

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 17, Issue 9
May 2025

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

President's Piece

Smile...it's May!

May! We have made it to the glorious month of May! The winter seems longer and longer each year. While that sounds crazy, think about all the dreary days we endured from late October through March! We got through it, more than likely, by cutting, sewing, pressing and quilting those masterpieces we snuggle under for warmth and comfort.

Many seeds and plants that slept through the winter have come to life yet again... that hope of Spring!! We count on it. The bright yellow of the forsythia gives way to the sweet fragrance of the lilacs. This is the time of growth and change presented to us year after year by Mother Nature!

Our Guild has experienced a winter's sleep as well. We met remotely from our homes only to "awaken" to change. This new meeting place that we waited for patiently throughout the winter has provided us the space to grow our quilting community. With smiles and excitement, we are nurturing a relationship with our host and strengthening the bonds within our group.

MAY. Tam Mossman had the right idea! "The month of May is opening night, homecoming and graduation all rolled up into one."

Piece by piece,

Jean Anne Branch
2024-2025 Co-President

Mary Jane Rossi
2024-2025 Co-President



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

March 15th Workshop with Nanc Ekiert, NMC
Conference Room RESCHEDULED

March 19th Guild Members'
Skill Sharing Session

2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

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

April 4th Quilt Show Set-Up

April 5th & 6th 25th Annual Quilt Show

April 9th Strippers Night!

Left-Right-Center Strip Poker Game

**May 14th Modern Quilts with Jess Peck
Brown Bag Exchange (return)**

June 11th Potluck & Trunk Sale
All proceeds to benefit the guild
(Doors open at 5:30 pm; potluck at 6 pm)

Memorial Day

Remember & Honor

Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Mary Jane Rossi
 Location: American Legion, 100 Parah Drive, St. Albans, VT

Minutes for General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jean Anne Branch for our monthly meeting. She greeted all members in attendance and thanked members for the great quilt show. People were so excited. Thanks to all for a really good show! She went on to say how color inspires our quilts and read a poem titled, "The Color We Carry".

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Deb Trahan and seconded by Helen Bicknell to accept the March 19th Secretary and April Treasurer reports. All in favor, motion carried.

Announcements:

Jean Anne asked Sharon Perry to present a proposed change to the Guild's Bylaws. Sharon mentioned it is a generic change to Article VI Meetings Section 1. Members were presented with this change in writing for consideration. We will vote on proposed change to the Guild's Bylaws next month.

Chair Reports:**Quilt Show (Mary King and Beth Mouser):**

- Mary King expressed her sincere gratitude to all who participated in the show and especially to those who volunteered.
- Count for Saturday attendance was 419 and count for Sunday attendance 218 (total 637)
- Boutique grossed \$1,342 with the guild making \$187
- Raffle ticket sales \$3,021
- Donation table collected \$614
- Carly Williams (a member of the CVQG) won the Raffle Quilt and was a guest at the meeting.
- Jean Anne received an e-mail from Kay Courson of Country Thyme Vermont. Kay stated that it was a really great quilt show, and she felt all quilts displayed were ribbon worthy. She expressed her sincere thanks in particular to those members who helped with vendor set-up and take-down.
- Jean Anne announced there was a tie in the people's choice Bed Quilt category. Holly Bressette was presented a yellow ribbon for her quilt "Gone Fishing".

Comfort Quilts (Denise Chase):

- Kits available to be taken, some for piecing and some to be quilted.
- Denise announced that she and Helen Short have been meeting and putting bindings on quilts.
- We have another location to donate quilts. Denise asked Jean Anne to present the information. A new site called "Hope Recovery Program" located on South Main Street in St. Albans. A 5-6 bed location for women on the path to recovery that supports sober living. Jean Anne felt we could come up with 5 bed quilts for this new site. Question was raised as to whether the women will be able to keep the quilt once discharged. Jean Anne plans to inquire about this. It was suggested that we consider adding a label to these quilts to include an inspirational message from the guild.

Bingo Quilt:

- Jean Anne announced we need to make a decision about the Bingo Quilt.

- Sharon Perry made a motion to use this quilt as the 2026 Charity Quilt for a Non-Profit in Franklin/Grand Isle County requesting a fund raiser quilt. Deb Trahan seconded.
- We need to have people submit a letter of request for this quilt.
- Vote: All in favor. None opposed.
- Sharon Perry also explained that it is not beneficial to have more than one charity quilt per year as multiple quilts creates competition for the organizations and the guild in ticket sales.

