



## December 2025 Newsletter

### President's Letter

Greeting! I am a fair weather gal. I like to feel the sunshine all day long, and a gentle breeze now and again isn't too bad either. I do not leave the house much when the ground is white.....and I am an "adult lifetime" New Englander. You would think I would have found some way to adjust. Nope. Just a stubborn Yankee, I guess.

Administrative items:

\* All information about our Quilt show is available to see on FV's web site. Take a minute to go over this information. At our December meeting, we will hear the final results, from one of the co-chairs.

\* We are collecting dues for the 2025-2026 year. It can be a bit confusing as to when our year starts. When we return from a summer break in September, it may feel as if it is the year starting over, but that was just a summer break! Fiscally, Farmington Valley's year starts in January. Bring in cash, checks, or credit cards. We take them all!

\* You have heard that we are looking for items to put in a display to help celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the USA. You will find the location and sizes we need in the January newsletter. As it goes in politics, so it goes in quilting; we are in the planning stages. Stay tuned!

\* The free fabric table will not be available this month. We are having an auction and it was decided to hold off on those items. Stay in touch for more Free Table news, coming in January.

\* Think about taking your holiday visitors to the New England quilt museum! Remember, no ticket needed. Just tell them at the desk you are a member of Farmington Valley. And did you know the museum has a gift shop?

And now, back to quilting.

I have a wooden sign in my sewing room that has written :  
Today is a good day for a good day.  
It is there to remind me that being happy is my choice.  
Being in FVQG is my choice, and being among quilters makes me happy.  
We are a group which shares a love of needle and thread.  
Quilting is our common goal. It is what makes us and keeps us happy. So remember: TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR A GOOD DAY.

As always,  
Ellyn Mansfield, President,  
Farmington Valley Quilt Guild

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## Treasurer's Update

The guild financial accounts are balanced in good order. A financial statement has been updated on our website. Quilt Show results are available on our web site under the members' only section.  
Chris Murray Treasurer.

## Membership

YES IT'S TIME TO PAY DUES

Thanks to the 40 members who have already renewed their dues. Susan and I will once again accept payments in December and January too. Dues remains at \$25 payable by cash, check or credit card. Should you need to mail your payment make checks out to FVQI and send to  
Farmington Valley Quilters  
PO Box 172  
Weatogue, CT 06089  
In November we welcomed new members Katherine Arnold and Sally Begina and the group has grown to 137. There are many new faces to become acquainted with so don't be shy!  
See you all December 10.

Susan Elliott  
Gail Burk

## Retreats

The spring retreat will be February 25 - March 1, 2026 at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton Connecticut. The retreat is an excellent opportunity to get to know your fellow guild members, sew to your hearts content and enjoy somebody else's cooking. If you haven't been on a retreat I encourage you to try it out, each person has their own room with a twin size bed (unless you want to share a room) and a 6' table in the sewing room. Meal service begins with dinner Thursday.

Cost for the retreat is:  
Wednesday-Sunday, \$390  
Thursday-Sunday, \$340

Sign ups began at the November meeting, and there are a few spots remaining. Your non-refundable \$100 deposit holds your spot. Please make checks payable to FVQI. If you would like to sign up but won't be at the meeting please let me know, I can put you on the list and you can mail a check to: Farmington Valley Quilters, PO Box 172, Weatogue CT 06089 Your spot is not held until your check is received.

Registration is now open to non-guild members.  
Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Katha

## Friendship Blocks

The next Friendship block is due in January. It is a big scrappy heart and if you win, you have a month to make a quilt for your valentine! I hope you will give it a try and make one or two and hopefully win them all.  
Brenda Day

## Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

We continue to have a good selection of fabric for our neonatal quilts. Please stop by and pick up some fabric, batting and a label. Five quilts were donated at our last meeting. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Neonatal Committee. Thank you for your continued support.

## Snowflake Bags

A reminder to bring completed Snowflake Bags to the December 10th meeting so they will be available for use by parents for presenting gifts to their children at Hartford Hospital.

Thank you once again to everyone who has participated in some way!

Brenda Woodrell

## ABC Quilts

A huge thank you to all that have turned their ABC nine patch squares in.

REMEMBER:

The deadline for returning the blocks is the Dec. meeting. So if you haven't returned them, please do so. It is exciting to look thru all the blocks and start to assemble them into 2 quilts for incoming students to the Simsbury ABC house.

