



# Loose Threads News

Volume 26 Issue 2

November 2020

## 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 Betty Ann  
Dawson - Feedsacks

## President's Message

Another month has flown by and here we are in November! Before you know it we'll be talking about the Holidays. I hope that everyone is working on or completing their Challenge Project/s and their block-of-the-month wall hanging. Our Holiday Brunch may be taking on a whole new look this year but we still want to display everyone's handiwork for all to enjoy.

To those of you that have not felt comfortable attending meetings, we have missed you. We look forward to the time when Covid-19 is not an issue and we can see you again. But, rest assured that we are, to the best of our abilities, following the guidelines set forth. We wear our masks, keep a safe distance between us, use the hand-sanitizer at the doors and/or wash our hands often. We are only one of the two groups of people that are currently using the Church (the other is the five Rotary members that meet upstairs). We are trying to be safe and to keep everyone healthy.

In the meantime, enjoy this Newsletter and all the fun articles and pictures in it! Have a safe and happy November and Thanksgiving!

*Betty Ann*

### Memory Lane:

Challenge participants  
from 2012 Holiday  
Brunch. Do you recognize  
everyone?

Don't forget - our next  
challenge due in a month!



# Minutes – October Meeting

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

**Old Business:** Day camp is cancelled at this time. Refunds will be coming.

**New Business:** Thank you to all that came last week to baste the quilt.

**BOM:** Dianne and Silvia will be presenting BOM as Pincushion of Month. Using your scraps and fun objects around the house, you can make some to gift for the holidays and the tea in March.

**Charity Projects:** All but 6 children's quilts were donated to Shannondell. The exchange of 9 adult quilts and 18 walker bags took place in the parking lot.

**Holiday Brunch:** Info will be in the next newsletter. Safety and distance will be maintained. Have your BOM and holiday challenge ready to go.

**Membership:** Marylou reports that there are some openings for membership.

**Newsletter:** Linda, as always appreciates all the info that is sent to her for the newsletter.

**Secret Pal:** Margie will get the forms out to participate for next year.

**Speakers:** May, June and Oct 2021 will be scheduled for speakers that were originally scheduled to come this year.

**Tea:** Discussion about the possibilities of how this years' tea could look. Maybe scheduling the Tea a different month may solve some answers. Decisions will be made by the next meeting.

**Treasurer:** Diane Hess reported this month's expenses and deposits.

**Website:** Will be updated with the Pin cushion of the month.

The meeting concluded at 11:00am, followed by a robust "Show 'n Tell" period

Respectfully submitted by:

*Silvia Homa* – Secretary



Judy Snook, with Rosemary Geisler, participated in a Sew Along led by her daughter, Sharon. They made *The Perfect Pineapple*, a free pattern from Kimberly Einmo.

## Getting to Know You

## Susan Koederitz

Several membership slots opened up in our new Guild year and we are most happy to welcome Susan Koederitz as an “official” member of Loose Threads. Susan has patiently been attending meetings and contributing to activities for nearly two years since being introduced to us as she followed up on a suggestion from one of her fellow 4-H volunteers.

Born and raised in Central New Jersey, Susan married Kent (35 years now!) and moved to Texas for a year, then on to Tennessee where they welcomed three boys (two of the boys are married and they’re eagerly awaiting their first grandchild soon... a girl). They’ve now been in Pennsylvania for 20 years and enjoy it so much.

Since her mother did a lot of sewing at home, Susan dabbled in sewing also, making some clothes on the family Singer Centennial machine which she still owns. Singer was a big name in their area and many family members had worked for Singer in New Jersey so she has a fondness for this particular model though she much enjoys her newer machine now too and also loves machine embroidery.

Susan has turned out many projects over time, from making christening outfits to helping her son with an Eagle Scout project. She loves to improvise and see where it takes her. She started quilting with “Quilt-in-a-Day” in the ‘80’s, loves to use bright colors, and brings a creative twist to much of her sewing.

Along with her Quilter Pen Pal in California, Susan had scheduled a wonderful Quilting Retreat in Montana through the Pine Needle Quilt Shop this year but alas, Covid-19 got in the way and it was cancelled, along with their plans to do some sightseeing in the area. Hopefully it will be rescheduled and they can still mingle with interesting quilters and share ideas someday soon. She is currently taking part in a “Zoom” class with Pam Raby and has learned a lot from the many on-line quilting teachers.



