



September 2026 Newsletter

President's Letter

Well, the Lazy, Hazy, Crazy days of Summer seem to be winding down and I can tell that Autumn is coming because the acorns are pelting my car. I personally love the Fall; cool, crisp air and lots of color.

I have several announcements to share.

First - **Our September meeting will be held at Avon Congregational Church in the Fellowship Hall at our regular time.** Please mark your calendars and share this information with your quilting friends. Our September meeting is a reunion event; catching-up with people you haven't seen since June, talking about vacation get-aways and sharing quilting treasures you made over the summer months.

Secondly – A reminder that Farmington Valley Quilters has an assigned room at the Avon Congregational Church's quilt show in October. The Guild will display patriotic quilts in celebration of America's 250th. Please see the article in the newsletter with details about the show and our display.

Third - Pam Stenman, our Quilt Show Chair, has secured a location and date for our Guild's bi-annual quilt show. This show is scheduled for next spring; consequently, there is much to do in this shortened time frame. Please read the article by Pam regarding our 2027 show and talk with Pam about what you can do to help. Many hands make light work.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Maureen Hulsart



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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

We currently have 131 members.



Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

By Susan Elliott

Avon Congregational Church Quilt Show and Craft Fair

Saturday, October 17 (10-4)

Sunday, October 18 (1 - 4)

Celebrating our country's 250th Anniversary. There will be over 250 Traditional, Modern, and Antique quilts which will be displayed throughout the sanctuary, hallways, and classrooms. Special exhibits by the Avon and Simsbury Historical Societies, the Farmington River Quilt, the Mountain Laurel Applique society, the Farmington Valley Quilt Guild, the Central Connecticut Modern Quilt Guild, and Brenda Day, Quilter. Come and enjoy the quilts as well as our craft fair and cafe. Admissions is \$10 and children 12 and under are free.



Farmington Valley Quilters Patriotic Display

Our Guild has been assigned a room in the Avon Congregational Church's Quilt Show on October 17th and 18th. The display will include some Quilts of Valor and some patriotic quilts in private collections. We estimate we can comfortably display 14-18 quilts, depending on the size. We are near capacity but may be able to accommodate a couple more.

Please contact Maureen Hulsart if you are interested in participating in this display.

Quilt Show: Seams Like Spring

2027 Quilt Show - Seams Like Spring!

Hello all, we have made progress over the summer on our 2027 Quilt Show! We have dates, a location, a raffle quilt, a name and many of the committee leadership positions filled. Our show will be at Northwest Catholic High School, 29 Wampanoag Drive West Hartford, CT and the show will be on Friday April 16th and Saturday April 17th, 2027 with setup on Thursday April 15th. This is a change from what we have done previously, so mark your calendars now!

The show is the guild's major fundraiser and we need as many of our members as possible to help make the show a success! Many hands make light work! We have some key roles that still need to be filled - Setup lead responsible for the team that will get the quilts hung on Thursday 4/15, a vendor lead that will reach out to secure vendors for the show, and someone to take charge of awards/ribbons. We need to fill these positions as soon as possible so please reach out to Pam Stenman, 860-307-1240 or pamstenman@gmail.com, to volunteer or ask any questions you may have about these positions. Below is the list of committee members that have volunteered to date for your reference and you can feel free to reach out to them if you would like to assist with their committee.

Basket Raffle

Based on the dates noted above, we have 7 months until the Quilt Show and we need to get started working on our Basket Raffle which is a major part of our fundraising effort. At our last two shows, we made over \$2000 each on our basket raffles.

We hope to have a dozen or so baskets to raffle off this time. Please consider putting a basket together. Many folks get together with another guild member, or two, to work on one as a group. You pick the theme of your basket. In past years, themes have included a wide range of topics including holidays, seasons, nature, kids, food topics, colors and spa to name a few. Once we have a list of the themes, we will let the entire guild know so that members can contribute items that fit the subject. Please note that the basket should include some type of quilted item; table runner, pot holders, mug rugs, small quilt, tote bag (could take the place of the basket), placemats, etc. Due to state of CT regulations, the raffle cannot include alcohol.

At each monthly guild meeting, a table will be set up by the basket coordinators. Members can drop off their donations to be distributed to the appropriate basket volunteers. These donations can include quilting related items; fabric, notions, patterns, etc. as well general gifts. We usually get a lot of donations from members. We will also need large baskets and ribbon for decorating the baskets.

