Volume 6

ON POINT

The Official Newsletter
of the Common Threads Quilt Guild of Lamoille County
in Morrisville, Vermont

http://commonthreadsvt.org/ CommonThreadsVT@gmail.com

Issue 4

DECEMBER 2026

The President's Block

Hello Friendly Quilters,

As I write this article, I suddenly realize that Christmas is only seven weeks away... How does it always sneak up on me so quietly each year? Suddenly, I have way too much to do, even though our Christmas giving has been scaled down over the years. The Christmas decorations are already out in stores, holiday music is playing on the radio, and I am getting early Black Friday alerts—and it isn't even Thanksgiving yet!

Are you excited for or dreading the push and pull of the holiday season? Do you shop for gifts, or do you make your own?

I know that I will soon begin receiving mail solicitations from our local non-profits in anticipation of our year-end charitable giving. As you sort through your own mail and read similar requests for donations, I'd like you to consider making a year-end, tax-deductible donation to your very own Quilt Guild. Please remember that we, too, are a non-profit organization. I would be very happy to provide you with a thank-you letter to accompany your tax return preparation.

Our December meeting is going to be an action-packed evening, so I expect it may extend past 8:00 PM. I am going to make an effort to arrive at the church around 5:00 PM to set up our program for making holiday cards and gift tags. If you can't stay late, consider coming a little early to get a jump on the project. They are pre-packaged, so you can also take them home to complete.

Our schedule for the evening is as follows:

- **6:00 PM:** Potluck begins
- **6:30 PM:** Business meeting
- **7:10 PM:** BOM demos (November/December blocks)
- **7:30 PM:** Sew & Tell
- **Conclusion:** Craft project wrap-up

Please bring a pair of paper scissors, a glue stick or tape runner, one large button, and a needle and thread.

I would also like 2-3 people willing to share about their non-quilting life… how else do you fill your days? Please email or text me if you are willing to share…

Hmm... Do we want to have some kind of new challenge for 2027? Email me your ideas prior to the meeting!

Happily Stitching with You,
Jane Paine, 2026-2027 Guild President



is National Giving Month

President
Jane Paine 802-730-6575 (cell)
802-888-4555(home)

Vice President
Linda McGraw 802-730-9096

Secretary
Robin Wright 802-585-9152

Treasurer
Joyce Emerson 802-371-7038

Programs
Rotating Members

Newsletter
Sharon Perry 802-326-3135

Block of the Month
Andrea Blaisdell 802-635-8389

Sunshine Cards
Pam Gelineau 802-644-2855

Membership
Denise Mayo 802-585-5876

Sunshine Quilts
Marion Seasholtz 802-635-2731

Common Threads Quilt Guild meets the 1st Wednesday, March through December, at 6:30 p.m. at The United Church of Johnson, 100 Lower Main Street, Johnson

Dues = $25 annually

MISSION

To provide "Sunshine Quilts" to our neighbors and community members when needed and to promote an interest in the art of quilting through education and fellowship.

2026 - 2027 Guild Calendar

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM; MEETING STARTS AT 6:30 PM

September 2nd Left, Right, Center

October 8th Trunk Show with Nina Clotfelter at the Crosby Center 301 Brooklyn Street, in Morrisville

October 10th & 11th Workshops with Nina Clotfelter

November 12th QOV Presentation at Peoples Academy

2026 – 2027 Guild Calendar

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM; MEETING STARTS AT 6:30 PM

December 2nd Holiday "Paper Crafting" and Potluck STARTS AT 6 pm!!!

January Guild Work Day

February Guild Work Day

March 3rd Line by Line – Using Rulers Demo

2026 – 2027 Guild Calendar

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM; MEETING STARTS AT 6:30 PM

April 7th Crocheting a Fabric Rug with Robin Wright

May 5th Going "Batty" with Batting

June 2nd TBD

July 7th Annual Meeting & Potluck

August 4th TBD

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 10/13/2026		**$3,309.83**
Income		
11/6/2026 memberships	$125.00	
Total Income	$125.00	
	Subtotal	**$3,434.83**
Expenses		
None	$0.00	
Total Expenses	$0.00	
Ending Balance 11/11/2026		**$3,434.83**

