Volume 31 Issue 5 February 2026

Loose Threads News

1st Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments and socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments and socializing

10:00 Program Meeting - Small Charity Projects

President's Message

❤️It's February ~Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!

I am hoping that all this cold weather has given everyone lots of time for quilting or at the very least for snuggling under one! I don't know about you but the sum of my creativity is equal to or greater than the abundant mess that covers my sewing space….and mine sure is a mess right now!

I think there's nothing better to do in the winter than to keep quilting and sewing…it chases the blues away. I, for one, am going to enjoy this while it lasts and I hope you do too! ~Val

P.S.~We had a great time working on our "Mondo Bags" during the January program! Please bring them to the February business meeting to show them off! I can't wait to see them all.

February Program

At the February program meeting, we will be working on small charity projects such as flannel hearts for NICU babies and seat belt port protectors. Everyone can help in some way by tracing, cutting, sewing, or stuffing. There's a job for everyone! More details will be presented at the February business meeting. Contact Debby O'Keefe if you have any questions.

2026 Library & Embellishment Challenge

The challenge this year is to use an item from the guild library and to embellish your quilt. Library items include patterns, books, rulers, and magazines. Embellishments include beading, embroidery, painting, etc. Any shape and color, but the total perimeter should be no bigger than 80" (20" per side if a square). The committee will be starting a collection of donated embellishments from members of the guild that will be available at each business meeting. Please consider bringing in any extra items such as buttons, special threads, beads, etc. that other members could use. Be sure to credit the library resource you used in creating your challenge.

Stay tuned! There may be some additional surprises revealed in the future.

Calling all members…anyone with embellishing techniques they would like to share, please contact Susan Koederitz, Silvia Homa, or Beth Hammond-Ritschard.

CHECK YOUR STASH!

Bernie Hughes is looking for any Philadelphia themed fabric. Sports teams would be great. If you have any, bring them to the next business meeting.

CHECK OUT YOUTUBE

Type in "From small things quilter"

There is a series of YouTube videos by a local woman named Sue who posts every Sunday morning. She shows what quilts she made during the week, and demonstrates all kinds of things. All of her quilts are traditional and her quilting is all by hand. She is quiet and friendly and I enjoy watching and sewing along with her. She completed 23 quilts this year!

Debby O'Keefe

Email Blast Requests

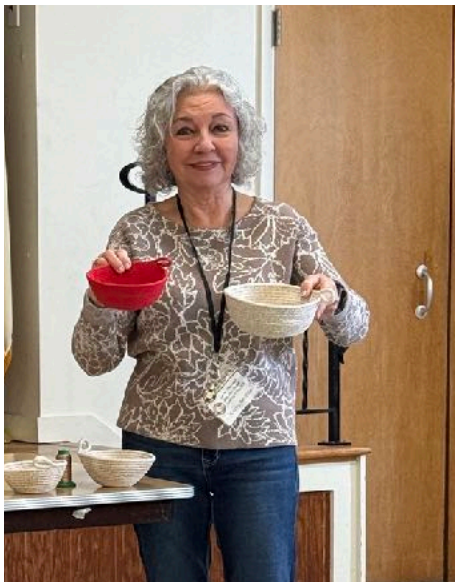
Any information that you want emailed to guild members should be forwarded to theloosethreadsquilters@gmail.com.
Please format your email so that it can be copied and sent to the group.
Thank you - Missy Smith

SHOW and TELL

Val Fisher has been busy! She finished this By Annie's organizing tote which is very handy for her quilting tools and supplies. She also completed her Dresden Plate tablerunner and even gave matchstick quilting a try. And, she constructed and custom quilted this beautiful blue and white quilt. That sawtooth quilt border looks pretty tiny! Great job! Now go take a nap…

Nancy Miller found this kit at Primrose Quilt Shop and knew it would be perfect for her granddaughter who just loves "spookies"! She used the David Sirota method of paper piecing and it worked out great.

Lil Evans completed her hexie box from Jolene's workshop. She even put a knob on the top for easy opening. Very creative!



Kathy Santillo created these beautiful rope bowls. She used Isacord variegated thread to stitch them together and loved the designs that the stitching made. Great job!