Enjoying travel, she visits their sons in Connecticut and Virginia and loves exploring those areas as well as a favorite local attraction... Longwood Gardens, which her family loves so much. Susan keeps very busy but also finds time for a part-time job and is an adventurous home cook! She’s very pleased that she followed up on a tip to search out Loose Threads and finds the members so very friendly and welcoming and the programs most interesting. Last year she encouraged her friend Josie Sharp to come along to one of our speaker sessions and... as a result, we’ve gained TWO new most interesting friends. Welcome, Susan!

Joanne Cantwell



## New Quilt Shop



Seamless Sewing Arts Ltd.  
313 Bridge St, Phoenixville  
323-447-2428  
Owner, Denise Martin  
[SeamlessSewingArts.com](http://SeamlessSewingArts.com)

I went to the Grand Opening of a new local quilt shop. Woo-hoo!!! With so many shops shutting their doors lately, it's so nice to report on the opposite. And this shop will be a great addition in our endless search for the perfect fabrics for our quilting projects.

It is located right on the main drag in Phoenixville, just a couple blocks down from

the movie theatre. Lovely appearance, both outside and inside – bright and cheery. The friendly staff commented that fabric is still coming in and soon the shelves will be overflowing. The focus is on contemporary fabrics and patterns – Tula Pink, Kaffe Fassett, Ted Holtz, with many lines from Free Spirit.

They will offer a variety of classes, and if you need some Christmas gifts, some Holiday Pillow Workshops titled Snowfolks or Triangle Trees, are scheduled. Full information for all classes and registration is available online.

I managed (such a surprise) to find some very unusual fabrics I plan to use as backings for quilts that are, as yet, not even planned. Couldn't pass it up...who knows if you'll ever see it again. And a lovely bonus for me, I won the Saturday raffle basket loaded with fabric, patterns and notions. Another Woo-hoo!!!

Linda Hamel



## More Stories of Frederick and George

Hope everyone is doing well and managing our new normal.

I found out that one great quality of cats is that they can be left overnight and be just fine. In fact, I believe Frederick and George preferred to be at home alone, quiet and without supervision. When we returned, George had only toppled over the treat bag and successfully opened it. I don't believe Big George shared anything with his brother. At least that is what Frederick stated! But they seemed to have survived just fine.

We were not sure we were going to be able to leave them alone overnight when we had to take George for his second visit to the Vet. George has developed a bad habit of peeing in one particular heater vent in my living room. This is the one room that Shadow (dog) tried to keep to herself. I thought George was marking his territory due to spite, but the Vet told us cats suffer through separations like divorces, and especially when custody of the cat's "kids" are in a shared custody arrangement. They struggle to understand why their kids are there for a week, then missing for a week, even though they can clearly still smell them. Then the kids return, and the stressful confusion continues. The Vet told us that they actually have cats on anti-depressants for this – it causes cats to keep increasing their territory and when lines are blurred, urine is used. This may be fascinating to some but all I know is I have a house vent that reeks when the air conditioner kicks in, and despite clean kitty litter at all times, I can't change George's behavior.

Then I saw a tinge of blood and knew another visit was necessary. The vet ordered labs. Blood work was ok, but urine tests showed crystals, possible UTI and lots of blood. The Doctor explained he needed a round of antibiotics and if that didn't help, we have more to explore. Ok...I know how to give meds to a dog, but a cat? With those sharp teeth and razor like claws? Doctor informed me that cats are extremely difficult to get meds into...would need 2 weeks of daily meds, and did I want them in liquid form so it's easier to squirt in their mouth? Now I am visualizing hand feeding velociraptors! And for 10 days? That's Labor Day. I barely know how to keep cats in the house, I don't see how I can take cats camping so I can medicate, let alone, what if George says no to this experience? How much does an injection cost? The Vet said \$3 more. \$3? SIGN ME UP. So, I took George back over to the Vet (this time in a proper cat carrier for him) and they gave him one shot-that would last 10 days.

That was much better, especially since I just found out that my brother and his wife were bringing their pet pig camping again. Scrappy weighs over a hundred pounds. He wears a harness for his walks-do cats wear harnesses? Do cats walk on a leash? Thank goodness we could leave the cats at home (friends checked on them) and bestie Winnie took my precious Shadow home for Labor Day weekend so she would not have to worry about pigs, bear, deer, poisonous frogs, caterpillars and four wheelers. Shadow had a wonderful time, Frederick and George loved their independence and Stuart and I had leg cramps for four days from the uneven ground! It was bittersweet weekend as my family gathered for our annual tradition, but for the first time without my sister-in-law who passed away suddenly. It was important to be with family, masks and all to hug and support one another. It was important to learn cats have a positive side, and thankful for all the parts of my world that make it so special to me.

