



# Loose Threads News

Volume 25 Issue 12

September 2020

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

9:30 Doors open -  
refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

Doily Challenge

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

9:30 Doors open -  
refreshments & socializing

Program to Be Announced

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

9:30 Doors open -  
refreshments & socializing

10:00 Basting

## President's Message

Just the other day, I was talking to an acquaintance about, of all things, Flu and Coronavirus vaccines and when they would be available. After we concluded the business end of our conversation, he made a remark that has gotten me thinking. He was saying that he missed hugs and closeness but mostly he missed smiles! I have to agree with him. While the wearing of masks is helping to keep us all safe and healthy, it sure is weird not to be able to see another human being's smile.

If you missed our get together at Towpath Park (Route 724, East Coventry) after our last meeting, you missed a ton of smiles. We had a socially distanced lunch in a beautiful spot along the Schuylkill River with plenty of sunshine and fresh air. And we laughed and smiled, a lot! So, if you are game, we'll do it again after our business meeting on September 2. Bring a bag lunch, something to drink, a chair if you wish (there are picnic tables), and your smile. Hope to see you there!

*Betty Ann*

Our guild officers for 2020 - 2021 begin their terms this month:

Betty Ann Dawson      President

Marylou Boryta      Vice President/Membership

Silvia Homa      Secretary

Diane Hess (2<sup>nd</sup> year of term)      Treasurer

# Minutes - August Meeting

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Loose Threads Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City, PA on August 5, 2020, facilitated by President Betty Ann Dawson. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

## **New Business:**

- Eileen Frankil has brought along some irises for anyone that wants to share
- Jane informed us that the Lakota Indian reservation is closed. Covid is rampant there. There is an immediate need for donations like facemasks, or anything to provide warmth for the upcoming winter.
- Discussion about bringing a bagged lunch to eat outside after our next meeting. Ideas needed for places to go.

**BOM:** Final instructions were in the August newsletter. Thank you everyone that participated!

**Challenge:** President's dolly challenge is due in Sept and guild challenge is due at our holiday luncheon.

**Charity (Service) Projects:** No one is accepting donations at this time due to Covid and visitor restrictions. Shannondell is willing to accept walker bags. Members may need to keep their donations at home until further notice. Keep on sewing!

**Day Camp:** Moved to October 13 & 14. There will be refunds, if you are unable to go at that time. Maybe have to be moved to spring time.

**Fabric Exchange:** Going well. Give your exchanges to Toni Hughes.

**Field Trips:** Schwenkfelder Museum in Pennsburg will have an exhibit of crazy quilts until the end of Sept.

**Holiday Brunch:** The committee will have to meet and decide if there is a way to safely have our brunch while social distancing.

**Programs:** For August, ideas on what to do with all those orphan blocks.

**Speakers:** Some speakers are being re-scheduled for 2021 and 2022. Discussion on the difficulty it may be to social distance and the challenges that some may have with computer access and the zoom program. Betty Ann's view on zoom meetings is that not everyone has available zoom access or reliable internet service. It is not fair or equitable to all members to do zoom for our business and program meetings. It is a choice you can make to come to the guild meetings/programs. If you feel that your health is at jeopardy, please stay home and read your newsletters to stay informed of the guild's happenings.

**Secret Pal:** If you are unable to go to the meetings you could make something small and send it to your secret pal.

**Sunshine:** Loretta will be out until October due to surgery. Kathie Travis was recently discharged from the hospital for a twisted bowel.

**Treasurer:** Diane Hess reported the current guild's balances of incoming and outgoing finances.

Respectfully submitted,

*Silvia Homa* –Secretary

We would hate to miss out on our Holiday Brunch, but we certainly may have to 'think out of the box' to try to make it happen. We are looking for creative ideas to have a safe gathering. Do some thinking, chat with other guilds and friends who take part in group activities, then send your thoughts to one of our officers (Betty Ann, Marylou, Silvia or Diane) for consideration. It may not resemble anything from the past, but perhaps we can still share in some holiday cheer.

