



Loose Threads News

Volume 19, Issue 3

December 2013

1st Wednesday Agenda

Holiday Party!

Bring Challenge quilt, holiday gift, holiday mug, Secret Pal gift and appetite

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open -
refreshments & socializing

10:00 Workshop-
**No Sew Fabric
Ornament**

Bring 3" fabric squares, lots of flathead pins, thinble and ribbon.

President's Message

Hello to my Loose Threads Friends!

'Tis the Season _____ ...you can fill in the blanks. This is a busy time of year and our nerves often get frazzled. All of the shopping, cooking, eating, spending time with family and friends can be exhausting. Remember to take some time for yourself. Stop and enjoy the tastes, sights and sounds of the season. Above all relax and sew!!! I find it to be the best therapy.

Enjoy the Holiday brunch and your gift from the guild. I will not be there so take some pictures of the challenge quilts. I can't wait to see them.

Happy Holidays,

Rosemary Geisler

Need another gift idea? McCall's Quilting has a free download of a tiny Christmas tree quilt you can make up in one afternoon.

http://www.mccallsquilting.com/mccallsquilting/articles/Tiny_Tannenbaum_FREE_Adorable_Little_Christmas_Tree_Quilt_Pattern?fb_aggregation_id=288381481237582



Road Trip and Quilt Shop Review

Olde City Quilts

339 High Street

Burlington, NJ 08016

<http://www.oldecityquilts.com/index.htm>



This month's road trip headed off to New Jersey to visit the quilt shop Barbara Persing told us about during her recent talk at Loose Threads. We all met in King of Prussia, took the turnpike and arrived at our destination on the main street in Burlington ~40 minutes later. There was convenient parking behind the store and we entered from the rear into a huge, bright store filled with everything a quilter could possibly need! Absolutely every style of cotton fabric is represented; in addition they stock flannels, Minkie, laminates and loads of wool. All types of thread are sold, but they feature all weights and colors of Aurifil. The shop has perhaps the largest selection of books and patterns ever assembled under one roof. The staff was numerous, helpful and very friendly. We had an opportunity to meet the owner, Judy Engine, who must set the tone for the staff as she couldn't have been more gracious, escorting us on a tour of her shop. She also chatted with us extensively about the retreats they host in Burlington ...we're passing all that information on to Marylou!

The shop is actually comprised of three buildings with open access among each. The main sales area is in the largest; the center building has a Bernina sales area, Accuquilt supplies and Civil War reproduction fabric.

The second floor of the center building, accessible by stairs or elevator, houses a spacious classroom area with great natural light and long work tables equipped with Bernina chairs. Finally, the third building area is dedicated to 5(!) long-arm quilting machines. Barbara Persing was actually there the day we visited instructing on the long-arms. After completion of this class, a quilter can arrange to rent time on the long-arm machines. Though typically no rating is given with our quilt shop reviews, riding home we all agreed that Olde City Quilts would deserve five stars by any standard. Check it out!



Does that sample quilt look familiar?



On a tour with shop owner Judy Engine

Net Notes

The holidays are right around the corner and there is a lot going on, but here are a few web sites that can offer a respite from the holiday hurry. Looking for quilting ideas one evening, I stumbled across this site:

www.leahday.com

There are over 400 free motion designs with a brief video showing how each is done. On the left, select "The free motion quilting project". You'll then see "400+ Designs!" written blue near the top. Patterns are pictured and categorized as beginners to advanced.

And finally, our newsletter editor, publisher and chief bottle washer referred me to a delightful blog by fiber artist Carrie Payne in Anchorage, Alaska. This woman makes small, "girly wall hangings" that are really sweet. What a good gift idea for that special child in our life. She has directions and more photos in the pull down menu under tutorials: <http://www.believmagic.com>

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day.
Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
Have fun,
Linda Glass



Everyone loved the presentation given in November by Lisa O'Neill. In fact, she will return to give a workshop on her Sliver Quilts in April. Don't miss this one!

Upcoming Events

Annual Quilt Competition & Display

January 13---April 6, 2014

At the Village Gazebo, Peddler's Village, Lahaska, PA.

