

**Gallatin Quilt Guild Challenge**  
**Liberty and Equality for All – 250 Years**  
**USA Semiquincentennial**  
**2025/2026**

Join us for a fun way to celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

Many of us have participated in challenges to create a quilt or other projects based on a theme fabric, or some other criteria. This challenge by The Gallatin Quilt Guild, **Liberty and Equality for All – 250 Years**, is for members to share your story, your hopes, and dreams for the future of our country by creating a quilt or some other form of fiber art around the **Semiquincentennial** theme. The highest priority is to have fun and create something original you will treasure!

While information can be found on the internet at many sites here are some commonly suggested themes to intrigue your creativity. These are only a starting point to inspire your project.

- **Power of Place:** Focus on the impact of geography, environment, and local communities on the American story, highlighting how different regions and places have shaped the nation's identity.
- **We the People:** Examine the concept of citizenship, diversity, and the ongoing negotiation of what it means to be an American, focusing on the voices and experiences of different groups.
- **American Experiment:** Reflect on the ideals and values that underpin the United States, considering both the successes and challenges of the nation's experiment in democracy and self-governance.
- **Doing History:** Encourage critical engagement with the past, emphasizing the importance of diverse perspectives and ongoing historical inquiry, and examining how we remember and interpret the past.
- **Liberty and Freedom:** Explore the meaning of liberty and freedom throughout American history, examining how different groups have interpreted and fought for these ideals.
- **Equality and Justice:** Examine the ongoing struggle for equality and justice, focusing on the experiences of marginalized groups and the fight for civil rights.
- **Memory and Commemoration:** Explore how we remember and commemorate the past, examining different perspectives and interpretations of American history.
- **Belonging and Identity:** Explore the concept of belonging and identity in the United States, examining how different groups have struggled to find their place in the nation.
- **Culinary Experiences:** Showcase the diverse culinary traditions of the United States, highlighting regional specialties and the role of food in shaping cultural identity

The "rules" are few, and flexible to create your original quilt or fiber art. The sky is the limit for this Challenge. Some suggestions for guidance:

1. **Subject(s)** – See themes above for your own original piece to represent the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

2. **Size**

- Determine the size, proportion, and format or materials you choose based on where you want to display
- If displaying your work in a traditional frame, you might consider standard sizes that are available to purchase
- Miniatures would be fascinating to full-sized wall-hangings or quilts!

3. **Style**

- Traditional quilt block construction, layered landscape, applique, graphic, collage, curved piecing, paper piecing, fiber art – so many options!

4. **Colors** – Colors to reflect the actual scene, structure, or creature, or to reflect your personal interpretation of the theme.

5. **Representation** – work can represent reality, or an abstraction inspired by your subject matter or a combination of both

6. **Finishing the project**

- Traditional binding, or a faced binding (*Note: A free download for Facing Finish Instructions by Jean Wells is available on the home page at <https://jeanwellsquilts.com> or other techniques for finishing the outer edges of quilts in her book 'Intuitive Color and Design -Updated 2nd Edition.'*)
- Stitch the edges of the piece together without a binding or facing.
- To display your art in a traditional frame, you might not need to finish the edges at all, although a simple zigzag does keep it from fraying.
- Add a sleeve to your piece (unless it is framed)

7. **Embellishments** - surface embellishments may be appropriate for your "message" depending on how and where it will be displayed.

**Finished pieces will be presented at the April 2026 Guild Meeting.** Research is in process to display our pieces at other venues. Please contact Christina Cote (cotechristina@gmail.com) or Sharon Stoneberger (dsstoneberger@gmail.com) if you have any questions.