Loose Threads News

Volume 25 Issue 9 June 2020

1st Wednesday Agenda

Cancelled

3rd Wednesday Agenda

Picnic at Betty Ann's

Details page 3

Thoughts from Our Nurses

I asked some of our working member nurses if they would like to share their thoughts and experiences in the struggle to combat the coronavirus pandemic. I received these notes from Silvia Homa (Phoenixville Hospital) and Laurie Kelly (Sanatoga Manor Nursing Center).

First of all, I just want to thank all of you for doing your part and staying home when you can. I know it is difficult not having your normal routine and to freely get together with family and friends. By doing your part, it has helped us do our job by keeping the influx of patients to a reasonable level.

I've been on the frontline for several months and it is tough. Tough to watch patients struggling to breathe, knowing that once placed on a ventilator, their chances of getting off and better are slim. Tough for the families that can't be there for their loved ones

I always knew that nursing wasn't always going be easy. But for all the bad times, there were plenty more good times in my career.

We've lost many people, some were young and healthy, but there more that came from nursing homes and VA centers. Thankfully, I can say that my hospital has had enough PPE for their staff and there has been a lot of community support and donations. We've been lucky.

In my 30+ years of nursing, I never imagined this would happen. I believe that there will be a new normal for all of us. I can easily say, going through this has made me even more proud to be a nurse.

Silvia

Thoughts from Our Nurses, continued

Currently we now have two Covid positive cases at our nursing home. We got our first last Thursday and our second on Sunday. Many additional protocols have been added to try and keep the other residents from contracting it. Everybody, residents and staff, were just tested yesterday and we should have those results in 2-3 days. I have been happily surprised that we were able to keep the residents free from the virus up to this point. Hopefully, we can keep the rest of the residents safe. I have been working many long hours with quite a few 14 -15 hour days. I had just started getting back to my normal 12 ½ hour days when we had the positive residents so am now back to long days again.

I try to stay happy and positive for our residents because they are having a really difficult time right now after being cooped up in their rooms for more than two months. Currently they have to keep the curtain pulled between the two roommates and the doors must be kept shut between the rooms and the hallway. The residents are not allowed out in the hallway though some of the dementia residents do still come out. We try to keep masks on them if we cannot keep them in their room. The nurses and aides are wearing full PPE now, so some of the residents are having problems with that. I try to spend a few minutes every time I am in a room talking to the residents to give them some interaction and attention that is not strictly health related. Consequently, my charting, that is not time sensitive, rarely gets started until the end of my shift which is why I am always there so late.

It has been really helpful having Sabrina at home since that helps to alleviate my concern for Todd being alone for so long. Sabrina works for my in-laws 3 days a week in the mornings but is home otherwise. She can help Todd if he falls or with any other problems he may have.

I really miss seeing and talking to all my guild friends and can't wait until we can get back together again!!! I have been doing a little bit of quilting but not nearly as much as I would like. I hope everyone else is staying healthy and safe and I think about everyone all the time even though I have not kept in touch. Here's to seeing everyone soon!

Laurie

I'm still sewing facemasks because of the pandemic. Here's an interesting one with a clear vinyl window that's designed for those who interact with lip readers.

I was asked by an audiologist to make them for the entire office staff in their practice. An interesting and challenging project. Anyone can contact me if they want the pattern.

Eileen Frankil

President's Message

Earl Township Office

Hello Loose Threaders,

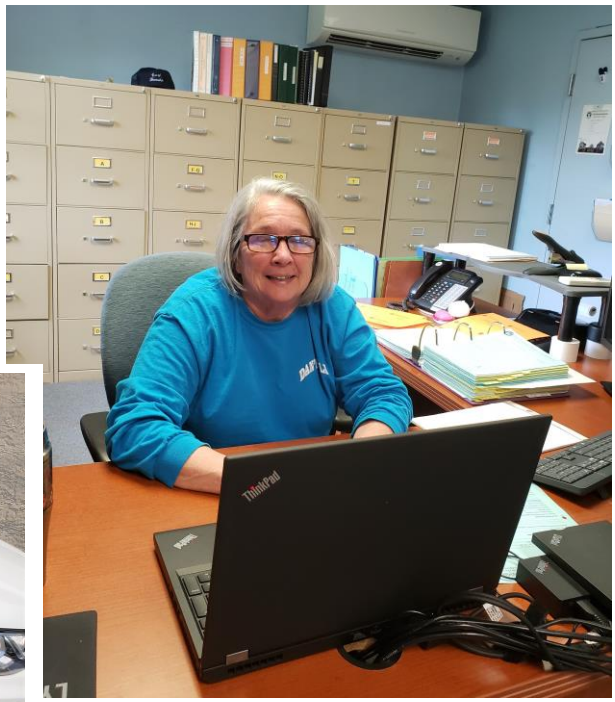
I must confess that I was very impressed with all of the useful and creative things that all of you have been doing while self-isolating. I, on the other hand, have been doing nothing so exciting so I've sent some pictures along with this letter to show you what I've been up to over the past two months. By way of explanation, in no particular order, the Deli car in which I'm still making deliveries, the office of the Historical Society, the pile of mulch for the garden and my temporary desk in the Earl Township Office. So, you see that I'm still working at several different things, none of it very creative, but only dealing with the same 7 or 8 people all the time. It's a funny world that we live in!

