



Loose Threads News

Volume 26 Issue 1

October 2020

1st Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open -
Socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open -
Socializing

10:00 **Judy Peters**
Disappearing Pinwheel

Linda Hamel
I Love a Challenge!

President's Message

Dearest Ladies of Loose Threads,

Here we are knocking on October's door already! Summer is gone and it's Fall, where does the time go? The good news about this time of year is less heat, the wonderful colors, the aromas of pumpkin spice and burning leaves, the crisp air, sweaters and light jackets. And for me, personally, my favorite time of year, Halloween!

The bad news about this time of year is that our picnics in the park will be coming to an end if it gets cold too quickly, it will soon be that Holiday Season and, unfortunately, our October Day Camp is cancelled. (Refunds will happen even if it goes against my "no refund" policy.) But, really, if that's as bad as it gets, it's not too bad.

We'll push on through these inconveniences just as we've gotten through the last seven months. We'll look forward to the holidays (in whatever form they take), to the snow and cold weather (a perfect time for sewing), to fun and fascinating programs at Guild meetings, and, with any luck, to our next Tea.

Happy Fall!

Betty Ann



'Masked basters' working on Bonnie's quilt: Jolene, Gayle, Bonnie, Eileen, Kiti, Marylou and Laurie

Minutes – September 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: Presidents' doily challenge was displayed and voted on. Sue Glaser won first and third place and Gayle Hammond took second place. Great job to all that participated.

New Business: Committees will remain with the same members as last year, since there was a bust on committee activity from Covid.

Basting: Next basting day will be Sept 30th. Let the committee know if you have something to be basted

BOM: Dianne and Silvia will be meeting to come up with a new and exciting idea for BOM. Stay tuned

Charity Projects: If you have any lap quilts or walker bags, please hold on to them, until the designated places are taking charity donations again.

Day Camp: Was tentative for Oct, however if unable to schedule for then, the guild members will get their money back.

Evening Bee: Has been canceled until further notice

Holiday Brunch: Members are questioning if there will be a brunch or not. The committee will meet to decide how or if this could be done safely for our members.

Membership: Marylou is waiting to hear from some members and associate members. So far, 6 active members went to associate status.

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

Secret Pal: Remember to take your gift home, if your pal is not present at the meeting. May want to consider, mailing or dropping off your gift at the doorstep instead.

Speakers: Committee to decide how to handle scheduled speakers at this time. Most speakers are doing on-line only. The cost is the same as in person. It is understood that there are members that may not have reliable internet service and this would be an issue. A vote was made to hold off on Cheryl Lynch scheduled for Oct 2020 until next year.

Sunshine: Laurie Kelly's father having hip surgery, can send her mom Kathy Nelson some 'thinking of you' cards. Jane's Indian reservation is in need of 7x7" knitted / crochet wash clothes

Treasurer: Diane Hess reported this month expenses and deposits

Website: Up to date

Raffle Winners: Business Meeting Raffle: none; Name Tag Winner: Gayle Hammond

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

June Block-of-the-Month directions followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Homa –Secretary



So Long to Pat



The September 2nd meeting was the last time we will see Pat Phillion for quite a while. Pat & her husband Dick are returning to upstate New York after many years in Pennsylvania to live closer to family. She was presented with a Farewell Quilt (top) made and signed by Loose Threads' members to be quilted by Takako Pike. We'll miss her but Pat promises to return for a visit!

October Birthdays



16 Jean Sullivan
18 Judy Peters
27 Joanne Cantwell

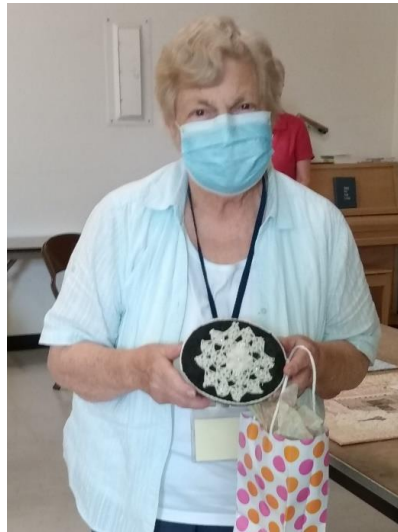
American Patchwork & Quilting Magazine PRECUT Info:

- Many precut shapes have PINKED EDGES to prevent fraying. Use the outermost edge to gauge seam allowances.
- Don't prewash precuts smaller than fat quarters.
- Precut 2½ x 42" strip package, known as a JELLY ROLL, yields 640 - 2½" squares!

