



# Loose Threads News

Volume 27 Issue 4

December 2021

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Arrive with Challenge entries

10:00

### *Holiday Party*

Bring Challenge quilt, gift exchange, holiday mug, Secret Pal gift...and your holiday spirit.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

## 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Basting

## President's Message

It's December and time for the Holiday Party! It is a "celebration," something we were not able to do last year. The committee is working hard to plan a fun meeting within the confines of the pandemic. The party is on December 1<sup>st</sup> instead of our regular business meeting.

Some of the fun that we will be having at the party will be displaying the 2021 challenge which calls for including both a churn dash block and any animal, revealing of your secret pal and the annual gift exchange (cash limit of \$25). And did I mention food? The committee is working hard to provide "safe" party food.

Our regular business meeting will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have show and tell so bring in all of the wonderful items that you have made for the holidays.

With December being such a busy month, we should take some time for ourselves to relax and enjoy the season!

Happy Quilting,

*Rosemary*



At the November program meeting Marie Traxler and Pat Leiter led a session on card making. They are sitting by some of the varied, creative examples that members made that day.

# Minutes - November Meeting

**Call to Order:** The Monthly Business Meeting of the Loose Threads Quilt Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City on November 3, 2021 facilitated by President Rosemary Geisler. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM.

**Announcements:** Obie's is closing. Store is open only by appointment. Must call family member to make appointment. Donna announced that the church is collecting shoeboxes stuffed with children's stuff (like stickers and pencils) for a boy or girl. The deadline is November 21st and include \$9 for shipping.

**Old Business:** We are collecting donations for the church at the December business meeting which is the second meeting of December. If members have any guild belongings, please fill out an index card.

**Basting:** Next basting day is at the end of December.

**Block of the Month:** Diane and Silvia demonstrated this month's BOM. We are doing mini block quilts but blocks could be 6", 9", or 12" size. There will be a mix of blocks, some traditional and some quite different. This month is Jacobs Ladder alternate.

**Day Camp:** The Accucutter will be available - samples on back table. Today is the last day to sign up for day camp on Wednesday and Thursday. Twenty-seven people signed up so far.

**Evening Bee:** Next Wednesday meet at Giovanni's at 5:00 and then meeting at the church.

**Field Trips:** Planning a trip to Stitch Central in Huntingdon Valley in January, another trip to Wayne Art Museum and Escherick Wharton Museum at end of March and Maryland trip in April or May.

**Holiday Brunch:** Pat Leiter reports they are ready.

**Hospitality:** Gayle needs people to sign up.

**Library:** A book and ruler were donated by Cheryl Lynch.

**Membership:** We officially welcomed Sue Umstead as a new member.

**Newsletter:** Linda thanked members for their article donations.

**Programs:** Next meeting Pat Leiter and Marie Traxler are demonstrating card making. Bring paper scissors.

**Secret Pal:** Margie Allen encouraged everyone to participate. It starts in January 2022 and ends in December 2022 at the holiday meeting. Exchanges happen at the business meetings. Something new this year is planned for the holiday exchange. Christmas stockings will be used and each person involved should decorate their stocking. The stockings will be provided. Please fill out your form by December 1st.

**Sunshine:** Judy Shaffer is still out. Joanne Cantwell is having some troubles with steps.

**Tea:** Laurie Kelly's firming up the discussion groups. There was some discussion on refunds and decided if we cancel, then there is a refund. For the book sale, no magazines older than 2011, books no older than 2011. Only quilting books or novels.

**Treasurer:** Marylou reports we aren't doing bad.

**Website:** Diane reports we are up to date.

**Raffle Winners:** Prize provided by Bernie Hughes.

Business Meeting Raffle: Diane Hess  
Skye Dye Fabric Raffle: 1) Judy Peters 2) Lil Evans 3) Josie Sharp

The meeting concluded at 11:15 followed by Show 'n Tell

Respectfully submitted by:

*Winnie McCarraker* – Secretary

## Day Camp 2021

In November we renewed a favorite Loose Threads tradition – our long overdue Quilter’s Day Camp. It was an opportunity to visit with some ‘honorary’ Loose Threaders like Marylou’s sister Anne and Marie’s daughter Patti and see some members we hadn’t seen in ages like Linda Garthe and Stephanie Adrian. Betty Ann and Lil once again organized a delightful two-day retreat for 27 participants who chatted, laughed, ate and even managed to get a bit of sewing done. (Those desserts were yummy!)