## Good News!

Some exciting news related by Pat Pillion. In a reversal of the news we have typically heard about quilt shops over the last few years, rather than another closure, a new shop is opening locally! Pat says her neighbor will be employed there and starts work in mid-September.

In a recent article from *Montco Today Magazine*, the headline reads:

### **Fabric Retailer the Latest Addition to Phoenixville's Bridge Street, Courtesy of Pillar Real Estate Advisors**

"A startup business named Seamless Sewing Arts Ltd will be the latest addition to the bustling scene on Bridge Street in Phoenixville.

A modern quilting and sewing store, Seamless will retail high-quality, contemporary, all-natural fabrics, as well as notions, patterns, and gifts. The store will combine a fabric shop, classes, and a gallery all under one roof.

Seamless Sewing Arts will be a great addition to Bridge Street as the building will be undergoing major renovations to offer a fresh retail environment with social spaciousness in mind."

Seamless Sewing Arts Ltd.  
313 Bridge St, Phoenixville  
323-447-2428  
Owner, Denise Martin  
SeamlessSewingArts.com

## Survey from Speaker Committee

The speaker committee is looking for answers! We know not everyone has access to the internet or to a reliable WiFi signal but all quilting teachers are doing their lectures and workshops online only right now. We have questions for our members.

- Would you be willing to meet with a guild member or family member who has reliable internet to view a lecture online?
- If you have internet, would you like to have a workshop scheduled even if you would have to pay \$20-\$40 depending upon the cost of the teacher?
- If we could broadcast the meetings on zoom or some such platform would you be interested in this?

Some of these questions are for the whole guild and came about as the speaker committee was brainstorming. If there is an interest to broadcast the meetings, there are additional questions:

- Do we have anyone interested in broadcasting the meetings? Rosemary says it can be done using an IPAD and the 4G network but she does not come to the meetings.
- Is there anyone else out there who could do this?
- Does anyone have a zoom account?
- If not, should the guild look into getting one?

Please respond to Laurie Kelly, Rosemary Geisler, or Marylou Boryta by phone or email ASAP so that we can get going on this. Our October teacher wants an answer as to how we want to proceed and we need your input! Thank you and hope all is well with everyone!

Laurie Kelly  
Speaker Chair

## August Program – Orphan Blocks

At our meeting on Wednesday, August 19, a program was presented on *Orphan Blocks & 40 Ways to Use Them*. Marie Traxler graciously contributed 18 samples of various ways to use orphan blocks. Can you think of 40 ways to use them? Well, it certainly was an interesting and fun exercise. A survey of attendees was recorded, and we want to share the results with you.

USE OF ORPHAN BLOCK	% OF ATTENDEES MADE THIS ITEM	USE OF ORPHAN BLOCK	% OF ATTENDEES MADE THIS ITEM
Mug Rug	58	Bowl cozy	0
Chatelaine	16	Front of tote bag	11
Table Runner	74	Placemats	53
Doll Quilt	42	Preemie quilts for hospitals	0
Pillow	74	Wall Hanging	32
Pouch	32	Frame a quilt block	21
Pot holder	47	Cover a canvas frame	1
Quilting practice	32	Soft-sided box	21
Back of Quilt	32	Make test blocks all in the same color	0
Charity Quilts	58	Homemade greeting cards	5
Sampler quilts	11	Eyeglass case	16
Label on back of quilt	32	Decorate shirt or jacket	0
Pin Cushion	21	Tree Ornament	26
Coasters - cork backing	0	Drawstring gift bag	11
Zipper pouch	11	Decorate a towel	0
Luggage Tag	0	Needle holder	0
Tabletop Hot Mat	11	Add to corners of quilt top	11
Fabric Coasters	5	Experiment with free-motion quilting	11
Key Fob	11	Bookmarks	0
Alternate orphan blocks with solids for quilt	0		

And, if these 40 were not enough, we can add another one! Linda Hamel told us that her mother used a small orphan block to make a name tag for herself. Do you have anything to add to the list? Let me know, and it will be added.

