

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 7
March 2026

Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch
Cindy Metayer

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Bonnie Evans

Secretary

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Deb Dusablon

Newsletter

Sharon Perry

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Quilt Show

Diane Kane
Beth Mouser

Website

Scott Perry

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2026 Raffle Quilt

Denise Chase & Helen Short

2026 Charity Quilt

BINGO Quilt made by
FCQG members

President's Piece

Greetings Guild members,

Spring is around the corner and, if you are thinking like I am, "Bring It On"! It seems like Winter's bite was stronger and longer this year. Or, could it be that our tolerance is being tested? Or, is it that the "Hope of Spring" is just a faded longing?

There is an adage about the weather: "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". It reminds us that soon we will see brave, little flowers peaking up through partially frozen ground... perhaps through the lens of snow squalls and freezing temperatures. Now, that's Spring's hope!

As we prepare to reunite with in-person meetings for 2026, it is important to note what is to come! March 11, our meeting date, is the deadline for submitting quilt entries for our April quilt show. Here's hoping you have been "roaring" to finish up all your projects like those "lions" roaring into March!! Let's make this year's show one to remember as we recognize our country's 250th birthday! As a reminder, finish up your Blocks of the Month and bring them to the March meeting. We then can end the month of March like "lamb in spring" frolicking and celebrating our finished works after pushing to meet deadlines!

As we move through March, welcoming Spring with the vernal equinox and lovely longer days, remember to value the work we do as a collective group. We remain strong in our commitment to our greater community. We remain united in our willingness to try new methods or more difficult patterns. We continue to support and mentor one another. We respect our differences and celebrate our common goals.

2026, here we come, ready for another year of quilting and community.

Piecefully yours,

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

2026 Guild Calendar

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: The Process of Getting Your Quilt
into a National Quilt Show
with Linda Wells

June 10th: Potluck and Trunk Sale

July 8th: The Temperature is Burning
Strip Poker

August 12th: Scrap Quilting with Lisa Torres

2026 Guild Calendar

September 9th: Novelty Ice Cream
Social and TBD

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

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2026**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- March 11, 2026**

Opening Balance		\$13,349.89
Funds Collected		
Raffle ticket sales - membership	\$305.00	
QS Sponsor (1)	\$200.00	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$505.00	
		<i>Subtotal</i> \$13,854.89
Funds Paid Out		
Sharon Perry, Postage to mail Raffle tickets to members	\$31.20	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$31.20	
		Grand Total \$13,823.69

2026 YTD Collections: \$855.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

MARCH MEETING FEATURES PAST QUILT JUDGE & GIFT EXCHANGE

Submitted by Helen Short, Program Co-Chair

What really matters with your quilts? Bindings hand sewn to the back? Puffy bindings? Crisp points? Your quilt hanging straight? The color palette used in your quilt? Come to our March 11th meeting to learn the answer to these questions and ones you haven't even considered. Our own Denise Chase who has served as a Quilt Judge at Franklin County Field Days and the Newport VT Quilt Show will present "What Judges Look for When They Examine Our Quilts." Denise will display some quilts to demonstrate what she means when she tells us why we shouldn't cut off the points on our stars.

At the March meeting we will also exchange gifts as we didn't get a chance to do it in December.

We have a painless activity planned to accomplish this. There will be no stealing.

Have you ever looked at a quilt at a rummage sale or second hand store and wondered when it was made and by whom? While our quilts will not be as famous as the Dear Jane Quilt, ask yourself if the label hadn't been placed there by Jane A. Stickler with the year and the fact that it was made during War Time, would the quilt have found its way back to Vermont to be displayed in the Bennington Museum? Our April 8th program will be "It's All About Labels" with Carolyn Babcock and Sharon Perry. We'll learn why labeling our quilts matters and some easy ways to label our quilts.





QUILT SHOW NEWS



26th ANNUAL QUILT SHOW: 45 DAYS AND COUNTING

The 2026 Quilt Show is less than 7 weeks away, and the planning and preparations are ongoing behind the scenes. As the event draws near, we depend on all guild members to ensure the quilt show is a huge success. Continue reading to see how you can help.

- **We need quilts!!!** It's all about the quilts!!! As of February 22nd, we have 87 quilts registered, and we need more to fill City Hall. Although the deadline to register your quilt is March 11th, please turn in your entry forms and photos as soon as possible so Penny LaRoche has plenty of time to enter your information, plan a pleasing layout for everyone's quilts, and print all the cards and other information needed. You can find the quilt registration form [here](#).