Jane Russell

President's Challenge - Doilies

In September members submitted entries for our President's Challenge, the Doily Challenge, which asked folks to make, just about anything, using a doily. There were a wide range of items made: pillows (Susan & Betty Ann), wallhangings (Linda Hamel), a Christmas tree (Susan), a decorative box (Gayle), a face mask (Kiti) and a late entry, a hat (Marie). The members present voted and the favorites were: First – Susan Glaser's pillow; Second – Gayle Hammond's box; Third – Susan Glaser's tree



September Program



Our September program was presented by Diane Hess. She saw a woman selling tote bags made from feed sacks at a craft fair, and like many of us crafters, thought "I could do that". Diane brought a variety of feed sacks to the meeting for us to choose from: different colored chickens, baby chicks and wild birds. After a demonstration of the simple steps involved, everyone was enthused to make their own very unique and sturdy tote.



Scrap Buster Block

The black, white and red scrap quilt from Show & Tell was made using one of my favorite blocks to use up smaller sized scraps. There are two versions of the 'scrap buster' block. Both use 3" x 5 1/2" rectangles.

The first version uses a total of 8 rectangles and has 2 rectangles for the center.



The second uses a 5 1/2" square as the center and 6 rectangles arranged around that center square, as shown in the picture. The center square can be by a novelty print for a theme quilt or the same color solid to "calm" a multi color scrappy.



Judy Peters

Getting to Know You

Josie Sharp

This familiar face belongs to Josie who has been patiently awaiting a spot on the Loose Threads membership list since she was introduced to us by her friend Susan Koederitz (another new member). Josie grew up in a large family of 7 children in the Pittsburgh area and learned to sew in school at age 13. She loved sewing clothes initially, then went on to take various associated classes and eventually turned out nicely tailored suits and coats, made draperies, etc. for her home and even re-upholstered a car! Quilting came later.

After high school, Josie attended Pitt to study business, worked for a while, then married, welcomed two children and became a stay-at-home Mom. When she returned to work, she began her career in the real estate field and eventually found her way to the pharmaceutical field. That kept her busy for nearly 25 years, working for various companies or staying with one company and watching the company names change through mergers and acquisitions.

Retired now for eight years, Josie, has had more time to enjoy her new sewing, serger and embroidery machines and started experimenting with machine quilting. After a few mishaps with a Block-of-the-Month program, she decided it might be helpful to really learn the basics so enrolled in a 3-hour class on Cutting, Pressing and Sewing at Byrne Sewing in Doylestown. She has appreciated this course immeasurably as it taught her the importance of exactness, so helpful in quilting.

She plans to create a queen-sized quilt, has turned out a complicated "Four Seasons" quilt for a niece and has another version planned for a newly-married nephew and his bride. She also loves embroidery, has had an embroidery machine for seven years and has made numerous place mats, wall hangings, napkins, and more.



Josie also revealed that for three years she has been President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, an organization that enjoys total membership of approximately 14,000, 130 of whom are in the local chapter. They hold workshops in the King of Prussia area and annually sponsor 5-day retreats with limited attendees at Eastern University in Saint Davids.

When she doesn't have that sewing machine humming, Josie enjoys neighborhood walks or golfing with a league to which she belongs or spending time with her family (2 grandchildren). She's also very fond of reading and sometimes devours 2 or 3 books in a week. She is grateful that Susan invited her to attend a Loose Threads speaker session last year and has found a comfortable home with fellow quilters who are so friendly, enthusiastic and inspiring. Welcome Josie!