On a related topic, our members discussed the differences in the cost of a yard of fabric based on how it was purchased, i.e., yard, fat quarter, jelly roll, etc. What significant differences! Personal preference provides good reasons for buying fabrics by the yard or a mini charm. (See page 9 for a summary.)





The third segment of the presentation was a list of exercises for quilters. It's important to take breaks, do some stretches and bends; you, too, will notice the difference in how much better you feel after many hours of sewing.

All attendees were given a copy of the entire presentation so that it can be used as a helpful reference.

Josie Sharp

Program Presenter



## Getting To Know You

## Betty Ann Dawson

...is a busy individual who is picking up the gavel for her 4<sup>th</sup> term as President of the Loose Threads Quilt Guild! Born into a family with 5 siblings in Brooklyn and Long Island, New York, Betty Ann moved to Pennsylvania at age nine. She remembers wearing lots of homemade matching Easter outfits, pinks and purples, with matching coats and hats, and her Mom taught her to sew doll clothes on an old Singer sewing machine.

Betty Ann has enjoyed several careers over the years and at one time she worked for the Freedom Valley Girl Scouts where she met co-worker Linda Garthe. Although she initially went to school to study geography and urban planning, she eventually found that she really enjoyed working with kids, so earned a teaching certificate. This led to substitute teaching opportunities in Chester, Berks and Montgomery counties, working primarily in Jr. and Sr. high schools. Some of her favorite assignments involved directing musicals at Owen J. Roberts (OJR) and Twin Valley High Schools. It was at OJR where she met Peter Christ. Moving on, the newlyweds bought the 30-acre "Wildberry Farm" near Boyertown where they have lived for thirty years.

In later years, an interest in antiques led Betty Ann to manage her own booth at the Mill Property in Morgantown, then she owned an antique store in Elverson, and eventually formed her own company "Life Simplified" where she made a huge difference for folks who were downsizing by cleaning out houses and taking care of tasks that many individuals don't have time to do for themselves. Now retired from her company she finds more time for making those famous jams, jellies and maple syrup that have won numerous blue ribbons at the Earl Township and Oley Fairs in past years. Certainly not one to "sit around" for long, Betty Ann has also been serving part-time as Assistant Secretary in the Earl Township office as well as delivering deli orders three days a week for a neighborhood deli. She's also an avid collector of Halloween artifacts, even featuring a "Halloween Room" in her house where she enjoys using her Halloween quilt as a tablecloth each Fall.



Betty Ann suffered an enormous family tragedy last August when she lost a son and two of her eight grandchildren in an out-of-state accident. She is proud of the tribute to her family by the hugely successful formation of a scholarship fund in their memory at Exeter High School near Reading.

A few years ago it was a fortuitous excursion to Jane Russell's quilt shop with Linda Garthe that ignited Betty Ann's interest in quilting and a subsequent introduction to the Loose Threads Quilt Guild. She truly enjoys the people and the wide variety of field trips that Guild members take, finds them educational and a wonderful opportunity for Guild camaraderie. Along with Lil Evans, they developed the clever "Day Camps" for LT quilters held at the regular meeting facility in Spring City.

Continued on page 7



## Getting To Know You, continued

Now beginning the third year, another well-organized Day Camp is planned in October 2020. Lil and Betty Ann are responsible, too, for the expansion and success of the LT Sewing Room at LT annual Teas. She also likes the “Challenges” that pop up at Loose Threads from year to year and found the “Whisper Challenge” particularly fun to see how topics are developed.

