Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

http://www.franklincountyquilters.org franklincountyquilters@gmail.com

Volume 18, Issue 15
November 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
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

Greetings quilters,

November…how can this year be nearing an end? We have made it through the four seasons of 2026 - Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Most of the leaves have left their trees! That is a signal that most of us are preparing for another winter or have packed up and flown South to avoid the cold and snow.

At this month's meeting, we are honoring our local veterans by presenting at least 15 Quilts of Valor. Our gratitude for their service to our country is immeasurable. The sacrifices they made are countless and their loyalty to our country by defending its freedom remarkable. They answered a call to duty and rose to protect us and the Constitution of our great land.

Merriam-Webster defines Service as "the act of helping or doing work for someone else". Our Guild survives on service. Right now, it is important that each of you consider serving in some capacity as an officer of the Guild or as a volunteer at the spring quilt show. Each of us has something to offer and our Guild needs you! Please think seriously about saying "yes". Service is rewarding and necessary!

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

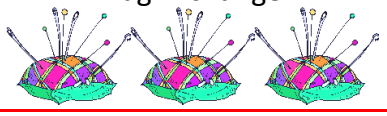
October 9th: "Thread, What's the Big Deal" with Nina Clotfelter

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

2026 Guild Calendar

November 11th: QOV Presentations

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



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2026

FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD
Treasurer's Report -- November 11, 2026

Opening Balance		$15,020.50
Funds Collected		
Sponsors (4)	$300.00	
Common Threads Quilt Guild, N. Clotfelter Meals & Lodging	$350.00	
Total Funds Collected	$650.00	
Subtotal		$15,670.50
Funds Paid Out		
St. Albans Mini Storage, Storage Unit rent for one year	$1,281.00	
Sharon Perry, Gift Certificate - Yankee Pride for Denise hosting Nina	$200.00	
Sharon Perry, Gift Certificate - Hannaford for Denise hosting Nina	$300.00	
Jean Anne Branch, Sponsor ltr postage & Sept mtg gifts	$136.78	
Nina Clotfelter, Free motion workshop, lecture, ⅓ travel costs & postage	$1,191.50	
Nina Clotfelter, Kits for 2 who paid directly to FCQG	$60.00	
Denise Chase, for hosting Nina	$400.00	
Helen Short, Gift Card - Mimmo's for Denise hosting Nina	$100.00	
Sally Krupp, comfort quilt batting roll	$212.00	
Total Funds Paid Out	$3,881.28	
Grand Total		$11,789.22

2026 YTD Collections: $10,034.00

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer



THE LONGEST YEAR

By Helen Short



Due to our changed meeting calendar, this program year started in September 2025 and will end in December 2026. The long year has been a challenge for Cathy and me, but we've soldiered on. It's symbolic to me that our soldiers' service to our county were long years for them as well. They were away from families, communities, and some had stalled careers.

At our November meeting we will honor 15 local-area veterans with Quilts of Valor. The ceremony will start at 7:00 pm. We ask that Guild members welcome the Veterans and their families when they arrive and help them find seating. We'd like members and Veterans to share tables and conversation prior to the award ceremony. We thank all the members who were involved in the production of the Quilts of Valor. We're happy to report that we have more Quilts of Valor than Veterans to receive them this year! Awarding QOVs to area Veterans has become a Guild tradition, so these extra quilts will find future homes.

If you have finished your Snip, Rip, Drop, and Pass creations, please bring it to the November meeting. They can be shown at the Show and Tell. In December there's a Potluck, non-perishable Food Collection, and Gift Exchange. PLUS members will show what they did with the panels collected in the Brown Bags. The creations will go to the original Brown Bag holders. The new program co-chairs will have exciting programs for you during the next meeting cycle.

