



Loose Threads News

Volume 19 Issue 4

January 2104

2st Wednesday Agenda

Date Change - January 8th

9:30 Doors open -
refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting
Show and Tell

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open -
refreshments & socializing

10:00 Program – Organizing
into mini-groups to make
Quilts of Valor

No supplies needed

5th Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open -
refreshments & socializing

10:00 Basting

President's Message

If you are reading this it must be January! Whew... we made it through another busy holiday season.

A new year has begun and that means new projects to start. Or.... old projects to finish. Either way let's go to our quilting studios and quilt!

A Happy New Year to all!

Rosemary Geisler

2014 Challenge

Due to circumstances beyond my control..., or however that old excuse message went, the Challenge for 2014 was not announced at our annual holiday party. But don't worry, we've come up with a *tasty* idea to make up for it. It's called the "Salad Bar Challenge."

The concept uses the ingredients in any salad you enjoy, or have been wanting to create, as the inspiration for your color pallet. Your choice of colors is endless! Red leaf lettuce, kiwi fruit, blueberries, anything from "The Salad Bar".

Oh yes, a few rules;

The quilt is to be pieced. Any pattern you choose is acceptable. It's not supposed to LOOK like a salad only to be inspired by the colorful stuff in a salad. Size must be restricted to no larger than **30"x30"** or 120 inches perimeter. No piece will be accepted that has real food attached to it but embellishments are ok. Begin building your "salad" early so it will be finished by next Decembers' party.

More information and ideas will be available at our meetings so stay tuned.

Quilt Shop Review

Stitchwell Fabric

4007 Skippack Pike, Skippack, PA 19474

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 11-5; Saturday: 10-4;

Sunday: 1-4

<http://stitchwellfabric.com/index.html>

Stitchwell Fabric is a small, brightly lit shop located on Route 73 in Skippack carrying fabric with a contemporary flair such as:

Westminster/Freespirit (featuring Amy Butler, Tula Pink, Joel Dewberry, Denyse Schmidt)

Art Gallery Fabrics

Dear Stella

Riley Blake

Robert Kaufman

Windham Fabrics

They also have a nice selection of laminated fabrics. A variety of notions stocked include a full selection threads by Rowan, pom-pom trim, and embroidery floss. There are also patterns for quilts, bags and clothes. Classes are offered for all sewing skill levels and there is a dedicated classroom space on the second floor of the store.

As a bonus, the shop is located in the same building as *Yarnings*, so our knitters will enjoy the additional shopping opportunity.

Milestones

This year's Holiday Brunch was the perfect opportunity to mark a milestone birthday with our long time member, Jean Atwood. To celebrate Jean's 90th birthday we shared a delicious cake, presented her with a holiday flower arrangement and all joined in for a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday."



Resolutions?

It's the beginning of a new year with fresh starts and new resolutions. Make's me think of getting into my sewing space and trying to organize all that chaos. Here are some thoughts from clutter control expert Barbara Tako if that clean-up bug is biting you.

Tips for reducing clutter and staying organized:

- **Take baby steps.** Spend 5 or 10 minutes a day working on clutter rather than fretting about it. It takes less time and energy to work on it than it does to repeatedly worry about it, think about it or stare at it.

- **Toss the guilt.** Don't hang on to things just because "I paid good money for it" or "it was a gift" or "I might need it someday." Your clutter is someone else's treasure. Live greener as you recycle and donate.

- **Gain space.** Don't think of it as losing "stuff," think of it as creating space in your studio, your mind and your life for the things that are really important to you.

- **Create and use only one system** for each category of paper and stuff in your life. Clutter often happens when we have a lot of partial systems going – storing the same type of stuff in multiple places. For example, if rubber stamps or paintbrushes are scattered all over the studio, it's hard to lay your hands on the one you want when you need it.

www.clutterclearingchoices.com

Upcoming Events

The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. is presenting an exhibit of 35 quilts from the Brooklyn Museum's decorative arts collection from December 20, 2013 to April 27, 2014. *Workt by Hand: Hidden Labor and Historical Quilts* spans two centuries of quilt making, including many classic, widely recognized patterns. For more information, visit nmwa.org

Tea Donations

If you're eager to do some post -holiday sewing you probably could also spend a little time sorting through your stash and organizing your sewing space. This is the perfect time to set aside donations for the Tea. So find a sturdy box and some zip lock bags to fill and get started!

We could use:

- samples for the discussion groups (Check list)
- books and magazines for the sale

For the sewing room sale:

- sewing notions
- orphan blocks
- yardage you don't want, zip lock bags of strips and scraps
- fat quarters
- 5" squares

Start bringing these in to Judy Peters or Debby O'Keefe who will organize them for our sale. This year we hope to work on a neater and more appealing display to entice shoppers. With your donations we can make some bundles of fat quarters, charm packs, etc. but we must have donations early to do this.

