



April 2026 Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello and greetings! I hope you are enjoying the spring weather and you have been able to get outdoors and feel the sun. Amazing feeling after the harsh winter we experienced. The sun. Nothing beats the feeling of the warmth from the sun.

Have you ever found yourself in a conversation where you have said: "I did tell you about my mother coming to visit. I told you last night at dinner." And then they say they never heard you say anything. More on communication, but first some administrative items:

* Sew in to be held Saturday, April 18 at the Simsbury Public library, Weatogue room. 9:30-3 pm. Great way to get in some sewing time and be with other quilting buddies. This is a free event FV offers to our members, along with two summer sew ins. Sign up sheets will be at the April meeting.

* ASQ quilt show was last week. One of our members, Pam Gigle, won a third place ribbon! This is an international competition. What a wonderful award Pam received. Be sure to congratulate her.

* Concerning all Long Arm users in FV. The free table will be offering quilting rulers for Long Arm machines. Please look at the rulers over see if these are items you could use.

* The NE Quilt Museum is now requiring guild membership cards in order to enter for free. If you plan to visit the museum, please see the membership team to receive your card.

* We are gearing up for voting on our 2026-2027 executive board slate. Farmington Valley's Vice President, Maureen Hulsart, will be reading the slate at the April meeting. If you miss April's meeting, please plan to attend in May so you may vote.

And now back to communicating.

Farmington Valley has many ways for members to find out what is going on in the guild: our website, our newsletter, our meetings and talking to other members. Which one works best for you? How do you hear about happenings at the guild? If you don't attend the meetings, do you feel you are informed enough about the guild? Is there another way you would like us to communicate? Are emails a good way? Too many? Too few? Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? We will only change if we hear from you. And if you keep silent, well, somebody's mother may pop in for a visit!

Best regards,
Ellyn Mansfield, President,
Farmington Valley Quilt Guild

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FVQ Board Vacancies

By Maureen Hulsart

I am happy to report that most positions on the Board have been accepted by various members of our Guild. A big thank you to all who have stepped up. We currently have one function not fully covered – Socials.

Linda Walker and Candy Casciano have graciously agreed to assume responsibilities as our Social Committee. However, due to social obligations and vacations, neither will be in town for four events the Social Committee typically organize. I am looking for another two volunteers to organize and host these four events:

The fall Sew-In at the Library

The December social

The January members teaching members event

and the February Sew-in event of ABC quilt bindings and/or Neonatal Labels.

Please consider helping the Guild by volunteering for the Social Committee and assisting with these events. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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



Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

By Susan Elliott

Avon Congregational Church is celebrating America's 250th Anniversary by hosting a Quilt Show and Craft Fair on October 17th and 18th. Farmington Valley Quilters is participating in this event by displaying patriotic quilts and wall hangings. A large room has been designated for our Guild to display these quilts and wall hangings along with information regarding guild membership. This is a great opportunity to display the talents and creativity our guild members.

Along with FVQI, the Mountain Laurel Applique group, the Central Connecticut Modern Quilt Group, the second half of the Farmington River Quilt, and our own Brenda Day will also have rooms displaying their work.

The sanctuary and main hallway will be displaying traditional, modern, antique, and every other style of quilt. If you would be so kind as to loan a quilt at no charge, please contact Susan Elliott 860-748-1775 or shsellott@sbcglobal.net to register your quilt. Quilts will not need a sleeve or a pillowcase. Drop off will be Thursday, October 15th 10 AM – 7 PM or by appointment. Since most of the quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary, generous lap quilts and larger are encouraged.

In addition, we will have a craft fair and café' with luncheon fare. If you would like a space in the craft room, the space is \$45 for a 8' x 5' table & chairs. Contact Susan for more information.

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

Timna Tarr gave a fun and fascinating talk in March. Did you know that she has an equally fun fabric line? Five new members were welcomed to the guild and four guests attended that meeting. Our Membership Coffee was an enjoyable and informative time for all who met at Susan's home. We encourage everyone to get to know your quilting companions. As always we are available to answer questions.

Membership cochairs
Susan Elliott
Gail Burk

Friendship Blocks

Don't miss out, you have one last chance at the friendship blocks this year. The spring theme is the Dragonfly block that is due in May.

