

September 2025 Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello and greetings to all of you! My absolute favorite time of year is fast approaching. I love autumn. With all the new colors, it's interesting to see what has been hidden beneath all of summer's green. And it's quilting time! At least for those of us in Farmington Valley.

But, first administrative items:

* Dues — dues are not due in September. We start our membership year with the calendar, January. When we meet in September, it does seem as if we are starting a new year, (and September was actually membership time a while back) when in actuality we just took the summer off. A hiatus if you will. So, welcome back and all, but your membership is good until January.

* Check out the program section in the newsletter. The guild is offering a new opportunity for our members. All I will tell you is that D.W.S. says it all. Check it out. Programs.

* Looking for an opportunity to make a quilt, and family members don't want any more? Well, check out the NeoNatal group. Plenty of need at that table.

* Free Fabric swap. For many years Margaret Dooley-Duncan was our go to for this fabulous offering. Alas, Margaret is moving and Kitty Vangunten has offered to take on this responsibility, but for one year only. (Check with Kitty for when her year starts/ends) Storage at Kitty's home does not begin to accommodate all the fabric FV has accumulated. Please consider what FV should do with our free fabric stash. Does this volunteer opportunity call to you? Consider sharing the fabric with another volunteer. Fabric is the life line to our craft, let's hear from volunteers to continue this fabulous offering. Thanks.

* The show! The show! The show! Have you signed up to help? There are still opportunities available for you to be a part. This is the way FV makes money. That money pays for speakers. If you want to see fantastic speakers, we need to have money to pay them. In a sense, this is your show and we need YOU.

Go to the FV web site, fvquilter.org and go through the members' only page. There you will find the heading Quilt show volunteer sign up. Click that section and SIGN UP SIGN UP ! SIGN UP! be a part of the Fabric to Fabulous 2025 quilt show. Thank you.

Welcome — to autumn quilting. And what does autumn sound like? Sewing machines all running smoothly after two months of "It's too hot to quilt" weather. My machine ran all summer, with no air conditioning. Doesn't matter. I need machine time to clear my head. All year long. I find when I am focusing on a pattern, piecing, or squaring up the quilt, my mind gets a break. All is well in the world and nothing upsets me.

Except mistakes. Mistakes are a part of life and can be a part of sewing. I give myself three mishaps. Then I'm done. But maybe that's my brain's way of saying she has had enough? Just a thought.

Take care, be well. Keep on sewing and I'll see you at the meeting, and I hope to see you at the show!

Sincerely,
Ellyn Mansfield, President, FVQG

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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

Hopefully it has been a restful and fun filled summer and everyone is looking forward to joining in the guild's fall season starting on the 17th in anticipation of the fabulous show.

Membership has now reached 128 and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Gail Burk

Membership Chairman

Retreats

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

Final payment for the retreat is due at the September meeting, if you will not be at the meeting please mail your check to Farmington Valley Quilters, PO Box 172, Weatogue CT 06089 to be received no later than October 1st. Please make checks payable to FVQI.

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

Share your sewing with your guild friends.

Instructions coming soon.

Fabric to Fabulous!

FARMINGTON VALLEY QUILTERS

2025 QUILT SHOW



2025 Raffle Quilt

Saturday, September 20

10-5

Sunday, September 21

10-4

- ◆ 200+ Quilts
- ◆ Raffle Quilt
- ◆ Basket Raffles
 - ◆ Vendors
- ◆ Free Parking

Kingswood Oxford School

Hoffman Field House

832 Trout Brook Dr

West Hartford CT

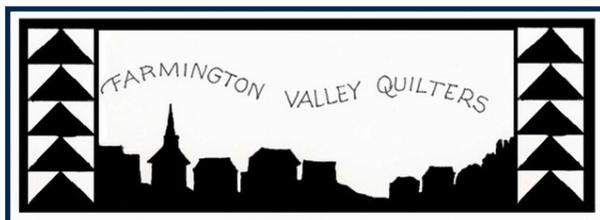


**KINGSWOOD
OXFORD**

\$15 admission

12 & under free

fvquilter.org



Special display of

“The Farmington

River Quilt”

Fabric to Fabulous Quilt Show Update

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller



FABRIC TO FABULOUS!

Kudos and heartfelt thanks to a great Show Committee that has worked through the last nine months to coordinate our Quilt Show-Fabric to Fabulous! There are so many details and roles involved, and we are grateful that everyone has executed and will be executing their roles flawlessly to bring about what we anticipate will be a FABULOUS Show!

