needs lots of organizational love, plan to start working on that at another time in the year.

- **List All of Your Works in Progress:** Listing your Works in Progress is one of the very most important steps to take when doing your quilting planning for the New Year. You can use any notebook or quilting planner, or download a works in progress tracker. You can use the notes section on the planner to jot down your current progress for each project.
- **Create a Project Bucket List:** Next thing is to go over your project bucket list. Keep an ongoing list of projects that interest you and update it frequently. If you don't have one, just start a list in your planner or notebook and think about which of the projects you might want to incorporate into your upcoming quilting and sewing year.
- **Think About Challenges for the Year:** Take time to think about possible quilting challenges for the year ahead such as:
 - Making a block a day
 - Trying a new technique
 - Making a certain number of charity quilts
 - Finishing a certain number of works in progress (think 26 in 2026)

You can also choose a quilting challenge on a monthly or quarterly basis if that would work best for you. And remember, you can always change up your challenge ideas.

- **Use your Calendar:** Look at your calendar and schedule sewing time. If you have a regular schedule, you can probably schedule in a few sewing sessions each week that will work throughout the year. And if your schedule changes frequently, you can schedule your sewing time on a weekly basis.
- **Make a Quarterly Plan:** Come up with a plan for the first quarter of the year. Don't plan specific sewing projects further out than a quarter at a time. Look over your works in progress and bucket list items and choose at least three things to work on for the quarter.
- **Schedule Regular Reviews:** Along with setting goals and scheduling time for quilting, set aside a regular review time. With this time, you have the flexibility to change things up whenever you need. Review everything at the end of each month when looking ahead to the next month's goals.



QUILT SHOW NEWS



26th ANNUAL QUILT SHOW: 70 DAYS AND COUNTING

The 2026 Quilt Show is less than 10 weeks 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 26th, we had 47 quilts registered, and we need more to fill City Hall. Although the deadline to register your quilt is March 11th, please turn in your entry forms and photos as soon as possible so Penny LaRoche 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've added 2 new easy jobs: Friday morning 2 volunteers to pick up the quilt show supplies from the guild's storage unit in Fairfax; and Sunday afternoon 2 volunteers to return those supplies.** *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.

- **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!!!** You can pick up quilt show poster from 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. Let's get the posters displayed in our local communities.

- **We need your Challenge Quilt entries!!!** The Challenge Quilt theme is "Celebrate America". Beth Mouser has suggested some places to get inspiration include the American Revolution series on PBS, YouTube videos, and fabric stores that are getting fabrics celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The quilt size limit is 100" around the perimeter.

26TH ANNUAL FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILT SHOW: CELEBRATE AMERICA!

NEED A QUILT SLEEVE?

Since quilts entered in the guild's quilt show, listed below are some tutorials to show you how to attach a quilt sleeve to the back of your quilt. For those who are wondering what purpose a quilt sleeve serves, it provides a way to hang a quilt using cross poles while protecting the actual quilt. One critical step many quilters overlook is whip-stitching the quilt-side of the open end of the sleeve down to the back of the quilt. By doing so, it prevents the pole from touching the back of the quilt. Some of the poles have been known to have burrs on the ends which could snag the fabric on the back of the quilt. So don't overlook that crucial step.

There are many ways to attach a sleeve as shown in the several tutorials listed below. Pick your favorite one and protect your quilts.

<https://www.freshlypieced.com/blog/2014/08/my-first-tutorial-for-we-all-sew.html>

<https://carolelylesshaw.com/making-quilt-hanging-sleeve/>

<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com/how-to-quilt/finishing/machine-minute-add-hanging-sleeve> (video tutorial)

<https://lisabongean.com/2020/05/05/how-to-attach-a-quilt-sleeve-binding-to-a-quilt/> (includes binding)

<https://quiltsocial.com/sewing-a-hanging-sleeve-to-your-quilt-the-easy-way/>

<https://newquilters.com/how-to-make-a-quilt-hanging-sleeve/>

<https://www.joscountryjunction.com/a-friday-finish-and-how-to-add-a-sleeve-to-a-quilt-tutorial/>

https://www.quilts.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/sleeves_binding.pdf (includes binding)

<https://www.saqa.com/sites/default/files/resources/Hanging%20Sleeve--2018.pdf>

<https://jacquelynnesteves.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/hanging-sleeve-tutorial.pdf>

<https://www.suu.edu/suma/pdf/quilt-sleeve-instruction.pdf>

<https://redriverquiltguild.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Make-a-Hanging-Sleeve.pdf>



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

All members are invited to the “Paper Piecing” Guild Sew Along on Saturday, February 28th, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, in the NMC Conference Room. Bring your fabric and your favorite paper-pieced pattern(s) along with your sewing supplies (machine, notions, etc.). Members will have an opportunity to share their fabrics if desired and learn about some fast and easy patterns for paper-pieced 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. We will collect them and keep them until guild members have an opportunity to sew them into quilts.

