



Friendship Star Quilters February 2026

P.O. Box 8051, Gaithersburg, MD 20898
Website: friendshipstar.org

The Quiltline

Feb. 2 FSQ Guild Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm**

Feb. 26 - Mar. 1 Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival (MAQ)
Hampton, VA ([more info](#))

Mar. 25 - 28 Lancaster Quilt Show ([more info](#))

April 10-12 Northern Shenandoah Valley Quilt Show
Berryville, VA on **April 10-12, 2026** ([more info](#))

June 20–July 31 Studio Art Quilt Associates
Strathmore, North Bethesda, MD ([more info](#))

(December thru February are Zoom meetings)

Table of Contents	Pg
FSQ Calendar & Events	1
President's Message	2
Guild Meeting Minutes	3
Programs	4
Service Projects Update	4
FSQ Retreat	5
Facebook	5
FSQ 2026 Opportunity Quilt Tickets	6
FSQ 2026 Opportunity Quilt Sales	7
Membership	7
Quilty News	8
Officers & Committee Chairs	13

Fabric Raffle – will resume in March at our next in person meeting

Guild Meetings	Service Projects
<p>Guild meetings are usually held at 7:30 pm on the 1st Monday of the month.</p> <p>When we resume in-person meetings in March we will meet at Asbury Methodist Village Rosborough Center 301 Odendhal Ave. Gaithersburg, MD</p> <p>** Enter the Zoom at 7:00 pm for mingling and conversation!</p>	<p>Workshops are held from 9:30 am to Noon at</p> <p>Fairhaven United Methodist Church 12801 Darnestown Rd Darnestown, MD 20878</p> <p>Workshops in February:</p> <p>Thursday, Feb. 12 Thursday, Feb. 19</p>

Executive Board Meeting

The next Executive Board Meeting will be via Zoom on **MARCH 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

If you have a topic to bring to the board, please contact any of the officers to add your item to the agenda or to receive the Zoom link for the meeting.



President's Message

Anne Flaggs Anne.f.flaggs@gmail.com

Hello Quilters,

I hope you are all enjoying the cool and crisp days of winter. I do wish I was more adventuresome to get out and walk more but I am walking on Mondays this winter with a group that helps me get out even in the cold.

Just a few things from me this month:

- The retreat is coming up in a few weeks, it's time to gather all your projects and decide what you might work on. I know that I usually bring about 10x as much stuff then I will ever work on but I like choices and always need some "easy" projects to help me get started. There are always service project kits to help move me along and give me a feeling of accomplishment when I finish a pillowcase or quilt top.
- Are you doing anything to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA? There are lots of events happening around America. I'm traveling with a local group down to Norfolk in April to attend a Military Tattoo, which will have lots of military bands and performers (I am an Army brat). I'm thinking about seeing the tall ships somewhere later in the year. In addition, I did sign up for a Little Blocks quilt from Sentimental Stitches of the 50 states and I've seen a beautiful quilt on Craftsby which is doing all 50 state flowers. I have printed out the first block of my Little Blocks quilt and now realize this is quite advanced for my skill level so I'm hoping to get some help from my experienced FPP friends as the blocks are 3½ inches and the pieces are very small.
- This month we have another zoom only meeting before we return to Live/Hybrid meetings in March. Please send any show & tell items to Mary Anne Bruce. This is a great time to showoff what you are working on even it was done a while ago.
- I'm still looking for a few folks to help with our nominating committee to look for next year's officers. If you are interested in doing this or being an officer, please let me know.
- I have recently received some email scams from Punchbowl. This comes into my email from someone I know inviting me to an event they are hosting. Now, I'm super excited to be invited to an event but I also know it's unlikely that you might be inviting me to your birthday party. I did get a bit caught up in this a few months ago and then needed to update several of my computer passwords. I just want everyone to be aware that this is happening and be cautious. If you are a close friend to someone, call them to make sure it's not a scam. If you aren't a close friend, it is most likely a scam and you should delete the email.

Thanks and I hope to see you on Zoom at our meeting on February 2nd.



Guild Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2026

Harriet Sheinson, co-secretary

Friendship Star Quilters Zoom Meeting

7pm Mingling/social time

7:30 pm Anne Flaggs, President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. We have one new member and no visitors.

