

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 13
September 2026

Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch
Cindy Metayer

Vice President

Bonnie Evans

Secretary

Deb Trahan

Treasurer

Deb Dusablom

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

Greetings fellow quilters!

As we turn the corner to the cooler nights and lower humidity September brings, we can all heave a sigh of relief to be able to open the windows to some refreshing breezes. It also means that the coolness is conducive to more time in our sewing spaces!! It seems there is always sooooo much from which to choose...what's next on your list of to-dos?

It is also a good time for getting things in order. Maybe cleaning your sewing room and overall fall cleaning projects. What a feeling of accomplishment to get ready to start new projects in a space that's ready for it! Mother Nature begins preparing for the next season and the Autumnal Equinox. We are busily cleaning out our gardens and preparing the food for winter. Squirrels are running around frantically building their storehouses. The geese are beginning the flight South. The skies turn a 'bluebird' blue! There is much to celebrate in September.

So, let's do just that! As we mark 35 years as a Guild, let's have a party. Come to the September meeting ready to celebrate US. There are some surprises planned that we hope you will enjoy. Perhaps you can think of a special memory to share at the meeting! We look forward to seeing you on September 9th for recognition of who we are as a group.

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

September 9th: Birthday Surprise!

Novelty Ice Cream Social

October 9th: "Thread, What's the Big
Deal" with Nina Clotfelter

2026 Guild Calendar

October 10th: How to Free Motion
Quilt on Your Domestic Machine
Workshop with Nina Clotfelter

November 11th: QOV Presentations

December 9th: Pot Luck with Gift
Exchange and Food Shelf Drive
and Reveal of Members' Creations
from Snip, Rip, Drop and Pass
and Panel Play Brown Bag Exchange

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2026**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD
Treasurer's Report -- September 9, 2026**

Opening Balance		\$14,162.71
-----------------	--	-------------

Funds Collected

Membership	\$25.00
Free motion workshop w/Nina Clotfelter	\$475.00
Boutique sales (bow)	\$35.00
Donation	\$5.00
Total Funds Collected	\$540.00

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$14,702.71
-----------------	-------------

Funds Paid Out

Bonnie Evans, Copies, gift bags, paper	\$24.00
Cindy Metayer, Aug Presenter & Sept event supplies	\$100.00
Denise Chase, Comfort quilts batting (2 yards)	\$320.98
Total Funds Paid Out	\$444.98

Grand Total	\$14,257.73
--------------------	--------------------

2026 YTD Collections: \$8,329.00

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 September 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. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Enosburg Harvest Fest on September 19.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

By Helen Short

A 'surprise event' has been added to our September Ice cream Novelty Social. We'll be celebrating the 35th year as a quilt guild!

In October we're sharing Nina Clotfelter from Alabama 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.

At the monthly guild meeting on Veterans Day, November 11, we'll be presenting QOV quilts to military veterans. The December meeting will feature the Holiday Potluck along with the reveal of the Panel Play Brown Bag Exchange and the Snip, Rip, and Drop game.

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

GUILD SEW ALONGS AT THE NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER (NMC)

There are 3 guild sew alongs scheduled for August and September. 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, August 22, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 29, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, September 26, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



The Slightly Shady History of Red and White Quilts

By Jodi Butler from [Quilting Daily](#)

The History of Turkey Red Fabric

We live in a world that is infatuated with color, and perhaps no color has influenced the world of quilting more than Turkey red. Since the early nineteenth century, the combination of Turkey red cotton and white fabric has been a classic color scheme. Aside from the simple and graphic appeal of the contrast, quilters loved Turkey red because it was colorfast and did not fade.

In terms of fabric, Turkey red is exclusively attributed to bright, clear, cherry-red cotton. However, this color is the result of a unique dying process, which began in India and moved west to the region around Turkey and Greece known as the Levant. It was a costly and complex method involving up to seventeen steps, with many steps repeated multiple times. Until the process was refined, it took up to twenty-five days to produce this brilliant red color on cotton.

A Closely Guarded Secret

The brightly-dyed colorfast cottons from the East were a far cry from the drab, faded palette of seventeenth-century Europe, and the demand for a pure, bright cloth that would not fade was overwhelming. European dyers sought to duplicate the red colored cloth, but the dye recipe was a closely protected secret.

