

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 16, Issue 4
December 2023

President

Laurel Schaap

Vice President

Bonnie Evans

Secretary

Diane Kane

Treasurer

Deb Dusablon

Newsletter

Sharon Perry

Programs

Deb Trahan

Cathy Carlson

Project Coordinator

Lucie Fortin

Membership

Penny LaRoche

Quilt Show

Helen Short

Teri Brunelle

Website

Scott Perry

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2024 Raffle Quilt

Sharon Perry & Denise Chase

2024 Charity Quilt

Laurel Schaap & Gale Weld

President's Piece

How are you doing? Are you completely stressed out, or calm and peaceful? Somewhere in between, probably, like me. I'm thinking about Christmas in particular, but that's only one part of the equation, right? There are world events, national issues, maybe local irritations, and of course, family stuff. It's a lot to juggle. I sometimes need to step back and take a deep breath. There are so many things I can't do anything about. I've decided to focus for a bit on some things that I can do, rather than the huge issues that are beyond my scope.

Many of us quilters do things for others. At the last meeting, Shirley Babcock showed us a bunch of knitted hats she had made as a donation for various groups. Cathy Carlson showed us some period pads for girls in Africa, so they can go to school without missing days. (That's at daysforgirls.org). That reminds me of a group I became acquainted with that makes purses for the same purpose, so girls can get to school. (Sewpowerful.org). And there are always calls for Comfort Quilts!

If stress is getting the better of you, you might want to look around and find a project that will be fulfilling for you.

Update: I found this year's Christmas gifts project. I'll tell you about it in January.

Piecefully,
Laurel Schaap, 2023-2024 President



2023 – 2024 Guild Calendar

September 20th Ice Cream Social
Brown Bag Exchange & Strip Poker
(Doors open at 5:30 pm; food at 6 pm)

October 13th Trunk Show
with Norma Ippolito

October 14th Quilting Workshop
with Norma Ippolito

November 15th Quilt Market Wrap-Up
with Tina de la Bruere, Owner of
Vermont Quilter's Schoolhouse

December 13th Potluck and Gift Exchange

2023 – 2024 Guild Calendar

January 17th What Makes A Quilter Tick
with David Sirota, Quilt Maven Dave

January 20th "No More Tears" Paper-
Piecing Workshop with David Sirota,
Quilt Maven Dave

February 21st Trunk Show with
Andrew Lee, The Combat Quilter

March 20th Spring Members' Demos

April 5th Quilt Show Set-Up

April 6th – 7th Quilt Show

2023 – 2024 Guild Calendar

April 19th MacDuff Bag and Jacket
Trunk Show with Janice Roy

April 20th MacDuff Bag Workshop
with Janice Roy

May 15th Pillow Talk Trunk Show
with Diane Comeau, CaDi Corners

May 18th Pillow Talk Workshop
with Diane Comeau, CaDi Corners

June 12th Trunk Sale

*****DECEMBER MEETING WILL START AT 6:00 PM*****

**Franklin County Quilters Guild
Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Laurel Schaap.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Helen Short and 2nd by April Walker to accept both Treasurer's report and Minutes of the October 2023 meeting. Discussion: change the person who introduced our guest speaker for October's meeting from "Gale Weld" to "Cathy Carlson"; also, change the description of the comfort quilts that are red, white, and blue from "Quilts of Valor" to "Patriotic quilts". Motion to amend the October minutes by striking and inserting words as discussed. Motion carried.

Membership (Penny LaRochelle): Penny reported the guild currently has 53 paid members to date. A total of 32 members were in attendance, with one new member (welcome, Lena!)

Comfort Quilts (Denise Chase):

- Denise brought with her a few quilt kits for people to take. Some of these kits are for piecing, some for quilting only. Please sign them out so that Denise can keep track of the kits.
- Denise reported that she has recently received a donation of 5 boxes of fat quarters! She also accepted a donation of 1½ bolts of 108" black flannel! Denise has been washing the fabric as she cuts it for backing for kits.
- A question was brought up about what kind of batting is in the kits. Denise said she usually puts in Warm and Natural batting, but a few quilts may have some of the thicker polyester batting that had been donated.