VETERANS DAY VETERANS DAY VETERANS DAY VETERANS DAY VETERANS DAY

QUILT TIPS: A DEFINITIVE LIST OF THE 8 BEST QUILTING TOOLS FOR BEGINNERS

From Quilting Daily

- **Rotary Cutter:** Rotary cutters are one of the best quilting tools for beginners. Using a small, handheld cutting device to slice through fabric can be much easier and faster than scissors — especially when working with long strips and large pieces. Plus, rotary cutters also give you more control over how straight or curved your cuts are, allowing you to make precise measurements without having to worry about jagged edges. So if you're just starting out in quilting, owning a rotary cutter should definitely be at the top of your list! And remember: rotary cutters ALWAYS need to be used with a cutting mat and ruler — no exceptions.
- **Cutting Mat:** If you're a beginner quilter looking for the best tools to get started, the cutting mat should be at the top of your list! This indispensable tool is essential for precise and accurate measurements and cuts. A quality cutting mat will last you many years, so investing in one now will save time, effort, and frustration down the road. The best part? The mats come in all shapes and sizes—you can find one that fits perfectly into your workspace.
- **Rulers:** This may seem obvious, but one of the most essential tools for beginner quilters is a ruler! Quilting rulers are necessary for accurately measuring and cutting fabric to precise shapes and sizes, especially when using a rotary cutter. These specialty rulers are made of clear plastic with highly-visible measurements, making accurate cuts a reality. To start, consider buying a 6" x 24" ruler, then adding additional sizes as you need them.
- **Seam Ripper:** Now the seam ripper is one tool that often gets overlooked. This little tool is an absolute essential when it comes to quilting projects because it allows you to quickly and easily remove unwanted stitches. It can be used to open up seams, take out stitching mistakes or even unpick hems. Plus, seam rippers make it easier to re-position pieces of fabric if needed. So if you're a beginner quilter looking for the best tools around – don't forget about this handy little helper!
- **Pins:** Every quilter, no matter their experience level, knows that straight pins are essential tools for any project. Even if you've been quilting for years, having the best pins on-hand can make all the difference when it comes to ensuring your work is precise and neat! Not only can they help keep your fabric in place while cutting, but they also make it easier to accurately piece together blocks and borders. So it comes as no surprise that these magical little pins are any incredibly important quilting tool!
- **Iron:** Ironing is an essential part of quilting — it sets the seams, presses your quilt blocks into shape, and ensures that all the layers are smooth and even. They also help guarantee accuracy when piecing fabrics together. So, if you're just starting out with quilting, make sure you invest in a good quality iron — it will be worth its weight in gold! We also recommend finding a good ironing board so you can properly press your fabric.
- **Fabric Scissors:** Believe it or not, fabric scissors are one of the best quilting tools for beginners. And you really only need two pair: a small embroidery scissor to clip threads, and a pair of shears to cut fabric! They'll help you achieve accurate cuts and precise angles, but they also provide an extra level of protection against fraying or tearing in fabrics. Tip: Use your fabric scissors only on fabric – not on paper! Using them exclusively for fabric will keep the blades perfectly sharp.
- **Batting:** No matter how skilled you are, you won't get very far into making a quilt without batting! It's one of the best quilting tools for beginners for a reason. Not only does it provide insulation and warmth, but it also helps to even out the weight of the quilt top and backing materials. Without quality batting, your quilt won't look as professional or last as long. To make things a bit easier for beginner quilters, you can actually buy a packaged batting sized specifically for their project!



Franklin County Quilters Guild
Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Cindy Metayer
Location: American Legion, St. Albans, VT

Minutes from the General Meeting
Friday, October 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Cindy Metayer at 6:30 pm. Cindy noted that an executive committee meeting was held where it discussed moving the storage unit to a St. Albans location to make it more convenient for storing supplies used by the Guild and for the quilt show. A motion was made by Mary Jane Rossi to accept this move of the storage unit and was seconded by Peggy Paradee. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Cindy Metayer and seconded by Jean Anne Branch to accept the September 8, 2026 Secretary and Treasurer reports. All in favor, motion carried.

