

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 17, Issue 4
December 2024

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

Happy Holidays, everyone!

Right after Thanksgiving, the annual tree lighting is such a big thing! Perhaps you took your children to Burlington or to Taylor Park or to your local library to be a part of lighting things up! It is such a thrill to see that tree come to life and watch the children's faces light up with awe and wonder.

According to research, between Thanksgiving and sometime in January, there are at least ten faith-based celebrations. All of those celebrations include lights. Some use candles, some use LED lights, some small lights all one color, some large multi-colored bulbs. December is often thought of as the beginning of "The Season of Lights".

In earlier times, as winter neared and days grew short, festivals were devised to bring the warmth and comfort of light into people's lives... to increase joy and hope. Many cities worldwide still illuminate every year in December to bring that warmth and joy to its citizens and to celebrate their respective holidays.

As you prepare to celebrate this month with your families and friends, we hope you remember to "light things up". Let your light shine brightly! It's amazing how the holiday season with its decorated parks and lampposts make an evening drive around town so magical.

We wish you all a magical and joyful holiday.

**"Let the joy and lights of the season illuminate our world,
And the hope and happiness warm our hearts"**

Piece by piece,

Jean Anne Branch
2024-2025 Co-President

Mary Jane Rossi
2024-2025 Co-President



2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

September 18th Trunk Show
with Debi Montgomery
& light refreshments

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

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

November 20th Trunk Show
with Karen Abrahamovich

2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

November 23rd Workshop with Karen
Abrahamovich, NMC Conference Room

**December 18th Holiday Potluck
and Gift Exchange--MTG STARTS AT 6PM**

January 15th Virtual Trunk Show
with Linda Diak **ON ZOOM**

February 19th Pam Weeks' Lecture on History of
Soft Protest Storytelling in Textiles **ON ZOOM**

February 22nd Workshop with Nanc Ekiert,
NMC Conference Room (**see page 6**)

March 19th Guild Members'
Skill Sharing Session

2024 – 2025 Guild Calendar

March 22nd Quilted Jacket Workshop with
Janice Roy, NMC Conference Room

April 4th Quilt Show Set-Up

April 5th & 6th 25th Annual Quilt Show

April 16th Strippers Night!

Left-Right-Center Strip Poker Game

May 21st Modern Quilts with Jess Peck
Brown Bag Exchange (return)

June 18th 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: Conference Room at Northwestern Medical Center,
 St. Albans, VT

Minutes for General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Jean Anne Branch for the guild's monthly in-person meeting. She greeted all members in and shared a cute story about her daughter as a young child and then read a quote by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Helen Bicknell and 2nd by Nanc Ekiert to accept both Treasurer's Report and Minutes of the September 18th meeting. A motion was made by John Rouleau to accept the Treasurer's report and 2nd by Carol Parks of the October 16th meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Reports:**Comfort Quilts** (Denise Chase)

- Denise announced that comfort quilts (queen, toddler and baby size) have been given to a family in West Berkshire who recently experienced a house fire.
- Guild members were informed about a change in the comfort quilt process. This information is outlined in the November newsletter. She read the statement to ensure that everyone was aware of this necessary change.
- 56 quilt tops need to be quilted.
- Since last meeting, 20 lap quilts donated to [Project Linus](#).
- Reminder:
 - Quilt kits to be quilted and kits to piece are available. Please sign out. Sign in upon return.
 - Batting and backing is available for pick-up. Call Denise if needed.

Quilt Show (Mary King & Beth Mouser)

- Shirley Babcock, Volunteer Coordinator announced "*Tis the season to nag for volunteers to help man the quilt show!*" She circulated a sign-up log. Reminding members they can select time and what to do. Several new positions to consider including guild member demonstrators.
- Sharon Perry reported the volunteer log will also be posted on the guild website to remind members what is open along with a volunteer listing by last name.
- Kathy Katz, Sponsor Coordinator announced 17 letters were sent to participating sponsors with 8 checks received to date totaling \$1,450. She is waiting to hear from several businesses. She has copies of letters as a reminder for distribution if you can help. And a new sponsor letter is available for distribution if you know of a business that can support this event.
- Penny LaRochelle reminded members about a prize drawing for those who submit quilt entries by the December meeting. Penny reported via her mini black board: Bed=9, Lap=3, Wall=10. Quilt show entry forms available on the website under Quilt Show forms or [here](#).

Marketing and Mentoring (Peggy Paradee & Shirley Babcock): Peggy reiterated their efforts to promote the guild. Front Page Forum has proven to be the most beneficial resulting in a number of new members. Membership mentoring plans are being considered for both new and current members.

