

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 14
October 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 LaRoche

Quilt Show

Diane Kane
Diane Biondi

Website

Scott Perry

Comfort Quilts Coordinator

Denise Chase

2027 Raffle Quilt

Cindy Metayer

2027 Charity Quilt

Helen Bicknell & Lucie Fortin

President's Piece

Happy tidings to all,

As we move into October, I equate this time of the calendar year to my quilting world with the completion of a quilt top. Not quite at the finish line but worthy of a pause to enjoy and celebrate before jumping into the next phase. Here in Vermont what a great time of year to stand back and enjoy the colors and bounty of nature before the oncoming rush of the holiday season.

Feedback from the September 35th Anniversary celebration was quite positive where many great conversations and laughter ensued. We were so fortunate that two founding members of the Guild, Fran Morong and Susan Bruce, joined the meeting to celebrate and highlight our past. We learned that Susan created the logo that is still used today. Meeting these ladies and observing the warmth they added to the event was a highlight of the evening. We also honored past presidents who are current members, helping to remind us how many hands have helped this Guild to thrive. Those who haven't had the opportunity to take on a leadership role in the Guild are strongly encouraged to step up. You may be surprised how rewarding your efforts can be.

A challenge for this month is to consider trying something different and knowing it is fantastic to have fun and be silly along the way. Your positive spirit and actions may prove to provide someone with as much warmth as that quilt you just gifted.

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

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

2026 Guild Calendar

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

July 8th: The Temperature is Burning! Strip Poker with Red,
White and Blue 2½-inch by WOF strips

July 25th: Sew-In at NMC Conference Room, 9:30 am – 4pm

August 12th: Scrap Quilting
with Lisa Torres

August 22nd: Sew-In at NMC Conference Room,
9:30 am – 4pm

August 29th: Sew-In at NMC Conference Room,
9:30 am – 4pm

September 9th: Birthday Surprise! Novelty Ice Cream Social

October 9th: "Thread, What's the
Big Deal" with Nina Clotfelter

2026 Guild Calendar

October 10th: How to Free Motion
Quilt on Your Domestic Machine
Workshop with Nina Clotfelter

November 11th: QOV Presentations

December 9th: Pot Luck with Gift
Exchange and Food Shelf Drive
and Reveal of Members' Creations
from Snip, Rip, Drop
and Pass and Panel Play Brown
Bag Exchange

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2026**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- October 9, 2026**

Opening Balance		\$14,257.73
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Funds collected

Membership	\$50.00
Sponsors (3)	\$750.00
Free motion workshop w/Nina Clotfelter	\$115.00
Raffle ticket sales - Montgomery Farmers Mkt	\$140.00
<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	<u>\$1,055.00</u>

<i>Subtotal</i>	\$15,312.73
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Funds paid out

Helen Short, Program copies	\$20.39
Bonnie Evans, Ice cream social	\$16.57
Penny LaRochelle, Door prizes	\$163.11
Sharon Perry, Newsletter misc	\$92.16
<i>Total Paid Out</i>	<u>\$292.23</u>

Grand Total	\$15,020.50
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2026 YTD Collections: \$9,384.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

UPCOMING PROGRAMS**By Helen Short**

In October we're sharing Nina Clotfelter from Alabama with the Champlain Valley and Common Threads Guilds. Her program for us is entitled, 'Thread, What's the Big Deal'. I'm anxious to learn about threads because some of my earlier quilts are showing broken threads at the seams.

At the monthly guild meeting on Veterans Day, November 11, we'll be presenting QOV quilts to military veterans. We'll be asking volunteers to make some cookies and finger foods for the family members, of the veterans, who may join us as well. Thanks to the efforts of guild members, we have over 10 Veterans to award QOVs. A few more applications are pending completion.

The December meeting will feature the Holiday Potluck along with the reveal of the Panel Play Brown Bag Exchange and the Snip, Rip, and Drop game. We will also have a gift exchange and food drive for the local food shelves.

Cathy Carlson and Helen are looking for ideas for 2027 programs. Please talk with us or email, hshortvt49@gmail.com or stitchcatvt@gmail.com, your suggestions.