The ABC house accepts male inner city students and are given an opportunity to live together and attend Simsbury High School. The FVQG has been presenting incoming students with their own quilts since 1995.

We are in awe of the high quality of the blocks from all our members. Good job.

We will be constructing the quilts so the binding can be sewn on during the Feb meeting.

Your ABC quilt team:

Kathie Fallon

Lynda Cook

Diane Bray

## Sunshine

As a caring Guild, we want to send a cheer card or sympathy card to any member that might need one. In order for us to do this, Kathy Lettieri should be informed if you know of anyone who could use a card from us. If you do, please contact Kathy Lettieri (860-651-8330) or any board member.

Kathy's e-mail is [kbakerl@att.net](mailto:kbakerl@att.net)

## NEQM Guest Passes

The guild's membership to the NEQM has been renewed and we have received 4 complimentary tickets for anyone interested in visiting there in the next year. If you've ever wondered about this museum, check them out on YouTube where you'll find informative videos on current happenings.

# Programs and Workshops

## Farmington Valley Spring 2026 Programs Workshop Sign Up Sheets will be at the December meeting!

### Wednesday, March 18th

#### *Timna Tarr: Behind the Seams, Lecture*

Timna Tarr believes that skilled quilters make the same mistakes that new quilters do, but experience shows the practiced ones how to camouflage their errors. Timna will show examples of how “MISTAKES” INFORM HER DESIGN DECISIONS. And how every decision is chosen to keep her entertained. After all, what is the point of quilting if we aren’t having fun while we are doing it?!



### Thursday, March 19th

#### *Timna Tarr Workshop Easy Improv Techniques*

Learn several simple improvisational techniques that can be used individually or can be combined into one piece. Timna will give you a basic structure from which to work from and then you take it from there to make your own unique piece. Beginner friendly.

- Class time and place is tbd
- There is a maximum of 20 students and will be open to non members following the December meeting.
- Workshop fee is \$75 payable upon sign up.



### Wednesday, April 15th

#### *Robin Long: Trunk Show*

### Thursday, April 16th

#### *Robin Long Workshop: Stripped Pieced Mariner's Compass*



*What started as a quest to make a Mariner's Compass quilt for her submarine officer husband, Robin Long took an idea she had in 1992 and launched Robin Ruth Design in January, 2015. She has developed a new line of revolutionary rulers, books, patterns and technique for making **STRIP-PIECED mariner's compass blocks in 16 sizes – that's right, NO PAPER PIECING!***

## Programs and Workshops (con't)

### Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

*Karen Salemi: Where Tradition Meets Improv*



### Thursday, May 21st

*Improv Quilting Workshop*

*Experience the best of both worlds as Karen share timeless traditional quilt blocks blended with vibrant improvisational elements. Each quilt showcases quality craftsmanship rooted in classic techniques, enhanced by spontaneous, creative touches that bring a fresh and modern flair. Learn how she creates quilts that are both beautiful and uniquely expressive.*



## A Second Opportunity To Win a Dinner with Timna Tarr!

Enter to Win Dinner with our nationally recognized March Speaker, Timna Tarr. Dinner will be at the Soma Grille across from Eno Hall immediately before the March meeting.

There are two opportunities to have your name in the drawing for this dinner. The first was at the November meeting. The next opportunity will be at the upcoming February meeting!

Be sure to visit the Programs table to sign up in February.

## Socials

It's here, it's here! The live auction of some luscious kits and fabrics will be at our December 10 holiday social. When you arrive at the meeting the items will be on display and there will be someone giving out bidding numbers on paper plates. Don't forget to sign your name next to the number you receive. After the meeting and show and tell we'll be enjoying all the yummy food everyone brought. Then the fun begins! Brenda Day and Chris Murray will be our auctioneers and the bidding will start. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card so no excuses not to pick up some wonderful deals. Remember that fabric yardages are estimated and all items are as is. These are donated items and there are no guarantees that everything that goes with a particular kit is in the kit but there are many gorgeous fabrics in these lots.

Speaking of yummy food, don't forget to bring what you signed up for. If you didn't sign up, we can use more appetizers. My email is [mariaegerard@gmail.com](mailto:mariaegerard@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

See you Wednesday for some food, shopping and friendship!