A surprise highlight of the retreat was all that activity in the front classroom. The ‘Material Girls’ (Betty Ann, Lil, Loretta and Linda Glass) sorted, ironed, measured and priced BINS (!) of beautiful donated batik fabric for the Sewing Room sale. Day Campers were allowed shopping privileges and most couldn’t seem to stay away from the lure of bargain fabrics.

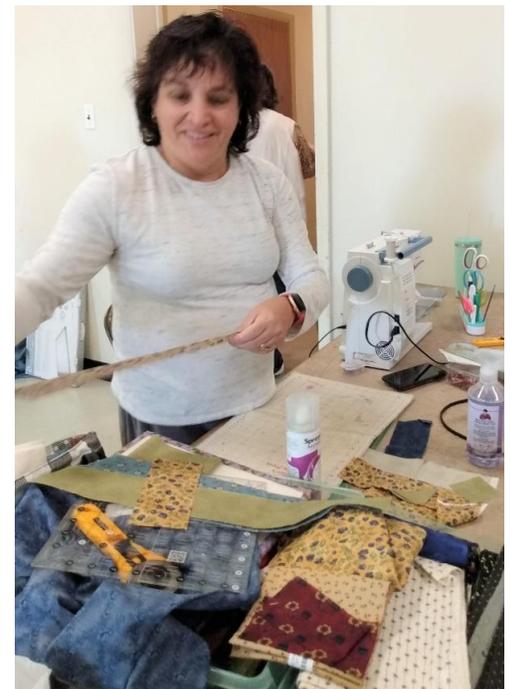
Plan ahead to be at the Spring Day Camp in April- dates to be announced soon.



Rosemary



Shopping at the batik sale: Betty Ann, Melinda, Linda Garthe, Linda Glass, Sue and Loretta



Silvia



Mary working on two sports themed quilts for her grandsons.



Marie, Clem and Patti



Winnie and Kiti who was working on a 'Happy Feet' quilt for her daughter



Marylou, Anne and Laurie



Pat was sewing placemats for Meals on Wheels

# Apple Cider Donut Cake

Linda Hamel

1 cup Apple Cider  
 3 cups Unbleached All-Purpose Flour, plus more for pan  
 1 ½ tsp Baking Powder  
 1 tsp Cinnamon  
 ½ tsp Baking Soda  
 ¾ tsp Kosher Salt  
 1½ cups Brown Sugar  
 ¾ cup Extra-Virgin Olive Oil  
 ¾ cup Unsweetened Applesauce  
 2 tsp Pure Vanilla Extract  
 3 Large Eggs, room temperature  
 2 T Unsalted Butter, melted, plus more for pan

## Cinnamon Sugar

⅓ C Sugar  
 1 tsp Cinnamon  
 ¼ tsp Nutmeg, freshly ground  
 Pinch of Salt



Serves 8

Preheat oven to 350. Butter and flour a 12-cup Bundt pan. Whisk together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda and salt in a large bowl until combined. In a separate large bowl, whisk together sugar, cider, oil, applesauce, vanilla and eggs. Add wet ingredients to the dry, whisking until combined. Add batter to prepared pan.

Bake for 45-50 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and transfer to wire rack. Let cool for 15 minutes. In a small bowl, mix together ingredients for cinnamon sugar. Turn out cake onto cooling rack. brush all over with melted butter, then sprinkle evenly with cinnamon sugar. Cool completely before slicing and serving. Cover and store cake for up to 2 days at room temperature.

It's Christmas Eve. It's the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more. For a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people that we always hoped we would be.