Now it's your turn to participate in attending the Show on September 20-21st at Kingswood Oxford's Field House located at 832 Trout Brook Rd, West Hartford. Enjoy the display of 239 Quilts plus the Farmington River Quilts, which are a special highlight.

It's SHOW TIME! Here's what you need to know:

Volunteers -It's not too late!

Many thanks to all who signed up to help make our quilt show FABULOUS. You are key to our success. Helpers are still needed, especially on Sunday. Come to the information and training session at the September 17th meeting to learn how to perform your role.

We are in need of three people to staff the Books Table, four people to cover the Information Table and nine people to be White Glove Ambassadors.

Signup Genius is accessed on the guild website MEMBERS page. When you select your time(s) be sure to click on SAVE and CONTINUE at the bottom of the first page. The next page allows you to add your email address, etc. If you have any issues with sign-ups, please contact Gail Burk: gajburk@aol.com

Your Guild needs you!

Yard Signs

This is the time to be displaying your yard signs. If you need any, please contact Kathy Gale at 281-714-6343 and she will provide you with a sign.

Raffle Quilt Ticket Stubs

Please return your raffle ticket stubs and any unsold booklets to Deb Jacoby at the 9/17/25 Guild meeting. The Raffle Quilt drawing will be held at 3:00 on 9/21/25. Hope you win!

Raffle Baskets

Thanks to all who donated items to the Raffle Baskets, we are delighted to offer over 20 baskets with awesome contents with an average value of \$350. Bring your wrapped Baskets to the Show at 6:30 on Friday, 9/19/25. Drawings will be held on Sunday at 2:00.

Boutique Items

There are 76 items collected and ready to sell so far. Thanks for your contributions. You can still submit items for the Boutique table. Bring them to the 9/17/25 meeting.

Vendors

We will have six vendors in attendance. Everyone is encouraged to support the vendors as the quilt stores that are coming are doing this amid the Shop Hop, so this is a big commitment from them. The Quilted Ewe and Close to Home will be represented along with Satomi Quilts and Dragonfly Quilting who many of you remember from lectures and workshops among others.

Rules for the Field House

Food and Drinks are not allowed in the Field House (except for water). Please plan to bring your lunch and eat it outside during the event.

No high heels or heavy boots are allowed on the athletic flooring.

Badges

Wear your name badges. Exhibitors, we have special badges that you can pick up at 9/17/25 Meeting or Day of the Event.

Admission Fee

Quilt Exhibitors and Volunteers DO NOT have to pay an admission fee. However, if you are a Guild member that is not in either of those roles, we respectfully ask that you pay the admission fee if you plan to attend.

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. Fall programs are being finalized.

Program Description	About the Presenter
<p>Mary Beth LaRosa: My Quilting Journey Lecture Wednesday</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note: there will not be a workshop offered.</p>	
<p>Kate Colleran: Modern Traditional - Exploring Quilt Styles Lecture Wednesday</p> <p>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 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 Stash. Her new book, Patchwork Braids, is due out January 2025. She is a fabric designer for Island Batik and loves seeing her designs come to life on batik fabrics. Her goal is to help quilters make a quilt by finding the methods and techniques that work for them! Kate currently lives in Milford, Connecticut with her husband, their dog and 2 cats and enjoys spending her free time wandering about by the shoreline. Visit her website https://katecollerandesigns.com/ and follow her on IG @katecollerandesigns!</p>	 <p>www.katecollerandesigns.com</p>
<p>Kate Colleran: Fun with Braids: A "Goof-Proof" Braided Table Runner Workshop Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More details to follow in September. • There is a maximum of 20 students. • Kate is offering a Pattern & Template Combo @ \$25. 	

New Dinner with Speaker Opportunity

A new and exciting opportunity is coming to FVQG in October! A chance to attend dinner with our evening's speaker prior to the meeting! Talk to her about her quilts, what inspires her, how she fits quilting into a busy day! Each month that we have a scheduled speaker we will host a dinner with that speaker at the Soma Grille across the street from the meeting in the 1820 House. A drawing will be held in the month prior. Simply fill out a ticket at the sign in table and your name will be in the drawing to win. (Dinner will be for the speaker, one lucky member and the program representative. No alcohol will be purchased by FVQG) Our first dinner will be with October speaker Mary Beth LaRosa on Wednesday, October 15.