Handmade quilts compete for over \$1,500 in prizes in eight categories: Traditional, Applique, Creative, Amish, Quilted Clothing, Student, Kids Only, and "Potluck."

For more info visit:

www.peddlersvillage.com

Fabric Exchange

This year's exchange will be **polka dot** fabric cut in 6 ½ inch squares. **Fabric can have the color of the month in the dots or in the background color.**

The color for December is **RED**.

There are 11 members per team. Please place your squares in one zip lock bag marked with your name and Team letter A or B. Fabric can be given to Lil Evans or Toni Hughes

Team A

Wendy Cole
Judy Snook
Carolyn Thompson
Rosemary Geisler
Geri Dullis
Lind Garthe
Jane Russell
Clem DuPont
Melinda Novatnak
Kathie Travis
Cathy Nelson

Team B

Jo Quaglia
Donna Matthias
Judy Peters
Judy Quintus-Gorman
Betty Ann Dawson
Marylou Boryta
Linda Hamel
Gayle Hammond
Edy Martin
Silvia Homa
Lil Evans

Minutes - November Meeting

Rosemary Geisler called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Peters gave the treasurer's report. Expenses this month were for charity and the newsletter. Income came from one membership dues and the Business Meeting Raffle.

New Business:

- Needle Night will be at the home of Kristi Burtch on Friday Nov. 15th starting at 6 pm. Maps were distributed at today's meeting. Menu will be pizza, fruit salad and ice cream. Yum!!! Please email Kristi if you have any special dietary needs @ kburtch1719@comcast.net
- Jane Russell will be collecting socks at today's meeting and at the program meeting.

Meeting Date Changes: The following dates are changes from our normal meeting times.

- For January, the first Wednesday is a holiday. This means our Business meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday which is January 8th. The Program/Speaker meeting will be the following week (the third Wednesday) on January 15th. The fifth Wednesday is the Basting Meeting on January 29th.

Basting: Kathy Neiman has a quilt to be basted.

Retreats:

- The next Blue Lake Retreat is April 28th – May 2, 2014 and Sept 29 to Oct 2, 2014. Signup sheets will be at the next meeting. The new house is at a standstill so plans are to use the current facility.
- Marylou Boryta reported N. Mt. Retreat (June 19th-22nd) is now full.
- Marylou is looking into other possibilities for retreats. One is located in Bird-in-Hand.

Challenge: Silvia Homa encouraged everyone to complete their Challenge Quilts for the Holiday Brunch. In order to keep your identity "secret" please place your challenge in a brown paper bag – put your name in the bag or label your quilt so that it can be returned to you after the Brunch. There will be prizes!!!!

Library: Barbara Persings' book, StrataVarious Quilts is now available to checkout.

Speakers:

- Lisa O'Neill will be our speaker for November. Topic is Sliver Quilts. Lisa will bring some of her books to sell and offer some "How To" options.
- Margie Allen's embroidery friend will be demonstrating how to do make the embroidery tape measures in March. We will take home our kits to work on.
- Karen Kay Buckley is planned for May. If you are attending the workshop, bring in your best machine. Limit is 25 people.
- Bob DeCarli (Hill & Valley Log Cabin Quilts) from Penn Oaks Quilters will be our speaker for September or November 2014.

Tea Committee: Send in ideas for the tea discussions to Judy Snook, judyann112@verizon.net.

Discussion groups so far are:

- Quick and Easy Gifts (Kathie Travis)
- Quilt Fiction (Marylou Boryta)
- Altering Blocks (Carolyn Thompson)
- Quilting Adventures (Rosemary Geisler)
- English Paper Piecing (Wendy Cole)
- Wool (Clem Dupont)

Sunshine Committee:

Jean Sullivan talked with Kathy Neiman. Kathy really enjoyed attending last month's meeting. Kathy will receive another treatment on Nov. 5th. Jean sent around a card for Joanne Cantwell who recently had neck surgery.