Male Designers to Follow From [Quilting Daily](#)

If your social media feeds could use a fresh dose of color and creativity, these male quilters are ready to deliver. From bold modern designs to clever improvisation and eye-catching palettes, they're stitching up quilts—and content—that stop the scroll.

Ian Garland, offkiltercrafterian.com

Ian is a modern quilt designer, educator, and content creator known for his vibrant, contemporary approach to quilting and his engaging online presence. Introduced to sewing as a child and later to quilting in college, he has developed a distinctive style that leans toward bold colors and modern design, earning recognition in quilt shows along the way. Ian also shares tutorials and live sewing sessions on YouTube and co-hosts the Sew Off Kilter Podcast, where he explores the creative side of quilting. @offkiltercrafterian – over 2,900 followers

Robert J. Bosscher, rjbosscher.com

As a contemporary quilt artist, Robert explores the intersection of fine art and modern quilting. With a background in studio art and art history, he brings a conceptual, art-driven perspective to his quilts, often focusing on color, texture, and emotional narrative. Robert has been quilting for over a decade, influenced by early exposure to quilting through family and from broader artistic influences like painting and installation art. His work has been exhibited in juried shows and galleries, and he is also an active educator, offering lectures and workshops. @rjbosscher – over 6,300 followers

Nicholas Ball

Nicholas is a modern quilt designer and educator based in Cardiff, South Wales, known for his vibrant, improvisational approach to quilting. After studying art and photography, he discovered quilting around 2012. He embraces a liberated style that favors organic shapes, bold color, and sewing without strict patterns or templates. His designs combine fine-art influences with textile traditions. In addition to sharing his work online, he teaches workshops internationally and is the author of Inspiring Improv. @quiltsfromtheattic – over 29,100 followers

Harvey Fierstein

Harvey brings the same bold, expressive sensibility to quilting that defines his work on stage and screen. His quilts are typically vibrant and improvisational, often incorporating rich colors, playful motifs, and a mix of traditional and contemporary elements. Rather than adhering strictly to conventional patterns, he approaches quilting as a form of personal storytelling, using fabric to convey humor, emotion, and individuality. His work reflects a theatrical flair—layered, dynamic, and unapologetically distinctive—making his quilts feel as much like art pieces as functional textiles. @theharveyfierstein – over 135,000 followers

Justin Stafford, keatonquilts.com

Justin is a shop owner, educator, and modern quilt designer known for his clean, contemporary aesthetic and thoughtful approach to color and composition. As the founder of Keaton Quilts in New York City, he has built a brand that blends modern design with a welcoming, community-focused spirit. His quilts often feature bold geometry and fresh palettes, appealing to both new and experienced quilters. Through teaching, social media, and his retail space, he encourages creativity and connection, making modern quilting more accessible and engaging. @keatonquilts – over 32,200 followers

Chris Marchini, rosecityoriginals.com

As a modern quilt designer and content creator, Chris is best known for his bold, graphic aesthetic and approachable, process-driven style. Based in Portland, he began quilting in the late 2010s, quickly gaining a following through engaging social media content, particularly short-form videos showcasing his design process. Through his brand Rose City Originals, he shares patterns, kits, and tutorials that often feature bold motifs and a confident use of color. @rosecityoriginalsn – over 96,200 followers



Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Cindy Metayer

Location: American Legion, St. Albans, VT

Minutes from the General Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Jean Anne Branch. The meeting room was decorated for our 35th Birthday Celebration.

It was announced that Kris Kilburn will make the boys quilt and Sandy Connell will make the girls quilt to be given to the first male and female babies born at NMC in 2027. Kris and Sandy were thanked for making the quilts.

Jean Anne read a letter from the Franklin County Senior Center requesting the Guild's 2027 Charity Quilt. There is still time for other nonprofits to get their requests to the Guild before one is selected to receive the Charity Quilt.

