October 2025 Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello and greeting to you all. This post-quilt show time finds us all resting comfortably (I hope) and anxiously awaiting news from the show committee. How did the show do? Somewhere in this newsletter are the tallies. Thanks to all who helped out. What a team effort!

Administrative items—-

* Eno parking lot is being "repaired/revamped. The lot may not be available for our meeting night. (There have been conflicting reports.) Parking is available on Railroad Street which is below the Eno parking lot. Also, parking on Phelps Street where the Second Chance shop is located and on Wilcox Street.
BRING A FLASHLIGHT.

* Sew in at the Simsbury Public library, this Saturday, October 18. Space is available, check for the signup sheet at the front table.

* Free fabric table still looking for a new storage home. If you can help out see Kitty Vangunten.

* Next year, 2026, will bring us to the 250th anniversary of the 13 colonies becoming the United States. It will also be Farmington Valley's 35th year!
Let's think about an exhibit of FV 'patriotic work'. Maybe the hallway in the Library? If you are interested in being a part of this idea, please speak with Ellyn, (that's me!) Let's see what we can put together and make it a worthy celebration!

Enough business. Talking on a personal note;

I find being the President of this guild an enjoyable assignment. As I enter my second term, I feel very proud that you have the confidence to vote me in, again. (Ok let's be honest, YOU don't want to be president….I said I would do it, so here we are.)

But I do enjoy this role and this guild. The executive board is a wonderful group of quilters bringing in new ideas, refining old ways and working toward making FV the best we can be. There are many first year members on the board, too!

I love hearing your ideas, your criticism and your encouragement. Making us a better guild is what I am all about. And now, I want to give a special shout out to Eileen Umpleby. Thank you for your support. I appreciate it. Yoohoo!

Until next time,

Sincerely,
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.

Chris Murray Treasurer.

Membership

Our guild membership continues to grow. Welcome to our four new members who joined in September
Gretchen Green
Lois Hilliard
Rebecca Trembley
Marilynn Webber
We now have 132 fabulous members. Look for more membership information on the website or contact me gajburk@aol.com for questions.
Dues collection for January through December 2026 begins next month.
Gail Burk
Membership Chair

Retreats

Fall Retreat is October 29 - November 2, 2025 at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton Connecticut.

Final payment for the retreat was due October 1st. Cost for the retreat is:
Wednesday-Sunday, $390
Thursday-Sunday, $340

Most people gave a $100 deposit.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
Katha

Friendship Blocks

The first block of the friendship blocks is due at the October meeting. The link to the pattern can be found on the Farmington Valley Quilters home page. I hope you will make a Ribbon Star block or two and have as much fun as I did making them. Each block gets you a chance to win all the blocks your fellow quilters have made.
Brenda Day

Fabric to Fabulous - Quilt Show Thanks

FABRIC TO FABULOUS!

A huge THANKS to each and every one of you for the herculean efforts to bring about a FABULOUS SHOW! Whether you submitted a quilt, bought/sold raffle tickets, donated books, raffle or Boutique items, attended or volunteered, you all contributed to the success of this Show.

It was a proud weekend for our Guild with about 230 beautiful quilts on display. There were so many different types, colors and techniques to enjoy. Many family, friends and members commented that this was our best Show yet.We had 579 attendees.

A special thanks to MaryPat Leger for organizing all 100 feet of the Farmington River Quilt. It was a particular highlight of the Show.

Our Show Committee members were nothing short of AMAZING in coming together to orchestrate every aspect of the Show. They deserve a big round of applause!

Quilt Raffle Ticket sales- Deb Jacoby and Anne Dodge
Raffle Baskets - Kathy Fallon and Donna Gosselin
Boutique items - Diane Francini and Paula Baczyk
Information & Book Tables- Anne Dodge
Admissions - Pam Stenman
White Gloves & Volunteer Registration- Gail Burk
Decorations - Alberta Culley
Quilt Collections/Transportation & Disbursements - Susan Elliott
Marketing & Advertising - Kathy Gale
Quilt Registration - Rose Day & Pam Stenman
Vendor Management - Maureen Hulsart & Bev Hughes
Quilt Take Down - Phyllis Small
Secretary- Diane Bray
Treasurer - Chris Murray
Layout - Pam Stenman
Set-Up - Marie Knapps
Awards - Diane Calkin

Highest praise goes out to the 35 volunteers that helped our Committee set up, take down and work the Show. This number reflects only 1/3rd of our Membership, so for the future, we will need more members to help in all aspects of the physical Show, as it is very demanding.