Charity: Carole Cossa provided a synopsis of what we have on hand:

- 24 walker bags and several kits (these will be provided to the Veterans Center or local nursing homes, as needed).
- Condolence quilts: 4 Large, 9 Medium, 6 Small
- ICE Quilts: 3 Large, 3 Twin, 3 Lap

Minutes - November Meeting, continued

- Children's Quilts: 7 (these will go to St. Christopher's)

Jill made 25 walker bags and gave them to Gwendydd Mercy.

Shirley Horning was given 9 condolence quilts to distribute.

Let Carole Cossa know what you need and when you need it.

One set of ICE quilts will be given to the church for a needy family at Christmas.

Holiday Brunch: Sue Glaser provided an overview of the Holiday Brunch. Tables will be set with our beautiful table cloths. There will be door prizes. Secret Pals will be revealed. Bring in your Challenge Quilt and your holiday mugs for coffee/tea. If you are participating in the gift exchange please bring your wrapped gift (quilt related) with a card inside with your name on it. Plan on having LOTS of fun!!!

Hospitality: Gail Hammond needs four people to sign up for drinks/snacks through the end of February.

Block of the Month: Carolyn Thompson showed us samples that she and Linda Garthe made up. More info will be on the website. This month's block will incorporate the use of "Y"-seams. Send in pictures of your blocks to post on the website to Lenore Clarke (LenoreClarke@gmail.com).

Field Trips:

- A carpool trip to Olde City Quilts (recommended by Barbara Persing), in Burlington, N.J., is being planned for November 13th.
- A carpool trip to Winterthur is being planned for March. There will be a display of the Downtown Abbey costumes and a possible tour of the Winterthur quilt archive collection

Newsletter: A hard copy will be available at the meeting. Anyone wishing their own copy can make a black & white copy on the church printer for 5 cents a page. Linda Hamel said she received a few "My Sewing Space" write-ups and expects to get more. Linda is looking ahead to getting some biographies for "Our Guild Friends"; to get this feature started, she passed around a questionnaire to some of the newer members.

Secret Pal:

- The 2013 Reveal will occur at the Holiday Brunch!
- Signups for 2014 will requested at the next meeting. The theme will be "Simple Pleasures" – anything to brighten up someone's life. Margee will provide a questionnaire which will also ask for a list of allergies. Cost is \$10-\$15 each month.

Odds and Ends:

- Sue Glaser is looking for Steam-A-Seam II to finish a wool quilt. It is currently off the market as there are manufacturing issues with it.
- Bonnie Swartzentruber collects completed dog beds and the materials to make the dog beds. Dog beds are delivered to the Mainline Animal Shelter.

Business Meeting Raffle: Won by Betty Ann Dawson.

Name Tag Raffle: Won by Jean Sullivan.

Show & Tell was held with lots of beautiful inspiration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Jo Quaglia - Secretary

My Sewing Space

Kim Jacobs



“Entering my quilting room gets my creative juices flowing. It's peaceful and I feel relaxed and inspired when I'm in there.”

I am fortunate to have a dedicated room for my quilting. I don't have to share it or clean it up at the end of the day. Being able to leave projects out keeps the momentum going for me. I usually leave off with the next step set up ready to go. That makes starting up so much easier.

There are many things I love about my studio; size, lighting, flooring, cabinetry, built in table, design wall, big board, glass front fabric cabinet. Since it is located on the main floor makes it most convenient in daily running of the house. Two windows let in morning and afternoon light. Fluorescent overhead lighting and spot lighting for the design wall provides ample lighting. Last summer hard wood flooring was installed. It has an airier look, a more open feel and a breeze to stiffer up.

This room was originally designed and used as an architect office and has a solid built-in 7 foot wooden table in the middle. One wall was used as his design wall. But the hard homosot board was too hard to easily pushpins into, so I covered pink insulation board panels with gray flannel and screwed them into place. I had stock oak cabinetry installed along one wall including a tall end cabinet with pull out trays.

Nothing beats a comfortable office chair. I love my Bernina chair. It has many adjustments so I can get it just right depending on what I'm doing.