Quilt Show (Helen Short and Teri Brunelle):

- Dates for the 2024 show are April 6 & 7, 2024 with set-up on Friday, April 5.
- Helen reported that Nanc Ekiert is in charge of sponsorships. There will be a deposit of \$1,600 this month from sponsors for the quilt show. The deadline for sponsorships is December 31st. Sponsorship names will be on a handout for the quilt show.
- Penny LaRochelle reported that the number of quilt registrations is 2 quilts. Quilt show registration form can be found [here](#).
- Helen reported that for the Quilter's Boutique, members are invited to sell items at the show that are already made and are related to sewing. She reminded members that hand bags and tote bags were hot sellers at the last show. The forms to participate can be found [here](#) or please see Helen. The guild takes 10% of what the members earn. It is expected that each person who has items in the Quilter's Boutique volunteer a few hours, which is in addition to the time members volunteer for the quilt show.

- Shirley Babcock is in charge of volunteers. Please see her to sign up for volunteering at the show.
- A volunteer is needed to assist Kathy Katz with decorating the lobby and with contacting the sponsors.
- April Walker reported that there will be flyers for advertising the quilt show. If there is an area where you'd like to put up flyers in stores, please message April before December's meeting and she will have them ready for you to collect at the meeting.

2024 Raffle Quilt (Sharon Perry and Denise Chase):

- Laurel is filling in for Sharon this month and is handing out raffle tickets to members, who are asked to sell at least two books of tickets (or 6 tickets). The tickets are 1 ticket for \$2 or 3 tickets (one book) for \$5.
- Denise showed this year's raffle quilt.
- The guild will have a booth at the MES Craft Fair in Montgomery on December 9. The guild will be selling raffle tickets and hand-crafted items made by guild members.

2024 Charity Quilt (Laurel Schaap and Gale Weld):

- Two charity quilts are being made this year, one by Laurel and Gale and the other by Denise Chase and Helen Short.
- Beverly Cook offered to quilt them for free. Thank you, Beverly!

Sugarhouse Gazette (Sharon Perry): The newsletter can be found online [here](#). Each newsletter comes out at least 2 weeks prior to each meeting. Items for the December newsletter are due to Sharon by November 22nd. Please feel free to send any favorite recipes or sewing ideas to Sharon. Recipes and ideas are always welcome!

23 in 2023 Challenge (Sharon Perry): Reminder to complete the form found in the newsletter of the 23 items you have/are completing in 2023. There will be a December drawing of a prize for participants who complete the challenge by the December meeting.

Block of the Month (Lucie Fortin):

- Lucie demonstrated the Disappearing Hourglass pattern. The colors for this month's block are dark green and white (or white on white). The link for directions to the blocks of the month is under "Projects" on the FCQG website and can be found [here](#).
- John Rouleau was the winner of this month's squares brought in by members. Congratulations, John!

Program and Workshop Announcements for 2023-24 (Deb Trahan and Cathy Carlson):

- Deb described December's program; it will be a potluck dinner and Yankee gift swap. The meeting will start ½ hour early (start time 6PM). For the gift swap, any quilt related gifts are encouraged, with a dollar value of no more than \$15. **(Note: This meeting will be held on the second Wednesday, December 13th).**

November 15 Guild Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

- At the January meeting, David Sirota (aka Quilt Maven Dave) will present “What Makes a Quilter Tick” on Zoom.
- On Saturday, January 20th, David will run a workshop via Zoom called “No More Tears” Paper-piecing. Members who sign up (\$40 for the workshop) will be able to work in the comfort of their own home.

