



# Loose Threads News

Volume 26 Issue 5

February 2021

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

9:30 Doors open - socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

Show and Tell

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

9:30 Doors open - socializing

10:00 UFO Challenge

## President's Message

Lately, I've been thinking about masks. Don't ask me why, I can't tell you for sure. It might have something to do with signs everywhere telling us to wear them or the fact that many of our members are making them or now we have a federal mandate to wear them. It really doesn't matter. After a while, my rational brain turns to the silly side and I started to think of the great reasons to wear a mask, not spreading germs aside. So, in no particular order, here are some of the reasons to wear a mask:

- You can walk into a bank with one on and no one bats an eye
- You can stick your tongue out at someone and they don't even know
- You can eat at work and the boss can't yell 'cause they can't see
- Masks keep your face warm in this frigid weather
- You can ignore people and say that you didn't recognize them with the mask on
- Nobody can pinch your cheeks 'cause they can't get to them

See what I mean, silly! Feel free to add your own silliness to the list.

In the meantime, stay healthy, stay safe and keep on quilting! Hope to see you at a Guild meeting in the near future.

*Betty Ann*



### REMINDER

In remembrance of our long-term member Barb Kuterbach, please make a small wall hanging using Barb's favorite color – **purple**. Use whatever technique you'd like - the only requirement is the predominant color should be purple. Don't worry about size – anything roughly 12 to 20 inches will do.

No need to add a sleeve to the back. We plan to use Command strips for hanging. We are going to donate these quilts to Manatawny Manor where Barb was a resident.

Due in March

## December Minutes

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Loose Threads Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City, PA on December 2, 2020 facilitated by President Betty Ann Dawson. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

**Old Business:** Holiday Brunch will be moved to July 2021, with the possibility of having it outside or at least with open windows. More info to come when meetings can commence again.

**New Business:**

Two calls were made to Betty Ann for #1 - a volunteer to finish a hand quilted quilt from a loved one, that has passed. (Kiti volunteered) and #2 - for anyone that can make 5 throw pillows, from a loved one's flannel shirts, to be done, of course, before Christmas. Some concern was expressed about those guild members that we don't see.

**Block of the Month:** New and old pincushions were shown by Silvia and Diane. Diane has 2 mini loaf pans to give away.

**Charity (Service) Projects:** Nancy was calling around to see if anyone will take quilts and found a renal service in Pottstown who would take any quilts we have. They can give them to their dialysis patients, who are often reclining and cold during their treatment.

**Field Trips:** Possible virtual quilt show in Houston come spring. Look online and newsletter for more info.

**Historian:** Kathy Parker brought in books from Shutterfly. If you have any pictures or coupons that you are not using for Shutterfly, please give them to Kathy.

**Membership:** Current list is in the Dec newsletter. if there are any mistakes, let Marylou know. We have 46 Active members, 18 associates and no one on the waitlist.

**Nominating Committee:** Linda sent out a blast, to ask opinion from members if there any objections of holding off on looking for new officers until Spring or to keep the ones we have for another year.

**Secret Pal:** Margie is looking for more people to join. Secret Pal will start in Jan 2021. There are only a few that joined, so you may have the same person again.

**Sunshine:** Wishes to Lil for a speedy recovery from surgery. Carolyn Thompson thanks everyone for the cards and well wishes about her husband.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Silvia Homa* – Secretary



Kathie Travis was a part of the Loose Threads guild for over 20 years, introduced to us by her friend Edy Martin. Her background was in Mechanical Design and she spent her working life as a draftsman. She frequently used this background in designing her quilts. She enjoyed many crafts, collecting, traveling throughout the country and her family – her husband whom she lost in 2010, a sister and two sons.

Kathie Travis lost her ten-year battle with cancer in January. She will be remembered for her enthusiasm for quilting and tackling difficult projects with her engineering approach.

# January Minutes

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Loose Threads Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City, PA on January 6, 2020 facilitated by President Betty Ann Dawson. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

**Old Business:** The 'holiday' gathering is planned for July. The guild challenges, Winter and Silk Purse, Sow's Ear, will be revealed then.

Purple Challenge, in memory of Barb Kuterbach, is due in March. Make a small (12 – 16" or so) wall quilt that is predominantly purple. They will be donated to a local nursing facility to brighten their hallways. If members have small pieces of purple fabric, bring to next meetings for those who don't have purple in their stash.

**Block of the Month:** The 'holiday' gathering is planned for July. The guild challenges, Winter and Silk Purse, Sow's Ear, will be revealed then.

**Charity (Service) Projects:** Nancy has distributed all charity quilts she had on hand. There is a kidney dialysis center in Pottstown who will take our quilt donations. The quilts for them should be lap size but extra-long to cover reclining patients.

**Membership:** We have 46 Active members, 18 associates and no one on the wait list. If anyone needs a new membership card, let Marylou know.

**Programs:** January program will be on Origami led by Takako Pike. Don't need to bring anything, just glue, if you'd like. Looking for ideas for future programs, contact Josie Sharp.

**Newsletter:** Send Linda items for the newsletter such as photos of projects, recipes, blogs you like or what you been up to since we've last seen you.

