

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 13, Issue 8
April 2021

President's Piece

Vernal Greetings,

When I think of the vernal equinox my mind automatically brings up its partner the autumnal equinox. Now, the autumnal equinox gets a lot of admiring press due to the bright fall colors in our forests, and we never let a fall season go by without a lot of palaver about where the color is best and when it will be at its peak in our neck of the woods. But the vernal equinox, in its own shy way, offers us a different color panorama in the woods. One of the upsides of our interstate highway system is that it offers so many vistas of the muted, pastel colors of trees' budding leaves and plain flowers. They are such a pleasant prelude to the explosion of green that the summer brings. Welcome Spring!

Welcome, too, to Gudrun Erla who will be joining our meeting this month. I expect a lively and colorful experience from her time with us. Welcome, also, to representatives from Franklin Carriage House and Grady's Golden Goodness, this year's two recipients of Charity Fundraising Quilts. Since they will be unable to accept the quilts at our meeting (pause here to give a short sigh for the time when we could meet in person) Helen Short and Jean Anne Branch will deliver the quilts to them. Thank you Helen and Jean Anne.

Looking forward to the time when we can give the word zoom back to Superman I am.

Sincerely yours,

John Rouleau, 2020-2021 President



President

John Rouleau

Vice President

Teri Brunelle

Secretary

Helen Short

Treasurer

Deb Dusablou

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
March 17th, 2021 via Zoom**

John Rouleau called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. There were 33 members in 30 locations joining on Zoom. There were also two guests, Michelle Renee Hiatt and Mary Neighbours.

Consent Agenda: Passed on a motion from Sharon Perry, seconded by Denise Chase.

Chair Reports:

- **2022 Quilt Show:** The St. Albans City Hall has been reserved for April 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2022.
- **2021 Charity Quilt:** Two requests have been received from nonprofit organizations. One from The Franklin Carriage House which provides housing and supportive services for Senior Citizens and the other from Grady Golden Goodness which provides needed items to children and supports education. Guild members familiar with each organization spoke eloquently about the services provided by each. A motion was made by Sharon Perry, seconded by Diane Kane that the Guild award a quilt to each to raffle to benefit their organization. The motion passed unanimously. Denise Chase stated that she had 2 large Comfort Quilts and a member could choose which one they wanted to add to the quilt that was already donated to the Guild for the 2021 Charity Quilt. John commented that this is one of the things he loves about the Guild, our generosity.
- **Comfort Quilts:** Denise announced that members and nonmembers are dropping quilts off to her and some are picking up kits. Home Health has a need for baby quilts, lap quilts and some bed quilts-singles and larger. Currently Denise is able to fill the need but she urges members to continue to make Comfort Quilts.
- **Round Robin:** The directions for the next round are in the March newsletter.
- **Newsletter:** Sharon stated the deadline is 3/31 to get items to her that need to go in the April Newsletter. A reminder was also given about the "Yo Yo You're Sew Creative Challenge". Details are in the newsletter and if you need yo-yos, contact Nanc Ekiert.
- **Sew Along:** The next Sew Along is April 11th. Members are exploring making some Sew Alongs available during the week. The Sew Along is like a quilting bee over Zoom. Ideas and fun happen as

well as free quilt patterns sent out hourly to all members present at the end of the designated hour.

- **Membership:** Penny reported that there are 57 paid members with 2 checks in the mail which will bring our Guild to 59. Not bad for the year during a pandemic.
- **Programs:** April's program will be by Gudrun Erla of GE Designs and the host of Topsy Tuesdays and Happy Fridays on Facebook and YouTube. She is from Iceland and now lives in Minnesota. Gudrun designs the Stripology rulers for Creative Grids as well as unique quilt patterns. She has published many books over the years. Click [here](#) for a link to Gudrun's website.

Michelle Renee Hiatt provided a trunk show for the March meeting; she will host a workshop on the Periwinkle swirl pattern on Saturday, March 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.
Respectfully submitted by Helen Short

QUILT TIPS

- If you're having trouble putting together fabrics for a quilt, try starting with one pattern that you really love and then finding other prints that match the colors or coordinate. You don't even have to use the original fabric in the quilt; it's just a great way to inspire you to start.
- Lay out your quilt pieces before you sew them together. Take a picture to see if you like the arrangement. Planning it out beforehand makes it all a little easier.
- Spraying your fabric pieces with starch before piecing them together. This will keep your fabric stiff so that it doesn't pucker, gather or fray during the sewing process.
- Buy coloring books and wall stencils as ideas for applique projects.
- Attach leftover batting to the Swiffer broom (or other dust mop) and use to collect loose threads from the floor.
- Make up brushes and pipe cleaners work well to clean out the hard-to-reach bobbin area in your sewing machine.
- Tape a brown paper bag to the table to catch threads while you're sewing.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2021**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- April 21, 2021**