Maria Gerard

## Guild Library

From the Guild Librarians:

Each month, we feature special items from the Guild Library to pique interest. The list of items available in the Guild Library is on the members portion of the FVQ website. If you find something interesting let Anne Dodge ([annedodge71@gmail.com](mailto:annedodge71@gmail.com)) know and it will be waiting for you at the next Guild meeting.

If you enjoyed Kate Colleran, our speaker last month, and would like to try some of her designs, here is your chance. The Guild Library now owns her latest book and the Braid Template that she uses for many of her projects.

### **Patchwork Braids; 13 Quick and Easy Quilted Projects, by Kate Colleran, C&T Publishing, 2025.**

The book features many colorful projects and easy instructions on how to build the “braid” that she incorporates in many of her designs. Building the “braid” is actually an easy process that does not require any fancy seams or maneuvering. (From Anne: I took the class and was successful – meaning it HAS to be easy!) To accompany the book, we also have the Braid Template that Kate uses to measure and cut the fabric for the “braid”.

Also, to wile away your holiday time, the Guild Library has two 500 piece jigsaw puzzles, both quilt themed. They both were donated by Quiltfolk.

The first is **Bright Star in the Nevada Desert**, which features a vintage Lone Star quilt.

The second is **Hanging Around an Open-Air Quilt Show**; an outdoor quilt show attracts a feathered friend in Connecticut, photographed at Flamig Farm, Simsbury, CT. The picture features Susan Elliott’s Barn and Chicken quilt that was hung at Flamig Farm for Connecticut Hang-A-Quilt Day.

## Sew Thankful Quilters

Please join **Sew Thankful Quilters** at the Avon Congregational Church for sewing your charity quilts on the second Thursday of the month from 9:30 to noon. We will be sewing Quilts of Valor, but would welcome anyone who would like to sew charity quilts.

If you have any questions, please call Susan Elliott at 860-748-1775.

## Quilts 2 Heal

### **SEW DAYS:**

**Monday Dec 1, 10:00 – 3:00** Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT

If you can, please bring your machine, rotary cutter, scissors

PLEASE let us know if you can attend this sew day..for an hour or two, or for the day..It helps greatly in planning when we know who is coming!

CONTACT: Paula DeSilva, [quilts2heal@comcast.net](mailto:quilts2heal@comcast.net), 860.306.7000 OR Kathi Maglia, [kmmaglia@comcast.net](mailto:kmmaglia@comcast.net)

## Granbees Quilt Guild

Interested in quilting? \* The Granbees Welcome You \* Beginners to Experts

**When:** Third Tuesdays September to June 9:30 am – Noon

**Where:** East Granby Senior center

**Programs:** Trunk Shows, Demonstrations, Guest Speakers, Charity Quilts, Members helping members, Retreats, Applique, Basting Day, Refreshments

**Contact:** Ellyn Mansfield Email: [elhmansfield@gmail.com](mailto:elhmansfield@gmail.com) Phone – 860-561-2878

## Wanted:

### Subject: Baby quilt Binding

Name: Tammy R Riebe

Message: Do you do this?

Email: [tloke@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tloke@cfl.rr.com)

Subject: Binding on baby blanket

11/25

### Subject: quilting services

I'm reaching out and search of a local quilter who has availability to do the quilting on a baby quilt. I could be reached at 860-335-5331. Thank you I look forward to speaking with you.

Jill Email: [laytonjim0114@gmail.com](mailto:laytonjim0114@gmail.com)

9/25

### Subject: Baby quilt

I was interested in getting quilt made with my children's baby clothes. I was wondering if anyone in your community might be interested in doing this for me? I'd be happy to compensate for the work.

Thank you so much for your help,

Sona Chaudhry. Email: [sona0587@gmail.com](mailto:sona0587@gmail.com)

9/25

## Advertisements

### For Sale: Handi Quilter Amara machines for sale

Stationary or on 10' Studio frame; with or without Pro-Stitcher

Save thousands on like new shop demo machines.

\$7,500-\$17,000 depending on set-up. Let's make a deal!