## Pickle Christmas Tree Ornament



The problem with this “German” tradition, however, is that Germans don’t know about it! In November 2016, [YouGov](#) polled over 2,000 Germans, and found 91 percent of them had never heard of the *Weihnachtsgurke*, or the Christmas Pickle, tradition. What’s more, German Christmas customs don’t line up with the pickle present timing. In Germany St. Nick comes on December 6th, and German children open gifts on Christmas Eve and not Christmas morning. So, if it’s not really a German tradition, where did it actually come from?

One version of the story calls it a southern U.S. tradition, stemming from the Civil War. The tale goes that a German-born Private of the Union Army, John C. Lower, was captured by the Confederate Army and sent to a prison camp in Andersonville, Georgia. Faring very poorly, he asked a guard for one final wish: a pickle. The guard agreed, and Private Lower got his pickle and bounced back to health—what a superfood! Attributing his good fortune to that pickle, he began the pickle ornament tradition with his family back in Pennsylvania, where it spread to Virginia and the South.

Another, more sordid, take on the origin of the tradition is rooted with Saint Nicholas, himself. Sometime after 280 AD, three boys sought food and shelter from a butcher, but instead of helping them, he chopped them up and put them in a pickling barrel (rude!). Seven years later, Saint Nicholas came strolling along, realized what had happened, and miraculously brought the boys back to life. This gruesome tale translates to the cutesy tradition of St. Nicholas having an extra present for whoever finds the hidden pickle ornament. Aw!

A final theory for this (possibly) Midwestern U.S. tradition is that an American salesman just made the whole thing up to offload a surplus of pickle ornaments. What makes this theory more interesting, is that, according to the *New York Times*, a representative from a famed glass ornament region of Germany only found out about the tradition in the 1990s, during a visit to Michigan. Sascha Müller brought the story back to the Lauscha glass center in eastern Germany, and they now make 50,000 pickle ornaments each year to handle the new demand of this not-so-German tradition.

*Merry Christmas*

Lil Evans

# Hawaiian Vacation

Mary Larkin



Byodo Temple



North Shore Beach

You are never too old to seek adventure and enjoy life. I was invited to join my two nieces on a trip to Oahu, Hawaii in September. It was a wonderful trip and we had gorgeous weather every day.

We spent 3 days in Waikiki. It surely seemed like paradise to us, lounging by the beach and sipping our favorite Hawaiian drinks. Marge and I went Parasailing and it was so much fun looking down on the beautiful water and land. During our time in Waikiki, we visited the sights of Honolulu, the USS Arizona Memorial, Big Mo and the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and of course shopping.

We then traveled to the North Shore. It was so beautiful seeing all the mountain greenery and checking out the many white sandy beaches.

On our six-day adventure at North Shore, we spent our time visiting Haleiwa, an artsy little village, the Polynesian Culture Center, learning about the Pacific Island nations and their village traditions. As the sun set, we enjoyed a Luau with music and dances from the different Polynesian cultures.

Onward, we went to see a replica of the Japanese Byodo Buddhist Temple, so serene and breathtaking. I even went swimming in the Waimea Falls water hole after taking in the Botanical Gardens. You could not leave that area without stopping at the Dole Plantation to enjoy a pineapple ice cream cone. Towards the end of our trip, we made use of the different beaches, reading and relaxing. There were many more spots that we visited, but time to end my story. I can definitely say that Marge, Debbie and I truly enjoyed this beautiful vacation.

## 2022 Tea Block



Look familiar? We have decided to use the same Tea block that was used for 2020. Members, please make one (or more) of these blocks which are due by the Tea in March of 2022.

You will need two fabrics - solid white or white on white and a solid or tone on tone cool color (blue, green or purple)

Cut: 8 2 ½" white squares  
 5 2 ½" cool color squares  
 4 2 ½" x 6 ½" cool color strips

1. Assemble nine patch using your 5 cool color 2 ½" squares and 4 white 2 ½" squares.
2. Sew a 2 ½" x 6 ½" strip to the left and right sides of the nine patch.
3. Sew a 2 ½" white square to both ends of the two remaining 6 ½" x 2 1/2" strips, then sew these pieces to the top and bottom of the nine patch to form the frame.