Opening Balance		\$6,786.18
Funds collected		
Membership	\$20.00	
QS Raffle tickets	\$21.00	
Michelle Hiatt workshop	\$270.00	
	<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$311.00
	<i>Sub-Total</i>	\$7,097.18
Funds paid out		
St Albans City Hall, QS 2022 rental	\$510.00	
	<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$510.00
	Grand Total	\$6,587.18

2021 YTD Collections: \$576.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

MORE SEW ALONG DAYS IN APRIL AND MAY

Don't miss out on the fun and sewing! The next one is the Bunny Hop Sew Along on Sunday, April 11th, starting at 10:00 am and concluding around 4:00 pm. Along with good conversations and lots of laughter, there will be a Jelly Bean Race...it's just like making a Jelly Roll Race except there are jelly beans dropped along the way. There will be more free patterns with an Easter or Spring theme. And of course there will be a drawing at the end of the Sew Along. The prize will be Bonnie Hunter's pattern, *Tulip Time*, along with a stack of scrappy charm squares. Three weeks later, the Cinco de Mayo Sew Along will be held on May 2nd. Be sure to mark all the Sew Alongs for April and May so you too can join in the fun!

Members are enjoying the sew alongs so much some have asked for even more during the week. We're working on getting a few weekday sew alongs scheduled...more information to follow.

QUILT TIPS FROM A LONG-ARMER

- When piecing a backing for your quilt, please keep the seam horizontal instead of vertical. It helps to align the quilt on the long-arm machine and allows for a smoother finish and fewer potential puckers.
- Be sure to cut off the selvage edges and use at least a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance when seaming your backing.
- Include an extra 4 inches minimum around all 4 sides; your quilt backing should be 8 inches larger than your quilt top.
- Be sure to square and trim the backing and clean the threads off both the quilt top and the backing.
- Press your quilt top and quilt backing.

**RECIPE CORNER:
BLACK FOREST TRIFLE**

1 box devil's food cake, prepared according to package directions

1 (5.9 oz) box instant chocolate pudding, prepared according to package directions

3 cups whipped cream (or 8-oz container Cool Whip)

1 (21 oz) can cherry filling

Crumble cake into small pieces.

Layer, cake, pudding, cherry filling and whipped cream. Continue layering until all ingredients have been used.

Refrigerate for at least one hour to let the flavors meld and cake soak up the good stuff. Serve chilled!

**RECIPE CORNER:
LEMON BLUEBERRY TRIFLE**

8 oz cream cheese (1 block), softened

2 (3.4oz) boxes instant lemon pudding mix (dry mix only, do not prepare according to box)

3 cups milk brought to room temperature

8 oz container Cool Whip, thawed

1 Angel food tube cake, cut into 1-inch pieces

4 cups blueberries

Sliced lemon for garnish (optional)

Beat the cream cheese and the dry pudding mix together until smooth. Slowly add the room temp milk until smooth. Fold in 2 cups of the whipped topping.

In a 3-quart bowl, layer 1/3 of the cake, 1/3 of the pudding and 1/3 of the blueberries. Repeat layers two more times. Garnish with reserved whipped topping and lemons.

Cover and chill until ready to serve.

NOTES

- Make sure milk is at room temperature so that the cream cheese doesn't seize up.
- Recipe uses store-bought angel food cake for the cake layer, but buttery pound cake would be equally delicious.
- You could also make a homemade angel food cake!

**RECIPE CORNER:
WHITE CHOCOLATE LASAGNA**

1 package Golden Oreos

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

½ cup margarine or butter

1 cup powdered sugar

1 large container Cool Whip (16 ounces)

2 small packages white chocolate or vanilla instant pudding

3 cups milk

White chocolate bar (to make curls with)

Begin by crushing Oreos. For a very fine mixture, place Oreos in food processor. Place in a Ziploc baggie and add melted butter. Mix until it is well combined.

Press into the bottom of a 9x13 pan spreading out to cover the entire bottom of the pan.

In a medium bowl, blend cream cheese, margarine/butter, powdered sugar and ½ of the cool whip. Blend well and pour over Golden Oreo crust.

In another bowl, make pudding by adding milk to bowl and then instant pudding. Whisk together until pudding thickens. Pour over the cream cheese layer.

Refrigerate for at least 5 minutes.

Top off with the rest of the Cool Whip. Add white chocolate shavings.

Refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving.

**RECIPE CORNER:
SCOTT'S BEEF CURRY**

1 lb. stew meat

2 large cans tomato sauce

3 apples, peeled and diced

2 onions, diced

1 cup raisins*

Curry powder to taste (4 – 6 tsp.)

Garlic powder

Pepper

2 bay leaves

1 tbsp. butter or margarine

Pour tomato sauce in large pot and heat at low temperature.

Brown stew meat in a skillet; season with pepper, garlic powder, and bay leaves. Add to tomato sauce.

Sauté apples and onions in butter until onions are translucent. Add apples and onions to sauce.

Add curry powder to taste (as mild and spicy as you like). Simmer for at least 1 hour, the longer the better.

*Add raisins about 1 hour before serving. Snickersnee serve with rice.