2025 Guild Charity Quilt (Sharon Perry & Denise Chase)

- Sharon reiterated the guild charity quilt is made by members, for a charitable organization to use for fund raising purposes.
- Quilt this year will be a 4-patch. Kit bags designed with full instructions were made available for completion (70 kits available).
- Please return completed blocks at the November meeting.
- Charities from Franklin and Grand Isle Counties who anticipate they can sell \$1,000 in tickets can apply for this quilt.
- Letters of interest can be made to Jean Anne Branch (2 Evergreen Dr., Unit 102, Milton, VT 05468) or Mary Jane Rossi (100 Kennedy Drive #18, South Burlington, VT 05403); deadline is January 31, 2025.
- One request has already been received. Members will vote for charity selection at the March, 2025 meeting.

2025 Raffle Quilt (Laurel Schaap & Sharon Perry)

- The 2025 Raffle Quilt was on display at the recent Highgate Center School Craft Show.
- Laurel helped with set-up, while Sharon and Penny worked the table. Of note was our visibility in a new location.
- Sharon collected monies from attending member ticket sales adding to craft show sales with a total of approximately \$700. Several member ticket sales (2 booklets each) are still pending. After December meeting, tickets will be mailed.
- Penny mentioned publicity. Efforts are being made to secure a table at the WOKO Flea Market in February.

Sugarhouse Gazette (Sharon Perry)

- The newsletter can be found online [here](#). Each newsletter comes out at least 2 weeks before each meeting.
- Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, November 27th, which is the last Wednesday of the month.
- Watch for a new column by Peggy Paradee called "Did You Know" reporting notables about Vermont quilt events as well as other areas.
- Send information to Sharon via email.

Membership (Penny LaRochelle)

- Penny reported a total of 50 members (45 paid members and 5 guests) present at the meeting. Room limit is 50!

Block of the Month Project (Carol Stanley)

- Carol shared a sample of her December Block of the Month (Pine Tree block). Members are encouraged to complete blocks to donate at the December meeting. For each block provided, the member's name should be put in a drawing for the prize of a group of blocks. An instruction sheet provided during the meeting. Instructions will also be posted on the guild FB page, as well as on the FCQG website under "Projects".
- November BOM: 62 blocks made by members. Two chances to win were offered.
- Winners: 1) Sarah Reed 2) Jean Anne Branch

Programs & Workshop Announcements for 2024-25

(Cathy Carlson & John Rouleau)

- Cathy reminded members December is the gift exchange/potluck with location anticipated to be the Church of the Rock. Please bring a warm or cold dish to share, **doors open at 5:30 pm – starting at 6pm**. Wrapped gift can be funny or sewing related - amount \$15-20. This will be a Yankee Swap gift exchange. (*Minutes continued on page 4*)

TREASURER’S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD
Treasurer's Report -- December 18, 2024**

Opening Balance		\$8,939.01
Funds collected		
Membership	\$40.00	
QS Raffle ticket sales	\$412.00	
Karen Abrahamovich, Nov presentation/workshop	\$220.00	
QS Vendors	\$50.00	
QS Sponsors	\$1,450.00	
	<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$2,172.00
		<i>Subtotal</i> \$11,111.01
Funds paid out		
Carol Stanley, BOM copies	\$14.72	
Cathy Carlson, Gift certificate for Oct presentation	\$54.95	
April Walker, QS fliers	\$270.30	
Karen Abrahamovich, Nov presentation & workshop	\$645.00	
Sharon Perry, Refund for Nov workshop	\$55.00	
Laurel Schaap, Refund for Nov workshop	\$55.00	
Deb Trahan, Gift certificate for March & May programs/demos	\$150.00	
	<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$1,244.97
		Grand Total \$9,866.04

2024 YTD Collections: \$12,256.05

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer



DECEMBER POTLUCK AND YANKEE GIFT SWAP

The program on Wednesday, December 18th, 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 - \$20; handmade gifts are welcome.



MONTHLY MEETING FORMAT

Unless otherwise noted, the monthly guild meeting will follow the following format.

- 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

**November 20, 2024 Guild Meeting Minutes (Cont.)**

- Nanc Ekiert (member) announced she will offer a workshop on February 22 from 9am-4pm located at NMC conference room. Cost is \$30 to participate. Please inform Cathy if you want to attend; give your payment to Deb Dusablon. Once registered, a supply list will be sent. Plan is to learn basic techniques and to make a small 12"x14" quilt art piece.

