

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 9
May 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

Happy Month of May!

We did it! That quilt show was just amazing! Many people who visited the show commented on the artistic presentation, the skilled workmanship and the tremendous dedication required to pull off such a stunning event! Kudos to each of you for your contributions because without all of you, the annual quilt show just couldn't happen!

May is a time for new beginnings. Trees are going into full bloom as the "fluffy" stage ends and full leaf development occurs. We have hyacinths, daffodils and tulips which lead us into lilacs and the beginning of our beautiful summer gardens. May also is a busy month for preparing and planting vegetables and new flowers.

This May, why not challenge yourself to beginning something "new". Try out paper piecing or appliqué if you haven't tackled either. Or, how about taking a class to learn about thread choices or new ways to free-motion quilt your own projects? Art quilting presents challenges for shading and proper fabric placement... why not get together with a friend and try your hand at that? There is a multitude of resources on-line to help with all this! (Here's a "hot tip": May 14 is "Dance Like a Chicken" Day...give it a whirl!)

On a more serious note, May 25 is set aside this year to observe Memorial Day. Most likely, your town/city will have a program or parade to honor those military people who gave their lives for our freedom. Consider getting together with your family and neighbors to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

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

2026 Guild Calendar

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

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

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 MAY 2026

FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD

Treasurer's Report -- May 13, 2026

Opening Balance		\$14,197.09
Funds collected		
Raffle ticket sales - membership	\$327.00	
QS Raffle sales	\$1,282.00	
QS Boutique sales	\$2,318.00	
QS Donations	\$641.00	
Raffle ticket sales - Montgomery MHS	\$25.00	
	<u> </u>	
<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$4,593.00	
		<i>Subtotal</i> \$18,790.09
Funds paid out		
Mary King, QS Scavenger hunt misc	\$93.32	
Helen Short, Presenters gift cards (3)	\$150.00	
Margaret Miller, Boutique reimbursement	\$499.50	
Shirley Babcock, Boutique reimbursement	\$463.50	
Diane Biondi, Boutique reimbursement	\$283.50	
Peggy Paradee, Boutique reimbursement	\$283.50	
Bonnie Evans, Boutique reimbursement	\$261.90	
Cindy Metayer, Boutique reimbursement	\$67.50	
Sue McGregor, Boutique reimbursement	\$49.50	
	<u> </u>	
<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$2,152.22	
		Grand Total \$16,637.87

2026 YTD Collections: \$6,082.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

UPCOMING PROGRAMS By Helen Short

Recently I was in a fabric shop and saw a quilted jacket displayed to advertise a class on making quilted jackets with a sweatshirt. I took a picture of it focusing on the presenter so I could contact them about a program and workshop next year. Another Guild member was with me and stated the names of two Guild members who have made quilted jackets from sweatshirts. The Program Team likes to look at resources within our Guild. To this end, if you know how to make a quilted jacket out of a sweatshirt, and would like to teach a workshop, please let either Cathy Carlson or Helen Short know.

Sharon Perry and Carolyn Babcock did a wonderful program on why and how we can label our quilts. In May, guild members will be sharing various techniques. A B-I-G Thank You to Gladys Barnes, Mary King, Margaret Miller, Carly Williams and Joan Wood for volunteering to do demonstrations at the guild meeting. Linda Wells' program will be rescheduled for a future date. She was delayed in her return to Vermont.

The June Program will be a Trunk Sale. Members may purchase tickets for items in their trunks for sale. Some items featured will be a cutting mat, 24X6 inch ruler, a partial bolt of interfacing, kit to make a panel quilt, and quilting fabric by the pound. The proceeds all go to the Guild. Hopefully we will have clear skies. If it rains, items will be moved to tables inside the American Legion.

Kudos to the Quilt Show team for organizing a tremendous 2026 show!

If you need fabric to make a red, white, and blue Quilt of Valor, please let me know. QOVs will be presented to veterans at our November 11th meeting.



FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILT SHOW WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By April Walker

St. Albans, VT – In early April, the Franklin County Quilters Guild hosted its 26th annual Franklin County Quilt Show at the St. Albans City Hall.

In honor of our country's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, this year's challenge quilt category was "Celebrate America". There were 13 creative challenge quilt entries. Along with the challenge quilts, there were more than 130 quilts in the show.