Prior to the show we have to apply for a raffle permit from the Town of West Hartford. In order to receive the permit, we will need to provide a rough estimated dollar value of the contents of each basket. Therefore, keep a list of contents and their estimated value as you put your basket together. A couple of weeks prior to the show, we will have a get together to help everyone get all of the baskets wrapped.

Please get your basket team together soon and choose a theme. Once you have your group, and have chosen your theme, please let the basket coordinators know so that we can start soliciting items for your basket from the general membership. The raffle basket coordinators are Donna Gosselin, dgosselin05@gmail.com and Sally Begina, turtlequilt@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Donna and Sally

Quilt Show: Seams Like Spring (cont'd)

Raffle Quilt

A beautiful raffle quilt has been donated by Chris Murray! Thank you Chris! This is one key item that is now set for the show and is another of key fundraiser for the show! At our last show in 2025, the raffle quilt raised over \$4400! You will each receive raffle tickets to sell as a way to support our fundraising efforts. Deb Jacoby will provide more information at a later date.

Boutique Table

For those of you new to the guild, at our last couple of shows, we had an FVQ Boutique table where we sold items made by our members. This is another area where we will need your support. Paula Baczyk will provide more information on what is needed as we move forward but if you have items you make that you would like to donate for sale, please share this information with Paula. This was another key fundraiser at our last show and contributed over \$1500 to the total show proceeds!

In addition to all of the above, one of the most important things we will need from you is your Quilts! The only limitation is that you can't show a quilt that has been in one of our shows previously! So, please start considering what you can enter in the show, maybe finish some of your UFOs so you can enter them! We will let you know when registration for the show opens.

Thank you for taking the time to read this long update! We are looking forward to having a fabulous show in 2027!

Pam Stenman

Quilt Show Chairperson

Quilt Show 2027 Committees

Function	Name(s)	Phone #	Email
Chairperson(s)	Pam Stenman	860-307-1240	pamstenman@gmail.com
Treasurer(s)	Chris Murray/ Brenda Day	860-620-3113/ (860) 751-4132	chris.murray.home@gmail.com / bundy77@comcast.net
Secretary	Anne Dodge	(860) 866-6157	annedodge71@gmail.com
Raffle Quilt	Chris Murray	860-620-3113	chris.murray.home@gmail.com
Raffle Tickets	Deb Jacoby	(860) 212-5514	nilesjacoby@sbcglobal.net
Permits - Raffle Tickets and baskets	Anne Dodge	(860) 866-6157	annedodge71@gmail.com
Quilt Registration	Deb Schunder	(860) 418-0334	dschunder@yahoo.com
Quilt In-Take	Susan Elliott/ Gretchen Green	(860) 748-1775/ (817) 800-2345	shsellott@sbcglobal.net / geggreen59@gmail.com
Quilt Disbursement	Katherine Duffendack	(203) 500-4864	dietquilter@yahoo.com
Raffle Baskets	Donna Gosselin/ Sally Begin	(413) 896-2698/ (203) 415-2528	dgosselin05@gmail.com / turtlequilt@gmail.com
Vendors			
Program Book	Anne Dodge	(860) 866-6157	annedodge71@gmail.com
Publicity	Michelle Fuentes	(949) 291-1025	michellerenefuentes@gmail.com
Layout	Kathy Gale	(281) 714-6343	kathy_gale@yahoo.com
Setup			
Decorations	Sally Begin	(203) 415-2528	turtlequilt@gmail.com
Volunteers	Gail Burke	(860) 670-7390	gajburk@aol.com
Awards/Ribbons			
Boutique Table	Paula Baczyk	(860) 402-4927	pbaczyk@comcast.net

Guild Library

From the Guild Librarians:

Each month, we like to feature one special book 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.

This month is a repeat from a few years ago but because of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks I felt it appropriate.

America From The Heart: Quilters Remember September 11, 2001, curated by Karen Bresehhan, C&T Publishing, 2002.

Shortly after the September 11th terrorist attack a call went out through QuiltArt, an online quilters forum, and other quilting websites for quilters to create items memorializing the event, allowing quilters to vent their heartfelt feelings of grief, horror, and patriotism. Almost 300 quilted items were received and were exhibited at the 2001 Houston International Quilt Show. The entire exhibit, "America From The Heart", was pulled together in just over six weeks and has been described as "unforgettable, moving, heartbreaking, and inspiring". Shortly after, this catalog was published so that everyone that did not see the exhibit could still experience it. Each quilted item shown in the catalog has a short annotation written by the quilter. This book is a powerful reminder of that unforgettable day.

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten, Ellyn Mansfield

Please stop by our table for fabric and batting. We'll give a summary of our year's activity after we've recovered from the summer.

