

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 12
August 2026

Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch
Cindy Metayer

Vice President

Bonnie Evans

Secretary

Deb Trahan

Treasurer

Deb Dusablon

Newsletter

Sharon Perry

Programs

Helen Short
Cathy Carlson

Project Coordinator

Sandy Lane

Membership

Penny LaRochelle

Quilt Show

Diane Kane
Beth Mouser

Website

Scott Perry

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2027 Raffle Quilt

Cindy Metayer

2027 Charity Quilt

Helen Bicknell & Lucie Fortin

President's Piece

Good tidings to all members and those fortunate enough to find this newsletter. May you enjoy the many, many tips and information it provides.

This Guild continues to reap the benefits of the planning, dedication, and collaboration among our members. In July, members enjoyed a well-attended meeting that included a fun game of strip poker. We beat the heat at our wonderful venue and learned about the efforts of the Sleep in Heavenly Peace – VT organization. We hope the attendance at the August meeting will be as robust.

August 1st has been proclaimed as National Girlfriend Day. So, what does National Girlfriend Day have in common with the Franklin County Quilters Guild? Both hope to support an environment to celebrate and embrace connections for those with common passions that offer joy, support, and a sense of belonging. Friendship and community are built through the ability to share and receive encouragement during highs and lows. We learn about our commonalities and how small acts of kindness are so beneficial and contagious. Hearing you are not the only one who has more than 22 WIPs (Works in Progress) or that many trusty seam rippers are not rusty can be encouraging. May we each find time to reflect on the joy we receive and provide this month.

Wishing you all joy filled days and hoping your seam ripper remains in the drawer.

Piece by piece,

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

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: Sharing Techniques
through Guild Members' Demonstrations

June 10th: Potluck and Trunk Sale

2026 Guild Calendar

June 18th – 20th: The Vermont Quilt Show
DoubleTree by Hilton, Burlington

July 8th: The Temperature is Burning! Strip Poker with Red,
White and Blue 2½-inch by WOF strips

July 25th: Sew-In at NMC
Conference Room, 9:30 am – 4pm

August 12th: Scrap Quilting
with Lisa Torres

August 22nd: Sew-In at NMC
Conference Room, 9:30 am – 4pm

August 29th: Sew-In at NMC
Conference Room, 9:30 am – 4pm

2026 Guild Calendar

September 9th: Birthday Surprise! Novelty Ice
Cream Social and Reveal of Members'
Creations from Snip, Rip, Drop and Pass

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 and
Quilted Jacket Show and Tell

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2026**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- August 12, 2026**

Opening Balance		\$13,692.71
-----------------	--	-------------

Funds collected

Membership	\$75.00
Raffle ticket sales - Montgomery Elem Craft Show	\$100.00
Boutique sales - Montgomery Elem Craft Show	\$85.00
Donation - Montgomery Elem Craft Show	\$15.00
Free motion workshop w/Nina Clotfelter	\$180.00
Trunk Show sales	\$15.00

<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	<u>\$470.00</u>
------------------------------	-----------------

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$14,162.71
-----------------	-------------

Funds paid out	<u>\$0.00</u>
----------------	---------------

<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	<u>\$0.00</u>
-----------------------------	---------------

Grand Total	\$14,162.71
--------------------	--------------------

2026 YTD Collections: \$7,834.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

35 YEARS AND COUNTING...

Happy Birthday to us! We are 35 and doing great. Let's have a party! The September meeting will have a few surprises and a celebration! Mark your calendars for September 9.

**RAFFLE QUILT TICKETS
FOR ENOSBURG FOOD SHELF AVAILABLE**

April Walker will be selling raffle tickets at the August meeting for the quilt the guild donated to the Enosburg Food Shelf for its fundraising efforts. The tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

By Helen Short

We all have plenty of scraps and as we make new quilts, more scraps accumulate. You can't leave those scraps alone in your sewing room because they will continue to multiply. Our August program is about scrap quilting with Lisa Torres. We'll learn some fun ways to whittle down our collections.

A 'surprise event' has been added to our September Ice cream Novelty Social. We will also reveal our creations with the 'Snip, Rip, Drop, and Pass' fabric we received at the September 2025 meeting.

