



March 2026 Newsletter

President's Letter

Dear Members:

Greetings and happy (almost) spring! On this Friday (20th) it will be official! With the change of the clocks and the glorious weather last week, spring almost seems real. Speaking of real— I saw my first Grand-Quilt last week! She is beautiful. Perfect in ways only a Quilt Granny can see. But first some administrative items:

* Have you renewed your membership? The password to the membership only section of the Farmington Valley website will change with this newsletter. If your membership has not been renewed, you will no longer have access. Send your check to the FV PO Box and you will be reinstated.

* Our neo natal group keeps going strong . Check out their write up in the newsletter.

* Are you feeling you could benefit from knowing more FV members? Well the opportunity has arrived! Membership committee members Gail Burk and Susan Elliott will be hosting an open house at Susan's home 12 Lincoln Road, Simsbury on March 25, Wednesday, 2pm or 7pm. You do not need to be a new FV member to attend. Open to everyone who wants to say hello to other FV members.

* We are getting ready for our Tea Cup Auction to be held during our June meeting. This will be an annual event to help support our Guild. Mark your calendars, attend the June meeting!

And now back to my first Grand-Quilt. Remember when I told you my daughter started quilting? Well, her first quilt has been completed! The name of the pattern is Eden by the Quilt Kit Co. And when I saw how she sewed the pieces together— she put me to shame. She is amazing in her attention to detail. Remember when you first started quilting and criticized your work more than a bad Broadway play? I could find no point not met. I looked... And then she felt obligated to show me her errors, but I refused to let her. It's my first Grand-Quilt! Nothing is wrong with it. It's beautiful! It's perfect! And I'm finally a Quilt Granny! Yahoo!

As always,
Ellyn Mansfield,
President, FV Quilt Guild

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FVQ Board Vacancies

Board Vacancies

By Maureen Hulsart

Over the next few weeks, members of the Nominating Committee may contact you and ask you to share your time and talents on the Guild's Board. Please consider serving. The guild needs people to step up and share their ideas and skills.

If any member has an interest in serving on the Board, please contact Maureen Hulsart (860-242-2635). We can review the functions of the positions. Currently we are recruiting to fill the following positions:

- 1) Vice President (who will assume the President's responsibilities in 2027),
- 2) A second person to assist Paula Baczyk in planning and hosting Programs
- 3) Socials – one or two people
- 4) Quilt Show Chair

If you have any questions, please call me.

Return Quilt Show Yard Signs

If you still have a yard sign from last year's quilt show, please bring them to an upcoming meeting so we will have them for the next show. We will reprint the dates and re-distribute them. Thank you! Kathy



Avon Congregational Church Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary

By Maureen Hulsart

Avon Congregational Church is celebrating America's 250th Anniversary and hosting a quilt show/craft fair on October 17th and 18th. Farmington Valley Quilters is participating in this event and would encourage members to make patriotic quilts and wall hangings. A room has been designated for our Guild to display patriotic quilts and wall hangings along with information regarding guild membership.

If you are willing to share any other style of quilts for the show, they will be gratefully accepted and displayed.

Susan Elliott will provide more detailed information at a later date regarding registration processes, drop off, etc.

This is a great opportunity to display the talents and creativity our guild members.

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

Thanks to those who have renewed their membership and are now ready to enjoy all our upcoming events. Susan has offered her home for a coffee which is open to all members looking for a chance to get to know others in the guild in a relaxed setting. We hope to see you on the 25th. Further information can be found below.

Membership cochairs
Susan Elliott
Gail Burk

New Member Coffee

Newish Member Coffee

Are you a relatively new member and would like to get to know other members a little bit easier. Susan Elliott and Gail Burk our Membership Chairs are hosting a New Member Coffee. It is just a casual get together to meet others. Anyone who wants to come is invited. Please feel free to RSVP if you are able to come with the time you would like.

Where: Susan Elliott's house
21 Lincoln Lane
Weatogue

When: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at either 2:00 PM or 7 PM

RSVP: By text, email, or call 860-748-1775 or shsellott@sbcglobal.net

Friendship Blocks

March is time for our Cathedral Window blocks! You receive a chance for each block you turn in and they could all be yours ! Make 1 or make 5, the more you make the more chances you get to win.

Thanks
Brenda Day

Guild Library

From the Guild Librarians:

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.

Fabric Swap Table

The table is a “free” table, so please take that piece of fabric that catches your eye. And, in turn, consider contributing some pieces of fabric from your stash that might be a “gem” to another member. We are also collecting donations of Quilty things such as yardage of fabric, fabric panels, fat quarters, fabric kits, new (and gently used) sewing accessories/tools etc. for an upcoming teacup auction to be held at the June meeting.