Our website page, fvquilter.org, has the requirements for neonatal quilts. On the home page, click on Service Projects. Quilt donations may be made to the committee at our meetings. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Neonatal Committee. Thank you for your continued support.

Retreats

The Fall Retreat will be November 11-15, 2026 at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton Connecticut. The cost for the 4 nights is \$390 (Wednesday-Sunday) or 3 nights is \$340 (Thursday-Sunday). Meal service begins with Dinner Thursday and continues through lunch on Sunday. The retreat is full and the balance is due at the September meeting.

I will be sending out an e-mail to those people signed up before the September meeting, if you do not receive it please let me know so that I can ensure I have the correct e-mail for you.

Katha

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

ABC Quilts

Your ABC team, Diane Bray, Lynda Cook and Luda Zarovnaya had the opportunity to attend the ABC House welcome picnic on August 23 to present 1 quilt which was lovingly constructed by you, the members of our guild, to incoming Freshman student Cody Konadu from Hartford. The student, their parents, sponsors and the ABC house members are very appreciative of these quilts and they look forward to seeing the various patterns we come up with yearly. See photo of Cody wrapped in his quilt being presented by Luda, Diane and Lynda. A special thank you to member Deneen Kenworthy for a beautiful embroidery label for the quilt.

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The ABC (A Better Chance) is a national program that places high-performing students from underserved communities in our nations best independent and public schools and supports them on their educational and leadership journeys. Simsbury Public High School is one such school that sponsors ABC students. Between 1-3 students are accepted each year as incoming Freshman and they live in a house in Simsbury with house parents and each have sponsors. Our quilts have been gifting incoming freshman since 1997.

Your ABC team has already started planning for the next quilt so watch for updates. See the photo of this year's modified rail fence scrappy block. Kits will be available at the Oct meeting due back in Nov. (the latest the Dec meeting).

Questions please contact one of us.

Diane Bray, Lynda Cook and Luda Zarovnaya



Fabric Swap Station

We enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with adventures and a bit of sewing. We hope you enjoyed your summer as well and are ready to welcome autumn's colorful changes.

At the last meeting, we cleared out our inventory and to make room for new items. Please take a look through your stash for fabric pieces you probably won't use in future projects and give them new life on the swap table.

Feel free to contact Karen Andress or Darcy Gray at a meeting or by email/text.

Email Karen at andreska61@gmail.com or text (no voice) to 860-983-1209.

Email Darcy at graystarkel@gmail.com or text (no voice) to 860-930-3299.

FALL 2026

PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 2026



We are excited to share a preview of the wonderful programs planned for this fall. Mark your calendars because we have a fantastic lineup of talented quilters, inspiring trunk shows, and creative workshops ahead! We can't wait to see you on the third Wednesday of each month this fall!

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 WEDNESDAY

We are delighted to welcome our very own **Diane Francini** for a special trunk show featuring many of her beautiful creations. Diane's quilting reflects both creativity and craftsmanship, and we are looking forward to an evening filled with inspiration, color, and community.



OCTOBER 21, 2026 WEDNESDAY

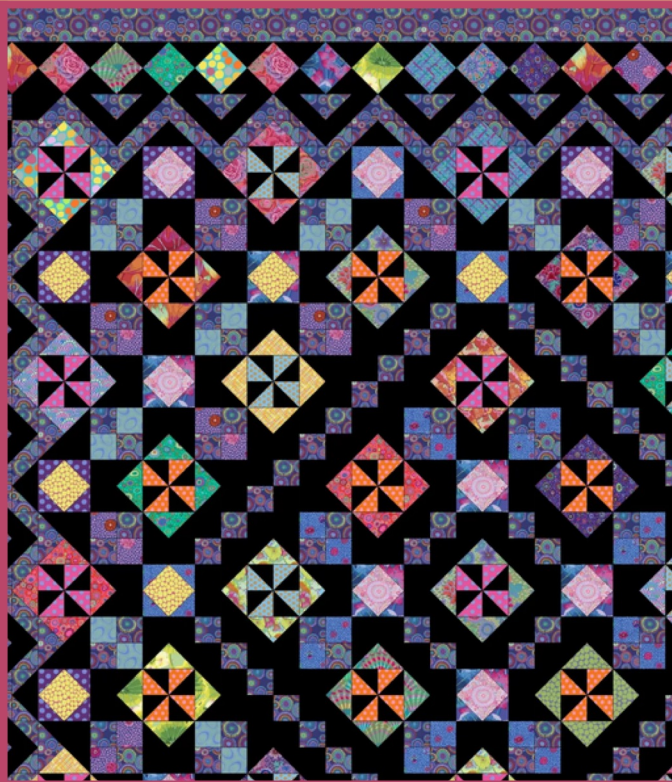
Quilter, teacher, and lecturer **Barb Vedder** will present ***Scrap Quilts and the Secret to Their Success***. Barb is known for her vibrant use of color, her love of antique quilts, and her creative approach to scrap quilting. Her presentation is sure to inspire quilters of every skill level.