Mayor Trudy Cioffi stopped by the quilt show Saturday morning to select her favorite quilt for the Mayor's Award. Mayor Cioffi presented the award to Shirley Babcock of St. Albans for her quilt, "Juliet." Guild co-presidents Jean Anne Branch of Milton and Cindy Metayer of Franklin selected "Harmony" by Monica Kelley of Franklin for the President's Award.

Eighteen additional awards were presented during the show, 5 awards from show vendors, 7 sponsor awards, and 12 viewers' choice awards. The vendors' awards and winners were: from First Mate Quilting, St. Albans, "Spring Sprouts" by Sharon Perry; from Henri's Quilts of Shelburne, "Just Stick to Birds" by Holly Bressette; from Quilts of Valor, "Healing in Color" by Cindy Metayer; from Treasured Moments Quilting of St. Albans, "How to Build a Scarecrow" by Shirley Babcock; from Bev Cook of St. Albans, "Harmony" by Monica Kelley; from John Rouleau of Burlington, "Cozy Flag" by Carly Williams; from The Eloquent Page of St. Albans, "Cat Lovers Delight" by Holly Bressette; from Northern Threads Quilting, Bakersfield "Zoe Is On A Budget" by Sharon Witbeck; from Sampler House B&B of St. Albans, "Cali & Company" by Andrea Blaisdell; from Scott and Sharon Perry of Montgomery, "Flower Pots on Blossom" by Holly Bressette; from VFW Post 758, St. Albans, "QOV for Thomas Barnes" by Gladys Barnes.

The viewers' choice award winners were: Hancock (Bed Quilt): first place, "Harmony" by Monica Kelley of Franklin; second place, "R&B Sugarhouse" by Pat Read of St. Albans; third place, "Summer Colors" by Margaret Miller of Georgia; Jefferson (Lap Quilt): first place, "Just One More Chapter" by Diane Biondi of St. Albans; second place, "Robin's Mind" by Margaret Miller of Georgia; third place, "Flower Pots in Bloom" by Holly Bressette of Georgia; Franklin (Wall Quilt): first place, "Flowers on Recycled Denim" by Barbara Fraser of St. Albans; second place, "Spring Wagon" by Shirley Babcock of St. Albans; third place, "Stars at Twilight" Sharon Witbeck of Jeffersonville; Miniature/Art Quilt: first place, "Jack the Rabbit" by Nancy LaPointe of St. Albans, and a second first place winner, "Carl the Cardinal" by Andrea Blaisdell of Johnson; second place, "Birch Tree Confetti" by Deborah Dusablon of North Hero; third place, "Apple Still" by Sharon Perry of Montgomery; and Challenge Quilt: first place, "We the People" by Lucy Fortin of Georgia; second place, "Celebrate with Fireworks" by Sharon Witbeck of Jeffersonville, and another second place, "Rays of His Father" by Sharon Perry of Montgomery; and third place, "Continental Pose" by Maggie Stockwell of Fairfax.

This year's Raffle Quilt Winner was Cheryl Heneveld of Enosburg Falls, Vermont.

Congratulations to all the winners at the quilt show! See you next year!



THE VERMONT QUILT SHOW, JUNE 18 – 20, 2026

Have you heard? There's a quilt show coming to Burlington in June. And the Franklin County Quilters Guild will be featured at the show with a display of over 50 quilts made by guild members.

You can find all the information about the show [here](#). The event is FREE along with free parking and free lectures.

Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Cindy Metayer

Location: American Legion, St. Albans, VT

Minutes from the General Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Co-President Cindy Metayer. Cindy noted that April is "Stress Awareness Month" and that we are all blessed to have this community. Studies show that having some type of community is the key to living long. She pointed us to a website "The Stress Management Society" that has a lot of tips and tricks for managing stress as well as a 30-Day Stress Management Challenge. Check it out at <https://www.stress.org.uk>.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Cindy asked if we have a motion to accept the secretary and Treasurer's report.
- A motion was made by Mary Jane Rossi and seconded by Helen Short to accept the March 11, 2026 Secretary and Treasurer Reports. All in favor, motion carried.

QUILT SHOW (Beth Mouser, Diane Kane):

- Beth announced that we will be having 4 Quilts of Valor presentations this weekend. There will be 1 at 11 am on Saturday, 2 at Noon on Sunday and 1 at 2pm on Sunday. The last one is with a quilt that' in the show.
- Penny completed the floor plan. There are 132 quilts.
- Everything is falling into place for another fabulous quilt show!!.