In October we're sharing Nina Clotfelter from Atlanta, Georgia with the Champlain and Common Threads Guilds. Her program for us is entitled, 'Thread, What's the Big Deal'. I'm anxious to learn about threads because some of my earlier quilts are showing broken threads at the seams. Some of you have already registered for the Free Motion Quilting on Your Domestic Machine Workshop. If you'd like to join us please mail \$45 to Deb Dusablon, 456 Savage Point Road, North Hero, VT 05474 by August 1. On August 2nd we'll open the workshop up to the other guilds. There is a limit of 16 for the class.

Cathy and I are looking for ideas for 2027 programs. Please talk with us or email your suggestions.

See you August 12th

GUILD SEW ALONGS AT THE NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER (NMC)

There are 3 guild sew alongs scheduled for July and August. We'll be working on making Quilts of Valor for the November meeting. All members are welcome to come and join in the fun or work on a project of your choosing.

- Saturday, July 25, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 22, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 29, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



JUST ASK SALLY MAGUNDI

Dear Sally:

I am writing for help with the valley of despair that I enter when it comes time to pin the quilt back to the batting to the quilt top. The larger the quilt the deeper the valley. Though I try not to, I find myself resorting to language the Sisters found totally unacceptable. Any advice about how to continue quilting without swear words?

Signed: "Running out of epithets"

Dear Running:

I share your concern. Here are a few phrases you could try out. Not as effective as the Sisters' do not speak list, but serviceable in a pinch. "BY NEDDIE DINGO!" "GREAT BLISTERING BLUE BARNACLES!" "OU SONT LES NEIGES D'HIER EH?" (This one is not actually an angry epithet, but by the time your brain has remembered to say this mournful phrase some of the anger will have cleared from your mind)

While you tune up your vocabulary, here is something to try. Assuming you have a large table, put the quilt back right side down on the table and treat it like a canvas to be stretched. Smooth out all the wrinkles. Use painter's tape to secure it to the table. Start with the middle of the long side of the quilt, one piece of tape on either side of the table. Then do the same with the short side of the quilt. This forms a very thin cross of firmly held fabric. Then add tape on either side of your first two sets of tape, each time taping opposite sides of the table. This will create an increasing cross of stabilized fabric. As you work you will eventually approach the corners and tape them last.

You still have to wrassle the batting and the quilt top but at least the quilt back will stay put while you do.

Sally



Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Cindy Metayer

Location: American Legion, St. Albans, VT

Minutes from the General Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 pm by Jean Anne Branch.

Jean Anne reminded us that April is selling tickets for the Food Shelf Raffle Quilt that we donated to them.

Bonnie Evans introduced Mike Lemieux from Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization which makes beds for children so they don't have to sleep on the floor. Mike spoke about how kids in Vermont have benefited from the program and how they get donations of mattresses, quilts, sheets and other bedding as well as time donated. Bonnie and Denise presented Mike with 10 quilts from our Comfort Quilt stash.

Jean Anne thanked the Vermont Quilt Show organizational team and volunteers. She mentioned a book called "Twelve Golden Threads" who writes about how quilting is a life skill and an important quality of your character. This reminded her of what Sharon Perry, Helen Short and Denise Chase did with the quilt show. As a thank you and recognition, Sharon was presented with a beautiful stained-glass window hanging. This was made by Mary King, who made a Sawtooth Star, Sharon's favorite block.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Denise Chase and seconded by Beth Brault to accept the June 10, 2026 Secretary and Treasurer reports. All in favor, motion carried.

VERMONT QUILT SHOW (JUNE 2026):

- Sharon announced that there were \$577 in raffle ticket sales, a \$10 donation and 1 new person that joined the guild.
- Denise still has a couple quilts from the show that can be picked up. Remaining quilts belonged to members at the meeting.

QUILT SHOW (Diane Kane and Diane Biondi):

- The quilt show for 2027 will be on April 3rd & 4th.
- Diane Kane needs to have volunteers for a volunteer coordinator, someone to coordinate and manage vendors and someone to manage the sponsorships.
- Jean Anne volunteer for the sponsorships.