Kathy Snyder was working hard on her Christmas quilt, but time got away from her. She now calls it her “Winter Quilt”! Great pattern!

Judy Snook completed her BOM quilt and it turned out perfect. Beautiful colors!

Carolyn Ferrandino completed her crayon quilt. It’s so bright and cheery! Nice job!

Diane Hess purchased this tray at a quilt show and adapted a BOM to make seasonal inserts. Very clever! And, she finished her Christmas at Granny’s quilt. So festive!

Josie Sharp has been busy making gifts! Lip balm holders, aprons with attached towels, and ornaments were given to some very lucky recipients! Very creative ideas!

Church Thank You

Dear Loose Threads Quilters:

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift to the church. The Staples card will be used and is much appreciated. We are so happy to have your group meeting here.

Thank you again for your generosity.

With kind regards,

Dee

Mystery Row by Row BOM

The new BOM for 2025-2026 debuted in October. Each month, a new block will be presented in two sizes (6" & 12"). Just make a row of the same block. You set the width of your rows…make a small wallhanging or a king size quilt!

You can use a fabric bundle or do something totally scrappy. Pick a theme like Christmas, Fall, or Sports and use coordinating fabrics. Dig into your stash and see what you come up with. We suggest you use a common background fabric to tie it all together.

Questions? Contact Kathy Snyder or Nancy Miller

DAY BEE

Day Bee meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Bring along a project to work on and get to know your fellow LTQ members.

Questions? Contact Rosemary Geisler

Mondo Bag Workshop

There was a big turnout for the Mondo Bag workshop on January 21. Our instructor, Audrey, guided everyone through the construction of this very versatile bag. Thank you to the Program and Speaker committees for providing the patterns and interfacing for everyone and a big thank you to Jolene Lorah for coordinating with Audrey and packing all of the kits.

Our instructor, Audrey, was very helpful. She continually circulated around the room, jumping in to guide and teach everyone as needed. Her approach to teaching was very refreshing. Sometimes, it's intimidating to ask questions in a regular setting quilt class. This more relaxed, accessible approach was well received and the results were stunning! Can't wait for the grand showcase during show and tell at the February business meeting!

EXIT

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The monthly business meeting of the Loose Threads Quilt Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City, PA on 1/7/2026 and facilitated by President Val Fisher. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: A sign up sheet will be placed by the door on a podium. Instructions were given on the Quiltsmart Mondo Bag which will be worked on during the program meeting on 1/21/2026. There was a large donation of fabric dropped off for the guild.

Announcements: N/A

Basting Day: Will be held during Day Camp on April 29th.

Block of the Month: New row by row pattern was given out to those participating.

Challenge: The challenge is to use the guild's library, find a book, choose a pattern, and reference the book. The goal is to make the pattern that you choose. It can be no bigger than 20 X 20 inches (total perimeter 80 inches max), and it is to be embellished with beads, buttons, ribbon, or whatever you would like to use.

Day Camp: April 28th and 29th.

Morning Bee: 2nd Wednesday of the month opens at 9:30.

Holiday Brunch: Kudos

Library: nothing new

Membership: One new member was welcomed.

Programs: Quiltsmart Mondo Bag will be worked on and additional instructions will be sent via e-mail.

Sewing Room: Due to the large donation of fabric, a request was made for the sewing room committee to meet during the Morning Bee on January 14th at 9:30 a.m. to prepare the fabric for a Loose Threads Quilting Guild fabric sale.

Speakers: The committee is waiting for a call back from Barbara Cline.

Sunshine: N/A

Treasurer's Report: nothing new to report

Website: The website is up-to-date

Raffle Winner: The name tag winners were Sue Umstead and Diane Hess.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Haas, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quilt Shows

March 2026

Art Quilt Elements 2026 - March 23 to April 25, 2026. At the Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave, Wayne, PA. Art Quilt Elements 2024 is the 16th biennial exhibition of this internationally acclaimed show, unique for its professional presentation of contemporary fine art quilts. For more info visit http://artquiltelements.org/

QuiltFest Virtual Schoolhouse #14 – March 25-28, 2026. Presented by Mancuso Show Management—leaders in virtual quilting and textile art events—this dynamic online experience is your chance to explore new techniques, spark your creativity, and connect with fellow enthusiasts, all from the comfort of home. With instructors and participants from across the globe, QuiltFest celebrates a lively and inclusive international quilting community. Please note: All workshops at QuiltFest Virtual Schoolhouse will be live on Zoom and will not be recorded. For more info visit https://www.quiltfest.com/upcoming-shows-and-events/quiltfest-virtual-schoolhouse-14/.

