

February 2026 Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello and greetings from sunny Connecticut! It's all in the attitude, right?
But first, some administrative items:

* I hope you all know by now- our location for February's meeting will be at Avon Congressional church, 6 West Main St., Avon 06001. Same time, different location.

* It's been decided. There will be a tea cup auction at our June meeting. I am looking for one or two volunteers to help me sort the items. Please help me out. I don't want to do this alone. The auction will be an annual fund raiser to be held each June. Great opportunity to pick up a summer project! Think of all the possibilities!

* At the February meeting there is a chance to enter the drawing for dinner with Timna Tarr, our March speaker. Only members in attendance may enter the drawing. Winner will be announced at the meeting.

* Have you renewed your membership? There will be a new password to access the members only section of the website before March. Still time to renew. Send your check to the PO box, if you are unable to attend February's meeting.

So here we are in the middle/end of a New England winter. Brrrrrrr.
Since January 1, 2026 Connecticut has had 27 days below 32 degrees.
Again, brrrrrrr
But on March 20th we get to say it is finally Spring! Yeah! we can do this!

Which is what I kept telling myself when I saw a block pattern I liked, but the block was 6" and I wanted it to be 11". No copier in the house; too cold to go outside.

So it was with an "I can do this" attitude, I gave making this block a go. Lots of bad blocks going on the back, but hey, that's what backs are for, right?
It's really only math, right... Well, I really didn't use any numbers making the block, just kept cutting bigger pieces until 11" happened.
It's all just a quilting attitude, right? And that's something of which i have plenty!

Stay warm, keep on quilting and count those days until spring!
Warm regards,

Ellyn Mansfield, President,
Farmington Valley Quilt Guild.

President's Letter	1
Treasurer's Update	2
Membership	2
New Member Coffee	2
Friendship Blocks	2
Help Celebrate 250.	3
Fabric Swap Table	3
Retreats	3
Neonatal Quilts	4
ABC Quilts	4
June Challenge.	4
Sunshine	4
NEQM Guest Passes	4
Programs/Workshops	5-6
Socials	6
Guild Library	7
Sew Thankful Quilters	7
Quilts 2 Heal	7
Granbees Guild Invitation	7
Wanted: Help Quilting	8
Advertisements	8
Area Quilting Events	9-12
Newsletter Submissions	13
Board & Committees	13

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'RE GETTING THERE

Thanks everyone for keeping the PO Box full with your current dues checks. We don't want to lose you and no one wants to miss all the information found in the newsletter! It's never too late to join and we accept new members any time of the year.

We look forward to seeing you soon and we're always available to answer your questions.

Susan Elliott
Gail Burk
Membership Cochairs

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

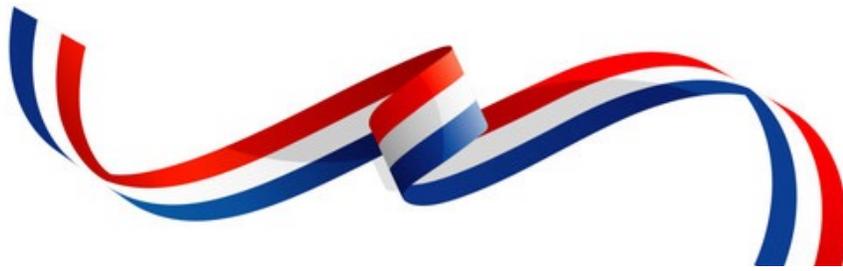
When: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at either 2:00 PM or 7 PM

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

Friendship Blocks

The next friendship block is due in March and it is a Cathedral window block. This block looks difficult but it's really simple and can all be done on the machine. Intimidated by it? Stop by and see me at the February meeting and I will show you how simple it is!

Thank you
Brenda Day



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 of our guild members.

Fabric Swap Table

Hopefully you are keeping warm this winter season! 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

Retreats

The "Spring" retreat is almost here! Final payments were due at the January meeting, if you still have an outstanding balance please get the check in ASAP.

If you are signed up to attend keep an eye out for an e-mail with information regarding the retreat.

Neonatal Quilts

Committee: Linda Johnson, Kitty Vangunten

Please stop by and pick up some of our neonatal fabric, batting and a label for some quilting during this cold weather. Three quilts were donated at our last meeting.

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 quilt update:

Three ABC quilts are now ready to have the final stitches done on the binding by the members during our Feb meeting. You will get a chance to see what has been created with all those 9 patches you contributed.

Please bring your needle, thimble (if you use one), reading glasses, scissors and join in the fun. We will provide the thread. A huge thanks to all.

See you soon for some stitching.

Kathie Fallon, Diane Bray and Lynda Cook.