Feel free to contact Darcy or Karen in person or text (no voice) Darcy at 860-930-3299 or text (no voice) Karen at 860-983-1209.

Retreats

The fall retreat is November 11-14, 2026, NOT Halloween weekend!!! Cost is \$390 for Wednesday-Sunday, or \$340 for Thursday-Sunday. Meals begin with Thursday dinner. Registration will begin at the May meeting with your \$100 non-refundable deposit. The balance will be due at the September meeting.

Katha

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

Our neo natal group keeps going strong. Our quilts are going to Project Linus, In Hartford County, Children & Family Services in Hartford and a new recipient of our work: A group called Red, White and Bundled. Red, White and Bundled is a nationwide organization (www.redwhiteandbundled.org) serving military families.

Locally, they serve families out of the Groton military base. They provide gift "bundles" to members of active duty military families who have a newborn. The event is held once a year in September and any baby born September to September will receive a bundle if they want. We will be giving our first donation this June. They request 20 quilts this year, with the dimensions of: 36” x 36” or 40” x 40”. Please make quilts for this organization with baby prints, not military. Good news abounds, so keep on quilting!

ABC Quilts

ABC Update:

Because of the efforts of the members who helped with the ABC quilts (making blocks and / or sewing on binding). we have three finished quilts waiting for the arrival of incoming Freshman in August. Thanks everyone.

Your ABC 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

Programs and Workshops

Farmington Valley Spring 2026 Programs

Sign up for these Workshops at the January 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

Currently Full but there is a waiting list

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 10am to 4 pm at the Quilted Ewe
- There are 6 remaining spots in this workshop and it is open to non-members and all interested quilters.
- Workshop fee is \$75 payable upon sign up.
- **If you’ve already signed up for the Timna Tarr workshop please bring a check for \$75 to the next meeting! Thank you for signing up!**



Wednesday, April 15th

Robin Long : Trunk Show

What began as a quest in 1992 to make a Mariner’s Compass quilt for her Navy submarine officer husband grew into Robin Long’s signature strip-pieced Mariner’s Compass system featuring rulers, books, and patterns that make this classic block accessible without paper piecing. Since launching Robin Ruth Design in 2015, she has become an internationally recognized teacher and a sought-after quilt designer for fabric



Thursday, April 16th

Robin Long Workshop: Stripped Pieced Mariner’s Compass

You’ll love this class for learning how to make 16-point compass blocks using Robin Ruth Design’s rulers and strip-piecing method! Join Robin for this technique class to learn the compass basics as you make a Skinny Robin or Fat Robin Compass block - your choice!

- Class time and place is TBD
- There is a maximum of 18 students and will be open to non-members following the January meeting.
- Workshop fee is \$120 payable upon sign up. There will also be a \$50 ruler/pattern fee payable day of the workshop.



Programs and Workshops (con't)

Wednesday, May 20th

Karen Salemi: Where Tradition Meets Improv



Thursday, May 21st

Improv Quilting Workshop

- Class time and place is 10am to 4pm at Cotton Candy Fabrics in Simsbury
- There is a maximum of 14 students and is open to non-members.
- Workshop fee is \$100 payable upon sign up. There will also be a \$50 ruler/pattern fee payable day of the workshop.



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 5pm at the Soma Grille across from Eno Hall before the March meeting.

This is the second opportunity to have your name in the drawing for this dinner. The first was at the November meeting.

Be sure to visit the Programs table to sign up for this and any of our upcoming workshops!

Socials

There will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting for the sew-in which will take place on Saturday, April 18 in the Weatogue room of the Simsbury library. The hours are from 10-3 and there is room for 12 people. Please contact Maria Gerard with any questions.

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.

Wanted:

Subject: Baby quilt Binding

Name: Tammy R Riebe
Message: Do you do this?
Email: 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: laytonjm0114@gmail.com

9/25

Subject: quilting services

Could you please recommend a Machine Quilter in the area? Thank you. My email address is: rsraymond1975@yahoo.com. I live on the Bristol/Plainville line. Sharon Raymond

2/26

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

11/25

For Sale:

Set of Red Snappers for Longarm. Like new. \$100. Original cost \$150.00.
Connie Beilstein conniebct53@gmail.com

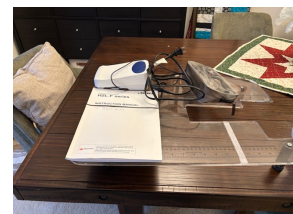
1/26

For sale:

Juki HZL F600.3 years old. Serviced last November.
Includes custom extension table from Sew Steady.
Retail for \$1399.00 on Amazon. No issues with machine. I just need to downsize. Asking \$900.

