

# Franklin County Quilters Guild

## SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

### Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

[franklincountyquilters@gmail.com](mailto:franklincountyquilters@gmail.com)



Volume 17, Issue 8  
April 2025

#### Co-Presidents

Jean Anne Branch  
Mary Jane Rossi

#### Vice President

Bonnie Evans

#### Secretary

Gale Weld

#### Treasurer

Deb Dusablou

#### 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

Salute the Spring, everyone!

We welcome April each year with open arms and crocuses, daffodils and hyacinth! What a sight to behold after the winter's snowfall. A beautiful sight indeed.

As we all know, April brings the rain to nourish the soil and support the flowers' springing up! It awakens the farmer's fields with, hopefully, enough rain to sweeten the soil without making ponds in order for them to plant their crops. The trees bud as the finale to maple sugaring season and we hope they don't sprout too early!

Rain is necessary, so why not embrace it? Take a walk in the rain. Maybe you have a metal roof? What sweeter white noise than rain beating on the roof....some poet calls it "Nature's lullaby". Walk with your grandchild or dog so you can jump and splash in the puddles. Or, just enjoy watching the birds as they search for the bugs and worms that come to the surface....what a tasty treat!

In a nutshell, we prefer a sunny day to a rainy one. We quilters know that ugly fabric can be turned into a work of art - a quilt, a potholder or wall hanging. These works of art can "turn any frown upside down."

To quote Gilbert Chesterton: "And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow."

Piece by piece,

Jean Anne Branch  
2024-2025 Co-President

Mary Jane Rossi  
2024-2025 Co-President



#### 2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

September 18<sup>th</sup> Trunk Show  
with Debi Montgomery  
& light refreshments

September 19<sup>th</sup> Mystery Quilt  
Workshop with Debi Montgomery  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Swanton)

October 16<sup>th</sup> Trunk Show with  
Denise Chase, Ice Cream Social,  
and Brown Bag Exchange

November 20<sup>th</sup> Trunk Show  
with Karen Abrahamovich

#### 2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

November 23<sup>rd</sup> Workshop with Karen  
Abrahamovich, NMC Conference Room

December 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday Potluck  
and Gift Exchange--MTG STARTS AT 6PM

January 15<sup>th</sup> Virtual Trunk Show  
with Linda Diak ON ZOOM

February 19<sup>th</sup> Pam Weeks' Lecture on History of  
Soft Protest Storytelling in Textiles ON ZOOM

March 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop with Nanc Ekiert, NMC  
Conference Room RESCHEDULED

March 19<sup>th</sup> Guild Members'  
Skill Sharing Session

#### 2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Quilted Jacket Workshop with  
Janice Roy, NMC Conference Room CNX

April 4<sup>th</sup> Quilt Show Set-Up

April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Show

April 9<sup>th</sup> Strippers Night!

Left-Right-Center Strip Poker Game

May 14<sup>th</sup> Modern Quilts with Jess Peck  
Brown Bag Exchange (return)

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



### 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, March 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Jean Anne Branch for our monthly meeting. She greeted all members in attendance and stated that Thursday, March 20, is the first day of spring as well as the International Day of Happiness. Jean shared some inspirational ideas to encourage us to be happy.

#### Announcements:

- Jean Anne announced that she has information about a Gammill long arm quilting machine that is for sale. If anyone is interested, Jean Anne can get you the information.
- Bonnie Evans has raffle tickets to benefit the hospital. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

**Nominating Committee:** March is the month to begin the search for the officers to be nominated for the next year. Cindy Metayer and Carol Parks have agreed to search for members interested in holding office. If anyone is interested in assisting Cindy and Carol, please contact them. The slate of officers will be voted on at the June meeting.

**Sugarhouse Gazette:** The deadline for submissions is March 25, 2025.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Penny LaRochelle and seconded by Nanc Ekiert to accept the February 19, 2025, Secretary and Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

#### Chair Reports:

##### Quilt Show (Mary King and Beth Mouser):

- Mary King reported that Helen Short arranged for members of the Rotary Club to be available to help set up poles on Friday morning.
- April Walker was congratulated on her wonderful job with publicity especially displays at the rest stops.
- Teri Brunelle needs inventory information for the Quilter's Boutique. She also requested that removable labels be placed on items for sale with your name and price. She wants to be sure members get their money.
- It was reported that there is a bin in storage with more items from past sales that will be placed in the Boutique.
- Members are encouraged to donate items to the Boutique.
- Penny LaRochelle had description cards available for those members who are displaying quilts. Penny would like these cards to be checked for accuracy. She indicated that quilts need to be placed in clear plastic bags with the description cards. Quilts may be dropped off at the City Hall on Friday morning. Enter through the main doors and go into the room on the left to have quilts checked in. Poles will be set up starting at 8:00 a.m. and quilts will be hung in the morning. If you want to sell your quilt, you will need a small ID card with the sale information.
- Mary and Beth were thanked for the work they have done behind the scenes.