PROGRAMS (Cathy Carlson, Helen Short): Helen asked Sharon Perry to introduce our presenter, Nina Clotfelter, for the evening as she was very involved in getting her to come to our area and present at meetings in three guilds and put on 2 all-day classes on the weekend. Nina's presentation for the evening was "Thread, What's the Big Deal?" It was a very interesting and informative presentation.

COMFORT QUILTS (Denise Chase): Denise noted that she brought kits to piece and 3 quilts to be quilted. She can always use quilting volunteers as she has a lot of quilt top samples from Kay that need quilting.

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS: Sharon announced events that we can sell raffle tickets at:

- Highgate Craft Fair, Saturday, November 21: Deb Dusablon and Penny LaRochelle will be working the booth.
- Collins-Perley Craft Fair, December 12-13: Diane Biondi has secured a booth for the guild at the event. The raffle quilt will be on display.
- Montgomery Craft Show, December 12: Sharon Perry and Gale Weld will be working at the show. Since the raffle quilt will be at the Collins-Perley event, we will focus on selling boutique items in addition to selling raffle tickets. We're looking for anything members want to donate to sell on behalf of the guild.

QUILT SHOW (Diane Kane and Diane Biondi): The 2027 quilt show will be the 1st weekend in April, April 3-4 with set-up on Friday, April 2.

MEMBERSHIP (Penny LaRochelle): Penny announced 78 paid members. There were 46 members present and 6 guests present.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (Sandy Lane):

- Sandy presented a sample of two new blocks for this month. The blocks are both maple leaves. The first is a maple leaf block designed by the Crafty Quilter and the second is paper pieced. The blocks should be made with fall colors. You can use either whites or off-whites.
- Instructions will be posted on the FCQG under "Projects." Sandy demonstrated how the block will be assembled. Members are encouraged to bring completed blocks to the November meeting.

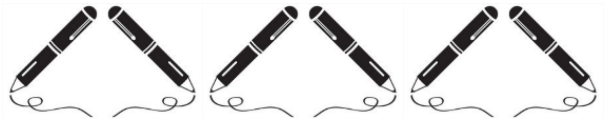
PROGRAMS (Helen Short, Cathy Carlson):

- Nina Clotfelter is offering a workshop, "Beginning Free Motion Quilting on Your Domestic Sewing Machine" tomorrow, October 10, followed by "Chop It Like It's Hot" on Sunday, October 11. There are still openings in the "Chop it Like it's Hot" workshop, sponsored by the Common Threads Quilt Guild of Lamoille County.
- In November, the meeting will be on Veterans Day and will focus on Quilts of Valor. We will have many quilts presented to deserving veterans.
- December will be our potluck and gift exchange. We will also be showing what we made for our batik project, Snip, Rip, Drop, and Pass, and it is the Panel Palooza reveal day so don't forget your panel brown bag project.

DRAWINGS:

- Membership – Pat Fabretti
- Comfort Quilts – Cathy Carlson

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Trahan, Sitting 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.

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26 in 2026 ***NAME:*** _____

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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 October guild meeting is called Maple Leaf; please make the 10-inch size. Use whatever fabric scraps in fall colors you have with white or off-white background. There will be a drawing for these blocks next month. Have fun playing.

Block instructions can be found here. As a note, the paper-pieced pattern available at the meeting does not produce an accurately-sized block−don't use it!



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.











Sharon	Perry	November	2
Mary Ellen	Therrien	November	5
Linda	Dodd	November	6
Bonnie	Evans	November	10
Maggie	Stockwell	November	24
Dorothy	Pratt	November	26
Nanc	Ekiert	November	28

…and many more!!!







RECIPE CORNER

CRANBERRY MAPLE CHICKEN

2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
¾ cup water
⅓ cup maple sugar
6 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (4 oz each)
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon canola oil
¼ cup maple syrup

In a small saucepan, combine the cranberries, water and sugar. Cook over medium heat until berries pop, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. In a large nonstick skillet, cook chicken in oil over medium heat until juices run clear, 4-5 minutes on each side. Stir syrup into cranberry mixture; serve with chicken.