We were successful in terms of making a profit and believe we will exceed $7500 profit when all expenses are finalized. We'll share the nitty gritty details regarding how many attendees and how much each area contributed to the overall financial objectives once we finalize all the numbers.

If you have any feedback regarding the Show, we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Fabric to Fabulous!

Quilt Show Award Winners

Congratulations to the talented Winners:

Applique Quilts:
First Place Patricia Beaudoin, Mexicali Rose
Second Place Sarah Strickland, The Gift
Third Place Michelle Palmer, Applique Obsession

Pieced Quilts:
First Place Claudia Goodman, Carnival Flower
Second Place Sarah Strickand, Dream Flight
Third Place Ellen McNally, Crazy Quilt #2

Art Quilts:
First Place Pamela Gigle, Autumn Splendor
Second Place Pamela Gigle, Mary's Forever Garden
Third Place Pamela Gigle, Misty Row

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

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

A PDF printout of programs is available on our website: FVQuilter.org

Please contact Paula Baczyk or Kathy Gale with any questions about these programs or suggestions for future speakers.

Upcoming Farmington Valley Programs
Wednesday, October 15th

Mary Beth LaRosa: *My Quilting Journey*

Mary Beth LaRosa has been a quilter for 35 years. She had enjoyed sewing stuffed animals as a child, but when she saw her college sweetheart's quilt falling apart at the seams on his dorm room bed, she said, "I can make that." And she was off on her journey as a quilter! This first quilt took 5 years to complete because of the interesting choices the novice made, but she was not deterred in the slightest. Mary Beth was a quilt instructor in the mid-2000s at Gone Quilting in Canton, CT. During 3 separate year-long sessions, she guided quilters through a Christmas BOM quilt where she was completely energized by the enthusiasm of her students. Choices made in her first quilt continue in her current quilt-making—big quilts, hand quilting, time-is-no-object propensities. But since then, her work has clearly exploded with her love of color and shapes. The fabrics of Kaffe Fassett and Philip Jacobs inspire her. She is currently working on an original design for a bed-size quilt which she is excited to share at the trunk show.
Note: There will not be a workshop offered.

Wednesday, November 19th

Kate Colleran: *Modern Traditional – Exploring Quilt Styles*

Kate Colleran is a fabric and quilt pattern designer, quilt teacher and author. She has taught at local quilt shops, for guilds and at national quilt shows, has online classes at Craftsy and Quilting Daily and has been a guest on Love of Quilting and The Quilt Show. Her quilt patterns are inspired by traditional elements and put together with a modern twist. She is the designer of the popular Braid and Mini Braid Templates and co-author of the book , *Smash Your Precut*

Thursday, November 20th

Kate Colleran Workshop
Fun With Braids – A Goof Proof Table Runner

- *10 am to 4 pm at The Quilted Ewe*
- *There is a maximum of 20 students and will be open to non members following the October meeting*
- *A pattern and template will be needed for this class and can be purchased ahead of time at https://shop.katecollerandesigns.com/products/table-scraps-and-braid-template-class-kit. Use code FVQ2 for a class discount or purchase during class. Every student will need their own template and pattern.*
- *Workshop fee is $55 payable upon sign up plus $25 for the discounted template and pattern payable the day of class.*

Wednesday, March 18th
Timna Tarr*: Behind the Seams,* Lecture

Thursday, March 19th
Timna Tarr Workshop
Easy Improv Techniques

Programs and Workshops (con't)

New Dinner with Speaker Opportunity
Our very first Dinner with Our Speaker will be October 15th just prior to the guild meeting with Mary Beth LaRosa. Lucky winner Rose Day will join Mary Beth and Paula Baczyk at the Soma Grille for a meal and quilt talk with Mary Beth. If you'd like to enter to win November's dinner with Kate Colleran just fill out a raffle ticket at the sign in table at the October meeting!

Socials

There are still a few spots open at our fall sew-in on Saturday, October 18 from 10-3 at the Simsbury Library. Anne Dodge will have the sign up sheet at the October meeting.
There will be a silent auction at the November meeting of some generously donated items and some leftover from the Boutique table at the show. Don't miss out on this opportunity for some quilty goodies!
December will be fun with a live auction of some beautiful donated kits! More info next month!