I ventured out with two friends to Obie's and survived without having a pile of fabric bury me! Three important things to share:

- You must call ahead for an appt. as it's not the same hours every day.
  - Park across the street, not next to the building! The lot is owned by the shop next door and the owner is rather nasty.
  - And most important- Cash or checks only! There's an atm machine in the Shady Maple lobby.
- The sale has been going on for weeks but you'd never know it. Prices average \$6 a yard, some more, some less. There's no cutting from the bolts but you can find some remnants if you're willing to dig around a little.

Debby O'Keefe



Our Holiday Party is December 1<sup>st</sup>! Come dressed in festive attire and be ready for challenge quilts, Secret Pal reveals, refreshments, gift exchange (optional), and the beginning of a month of holiday cheer! Bring along your favorite holiday mug to add the festive table settings.

# Church Gift

The guild is having an optional collection of (mostly paper) products as a gift to the church as a token of our appreciation for providing our wonderful meeting place. Please bring any donations to the church on our December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The church can put the following items to good use:**

- Gift cards to Staples
- Reams of copy paper - regular, and especially legal-size (for the folded church bulletins.)
- Paper towels - bi-folded for dispensers, or rolls
- Toilet paper
- Tissues
- Stamps
- Envelopes - business or letter size, and 9 x 12
- Scotch tape
- Napkins
- Paper plates
- Trash bags - 44-45 gallon or 30 gallon

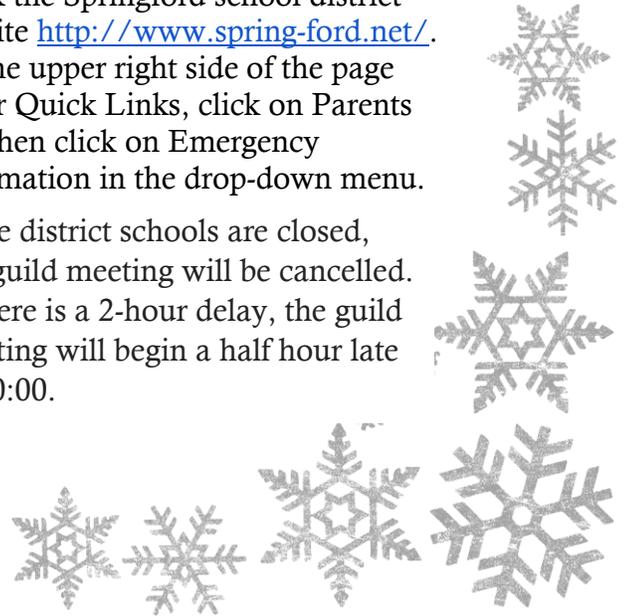


Linda Hamel spent Thanksgiving near Albany, NY and was able to get together with Loose Threads members Pat Philion, now living in Schenectady and Sandy Michalec from Olympia, WA, who was visiting her sister in Troy, NY.

## What if it snows?

Wondering if a guild meeting will be held if it's looking pretty white out there? In the event of winter storms, check the Springford school district website <http://www.spring-ford.net/>. On the upper right side of the page under Quick Links, click on Parents and then click on Emergency Information in the drop-down menu.

If the district schools are closed, the guild meeting will be cancelled. If there is a 2-hour delay, the guild meeting will begin a half hour late at 10:00.



## December Birthdays

- 8 Toni Hughes
- 10 Linda Garthe
- 10 Carolyn Thompson
- 18 Lenore Clarke
- 20 Bernie Hughes
- 24 Mary Larkin
- 25 Judy Quintas-Gorman



# Colorado Quilt Shop

# Laurie Kelly

Laurie and Todd recently were able to visit with their son, Brett, who lives in Boulder, CO. The time was short but Laurie managed to squeeze in a visit to the shop where Brett has purchased gifts for his mom.