My Sewing Space

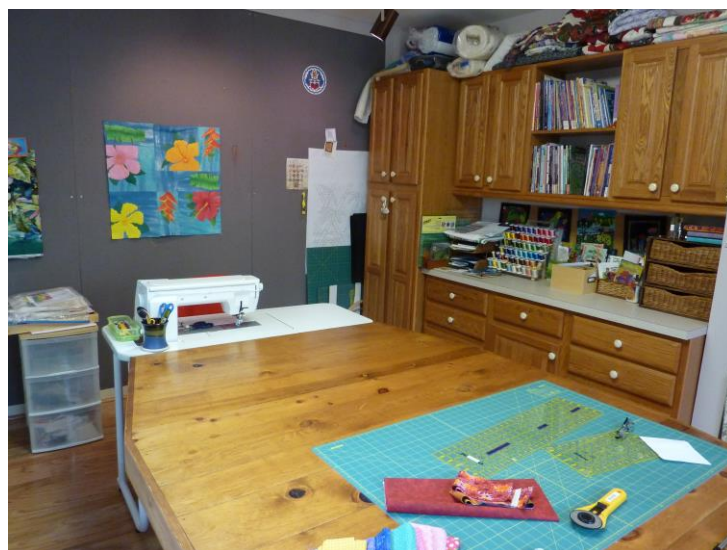
Kim Jacobs

As for sewing equipment, I have a Bernina 150, which I wouldn't trade for anything, and a Janome Horizon 8900. Both have tables with a flush insert top. One table folds up so I can take it on quilt retreats and I also retreat to the basement for a few months in the heat of summer. I have a complete second set up down there. You'd be surprised how useful a covered pool table can be to a quilter.

I love my big broad. It sits atop stacking drawers from target, which holds a ton of stuff. That space is well used. I make a new cover for the board every couple years to keep it looking fresh and clean.



A repurposed gun cabinet houses much of my fabric. I chalk painted it and had glass cut for shelving. Why, I don't remember, it's packed so tight with fabric no light shows through the shelves anyway.



I like to listen to audio books with ear buds while quilting, especially when free-motion quilting or basic piecing. It keeps me in my seat and I get much more accomplished that way. You will usually find my room neat and tidy. Keeping clutter at bay seems to reduce the clutter in my mind as well. I'm an organizer. I like to put project remains away when completed - sometimes just stuffed away, but out of sight none the less. I like to prepare projects for the future in 2.5 gallon zip bags with all the necessary ingredients and patterns. That way, when I finally get around to doing that particular project, it's ready to go. It may be years for that time roll around, and I would surely have forgotten the details if they weren't in the bag!



December Program

Judy and Silvia will be showing us how to make a fabric ornament... though perhaps not just a holiday decoration - Judy made one in peach that her mother hung all year around.

No Sew Christmas Ball Ornament

- 3" squares of fabric:
 - 8 of color A
 - 16 of color B
 - 16 of color C (although you could repeat color A)

Optional: Two additional squares of color A to put at the top and bottom of the ball before you begin - in case some of the ball shows)

- Pins! Pins! Pins! Applique pins, dressmaker pins, or any pin that is short and has a tiny flat head
- Ribbon to go around the ball and to make a loop
- Optional: a strip 2" x the diameter of the ball plus a little more to fold into a strip and cover the raw edges at the middle of the ball
- Thimble

Styrofoam or polystyrene balls will be provided by the guild.

I would like to thank all the ladies for their cards and kind words of encouragement. Your thoughtfulness cheered up some really long days.

Thank you very much,
Susan Glaser

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



8	Toni Hughes
10	Linda Garthe
10	Carolyn Thompson
14	Jean Atwood
18	Lenore Clarke
20	Bernie Hughes
25	Judy Quintas-Gorman

Hospitality

	<u>December 4</u>	<u>December 18</u>
Snack	Party!	Linda Garthe
Snack	Party!	Betty Ann Dawson
Fruit or Veggies	Party!	Marylou Boryta
Cold Drink	Party!	Debby O'Keefe



Officers & Contacts

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Loose Threads Quilt Guild

Meets at 9:30 AM on the
1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month,
with a special basting meeting on the 5th
Wednesday at:

First United Church of Christ
145 Chestnut St
Spring City, PA 19475
610 948-4516

Annual dues are \$15 per year and guests
are always welcome

Loose Threads Quilters

Newsletter available on our website

www.theloosethreadsquilters.org

Loose Threads News is a monthly newsletter
for the members of Loose Threads Quilt Guild,
please forward all materials for publication to

Linda Hamel at
theloosethreadsquilters@gmail.com



May you spend your Thanksgiving,
Hanukkah and Christmas surrounded by
those you love!