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) know and it will be waiting for you at the next Guild meeting.
The featured title this month a two-volume set that was part of donation that we received several months ago. I thought this set was a wonderful addition to the Guild Library
Red & White: American Redwork Quilts and Patterns, by Deborah Harding, Rizzoli, 2000. The first volume is a comprehensive history of Redwork quilts from late 1800's to the early 1900's, the embroidery designs that were used, and what types of resources and methods were available to women at the turn of the century. Several historically significant Redwork quilts are featured with in-depth discussion of the various embroidered designs on them. The second volume is full of historic Redwork embroidery patterns. They are large and easily transferred on to fabric using a variety of methods.

ABC Quilts

ABC Quilt update.
This month (Oct.) your ABC quilt team will be handing out kits for you to make some 9 patch scrappy blocks for the 2026 ABC quilt. We will be making 2 quilts from the blocks you create. So stop by the ABC table and sign out a kit or two of an easy 9 patch block. The directions are attached to this newsletter and are also posted on our website. Your finished blocks are due no later than the Dec meeting.
Thank you in advance in helping us create quilts for the upcoming Freshmen at the ABC house.
Question please reach out to us.
Kathie Fallon
Lynda Cook
Diane Bray

ABC 9 PATCH QUILT
FARMINGTON VALLEY QUILTERS. 2025/2026

Thank you for helping create a quilt top for an incoming ABC student. Your blocks will be combined with several others to form the top.

Your kit contains 6 strips of fabric which are 2.5" x approximately 20-22". Three dark colored strips, and three light colored strips.

1. Using a scant 1/4" seams, make 2 sets of strips. One set uses a light, dark, light layout (see fig. 1A). The other set uses a dark, light, dark layout (see fig. 1B). Press seams toward the dark fabric.
2. After cutting off the selvages, cut the strip sets into 2.5" sections. (see fig 2)
3. Arrange the sections to create 9 patch blocks. The seams will nest. Right sides together. Sew with a scant 1/4" seam. (see fig. 3)
4. Press seams to one side or press open. (see fig. 4)
5. Your blocks are now complete; you should have either 4 or 5 completed blocks. (see fig. 5)

Completed blocks are now ready to return no later than the Dec. guild meeting. Please attach your name to the finished blocks. We hope to assemble the blocks with sashing into the final top and have quilting completed by the Feb. meeting when you will see your handiwork and will be able to help sew the binding.

Please reach out if you have questions;
Kathie Fallon, Weavewoman@comcast.net. 860-306-1618
Lynda Cook, Blcook66@gmail.com. 860-221-8657
Diane Bray, Diane.m.bray@gmail.com 860-601-0938

Fig 1A

Fig 1B

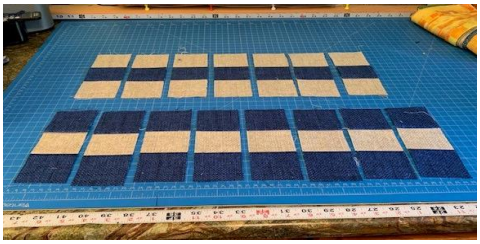


Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 4

Fig 5

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

Ten quilts were donated at the September meeting. This month there may not be much to pick up, as we have been off vacationing. Promise a fully-stocked table November. You can still turn in your quilts and take a look at what we might have. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Neonatal Committee. Thank you for your continued support.

Neonatal Committee Members Needed

By Maureen Hulsart

Three members of the Neonatal Committee have assumed other roles in the Guild. Consequently, we need at least two volunteers; one to assist in the neonatal responsibilities monthly, and one person to assume the Snowflake Bag Task.

Neonatal Committee member – to assist in bringing youthful fabric and/or batting to the meeting monthly and display it on the neonatal table. Collect completed neonatal quilts and hold them and/or deliver them to St. Francis Hospital Neonatal Unit when they need their quilt stock replaced. You will be doing these tasks in conjunction with other members of the Committee.

Snowflake Bags – What is the Snowflake bag project you ask? We make fabric sacks with ribbon drawstrings for Hartford Hospital's children's unit for the Holidays. Then when parents purchase and/or select a toy for their hospitalized child, they don't have to be concerned about wrapping, they place it in the sac and present it to their child. Snowflake bag responsibilities - bring colorful and/or holiday fabric to the meeting monthly in Sept, Oct, Nov and December. Also provided is ribbon and a handful of "patterns" of how to make the snowflake bag. Display the fabric and pattern on a table. At the end of the evening, collect the completed snowflake bags and hold them. In December, make arrangement to drop off the bags to the nursing staff arranging the Snowflake shop. This is a 4-month project.