So, European manufacturers sent spies to the Levant to learn the tedious dyeing process. This early industrial espionage was initially unsuccessful and Europe continued to import red yarn from Turkey and red fabric from India throughout the first half of the eighteenth century.

In 1747, a French manufacturer in Rouen, France, enticed dyers from Greece to teach him the elusive process. Once the recipe was revealed, Europeans began to successfully create the brilliant color using the chemical alizarin, which was taken from the root of a madder plant. They also used the chemical alum to fix the dye, along with multiple and repeated processes of soaking the yarns in lye, animal fat, urine, dung, and other ingredients.

Early on, to obtain a uniformly colored fabric, European manufacturers first dyed cotton yarn and wove it into red cloth. By 1765, woven Turkey red cotton cloth production was in full-swing in France, England, Scotland, and Holland as dyers throughout the region continued to refine the process. Around the turn of the nineteenth century, Europeans successfully managed to develop a method of dyeing pre-woven cotton yard goods the intense red.

Prints Are Introduced

Initially, printing onto Turkey red fabric was virtually impossible, as the oils used in the process of dyeing would not allow additional dyes to penetrate the surface of the cloth. In 1810, after multiple attempts by printers throughout the region, Daniel Kochelin, a textile printer from Mulhouse, France, developed a method to discharge print on Turkey red. He bleached out the red color in a certain motif and replaced the bleached color with black or blue and eventually yellow. By 1815, multiple color prints on Turkey red fabric were available.

Turkey red prints became a hit throughout the European region and were seen in garments as well as household linens. Manufacturers in England, France, and Scotland began to export both solid and printed Turkey red fabric to the United States, Africa, and the Middle East. England and Scotland also exported the fabric to India.

By the early 1830s, exports of the cloth to the United States were almost nonstop as boatloads of solid and printed Turkey red fabrics arrived on American shores where they were quickly consumed. Quiltmakers fell in love with the vivid and colorfast quality, paying a premium for the bright red fabrics.

A Tradition is Born

The earliest use of Turkey red in American quilts began around 1830 as quilters used small-scale floral and geometric prints, primarily in appliqued pieces. By 1840, white and red fabric quilts became popular and the trend lasted for twenty years.

In 1868, a synthetic version of the alizarin dye was invented, which lowered the price of the fabric and ushered in a second craze of Turkey red and white quilting. Respective to quilters in their own regions, European textile manufacturers also catered specifically to the quilting market by printing whole cloth panels and cheater-cloth patchwork fabric motifs in the last half of the nineteenth century.

In the early twentieth century, an even less costly synthetic Turkey red dye was available around the same time that the color's use in quilts expanded to include embroidery work comprised of subjects and signatures with red thread on white fabric. Used in various motifs and techniques, Turkey red and white remained a popular color combination among quiltmakers throughout the early twentieth century.

Centuries later, red and white quilts are just as popular today. They've been the subject of museum exhibits, books, and more.



Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Cindy Metayer

Location: American Legion, St. Albans, VT

Minutes from the General Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Metayer at 6:32 p.m.

Cindy referenced the Guild's wonderful newsletter and how much information it has to offer. The President's Piece mentioned National Girlfriend Day and Cindy elaborated on what that could mean for all 'pals'. She focused on how our Guild provides many opportunities for building communities, getting to know others, creating supportive connections and more.

CONSENT AGENDA: Cindy asked for a Consent Agenda motion to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports as printed in the August newsletter. Motion made by Denise Chase, seconded by Mary Ellen Therrien. Motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

NEWSLETTER (Sharon Perry): Sharon announced the September newsletter deadline is August 19.

RAFFLE TICKETS (Sharon Perry): is seeking volunteers to sell quilt raffle tickets at the following venues:

- September 5 - Montgomery Farmer's Market
- September 19 - Enosburg Harvest Festival; Bonnie Evans volunteered to help.
- November 14 or 21 - Highgate Craft Fair. Deb Dusablon and Penny LaRochelle volunteered.
- December 12 - Montgomery Christmas Fair; Gale Weld has volunteered to help.

QUILT SHOW (Diane Kane and Diane Biondi): Diane B. announced that all leadership positions for the 2027 quilt show are filled!