**Secret Pal:** Should have been assigned your new secret pal. Any problems, contact Margie Allen.

**Speakers:** First outside speaker is scheduled for June. Laurie Kelly will contact 2021 speakers in Feb – Mar time frame to see what their plans are

and if rescheduling is necessary. Possibility that the June speaker could be outside on the church grounds.

**Sunshine:** Kathy Travis is having additional health issues and could use some sunshine. Jean Sullivan thanked everyone for their support during this difficult time since her husband's passing.

**Tea:** Laurie Kelly will check with the church for a possible date in May or early June. Will send FYI note to our Tea guests on our possible plans for a Tea this year.

**Nametag Raffle Winner:** Kiti Williams.

The Meeting concluded at 10:50, followed by a short Show and Tell period.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Hamel for:

*Silvia Homa* – Secretary

Oh, the weather outside is frightful  
But my fabric is so delightful  
And since I've got no place to go  
Let me sew, let me sew, let me sew.

I don't see signs of stopping  
And my ideas are really popping  
Unless my stash gets down low  
Let me sew, let me sew, let me sew.

When I finally get set at night  
And my blocks are cut out right  
I won't have to go out in the storm  
So, I'm making a quilt that's warm.

The fire is slowly dying  
And I'm not out a buying  
But as long as I love to sew  
Let me sew, let me sew, let me sew!



## February Pincushion

I recently made this pin cushion for my new Juki 2010Q and now I can't work unless this is wrapped around my machine. Don't you just love the thread spools fabric I used? It's from the *Cute as a Button* fabric line by Delphine Cubitt. NOTE: This pattern can be customized to fit any sewing machine by adjusting the length of the end straps.

Monica Curry Quilt Designs

[Monica Curry Quilt Designs: Three DIY Pin Cushion Ideas with Tutorials and Free pattern \(cutstitchandpiece.blogspot.com\)](http://cutstitchandpiece.blogspot.com)



### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- [2] 4" x 24" strips of fabric of your choice.
- [2] 1" pieces of hook and loop tape (Velcro®).
- Toy stuffing or leftover quilt batting.
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The complete instructions were sent as a PDF file along with this February issue of the newsletter.

## Places to Donate Fabric

Taken from the website: *Diary of a Smart Quilter* by Amy Smart

January always puts me in the mood to organize and purge. If you're cleaning out your fabric stash as part of a sewing-room reorganization for the new year and looking for a good place to send excess fabric, I've got help for you. Or for anyone who wants to give fabric to a good cause, I've created an updated list of places to donate fabric. There are some great causes that can always use fabric donations.

**Important:** Before you send off fabric willy-nilly, I do recommend contacting the organization directly before you donate to understand their specific needs and only send fabric they can put to good use.

**The Forget Me Not Project** is doing good at home and abroad. Renee teaches women in her local prison in Mississippi how to sew and these women make items to be sent to children in Uganda. You can contact Renee at [forgetmenotprojectusa@gmail.com](mailto:forgetmenotprojectusa@gmail.com) for more information.

**One Common Thread quilts** employs women in Honduras who handmake hexagon quilts to support their families and bring them out of poverty.

**19 Quilts for Natalie** is an organization that provides quilts for cancer patients and grieving parents dealing with the loss of a child.

**Annie's Star Quilt Guild in Chico, California** is collecting fabric and sewing donations for those who lost everything in the recent Camp Fire in Northern California.

**Sew Blessed Kentuckian** makes clothing to donate to children in third world countries.

**Serving with Smiles** is a Humanitarian organization in Utah that empowers kids to help serve. They can always use fabric and batting donations for blankets, bags, and quilts.

This is just a portion of the information available on Amy's web site. Check out:

<https://www.diaryofaquilter.com/2021/01/places-to-donate-fabric.html>

Debby O'Keefe

## February Birthdays

- 1 Joanne Gardner
- 3 Pat Leiter
- 4 Virginia Gates
- 8 Eileen Frankil
- 13 Sally Ater
- 15 Kathy Parker
- 20 Judy Magner



*Without craftsmanship,  
inspiration is a mere reed  
shaken in the wind.  
Johannes Brahms*

## New Quilt Shop in Phoenixville

Seamless Sewing Arts is located at 313 Bridge Street in Phoenixville. It opened in October 2020. The focus of the shop is contemporary fabrics with a modern flair. The owner, Denise Martin, believes that people need creative outlets and wanted to provide supplies, inspiration, and support life-long learning.

The shop offers classes in sewing, quilting, color & design, and individual use of the Handi-Quilter Avanti 8-foot long-arm (after training), as well as long arm quilting services.

Parking is available on the street, as well as in parking lot 5 (free before 5 p.m.), or metered in parking lot 4. It is on the same side of the street as the Colonial Theater.

Denise and her husband lived in California for 40 years working and raising their family. Denise was an art teacher in high school, and also was a fund-raiser for a non-profit. Her grandmother was a seamstress, and Denise used to make her own clothes. She learned to quilt from her mother-in-law about 25 years ago. After retirement they moved to the East Coast to be closer to family. They decided on this area due to the rich history of the country and access to major airports. Their son attended Parson's School of Design and works as a stylist for the Council of Fashion Design. Their daughter has recently been bitten by the sewing bug and is now making tote bags, doing cross-stitch, and teaching in a school.