So start cleaning now. You'll be happy you did!

Loose Threads 2013 Challenge



One of the highlights of our Holiday Brunch was the Loose Threads 2013 Challenge. This year's challenge, in honor of our 25th anniversary, featured a spool block and called for a focus on "better borders." Participants included Silvia Homa, Judy Snook, Jeanne Nalbandian, Joanne Gardner, Rosemary Geisler, Melinda Novatnak, Clem Dupont, Linda Hamel and Takako Pike. Judy won First place; Second place was awarded to Joanne and Judges Choice to Linda.



Our Guild Friends

Betty Ann Dawson



Born in Brooklyn, NY, I grew up in King of Prussia, PA and now live in Boyertown. I'm married to Peter Christ, a retired teacher from Owen J. Roberts High School and have two children, three step-children, eight grandchildren, two dogs and two cats. I own a company called Life Simplified. Our area of expertise is house clean outs, which occur when someone goes into a nursing home or passes away. We do a lot of work for lawyers dealing with guardianship cases and the Lehigh County Office of Aging.

I have been sewing since I was about 7 years old but only quilting for the last 15 years. I learned how to quilt by reading, asking questions of friends and hanging around the former Tudor Rose Quilt Shop. My favorite types of quilts are flannels. I love working with them...they are so soft and cuddly. And it's a challenge to find them in enough of a variety for a quilt. Wooden Bridge Dry Goods in Kutztown is my favorite shop since Tudor Rose closed. The ladies there are great and very helpful and the fabric selection is terrific. You might be surprised to know that I have a whole room in my house devoted to my favorite holiday, Halloween.

Net Notes

Thanks to all "Loose Threaders" for their many cards, calls, messages and acts of good cheer during my recuperation. It is definitely a pleasure to know such a caring group of individuals.

--Joanne Cantwell

Hard to believe everyone doesn't already know about Bonnie Hunter and her wonderful scrap quilts but in case you don't or you're new to internet quilting, her extensive website is Quiltville.com. There you will find Quiltville's calendar for lectures and workshops, tips and tricks, techniques, tutorials and a long list of free quilt patterns to help you dig into your scraps. From there, head over to Quiltville.blogspot.com for Bonnie's (almost) daily blog, Quiltville's Quips & Snips. In fact, I'm going there next to calculate the bias binding on a baby quilt I need to finish. Oh, and if you ever get a chance to see Bonnie in person- definitely do.

Linda Glass

My Sewing Space

Sally Ater



My sewing room is in the basement of my house, however, I have a ten foot long by four foot wide sky light that brings daylight into my basement. That feature makes it a very pleasant space to work in. In addition, it is a large room, with several sewing machines, nice table surface and floor to ceiling shelves for storage along one wall. I didn't show them - too messy!

In addition I have a rabbit whose residence is in the basement. Boy, I did not know what I was getting into when I "rescued" him and brought him home. Looking at the picture will give you an idea of what I mean. The cat is also a rescue and a real sweetheart. When I am sewing she likes to get right up on the sewing table or the cutting table to keep me company.



Tea Block for 2014

Make 1 block and submit to Silvia Homa by the March 5th guild meeting.

Loose Threads Quilt Guild 2014 Tea Block

Scraps, scraps and more scraps.... Love to use up those scraps

To make 1 tea block:

Assorted fabric: cut (16-20) 7 X 1 ½ -2 ¼ irregularly shaped strips in assorted colors of red, green, blue, yellow, orange, brown or tan

White on white, WOW: (2) 1 ½ X 6 and (1) 1 ½ X 12 ½ rectangles

DIRECTIONS:

Sew 4-5 assorted colored strips together to form a piece larger than 6 ½,

Trim to a 6 inch square.

Repeat above steps to make a total of (4) 6X6 squares

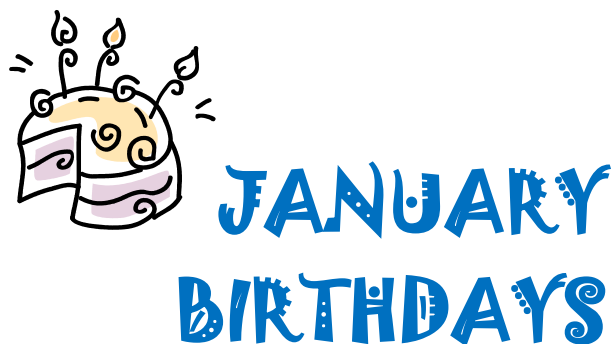
With the stripes facing vertically, join the two squares with (1) 1 ½ X 6 WOW strip in between; do this for the other 2 squares,

Finally, connect them with the 1 ½ X 12 ½ WOW strip.