COMFORT QUILTS (Denise Chase):

- Denise noted she brought kits to piece and 3 quilts to be quilted. She can always use quilting volunteers.
- She also gave us a piece of advice: "Never be afraid to start your next two-week quilt; the next 12 weeks will be the best 6 months of your life!"

**MEMBERSHIP (Penny LaRochelle):**

- Deb Dusablon announced 73 paid members for Penny who is at home recovering from surgery.
- There were 46 members present and 1 guest present.
- Denise introduced her neighbor Sandy as our guest and is hoping she will join the guild.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (Sandy Lane):

- Sandy presented a sample of the new Block of the Month which is a friendship star block. The block should be made with pastels and white on white, to go along with our summer theme.
- Instructions will be posted on the FCQG website under "Projects" and on the guild's Facebook page.
- Sandy demonstrated how the block will be assembled. Members are encouraged to bring completed blocks to the August meeting.
- The winner of this month's blocks was Cathy Carlson.
- We had a comment about an error in the directions for the July block and asked if there was a way to let everyone know to help avoid excess confusion. If anyone notices an error please let Sandy or Sharon know.

PROGRAMS (Helen Short, Cathy Carlson):

- Today we played Temperature Rising Strip Poker with red, white and blue strips. Lots of strips were being passed every which way.
- August will be Scrap Quilting with Lisa Torres
- "Thread, What's the Big Deal?" with Nina Clotfelter at the October meeting which has been moved to Friday, October 9th.. She will be offering a workshop, "How to Quilt on Your Domestic Sewing Machine" on the Saturday, October 10th. We will also be showing what we made for our batik project.
- In November, the meeting will be on Veterans Day so the meeting will focus on Quilts of Valor. It is also our Panel Palooza Reveal meeting so don't forget your panel brown bag project.
- December will be our Holiday Potluck and gift exchange.

DRAWINGS:

- Membership – Mary Jane Rossi
- Comfort Quilts – Natalie Good

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Perry and 2nd by Mary Jane Rossi. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Trahan, Sitting Secretary



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

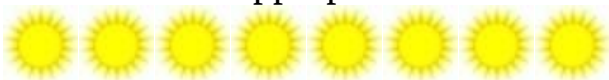
Sandy Lane is this year's Project Coordinator for the guild. The BOM presented at our July guild meeting is called Friendship Star. Use white-on-white background with light or pastel, prints or solids – cool colors for that summer feeling.

Block instructions can be found [here](#).



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, 802-233-3368. He will send out an appropriate card.



Beth	Brault	August	3
Lois	Burrows	August	18
Penny	LaRochelle	August	29

...and many more!!!



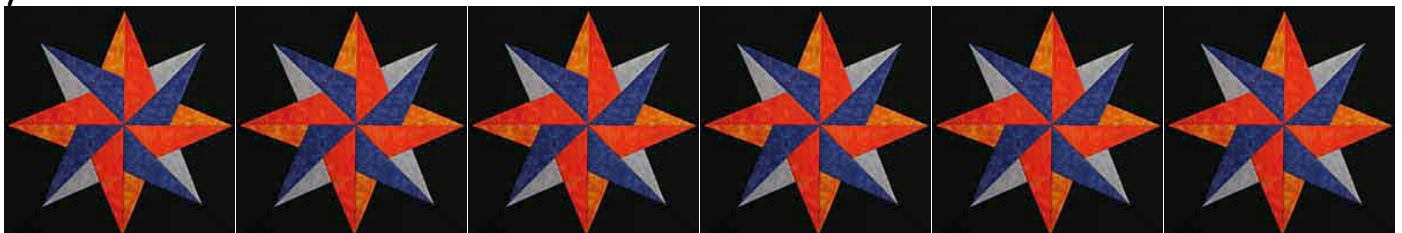
LOOKING FOR SKIRT HANGERS

Mary King is already planning ahead for next year's guild boutique at the quilt show. This year was her first year taking charge of setting up the boutique and she has lots of ideas on making it easier to display the members' items.

One of her ideas is to hang all the table runners and toppers on skirt hangers so potential buyers are able to see the full size and both sides of each item. Rather than buying new hangers, Mary is looking for members to donate any skirt hangers you might no longer need. She'll collect the hangers at the next few guild meetings. So go through your closets and see if you have any skirt hangers you might like to give away to support the cause.