June Challenge

The June Challenge is taking a break. But exciting news the June Teacup Auction will be our new June Entertainment.

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.

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

Experience the best of both worlds as Karen share timeless traditional quilt blocks blended with vibrant improvisational elements. Each quilt showcases quality craftsmanship rooted in classic techniques, enhanced by spontaneous, creative touches that bring a fresh and modern flair. Learn how she creates quilts that are both beautiful and uniquely expressive.



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

February is traditionally our Service Projects meeting and we will have 3 ABC quilts that need their bindings turned and hand stitched to the back and possibly a few labels to be stitched onto NICU quilts. If we finish those there is also a Quilt of Valor to be done. Bring your scissors and hand sewing needles (and reading glasses if you need them!). Please stay after the meeting and help us finish these!

The next sew in day is Saturday, April 18 at the Simsbury library from 10-3. We are in the process of looking for a location for our July and August sew in days.

Maria Gerard
Social chair

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.

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 9 , 10:00 – 3:00 Avon Public Library, 281 Country Club Rd., Avon, CT. Community Room

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

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

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: laytonjim0114@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: 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 \$4500 or best offer. Purchased at Sew Inspired and Viv can vouch for its' "like new" condition & value. **15% of Sale will be donated to FVQ Guild.**
Call or e-mail Michelle Palmer (860-836-7360, michpalmer1@gmail.com)

2/26

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.
Retails 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



STUDIO ART QUILT ASSOCIATES (SAQA-CT)
EXHIBITION AT GUILFORD ART CENTER

Circular Thinking

February 1-28, 2026

Opening Reception Sunday, Feb 1, 2-4pm;
free & open to all

This exhibition is designed to explore the varieties of meanings, images, and experiences evoked by the circle. The circle can be appreciated as a shape, a symbol, a concept or a metaphor. This exhibition seeks to celebrate diverse explorations of this image that has permeated cultures across the world and across time.

Juried by fiber artist Betty Busby.



Image: *We are Stardust*. Artist: Rita Daley Hamafin

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.

Call for Art and Fiber Art

Would you please let your membership know that Spectrum Art Gallery and Artisan Store in Centerbrook, CT is issuing a Call for Art for their next gallery show – there is no fee to submit or show, but the work must be for sale.

Golden Threads and Paper Creations—6-week show

The Gallery is looking for wall art, fiber sculptures and installations that feature either fiber and/or paper as the main materials as well as store items including basketry, leather and felted items that display art created with different fibers and fiber techniques and paper items such as book art, quilled and paper cut pieces. The purpose of this show is to show the varied ways fiber and paper can be creatively used.

Receives: Sunday, March 15-19 from 1-6pm

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

Closes: Saturday, May 9

How to submit artwork for review:

Please email all requested information and digital images directly to Director Barbara Nair at barbara@spectrumartgallery.org with Subject Line: **Submissions for “NAME OF EXHIBIT” or “NAME OF FESTIVAL”**

If you have any questions, you may call 860-663-5593.

It is best to only send ONE email that contains the following, please:

- **3-4 image attachments (JPGs) of your artwork**
Images should be 300dpi and at least 900 pixels wide or high, no more than 1.5MB in size each. Please name the image files as follows:
Title of Work, medium(s) used, dimensions, price.jpg
(On your computer prior to attaching to an email, you need to locate the file, and with your cursor, click once onto the file name, before the .jpg extension and type in the identification information).
- **Short BIO (Word document ONLY, no PDFS, please!)**
Please do not send CVs or resumes and write as 2nd person.
- *Example Biography: Bivenne Harvey Staiger is known for her colorful, dramatic watercolors of natural motifs she loves, like birds, other animals and flowers, and is the recipient of many prestigious awards. Among the most recent is the Silver Medal from the American Watercolor Society's 152nd International Exhibition (2019). She is professionally affiliated with many art groups, including but not limited to the Salmagundi Club, American Artists' Professional League, Academic Artists Association, Connecticut Academy of Fine Artists, Connecticut Watercolor Society, and many others. Bivenne regularly gives instruction, demonstrations and workshops in watercolor, and in fact has an upcoming weekend workshop, focusing on painting flowers in watercolor, at Yale Peabody Museum in August. At least two major solo exhibitions and a few group exhibitions featuring her work, including Spectrum Gallery in Centerbrook, Connecticut, are scheduled for the end of this year and next.*
- **Contact Information:** Including Name, email address, mailing address and phone number

Quilting Events in the Area

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild Show

March 14 - 15, 2026

Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School
65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568

<https://thimblepleasuresquiltguild.blogspot.com>

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 March 12, 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)