



May 2026 Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello and fairweather greetings to all of you FV quilters out there.

I have a request— please read this letter to the end. If you do, you will have a chance to win a prize if you answer the question I will ask at the meeting. How fun! Following directions is always fun. Right?

So, do you enjoy following directions, quilting directions, I mean? Well, I do not. I have rarely used the colors shown in a pattern and usually add or delete something. I am not a pattern/directions quilter. At this month's show and tell, I will present a quilt I made when I broke that rule. But first some administrative items:

* Farmington Valley will be participating in Avon Congressional Church's celebration of America's 250th anniversary. (Oct 2026) As such we are asking for patriotic quilt items to be displayed at the church's show. See details in the newsletter.

* There will be two sew ins this summer to be held in the classroom of Cotton Candy Quilt Shop. Location of the classroom is on Iron Horse Boulevard, not in the shop. Dates are mentioned in the Socials section of this newsletter.

* In June we will be having a tea cup auction. All things quilting. Ticket prices are announced in this newsletter.

* At our May meeting we will be voting on our 2026-2027 slate of officers, along with our 2027 Quilt Show Chair. Please make an effort to be present for the voting. It is important that our executive officers have the full support of our members.

* FV has been given an opportunity to work with the Farmington Historical Society to teach colonial hand crafts to students who sign up for the society's classes. Details in the newsletter.

And now back to directions.

As a child, I loved directions. I loved rules, guidelines and everything telling me what to do and how to do it. I was a shy and very nervous little girl who worried about getting in trouble. Somewhere along my path all that went out the window, and when I discovered quilting, getting in trouble never seemed to be on my radar. My quilting mentors were of the "try it and see what happens" school.

I had finally found my people! Then I found a pattern by Art East Quilting Company called "Cattle Call, A Highland Coo". I loved the size, color, shape, the design. I loved everything about it. So I bought the pattern. I cut and labeled the pieces. I followed the directions and had it quilted. And I loved everything about it. It looked just like the pattern! Who would have guessed?

And so, during the show and tell portion of the meeting, when I ask who knows the name of the quilt I am showing, raise your hand, you will be given a slip of paper: write the name of my quilt along with YOUR name and you will have a chance to win the prize. That is, if you followed my directions.

Keep on quilting!

Best regards,

Ellyn Mansfield, President,
Farmington Valley Quilters.

President's Letter	1
Board Elections	2
Help Celebrate 250	2
Treasurer's Update	3
Membership	3
Friendship Blocks	3
Return Yard Signs	3
Guild Library	3
Sunshine	3
Fabric Swap Table	4
Retreats	4
Neonatal Quilts	4
ABC Quilts	4
Programs/Workshops	5
Socials	6
Lost & Found	6
NEQM Guest Passes	6
Advertisements	7
Outside Opportunities	7
Area Quilting Events	8
Newsletter Submissions	9
Board & Committees	9

FVQ Board Elections

By Maureen Hulsart

During the May Guild meeting, members will be asked to vote on the next Guild Board.

The following individuals are the candidates for the 2026-2027 Board:

President: Maureen Hulsart

Vice President: Bridget Shanley

Secretary: Diane Bray

Treasurer: Chris Murry

Membership: Susan Elliott

Katherine Duffendack

Programs: Paula Baczyk

Michelle Fuentes

Newsletter: Diane Calkin

Webmaster: Kitty Vangunten

Socials: Linda Walter

Candy Casciano

Brenda Woodrell

Regina Sanchez

Quilt Show Chair: Pam Stenman

Publicity:

As you can see, we still need a volunteer to assume the Publicity role. This person would be responsible for writing submitting articles in local newspapers regarding guild activities, promoting the guild, etc. Please consider volunteering your skills and help us fill this slot.



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 of our guild members. Maureen Hulsart is heading up this effort. You may contact her at 860-808-9655 or musiconthestreet@comcast.net

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 quilts. Quilts will not need a sleeve or a pillowcase and there is no charge. Drop off for all quilts 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.

I will send an email to the guild members with both the link for the patriotic quilt registration and the Avon Congregational Church registration. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Elliott at 860-748-1775 or shselliot@sbcglobal.net

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

Hello everyone. Seventy one members were present at the April meeting and found inspiration to create a mariner's compass pattern. This month come and see where your improvisational ideas might take you. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Susan Elliott
Gail Burk

Friendship Blocks

Our last Friendship block of the year is due for the May meeting. I hope you enjoyed making the dragonfly block as much as I did, it makes me think of spring!

Brenda Day

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

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.

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

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 also collect donations of Quilty things such as yardage of fabric, fabric panels, fat quarters, fabric kits, new (and gently used) sewing accessories/tools, etc. for our fun auctions. We have set up a second table so that we can process the donations.

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 retreat is great opportunity to get to know your fellow guild members, and to get some uninterrupted sewing time! 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.

Registration for guild members will begin at the May meeting, your \$100 NONREFUNDABLE Deposit holds your spot. Final payments will be due by October 1st.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Katha

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

In April we had 20 quilts turned in at the meeting. We gave 20 quilts to Hartford Family Services and 37 to the Groton Sub Base for their program.

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.

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

Programs and Workshops

Workshop Fun!



Another great workshop! So much fun and learning at the April workshop with Robin Long!

If you missed out on April's fun come join us in May with Karen Salemi!



**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 May meeting or email fvqprograms@gmail.com for more information

Socials

The June social is coming up and at the May meeting there will be a sign up to bring either an appetizer or a dessert. There will be a tea cup auction which is always a lot of fun!

There are 1 or 2 spots open for the July and August sew ins. See me at the meeting or email me at mariaegerard@gmail.com if you are interested.

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.

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



4/26

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

1/26

Opportunities Outside the FVQ Guild

Farmington Historical Society is looking to collaborate with FV members to offer a program they are calling, "Going to school on the weekends."

Farmington has reached out to FV for teachers (compensated) for a quarterly program (to start September 2026) which would offer classes rooted in traditional crafts, hand quilting being one of those crafts.

An eight to ten week course (1-2 hours) offers the opportunity to complete a quilted project. You would be instrumental in developing the course, and compensation would be an attendance supported model. The historical society sees the course offerings rotating, so there is no expectation to teach every quarter.

If interested please contact the Farmington Historical Society, Ivana Rucno: ivanagrettarucnov@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 Jun 15, 10:030– 3:00 Avon Public Library, Community Room 281 Country Club Road, Avon CT

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

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>

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>

Maine Quilts 2026

July 23 – 25, 2026

Augusta Civic Center
76 Community Dr., Augusta, ME 04330

<https://mainequilts.org/>

"Fiber, Fabric and Thread: On and Off the Wall" Exhibition

June 29 – August 29, 2026

Menino Arts Center
26 Central Ave, Boston, MA 02136

<https://www.hpaa-mac.org/>

A Vermont Quilt Sampler

June 27 – Sept. 7, 2026

Billings Farm & Museum
53 Elm Street (Visitors Center), Woodstock, VT
05091

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

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/>

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>

Newsletter Submissions

Due the **Thursday** before the Wednesday Guild Meeting. Submit to dlcalkin@gmail.com
Submissions for next newsletter **due June 11, 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)