On Saturday, March 14th, the guild will host another sew along featuring Slow Sewing and Hand Sewing. More details will be shared in next month’s newsletter about the sew along in March. Stay tuned...

If you’re not interested in making the specific project, you are welcome to work on your own projects. It’s just nice to get together with those who share a love of quilting.

MORE WINTER SEW ALONGS PLANNED ON ZOOM

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

- Sunday, February 8, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, February 22, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 11, 10:00 am – 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.

EMBROIDERY PATTERN FOR VALENTINE’S DAY





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.



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

Sandy Lane has offered another block pattern as a bonus BOM. It is a heart block just in time for Valentine's Day. One guild member is making a block for each of her grandchildren. 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. Click [here](#) for a video tutorial for the block. And click [here](#) for a different video tutorial to make a scrappy heart block.

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.



Virginia	Rasch	February	3
Rita	Dean	February	19

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

CHICKEN WITH CHERRY WINE SAUCE

4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (8 oz. each)
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon pepper
 7 tablespoons butter, divided
 ⅔ cup dry red wine
 1 tablespoon sugar
 ½ cup fresh or frozen pitted dark sweet cherries, thawed

Preheat oven to 350°. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. In a large cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet, heat 2 tablespoons butter over medium-high heat. Brown chicken on both sides; bake until a thermometer reads 165°, 12-15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine wine and sugar. Bring to a boil; cook, uncovered, until liquid is reduced by half, 4-5 minutes. Reduce heat to low; whisk in remaining butter, 1 tablespoon at a time, until blended. Stir in cherries; serve with chicken.

PORK CHOPS WITH CHERRY SAUCE

1 tablespoon finely chopped shallot
 1 teaspoon olive oil
 1 cup fresh or frozen pitted dark sweet cherries, halved
 ⅓ cup ruby port wine
 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
 ½ teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon coriander seeds, crushed
 ¾ teaspoon ground mustard
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon pepper
 2 bone-in pork loin chops (7 ounces each)
 2 teaspoons olive oil

In a small saucepan, sauté shallot in oil until tender. Stir in the cherries, wine, vinegar and salt. Bring to a boil; cook until liquid is reduced by half, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the coriander, mustard, salt and pepper; rub over chops. In a large skillet, cook chops in oil over medium heat for 4-5 minutes on each side or until a thermometer reads 145°. Serve with sauce.

FROSTED CHERRY DROPS

For cookies:

1 package white cake mix
 ½ cup sour cream
 3 tablespoons cherry juice or water
 ¼ teaspoon almond extract
 1 egg

½ cup finely chopped maraschino cherries

For cherry frosting:

2 ½ cups powdered sugar
 ¼ cup margarine, soft
 1 tablespoon cherry juice
 3 tablespoons half and half
 Maraschino cherries

For cookies:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, sour cream, cherry juice (or water), almond extract and egg; stir until well blended. Fold in cherries. Drop by teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart, onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 8 to 12 minutes, or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets. Frost cookies with cherry frosting (recipe below); top with ¼ maraschino cherry.

For cherry frosting:

In small bowl combine all frosting ingredients except maraschino cherries, adding enough half and half for desired consistency. Frost cooled cookies. Top with ¼ cherry.

CLASSIC CHERRY DELIGHT

For crust:

7 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
 1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
 3 tablespoons granulated sugar

For filling:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
 1 cup powdered sugar
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 1 8-oz container Cool Whip
 1 can (21-oz) cherry pie filling

For crust:

In a medium bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter; mix well to combine. Pat firmly into the bottom of a sprayed 8 x 8 baking dish. Set aside.

For filling:

In large bowl, mix cream cheese until smooth and free of any lumps. Add powdered sugar and vanilla; mix well. Add Cool Whip; mix until combined, but don't overmix.

Spread the filling evenly over the graham cracker crust, using a spoon or offset spatula. Spoon the cherry pie filling over the top and carefully spread it evenly over the filling. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving.



THE SNOWDROP
By Alfred Lord Tennyson

Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid,
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,

Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR FEBRUARY:

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

Sew Cute Runner for February
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, February 18th, 2026

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



February is National Bird Feeding Month



*"February, the month of love, is a time to cherish the bonds
that warm our hearts." ~ D.A. Blankinship*