The next Board meeting will be in March. If you are interested in attending and are not a member of the Board, please contact Anne Flaggs who will send you an invitation. If you have any ideas or just want to find out what is going on, please attend. You are most welcome.

We are halfway through the year and must consider a slate of officers for next year. If you would like to help and be on the Nominating Committee, please contact Anne Flaggs.

Anne reviewed highlights from the Quiltline.

Committee Reports:

Raffle Quilt Marketing chair, Maryjean Spencer thanked everyone who has been taking the quilt around and said if you would like to take it to Village Quilters of Catonsville to please contact her.

Raffle Quilt 2027: Co-Chairs Ellen Robinson and Trish McTighe have set up a January Sew-in on Sat., Jan. 24 and 31 at Asbury, 400 Building Russell Ave., from 10:30-2:30. This project will be a lot of fun and all paper piecing. If you have never done that...don't worry for Trish will teach you how. The link is in the newsletter. There is limited space. Please contact either of them to put your name in.

Barbara Kilby wanted everyone to know that Asbury was going to have an Arts and Crafts Sale on Sat., April 18 and FSQ members are invited to sell quilts and other handmade items. For more information, please call Barbara at 301-216-4458.

The Program Presentation was by HollyAnne Knight entitled "Intro to Quilting Plans". HollyAnne is a positive, lively, creative teacher who really learns from her mistakes and knows how to correct them or let them go. She gave a lot of good ideas of how to draw the plans on paper or other medium and correct them on the quilt because one plans and sometimes those plans don't work out. She has classes online. She suggested getting Swan Amity Quilting Gloves. She has a String and Story/FMQ workbook.

9pm: There was a 5-minute break.

The Quiltline – February 2026

Show and Tell was produced by Mary Ann Bruce...all the quilts were wonderful and Karen Slayton gave a great update on our Quilts of Honor for her son's military units when they were sent overseas.

Door Prize was won by Freddie Berg.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm



Programs

Mary Ann Bruce, Joyce Danzig, and Ihsia Hu

Reminder: In February, we will be meeting via Zoom and we will return to in person meetings in March!

In February, Beth Ann Williams will present "Heirloom Appliqué by Machine". Learn how satisfying it can be to create the look of heirloom-quality hand appliqué with finished edges – all with your sewing machine! Beth Ann will showcase a step-by-step overview of three of her favorite beginner-friendly methods for preparing finished edges. She'll also explore her top recommendations for presser feet, needles, thread, stitch settings, and handy notions that help make the process faster, easier, and more enjoyable. Her website is <https://bethannwilliams.com>.

In March, our speaker will be Nancy Hershberger. In her presentation titled, "Finding My Voice, she will share her journey from traditional pieced bed quilts to art quilts. She also touches on her work at various national parks and will display several of her pieces inspired by them. Her presentation will be followed by a lively question and answer period. Visit her website at <https://www.nancyhershberger.com/>.



Service Projects Update

Nance Brennan and Anne Weaver

As cold and wintery weather persists, we hope you are staying warm and doing lots of sewing and quilting!

Someone recently said she had made a quilt top for Service Projects and wondered if she could bring it in to get some fabric for the back. The answer is yes, definitely! You're also welcome to come and "shop" for the right piece of fabric to complete a top you are making. That's what the back-room stash is for! Plus, we have ready-made kits for quilt tops, premie quilts and pillowcases. Please just ask!

We've continued to have record turnouts at our Service Projects workshops and we're grateful

The Quiltline – February 2026

for your continued support for vulnerable members of our community. February workshops will be held on Thursday, February 12, and Thursday, February 19. We meet from 9:30 am until noon at Fairhaven United Methodist Church, 12801 Darnestown Road (Route 28), about a mile west of Quince Orchard High School.



FSQ Retreat

Jennifer Rossmere and Colleen Biasco

FRIENDSHIP STAR QUILTERS

2026 ANNUAL RETREAT AT BON SECOURS

FEBRUARY 13-16, 2026

In about two weeks, those of us attending the 2026 FSQ Retreat will gather at the lovely Bon Secours Retreat Center to sew, socialize, learn from and relish the creativity of our fellow quilters. If you have not received the emails that have been sent out with information about the Retreat, please let us know.

Email us with any questions to retreats@friendshipstar.org.