On **Thursday, Oct 22, 2026**, Barb will also lead a **workshop on Liberated Houses**, a playful and imaginative style of house block piecing that is perfect for using scraps and experimenting with design. Signup and pay for the workshop at the September meeting.



Learn more about Barb and her work here:
Fun with Barb (<https://funwithbarbandmary.blogspot.com/>)



NOVEMBER 18, 2026 WEDNESDAY MEETING

Susan Michaels of **Dragonfly Fiberart** will join us for a trunk show highlighting her beautiful fiber art and quilting creations. Susan is an independent quilt designer, teacher, and presenter known for approachable patterns and creative techniques.

On **Thursday, Nov 19th**, Susan will also conduct a **workshop** on the ever-popular **Disappearing Nine Patch technique**. This fast, fun, and versatile quilting style creates intricate-looking designs from simple piecing and is suitable for quilters of all experience levels. Signups available at the September meeting.



Explore Susan's work here:
Dragonfly Fiberart
<https://dragonflyfiberart.com/>



We hope you are as excited as we are for this wonderful season of quilting inspiration, learning, and friendship!

Socials

Upcoming in December.

Friendship Blocks

It's a new year of friendship blocks. They have been posted to the website and I will have copies at the next meeting if you prefer. I hope you will make a few and if you are lucky, you might win some. The first one is due in October.

Thanks. Brenda Day

Snowflake Bags

Fabric for making Snowflake Bags will be available starting this month. For those interested in participating, we have an opportunity to provide a festive "no peek" bag for parents of children hospitalized during the Christmas season at Hartford Hospital. These bags conveniently hold several gifts eliminating the need for individual wrapping and allow for easy shopping at the warehouse full of donated toys, games, and other gift items.

Welcome back everyone!

Brenda Woodrell

NEQM Guest Passes

New England Quilt Museum - Free Entry

New England Quilt Museum, founded in 1987, is located in downtown Lowell, Mass. The museum is the only institute in the Northeastern US which is solely dedicated to the art and craft of quilting. There are special and permanent exhibits, a library, a gift shop, and classrooms. Collections are strong in 19th century quilts, with a geographic focus on New England.

The FV guild contributes financially to the museum. As a benefit of that contribution we are offered four free entry visits. If you want to visit the museum, please see the FV membership committee for a Guild membership card. The card is necessary to receive the free entry.

Opportunities Outside the FVQ Guild

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 in Simsbury: Cotton Candy Fabrics, 926 Hopmeadow St

Tuesdays Sep 15, October 27, Nov 17, Dec 15

SEW DAYS FOR COLCHESTER: St Andrew Church Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester

Mondays: Sep 14, Oct 26

CONTACT: Paula DeSilva, quilts2heal@comcast.net, 860.306.7000 OR Kathi Maglia, kmmaglia@comcast.net

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

Longarm Quilting

Edge to edge: Gretchen Green Phone 817-800-2345

For Sale:

I have a floor stand quilting frame for sale The oval top is 27"x17" I am asking \$45 for it You can contact me at weavewoman @comcast.net

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

For Sale:

Set of Red Snappers for Longarm. Like new. \$100. Original cost \$150.00.

Connie Beilstein conniebct53@gmail.com



4/26

1/26

Area Quilting Events

Harvest of Quilts Show – Belknap Mill Quilters Guild

Sept. 19 - 20, 2026

Lakes Region Community College
379 Belmont Rd, Laconia, NH 03246
<https://www.bmqg.org/>

With These Hands 2026

Sept. 19 - 20, 2026

Boys and Girls Club of Marshfield
37 Proprietors Drive, Marshfield, MA 02050
<https://herringrunquiltguild.com/events/2024-quilt-show/>

United We Stitch – Vermont Display

September 20, 2026

Vermont Statehouse Lawn
115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633
<https://www.unitedwestitch.com/>