Other Business:

- Laurel Schaap read from a letter of appreciation from Holy Trinity Church in Swanton, where the October meeting was held. Some members had donated canned goods to the church’s drive. The church’s goal was to collect at least 500 cans; a total of 680 canned goods were collected! The church was one of the first 100 teams in New England to reach the goal. They won \$500 to go to the Abenaki Food Shelf.
- Bonnie Evans talked to people in charge of the Conference Room at NWMC in St. Albans (the hospital) about using the room for workshops or for Sunday sewing. The room is not available at this time for any groups, due to lack of security at that end of the building; also, the outside doors near the conference room are always locked.

Program: Deb Trahan introduced Tina de la Bruere, owner of Vermont Quilter’s Schoolhouse, for a Quilt Market Wrap-Up. Tina recently returned from Houston after attending the national Quilt Market show and she shared the latest quilting tools and ideas from the show.

Drawings:

- Gale Weld won the membership door prize.
- Cindy Metayer won the comfort quilt door prize.

A motion was made by Helen Short to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Deb Dusablon. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Kane, Secretary

DECEMBER POTLUCK AND YANKEE GIFT SWAP

The program on Wednesday, December 13th, is the guild’s annual Holiday Potluck and Yankee gift swap. Bring a dish to share and a small wrapped gift for the swap. Gifts should have a value about \$15; handmade gifts are welcome.

Please note the date change for the **December meeting**. It **is the 2nd Wednesday** and NOT the 3rd Wednesday.



*Merry
Christmoose!!!*

QUILT TIPS

- Are you having trouble finding fabric in just the right color for your quilt? The wrong side of a printed fabric may provide you with the perfect color option.
- The secret to successfully mixing many different prints is to noticeably vary the size and scale of the patterns that are placed next to each other. Whenever possible, place larger and smaller prints together, rather than positioning those of the same scale side by side. If many of the prints are of a similar size, vary the value of the colors to achieve contrast and add further definition.
- If you’re constantly losing your scissors, try this little trick. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to apply a 3M hook to the side surface of your sewing machine or an adjacent wall. Hang a pair of scissors on your new holder, and they’ll never be lost again.

IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...MEMBERSHIP DUES!

September marked the start of a new membership year for the guild.

Here are the details for this year’s membership dues:

- The FCQG 2023-2024 membership form can be found [here](#).
- Your completed membership form and your \$20 check, payable to FCQG, should be sent to Penny LaRoche. Penny’s address is included on the membership form OR you can bring your form and check or cash to the November meeting.



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- December 13, 2023**

Opening Balance		\$6,290.64
Funds collected		
Workshop (Jan '24)	\$200.00	
Membership	\$80.00	
QS Sponsors (8)	\$1,550.00	
QS Donation (1)	\$50.00	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$1,880.00	
	<i>Subtotal</i>	\$8,170.64
Funds paid out		
Cadi Corners, QS Raffle quilt quilting	\$245.83	
CVQG, QS '24 Pole rental	\$300.00	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$545.83	
	Grand Total	\$7,624.81

2023 YTD Collections: \$9,558.83

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

A QUILTER'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And the quilts were not made.
The threads were all tangled, the cookies delayed.
The stocking weren't hung, the pantry was bare.
The poor weary Quilter was tearing her hair.
Stacks of fat quarters, tipped over in streams.
Visions of Log Cabins had turned into dreams.

When what to her wondering eyes should appear,
But a bus full of quilters with all of their gear.
They went straight to work with just a few mutters,
Sorting and stitching and brandishing cutters.
The patterns emerged from all of the clutter,
Like magic the fabrics arranged in a flutter.
Log Cabins, Lone Stars, Flying Geese & Bear Tracks
Each quilt was a beauty-even the backs.

Her house how it twinkled, her quilts how they glowed.
The cookies were baking, the stockings were sewed.
Their work was all done, so they folded their frames,

And packed up their needles, without giving their names.
They boarded the bus, and checked the next address.
More quilts to be made, another quilter in distress.

She heard one voice echo, as they drove out of sight,
Happy quilting to all and to all a good night!