Facebook

Suma Glassman and Ellen Robinson

We have a Facebook Group in addition to our regular page on that platform. Please like the page and join the group. The group will allow you to share pictures of your work with other members. Both pages are public so you can still view them just by going to the links. We post various items of interest in both areas.

The regular Facebook page is located at <https://facebook.com/FriendshipStarQuilters/>.

The Facebook Group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/421870746339372>.

If you have any questions, you can contact either Ellen or Suma individually or send an email to facebook@friendshipstar.org.



FSQ 2026 Opportunity Quilt Tickets

Karen Moss

The 2026 FSQ Opportunity Quilt, ***Jubilation***, is a design by Deb Tucker and pieced by Joy Dorman, who graciously donated it to the Guild for our raffle. It was long-arm quilted by Karen Moss and the handwork was completed by Anne Weaver.

The drawing will take place at our June 1, 2026 Guild meeting. A portion of the profits will go to our chosen charities, Comfort Cases and Manna Food Center.

In addition to selling tickets when we take the opportunity quilt to other guilds or venues, we ask each member to either sell or purchase 15 tickets. Although participation in ticket sales is voluntary, this is a major source of funding for the Guild, and your support is appreciated. Tickets are \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. If you buy all your own tickets, it's only \$25.

Ticket stubs and money are to be returned to Karen at a guild event or other arranged drop-off. If you don't yet have your tickets or you would like additional tickets, those are all available from Karen. The seller of the winning ticket and the top three ticket sellers will be rewarded with a prize. We look forward to your support for this endeavor which supports Guild activities. Please let Karen know if you have any questions.





FSQ 2026 Opportunity Quilt Sales

Maryjean Spencer

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND THIS NEW YEAR

Don't miss your **opportunity** to visit area quilt guilds with the wonderful **opportunity** quilt Jubilation! Sign-up genius notification notices went out recently giving you the **opportunity** to volunteer to take our lovely **opportunity** quilt to area guild meetings to sell raffle tickets. The sale of these raffle tickets contributes to all the opportunities we have as a guild to help others and to keep our guild running smoothly.

Opportunities like this are special, so please take a few minutes to review the sign up genius and sign up for your **opportunity** to help the guild and have a good time in the process!

[2026 Opportunity Quilt Signup Genius](#)

Maryjean Spencer
240.401.9950



Membership

Carrie Horton and Jan Drass

Since our last newsletter, we added two new members, Becky Patterson and Sarah Inwood. A warm welcome to each of you! FSQ is currently at 126 members strong.

We will meet on Zoom for our meeting on February 2. You will be sent a Zoom link to join the meeting virtually. Guests are welcome if space is available. Please let membership know if you have a guest who would like to attend.

The updated FSQ Member Directory was sent out via email to all members in December. Please let membership know if any of your information on file (i.e., address, phone number, email address) needs to be updated.

If you are new to FSQ and want to join the guild, please [fill out the form online by clicking here](#). Print the completed form and mail it with your membership fee to the address on the form, which is:

Carrie Horton
FSQ Membership Co-Chair
[432 Girard St. Apt. 103](#)
[Gaithersburg, MD 20877](#)

Happy Birthday to our FSQ friends with February Birthdays:

Joyce Danzig	February 4
Barbara Skelly	February 8
Ginger Peebles	February 10
Stacy Ross	February 14
Elizabeth Carroll	February 22
Charlene Danka	February 22
Mary Moore Payne	February 24



Quilty News & Stuff

ASBURY Arts & Crafts Sale

FRIENDSHIP STAR members are cordially invited to sell their quilts and other creations at the Arts and Crafts Sale on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Asbury Methodist Village. Set-up starts at 11:30 am, and the sale will be open to the public from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Registration will be due by March 6. Up to six spots will be available for FSQ members. There are no fees to sell at this event.

In addition to quilts, there will be paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture, and other arts and crafts by Asbury residents. The Gaithersburg Camera Club and the Fine Arts Association will also be there, and the event will be well advertised locally. Please invite your friends and relatives to attend. Buyers may find the perfect birthday, wedding, or graduation present—or perhaps something beautiful (or quirky) for themselves.

Anyone interested please contact:
Asbury Visual Arts Committee
Barbara Kilby
bkilbyfoto@gmail.com

Do You Know What MAQ Stands For?