Merrimack Valley Annual Quilt Show

Sept. 25 – 26, 2026

Hope Community Church
11 Hale Street, Newburyport, MA
<https://mvquilters.org/>

Autumn Quilt Festival

Sept. 26 – 27, 2026

Municipal Building
222 Main St, Newport, VT
<http://www.northcountryquiltvrt.org/>

Quilts For Today

Sept. 26 – 27, 2026

Needham Town Hall – Powers Hall (2nd Floor)
1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492
<https://www.bostonmqg.org/>

The Art of the Quilt, Wayside Quilters Guild

Sept. 26 - 27, 2026

Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School
390 Lincoln Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776
<https://www.waysidequilters.org/>

Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild

Fabric Sale

Sept. 27, 2026

VFW Hall
193 Dean Street, Norwood, MA 02062
<https://rnqg.org/>

Quilts All Around the Town

Oct. 2 - 3, 2026

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
1650 CT-12, Gales Ferry, CT 06335
<https://www.clamshellquiltguild.org/>

Shoreline CT Modern Quilt Guild 2026 Exhibit

Oct. 3 - 30, 2026

Guilford Free Library
67 Park St, Guilford, CT 06437
<https://shorelinecmqg.com/>

Crazy Quilters of Cape Cod

October 10, 2026

Gus Cauty Community Center
790 Main St., Falmouth, MA
<https://crazyquiltersofcc.wordpress.com/>

30th Anniversary Quilt & Needle Art Show

October 10 – 11, 2026

First Church of Christ
499 Town St., East Haddam, CT 06423
<https://www.firstchurchehct.org/>

Chickadee Quilters 45th Annual Quilt Show

October 11 - 12, 2026

Stevens Brook Elementary School
14 Frances Bell Dr, Bridgton, ME 04009
<https://sites.google.com/view/chickadeequiltshow>

Nimble Thimblers Annual Quilt Sale and Auction

Oct. 20, 2026

Crystal Community Club
77 Preston St, Wakefield, MA 01880

Friendship in Every Stitch – Thimbles & Friends Quilt Show

October 24, 2026

Whitman United Methodist Church
503 South Ave., Whitman, MA 02382
<https://thimblesandfriendsquiltguild.org/index.html>

44th Annual Cocheco Quilt Show

October 24 - 25, 2026

James W. Foley Memorial Community Center
150 Wakefield St, Rochester, NH
<https://cochecoquilters.com/quilt-show.html>

BUCC Quilt Show & Sale w/Sewing Tag Sale

Oct 30 – Nov 1, 2026

Belchertown United Church of Christ
18 Park St, Belchertown, MA 01007
<https://buccquiltshowandsale.weebly.com/>

Burlington Quilters Guild Quilt Show

Nov. 7 - 8, 2026

St. Barbara's Church Father Anadore Hall
138 Cambridge Road, Woburn, MA 01801
<https://www.burlingtonquiltersguild.org/>

Cape Cod Quilters 2026 Quilt Show

Nov. 14 - 15, 2026

The Cultural Center of Cape Cod
307 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth, MA
<https://capecodquilters.com/>

Rising Star Quilters 37th Annual Quilt Show and Sale

Nov. 21 - 22, 2026

Arlington Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
<https://www.risingstarquilters.org/index.htm>

Newsletter Submissions

Due the **Thursday** before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to dlcalkin@gmail.com

Due to travel and scheduling problem Submissions for next newsletter **due Sunday October 11, 2026.**

2026-2027 Board Members

President	Maureen Hulsart
Vice President	Bridget Shanley
Membership	Susan Elliott Katherine Duffendack
Secretary	Diane Bray
Treasurer	Chris Murray
Programs	Paula Baczyk Michelle Fuentes
Newsletter Editor	Diane Calkin
Publicity	TBD
Social Programs	Linda Walter Candy Casciano Regina Sanchez Brenda Woodrell
Webmaster	Kitty Vangunten
Quilt Show Chair 2027	Pam Stenman

2026-2027 Committee Members

ABC Quilts	Lynda Cook Diane Bray Luda Zarovnaya
Fabric Swap Table	Karen Address Darcy Gray
Friendship Blocks	Brenda Day
Hospitality	Marie Knapps Kathi Maglia
Library	Anne Dodge, Lois Palmer, Kitty Vangunten
Neonatal Quilts	Kitty Vangunten, Linda Johnston Ellyn Mansfield
Sunshine	Kathy Lettieri
Photographer	Jan Baker
Retreats	Katha Kerr
Snowflake Bags	Brenda Woodrell

Website: Fvquilters.org

Facebook: Farmington Valley Quilters

Instagram: @farmvalquilters