

May 2024 Newsletter

President's Letter

Happy Spring to All!

The days are getting longer and warmer! I just love this time of year when the trees and flowers start blooming. Spring brings such hope and renewal for me – I hope it does for all of you.

I just got back from an incredible experience attending Empty Spools Seminars in California. If you are looking to expand your mindset and skills around quilting (all types), I encourage you to check this out. I took two different classes, one with Kathy Doughty who owns Material Obsession in Sydney, Australia and the other with Priscilla Bianchi from Guatemala. I hope to share the results with you all in the coming months (yes, I came home with UFOs). What an amazing experience...really beyond words! And Joanne and I will be looking at a few of the teachers at Empty Spools for FVQI for 2025 and beyond!

At this month's meeting, we will be **voting on our slate of board members for 2024 – 2025**. Your votes and voices matter to all of us, so please make every effort to attend our general meeting.

NEWS FLASH: We are going to start delivering our Newsletter via the website in September 2024! As we continue to struggle with email dropping recipients, we needed to research alternative distribution methods that we can rely on. More details will be provided as we get closer. If you have any questions, please email, or speak to Diane Calkin or me at the meeting.

Do you have news to share? Any pictures, events, experience, opportunities that you would like published on our website or our Facebook page? Just reach out to Kitty Vangunten and she will make that happen for you!

And don't forget...**Hang-A-Quilt Day** is just around the corner! Thanks to the team that's driving this year's event and to everyone who helped get the rack cards delivered to local and almost local quilt shops! Getting the word out is so important.

Hope your quilting journey continues to take you to wonderful new places!

Caroline

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Membership

Hi all, we have had two members rejoin the guild since our last newsletter, please welcome them when you see them, they are: Barbara Aubin and Sandi Sherman. With these additions, we currently have 113 members. As always, if you have any questions about the guild, please reach out to Gail or Pam.

Gail Burk
Pam Stenman

Treasurer's Update

All the Guild accounts are balanced and in good order. The Board is currently working on the Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year which starts on July 1st. When it is approved it will be available on the Members Only section of the Guild Website. Look under the tab that says "Minutes/Treasurer/Budget. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know at annedodge71@gmail.com. Anne Dodge, Treasurer.

Friendship Blocks

Share your sewing with your guild friends.
Instructions are on the website and also the link below

[Tinyurl.com/FVQfriend2023](https://tinyurl.com/FVQfriend2023)

Questions-email Linnea (neaya@aol.com) or Katha (kkerr8994@yahoo.com)

ABC Quilts

The ABC committee is looking for one or two members to join the team. The commitment level is low but the benefits are high! Responsibilities are shared including: designing the annual quilts, writing directions, assembling and distributing kits, collecting finished blocks, assembling top, securing volunteers to quilt them and create the labels, preparing the quilts to bind at the February service meeting, storing the donated fabric and finished quilts, communicating with the ABC House administration to get the information on the incoming students. The highlight is presenting the quilts the day the young men move into the house in August. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Peggy Thomsen or Kathie Fallon for details.

Retreats

Sign ups for the fall retreat, October 30 - November 3 at Incarnation Center will begin at the May meeting, a NONREFUNDABLE deposit of \$100 will hold your spot, please make checks payable to FVQI. The balance will be due no later than the September meeting. Cost for 4 nights is \$390 (Wednesday-Sunday), 3 nights is \$340 (Thursday - Sunday), meal service begins with Thursday dinner.

If there is enough interest we can schedule chair massages, please let me know if you are interested.

I will also schedule Anthony for machine cleaning/servicing.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Katha

Guild Library

From the Guild Library:

Each month, we like to feature one special book from the Guild Library to pique interest. This month there are no books that relate to our speaker so I selected a recent addition that was generously donated.

Unconventional & Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar, 1950-2000, by Roderick Kiracofe, Quiltfolk/Schiffer Pub., 2021.