**Membership (Penny LaRochelle):** Penny reported there are now 69 members with two new members; 41 members were present.

##### Block of the Month (Carol Stanley):

- Carol reported there were 32 Black, White, and Red all over blocks. Dorothy Pratt won those blocks.
- There were 62 Twin Sisters blocks. Paula Fisher won those blocks along with white sashing.
- There were 22 Kitty Blocks. Mary Ellen Therrien was the winner of those blocks.
- The March block is the Chandelier Block (another MSQC block) to be completed on point in batiks and white background. The instructions will be posted on the Guild's FB page as well as in the Guild's Newsletter under Projects.

##### Programs (Cathy Carlson and John Rouleau):

- During April's Meeting, we will play our Right, Left, Center Game. Members are asked to bring 12 strips (2-1/2 inches x WOF) in earth tones.
- May's meeting will be with Jess Peck from Vermont Modern Quilts. Members are also asked to bring in their completed Brown Bag projects.
- June's meeting will be our annual "trunk" sale.
- Tonight's program was four members sharing skills:
  - John Rouleau demonstrated his quick and easy potholders.
  - Kathy Katz shared her hand quilting techniques.
  - Jean Anne Branch demonstrated "sew and slash."
  - Cindy Metayer demonstrated paperless "hexies"

##### New Business:

- Mary Jane Rossi announced that there is a new permanent meeting day. Our meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month to accommodate the American Legion. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.
- Mary Jane also called for a vote to change the monthly meetings. Starting September 2025, we will no longer have meetings in January and February. We will have meetings in July and August. This will make it easier to travel and to help those members who have difficulty with Zoom connections. The membership agreed.

**Drawing:** Lauretta Chalifoux won the general membership door prize; Maggie Stockwell won the comfort quilt door prize.

##### Show and Tell

Motion was made by Cindy Metayer to adjourn the meeting with a second by Carol Parks. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Bicknell (for Gale Weld)



*What's in your  
Easter basket?*

**TREASURER’S REPORT FOR APRIL 2025**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD  
Treasurer's Report -- April 9, 2025**

Opening Balance		\$10,583.13
Funds collected		
QS Vendor	\$100.00	
QS Raffle	\$95.00	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$195.00	
		<i>Subtotal</i> \$10,778.13
Funds paid out		
Nanc Ekiert, Feb workshop fee	\$300.00	
Cathy Carlson, Refund for cancelled Jacket workshop	\$30.00	
Penny LaRochelle, Membership & QS Paper/Printing	\$96.06	
April Walker, QS Publicity	\$128.44	
Bonnie Evan, Charity quilt misc	\$25.00	
Sharon Perry, FCQG Logo fabric	\$60.78	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$640.28	
		<b>Grand Total \$10,137.85</b>

2025 YTD Collections: \$1,208.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer



**WE’LL BE STRIPPING AT THE APRIL MEETING**

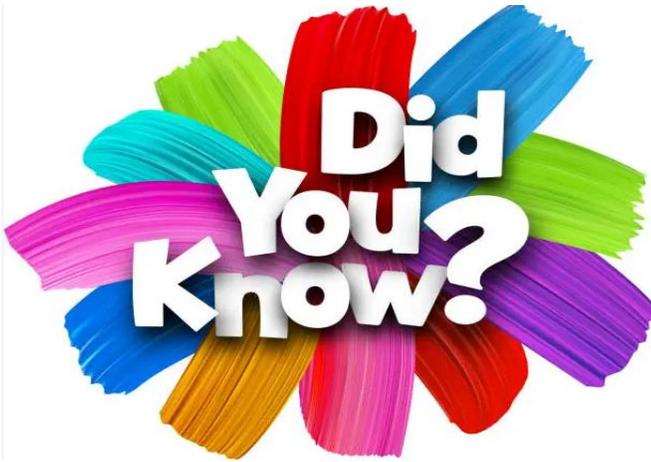
During the April meeting, we will play the Right, Left, Center game. Members are asked to bring 12 strips (2½ inches x WOF) in earth tones. *Don’t forget the new meeting location is at the American Legion, 100 Parah Drive, St Albans, VT, on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.*



## 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



*A regular column submitted by Peggy Paradee*

## QUILTING TERMS

Did you know? There are many quilting terms that quilters use on a daily basis check this out to see if there are any terms that are unfamiliar to you.