Jean Anne announced that the Guild is seeking 3 volunteer members to form a nominating committee to create a slate of officers for 2027 to be presented at the November meeting and voted on at the December meeting. Members were asked to let either Jean Anne or Cindy know by the end of tonight's meeting of their interest in serving on the nominating committee. Sharon Witbeck and Andrea Blaisdell volunteered for the nominating committee.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Laurel Schapp seconded by Peggy Paradee to accept the August secretary's and treasurer's reports. A voice vote was called and the motion passed.

QUILT SHOW (Diane Kane and Diane Biondi): Diane Biondi announced that the 2027 Challenge Quilt theme will be 'Our Green Mountains'. The Challenge Quilt will adhere to the same size requirements of no more than a perimeter of 96 inches and must have a sleeve for hanging.

MEMBERSHIP (Penny LaRochelle):

- Penny LaRochelle announced that the Guild now has 78 members; 44 members were present and guests.
- Two Special Guests who were founding members of the Guild 35 years ago were present: Fran Morong and Susan Bruce. Susan designed the Guild's sugarhouse block logo.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (Sandy Lane):

- Sandy Lane introduced the October BOM, a 9 patch block made with 2.5 in squares.
- Members showed their creations they made from the scrap packets Lisa Torres passed out at the August meeting.
- As always, the directions will appear on the Guild's Facebook page; there will also be a link in the

September newsletter to the directions on the FCQG website. She also said she will provide links to YouTube tutorials showing the 'how-tos'.

- Sandy also spoke about the upcoming sew-alongs at the Northwest hospital conference room. Sewing get togethers will be held in the NMC Conference room on September 12th and 26th.
- On the 12th, Margaret Miller will demonstrate how to do freezer paper piecing and on the 26th members may work together to make Warm Welcome blocks.

PROGRAMS (Helen Short, Cathy Carlson):

- Helen Short announced that our October meeting with Guest speaker Nina Clotfelter will be held on Friday, October 9th at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Swanton, VT.
- The workshop on Beginning Free Motion Quilting on your Domestic Machine to be held on the 10th is full.
- However, there are still openings in the 'Chop it Like it's Hot' workshop, sponsored by the Common Threads Quilt Guild of Lamoille County, on October 11th. Sharon Perry showed a sample of what people will make in that workshop.
- The November program is awarding Quilts of Valor to area Veterans. Members will be asked to bring cookies and beverages to the November meeting, Veterans' families will be invited to attend.

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

- Our Special Guests, who had been given special ribbons, were again acknowledged, and remarks by Linda Goldeski were relayed. A letter by Denise Quint was read. Linda and Denise were also founding members of the Franklin County Quilters Guild.
- The Past Presidents of the Guild, who are current members, were awarded ceramic pendants thanking them for 'stepping up and making things happen'.
- By random selection, 4 gifts were given away. These were gifts purchased at Country Thyme at a deep discount provided by Kay Courson for all members.
- A card was displayed for members to sign thanking Kay.

DRAWINGS:

- Membership – Nancy LaPointe
- Comfort Quilts – Helen Short

Cake, ice cream and beverages were served.

Respectfully Submitted by

Helen Short, Substitute Secretary for Deb Trahan,
Sitting Secretary



BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

Sandy Lane is this year's Project Coordinator for the guild. The BOM presented at our August guild meeting is called 9-Patch or 9-Square. Use whatever fabric scraps you have. There will be a drawing for these blocks next month. Have fun playing.

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, 802-233-3368. He will send out an appropriate card.



Cindy	Metayer	October	1
Kimberly	Hess	October	2
Claudia	Moeykens	October	3
Mary Jane	Rossi	October	3
Pat	Fabretti	October	24
Natalie	Good	October	26

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

POTATO LEEK SOUP

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 medium russet potatoes (about 2 ¼ lb.), peeled and chopped
- 3 leeks, white and light green parts only, thinly sliced
- 3 celery stalks, chopped, plus yellow leaves for garnish (optional)
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt, plus more to taste
- ¾ teaspoon ground black pepper, plus more to taste
- 1 cup heavy cream, plus more for drizzling
- Hot sauce and fried onions (optional)

In a medium Dutch oven, heat the oil and butter over medium heat. Add the potatoes, leeks and celery. Cook, stirring, until the leeks are tender, 6 – 8 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Stir in the chicken broth, thyme sprigs, salt and pepper. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook, uncovered, until the potatoes are tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

Remove the thyme sprigs. Transfer about 4 cups of the soup to a blender. Remove the top insert from the lid and cover with a kitchen towel. Puree until smooth, 30 seconds. Add to Dutch oven with the remaining chunky soup. Stir in the cream and cook over medium-low heat, stirring, until the soup is slightly thickened, 10 to 15 minutes.