Other Business:

- Nanc Ekiert announced the Milton Town Treasurer (who is located at the Milton Library) has offered a hand quilting frame for free to a quilter.
- Virginia Rasch announced she was gifted an unfinished Kaleidoscope Quilt that was purchased at a tag sale. She offered this project as free for the taking to a member.

New Business:

- Penny LaRoche reminded us that the guild started in 1991 and that a lifetime membership had been entertained. She is now suggesting a 30 year cap. Members meeting 30-year membership tenure (Carol Stanley, Bonnie Evans, and Dale McFeeters) should be granted a lifetime membership.
 - A lifetime membership is an automatic payment-free membership.
 - Penny made the motion to award lifetime memberships to Carol Bonnie and Dale. Deb Trahan 2nd. Motion carried.

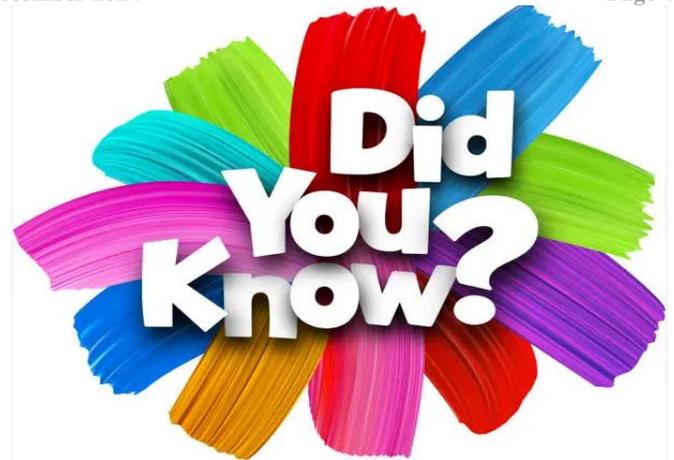
Program:

- John Rouleau introduced speaker Karen Abrahamovich, a Vermont quilt designer.
- Karen shared with members her road to success as a pattern writer to include a trunk show revealing how she began her quilting journey.
- Karen provided a tote bag prize drawing. Winner: Mary Jane Rossi
- Her "Piecing Reimagined" workshop is full, scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd, located at NMC conference room.

Drawings: Helen Bicknell won the membership door prize. Helen Short won the comfort quilt door prize.

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

Respectfully submitted,
 Gale Weld, Secretary



A regular column submitted by Peggy Paradee

QUILT SHOPS IN VERMONT

Did you know that there are many quilt shops in Vermont all over the state? And here they are...

Bellows Falls

Seams Sew Together
 18 Bridge Street Suite 1
 (603) 313-4912

Bennington

The Scarlett Creation
 626 Main Street
 (802) 447-3794

Essex

Yankee Pride Quilts
 9 Main Street
 (802) 872-9300

Fairlee

Barnyard Quilting
 232 US Route 5 N
 (802) 333-3566

Londonderry

Waterwheel House
 Quilt Shop
 6795 Route 100
 (802) 824-5700

Lyndonville

Sewin' Love Fabric Shoppe
 101 Depot Street
 (802) 427-3070

Middlebury

Quilters Corner at
 Middlebury Sew-N-Vac
 260 Court Street Suite 4
 (802) 388-3559

Montpelier

A Quilter's Garden
 342 River Street
 (802) 223-2275

Notion Fabric and Craft
 67 Main Street
 (802) 225-6200

North Troy

Country Thyme Vermont
 23 Meadow Circle
 (802) 744-2795

Troy

Vermont Quilter's
 Schoolhouse
 6529 VT Route 100
 (802) 744-4023



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

The block handed out at the November meeting is called Pine Tree; instructions for the block can be found [here](#). Carol Stanley, this year’s Project Coordinator for the guild, says to use various greens (or multi-colored) for the tree and either dark or light background with high contrast to the tree and trunk fabrics.

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.



CONFETTI ART WORKSHOP

Did Nanc Ekiert’s miniature entry in the 2024 quilt show (pictured to the right) catch your eye? Are you interested in learning the technique so you can make your own art quilt?



There will be a Confetti Art workshop on Saturday February 22, 9 am – 4 pm, at NMC Conference Center. You will be working on a small woodland scene while learning the basics of this easy, quilted art form.

Your instructors for this fun-filled class will be Nanc and buddy Darlene Sabourin. The last day to register is February 1st. The class will be limited to the first 20 people. Please register with the guild’s Program Directors, Cathy Carlson or John Rouleau.