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Emerson, Treasurer



PROGRAMS: LOOKING AHEAD…

December 2026: Holiday "Paper Crafting" & Potluck

January 2027: Guild Work Day

February 2027: Guild Work Day

March 2027: Line by Line – Using Rulers to Make Your Life Easier and Gain Confidence

April 2027: Crocheting a Fabric Rug with Robin Wright

QUILT TIPS: HOW TO QUILT WITH FLANNEL

From Quilting Daily

To help you on your creative flannel journey, we've pulled together a few tips on how to quilt with flannel properly. What could be better than cozying up in a warm blanket of your own making? Especially as the holidays approach! So read on to learn more about quilting with flannel and how to make your next project a snuggly success!

Getting Started: There are two kinds of cotton flannel — and both are soft and cuddly with a napped, fuzzy texture. One has the napped finish and print on one side only. There is also double-sided flannel — like many of the plaid flannels you'll find. When shopping, look for flannels with a higher thread count for better quality. They will be a little more expensive, but you'll experience less pilling, fraying, shrinking, and stretching—plus they will last longer.

Prepping the Flannel:

Always pre-wash your flannel—unless it is a precut. Because flannel has a looser weave, it will shrink much more than standard quilting cottons. For this reason, you may want to buy a little more fabric than the pattern requires. Since it tends to ravel more in the wash, serging, or sewing the raw edges together before tossing your flannel into the washing machine will keep raveling to a minimum.

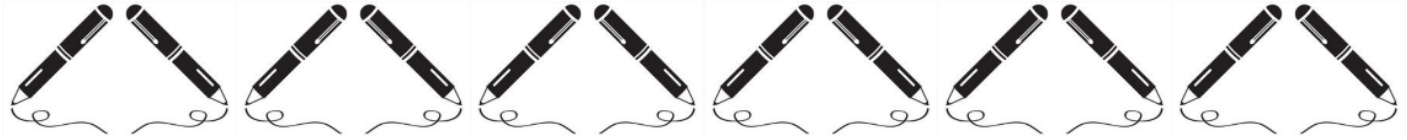
Wash your flannel in hot water to shrink it as much as possible. Then toss into the dryer on the highest heat setting until almost dry. Lay out the flannel while it still has a little dampness; smooth

Secretary's Report

NO MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER QUILT OF VALOR PRESENTATION

No Business Meeting



THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN…

Thank you to the 24 members who took the time to complete our very first program survey. We had a 65% participation rate; although, not all 24 members answered all the questions.

Here are a few of the tallied results:

1) 14 members have attended at least one of our weekend workshops
    a. Weekends are inconvenient for 10 members who have not attended
    b. 7 of those 10 are willing to help complete tasks at home
2) 17 members have made Sunshine quilts from both kits and their own stash
    a. 5 have never made a sunshine quilt
3) TOP 3 things members enjoy in the quilt process are:
    a. Making blocks
    b. Sewing blocks into tops
    c. Ironing
4) TOP 3 LEAST favorite things to do:
    a. Binding
    b. Tying
    c. Sandwiching
5) 60% report they prefer yardage over using precuts
6) 58% report having an overabundance of scraps
7) Who visits the website? 7 monthly for newsletter ~ 8 randomly ~ 7 Never

I would like to set a Guild GOAL of 90% participation in our mission of creating sunshine quilts for our community. I truly believe this can be accomplished through not only the workshops, but also through making blocks of the month AND "remote" work at home once we get a new process in place. We have an exciting year ahead.

QUILT TIPS (Continued from page 2)

it with your hands. Gently press (rather than iron) any remaining wrinkles to avoid distorting and stretching the flannel. Starch can be your friend—just flip the flannel right side down on your ironing surface and press from the backside.