MAQ is the Mid-Appalachian Quilters, a group that brings together teachers from up and down the east coast for a 3-day seminar of classes, held close by Gettysburg College. It's a wonderful summer opportunity for learning and our own Lisa Wells is the current President of the MAQ board. Over the

The Quiltline – February 2026

years, many of our members have attended and enjoyed the classes and served on the board. We all learned new skills and met many talented quilters. Attendance is well over 200 quilters, and last year I did see a few FSQ members there and but I wanted to encourage others to consider going.

MAQ offers classes over three days (Friday to Sunday) with most of them being one day classes. The classes are fun and the quilting teachers are engaging, ready to share their knowledge and so encouraging. Last year I took Crossroad with Tina Craig and Metro Rings with Andrea Hoke for 2 days. I attended with Coralyn and Danee who spent their time in the Studio working on their own projects. There are options to stay in the dorms and the cafeteria on campus provides the food. Many hotels are nearby also and you can always stay at home and commute daily. On Friday night there is a keynote speaker. Saturday night is Show & Tell, where the teachers describe their classes and the students show the projects they worked on during class.

MAQ 2026 is scheduled for June 5-7 at Gettysburg College. Registration opens on March 1st and the workshops/classes should be updated on the website by the end of January. Being immersed for an entire weekend with about 250 other quilters who are eager to share their tips and encouragement, and to be inspired by some of the best quilt teachers in the area was energizing and uplifting. I hope to see some of you there this year.

Visit <https://maqonline.org/> to learn more about this wonderful organization.

Anne Flaggs

*Note: this write-up was edited and revised from an article submitted by Mary Ann Bruce and Jennifer Rossmere a few years ago.

Member Tips

Michele Barnard



I wish I could remember where I saw this tip on pinning.

If you pin the way most of us were taught, perpendicular to the seam line, you have to stop frequently to take out the pins.

If you pin parallel to the seam line and leave enough space for your presser foot, you can sew without stopping.

Judy Boccuzzi

Hi everyone. I have 2 tips:

I am a hand quilter and have never found a thimble that works well for me, so I use 1" Contractor Grade Masking Tape (from Home Depot) wrapped around my middle finger. It provides great flexibility. I do have to change the tape on my finger periodically as the back of the needle hits the same spot.

I have at least a dozen quilt wall hangings that I swap out every month. Instead of folding them for storage, I like to roll them to prevent creases. I buy the long skinny roll wrap from the Dollar Tree to use as a firm form to roll my quilt. (I leave on the plastic wrap.) I then store them on a closet shelf.

Charitable Opportunities

Jan Drass

Hospice Quilts

Frederick Hospice is in need of handmade veteran blankets/quilts to be presented to each veteran they have in their care to recognize their service to our country. The blankets/quilts are special to each veteran as they are unique, practical and meaningful gifts and often stay with the family as a beloved reminder after the veteran has passed away.

They are looking for :

- handmade new items only- quilted, knitted or crocheted
- Items should be 36 x 40 inches (or close to that)
- Red/white/blue color scheme or service branch colors (Army, Navy, etc)
- Tighter weaves are best; no coarse or scratchy materials; and avoid protentual allergens such as wool, alpaca or angora.
- Only items without perfume, cigarette smoke odor, pet odor/hair can be accepted.

On a personal note, my uncle who was a military chaplain in the US Army received a similar quilt when he was in hospice in MA several years ago, and it was a very special ceremony and gift to him.

If you have any veteran blankets/quilts to donate, I will be happy to deliver them to Frederick Health Village for hospice. jdrass2@comcast.net

Quilts of Valor

In follow-up to our January monthly meeting, I wanted to share a bit more detail about the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF). The Mission of this organization is "to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

The Quiltline – February 2026

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

As mentioned at the meeting, locally in Germantown, Mother Seton Parish Quilting Angels is a registered group with QOVF. I have been part of this group for many years. You can join QOVF as an individual as well, but you do not have to be a member of the organization to make a QOV quilt top. Quilt tops should be 60 x 80 inches, and use patriotic or service related colors. Free patterns are available on the QOVF website at <https://www.qovf.org/make-a-qov/> Longarmers generously donate their time to long arm quilt tops for this group. I know I have received a quilt top from a FSQ guild member in the past, and anyone is welcome to create a QOV quilt top. You can bring it to a service project meeting or an in person guild meeting and I will be happy to bring them to Mother Seton.