When they're not savoring their homemade blueberry wine on the porch, she and Pete have enjoyed some wonderful travels and are very much looking forward to the end of our current pandemic when they can once more get acquainted with new countries, new food and new friends. We welcome Betty Ann back to the helm at Loose Threads again, thank her for leading us into another year and look forward to more fulfilling days.

Joanne Cantwell

## August Show and Tell



Judy Snook's pillow sham made from some of her Whisper Challenge blocks 'that told a story.'

## September Birthdays



- 2 Linda Hamel
- 5 Laurie Kelly
- 13 Silvia Homa
- 14 Barb Kuterbach
- 16 Clem Dupont
- 22 Nancy Miller



Laurie's Dolphin quilt for her daughter Sabrina, that was several years in the making, it's now ALL DONE!.

# Quilt Blocks

Jean Sullivan sent along some information she found about the origin of some well-known quilt blocks.



## Quilt Square

"The House on the Hill" dates to Colonial times, when settlers based quilts on community structures.



## Quilt Square

The "May Basket" block dates to 1855 and is thought to represent the home and hearth.



## Quilt Square

The "Honeycomb" block is said to be the first quilt block published in the U.S. (in *Godey's Lady's Book*, 1835). It rose to popularity during the 1920s and '30s because women could use even tiny scraps to piece these blocks.





There were six Chinese Auction baskets from this year's Tea that contained food items. Since we couldn't keep them until next year, we've been having drawings at the last couple of meetings to see which lucky members will get to take them home. Winners at the last meeting were Nancy Kinyon-Samec, Judy McCourry and Laurie Kelly. Drawing for the last remaining basket will be at the September business meeting.

I have been using an online quilt shop during the Covid shutdown that I really like. The website is [simplestitchesquiltshop.com](https://simplestitchesquiltshop.com). They have lots of fabric, many quilt kits and patterns. They are quick to get things out to you with an extra fat - eighth surprise fabric that coordinates with the fabric you ordered along with a personal note. I believe the shop is in Utah but not sure of this. I don't want to take away from Ladyfingers which is always my favorite but thought this might be helpful if you're in a pinch.

Margie Allen

Thanks, Margie for the heads up. I have used one recently myself that worked out very well also. It was called The DIY Addict <https://thediaddict.com/>. I was looking for Tula Pink fabric and they had a lot of it. I got my fabric on the 3rd day after I ordered it and it included a free FQ of Tula Pink fabric!

Linda Hamel

## Fabric Costs

Differences in the cost of a yard of fabric based on how it was purchased.

	<u>Premium Over Yardage Cost</u>	<u>Calculated Price Per yard</u>
Yard		\$10.75
Half Yard Bundle	-9.3%	\$ 9.75
Fat Quarter Bundle	15.3%	\$12.40
Fat Eighth Bundle	30.2%	\$14.00
Jelly Roll	30.5%	\$14.03
Layer Cake	36.8%	\$14.70
Charm Pack	40.1%	\$15.06
Honey Bun	56.7%	\$16.79
Mini Charm Pack	151.5%	\$27.03

## Officers & Contacts

### **PRESIDENT**

Betty Ann Dawson wildberryfarm@dejazzd.com

### **VICE PRESIDENT /MEMBERSHIP**

Marylou Boryta mboryta2@verizon.net

### **TREASURER**

Diane Hess diane.hess@outlook.com

### **SECRETARY**

Silvia Homa Silvia.homa@gmail.com

### **PROGRAMS**

Christine Fallon lasagnacook@verizon.net

### **SPEAKERS**

Laurie Kelly family5kelly@comcast.net

### **WEBSITE**

Diane Hess diane.hess@outlook.com

### **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)



Picnic lunch at Towpath Park in East Coventry after the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Missing from the photo but present at the luncheon was Judy McCourry. I dunno what happened! Sorry I missed her! The weather was perfect and so was the camaraderie. I look forward to a repeat. Thanks to Betty Ann for selecting the site. It is a sweet little park next to the river with lots of tables and a pavilion.

Linda Glass