Membership (Penny LaRochelle):

- Penny announced 69 paid members and 2 guests. Present at meeting: 39
- Before the end of the meeting, one of the guests joined the guild making 70 paid members.

Block of the Month (Carol Stanley):

- Sandy Lane presented a sample of the May Block of the Month called "Stretched Star" by Nickel Quilts on behalf of Carol Stanley.
- Instructions will also be posted on the FCQG website under "Projects".
- Members are encouraged to bring completed blocks to the May meeting.
- April BOM: Approximately 42 blocks. Winner: Carol Mahoney

Announcement:

- Mary Jane pointed out that the American Legion had provided the use of their sound system for our meetings. Alleviating a cost to the Guild.
- She also pointed out that the earliest we should arrive at this site is 6pm. We have been granted use of the facility from 6pm – 9pm. Meeting starts at 6:30pm.
- Co-Presidents will be inquiring and clarifying our trunk sale program at this site during our June meeting and report back in May.

Programs (Cathy Carlson and John Rouleau):

- Cathy announced:
 - We will have a busy May meeting. Please remember to bring your brown bags for exchange and show-n-tell.
 - Jess Peck of the Vermont Modern Quilt Guild will be presenting.
 - John announced tonight's Left-Right-Center 2½-inch strip poker game.

Sugarhouse Gazette (Sharon Perry): Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, April 16th, the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The deadline for all future newsletters will be the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Drawings:

- Membership Winner: Holly Bressette
- Comfort Quilt: Nanc Ekiert

Show-n-Tell followed

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Perry. 2nd by Beth Brault. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Gale Weld, Secretary



TREASURER’S REPORT FOR MAY 2025

FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD

Treasurer's Report -- May 14, 2025

Opening Balance \$10,137.85

Funds Collected

QS Pre-Raffle	\$505.00
QS Raffle Sales	\$1,229.00
QS Donations	\$614.00
QS Boutique	\$1,342.00

<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$3,690.00
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Subtotal \$13,827.85

Funds Paid Out

Helen Short, 2026 Raffle Quilt raffle fabric	\$77.86
Peggy Paradee, QS Pole clamps (30)	\$90.63
Kathy Katz, QS Flowers for entry display	\$37.41
Ace Hardware, QS Pole clamps (9)	\$28.80
Bonnie Evans, Boutique reimbursement	\$27.00
Shirley Babcock, Boutique reimbursement	\$472.50
Cindy Metayer, Boutique reimbursement	\$42.30
Teri Brunelle, Boutique reimbursement	\$37.50
Peggy Paradee, Boutique reimbursement	\$576.00
Nanc Ekiert, comfort quilt backing fabric	\$256.80
Denise Chase, QS Ribbons	\$9.08
Penny LaRoche, QS Tape	\$22.02

<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$1,677.90
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Grand Total **\$12,149.95**

2025 YTD Collections: \$4,898.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer



VERMONT MODERN QUILT GUILD FEATURED AT MAY MEETING

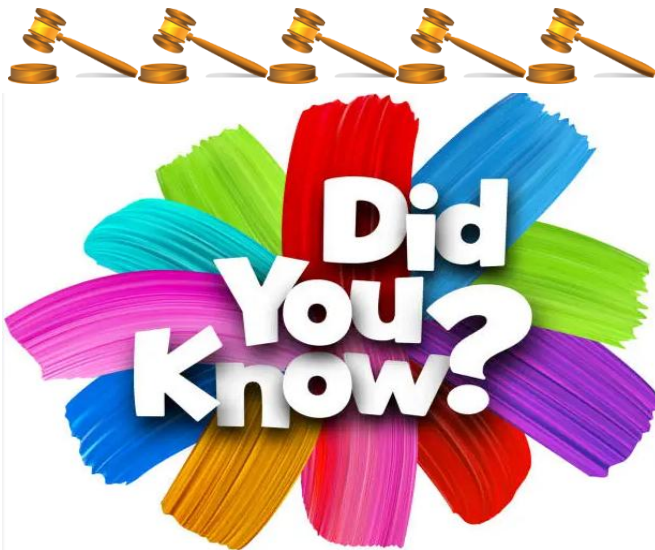
Jess Peck, a member of the VT Modern Quilt Guild (VTMQG), will be talking to the guild about the VTMQG activities. The VTMQG meets the second Sunday of each month, at the Vermont Commons School in South Burlington. For more information about VTMQG, visit their website [here](#). Also, guild members are reminded to bring what they’ve made for the Brown Bag Exchange.