Equally as important, if you know any active duty or retired service member, please consider nominating them for a QOV. An online nomination form can be completed by the service member/veteran or another person using this link on the QOVF site <https://www.qovf.org/nominations-awards/>

The QOVF website provides detailed information about this process, including who is eligible for a QOV:

- Active duty, National Guard and Reservist members of the United States armed forces, being the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.
- Served during declared war, conflicts, police actions, peacekeeping missions, and counter terrorism operations and/or times of peace.
- Service during, but not necessarily limited to, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Beirut, Granada, Bosnia, the Cold War, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq, Afghanistan, anti-terrorism operations, and terrorism attacks against Armed Forces personnel is included.
- Only veterans with an Honorable or General Discharge status are eligible.
- QOVF does not award QOVs posthumously.

Nominating a service member or veteran in another state is not a problem! There are state coordinators who will take care of getting the nominees name to the closest QOV group for the award. I have nominated 3 individuals in 3 different states (MA, KS and IA) and in all cases, the state coordinator contacted me as well as the nominee to work out the details of the award. For one nominee, I made the quilt top that was awarded the individual. For my nominee in KS, I got to watch the live stream ceremony to see his QOV awarded.

Lastly, you can become a "Block Maker"! Every year, QOVF selects a Block of the Year. For 2026, the Block of the Year is called "Echos". A free pattern and video tutorial is available, as well as instructions on what to do with your completed block(s) at <https://www.qovf.org/national-block-drive/>

Colleen Biasco

Bikes for the World <https://www.bikesfortheworld.org/>

Bikes for the World accepts **good-quality metal portable sewing machines in working order**, or close to it. Older Singer and similar machines are high-value, in-demand items that fit in small

The Quiltline – February 2026

spaces in the shipping containers without displacing bikes. Like bicycles, sewing machines represent a “productive asset” for a low-income working person. Most go to the same vocational programs receiving our bicycles. As with bike donations, an accompanying contribution of \$10 is strongly suggested.

*NO TABLE SEWING MACHINES – they require too much labor and space to transport, store, and pack. And no off-brand plastic sewing machines--they break quickly and are hard to repair.

Bikes for the World mission

The mission of Bikes for the World is to make affordable, good quality used bicycles available to low-income people in developing countries. These donated bikes provide better transport for work, education, and health care. Bikes for the World also generates additional skilled employment in bike repair and maintenance overseas, and provides satisfying environmental and humanitarian service opportunities for volunteers locally in the Washington, DC Metro region.

Contact Address:

11720 Parklawn Dr

Rockville, MD

20852

Phone: 703-740-7856



Elected Officers	
<u>President</u>	Anne Flaggs
<u>Vice President</u>	Marylin Pierre
<u>Co-Treasurers</u>	Joy Dorman and Judy Walsh
<u>Co-Secretaries</u>	Harriet Sheinson and Jennifer Rossmere

Committee Chairs			
<u>Fabric of the Month</u>	Nancy Debnam	<u>Retreats</u>	Colleen Biasco and Jennifer Rossmere
<u>Facebook</u>	Suma Glassman and Ellen Robinson	<u>Service Projects</u>	Nance Brennan and Anne Weaver
<u>Membership</u>	Carrie Horton and Jan Drass	<u>Small Groups Coordinator</u>	Peggy Weidman
<u>Newsletter</u>	Liz Plantz	<u>Summer Challenge</u>	JoAnne DuChez, DeVeda Powell and Meg Tison
<u>Pins</u>	Linda Belecki	<u>Sunshine & Shadows</u>	Ellen Robinson
<u>Programs</u>	Mary Ann Bruce, Joyce Danzig and Ihsia Hu	<u>Web Administrator</u>	Lorie Coston
<u>Publicity</u>	Michele Barnard	<u>Yard Sale</u>	Volunteers needed
<u>Raffle Quilt Marketer</u>	Maryjean Spencer	<u>Zoom Coordinator</u>	Kathy Swartz
<u>Raffle Ticket Sales</u>	Karen Moss		