This should measure 12 ½ X 12 ½ square



Fabric Exchange



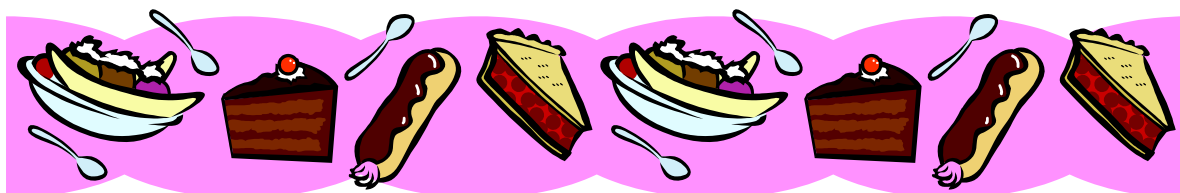
1 Takako Pike
14 Lil Evans

January's Polka Dot color is
BLUE.

The group numbers have deceased,
so now you only need to cut **10** 6 ½
inch squares!

Hospitality

	<u>January 8</u>	<u>January 15</u>	<u>January 29</u>
Snack	Clem Dupont	Donna Mathias	Takako Pike
Snack	Bonnie Swartzentruber	Bernie Hughes	Bonnie Strickland
Fruit/ Veggies	Sue Kehl	Cathy Nelson	Linda Hamel
Cold Drink	Jean Atwood	Judy Snook	Lil Evans



Officers & Contacts

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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 \$15 per year and guests
are always welcome

Loose Threads Quilters

Newsletter available on our website

www.theloosethreadsquilters.org

Loose Threads News is a monthly newsletter
for the members of Loose Threads Quilt Guild,
please forward all materials for publication to

Linda Hamel at
theloosethreadsquilters@gmail.com

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January BOM-Flower Basket

New Sewing Skill - bias handle construction

Use of previous skills – 60 degree angle, strip set

Block Size: 16 ½" x 16 ½" square

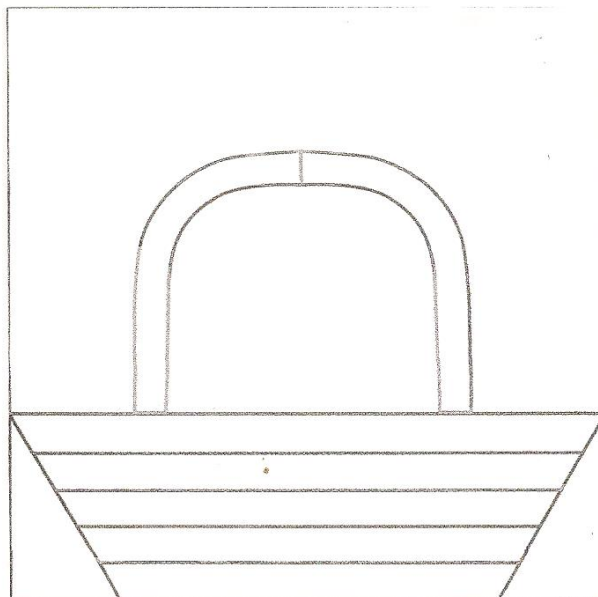
Fabrics of your choice

Supply list:

- Fabric as listed below
- Bias tape or fabric cut on bias for handle

Yardage and Cutting: Based on 42" wide fabric

- Background: ½ yard
 1. Cut one 16 ½" x 11 ½" piece for the top.
 2. Cut two 4 ¾" x 6" pieces for the bottom.
 - Using the 60 degree angle marking on the ruler, cut one triangle from each piece, reversing the direction when cutting the second one. See diagram on template page for ruler placement for cutting this 60 degree angle.
- Basket (5 fabrics): 1/8 yard each strip
 1. Cut one 1 ½" x 18" strip from each fabric.
- Handle: Scrap of bias
 2. Cut one 1 ½" x 22" bias strip



Construction: Use a ¼" seam allowance throughout.

1. Sew the five basket strips together lengthwise to make a strip set. Press the seam allowances in one direction.
2. Trim the strip set to measure 16 ½" long.
3. With right side of the strip set up, cut a 60 degree angle off the right side of the basket. Flip the strip set over to wrong side and cut another 60 degree angle from the right side of the strip set.
4. Sew the bottom triangles to each end of the stripped set having the wider fabric strip on the bottom of the basket. Be sure the point is extended ¼" beyond the bottom of the basket strips. Your stitching line will intersect at this point so when the seam is pressed there will be a small point to trim. You will be trimming the piece extending at the top to be even with the top of the strip set. This will be the basket piece. Trim and straighten the edges of the basket set to

measure $5\frac{1}{2}" \times 16\frac{1}{2}"$. You should have $\frac{1}{4}"$ background showing at the top of each side of the basket.

5. To make the handle, make either a bias tape strip or wait until the demonstration for another way, using the included template.
6. The handle will be sewn onto the top background piece and then sewn to the basket piece. It is suggested that you wait until next month when the leaves and flowers are prepared before stitching the handle in place.

Visual samples of cutting and construction will be given at the January business meeting.