Joanne Cantwell

Pandemic Ponderings

Many people have talked or written about the ways the pandemic has changed/influenced their lives. The most common thread seems to be the lack of hugs and smiles. The next thing that I hear a lot is how much quilting and UFO projects are getting done. While I truly experience the first one, I have had no familiarity with the second statement.

My husband and I have had a few changes. My son and his two children moved back in with us during the Pandemic lock down. OOOO. And I must add that they came back with two CATS. George and Frederick. We are not cat people. My husband had many pets as a child in Skippack, even a pet calf that lived in the kitchen for a time, but I mostly had dogs. My encounters with cats were not positive as they usually greeted me with the hiss and showing of teeth. Then George and Frederick moved in. George and Frederick are brothers, and look very much alike, except George weighs twice as much as Frederick. I thought they were older cats, but I was shocked and concerned when I learned how long cats live, and that these two felines were only 2 years old. We still have Shadow (a black lab mixed rescue of about 7 years) who doesn't have a fondness for cats either. George and Frederick did not mind that we were unsure. They were going to win us over. And the challenge began...

We quickly learned that George was able to open all the older doors that have the latch closures. George has mad skills. Once George has removed all barriers, he leads his brother into the scouting expeditions. George has a spiteful side too. Shadow (dog) finally stopped barking at the cats as long as they stayed out of her living room. This gave the cats three floors to roam, their own living room, and the kitchen. Shadow only wanted our living room as her own space. So, George would wait until Shadow was asleep on the couch, sneak up on her, and slap her with his paw –then take off for his side. She would wake up trying to figure out what woke her. This is still going on- Frederick will sneak in when both Shadow and I are asleep on the couch (sure-we were watching TV- with our eyes closed) and then I wake up to this loud purring to find Frederick fast asleep on my chest! They are determined to turn us into cat people!

So, within weeks of them moving in, George had a bare patch on his face and seemed to be scratching a lot. I made an appointment with our vet. She asked what breed cat he was and I said orange. The lady replied orange is a color, not a breed. I replied "he looks like Garfield". I could not find a cat carrier. You don't need carriers with dogs! So hubby made me a cardboard box with holes to transport our big George. I scooped him up and put him on a towel in the box. I propped up the lid and taped it shut so he had lots of air, but wouldn't pop the lid open. I tried to carry the box to the car, but he was too heavy. I loaded him into the wagon, dragged it out to the car, and put him on the front seat. As soon as I turned on the car, George began to cry. I found myself sticking my hand into the box to calm him. It worked, but I realized that it may not have been a good idea if George had chosen to bite or scratch me. The vet is about a mile from my house. Within ¼ mile, George's head and front paws were out of the box. By the time I got to the traffic light, George was sitting on my lap with his front paws on the steering wheel. People were doing a double take as they passed as they couldn't believe they just saw a cat driving a Toyota.

Continued on page 8

When you arrive at the vet's, you have to call, and they come out to get the cat. I explained that he had already gotten out of the box. The lady said she would bring out a cat carrier. When she saw George, she looked at the carrier and said, "I don't know if this is going to work". We worked together to get big George into that small carrier. It was like pushing play dough back into those tiny containers. George was in love. He never complained or cried. He was so happy to have two people pet him! When they brought him back, they said he weighed 16 pounds. I felt compelled to say it wasn't MY fault! George was treated for his dilemma, and we were then to treat his brother too.

George and I had survived our first trip together. George sees this as a successful bonding experience. I see this as a need to vacuum out the car! Cat hair floats for days! So, if there is a need for newsletter filler, let me know and I will tell you about George and my second trip to the vet! Now if I can load the pictures of Big George and Skinny Frederick into the email-as I learn to brush cats.

Judy McCourry



For those that don't know, Moda fabrics has been running their blockhead series again. It started in January. It is one block a month. Each block pattern is shown in several sizes. Block patterns can be printed. This is the third series - **Blockhead 3**.

<https://my.modafabrics.com/inspiration-resources/block-heads-3-archive>

Lil Evans

September Show and Tell



Judy Peters had a go at her scrap bins, each sorted by color, and wound up with this striking quilt from the black & white bin. (Like Judy's quilt? [Block instructions on page 5.](#))



Diane Hess made a zippered bag out of an 'actual' M & M candy bag.