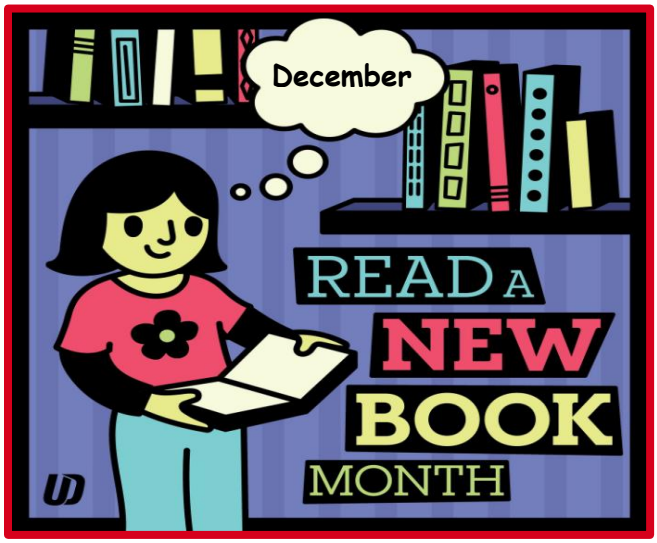
Sewing Your Flannel Quilt: Simple designs with large patches work best for this fabric. To ensure flatter seams, you may want to sew with ½" seam allowances. If so, be sure to cut each patch ½" larger. You'll also want wider strips for your binding.

Here are some helpful tips and tricks when sewing with flannel:

- Loosen the tension just a bit on your sewing machine.
- Lengthen the stitch length to 3.0 to 3.5mm.

SUNSHINE CARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of a guild member who is in need of encouragement or comfort due to an illness, bereavement, etc., please contact Pam Gelineau, Pam.Gelineau@gmail.com, 802-644-2855. As a note, Pam prefers email notification when possible. She will send out an appropriate card.



COLD DECEMBER NIGHT

Author Unknown

Cold December night,
Moon and stars pave the sky
In pale pearl and diamonds.

FEATURED VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR DECEMBER:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4prsejApCg

Sew Cute Runner for December

Shabby Fabrics









Mina Ayers	December	21
Lisa Vilord	December	26

…and many more!!!





That is ***26 Finishes in 2026!***

Join in the fun and make 26 quilted projects by the end of 2026 and your name will be entered into a special drawing held in December 2026. If you'd like to participate, fill in your name and 26 projects you'd like to finish this year on the list below. This is your list…you can add to it throughout the year if need be to have 26 projects or you can remove a project, or swap out projects, etc…you just have to have ***26 Finishes in 2026*** AND you must show each project at one of the guild's monthly show and tell. You can show multiple projects in one month. You also don't have to show a project every month, you just have to have ***26 Finishes in 2026!*** You will maintain your own list, but you must let Sharon Perry know you are participating.

✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂ Cut along dotted line ✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂✂

26 in 2026 ***NAME:*** _____

1.	14.
2.	15.
3.	16.
4.	17.
5.	18.
6.	19.
7.	20.
8.	21.
9.	22.
10.	23.
11.	24.
12.	25.
13.	26.



Recipe Corner

GINGERED SWEET POTATO AND APPLE COBBLER

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut up, + more for pan
5 cups Granny Smith apples, peeled and diced
2 cups sweet potato, peeled and grated
½ cup packed light brown sugar
3 tablespoons minced crystallized ginger
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
For cobbler crust:
1½ cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
½ teaspoon Kosher salt
¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter
¼ cup milk
1 large egg yolk

Preheat oven to 425°F. Lightly butter an 8-by8-inch baking pan.

Stir together butter, apples, sweet potato, sugar, ginger, flour, vanilla, and pumpkin pie spice in a bowl; transfer to prepared pan.

For cobbler crust: Stir together flour, sugar, and salt in a bowl. Cut butter into flour mixture with two forks or a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal.

Whisk together milk and egg yolk in a separate bowl. Add milk mixture to flour mixture and stir with a fork until crumbly. Sprinkle dough over desired filing or knead until dough comes together, 3 to 4 times; pat to 1/2-inch thick and cut into rounds or squares and place on desired filling.

Sprinkle cobbler crust on top of apple and sweet potato mixture.

Bake until crust is golden brown and mixture is bubbly, 40 to 4 minutes. Cool 10 minutes before serving.