COMFORT QUILTS (Denise Chase):

- Denise reported she distributed 30 quilts in the past month: 18 to the Women's shelter; 9 to Habitat for Humanity; and 3 for fire victims.
- She encouraged the members to keep making quilts for the program. She also asked for help with constructing tops and for quilting on many completed quilts.
- Kay Courson from Country Thyme Quilt Shop donated more than 30 shop samples to our Guild. Denise is working on preparing backings to get them ready for quilting.
- Cindy Metayer read a thank you note from Mike Lemieux, Sleep in Heavenly Peace program coordinator in Chittenden County. They were thrilled and grateful for the quilts we donated to their group when he spoke at our July meeting.

MEMBERSHIP (Penny LaRochelle):

- Penny reported that we have 76 paid members.
- There were 35 members present along with 3 guests.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (Sandy Lane):

- Sandy Lane presented the Block of the Month for September. The "Hidden Wells" block is made with strips sewn together and sewn into creative blocks.
- As always, the directions will appear on the Guild's Facebook page; there will also be a link in the September newsletter to the directions on the FCQG website. She also said she will provide links to YouTube tutorials showing the 'how-tos'.
- Sandy also spoke about the upcoming sew-alongs at the Northwest hospital conference room. She has plans for some sewing projects, a tutorial on no-tear paper piecing led by Margaret Miller and a Welcome Home project for fall.

PROGRAMS (Helen Short, Cathy Carlson):

- Helen Short, Programs, reviewed upcoming programs and mentioned a couple changes.
- She reminded members about the sew-alongs on August 22 and August 29 at the NMC conference room. Each will meet from 9:30 am – 4 pm.
- The Brown Bag Panel Play projects will be displayed at the December meeting rather than at the November meeting.
- The October meeting will be held on Friday, October 9, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Swanton. The program features Nina Clotfelter's "Thread: What's the Big Deal." The workshop with Nina Clotfelter on Saturday, October 10 will be in Swanton as well. The additional workshop location with Ms Clotfelter on Sunday, October 11 hasn't been finalized.
- Helen Short and Cathy Carlson, Programs, introduced Lisa Torres who gave a lively and informative presentation on using our scraps! She shared many samples of her projects with tips for cutting, storing and using scraps. She shared her Guild's activities including having distributed 364 Bags of Love throughout several Vermont counties in the past year. Lisa provided the group with fabric squares for an interactive project (mug rugs) as well as a take-home baggie of scraps to make something for the September meeting! Cathy Carlson presented Lisa with a gas card to thank her for her fun presentation.

DRAWINGS:

- Membership – Diane Biondi
- Comfort Quilts – Bonnie Evans

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Perry and 2nd by Denise Chase. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Branch for Deb Trahan, Sitting Secretary



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

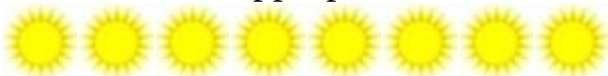
Sandy Lane is this year's Project Coordinator for the guild. The BOM presented at our August guild meeting is called Hidden Wells. Use whatever fabric strips you have that coordinate. There won't be a drawing for these blocks next month. Just have fun playing.

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.



Teri	Brunelle	September	2
Beverly	Cook	September	4
Jodi	Galland	September	7
Sarah	Reed	September	8
Berta	Petrie	September	9
Helen	Bicknell	September	12
Dale	McFeeters	September	12
Gale	Weld	September	12
Monica	Kelley	September	13
Sandra	Connell	September	15
Carol	Parks	September	27

...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

- If you have leftover blocks and borders, use them to make Christmas stockings. Sew several rows of leftovers together, and traced a stocking pattern on them. They are unique and fun—so much better than leftover blocks just sitting in a tub!
- Lay a clear vinyl tablecloth over your quilt top to audition quilt designs by sketching with dry erase markers, which wipe off easily. Once satisfied, take a picture with your cell phone. For quilting, flip the tablecloth over to cover your table, allowing your quilt sandwich to glide more easily. One tablecloth, 2 uses!
- Double your selection of fabrics by considering the reverse side...the wrong side might be just right! You can also do this with quilt labels. Often, the wrong side of the fabric used in the quilt is perfect for the quilt's label.
- If you have a lot of alcohol wipes, the kind you find in first aid kits, they are wonderful for cleaning the needle when sewing fusible appliqué. You can sew through the packaged wipe to clean the needle. Always keep a few on hand by your sewing machine.
- They say you should change your sewing machine's needle after eight hours of sewing. Keep a piece of scrap fabric by your sewing machine that has eight pins in it. Remove one pin for every hour you sew. When the pins are gone, put in a new needle!
- If you are reading this quilt tip, please find Sharon Perry at the September meeting and tell Sharon the definition of her favorite word, kerfuffle. If you do that, your name will be entered into a very special drawing which will be drawn later at the September meeting.
- If your fabric markers seem like they are drying up way too fast, store them upside down to make them last longer.
- To keep a bobbin with its matching spool of thread, insert a cotton swab through the bobbin and into the top of the spool. Even if they tip over, the bobbin stays in place.