**Appliqué:** This is a technique where fabric shapes are cut and sewn onto a fabric block or a quilt. Typically a fusible material is ironed to the wrong side of a shape, and then ironed onto the background fabric. There are many types of appliqué: Needle turned this involves hand work, where you use a needle to turn edge under and then hand stitching into place. Raw edge appliqué techniques used the fuse your shape to fabric than two use a decorative stitch to adhere to a quilt block.

**Backing:** A quilt consists of three layers. Quilt top is either pieced or single piece of fabric. The next layer is batting. The bottom layer of a quilt is a piece of fabric that is generally 4 inches longer and wider on all sizes. This allows for quilting. For example, if a quilt top measures 60" x 60", backing and batting should measure at least 68" x 68". Backing fabric can be a single piece of extra wide backing fabric or a fabric of

your choice which will be sewn together to the size needed. Some quilters like to piece their entire backing with scraps of fabric. We often refer to this as a sexy back.

**UFO:** A term used to refer to an unfinished object or project many projects at any given time.

**WOF:** Width of fabric you will find this abbreviation in many quilt patterns.

**Setting the seam:** When an iron is set on the seam before pressing it to the side or open, depending on your project, it allows the thread to relax into your fabric and become more secure.

**Stash:** Fabrics that have been accumulated for projects or because you really liked it or because you have a fabric addiction.

**Stitch in the ditch:** A quilting term used to describe the method of stitching along existing seams in a patchwork piece or quilt top in order to quilt it together with the batting and backing.

**Seam allowance:** The fabric between the sewing line and the raw edge. In quilting it is a ¼ inch.

**Quilt label:** A patch or an area on the back of the quilt generally, the quilt label will have a date, recipient name, and the name of its makers. Perhaps it might even have a little bit of information about the quilt.

**Quilt sleeve:** A strip of fabric that is applied to a quilt to enable hanging a rod is often slipped through the sleeve

**Jelly Roll:** Fabric cut into 2½- inch strips and wound into a roll. It's used for strip piecing and other various projects and also binding.

**Fat eighth:** A fat eighth is a piece of material that is 9 inches by 21 inches.

**Fat quarter:** A typical ¼ yard of fabric is 9" x 44"; a fat quarter is 18" x 22".

**Finger pressing:** Walking your finger along a seam, pressing with your nail or tip of your finger to crease it without the use of an iron.

**Layer cakes:** Fabric that is cut into 10-inch squares. These can be bought prepackaged in many quilt stores.

**Charm pack:** A variety of a fabric line cut into 5-inch squares. Charm packs are sold in many quilt shops and are packaged by numerous fabric retailers.

Hope these terms help when referencing patterns!

**NEW MEETING**

**DAY:**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 March meeting is called Chandelier; instructions for the block can be found [here](#). Carol Stanley, this year’s Project Coordinator for the guild, says to use fun fabrics and white-on-white background. Bring your blocks to the April 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**

- Use a grapefruit spoon to help close quilting pins when basting a quilt sandwich
- A spring-loaded curtain rod between the sides of book cases can be used to store rolled up bindings.
- Irish Spring soap can help to reduce smell of older sewing machine and its case.
- Use empty square Kleenex boxes for trash next to your sewing machine.
- Use leftover cotton batting for removing nail polish instead of cotton balls. Works great!
- A picnic utensil holder works well for storing gadgets.
- A flannel backed table cover works well as a design wall.



Sharon	Witbeck	April	17
Nancy	Gross	April	17
April	Walker	April	19
Paula	Fisher	April	23
Barbara	Fraser	April	30

*...and many more!!!*





## ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2025 QUILT SHOW?

- As a reminder, **all quilts, including those in the Small/Miniature category**, must have a sleeve sewn (not pinned) to the back. The sleeve must be at least 4" wide.

- **We need your raffle tickets!!!** Sharon Perry is the raffle ticket coordinator this year. If you haven't returned your raffle tickets yet, bring them to City Hall during setup for the quilt show setup on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Please return your tickets and money in an envelope with your name clearly marked on the outside so Sharon can properly credit the ticket sales to your name. **All raffle tickets and money must be returned by Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>!!!**

- **We need member items for/donations to the guild boutique!!!** Members can sell their items in the boutique; you can 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.