QUILT TIPS

- When doing needle-turn appliqué, spray a little adhesive glue into a small container and use a Q-tip to apply to the fabric as you are turning it under and you will not have to worry about pinning the fabric.
- An inexpensive baby bottle dryer/holder works great to store multiple spools of thread and extra bobbins when you need more storage space.
- When you have to match seams, use a dab of fabric glue (tube or stick) within the seam allowance instead of pins. From the right side, you'll be able to clearly see whether the seams match with no pins in the way. The bond is not instant so you'll have time to separate the pieces and try again if necessary. Then stitch away.
- When clipping threads or ripping out seams, have a piece of batting to put the clippings on so they won't stick to your fingers.
- To put a spark in your quilt, use a bit of yellow or black.
- Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.





RECIPE CORNER

VEGGIE MEDLEY

From Mary King, FCQG Member

3 English cucumbers, chopped
2 bell peppers in different colors, chopped
1 - 2 fresh carrots, chopped or shredded
 $\frac{1}{2}$ package tiny tomatoes, cut in half
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup dried cranberries
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup roasted & salted pumpkin seeds
Stonewall Kitchen maple balsamic dressing
Chop all the items small so they fit on a spoon easily.
Add dressing to taste.

Recipe Note: You can add walnuts pieces or 1 cup cooked small pasta like stars. This is a fun recipe that you can add a lot of fun items.

APPLE BUTTER CHEESECAKE BARS

From Dorothy Pratt, FCQG Member

2 cups plus 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour, divided
2 cups old-fashioned oats
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped pecans
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon apple pie spice
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon baking soda
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups unsalted butter, softened
2 (8-oz) packages cream cheese, softened
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
2 large eggs
1 (9-oz) jar apple butter

Preheat oven to 350°. Line a 13x9-inch baking pan with foil, letting excess extend over sides of pan. Spray foil with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, whisk together 2 cups flour, oats, brown sugar, pecans, salt, pie spice, and baking soda. Add butter, and beat with a mixer at medium-low speed until mixture is crumbly, stopping to scrape sides of bowl. Reserve $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups mixture in a small bowl; press remaining mixture into bottom of prepared pan.

Bake until lightly browned, about 20 minutes. Let cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Leave oven on.

Meanwhile, in same large bowl, beat cream cheese, granulated sugar, cream, and remaining tablespoon flour with a mixer at medium speed until smooth and creamy, 2 to 3 minutes, stopping to scrape sides of bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until combined after each addition.

Pour mixture onto prepared crust. Dollop apple butter by tablespoonfuls onto cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle reserved flour mixture onto apple butter.

Bake until top is golden brown, about 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool completely in pan on wire rack. Loosely cover and refrigerate until firm, 1 to 2 hours.

Using excess foil as handles, remove from pan, and cut into bars. Cover and refrigerate for up to 3 days.

CHILES RELLENOS SQUARES

3 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups shredded cheddar cheese
2 cans (4 ounces each) chopped green chiles, drained
2 large eggs, room temperature
2 tablespoons 2% milk
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 375°. Sprinkle half of each cheese onto bottom of a greased 8-in. square baking dish. Layer with chiles and remaining cheeses.

Whisk together eggs, milk and flour; pour over top. Bake, uncovered, until set, 25-30 minutes. Cool 15 minutes before cutting.

BRAZILIAN LEMONADE

3 limes, quartered
3 cups water
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sweetened condensed milk
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt (optional)
Ice cubes

In a blender, combine lime quarters, water, sugar, and sweetened condensed milk. Cover and blend until smooth.

Pass mixture through a fine mesh sieve into a small pitcher. If mixture is bitter to taste, stir in salt. Serve over ice.

POTLUCK



FAVORITES

AUGUST**By Annette Wynne**

August days are hot and still,
Not a breath on house or hill,
Not a breath on height or plain,
Weary travelers cry for rain;
But the children quickly find
A shady place quite to their mind;
And there all quietly they stay,
Until the sun has gone away,—
August is too hot for play!

**FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR AUGUST:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q431T6nZ72c>

**Sew Cute Runner for August
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, August 19th, 2026

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



August is National Peach Month



"August rain: The best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time." ~ Sylvia Plath