THE VERMONT QUILT SHOW, June 2026 (Denise Chase, Sharon Perry, Helen Short):

- Sharon is asking for help setting up our booth.
- A reminder that if you have a quilt in the show, you will be expected to work.
- Sharon asked the guild for permission to buy drapes for the Vermont Quilt Show that would also be able to be used at our shows. Sharon is getting samples to check to make sure that they will be good at not attracting lint or snags. Bonnie motioned that the guild gives Sharon permission to purchase drapes for up to \$1,500 for the quilt show. Discussion ensued regarding the cost limit, the ability to also use them for our quilt shows and sizes of the panels. It was agreed that no price limit would be required. Bonnie amended her motion to "the guild giving Sharon permission to purchase drapes for the quilt shows." All in favor. Motion carried.

COMFORT QUILTS (Denise Chase): Denise says that we are doing great with comfort quilts. We have a good collection and have been handing them out. She hasn't made any kits lately but feel free to go to see her and shop among the guild's fabrics.

PROGRAMS (Helen Short, Cathy Carlson):

- May's program is about the process needed to get your quilt into a National Quilt show. Presented by Linda Wells.
- June is our summer potluck and truck show. Pack up lots of fabrics, patterns, and tools to bring to sell with all proceeds going to the guild.
- July we will be playing Burning Hot Strip Poker.
- August will be Scrap Quilting with Lisa Torres

MEMBERSHIP: (Penny LaRochelle): Penny announced 68 paid members. There were 42 members present and 1 guest, Carolyn Babcock, present.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH: (Sandy Lane):

- Sandy presented a sample of the new Block of the Month which is a Goodnight Irene (AKA Arkansas Crossroads) block pattern. The block should be made with a white-on-white background.
- Instructions will be posted [here](#) on the FCQG under "Projects." Sandy demonstrated how the block will be assembled. The Good Night Irene pattern can be found for free under Missouri Star's Free Patterns. Members are encouraged to bring completed blocks to the May meeting.
- April BOM: There were 54 Puzzle blocks. The winner of the blocks was Sue McGregor.

NEWSLETTER (Sharon Perry): Sharon noted that the deadline for the newsletter for this month is April 22nd since many members that contribute to the newsletter will be away at quilt camp.

DRAWINGS:

- Membership Winner: Shirley Babcock
- Comfort Quilt: Diane Kane

OTHER BUSINESS: Sally Krupp who has quilted many of our comfort quilts has a granddaughter who is ill and will be receiving one of our quilts.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM: Sharon Perry and Carolyn Babcock discussed labeling your quilts. They presented many ideas for making easy labels for quilts.

SHOW-N-TELL: A wonderful display of talent within the guild members. Always fun to watch.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laurel Schaap and was 2nd by Helen Short. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Trahan, Secretary





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)

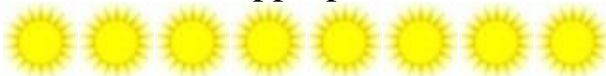
Sandy Lane is this year’s Project Coordinator for the guild. The BOM presented at our April guild meeting is called Goodnight Irene (aka Arkansas Crossroad) and comes from the Missouri Star Quilt Company (MSQC). If you have an MSQC account, the pattern is free for download in *15 Quilts for 15 Years*.

For this BOM we will be making 2 blocks. If you plan to participate, please make at least one pair of blocks. 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, 802-658-1438. He will send out an appropriate card.



QUILT HUMOR

Three sewing machines walk into a bar...

The first says to the second, “Are you a Singer?”

The second replies, “Why, Janome?”

The third remarks, “Oh, Brother!”



Diane	Biondi	May	3
Shirley	Babcock	May	3
Carol	Mahoney	May	17
Rebecca	Sylvester	May	17
Rolande	Fortin	May	19
Kay	Courson	May	20
Pat	Reed	May	21
Carly	Williams	May	31
Jennifer	Thompson	May	31

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

CREAM OF CELERY SOUP

From Jean Anne Branch

- 2 tablespoons oil or butter
- 1 medium-large onion, diced
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 6 cups celery, sliced thin (large bunch)
- 2 cups potato, 1/2" rounds
- 5 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/8 - 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh dill **OR** 1 tablespoon dried dill
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley **OR** 2-3 tablespoons dried parsley
- 1/2 cup sour cream or plain yogurt

Cook slowly oil/butter and onion in large pot like a Dutch oven. Add garlic and cook until fragrant.