A Quilter's Destination Lancaster Quilt Show @ Lebanon Valley - March 25-28, 2026. At the Lebanon Valley Exposition Center, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon, PA. Celebrating 34 years. The show features over 55+ vendors, 150+ quilts and 50+ classes. It also includes free admission, free parking and free lectures. For more info visit https://www.aquiltersdestination.com/lancaster-pa.

April 2026

AQS Quilt Week - April 8-11, 2026. Presented by AQS at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT. For more info visit https://www.quiltweek.com/.

Sharing the Quilts XXXXII – April 11, 2026. Presented by Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ. For more info visit https://harvestquilters.com/quilt-show/.

70th Annual PA Relief Sale - April 17-18, 2026. Since 1957, all sale day proceeds benefit the worldwide relief efforts of Mennonite Central Committee which include aid to the victims of poverty and other man-made and natural disasters. At the PA Farm Show Complex, Giant Expo Hall, Harrisburg, PA. For more info visit http://www.pareliefsale.org/.

AQS Quilt Week - April 22-25, 2026. Presented by AQS at the Schroeder Expo Center, 415 Park Street, Paducah, KY. For more info visit https://www.quiltweek.com/.

Starlight Starbright – April 25-26, 2026. Presented by County Line Quilters Guild at St Cyril of Jerusalem Church, 1410 Almshouse Rd, Jamison, PA. For more info visit https://countylinequilters.org/quilt-show-2026. Go to https://saint-cyril.com/directions/ for directions.

Patchwork Paradise - April 11-12, 2026. Presented by the Beachplum Quilters of the Jersey Shore at The Toms River Elks Lodge #1875, 600 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ. See the flyer at https://www.beachplumquilters.org/files/2026quiltshowflyer.pdf.

Charity is the spirit of being generous and helpful to those in need or those that are suffering.

Thank you so much to everyone that participated in our quilted hugs charity project. We were able to provide over twenty hugs to keep the folks warm, not only with the fabric, but also a hug, knowing that someone cared enough to provide that warmth.

A charity working day will be scheduled sometime during the year. However, these projects can also be done at home throughout the year. We encourage you to give your time and talents to make a positive difference in another's life. Want to reduce your stash, or use up some of those scraps? What better way than to turn it into a project that will help another!

This year, the committee would like to focus on three different projects (in no particular order). All are needed and appreciated.

1. - Dialysis Quilts - these quilts bring comfort to those who spend many hours getting dialysis treatments. Quilts should be 42" wide and about 72" (2 yards) long. Backing should be a soft fleece or flannel. The guild has fabric and batting available if you are in need. These quilts can be very simple or detailed. Use some of your orphan blocks and stitch them together! Melissa has generously offered to quilt the tops if you are unable to, and will return them to you for binding.

2. - Lap quilts for wheelchairs or for those with limited mobility. These should be about 42" x 46". Again, use your orphan blocks, stash, or guild fabric.

3. - Seatbelt Port Pillows - these are small pillows that fit on seat belts to protect and cushion those who are going through chemotherapy and have a port implanted for treatments. These pillows are very easy to make, and you can make two with a fat quarter of fabric. A perfect project to use up some of those scraps that are too pretty to toss, but too small for a larger project. Directions for the Port Pillows will be posted on the website.

Please reach out to one of us if you have any questions.
Thank you very much from the Charity/Service Projects Committee.

Nancy Kinyon-Samec
Melissa Ciacci
Judy Peters
Kathy Snyder

Hospitality

Feb 4	snack	Kathy Santillo
	snack	Jolene Lorah
Feb 18	snack	Debbie Haas
	snack	Joanne Borgnis

February Birthdays

1	Joanne Gardner
3	Pat Leiter
8	Eileen Frankil
15	Kathy Parker
20	Judy Magner
26	Debbie Haas

Loose Threads Quilt Guild

Meets at 9:30 a.m. on the
1st and 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