Continued on page 6

We had to return to online school after Labor Day. We set up our granddaughter Olivia as best we could, and as you can see in the picture-her protective cats were there for her first day back to school!

Judy McCourry



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

18 Jeanne Nalbandian  
28 Bonnie Strickland



© wondercliparts.com

Staple an index card to the inside of your sewing machine user's manual to record when your machine has been cleaned and oiled. You'll no longer have to guess how long it's been between cleanings. This is especially helpful if you have more than one machine.



## Guild Challenge

**It's not too late!**



It's almost time for the 2020 challenge reveal! A few reminders:

- There are 2 possible themes. The original is **Winter**. The 2020 addition is **Silk Purse, Sow's Ear\*\***.
- maximum circumference is 120"
- bring your finished entry in an unmarked bag to the December party **OR** send a photo to Linda Hamel (by text or email) which will be hung, and judged, with the other entries.

Quilts will be displayed, then we will vote on favorites. Three lucky winners will take home cash prizes!

**\*\***To produce something refined, admirable, or valuable from something which is unrefined, unpleasant, or of little or no value. 1884, Charlotte M. Yonge, *The Armourer's Prentices*

Questions? Contact Linda Glass



## Thoughts of Barb Kuterbach

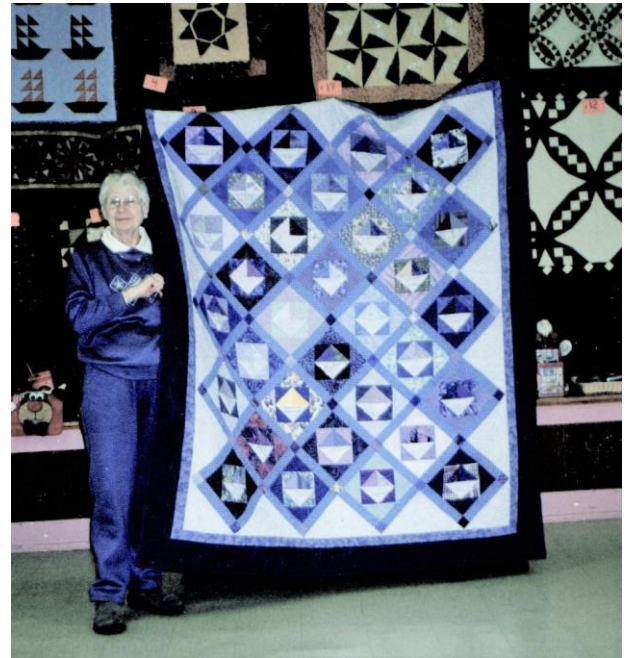
A few words about Barb:

Barbara Kuterbach joined Loose Threads in the late 1990's. Sometimes her husband, Joe, an avid paper-piecer, attended meetings with her.

A few years after Joe passed away in 2000, Barbara moved up to Juneau, Alaska to help out with babysitting a newborn granddaughter, Dorothy. Barb ended up loving Alaska and joining a quilt guild in Juneau. She stayed in Alaska for 17 years until she moved back to the lower 48 around 2018 when we welcomed her back to our guild meetings and celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday at a meeting.

Barb was always an enthusiastic Loose Threads member, helping with committees, programs and field trips. Barb always said that her favorite thing about quilting was learning new things. She always maintained her associate status at Loose Threads (even while living in Alaska.) The LTQ newsletter was a highlight of Barb's month.

Barb had a large family with five sons and one daughter plus about 19 grandchildren. She made countless quilts for family, friends and charity. Her favorite color was purple. Next time you sew something purple, think of our Barb. No one is truly gone if they are remembered.



The **PURPLE** (!) Guild Signature Quilt presented to Barb when she moved to Alaska in 2004.

## Eileen Frankil

Eileen managed to connect with Barb in Juneau during a cruise to Alaska.







## October Program



Judy Peters led off October's program meeting with a variety of interesting techniques she's found online.

- Binding with Faux Piping
- How to add facing to your quilt:
- Disappearing Pinwheel

Learn how to make a disappearing pinwheel block & it's many variations in less than 2 minutes:

[Disappearing pinwheel sampler quilt – free tutorials](#)



Linda Hamel spent the second half of the meeting relating her enthusiasm for participating in guild challenges. She showed some challenge entries she's completed over her 20 years of membership in two quilt guilds.

## Pincushion of the Month- November

Let's bulk up on some carbs! Last month, Sylvia asked us to make a totally cute and tasty "Pretzel Pincushion." This month we 'knead' to make a pincushion that is a loaf of bread! I'm betting the calories will be the 'yeast' of your problems! ; ) So, 'slice' up some colorful strips of fabric, sew them together and let it 'rise' into a deliciously cute and handy '**Loaf of Bread Pincushion**'!