Contact Vivian at 860-651-8885 or [vivlazich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vivlazich@sbcglobal.net)

11/25

**For Sale:** HQ Simply Sixteen long arm on 10' frame with multiple accessories for sale. Hardly used (000195065 total stitches). The verified resale value for the long arm and all of the accessories is \$5500, willing to take \$5200 or best offer. Purchased at Sew Inspired and Viv can vouch for its' "like new" condition & value. **!0% of Sale will be donated to FVQ Guild.**

6/25

Call or e-mail Michelle Palmer (860-836-7360, [michpalmer1@gmail.com](mailto:michpalmer1@gmail.com))

### For sale: 90" square quilt.

Front appears to be wool suiting fabric. Brightly embroidered with names and dates. 1880 is the earliest date embroidered. Makes reference to Tennessee and California. Embroidery thread colors still vivid.

Backing appears to be ticking fabric. Has a stain on the back. Overall condition is very good. There are 3/4 areas of wear. Holes.

Purchased approximately 5 years ago in an antique shop.

If interested , or to see in person, please contact Miriam Johnson, [johnsonm320@comcast.net](mailto:johnsonm320@comcast.net)

10/25



# Quilting Events in the Area

## **To Every Season: Works by Salley Mavor**

**Sept. 9 – Dec. 31, 2025**

New England Quilt Museum  
18 Shattuck St., Lowell, MA  
<https://www.neqm.org/>

## **2025 AQS Worldwide Quilt Parade**

**Oct. 8, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2026**

<https://www.americanquilter.com/quilt-parade>

## **5th Annual Fiber Art Exhibit**

**Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025**

Morse Institute Library  
14 East Central St, Natick, MA 01760  
<https://morseinstitute.libguides.com/digital-branch>

## **Boston Modern Quilt Guild at the 2025 Fiber Arts Exhibit**

**Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025**

Morse Institute Library  
14 East Central St  
Natick, MA 01760  
<https://www.bostonmqg.org/>

## **Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild Show**

**March 14 - 15, 2026**

Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School  
65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568  
<https://thimblepleasuresquiltguild.blogspot.com>

## **Northern Star Quilters' Guild show**

Postponed until 2027.

## **AQS QuiltWeek – New England**

**April 8 – 11, 2026**

Connecticut Convention Center  
100 Columbus Blvd.  
Hartford, CT 06103  
<https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/event/landing/eventid/41>

## **New England Quilt Expo**

**April 9 - 11, 2026**

Double Tree by Hilton – Manchester Downtown  
700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101  
<https://bnpquilts.com/>

## **26th Annual Franklin County Quilt Show**

**April 11 – 12, 2026**

St. Albans City Hall  
100 North Main Street St., Albans, VT 05478  
<https://www.franklincountyquilters.org/>

## **37th Annual Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt**

### **Show**

**April 11 - 12, 2026**

Haddam Neck Congregational Church  
408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck, CT 06424  
<https://haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org/>

## **Spring Shower of Quilts XX**

**April 17 - 18, 2026**

St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church  
480 Racebrook Rd, Orange, CT 06477  
<https://ctpiecemakers.org/>

## **Champlain Valley Guild of Vermont Quilt Show**

**April 24 - 26, 2026**

Holy Family Parish Hall  
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452  
<https://www.cvqgvt.org/>

# Newsletter Submissions

Due the **Thursday** before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to [dlcalkin@gmail.com](mailto:dlcalkin@gmail.com)  
Submissions for next newsletter **due January 15, 2026.**

## 2025-2026 Board Members

President	Ellyn Mansfield
Vice President	Maureen Hulsart
Membership	Gail Burk
Secretary	Diane Bray
Treasurer	Chris Murray
Programs	Paula Baczyk Kathy Gale
Newsletter Editor	Diane Calkin
Publicity	Bridget Shanley
Social Programs	Maria Gerard
Webmaster	Kitty Vangunten
Quilt Show Chairs 2025	Jan Porri, Kathi Maglia, Pam Stenman

## 2025-2026 Committee Members

ABC Quilts	Lynda Cook Kathie Fallon Diane Bray
Fabric Swap Box Friendship Blocks Hospitality	Kitty Vangunten Brenda Day Donna Gosselin Marie Knapps Anne Dodge Lois Palmer Kitty Vangunten Brenda Woodrell Kitty Vangunten Linda Johnston
Library	Kathy Lettieri Bridget Shanley Katha Kerr
Snowflake Bags Neonatal Quilts	
Sunshine Photographer Retreats	

Website: [Fvquilters.org](http://Fvquilters.org)  
Facebook: Farmington Valley Quilters  
Instagram: @farmvalquilters