Add celery, potato, broth, bay leaf, salt, black pepper, and cayenne pepper. Bring to a rolling boil; reduce heat and cook until veggies are tender.

Remove from heat and stir in dill and parsley. Remove bay leaf. Blend soup to desired texture.

Add sour cream/yogurt.

OLIVE-STUFFED CELERY

- 1 dill pickle spear plus 1 teaspoon juice
- 3 sweet pickles plus 1 teaspoon juice
- 6 pitted ripe olives plus 1 teaspoon juice
- 6 pimiento-stuffed olives plus 1 teaspoon juice
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup finely chopped pecans, toasted
- 6 celery ribs, cut into 2-inch pieces

Finely chop the pickles and olives. In a small bowl, beat the cream cheese, mayonnaise, juices and salt until blended. Stir in the pickles, olives and pecans.

Pipe or stuff filling into celery sticks. Store in the refrigerator.

CELERY GRATIN

- 1/2 cup butter, divided
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 3/4 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Dash ground nutmeg

8 celery ribs, cut into 1-inch pieces
 1/2 cup chopped celery leaves
 6 slices white bread, crusts removed 1/2 teaspoon salt
 Preheat oven to 375°. In a large saucepan, melt 6 tablespoons butter over medium heat. Stir in flour until smooth; gradually whisk in milk and cream. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, 3-4 minutes. Stir in cheese, salt, pepper and nutmeg until combined. Stir in celery and leaves; transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish.

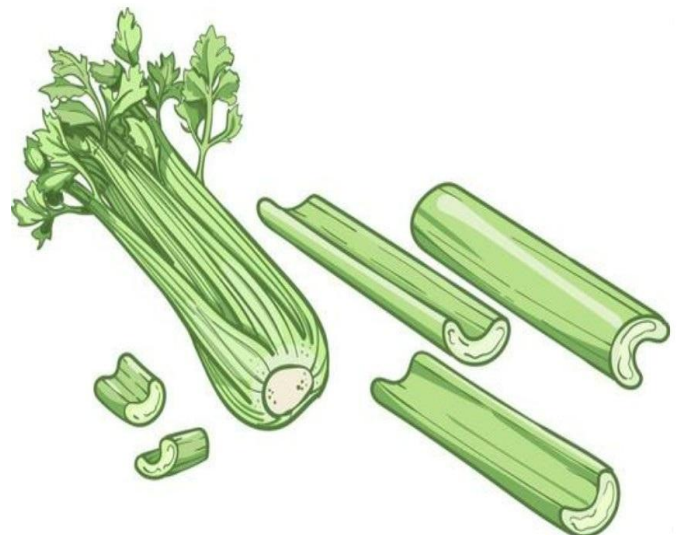
Tear bread into pieces and place in a food processor or blender. Cover and pulse until crumbs form. Transfer to a large bowl. Melt remaining 2 tablespoons butter. Drizzle over bread crumbs; toss to coat. Sprinkle over celery mixture.

Bake until bubbly and topping is golden brown, 25-30 minutes. If desired, sprinkle with additional celery leaves.

APPLE AND CELERY SALAD

- 12 celery ribs, cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 3 medium apples, cut into chunks
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sparkling apple cider or unsweetened apple juice
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard
- 1 teaspoon sugar

Toss celery and apples with lemon juice. In another bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, apple cider, vinegar, oil, mustard and sugar. Pour over celery mixture; toss to coat. Refrigerate, covered, 1 hour. Stir before serving.



THE FIRST OF MAY

By Annette Wynne

If I could stay up late no doubt
I'd catch the buds just bursting out;
And up from every hidden root
Would jump a tiny slender shoot;

I wonder how seeds learn the way,
They always know the very day—
The pretty, happy first of May;
If I could stay up then, no doubt
I'd catch the buds just bursting out.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR MAY:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkDpG_R_Ko0

Sew Cute Runner for May
Shabby Fabrics



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:

3rd Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

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



May is National Bike Month



*"May is the time when everything awakens
and springs into action." ~ Unknown*