This is the second edition of a book originally published in 2014. This beautiful edition has been recently featured on the Quiltfolk website. It features a wonderful collection of 150 quilts made by predominately unknown quilters from the last half of the 20th century. Unlike the quilts that we frequently see that replicate traditional patterns, this book is full of quilts that have a “freer, more casual, soulful-yet-bold aesthetic that departs from (and returns to) a multitude of norms and standards”. * There is a maze of quilts that show the creative, artistic, yet utilitarian aspects of modern quilting. Informative essays written by well-known quilt experts, accompany the quilts, helping to inform the reader.

*quote taken from inside front cover flap

Mystery Night

Mystery Night/Open Sew Evening

This is a reminder that Mystery Night is coming up in a few weeks, May 17th. If you would like to participate please let Rosemarie Day (Rosemarie.J.Day@gmail.com) know. **BUT** since we have plenty of room this has also become an **Open Sew Evening**. We are meeting at the Avon Congregational Church from 5:00-9:00.

We have 6 people who are doing the Mystery Quilt so we have room for at least 6-8 more people. If folks do not want to do a mystery quilt but are interested to do an open sew while others are doing the mystery quilt we are open to sharing the space if they will pay \$20 dollars to attend. Anyone who wants to open sew and spend the evening with us is **welcome**. It will be a fun evening for sewing and camaraderie.

Quilt Show

Quilt show...Still looking for suggestions for the name of our show. Hope you're all busy getting those quilts done. Also, gift basket people... not too early to decide on themes for the baskets. Lots of time to collect goodies for them. Please reach out.

Thanks...
Jan Porri

Programs and Workshops

A PDF Printout of programs is available on our Website: FVQuilter.org

Thank you to those of you who have signed up for our fall workshops. Please bring a check made out to the guild for each workshop you signed up for. It's \$50 per workshop. Satomi's workshop has a \$15 materials fee paid directly to the teacher on the day of the workshop. If you won't be at the May meeting, you can mail me a check at: 30 Brettonwood Drive, Simsbury 06070.

May 15, 2024

Christa Nee- Joint Protection and Body Mechanics for the Quilter

Christa is an Occupational Therapist, Yoga Instructor and Quilter.

We've all sat at our machines for hours on end...only to ache afterwards. Protect those joints! Learn the benefits of and ways to improve posture, body mechanics, joint protection and stretching to improve your quilting experience for years to come.

Socials

Planning is well underway for the June Social. We need your help, if you have a trick or technique you would like to (or be willing to) demo please let us know, we are looking for relatively quick and easy. We will be passing the sign up sheet around for contributions of either an appetizer or a dessert at the meeting.

We will be having the summer sew ins again at the First Church of Christ, Simsbury, 689 Hopmeadow St on July 17th and August 21st from 9am - 3pm. Bring your machines, projects, and lunch and spend the day sewing and socializing. There is air conditioning, but no refrigerator or microwave. Cost is FREE. We will be passing a sign up sheet around for these events too so we have an idea of how many to expect.

Katha & Patti

June Challenge

Last Month before the Challenge is Due!

There will be a small participation award.

Each year we offer guild members a quilting challenge. This year's challenge topic is Endangered Species. You must pick an animal(s) from the World Wildlife Fund list. Then use that to inspire a quilted item. As always it must be quilted and finished, but can be any size or shape.

Questions? See Diane Calkin, dlcalkin@gmail.com

CT Hang-a-Quilt Day

Connecticut Hang-a-Quilt Day is Saturday, June 15
(Rain date June 16) 9 AM to 4 PM.

Calling all Quilt Lovers:

Connecticut Hang-a-Quilt Day is our annual guild sponsored statewide event! Started in 2019 by Susan Elliott, it's a beautiful way to showcase the artistry of quilting for others to appreciate. Everyone and anyone in the state of Connecticut may hang a quilt outside their home over a chair, from a window, over a rail, from a clothesline or any other creative way to display one or more quilts. No registration or requirements--just hang a quilt for the day.