1/26

Linda Johnston
757-532-5831
lindajva@gmail.com



Opportunities Outside the FVQ Guild

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 Mar 30, 10:00 – 3:00 Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT. Tariffville Room

Monday Apr 20, 10:00 – 3:00 Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT. Tariffville Room

Monday May 18, 10:00 – 3:00 Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT. Tariffville Room

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

Dear Quilter,

We are preparing for our Annual Quilt Show. I hope you are all well and have been filling your time quilting and doing other creative needle art work.

Winchester Center Congregational Church will be having our **17th Annual Quilt and Needle Arts Show** on **April 25 and April 26, 2026**. The show will be from **10:00 - 5:00 on Saturday**, April 25 and **12:00 - 5:00 on Sunday**, April 26.

I would like to invite you to show your quilted creations or heirloom quilts or other needle arts creations such as crewel work, needlepoint, knit, crochet, rug hooking, cross-stitch, weaving or other needle art creations. To keep our show new each year we are looking for quilts and other items that have not been previously shown at our show. Though, your entries are not limited to quilts or needlework created in the past year and may have been previously shown at another show.

All exhibitors will receive free admission to the show. There will be “Viewers’ Choice” ribbons awarded on Sunday afternoon. There will also be a “Quilts of Valor” display, a Raffle Quilt, vendors, and a café.

All submissions are due at the church by or on **Thursday**, April 23 (9:00 am - 7:00 pm) (**THURSDAY DROP OFF DAY**) and can be picked up on Sunday, April 26 (6:00 - 6:30 pm).

Quilt show staff will be staying overnight at the church to assure the safety of your quilts.

All entries will be submitted with the on-line entry form found on the Church’s website at:

winchestercentercongregationchurch.org

Or by clicking the form below.

[On-line Entry Form](#)

If you do not have internet access or have someone that can help you with the online form please call MaryPat Leger and I will fill out the online form with you. 860-309-3876

Online forms need to be submitted by **April 1st**.

Thank you; can’t wait to see you at the show!

Please pass this letter and the on-line information onto others who may want to enter too!

MaryPat Leger

Farmington River Quilt Project

The Farmington River Quilt Project will be on display at the AQS show at the CT Convention Center in Hartford, April 8 to April 11.

Come see this wonderful 125 foot long continuous depiction of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook created in quilts.

Quilting Events in the Area

Spectrum Art Gallery and Artisan Store

Centerbrook, CT

Opens: March 27 with a reception from 6:30-8:30pm

Closes: Saturday, May 9

Quinobequin Quilters Quilt Show

March 27 - 28, 2026

Needham Masonic Hall

1101 Highland Ave

Needham, 02494

<https://www.quinobequin.org/quilt-show>

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/>

Marathon Quilters Quilt Show: A Thread Runs Through It, Celebrating the Guild's 30th Anniversary

April 11 – 12, 2026

Hopkinton Center for the Arts

98 Hayden Rowe St

Hopkinton, MA 01748

<https://www.marathonquilters.com/show.html>

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.cvggvt.org/>

The Vermont Quilt Show @ Burlington

June 18 – 20, 2026

The Doubletree Expo Center

870 Wiliston Rd

S Burlington, VT 05403

<https://www.aquiltersdestination.com/burlington-vt>

NBQA 50th Anniversary Golden Threads Quilt Show

April 18 – 19 2026

West Warwick Civic Center

100 Factory Street, West Warwick, RI

<https://nbqa.org/>

Southford Falls Quilters Auction

May 16, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church

25 Great Hill Rd., Oxford, CT

<https://www.facebook.com/Southfordfallsquilters/>

Maine Quilts 2026

July 23 – 25, 2026

Augusta Civic Center

76 Community Dr., Augusta, ME 04330

<https://mainequilts.org/>

Newsletter Submissions

Due the **Thursday** before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to dlcalkin@gmail.com
Submissions for next newsletter **due April 9, 2026.**

2025-2026 Board Members

President	Ellyn Mansfield
Vice President	Maureen Hulsart
Membership	Gail Burk Susan Elliott
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 Table	Karen Address Darcy Gray
Friendship Blocks	Brenda Day
Hospitality	Donna Gosselin Marie Knapps
Library	Anne Dodge Lois Palmer Kitty Vangunten
Snowflake Bags	Brenda Woodrell
Neonatal Quilts	Kitty Vangunten Linda Johnston
Sunshine	Kathy Lettieri
Photographer	Bridget Shanley
Retreats	Katha Kerr

Website: Fvquilters.org
Facebook: Farmington Valley Quilters
Instagram: [@farmvalquilters](https://www.instagram.com/farmvalquilters)