GRAND MARNIER SWEET POTATOES

3 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
1 egg, lightly beaten
¼ cup butter, melted
2 to 3 tablespoons maple syrup
¼ to ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract to taste
2 tablespoons Grand Marnier or Cointreau
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed orange juice
1 teaspoon orange zest
⅛ teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
Optional ingredient: add up to 1/2 c. sugar if you like it sweeter... personally I leave it out.
For topping:
1 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
⅓ cup flour
1 cup pecans, roughly chopped
⅓ cup butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine everything except topping ingredients in a medium bowl and stir until everything is well incorporated. Spoon into a greased casserole dish.

For topping:
Combine brown sugar, flour, pecans and butter. Sprinkle over the top of sweet potatoes. Bake for 30 minutes.

Make-Ahead Directions: Prepare sweet potato mixture and spoon into greased casserole. Cover and chill overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking; add brown sugar topping. Bake casserole as directed above.

ROASTED HASSELBACK SWEET POTATOES

2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for baking sheet
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
4 small sweet potatoes (2½ lbs.), halved lengthwise
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 425°F with an oven rack in the top third. Lightly oil a rimmed baking sheet. Combine oil, maple syrup, and thyme in a bowl.

Working with one potato half at a time, place a wooden spoon or chopstick on each side of potato, and cut slits ¼ to ⅛ inch apart crosswise down rounded side of potato, using wood sticks as a guide to avoid cutting all the way through. Repeat with remaining potatoes.

Transfer to prepared baking sheet. Brush potatoes with maple mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Roast until golden brown and tender, 25 to 30 minutes.



Block of the Month

November 2026—Bring to December Meeting



Colors:

Make it scrappy with a white or white-on-white background



PATTERN: MEASURED BARS

Click this link for the block pattern



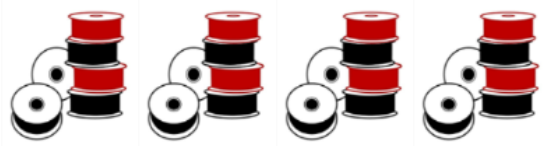
JOHNSON TOWN HALL SEWING DAYS

Sewing weekends are open again at the Johnson Town Hall. We set up on the second floor of the Town Hall (elevator available). Large tables are available plus ironing stations and a cutting table.

We meet on the first and third weekend of the month, arrival after 8 am, but you can sew as late as you want. A $2 daily donation is requested, going to the Town of Johnson for use of the space.

At this time we are planning to have a mailing list only for change of plans, you can send your email to Robin Wright, growingfarm00@gmail.com or Hilda Tallman, sammnvt57@yahoo.com to be on that list. Reminder emails the week before will no longer be going out.

All crafters are welcome!



QUILT TIPS (Continued from page 3)

- Use a walking foot to sew patches together.
- Press seams open to reduce bulk — but DO NOT use steam.
- Clappers and wool pressing mats can also help flatten seams.
- Frequently clean out the bobbin area.

Finishing Your Flannel Quilt: When you dive into quilting with flannel, be sure to select a light-weight batting in wool, cotton, or bamboo. Or you can even consider leaving out the batting entirely! On a domestic machine, quilt straight lines or gentle waves with your walking foot to help keep the layers together. If you're looking for another option, you can also use Perle cotton or yarn to tie your quilt.

Caring for Your Flannel Quilt: One more quick reminder: remember to wash your finished quilt in cold water and use the gentle cycles on both your washer and dryer.

EMBROIDERY PATTERN FOR DECEMBER





LINK TO BARN QUILT TRAIL OF NORTHERN VERMONT

http://www.barnquiltsofnorthernvermont.org/

NEWSLETTER IDEAS WANTED: Do you have a recipe you'd like to share with guild members? Or maybe you've found a great quilting website or blog you'd like to share. Or you've visited a quilt shop within an easy drive which had bargains or a fabric selection no quilter should miss. If so, send an email to CommonThreadsVT@gmail.com, and the newsletter editor will do her best to include it in the next newsletter. Although welcome, your input doesn't have to be a complete article. It could be a few bullets which convey your message. The editor will fill out the article as needed.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter:

Monday, February 15th, 2026

Please email articles to Sharon Perry, CommonThreadsVT@gmail.com,
or mail to PO Box 517, Montgomery Center VT 05471

Next Meeting is December 2nd National Fritters Day



"It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready."
~ Sarah Kay