The guild will be hanging quilts on the iron fence (using clothesline) at the Cemetery in the center of Simsbury as well as the wooden fence around the Historical Society both of which are on Hopmeadow Street. Please contact **Bernice Hovencamp** (bchpink@comcast.net) if you are interested in hanging your quilt in the center of Simsbury.

We will need a few responsible people for each location. A sign-up sheet for helpers will be available at the guild meeting. The quilts are not monitored during the day, but we have never had any issues. It will be your responsibility to bring your quilt to the center by 8:30 in the morning and pick it up by 4 PM that afternoon.

You may also find other public places to display your quilt. If you frequent any little shop or business, you can offer to hang a quilt there on that day! No limit to where or how you display them or how many quilts you hang. Ask a friend, neighbor or co-worker to participate also. Many quilt shops and quilters around the state will be participating as well.

Remember, you can make a sign or purchase one from **Barb Aubin** (linic@comcast.net) to place near your treasures to share with the community on our website for the CT Hang-a-Quilt road tour!

Hang-a-Quilt Locations

Would you like to drive around and see a display of quilts our members have elected to share on CT Hang-a-Quilt Day?

The Guild is offering to post the locations of quilts members are displaying on CT Hang-a-Quilt Day. Any member willing to voluntarily share the address/addresses of where they are hanging a quilt will have the addresses posted on a listing on our guild Web Page. No names will be listed, just the # and street name listed under the town. This allows people to drive by and share in this outdoor quilt show. The listing will be updated weekly with the final update posted on Friday the 14th.

To participate, just send in the address/s to **Maureen Hulsart** at the following email address: musiconthestreet@comcast.net.
Deadline for submitting addresses is **Wednesday, June 12th at noon**.

So, print out our final listing; call a friend; grab your GPS and enjoy this outdoor quilt show.

Connecticut Hang -A-Quilt Day

*Sponsored by
Farmington Valley Quilters, Inc.*



June 15, 2024

(Rain-date June 16)

*Showcase the art & beauty of quilting
with this open-air quilt show!*

- Hang a quilt outside your house – on your garage, clothesline, fence, tree or chair
- Ask a local business if you can display a quilt for the day
- Post a picture on social media with **#CTHangAQuiltDay**

No cost or registration required.

FVQUILTER.ORG

Celebrating Quilting

Celebrating many, many years of quilting.

Part of the FV bylaws read that the FVQG shall be an instrument for: *sharing with the public, to further knowledge, history and the appreciation of the quilting art.*

To that end, an Exhibit of works by FVQs will be held just after Labor Day, September 2024 – through the end of October 2024 in the Friends of the Simsbury Library room. Please consider displaying your work so that the public can see what we do and be inspired to join our Guild. If you are interested in having your work displayed, please see Ellyn Mansfield- ELHMansfield@gmail.com.

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.

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Darcy Grey Kitty Vangunten
 Linda Johnston Maureen Hulsart



Guild Membership has continued to support our Neonatal Quilt efforts with a total of 123 quilts donated to date. The St. Francis Hospital Neonatal Department is very appreciative of our donations and especially the parents who get to select a quilt to take home when they pick up their little bundle of joy at discharge. We just want to review the requirements for Neonatal Quilts.

- ❖ Quilts should be 35 inches square to a maximum of 40 inches square
- ❖ Quilts should be quilted with good quality material and machine binding on the edge is preferred
- ❖ Please make sure your stitching is tight....a 2.0 to 2.5 stitch length to make sure little fingers don't get caught
- ❖ Quilts should be free of any loose strings

Farmington Valley Quilters' labels are available at the Neonatal table each month. If you don't remember to pick up a label, we will stitch a label on for you. Batting is also available at our table for anyone making a Neonatal quilt.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sunshine

As a caring Guild, we want to send a cheer card or sympathy card to any member that might need one. In order 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

Snowflake Bags



The Snowflake Shop
By Maureen Hulsart

Two former members of our Quilt Guild have always held a soft spot in their hearts for the Snowflake Bag Project. I would like to share that last month, 81 Snowflake bags were delivered by our 'retired friends' toward our December donation to the Connecticut Children's Hospital. I can also share that last November, I had a huge box of Snowflake bags shipped to me from Wisconsin! They are dedicated and we are grateful for their on-going support.

