

Franklin County Quilters Guild

SUGARHOUSE GAZETTE

Saint Albans, Vermont

<http://www.franklincountyquilters.org>

franklincountyquilters@gmail.com



Volume 18, Issue 4
December 2025

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

2026 Raffle Quilt

Denise Chase & Helen Short

2026 Charity Quilt

BINGO Quilt made by
FCQG members

President's Piece

Seasons Greeting! Where has the year gone already?

December is such a busy month filled with preparation and participation in holiday and end of year events and of course gift giving opportunities. Hoping everyone has the time to pause periodically to reflect and truly enjoy the moments. As doers and givers, it is all too easy to push through tasks without realizing the enjoyment you truly deserve.

December is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Awareness month. The lack of sunlight can impact our physical chemistry leading to various degrees of despair. Light therapy is one treatment. We may never know who is impacted so please consider looking for ways to extend even more kindness during this busy season. Who knows, your actions may cut through someone's tints of darkness and move their mood into lighter shades on their color wheel of emotions.

Wishing all members a warm and wonderful end to this calendar year and holiday season. May you have opportunities to share happiness and joy with your family and friends that piece and bind your community. Speaking of such, hoping all can join us at the December 10th Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange with doors opening at 5:30 pm, meeting to begin at 6:00 pm.

May you enjoy your best December ever!

Jean Anne Branch
2025-2026 Co-President

Cindy Metayer
2025-2026 Co-President



2025 – 2026 Guild Calendar

September 10th Novelty Ice Cream Social and
"Snip, Rip, Drop, & Pass"

October 17th Stripology Trunk Show
with Linda Leszczynski

October 18th Stripology Workshop with
Linda Leszczynski (Making the Zoe quilt by
GE Quilt Designs)

November 12th Panel Play
Brown Bag Exchange
(November 2026 Reveal)

**December 10th Holiday Potluck
with Gift Exchange & Canned Goods for
VT Food Shelves MTG STARTS AT 6PM!**

2025 – 2026 Guild Calendar

January: NO MEETING

February: NO MEETING

March 11th: What Do Judges Look for When
They Examine Your Quilt? with Denise Chase

April 8th: TBD

April 10th: Quilt Show Set Up

April 11th – 12th: Quilt Show

May 13th: The Process of Getting Your Quilt
into a National Quilt Show with Linda Wells

June 10th: Potluck and Trunk Sale

July 8th: The Temperature is Burning
Strip Poker

2025 – 2026 Guild Calendar

August 12th: TBD

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 with Panel Play (Reveal)
and QOV Presentations

December 9th: Pot Luck
with Gift Exchange and Food Shelf Drive

Franklin County Quilters Guild

Co-Presidents: Jean Anne Branch and Cindy Metayer

Location: American Legion, St. Albans, VT

Minutes from the General Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jean Anne Branch for the monthly meeting. Jean Anne opened the meeting by reading a quote from Anna Aquino: "In your life, the people become like a patchwork quilt." It was very interesting to hear how different people in your life can relate to different types of blocks, including ones like ones that are bigger or smaller than you like or the one like the comfortable old piece of flannel.

She noted we're going to do the program first tonight to allow Kay Courson to leave early as she has a long drive home.

Program: Cathy Carlson told us about the Panel Play that we brought our panel and fabric for. The brown bags we turned in will be distributed at the end of the meeting. We are to make a project for the person whose bag we received and create a project with the panel and the fabric.

Helen Short introduced Kay Courson who is the owner of Country Thyme Quilting in Troy, VT. Kay will be doing a presentation on Panel Play and brought many quilts and other projects to show us how many different ways a panel can be used. She also brought many panels, patterns, and books to help with our Panel Play projects. There were so many really different ideas such as cutting out key items in the panel and appliquéing them to a quilt, doing a window pane of the panel, placemats, stocking, etc....so many ideas. Many thanks to Kay!

We were given a few moments to look through all of her fabulous panels and patterns to purchase.

At 7:10 pm, Jean Ann called the meeting back to order. Before getting into the meeting, Jean Anne requested a volunteer for the Sunshine Department to send cards to members in need. John Rouleau volunteered. Thank you, John!

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Helen Short and seconded by Joan Wood to accept the October 17, 2025 Secretary report and November Treasurer report. One change will be made in the Treasures report to correct a typo. All in favor, motion carried.

By-Laws Update: Jean Anne stated it was now time to vote on the By-Laws and Rules that we discussed last month.

- **By-Laws Motion:** Laurel Schapp made a motion that we approve the updated By-Laws, and it was seconded by Peggy Paradee. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Standing Rules Motion:** Denise Chase made a motion that we approve the Rules; this was seconded by Beth Brault. All in favor, motion carried.

Thanks to Jean Anne, Sandy Lane and Sharon Perry for their work updating the by-laws and creating the standing rules.

Quilt Show (Beth Mouser/Diane Kane):

- Diane Kane is working on vendors. She said we have one new vendor and other returning ones. She is working with getting Quilts of Valor back and hopefully will have some presentations while they are at the show.