**Elfriede's Fine Fabrics** is a small store in Boulder, Co with nice selection of fabrics. The owner and her employees are all very friendly. I was here 3 years ago but never had a chance to write about the store. The owner has been really nice to Brett when he went in to buy fabric for me for Christmas two years ago. She gave him an extra 1/2 yd of fabric after he told her it was for his mother's gift and how much I had liked the store when I had been there. They carry a large selection of batik fabrics, some aboriginal fabrics, Kaffe Fassett fabrics, Tula Pink, silk, as well as a number of other fabrics for garment making. They have a nice selection of larger buttons to accentuate your quilt or garments, as well as a number of notions, but I did not have time to really check those out. If you are ever in Boulder, CO, I highly recommend checking out this store! The address is 2425 Canyon Blvd. Ste A, Boulder, CO 80302. Their website is [www.elfriedesfinefabrics.com](http://www.elfriedesfinefabrics.com).



Buttons!



## BOM December 2021 Mini Quilt-A-Thon



### Unfinished Block 16 ½ sq with borders 20X20

Cut: From Dark (1) 4 ½ X 4 ½ sq and (12) 2 ½ X 2 ½ sq      tulip block unfinished is 6 ½ sq  
 From Medium (8) 2 ½ X 4 ½ rectangles      chevron block unfinished 4 ½ X 6 ½  
 From Light background (28) 2 ½ X 2 ½ sq and (4) 2 ½ X 4 ½ rectangles  
 From patterned fabric (8) 6 ½ X 2 ½ rectangles and border (4) 16 ½ X 2 ½

### Unfinished block Size 12 ½ sq with borders 15X15

Cut: From Dark (1) 3 ½ X 3 ½ sq and (12) 2X2 sq      tulip block unfinished 5X5  
 From medium (8) 3 ½ X 2 rectangles      chevron block unfinished 5X 3 ½  
 From light background (28) 2X2 sq and (4) 3 ½ X 2 rectangles  
 From patterned fabric (8) 5 X 2 rectangles and border (4) 12 ½ X 2

### Unfinished block 8 ½ sq with borders 10X10

Cut: From dark (1) 2 ½ X 2 ½ sq and (12) 1 ½ X 1 ½ sq      tulip block unfinished 3 ½ sq  
 From medium (8) 2 ½ X 1 ½ rectangles      chevron block unfinished 3 ½ X 2 ½  
 From light background (28) 1 ½ X 1 ½ sq and (4) 2 ½ X 1 ½ rectangles  
 From patterned fabric (8) 3 ½ X 1 ½ rectangles and border (4) 8 ½ X 1 ½

Refer to the picture above for block placement

Sew light background square on the diagonal of the (8) medium rectangles and the (8) patterned fabric rectangles

Any Questions contact Diane or Silvia

# November Show & Tell



Takako Pike and Nancy Miller each made charity quilts from the leftover orphan blocks from the Sewing Room sale at our Quilt Affair.



Melinda Novatnak finished graduation quilts for her twin granddaughters; this one in green and gold and the other in navy and white.



The entire center portion of this quilt made by Clem Dupont is hand appliqued.

## Officers & Contacts

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## Loose Threads Quilt Guild

Meets at 9:30 AM on the  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month,  
with a special basting meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday at:  
First United Church of Christ  
145 Chestnut St  
Spring City, PA 19475  
610 948-4516

Annual dues are \$20 per year and guests  
are always welcome

Loose Threads News is a monthly  
newsletter for the members of Loose  
Threads Quilt Guild  
and is available on our website  
[www.theloosethreadsquilters.org](http://www.theloosethreadsquilters.org)



The farewell quilt for Lenore Clarke has been completed. Designed and organized by Debbie O'Keefe, it reflects Lenore's interest in books and the many days she enjoyed volunteering at the library. It was beautifully quilted by Takako Pike and completed by our official binding sewer Marylou Boryta.