Remember, if you don't need yet *another* pincushion ... the 'Craft sale' / 'Boutique' could use a few loaves of bread to sell at the next Tea fundraiser.

I can't wait to see what everyone bakes up this next month!!

Diane Hess



**NOTE:** A .pdf tutorial with more pictures is available on our website under 'Members Only' tab at: [www.loosethreadquilters.org](http://www.loosethreadquilters.org)

You'll need: 20 - 1" fabric strips (10" long), a mini loaf pan, fiberfill stuffing, regular machine-sewing thread, heavy duty cotton thread, needle for thread, glue.

- Sew 1" strips together to make an approximately 10"x10" square.
- Using heavy duty cotton thread and needle, hand baste with large stitches in about ½" from edges of fabric square.
- Pull up the basted thread at edge and add stuffing to create a 'fabric log'.
- Hand sew the 'fabric log' closed with the cotton thread and a whip stitch to close.
- Stuff 'fabric log' into mini loaf pan and hot glue to bottom of pan.
- Add pins as desired, Enjoy!



## Tips and Tricks

We've decided to include a new feature in the newsletter – Tips and Tricks, suggested by Lil Evans after Judy Peters informative talk at October's program meeting. The objective will be to highlight some clever time saving techniques that may not be part of the general quilting knowledge, but may make your sewing life a bit easier. Rather than trying to remember which issue that 'great tip' was in, the website will be expanded to include a tab for MEMBERS TIPS AND TRICKS. So, while the newsletter staff will be on alert for these ideas, we will be relying on our members to send along suggestions for this section of the newsletter.

Our first tips were described to us by Judy Peters at the October meeting:

### Binding with Faux Piping

<https://www.quiltingdaily.com/sew-easy-binding-with-faux-piping/>



1. Cut strips for binding 1-½" wide. Cut strips for accent (piping) 1-¾" wide. Join strips using diagonal seams to make two long strips, one for binding and one for accent. **TIP:** When joining, offset strips so seams won't hit at the same place.
2. Join long strips with right sides facing. Press seam toward binding fabric, then fold pieced binding in half lengthwise, aligning raw edges. Press.
3. Attach binding to *back* of quilt, mitering corners and joining ends in usual manner.
4. Press binding away from quilt as shown, then fold binding to front of quilt.
5. Stitch in the ditch between accent fabric and binding fabric to secure binding to quilt, mitering corners in usual manner.

Tips continued on page 12



## How to add facing to your quilt:

<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com/how-to-quilt/finishing/how-to-add-facing-to-your-quilt>

1. First, prep your facing strips in the same way you would prep traditional binding. Take a 2.5" strip and fold it in half, wrong sides together, then press. You'll also need 4 squares for the corners. A 3" square works well for smaller wall hangings, for larger quilts, try 4-5" squares. Fold the squares in half on a diagonal with wrong sides together to form a triangle.
2. Now, layout your triangles in the corners on the front of your quilt, matching raw edges. Then, align raw edge of facing strip over the top of the triangles starting about halfway through one triangle. Trim the strip where it hits on the adjacent triangle (the strip doesn't need to go all the way to the edge, but ensure it's overlapping the triangle).
3. Then stitch the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam starting from the corner, this will secure both the triangle and the facing strip. On to the next side, take your facing strip and butt it up against the previous one and trim (this doesn't need to be precise or evenly spaced). Sew your  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam down the side. Continue adding strips until you've gone the entire way around.
4. Next, to reinforce the corners of the triangles, stitch on a diagonal back and forth a few times right outside the seam allowance. Repeat on all corners.
5. Press the facing strips out. Next, stitch a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam right along the previous seam, just on the facing strips. This will help the facing roll to the back of the quilt more easily. Trim the seam allowance in the corners to reduce bulk, making sure you don't cut into the stitching.
6. Pull the facing strips around to the back and press with steam (a little bit of the quilt front might roll to the back and that's ok). Then flip the triangles over to the back. Use your point turner to work the corner out.
7. The final step is to hand sew the facing strips down. Leave the corners unstitched and you can use those to hang your quilt on the wall with a dowel.



## 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)

Holiday Quilt Auction Announced. Not sure how many of our members go to the Kutztown Folk Festival to see the quilts, but I thought the website, [kutztownfestival.com](http://kutztownfestival.com), may be a nice addition to our newsletter to see the list and pictures of the quilts that are on sale. Some of the designs are creative!

Nancy Kinyon-Samec