Season the soup with more salt and pepper. Garnish with celery leaves, hot sauce, prepared fried onions and another drizzle of heavy cream, if you like.

COLCANNON

- 3 medium russet potatoes (about 2 lb.), scrubbed clean
- 2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- 6 tablespoons butter, plus additional for serving
- 4 cups chopped green cabbage or kale, or a mixture of both
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped and divided
- 1 leek, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 cup half-and-half

Peel the potatoes and cut them into 2-inch pieces. Add them to a Dutch oven and cover with 1 inch of water. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and add 2

tablespoons of salt. Boil, stirring occasionally, until the potatoes are very tender, about 15 minutes. Drain the potatoes in a colander and set aside.

In the same Dutch oven, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the cabbage or mixture of greens, leeks, the remaining 1 teaspoon of salt, and the pepper. Cook, stirring often, until the cabbage mixture is softened, about 5 minutes.

Reserve ¼ cup of the green onions for garnish and add the remaining green onion and garlic into the cabbage mixture. Cook, stirring often, until the garlic is lightly browned, about 2 minutes.

Reduce the heat to medium-low. Add the half-and-half and cook 2 to 3 minutes until warm. Add the potatoes, then mash and stir until the mixture is well combined. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Transfer the colcannon to a serving dish and top with more butter, if preferred. Sprinkle with the reserved ¼ cup green onions.

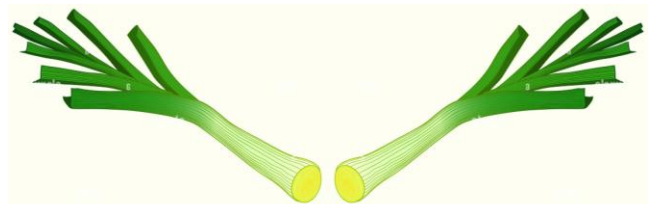
EASY GRUYERE LEEK FRITTATA

- 6 eggs
 - 1 cup shredded gruyere cheese (about 6 ounces)
 - ½ cup heavy cream
 - Kosher salt and pepper to taste
 - 1 tablespoon butter
 - 2 heaping cups sliced leeks, cleaned well (about 2 medium sized leeks)
- Preheat the oven to 400° F.

Add eggs, shredded gruyere, and cream to a medium mixing bowl with a generous pinch of salt and pepper. Whisk to combine, then set aside.

Heat 10"-cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add butter to skillet and let it melt, then add sliced leeks. Sauté, stirring occasionally, until leeks are softened and lightly browned, about 6 minutes. Spread leeks out over the bottom of the skillet in an even layer, then turn off the heat. Gently pour the egg mixture into the skillet on top of the leeks.

Use an oven mitt to carefully transfer the skillet to the oven. Bake 12-15 minutes, until eggs have puffed up and begun to lightly brown around the edges. The eggs should still be a tiny bit jiggly in the very center. Remove frittata from the oven and let cool for 10-15 minutes, then slice and serve.



OCTOBER

By Thomas Bailey Aldrich

October turned my maple's leaves to gold;
The most are gone now;
here and there one lingers:
Soon these will slip
from out the twigs' weak hold,
Like coins between a dying miser's fingers.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR OCTOBER:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uobXB_yfuHA

Sew Cute Runner for October

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, 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, October 21st, 2026**

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

Next *October 9th*
Meeting is *National Moldy Cheese Day*



"Imagine if there was no October! The year would never have had a golden era." ~ Nkwachukwu Ogbuagu