I've shopped in the store twice since it has opened and found Denise very helpful. The colors are bright and cheerful, lots of Moda solids. Check out their web site [www.seamlesssewingarts.com](http://www.seamlesssewingarts.com) Tell her Lenore sent you.

Lenore Clarke



Denise

### Call for Sample Makers

Do you love to piece quilt tops but have run out of friends and family to quilt for? I would love to engage your talents to sew quilt tops for display in the store.

Running the shop takes all the time (and more!) that I have. Although I love to quilt, I simply don't have the time to piece enough tops to promote our new lines of fabric.

Please contact me if you are an experienced quilter who would like to help out. I will select the pattern and fabric. Turnaround needs to be a maximum of two weeks. And I will be happy to pay you in store credit. Contact me by phone or email.

Thanks, Denise

Phone: (484) 920-8971

Email: [Denise@SeamlessSewingArts.com](mailto:Denise@SeamlessSewingArts.com)



## Member Show and Tell



Jane Russell's daughter just moved into a new home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jane made her two pillows in 'desert' colors using four different knitting designs.



Sandy Michalec made a quilt using the Disappearing Churn Dash pattern and then made another colorful quilt using all the scraps from the first!



Before the quilting bug bit, Linda Hamel made porcelain dolls. Similar to the fate of many quilting projects, there were UFOs here also— undressed dolls awaiting their proper attire. Two recently completed 10" dolls.

## February Program - UFO Challenge

**UFO Definition:** **Quilting UFOs** are not objects flying in the sky -- unless we toss them into the trash because they're so ugly. When **quilters** talk about a **UFO**, they are referring to an unfinished object, the partially sewn **quilts** and **quilt** blocks we all seem to accumulate but never finish.

Have any UFOs? Here is an opportunity to tackle that stash that is staring at you! Whether you attend our meeting in person or not, we welcome you to participate in this fun activity.

**If you plan to attend our February meeting**, please bring at least one UFO that you plan to finish by our meeting on Wednesday, March 17. You may describe pertinent details about your project. We will list all the projects and compare the results at the March 17 meeting.

**If you are unable to attend our February meeting**, please participate. Decide on your UFO/s, send an email with a description and/or photo to Josie Sharp by Wednesday, February 17. Follow-up with an email to Josie Sharp with photo of the completed item and any details you would like to include by Tuesday, March 16. [Josie.sharp@sharperoutlook.com](mailto:Josie.sharp@sharperoutlook.com)

Results from both in-person and email submissions will be in our April Loose Threads newsletter.

Let's get busy and finish at least one UFO! It will be fun and create a feeling of accomplishment.

If you have any questions, please contact Josie Sharp at the above email address.

Josie Sharp

Just to get you ready to join in to the UFO program, here are 6 helpful steps to finishing your quilt UFOs from [NewQuilters.com](http://NewQuilters.com):

1. The first essential in finishing your UFOs is feeling a genuine urgency to get them done. Be honest with yourself about this. Maybe designing, piecing, or appliqué are the things you really love about quilting. Maybe, deep down inside, the basting, quilting, and binding don't interest you all that much. If that's the case, it might make more sense to find someone else who really loves finishing quilts.
2. Set manageable goals: Choose 1 or 2 projects to finish first. You'll reduce your pile of UFOs much faster if you break down the project of finishing them into a series of achievable goals. Don't try to confront the whole mountain at once; that's a recipe for discouragement.
3. Work 15 minutes at a time. Give yourself permission to take baby steps towards getting your quilt done. Even 15 minutes a day will get you there much faster than standing still!
4. Say NO to new projects. Commit yourself to finishing at least one UFO before you start any new quilting projects. If you're a hopeless project starter and find that goal too ambitious, you can set a goal of finishing one UFO from your pile for each new project you start.
5. Get support from other quilters. Here's where the February program can help!
6. Celebrate every quilt you complete!



## January Program



Laurie showing Josie how to fit those sides together.

Our capable instructor, Takako Pike, had us immersed into the world of origami at our January meeting. We started off our session on a large scale, with a newspaper page, and each of us wound up with a 'warrior's' hat. (Note the fun fashion show below!) Then, it was on to using colorful origami paper. We were all successful, after a certain amount of remedial help, in making a cube and a triangle. Great fun.



Diane and Gayle working on the cube.



## Officers & Contacts

### **PRESIDENT**

Betty Ann Dawson wildberryfarm@dejazzd.com

### **VICE PRESIDENT /MEMBERSHIP**

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### **TREASURER**

Diane Hess diane.hess@outlook.com

### **SECRETARY**

Silvia Homa Silvia.homa@gmail.com

### **PROGRAMS**

Josie Sharp Josie.Sharp@sharperoutlook.com

### **SPEAKERS**

Laurie Kelly family5kelly@comcast.net

### **WEBSITE**

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### **NEWSLETTER**

Linda Hamel dhamel476@gmail.com

## 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)