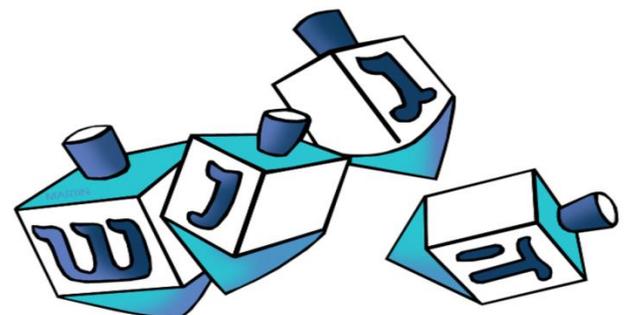
Class fee is \$30 per person, payable to Franklin County Quilters Guild, c/o Deb Dusablon, 456 Savage Point Road North Hero, VT 05474. Registration questions should be directed to Cathy or John. A class supply list will be sent via email after your paid registration is received and processed. In the meantime start saving your teeny tiny scraps...

If you have any class questions feel free to reach out to Nanc Ekiert, ekiert@comcast.net, or 802-324-2424.



Holly	Bressette	December	10
Diane	Kane	December	14
Nancy	LaPointe	December	16
Cathy	Carlson	December	22
Nancy	Pecor	December	25

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

GINGERBREAD MARTINI

For Gingerbread Simple Syrup:

2 tablespoons coarsely grated peeled ginger
2 (3") cinnamon sticks
4 whole cloves
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar

For Cocktail:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup crushed gingerbread cookies
Ice
2 tablespoons vanilla ice cream
1 oz. Baileys Irish Cream
1 oz. vodka
 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Kahlúa
Whipped cream, ground cinnamon, and gingerbread people, for serving

For Simple Syrup:

In a small saucepan over medium-high heat, bring ginger, cinnamon, cloves, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups water to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, until liquid is reduced by about half, about 20 minutes.

Add sugar and stir until dissolved. Let cool about 10 minutes. Strain sugar mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a small bowl.

Make Ahead: Syrup can be made 1 month ahead. Store in an airtight container and refrigerate.

For Cocktail:

Place crushed cookies on a small shallow plate. Pour some gingerbread syrup onto another shallow plate. Dip rim of a martini glass into gingerbread syrup, then dip into cookies to coat.

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine ice cream, Baileys, vodka, Kahlúa, and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. gingerbread syrup. Cover and vigorously shake until outside of shaker is very frosty, about 20 seconds.

Strain into prepared glass. Garnish with a generous dollop of whipped cream and sprinkle with cinnamon. Gently place a gingerbread person in cocktail.

FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE MARTINI

4 cups (or more) ice
4 oz. Baileys
3 oz. vodka
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup hot chocolate mix
Whipped cream and chocolate shavings, for serving

In a blender, blend ice, Baileys, vodka, and hot chocolate mix until smooth. Add more ice as needed to thicken as desired.

Pour into 2 glasses. Top with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

CARAMEL SNICKERDOODLE MARTINI

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup caramel, warmed
2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar
1 cup heavy cream
2 oz. Smirnoff Kissed Caramel
Pinch of ground cinnamon
Ice

Whipped cream and cinnamon sticks for garnish

Place caramel on a plate and cinnamon sugar on another. Dip rims of martini glasses in caramel, then in cinnamon sugar.

In a cocktail shaker, add heavy cream, Smirnoff Kissed Caramel, and cinnamon. Add ice and shake until cold. Pour into glasses and top each one with whipped cream and a cinnamon stick. Garnish with more cinnamon.

PEPPERMINT MARTINI

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. semisweet chocolate chips, melted
 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. crushed candy canes
6 oz. white chocolate liqueur
4 oz. vodka
2 oz. peppermint schnapps
2 Tbsp. heavy cream
Ice
3 small candy canes

Pour melted chocolate onto a shallow plate. Place crushed candy canes on another shallow plate. Dip rims of martini glasses first in chocolate, then in candy canes. Pour remaining chocolate into bottom of glasses and swirl to coat bottom third of glasses with chocolate. Place glasses in freezer until ready to use.

In a cocktail shaker, combine white chocolate liqueur, vodka, peppermint schnapps, and cream. Fill shaker with ice, cover, and vigorously shake until outside of shaker is very cold, about 20 seconds.

Divide drink among prepared glasses. Garnish with small candy canes.



DECEMBER
Author Unknown

Wintry mornings wrapped in white
Evenings, calm and still
Snowflakes dancing all around
Sleigh rides down a hill
Gatherings with loved ones
Such a pleasure to remember
All memories and special gifts
That come with each December.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR DECEMBER:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66bJlh_Tit0
Tea & Cookies for Two December Placemats
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:

Monday, December 30th, 2024

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



*December 26th is
National Candy Cane Day*



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