- **We need volunteers!!!** Peggy Paradee has been signing members up for the many volunteer positions since the September meeting. She is appreciative of all who have signed up already. There are still 14 jobs from which to choose. **We've added 2 new easy jobs: Friday morning 2 volunteers to pick up the quilt show supplies from the guild's storage unit in Fairfax; and Sunday afternoon 2 volunteers to return those supplies.** *We are especially in need of able-bodied volunteers to help with picking up the quilt poles before the quilt show and returning them Sunday afternoon.* We do have a truck and trailer for transporting the poles. You can find the list of jobs still open [here](#). If you cannot remember the jobs you have already signed up for, you can find a list by last name [here](#) with each member's jobs.

- **We need member items for/donations to the guild boutique!!!** Mary King is this year's coordinator for the Guild Boutique. Members can sell their items in the boutique; you will find the form to inventory your items [here](#). But if you don't want to sell your items, you can always donate items with all proceeds going to the guild.

- **We need your raffle tickets!!!** Sharon Perry is the raffle ticket coordinator again this year. We're getting a late start on the sale of raffle tickets by members this year, but hopefully we'll get a good number of tickets sold before the quilt show. Members can mail their tickets to Sharon Perry, PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471, or return them to Sharon at the March meeting. **Sharon asks that each member return the raffle tickets and money for the tickets in an envelope with the member's name written on the outside.** Sharon wants to be sure to properly credit the returned tickets and money to the correct member and avoid spending time tracking down unreturned tickets. As a reminder, each member is required to sell (or buy) two books of raffle tickets to remain a member in good standing.

- **We need miniature quilts for the display cases at the I-89 Rest Areas!!!** Do you have a miniature quilt (preferably smaller than the challenge quilts) to loan to April Walker in order to decorate the rest area display cases? Or would you be willing to make one using guild fabric and have it be part of the display every year? Denise Chase has plenty of guild fabric you could use. If you're willing to help with providing a miniature quilt or making one, please contact April Walker, 802-782-4631 or dawalker328@gmail.com.

- **We need help distributing and displaying the quilt show posters!!!** You can pick up quilt show poster from Denise Chase. Her address is 55 Barlow Street, St. Albans, VT 05478. You can call Denise Chase, 802-370-1104, to arrange a convenient time to stop by. Let's get the posters displayed in our local communities.

- **We need your Challenge Quilt entries!!!** The Challenge Quilt theme is "Celebrate America". Beth Mouser has suggested some places to get inspiration include the American Revolution series on PBS, YouTube videos, and fabric stores that are getting fabrics celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The quilt size limit is 100" around the perimeter.

26TH ANNUAL FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILT SHOW: CELEBRATE AMERICA!

 **QUILT SHOW NEWS** 
26th ANNUAL QUILT SHOW: 45 DAYS AND COUNTING (CONT.)

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **All quilts must be brought to the St Albans City Hall auditorium between 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon on Friday, April 10th...NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you cannot personally deliver your quilt(s) at that time, ask a friend to deliver them.
- **All quilts must be in a clear plastic bag and clearly labeled with your name and quilt title.** There's no guarantee your specific bag will be returned to you so don't use a *custom/special* bag for your quilt.
- All quilts entered into the quilt show must have a sleeve. Please review the February newsletter found [here](#), on page 4, for several tutorials on how to attach a sleeve to a quilt.
- Please take the time to review the volunteer list by last name, before the set-up day, to see those jobs for which each member has signed up. That list can be found [here](#).



GUILD SEW ALONG AT THE NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER (NMC) PLANNED FOR MARCH

All members are invited to the “Slow Sewing and Hand Sewing” Guild Sew Along on Saturday, March 14th, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, in the NMC Conference Room. Bring a slow/hand sewing project to work on...think binding, appliqué, or embroidery.

Also, if you made some red, white and blue Sawtooth Star blocks for the Block of the Month program, bring those along as well. We will collect them and keep them until guild members have an opportunity to sew them into quilts.

If you're not interested in slow or hand sewing, you are welcome to work on your own project. It's just nice to get together with those who share a love of quilting.

ONE MORE WINTER SEW ALONG PLANNED ON ZOOM

In addition to the in-person sew along mentioned above, Sharon Perry will be hosting 1 last guild virtual sew along on Zoom on March 18, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Join us for another fun-filled winter day sewing virtually with others who share a love of quilting.



EMBROIDERY PATTERN FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY





That is **26 Finishes In 2026!**

Join in the fun and make 26 quilted projects by the end of 2026 and your name will be entered into a special drawing held in December 2026. If you'd like to participate, fill in your name and 26 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 26 projects or you can remove a project, or swap out projects, etc...you just have to have **26 Finishes In 2026** 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 **26 Finishes In 2026!** You will maintain your own list, but you must let Sharon Perry know you are participating.