RECIPE CORNER

ZUCCHINI BROWNIES

For the brownies:

1 ½ cups zucchini, chunked, lightly tamped down
 3 tablespoons butter, melted
 3 large eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 ¾ cup granulated sugar
 ⅔ cup unsweetened cocoa, Dutch-process or natural
 ½ teaspoon espresso powder, optional
 ½ teaspoon baking powder
 Heaping ¼ teaspoon table salt
 ½ cup all-purpose flour
 ¾ cup semisweet (or bittersweet) chocolate chips

For the frosting:

¾ cup semisweet (or bittersweet) chocolate chips
 ¼ cup heavy cream or 3 tablespoons whole milk

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 9" square pan.

For the brownies: Combine the zucchini, melted butter, eggs, and vanilla in the work bowl of a food processor, and process until smooth. Add the sugar, cocoa powder, espresso powder, baking powder, salt, and flour; process briefly, just until well combined.

Add the chips, and pulse several times, to break up the chips just a bit. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.

Bake the brownies for 25 to 30 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, or with a few moist crumbs clinging to it; you shouldn't see any sign of wet batter. Remove the brownies from the oven, and allow them to cool completely before frosting.

For the frosting: Combine the chocolate chips and milk or cream in a microwave-safe bowl or small saucepan. Heat until the milk is steaming, and the chips are soft. Remove from the heat, and stir until smooth. Spread the frosting atop the brownies. Place them in the refrigerator for an hour or so, to set; then store them at room temperature, covered, for several days.

ZUCCHINI LEMON MUFFINS

2 cups all-purpose flour
 ½ cup granulated sugar
 1 tablespoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon table salt
 Zest of ½ lemon
 ½ cup walnuts, chopped
 ½ cup golden raisins or sweetened dried cranberries

2 large eggs, beaten

½ cup milk

⅓ cup vegetable oil

1 cup zucchini, shredded and packed

Coarse sparkling sugar, optional, for topping

Preheat your oven to 400°F. Grease and flour (or line with papers) a 12-well muffin pan.

Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and zest in a large bowl. Stir in the walnuts and raisins. In a smaller bowl (or a two cup liquid measure), combine the eggs, milk and oil. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the wet ingredients.

Stir just until barely combined and then gently fold in the zucchini. Spoon the batter into the pan. Sprinkle with sparkling white sugar, for added crunch and flavor.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until the muffins spring back when you press them with your fingertips. Remove from oven and turn out onto a cooling rack. Serve warm or with a little butter. Store, well-wrapped, for 3 days at room temperature. Freeze for up to a month.

ROASTED ZUCCHINI WITH PARMESAN CHEESE

2 medium zucchini, cut into ½-inch-thick rounds

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

½ teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste

½ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

1 teaspoon garlic powder

½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 450°F with a rack in the center position.

In a large bowl, toss the zucchini with the olive oil, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Arrange on a rimmed sheet pan in a single layer, top with the Parmesan cheese and bake for 5 minutes. Turn the oven broiler to High. Continue to bake until the cheese is golden brown and the zucchini is tender, about 2-3 minutes.



SEPTEMBER**By Hilaire Belloc**

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days
Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,
With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,
Some crimson poppy of a late delight
Atoning in its splendor for the flight
Of summer blooms and joys-
This is September.

**FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR SEPTEMBER:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFuKosT1J3I>

Sew Cute Runner for September

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, September 16th, 2026

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



*September is
National Sewing Month*



*"September tries its best to have us forget
summer." - Bernard Williams*