Thanks
Brenda Day

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.

This month's feature is two books that feature different fun projects using foundation piecing.

[Vintage Quilt Revival: 22 Modern Designs from Classic Blocks](#) by Katie Clark Blakesly, Lee Heinrich and Faith Jones, Interweave, 2013.

This book features 19 traditional quilt blocks and shows ways to incorporate them in modern quilt designs. Each project features a traditional block, shows how to build the block and then gives a modern quilt pattern that can be made using that block. There is a CD with 12 printable template patterns at the rear of the book.

[A Quilter's Ark: More Than 50 Designs for Foundation Piecing](#), by Margaret Rolfe, Martingale, 1997.

This book features a menagerie of animal foundation pieced blocks and gives instructions on how to build them and presents many ideas about how to use them in quilted projects. This would be a great book to use to build a children's alphabet quilt or any other animal themed project.

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 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.

Retreats

The fall retreat will be 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.

If you have any questions please let me know. The retreat is a great way to get to know your fellow guild members.

Katha

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

After a break for a message from Ellyn, I'm back. While I was hibernating, Linda was busy delivering quilts. We donated 30 to Project Linus and 20 to Gifts of Love. After a couple of slow months, in March we had 16 quilts come in.

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.

Kitty

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!



Workshop Fun!



Much fun was had at March's Timna Tarr Workshop! Twenty members participated in making fun improvisational pieces. If you missed out on March's fun come join us in April or May!

April 15th meeting--Robin Long Lecture

April 16th Robin Long Workshop at Cotton Candy Fabrics in Simsbury

at 10 am. Cost is \$100 plus \$50 ruler/pattern

We will be making strip pieced Mariner's Compass

May 20th meeting-- Karen Salemi Lecture/Trunk Show

May 21st Karen Salemi Workshop at Cotton Candy Fabrics in Simsbury at 10 am. Cost is \$75

We will be making improvisational blocks

Sign up at the April meeting or email fvqprograms@gmail.com for more information

Enter to Win Dinner with our Speaker, Karen Salemi

Enter to Win Dinner with our May Speaker, Karen Salemi. Dinner will be at 5pm at the Soma Grille across from Eno Hall before the May meeting.

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

Socials

The next sew-in is Saturday, April 18 from 10-3 at the Simsbury library. There are still some spots available. Please let me know if you are interested in going (mariaegegerard@gmail.com or 860-689-3866). I will have the sign up at the April meeting.

We are in the midst of planning the summer sew-ins for July and August which will tentatively be held at the new Cotton Candy fabrics in Simsbury. Hopefully more info and sign ups will be at the April meeting.
Maria

Lost & Found

This collection of pins appeared on the fabric swap table a few months ago. The oldest pin is at least 1987. There's an NSQG 1988. It measures about 6 1/2"x 8 1/2". Any ideas? Do you think we could put something in the newsletter?

Kitty will bring it to the next meeting.



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.

Wanted:

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

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Advertisements

For Sale:

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



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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

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For Sale:

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

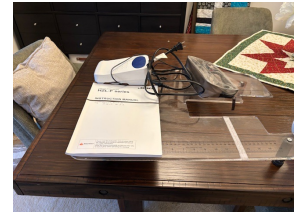
For sale:

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.

Linda Johnston

757-532-5831

lindajva@gmail.com



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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 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

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

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.cvqgv.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/>

Fabric Frenzy 'n More

May 9, 2026

273 Vernon Street, Wakefield, MA

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

Southford Falls Quilters Auction

May 16, 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church

25 Great Hill Rd., Oxford, CT

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

Proper Bostonian Mini Quilt Show

May 29 – 30, 2026

Boston Public Library West Roxbury Branch

1961 Centre St, West Roxbury, MA 02132

<https://.org/properbostonianquilters>

Maine Quilts 2026

July 23 – 25, 2026

Augusta Civic Center

76 Community Dr., Augusta, ME 04330

<https://mainequilts.org/>

Dear Quilter,

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.

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.

Newsletter Submissions

Due the **Thursday** before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to dlcalkin@gmail.com
Submissions for next newsletter **due May 14, 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)