- Joan Wood is working with sponsor donations. So far there are 10 donors for a total of \$1,550.
- Beth Mouser reminded us about the Challenge Quilt for this year's quilt show. It is Celebrating America. She suggested some places to get inspiration such as the American Revolution series on PBS, YouTube videos, fabric stores that are getting fabrics celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The quilt size limit is 100" around.
- Peggy Paradee let us know the status of the volunteer sign-up sheet. She said that there were 30 open spots and she had started circulating the sheet. We must sign up by the December meeting since there will be no meetings in January and February. She still has two open spots for demos. We have a lot of talent in the group so we should be able to fill those spots.
- Calling all pet photos! If you have a pet that "helps" with your quilting, bring in a photo. Mary is going to make a collage of these to be displayed in the lobby at the quilt show.
- There will be a scavenger hunt for younger people. Let Penny know if you have something unique on the quilts you are submitting so it can be added to the scavenger list. There will be about 10 items on the list and the children will get a page of stickers when they are done.

Vermont Quilt Show, June 2026 (Denise Chase, Sharon**Perry, Helen Short):**

- There are still 30 openings for quilts for the June quilt show.
- The organizers of the VT Quilt Show in June will be looking for volunteers to work the show.

Comfort Quilts (Denise Chase): Denise noted that there were more baby quilt kits for quilters to take and also larger kits. There are two pillows that need to be covered for the Guild Boutique.

Programs (Helen Short, Cathy Carlson):

- As part of tonight's program, we are exchanging the brown bags we brought filled with a panel and some yardage of coordinating fabric. The project you make will be due back in November 2026 with a completed project.
- December's meeting is our annual potluck and gift exchange meeting. Please bring a dish to share and a gift with a value of no more than \$15 if you would like to participate in the gift exchange. Please also bring canned goods.

Membership (Penny LaRochelle): Penny announced 66 paid members, 4 Lifetime members (25 consecutive years of membership): Denise Chase; Bonnie Evans; Dale McFeeters; and Carol Stanley. Present at meeting: 48

Block of the Month (BOM) (Sandy Lane):

- Sandy presented a sample of the December Block of the Month which is a Sawtooth Star pattern. The block should be made with red, white and blue fabrics which can be organized in the block in any way that you choose.
- 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 December meeting.
- October BOM: There were 28 blocks that are fairly large so Sandy drew two names. Winners: Sarah Reed and Deb Trahan.

Minutes continued on page 4

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2025**FRANKLIN COUNTY QUILTERS GUILD****Treasurer's Report -- December 10, 2025**

Opening Balance \$11,592.03

Funds Collected

Membership	\$100.00
Raffle ticket sales - Highgate School Craft Show	\$445.00
Boutique sales - Highgate School Craft Show	\$18.00
Sponsors (9 checks)	\$850.00

<i>Total Funds Collected</i>	\$1,413.00
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Subtotal \$13,005.03

Funds Paid Out

Helen Short, Nov Panel Program gas card	\$50.00
April Walker, QS '26 Advertisement	\$315.16

<i>Total Funds Paid Out</i>	\$365.16
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Grand Total \$12,639.87

2025 YTD Collections: \$9,605.00

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Dusablon, Treasurer

**2025-2026 PROGRAMS...NOVEMBER RECAP AND DECEMBER PROGRAM**

Thanks to everyone who helped make the November meeting a success. Kay enjoyed coming over the mountain for her inspiring trunk show and was grateful for the gift of a gas card to compensate her for her trip.

Our December program on December 10th is a Holiday Potluck, gift exchange, and canned or boxed goods for the CVOEO food shelf which benefits residents of Franklin and Grand Isle counties. Please bring a wrapped gift that costs no more than \$15. The seating will be arranged for a game to be played at each table. Wrapped gifts will be passed around, according to the directions provided, on each roll of the dice. When time is up the gift in front of you will be the gift you will open. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with the meeting opening at 6 pm when we'll help ourselves to the sumptuous food.

We will not formally meet in January and February but there will be monthly newsletters, Block of the Month, and some Zoom sew-ins so we don't lose contact with each other. The March 11th program will feature our own award-winning Denise Chase to tell us what judges look for when they examine a quilt. The "Can't be seen from a galloping horse at 50 feet" rule doesn't apply at judged quilt shows!

Helen Short

Program Co-Director



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



November 19, 2025 Minutes continued from page 2
Newsletter (Sharon Perry): It was noted in Sharon's absence the newsletter articles are always due on the 3rd Wednesday unless noted otherwise. She will continue to provide a newsletter in January and February. Due to the change in our meeting this month, the due date for the December newsletter is Friday, November 21st.

Drawings:

- Membership Winner: Mary King
- Comfort Quilt: Dale McFeeters
- Raffle Gift from Country Thyme: Carol Stanley

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 Sharon Witbeck and was 2nd by Lucie Fortin. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Trahan, Secretary

ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN THE 25 IN 2025 CHALLENGE?

If you successfully completed the 25 in 2025 Challenge and have finished 25 projects this year, please email Sharon Perry, vtquilter@gmail.com, and let her know. She'll enter your name in a special drawing for those members who have met the challenge.