***Quilts entered in the show need to be dropped off at the City Hall Conference Room between 10:00 am and noon on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot deliver your quilts during that time, please give your quilts to another member or arrange with a friend or family member to deliver them before noon on Friday.***

## **PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE GUILD'S BYLAWS**

### 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.





## RECIPE CORNER

### CANDIED PECANS

½ cup granulated sugar  
 ½ cup light brown sugar  
 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 16 ounces unsalted pecans halves (about 4 cups)  
 1 large egg white  
 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 teaspoon water

Preheat oven to 300°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a mixing bowl beat egg white, vanilla, and water until stiff peaks form. Add granulated sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt to a bowl; stir to combine.

Add pecans to the egg whites mixture and gently toss to coat. Add the cinnamon sugar mixture and stir gently until the pecans are well coated.

Spread the pecans into a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for about 40-45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow the pecans to cool completely on the baking sheet.

Store candied pecans in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for several weeks.

### SALTED PECAN SHORTBREAD SQUARES

#### For the crust:

1½ cups all-purpose flour  
 1 cup confectioners' sugar  
 ½ cup cornstarch  
 1 teaspoon sea salt  
 1 cup cold unsalted butter, cubed

#### For the filling:

¾ cup unsalted butter, cubed  
 1½ cups packed brown sugar  
 ½ cup dark maple syrup  
 ½ teaspoon sea salt  
 ½ cup milk chocolate chips  
 ¼ cup heavy whipping cream  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 4 cups coarsely chopped pecans, toasted

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two 13x9-in. baking pans with foil, letting ends extend up sides of pan.

#### For the crust:

Place flour, confectioners' sugar, cornstarch and salt in a food processor; pulse until blended. Add butter; pulse until butter is the size of peas. Divide mixture between prepared pans; press onto bottom of pans.

Bake 10-12 minutes or until light brown. Cool on a wire rack.

#### For the filling:

Melt butter in a large saucepan. Stir in brown sugar, corn syrup and salt; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook and stir until sugar is completely dissolved, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate chips, cream and vanilla until smooth. Stir in pecans. Spread over crusts.

Bake 12-15 minutes or until filling is bubbly. Cool completely in pans on wire racks. Using foil, lift the shortbread out of pans. Gently peel off foil; cut each shortbread into 24 bars. Store in an airtight container.

### BUTTERSCOTCH PECAN BREAD PUDDING

9 cups cubed day-old white bread (about 8 slices)  
 ½ cup chopped pecans  
 ½ cup butterscotch chips  
 4 large eggs  
 2 cups half-and-half cream  
 ½ cup packed brown sugar  
 ½ cup butter, melted  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 Whipped cream and butterscotch ice cream topping

Place bread, pecans and butterscotch chips in a greased 4-qt. slow cooker. In a large bowl, whisk eggs, cream, brown sugar, melted butter and vanilla until blended. Pour over bread mixture; stir gently to combine.

Cook, covered, on low until a knife inserted in center comes out clean, 3-4 hours. Serve warm with whipped cream and butterscotch topping.

### SAVORY SPICED PECANS

4 cups (1 pound) pecans halves  
 ⅓ cup (5⅓ tablespoons) unsalted butter, melted  
 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
 1¼ teaspoons kosher salt  
 ½ teaspoon garlic powder  
 ½ teaspoon ground mustard  
 ½ teaspoon Tabasco sauce, or to taste  
 ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste

Preheat oven to 300°F. Place pecans in large mixing bowl. In another bowl, whisk together melted butter, Worcestershire sauce, salt, garlic powder, ground mustard, Tabasco, and cayenne. Pour the butter mixture over the pecans and stir until well combined. Taste; add more Tabasco or cayenne if desired.

Arrange pecans on large sheet pan; bake for 20-22 minutes until toasted and lightly browned, stirring halfway cooking time to prevent burning. Remove from oven and cool completely, tossing occasionally, before transferring to an airtight container.

Calling the Roll  
by Annette Wynne

April Calls,  
Through spring time halls,  
'Bluebird, crocus, violet,  
Do you forget  
To grow? To sing?"  
Soon they answer to the call,  
"Present early one and all,"  
O the joy of spring!

**FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL  
FOR APRIL:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFRJFDp-KS8>

**Pint Size Table Runner – April  
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](mailto: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:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Please email articles to Sharon Perry, to [vtquilter@gmail.com](mailto:vtquilter@gmail.com),  
or mail to PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471



*April 1<sup>st</sup> is April Fool's Day*



*"April is a reminder that something better is always  
around the corner." ~ Unknown*