Socials

The fall sew-in is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 from 10-3 in the Weatogue room at the Simsbury Library. There is room for 12 people and a sign up sheet will be at the September meeting. I always learn something new at these gatherings and enjoy getting to know people better so consider going if you haven't been. I won't be there but Anne Dodge will.

We are working on a fun event for the December social (December 10). Stay tuned and leave room in your budget for some great shopping!

Guild Library

From the Guild Librarians:

This month I am taking a break from inflicting my book reviews on our Guild members. I would like to remind members that if you borrowed library books, please return them at this month's Guild meeting. I will send out individual emails as a reminder.

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.

ABC Quilts

Your ABC team, Kathie Fallon, Lynda Cook and Diane Bray had the opportunity to attend the ABC House welcome picnic on August 24 to present 3 quilts, lovingly constructed by you, the members of our guild, to incoming freshman. The young men, their parents 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. Hopefully soon we will have some photos to share of gifting the quilts.

The ABC (A Better Chance) is a national program that places high-performing students from underserved communities in our nation's 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 guild has been gifting incoming freshman with quilts since 1997.

Your ABC team has already started planning for the next 2 quilts so watch for updates and hopefully kits for blocks available at the Oct meeting. You can once again participate in creating quilts for these deserving students.

If you want to become more involved or become part of the team please see Kathie Fallon, Lynda Cook or 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

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: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

Twenty quilts were donated at the June meeting. Caroline's fabric was popular and I think most of it is gone, but we still have nice fabric for quilts. Please stop by and pick up fabric, batting and a label. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Neonatal Committee. Thank you for your continued support.
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!

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.

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.

Thank you so much for your help,
Sona Chaudhry. Email: sona0587@gmail.com

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 Sep 15, 10:00 – 2:30 Sew Inspired Quilt Shop, 8 Wilcox St. Simsbury

Tuesday Sep 16, 9:00-2:30 St. Andrew Church Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT

Monday Oct 27, 10:00 – 2:30 Sew Inspired Quilt 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

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

For sale: Extension table originally for Baby Lock Quest (23.5 x 19.75 inches) \$20 Contact Gail Burk for details on how this might fit your machine. gajburk@aol.com

2/25

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)

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/>

Soo Nipi Quilters' Guild – A Quilter's Dream

Sept. 13 – Oct. 11, 2025

Library Arts Center Gallery

58 N. Main St., Newport, NH 03773

<https://libraryartscenter.org/>

Starry, Starry Night Quilt Show

Sept. 20 – 21, 2025

Benjamin Friedman Middle School

500 Norton Ave, Taunton, MA

Note: Judged Show

<https://silvercityquiltguild.wixsite.com/silvercityquilts>

Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy invites you to join us in celebrating the artistry and history of the Gee's Bend Quilters for the **4th Annual Airing of the Quilts Festival**, happening **October 4, 2025**, Boykin AL

"Quilting in the Land of Milk & Honey" Quilt Show

October 11-12, 2025

Middlebury Recreation Center

154 Creek Rd, Middlebury, VT 05753

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

Crazy Quilters of Cape Cod Quilt Show

October 12, 2025

Gus Canty Community Center

790 Main St.

Falmouth, MA

<https://crazyquiltersofcc.wordpress.com/>

Chickadee Quilters "Fall into Quilting" 44th Annual Quilt Show

October 12 - 13, 2025

Stevens Brook Elementary School

14 Frances Bell Dr, Bridgton, ME 04009

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

Piecemakers Quilt Show

October 25, 2025

Seekonk Congregational Church

600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771

<https://sewmanyshow.com/event/piecemakers-quilt-show-seekonk-ma/>

2025 AQS Worldwide Quilt Parade

Oct. 8, 2025 – Jan. 31, 2026

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

Cheshire Quilters' Guild "Fall for Quilts"

October 4 – 5, 2025

Keene Middle School

167 Maple Avenue, Keene, NH

<https://cheshirequilters.com/2025-quilt-show>

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>

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/>

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>

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 October 9, 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 Friendship Blocks Hospitality	Kitty Vangunten Brenda Day Donna Gosselin Marie Knapps Anne Dodge Lois Palmer Kitty Vangunten
Library	TBD
Snowflake Bags Neonatal Quilts	Kitty Vangunten Linda Johnston
Sunshine Photographer Retreats	Kathy Lettieri Bridget Shanley Katha Kerr

Website: Fvquilters.org

Facebook: Farmington Valley Quilters

Instagram: @farmvalquilters