'Twas The Night Before Christmas

Author Unknown

'Twas the night before Christmas,
 And the quilts were not made.
 The threads were all tangled,
 the cookies delayed.
 The stocking weren't hung,
 the pantry was bare.
 The poor weary Quilter was tearing her hair.
 Stacks of fat quarters tipped over in streams.
 Visions of Log Cabins had turned into dreams.
 When what to her wondering eyes should appear,
 But a bus full of quilters with all of their gear.
 They went straight to work
 with just a few mutters,
 Sorting and stitching and brandishing cutters.
 The patterns emerged from all of the clutter,
 Like magic the fabrics arranged in a flutter.
 Log Cabins, Lone Stars,
 Flying Geese & Bear Tracks
 Each quilt was a beauty-even the backs.
 Her house how it twinkled,
 her quilts how they glowed.
 The cookies were baking,
 the stockings were sewed.
 Their work was all done,
 so they folded their frames,
 And packed up their needles,
 without giving their names.
 They boarded the bus,
 and checked the next address.
 More quilts to be made,
 another quilter in distress.
 She heard one voice echo,
 as they drove out of sight,
 Happy quilting to all and to all a good night!





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

NAME: _____

1.	14.
2.	15.
3.	16.
4.	17.
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6.	19.
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8.	21.
9.	22.
10.	23.
11.	24.
12.	25.
13.	

CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR' CTR'
DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE DONE

BLOCK OF THE MONTH (BOM)

The block featured at the November meeting is called the Sawtooth Star. Instructions for the block can be found [here](#).

Sandy Lane is this year's Project Coordinator for the guild. She says use red, white-on-white, and blue fabrics. Fabrics can be solid colors or prints, and the layout of these fabrics is at the discretion of the guild member. The theme is patriotic. Bring your blocks to the December meeting.

For this block of the month, there will NOT be a drawing. Sandy will be collecting all the blocks for a special guild project in 2026...more information to come.

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.



Holly	Bressette	December	10
Deborah	Dolby	December	11
Diane	Kane	December	14
Nancy	LaPointe	December	16
Cathy	Carlson	December	22
Nancy	Pecor	December	25

...and many more!!!





RECIPE CORNER

EGGNOG FUDGE

- ½ cup butter
- ¾ cup eggnog
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 cups white chocolate chips
- 1 7-oz jar marshmallow crème
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon grated nutmeg

Line a 9x9 pan with foil. Spray with non-stick cooking spray.

In a medium sauce pan, combine butter, sugar, and eggnog. Bring to a boil. Cook until the temperature reaches 234 degrees on a candy thermometer.

Remove from heat. Stir in white chocolate until melted. Stir in marshmallow crème, vanilla, and nutmeg.

Evenly spread into prepared pan. Garnish with more grated nutmeg if desired.

EGGNOG SNICKERDOODLES

For the cookie dough:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- ½ cup eggnog
- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg

For sugar mixture for rolling:

- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg

For the icing:

- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 1-2 tablespoons eggnog

For the cookie dough:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment or spray with cooking spray.

In a large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer, beat butter and 1 cup sugar, until light and fluffy. Add the egg, rum extract, and eggnog, and mix to combine. Add the flour, salt, baking soda, and nutmeg, and mix until a soft dough forms.

In a small bowl, whisk the ½ cup sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Scoop the dough into one-inch balls and

roll in the sugar mixture. Place on the prepared baking sheets.

Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until lightly browned on the bottom. Let cool on the pan for 5 minutes, then move to a cooling rack.

For the icing:

While the cookies are cooling, whisk the powdered sugar and enough eggnog to make an icing that is easy to drizzle but not too runny. Pipe snowflakes onto the cooled cookies, or drizzle with the icing.

Recipe Notes: If the dough is sticky to work with, simply chill it in the fridge for 30 minutes.

This recipe makes a puffy snickerdoodle. If you wish, you can gently press down the cookie dough balls before baking them for a flatter cookie.

Cover and store the dough from this snickerdoodle recipe in the fridge for 1-2 days.

Store baked cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for 3-4 days. Store in a freezer bag, or airtight container in the freezer for up to 4 months.

EGGNOG DIP

- 8 oz cream cheese room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon rum extract
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ cup eggnog room temperature
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Beat the soft cream cheese until smooth and light and fluffy. Mix in the vanilla extract, rum extract, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

Beat in the eggnog, and then the powdered sugar.

Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to serve. Serve with graham crackers or ginger snap cookies.



DECEMBER (2005)

By Carol-Ann Duffy

The year dwindles and glows to December's red jewel, my birth month.

The sky blushes, and lays its cheek on the sparkling fields.

Then dusk swaddles the cattle, their silhouettes simple as faith.

These nights are gifts, our hands unwrapping the darkness to see what we have.

The train rushes, ecstatic, to where you are, my bright star.

**FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL
FOR DECEMBER:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUwI7hA8bFc>

Pint Size Table Runner – December
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, December 17th, 2025

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



December is National Fruitcake Month



*"It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready."
~ Sarah Kay*