Yo-Yo You're Sew Creative 2021 Challenge

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!

2022 RAFFLE QUILT



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



2021 Charity Quilts

Yes, you read that right! The guild voted to donate a quilt to the Franklin Homestead & Carriage House and a second quilt to Grady's Golden Goodness. Members agreed both organizations were worthwhile

charities and deserved the guild's support. A representative from each organization will be joining us for the April meeting to tell us about their organizations. The quilts will be presented separately with pictures to follow.

The quilt pictured was donated to the Franklin Homestead & Carriage House. The quilt top was made and donated by Helen Short. It was quilted by Diane Comeau. The quilt is Bonnie Hunter's 2019-2020 Mystery Quilt, *Frolic*.

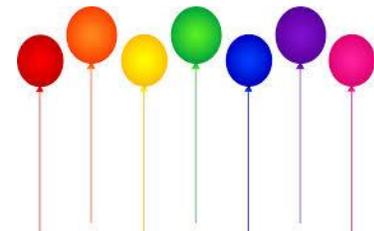


2021 Raffle Quilt

(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 raffle will be held 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 name and return address so Penny can properly credit the ticket sales to your name.



April	19	April	Walker
April	25	Linda	Nadeau

...and many more!!!



5 Reasons to Show and Share Your Quilts

From the Quilting Hub



For April, do whatever you want to complete the quilt by May. If you are happy with the size, you may leave it as it is completed in March. We hope you have enjoyed this Virtual Round Robin experience. We look forward to seeing your completed project.

APRIL GUILD MEETING FEATURES GUDRUN ERLA GISLADOTTIR, GE QUILT DESIGNS

Gudrun Erla Gisladdottir, of GE Designs, will be the guest speaker on April 21st. 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."

As a note, guild members will be joining the Zoom meeting hosted by GE Quilt Designs. As a result, the April meeting will NOT be recorded. If you want to see Gudrun's trunk show, be sure to join the Zoom meeting on April 21st.

Our final guest presenter for the membership year will be Stephanie McCall on Wednesday, May 19th. She will give a talk & trunk show on Quilt Restoration.

Our June meeting will be a celebration of 30 years as a guild. Part of the fun will be the yo-yo competition. Be doing something creative with your 10 yo-yos. Who knows what we will be allowed to do in June. Stay tuned true believers!

Happy 30th Birthday to the Franklin County Quilters Guild

Do you attend Guild meetings, workshops, retreats, or classes? Do you participate in Show and Tell? Here are a few reasons why you really should participate.

Showing is Sharing: Do you know that when you show your work you are sharing and helping your quilting friends to grow in their art? When fellow quilters share their work and tell us a little bit about the process they have used, they are helping others to be inspired to try new techniques or color combinations in their quilts. This is a great way to help your fellow quilter to break out of their "box" of quilting knowledge.

Showing to Teach: Show your quilt and tell what tools you used for your construction. Letting your fellow quilters know about tools that worked well for you, or ones you found challenging and not worth the money, can be very helpful to them. We have all looked at tools at shows or online and wondered if there were really as good as they were marketed to be, by sharing your experiences using these tools, others will know if they should save their money for something else or that this would be a great purchase for them.

Sharing for Feedback and Ideas: Have you been working on a quilt and you just keep feeling like it needs "something else" but you can't decide what that is? Show and Tell time at your Guild meeting, workshop, retreat, or class can be the perfect time to ask for feedback and ideas of what that "extra little something" could be. Believe me, quilters are more than happy to share their opinions and experiences with you, if you just provide them the opportunity.

Sharing to Meet Like-Minded Quilters: Are you fairly new to your quilting group and want to make friends with quilters who have similar interests? Getting up during Show and Tell and sharing your quilt with others will let them know what kind of quilting you enjoy, and possibly lead to a good conversation and a new quilting bestie. Even if that does not happen, you are likely to receive some nice "oohs and aahs" for your quilt and you could be invited to a bee where you can meet even more quilters.

Sharing for Encouragement: Let's face it, there are some people who are ever present at meetings, but that you never hear from because they are shy, or concerned that their work "isn't good enough". But, by seeing that there are lots of people sharing their quilts of all different skill levels, you may encourage them to share for the first time, so go forth and show that beautiful art that you have created and invite your friends to do the same.



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 April meeting, photos should be sent to Sharon no later than Sunday, April 18th.**

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 April 21st meeting will be sent out on Wednesday, April 14th.**

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.

APRIL WORD SEARCH

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

REUSE
BULBS
EARTH DAY
EGGS
TULIPS
SPROUT
RAIN BOOTS
TAX DAY
CHICKS
GREEN
ECOLOGY
BUTTERFLY
HYACINTH
SHOWERS
BUNNY
UMBRELLA
EASTER
POLLIWOG
BLOOMING
POLLUTION
GRASS
RECYCLE
REDUCE
LAMB

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.barnquiltsfornorthernvermont.org/>.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter:**Wednesday, April 28th, 2021**

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



***“The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other
364 days of the year.” – Mark Twain***