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

26 In 2026

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.	26.



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

In Sandy Lane’s absence this month, the newsletter editor has offered another block pattern as a bonus BOM. It is a shamrock block just in time for St Patty’s Day. Block instructions can be found [here](#).

Sandy Lane is this year’s Project Coordinator for the guild, but she is traveling this month. She’s in Turkey taking care of her sister who is recovering from pneumonia. Her sister is on the mend, and Sandy hopes to be back in Vermont soon.

Make as many as you want and bring your Lucky Shamrock blocks to the March meeting.



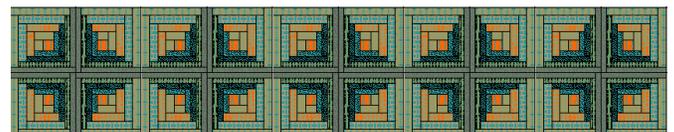
SUNSHINE CARDS FOR GUILD MEMBERS

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, 802-658-1438. He will send out an appropriate card.



Gladys	Barnes	March	11
Kathy	Katz	March	12
Laurel	Schaap	March	12
Helen	Short	March	18
John	Rouleau	March	28
Andrea	Blaisdell	March	29
Lauretta	Chalifoux	March	29
Sandy	Lane	March	29

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

PORTUGUESE BEAN SOUP

1 pound dried kidney beans
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 medium onion, chopped
 1 medium carrot, chopped
 ¼ cup chopped celery
 1 smoked ham hock
 1 medium potato, chopped
 12 ounces fully cooked Spanish chorizo links or Portuguese sausage, chopped
 3 garlic cloves, minced
 1 bay leaf
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 4 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
 1 can (32 ounces) whole tomatoes in puree
 1/2 cup uncooked elbow macaroni
 2 cups chopped cabbage or chopped kale

Rinse beans. Place in a large saucepan or Dutch oven; add water to cover by 2 in. Bring to a boil; boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat; let soak, covered, 1 to 4 hours. Drain and rinse beans, discarding liquid.

In the same saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, carrot and celery; cook 3-4 minutes or until slightly soft. Add ham hock, soaked beans, potato, sausage, garlic, bay leaf, salt and pepper; cook 2-3 minutes. Stir in broth and tomatoes in puree; crush tomatoes with a wooden spoon. Bring to a simmer. Cook, covered, 25-30 minutes.

Stir in macaroni and cabbage; cook, covered, another 10-15 minutes or until macaroni is cooked and cabbage or kale is wilted. Remove ham hock and bay leaf; discard. Serve with bread.

SCALLOPED CABBAGE

½ medium head cabbage, chopped (about 4 cups)
 3 tablespoons canola oil
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 ½ teaspoon salt
 Dash pepper
 1 cup whole milk
 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
 ¾ cup bread crumbs
 2 tablespoons butter, melted
 Minced chives, optional

Preheat oven to 350°. Place cabbage in a greased 2-qt. baking dish. In a saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Whisk in flour, salt and pepper until smooth; gradually whisk in milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir

until thickened, 1-2 minutes. Stir in cheese. Pour over cabbage. Combine bread crumbs and butter; sprinkle over top.

Bake, uncovered, until bubbly, 20-30 minutes. Serve immediately. If desired, garnish with chives.

CHINESE COLESLAW

For coleslaw:

5 cups coarsely chopped Chinese or Napa cabbage
 1 cup shredded carrots
 ½ cup sliced green onions (1-inch pieces)
 1 can (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, drained
 2 tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted

For dressing:

¼ cup vegetable oil
 1 teaspoon sesame oil
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon pepper
 ½ teaspoon ground ginger
 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
 1 tablespoon soy sauce

Toss all vegetables and sesame seeds to combine. In small bowl, whisk dressing ingredients. Pour dressing over cabbage mixture; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours before serving; toss again before serving.

SAUTÉED CABBAGE

2 tablespoons butter
 1 teaspoon sugar
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
 ⅓ teaspoon pepper
 6 cups coarsely chopped cabbage
 1 tablespoon water

In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in the sugar, salt, pepper flakes and pepper. Add the cabbage and water. Cook for 5-6 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.



MARCH

By Helen H. Moore

Forward, March	When March winds blow
And welcome Spring,	The winter away,
When bunnies bounce	They get the world
And birds all sing!	Ready for April and May.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR MARCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmrcTEcTc0Y>

Sew Cute Runner for March
Shabby Fabrics



LINK TO BARN QUILT TRAIL OF NORTHERN VERMONT

<http://www.barnquiltsouthernvermont.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, March 18th, 2026

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



March is Music in Our Schools Month



*"Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*