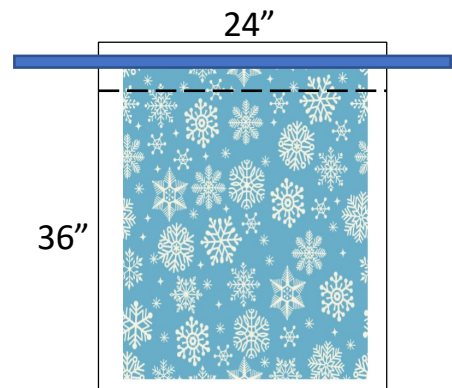
That said, for the months of May and June, I will lay-out a variety of fabric for anyone to take who would like to make Snowflake Bags over the summer months.

We will also have ribbon available, cut to the appropriate size, for you to use as the drawstring. Feel free to look over the table and take what you need.

Here is specific information for making Snowflake bags.

- ❖ Sacks should be roughly 36"x 24"
- ❖ Ribbon is available on the Snowflake Table for the drawstring. Ribbon Preferred for tying.
- ❖ Holiday fabrics are appreciated but not mandatory. Children's prints or bags in solid colors... Blue, Green, Gold, etc. are welcomed.
- ❖ Bags to be collected monthly at the Snowflake Shop Table from September through November.....anticipated delivery to the Children's Hospital is early December.

Ribbon



Thank you for your support!

Quilts 2 Heal

SEW DAYS: MONDAY June 17 10:00 - 2:30

Sew Inspired Quilts Shop
8 Wilcox St., Simsbury

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

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.

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

Advertisements

If you would like to advertise a service or are looking to sell or buy something related to quilting/sewing, advertise it here. Your advertisement will be in the Newsletter for six months; after which it will be removed.

For Sale:

AccuQuilt Studio System in excellent condition. Includes more than 30 dies (some never used), multiple trays and covers. Asking \$300 or best offer. Contact Caroline Berman @ 860-944-9566 or chbermanct@comcast.net if interested.

4/24

fOR SALE:

Brand new Babylock Sashiko machine. Give your items the look of hand quilting without the wear and tear on your hands. My impulse buy... NEVER USED. Asking \$2,300. Downsizing sewing room. Jan Porri [860-680-1290](tel:860-680-1290)

4/24

FREE! ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Great 4' long sewing table/desk. Handmade. Owner (recently passed away) used it as a sewing table.

The family does not want this piece.

Please contact Ellyn Mansfield for further information. Simsbury location.



4/24

For Sale - Babylock Quilters Choice sewing machine. Lovingly maintained, great machine! \$350. Happy to let you test drive it to check it out before you decide. Contact Peggy Thomsen (psthomsenquilter@gmail.com)

4/24

For Sale - Accuquilt Go with multiple dies and cutting mats. \$400 or best offer but must take it all. This is a steal as the dies alone sell for \$50- \$100+ each. Contact Peggy Thomsen (psthomsenquilter@gmail.com)