Judy Snook showed this year's Mystery BOM.



Lori Memmen showed a wallhanging enhanced with lots of embellishments.



Linda finished a long time UFO linked with memories of her Mom.



Judy Snook showed us an adorable Bunny Hill design with lots of embroidery.



Josie Sharp made this *Four Seasons* machine embroidered wallhanging as a wedding gift.



Jean Sullivan finished a sampler block table runner.



Judy Peters made a 'big girls' quilt for a 4-year-old's new bed.

Pincushion of the Month

Tired of your typical tomato pincushion? Us too. Bet you guys were looking for some cute and easy ones to make. Dianne and I decided to do a pincushion of the month. We will be bringing in our samples and encouraging you to make a few each month.

Not sure of what to do with all those pincushions? Keep the ones you like, give away a few for the Holidays, and more importantly, you can make them to sell at the tea, in the craft room. Bring them in, give them to Silvia. You name the price - you get 90% of the sale and that extra cash won't hurt. By doing so, I will have a nice display of pincushions to sell. Win-Win for both of us

Please join us for our POM - Pincushion of the Month!

Silvia Homa



<https://whilshenaps.com/2013/01/prezel-pincushion-tutorial.html>

You'll need: 22" x 3" strip of brown fabric, coordinating thread, Fiberfill stuffing, pins with white pinheads

- Fold the strip lengthwise. Using a ¼ inch seam allowance, stitch down the long side, leaving a 2 inch opening halfway down.
- Stitch the short sides, curving them to give the pretzel curved ends. Trim the seam allowance close to the stitching line.
- Turn the pretzel right side out through the opening.
- Stuff it firmly and close the opening using a *ladder stitch*. Fold it like a pretzel.
- Tack the ends down with a few stitches to hold them in place.
- Push pins into the pretzel at random intervals to look like sprinkled salt.

Where's Waldo...no, Eileen???

My ears have been burning lately. Either I've been outside in the sun too much, or my friends have been talking about my decision to change to associate membership and thinking "maybe I've moved away?". To clear up the rumors ... Here's the situation. And it's all good.

I have not completely moved away, but will be spending more and more time away from Pennsylvania. I switched to associate because it would be difficult to make any large commitments to the guild since I'm not really sure when I will be there and when I won't. But I'll certainly try to stay as connected as possible as an associate member. I'm hoping to attend meetings when I'm in PA.

We have not given up our home in Collegeville, mostly because I've not been as mentally ready as my husband to completely relocate to the south and golf every day. We are very fortunate that Robert sold his Pharmacy business in 2018 and we have been able to get a small house in a golf community called Long Cove. It's in the middle of Hilton Head Island, where our family has always loved to vacation. It still feels like vacation to me.

The coronavirus pandemic has made traveling so much more challenging. Instead of quick, cheap flights back and forth, we will need to stay for larger blocks of time between the long drives. In fact, Robert and I were "separated" for over 2 months in the Spring, because he was south and I was north when the pandemic hit in March.

Robert helped me set up a sewing area here and I'm trying to work on my UFOs. But I'm finding so many other activities to do in the summer. I'm really enjoying the nature here on the island, despite the summer heat. I'm actually learning to play golf! At this point, I doubt if I'll join a quilt guild there, because my heart and friendships will always be at Loose Threads. You'll still see me on the LTQ Facebook group and in person when I'm in town. Traveling will eventually become easier and visits to PA more predictable. But for now, I'm trying to go with the flow.

If you want to get in touch with me, call or text my cell phone 267-304-0969. And if you take a trip south, come visit at 12 McKays Point Road, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

Eileen Frankil



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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 \$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



Diane Hess was the lucky
winner of the drawing for the
final Chinese Auction food
basket. It was an Italian
themed prize that included
pasta, marinara sauce, Merlot
wine, balsamic vinegar,
cookies, chocolate and even a
'Wiseguys' cookbook all
displayed in a colander.