December BOM - Simplified Tumbling Blocks

Sewing skill-working with 60 degree angle

Block Size:

18" x 17" finished

Additional Needed Supplies:

- Ruler with 60 degree angle markings

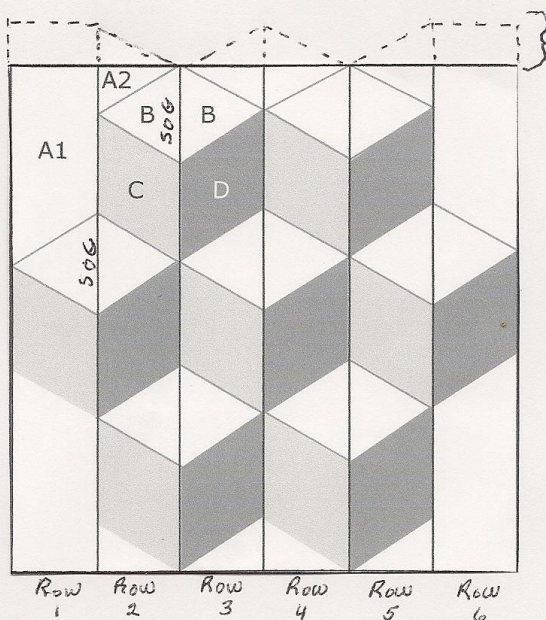
Fabric as outlined below: Based on 42" wide fabric

- Background (A1): ¼ yd
 - Cut one 3 ½" x 42" strip. Cut into four 3 ½" x 10 ½" pieces. With fabric right sides together, use the 60 degree angle marking on the ruler to cut the angle on each of the two 10 ½" pieces to make four A's. You will have 2 mirrored image pieces equaling the 4 strips (2 of each angle).
- Background (A2):
 - One 3 ¾" x 42" strip. Use the 60 degree angle marking on the ruler to cut eight triangles for A2's. These are equilateral triangles. **Important: Mark the edge that is on the straight of grain for block placement.** (I suggest you put a pencil mark inside the seam line so it marking will be hidden in the seam.)
- Light (B): 1/8 yd
 - Cut one 3 ¾" x 42" strip. Use the 60 degree angle marking on the ruler to cut **14 equilateral triangles. (Choose a fabric that blends well when seamed.) Again mark the straight of edge grain so you can identify that edge when constructing the block.**
- Medium (C): 1/8 yd
 - Cut one 3 ½" x 42" strip. Use the 60 degree angle marking on the ruler to cut **seven diamonds.**
- Dark (D): 1/8 yd
 - Cut one 3 ½" x 42" strip. Use the 60 degree angle marking on the ruler to cut **seven diamonds.**

1. Arrange all of the patches preferably onto a flannel board, referring to the diagram for help with the exact placement, being sure that when seaming 2 pieces of the same fabric that the straight grain edges meet. (Note A2 and B fabric on diagram-straight of grain edges to be placed toward the seamline edge.) **Also, be aware that the A2 blocks will be trimmed when squaring up the block after construction.**
2. Sew the patches together in vertical rows. **Press all seam allowances open.**
3. Join the vertical rows, matching seams at the intersections. **Press the seam allowances open.**
4. Trim and straighten the edges of the block to measure $18\frac{1}{2}" \times 17\frac{1}{2}"$.

Visual samples of cutting and construction will be given at the December 18th meeting so you may want to wait until then if you are not familiar with working with 60 degree angles.

* SOG =
straight of grain



This will be
trimmed off when
block is squared
to $18\frac{1}{2}" \times 17\frac{1}{2}"$
unfinished