CRANBERRY JALAPEÑO CREAM CHEESE DIP

12 oz. cranberries, thawed if frozen (about 2½ cups)
2 jalapeños, seeded & quartered, plus slices for garnish
1 green onion, roughly chopped
2 tablespoons roughly chopped cilantro
1 cup sugar
Juice and zest of 1 lime
16 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
¼ cup sour cream
Pinch of kosher salt
½ cup toasted pecans, chopped (optional)
Crackers, for serving

Place the cranberries, jalapeños, green onion, and cilantro in a food processor. Pulse 5 or 6 times until roughly chopped, then add the sugar, lime juice, and lime zest. Pulse 3 to 4 more times, just until incorporated (the mixture should still be chunky). Transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, combine the cream cheese, sour cream, and salt. Mix on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to a shallow bowl or pie plate or a serving platter, spreading in an even layer.

Strain any excess liquid from the cranberries, then stir in the pecans (if using). Spoon the cranberry mixture over the top of the cream cheese mixture. Garnish with the jalapeño slices and serve with crackers.

CRANBERRY SCONES

For the scones:
2 cups all-purpose flour
⅓ cup granulated sugar
2½ teaspoons baking powder
¾ teaspoon kosher salt
½ cup unsalted butter, cold, cut into ½-inch pieces
1 cup dried cranberries
1½ teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
1 cup plus 1 tablespoon heavy cream
2½ teaspoons orange zest
For the glaze:
½ cup cranberry juice
1 cup powdered sugar
Pinch of kosher salt
1 to 2 drops pink food coloring (optional)

For the scones:
Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

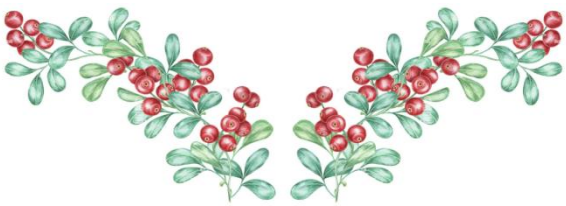
In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Using a pastry cutter, blend butter into flour mixture until butter resembles small peas and is evenly incorporated. Stir in the cranberries and rosemary. In a small bowl, stir together 1 cup of the heavy cream and the orange zest; add it to the flour mixture and stir until just combined.

Turn the dough out onto a clean work surface and, using floured hands, shape into a rough ball. Pat the dough into an 8-inch round disc (about 3/4-inch thick). Using a bench scraper or chef's knife, cut the disc into 8 even wedges. Transfer the wedges to the prepared baking sheet. (Scones can be frozen for up to 1 week. Don't thaw before baking.)

Brush the top of each wedge lightly with the remaining 1 tablespoon of heavy cream. Bake until lightly browned and risen, 22 to 25 minutes, or 24 to 26 minutes if baking from frozen. Transfer the scones to a wire rack to cool for at least 10 minutes.

For the glaze:
In a small saucepan, cook the cranberry juice over medium heat until reduced to 2 tablespoons, 8 to 12 minutes. Remove to a small heatproof bowl and let cool for 5 minutes.

Add powdered sugar and salt to reduced cranberry juice, and 1 to 2 drops of pink food coloring, if desired. Whisk until smooth. Drizzle the glaze over the scones. Let stand for 15 minutes for the glaze to harden.



NOVEMBER NIGHT
by Adelaide Crapsey

Listen...
With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd,
Break from the trees
And fall.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR NOVEMBER:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLPHNOLiJ0U&list=PL-nal4iMTUJsZASiIRUTUeOTjz2-RT-Fi&index=1

Sew Cute Runner for November

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, November 18th, 2026
Please email articles to Sharon Perry, to vtquilter@gmail.com,
or mail to PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471

Next Meeting is November 11th World Origami Day



"November is tied together with the heartstrings of gratitude." – J. A. McIntosh