Please donate your time to one of these functions, it's important to support our Guild's charity functions, and these functions are fun!

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 Oct 27, 10:00 – 2:30 Avon Public Library, 281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT
Tuesday Sep 16, 9:00-2:30 St. Andrew Church Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT
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, 860.306.7000 OR Kathi Maglia, 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 Phone – 860-561-2878

Wanted:

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. 9/25
Jill Email: laytonjm0114@gmail.com

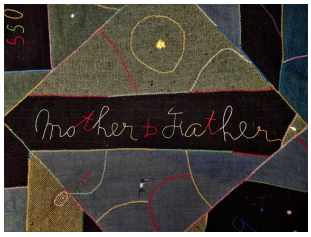
Subject: Baby quilt
I was interested in getting quilt made with my children's baby clothes. I was wondering if anyone in your community might be interested in doing this for me? I'd be happy to compensate for the work. 9/25
Thank you so much for your help,
Sona Chaudhry. Email:sona0587@gmail.com

Advertisements

For Sale: I have a Tiara Baby Lock sit down longarm machine complete with table, stitch regulator, bobbin winder plus manual. Hardly used purchased from Close to Home. I'm looking for 1200.00 for everything. Margaret Dooley-Duncan 5/25

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)

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. 10/25
Purchased approximately 5 years ago in an antique shop.
If interested , or to see in person, please contact Miriam Johnson, johnsonm320@comcast.net



Quilting Events in the Area

Stitch, Fiber and Fabric Exhibition
August 11 – October 24, 2025
Menino Arts Center
26 Central Ave, Boston, MA 02136
https://www.hpaa-mac.org/

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

Ninigret Quilters 2025 Quilt Show: Fall Splendor
October 17-19, 2025
Westerly Armory
41 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI 02891
https://ninigretquilters.blogspot.com/p/quilt-show-2025.html

Fabric, Yarn and Notions Sale
October 18, 2025
St. Matthews United Methodist Church
435 Central Street, Acton, MA 01720
https://concordpiecemakers.org/

Wrapped in Comfort in the Garden, Crosstown Quilters Guild
October 18 – 19, 2025
Cardinal Cushing Center
405 Washington Street, Hanover, MA
http://www.crosstownquilters.org/index.html

BUCC Quilt Show and Sale w/Sewing Tag Sale
Oct 24 – 26, 2025
Belchertown United Church of Christ
18 Park St, Belchertown, MA 01007
https://buccquiltshowandsale.weebly.com/

Piecemakers Quilt Show
October 25, 2025
Seekonk Congregational Church
600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771
https://sewmanyshows.com/event/piecemakers-quilt-show-seekonk-ma/

Hearthside Quilt Guild Auction
October 25, 2025
Harwinton Senior Center
209 Weingart Rd., Harwinton, CT 06791
https://sewmanyshows.com/event/hearthside-quilt-guild-auction-harwinton-ct-3/

Cocheco Quilters Guild 43rd Quilt Show
October 25 - 26, 2025
James W. Foley Memorial Community Center
150 Wakefield St, Rochester, NH
https://www.cochecoquilters.com/index.html

Fabric Sale
November 1, 2025
Sudbury Grange Hall 2nd floor
326 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA
https://www.waysidequilters.org/index.html

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/

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Quilt Show – "Homespun Harvest"
Nov. 8 – 9, 2025
Saugus Senior Center, 466 Central St
Saugus, MA 01906
https://hqgsaugus.org/

Rising Star Quilters Guild's Annual Quilt Show
Nov. 15 – 16, 2025
Arlington Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
https://risingstarquilters.org/show.html

14th Annual Yuletide Quilt Show
November 22, 2025
United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum – Haddam Campus
905 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438
https://haddamchurch.org/events/quilt-show/

Newsletter Submissions

Due the **Thursday** before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to dlcalkin@gmail.com
Submissions for next newsletter due November 13, 2025.

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	Kitty Vangunten
Friendship Blocks	Brenda Day
Hospitality	Donna Gosselin
	Marie Knapps
Library	Anne Dodge
	Lois Palmer
	Kitty Vangunten
Snowflake Bags	TBD
Neonatal Quilts	Kitty Vangunten
	Linda Johnston
Sunshine	Kathy Lettieri
Photographer	Bridget Shanley
Retreats	Katha Kerr

Website: Fvquilters.org
Facebook: Farmington Valley Quilters
Instagram:@farmvalquilters