4/24

Quilting Events in the Area

Quilters Connection 2024 Quilt Show

May 18 - 19, 2024

Arlington Town Hall

730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

<https://www.quiltersconnection.org/QCindex.html>

Chelmsford Quilters' Guild, Inc. Biennial Quilt Show 2024

May 18 – 19, 2024

Chelmsford Senior Center

75 Groton Rd, North Chelmsford, MA

<https://www.chelmsfordquiltguild.com/>

Quilts after Covid Was: April 6 - 7, 2024

Now: June 1 - 2, 2024 Date Change

Tewksbury Senior Center

175 Chandler Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

<http://www.tewksburypiecemakers.com/index.html>

Small Quilts, Big Stories

June 5 – Sept. 22, 2024

Cahoon Museum of American Art

4676 Falmouth Road Cotuit, MA 02635

<https://cahoonmuseum.org/>

Joe Cunningham: Quilts for These Times

June 19 – September 15, 2024

Cahoon Museum of American Art

4676 Falmouth Road Cotuit, MA 02635

<https://cahoonmuseum.org/>

A Vermont Quilt Sampler at Billings Farm & Museum

June 29 – Sept. 2, 2024

Billings Farm & Museum

53 Elm Street, Woodstock, VT 05091

<https://billingsfarm.org/quilt-exhibition/>

Chickadee 43rd Annual Quilt Show

July 13-14, 2024

Stevens Brook Elementary School

14 Frances Bell Dr Bridgton, ME 04009

<https://sites.google.com/view/chickadeequiltshow/>

Art Quilts to Dye For

July 20 to Aug 31, 2024

The Brush Art Gallery & Studios

256 Market Street, Lowell, MA 01852

<https://thebrush.org/>

Maine Quilts 2024

July 25 - 27, 2024

Augusta Civic Center

76 Community Dr., Augusta, Maine

<https://mainequilts.org/>

Bayberry Quilters of Cape Cod's Annual Quilt Show

July 31 – August 2, 2024

Cape Cod Technical High School

351 Pleasant Lake Ave., Harwich, MA

<https://bayberryquiltersofcapecod.com/>

SCQG: Autumn Festival of Quilts

Sept. 14 – 15, 2024

Hawthorn Brook School

64 Brookline Rd (Rt 13), Townsend MA 01469

<https://sqanicookquiltguild.com/>

With These Hands 2024: Herring Run Quilters' Guild

Sept. 21 – 22, 2024

Boys and Girls Club of Marshfield

37 Proprietors Drive, Marshfield, MA 02050

<https://www.herringrunquiltguild.com>

Wayside Quilt Show

Sept. 28 – 29, 2024

Lincoln-Sudbury High School

300 Lincoln Rd Sudbury, MA

<https://waysidequilters.org>

Newsletter Submissions

Due the Friday before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to dlcalkin@gmail.com
Submissions for next newsletter due June 14, 2024.

2023-2024 Board Members

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| President | Caroline Berman |
| Vice President | Ellyn Mansfield |
| Membership | Pam Stenman, Gail Burk |
| Secretary | Keri Livingston |
| Treasurer | Anne Dodge |
| Programs | Kathi Maglia |
| | Joanne Farrell |
| Newsletter Editor | Diane Calkin |
| Publicity | Rose Day |
| | Bridget Shanley |
| Social Programs | Linda Walter |
| | Candy Casciano |
| | Patti Slason |
| | Katha Kerr |
| Webmaster | Kitty Vangunten |
| Quilt Show Chair 2024 | Jan Porri |

2023-2024 Committee Members

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ABC Quilts | Peggy Thomsen |
| | Kathie Fallon |
| Fabric Swap Box | Margaret Dooley-Duncan |
| Friendship Blocks | Linnea Amodio |
| | Katha Kerr |
| Hospitality | Donna Gosselin |
| | Marie Knapps |
| June Challenge | Diane Calkin |
| Library | Anne Dodge |
| | Lois Palmer |
| | Kitty Vangunten |
| Mystery Night | Rose Day, Anne Dodge |
| Neonatal Quilts | Maureen Hulsart |
| | Darcy Gray |
| | Kitty Vangunten |
| | Linda Johnston |
| Sunshine | Kathy Lettieri |
| Photographer | TBD |
| Retreats | Katha Kerr |
| CT Hang-a-Quilt-Day | Bernice Hovencamp, Keri Livingston |

Website: Fvquilters.org

Facebook: Farmington Valley Quilters

Instagram: @farmvalquilters