Find



in the Holiday Season

**BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM):
DISAPPEARING HOURGLASS**

Lucie Fortin is the project coordinator for this membership year, and she's bringing back the traditional Block of the Month (BOM) projects.

Each month Lucie will provide instructions for completing the BOM to include color choices. This month's BOM is the Disappearing Hourglass in dark green and white; instructions for the block can be found [here](#). Members are encouraged to make a block each month and turn it in for the BOM raffle the following month.

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. If you win all the blocks, they are yours to keep.

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 is my passion...
chocolate comes in a close
second!*



Diane	Kane	December	14
Nancy	LaPointe	December	16
Cathy	Carlson	December	22
Nancy	Pecor	December	25

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

PEPPERMINT PATTY SANDWICH COOKIES

2 packages devil's food cake mix (regular size)
4 large eggs, room temperature
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup canola oil
Granulated sugar
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon peppermint extract
4 cups confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine cake mixes, eggs and oil; beat until well blended. Shape into 1-in. balls; place 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Flatten with bottom of a glass dipped in sugar.

Bake 7-9 minutes or until tops are cracked. Cool 2 minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and extract until blended. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth.

Spread filling on bottoms of half of the cookies; cover with remaining cookies. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

PEPPERMINT-FILLED COOKIES

1 cup butter, softened
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed brown sugar
2 large eggs, room temperature
1 tablespoon 2% milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
40 chocolate-covered peppermint patties (1½"), unwrapped
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup semisweet chocolate chips
1 tablespoon shortening

In a large bowl, cream butter, cream cheese and sugars until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in eggs, milk and vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt; gradually beat into butter mixture.

Divide dough in half; shape each into a disk. Wrap in waxed paper and refrigerate 30 minutes or until firm enough to roll.

Preheat oven to 400°. On a lightly floured surface, roll each portion of dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a

floured 3-in. round cookie cutter. Place a mint patty in center of each circle; fold dough over patty. Pinch to seal seams. Place on greased baking sheets, seam side down.

Bake 8-10 minutes or until cookies are golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

In a microwave, melt chocolate chips and shortening; stir until smooth. Drizzle over cookies. Refrigerate until set. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

FROZEN GRASSHOPPER TORTE

4 cups crushed Oreo cookies (about 40 cookies)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, melted
1 pint (2 cups) vanilla ice cream, softened if necessary
2 cups heavy whipping cream
1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow crème
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup 2% milk
 $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon peppermint extract
3 drops green food coloring, optional

In a large bowl, combine crushed cookies and melted butter; toss until coated. Reserve $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the mixture for the topping. Press remaining mixture onto bottom of a 9-inch spring-form pan or 13x9-in. dish. Freeze 10 minutes.

Spread ice cream over crust. Freeze, covered, until firm.

In a bowl, beat cream until soft peaks form. In a large bowl, mix marshmallow crème, milk, extract and, if desired, food coloring until blended. Fold in whipped cream.

Spread over ice cream. Sprinkle with reserved cookie mixture. Freeze, covered, until firm.



DECEMBER NIGHTS by Audur Einarsdottir

December nights are different than the rest.

In December I lie awake
and listen to Christmas songs.

In December I lie awake
finding presents for my loved ones.

In December I lie awake
thinking about what I'll cook over the holidays.

Why can't every month be December?

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR DECEMBER:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBPIv6ttmxo>

Gnome Appliqué Table Runner
Missouri Star Quilt Company



UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Annual Vermont Holiday Market, December 2nd & 3rd: At the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Show hours: Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: \$10 for adults at the door; kids under 12 are FREE!

9th Annual MES Craft Fair, December 9th: At the Montgomery Elementary School in Montgomery. Show hours: 9 am – 3 pm. FREE admission.

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:

Wednesday, December 27th, 2023

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



December is National Bingo Month



*December is a simple wish that brings
spectacular moments." — Unknown*