Don’t forget the new meeting location is at the American Legion, 100 Parah Drive, St Albans, VT, on May 14th, the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

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



8 SEWING MACHINE TIPS THE EXPERTS WANT YOU TO KNOW

Did you know? The sewing machine experts have some important tips for using your sewing machine.

- 1. Don't pull thread backwards through your machine.** When you need to change thread, snip it from the spool and pull it through the needle and out of your machine. Pulling it backwards can cause lint to come off the thread and build up in your machine. Even if you are using good-quality thread, it's a good practice to follow.
- 2. Use the correct bobbins for your machine.** Take care when using bobbins that didn't come with your machine. If you use a bobbin that's even a slightly different size, it can wreak havoc. If you look closely at the image above you can see the subtle height differences in just these examples. Check your manual to match any new bobbins to the correct size, and when in doubt, don't take the risk.
- 3. When in doubt, check the plug.** You are ready to get sewing and you suddenly find your machine isn't working. First check your power plug at your machine

and then the wall. It seems silly, but we've found ourselves worrying something is wrong and all that was needed was to plug it in.

4. Never turn the handwheel away from you. When manually raising and lowering the needle, you should only turn the handwheel towards you (towards the front of the machine). After turning the wheel to lift the needle, you should keep turning towards you to complete the cycle and lower the needle back down. Why? Turning the handwheel the wrong way can mess up the timing on your machine and could lead to costly repairs. The one exception would be if you have a bobbin thread jam, you can turn it a small amount towards the back to help release the tension. Don't believe us? Check your manual (it's sometimes a very subtle mention). Otherwise, do your sewing machine a favor and only turn the handwheel towards you.

5. Change your needle regularly. Change your needle with each new project or roughly for every 16 hours of sewing. If you sew a lot, you'll want to change your needle a lot. It helps you get an accurate stitch and has the same benefits you'd find from using a sharp knife vs. a dull knife in the kitchen (everything just works better). Also, be sure you check your needle on a flat surface and never use a bent needle.

6. Always check that your presser foot is down. When you are ready to sew, always lower your presser foot. Forgetting to lower it cannot only cause thread tangles but it can damage your machine. The nice thing is that on many machines it won't let you start sewing when the presser foot is up, but don't risk it and make it a part of your process to lower before you sew.

7. Before replacing the needle cover the needle hole. As you get ready to replace your needle, cover the hole in the needle plate with fabric or paper to prevent the needle from falling into the machine. There's nothing fun about having to fish out a needle that's fallen into that one hard to reach place.

8. Leave yourself a thread tail on the top thread. After you thread your needle, pull a little extra thread out and leave yourself a tail. If you don't and you start sewing, it may get unthreaded or cause a thread tangle. Before you start sewing hold the extra thread tail and fabric with your left hand and you'll have a good start every time.

NEW MEETING
DAY:
 2nd Wednesday
 of the month,
 March through December

NEW MEETING
LOCATION:
 American Legion
 100 Parah Drive
 St Albans, VT



That is ***25 Finishes in 2025!***

Join in the fun and make 25 quilted projects by the end of 2025 and your name will be entered into a special drawing held in December 2025. If you'd like to participate, fill in your name and 25 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 25 projects or you can remove a project, or swap out projects, etc...you just have to have ***25 Finishes in 2025*** 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 ***25 Finishes in 2025!*** You will maintain your own list, but you must let Sharon Perry know you are participating.

* * * * * Cut along dotted line * * * * *

25 in 2025

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.	



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

The block featured at the April meeting is called Stretched Star; instructions for the block can be found [here](#). Carol Stanley, this year’s Project Coordinator for the guild, says to use fabric scraps for the smaller squares and beige-on-beige for the 5” square. Bring your blocks to the May meeting.

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.



QUILTING TIPS

- Slow down and do a good job. Don't rush!
- Don't be afraid to use the "nice/pretty" fabric instead of always saving it for the "perfect project."
- Read your sewing machine manual anytime you are unsure of something with your machine.
- Change your rotary blade and needle often. Don't wait until problems develop.
- It's perfectly fine to wing it if you want. You don't have to follow a pattern. Sewing has very few "rules", and mistakes are fine to make.
- Starch and iron your fabric. It makes cutting and sewing much more precise as the fabric is not floppy and loose.



Shirley	Babcock	May	3
Diane	Biondi	May	3
Barbara	Duprey	May	14
Carol	Mahoney	May	17
Rolande	Fortin	May	19
Kay	Courson	May	20
Pat	Reed	May	21
Jennifer	Dusablon	May	31
Carly	Williams	May	31

...and many more!!!



PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE GUILD'S BYLAWS

Guild members will be voting on the change as outlined below at the May 2025 Meeting.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1:

~~The regular meeting of the Guild shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month during the months of September through June unless alternative plans are agreed upon by the membership. Any change from the usual meeting time and/or place shall be announced at the previous meeting and in the newsletter.~~

The Guild shall hold 10 monthly meetings during the calendar year. The months and dates of the regular meetings shall be determined by the Executive Board and approved by the membership. Any changes to the meeting date/time and/or place shall be announced at a previous meeting and in the newsletter.

MY VERSION...FOR OLIVE GARDEN'S PASTA E FAGIOLI FOR THE CROCKPOT

From Maggie Stockwell

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 2 carrots, finely diced
- 2 stalks celery, finely diced
- 2 cans (15-ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 (8-ounce) cans tomato sauce
- 15-ounce can dark red kidney beans, drained, rinsed
- 15-ounce can cannellini beans, drained, rinsed
- 3 cups beef stock
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup ditalini pasta

Brown and crumble ground beef. Drain. Add to slow cooker.

Add all other ingredients to cooker except for pasta.

Cover, set cooker on low for 6-8 hours or on high 4-5 hours.

During last 30 minutes or so, add in the pasta and stir. Cook until pasta is al dente. Serve.





RECIPE CORNER

AWESOME SALAD

For the dressing:

1 cup extra virgin olive oil
 1/3 red wine cup vinegar
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1 teaspoon celery seed
 1 small onion, chopped
 3 teaspoons mustard
 1/3 cup sugar

For the salad:

Lettuce and/or spinach
 Red onion, chopped or thinly sliced
 3-4 eggs, hard-boiled and chopped
 Bacon (or bacon bits)
 Pepperidge Farm croutons

For the dressing:

Mix together oil, vinegar, salt, pepper, celery seed, small onion, mustard, and sugar. Whisk until dressing is emulsified. Set aside.

For the salad:

Wash lettuce and spinach as needed, and let dry. Break lettuce up and toss with spinach. In small skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Crumble bacon, and add to lettuce mixture. Add red onion and eggs. Toss salad ingredients until well mixed.

Stir dressing again until emulsified. Pour dressing over salad, adding in small amounts. Toss until everything is coated well. Keep adding dressing as needed. Add croutons just before serving.

MAPLE BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

1 teaspoon dry mustard
 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 2 tablespoons maple syrup
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

In a small bowl, combine mustard, basil, garlic, salt, and pepper. Add vinegar, maple syrup and lemon juice. Whisk together. Add olive oil and whisk until emulsified.

PASTA SALAD

1 pkg. (16-oz) rotini pasta, tri-color
 1 cucumber, diced

1 tomato, diced
 2 carrots, sliced
 1 small stick pepperoni, sliced
 6 slices ham, cubed
 6 slices Swiss cheese, cubed
 Olives (black or green), sliced
 Radishes, sliced (optional)
 1 small bottle Zesty Italian dressing
 1 tablespoon oregano
 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
 1 tablespoon cheese salad seasoning
 Dash of pepper
 Cook and drain pasta according to package directions; set aside and let cool.

Add oregano, Italian seasoning and cheese salad seasoning to bottle of Italian dressing; shake well.

Toss pasta, vegetables, meats, and cheeses together. Pour dressing (with added spices) over pasta mixture. Toss thoroughly. Add pepper to taste. Marinate in refrigerator for at least 3 hours, overnight recommended. Toss before serving.

MOM'S 6-CUP SALAD

1 cup diced oranges (or mandarin orange sections)
 1 cup shredded coconut
 1 cup crushed pineapple
 1 cup miniature marshmallows
 1 cup nuts
 1 cup sour cream

In a large bowl, mix together oranges, coconut, pineapple, marshmallows, and nuts. Blend well. Add sour cream, and mix until all ingredients are coated. Refrigerate 3 or 4 hours before serving.

GREEK SALAD DRESSING

1/2 cup olive oil
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 2 garlic cloves, minced
 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine all ingredients; shake well.



MAY

by Annette Wynne

"Moon of Green Leaves," so
They called you long ago,
So the Indian child at play
Spoke your name, dear Month of May.

**FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR MAY:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmzpHFur9gg>

Pint Size Table Runner – May
Shabby Fabrics



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:

3rd Wednesday of the month, May 21st, 2025

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



May is National Hamburger Month



*"May is the month of rebirth and
renewal." ~ Unknown*