I hope this finds all of you well and taking care of yourselves. Looking forward to the time when we can all be together again. In the meantime, we have lots of things to take care of; voting for officers, fabric exchange, Block of the Month, both the Guild Challenge and the President's Challenge and probably a few others that I've not mentioned. Staying busy makes the time go faster and soon we'll be together. I miss your faces!

Betty Ann

Mulch Time

We are having a socially distanced picnic at my house on June 17th at 11:30am. Bring your lawn chair/picnic quilt, a bag lunch, something to drink and a Show and Tell. This is not a formal guild meeting.



Historical Society

Deli Car

Silk Purse Challenge

An old Scottish proverb states "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear".

The effects of the virus and our forced quarantine has been our pig's ear. But there are wonderful stories of coming together and kindness so - the challenge committee wants to suggest an addendum to our annual challenge and call it the **"Silk Purse"** challenge.

We can turn something ugly or inferior into a thing of value with this project. Your submission needn't contain a pig ear or a purse. Rather we would like to see something uplifting, a bright spot from this dark time.

Do you already have your snowflakes started? Don't worry, anyone wishing to submit a "Winter Wonderland" quilt may still do so. We'll accept both.

The dimensions of 100 inches total circumference remain the same. Pieces should be completed for our holiday party in December.

Linda Glass & Carolyn Thompson

How to be Happy

Feed the Birds

Eat Good Food

BREATHE FRESH AIR

Wear Something Pretty

Read Good Books

GROW FLOWERS

Take Long Naps

Soak in Bathtubs

Write in a Diary

Paint Toenails

See Chick Flicks

SHOW LOVE

I finished the binding on my king size quilt and now I keep staring at my UFO pile. I guess they are UFOs for a reason, they just don't excite me anymore! Dare I start a new project?? I think we should start trading UFOs. I'll finish yours and you can finish mine. Oh, that was just a brainstorm that popped in. UFO TWIST?

Linda Glass

Quilt Exhibit

Crazy for You: Crazy Quilts and Objects of Memory from the Schwenkfelder Collection

Through September 25
Fraktur Gallery

Crazy quilts were all the rage from the time of the United States centennial in 1876 through the 1910s. Everyone wanted a sumptuous crazy quilt (which are usually not quilted) made from silks and velvets for their parlors. Often the quilts were personal expressions with dates, names, and imagery that were meaningful to the maker.

Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center
105 Seminary Street
Pennsburg, PA

Share Box

Since we're not meeting as yet, we are initiating a newsletter "share" box. It will have a question or two for the month and an answer in the next month.

As many of us have been doing at home while "sheltering," my neighbor cleaned out some closets and discovered two forgotten fur coats. Does anyone recall the name of an individual in the area who makes "teddy bears" out of old fur coats? (I seem to recall a conversation about this at a meeting probably 10 years ago now!)

Joanne Cantwell

Send your answer to me and it will be shared in our box next month.

Nominations for Guild Officers

The nominating committee is pleased to present its slate of officers the upcoming year 2020 to 2021.

President: Betty Ann Dawson

Vice-President: Marylou Boryta

Secretary: Silvia Homa

Treasurer: Diane Hess will return for her second year as treasurer.

We are confident they are qualified and will do an excellent job once our meetings can resume. If there are any Write-ins for the ballot, contact Virginia Gates.

We are still deciding how to approach the logistics of the actual election. The ballots could be sent out by email, members could return them, completed, by email or print the ballots and return by postal mail.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Loretta Radewonuk
3	Barbara Painter
7	Margie Allen
9	Sandy Michalec
21	Nancy Kinyon-Samec
22	Donna Matthais
23	Debby O'Keefe
24	Christine Fallon
25	Carolyn Ferrandino

Walk Down Memory Lane

Linda Glass found this photo of some of the retreat attendees, taken at a quilt retreat in 2009 to St. Mary's in Elverson.

From front row: Linda Hamel, Geri Dulis, Shirley Horning, Whitney Beatty, Clem Dupont, Elizabeth Snead, Gayle Hammond, Joanne Gardner, Linda Glass, Jane Russell, Sandy Michelac

The two roomies that weekend, Linda and Clem, also known that evening at the 'Babushka Gals', having way too much fun as the night wore on.

I have a supply of nose strips for masks if anyone needs them, compliments of the Sheet Metal Workers of Philly.

Josie Sharp

Geometric Fabric Exchange

June's color is **Purple**

The ever-helpful custodian at the UCC church, George, has not been well. He had a few stents put in and has orders not to lift more than five pounds. This is in addition to back problems. If anyone would want to send him get well wishes here is his mailing address:

George Cloud
8 Bayberry Lane
Pottstown PA 19465

Comfort Food Recipes

The Doubletree chocolate chip cookie recipe is now available. That's the iconic cookie they give out to hotel patrons.

P.S. If you don't have all the ingredients you can adapt. I chopped up a chocolate Easter rabbit to sub for chocolate chips and used pecans instead of walnuts. Luckily, I had oatmeal.

And who are they kidding when they say to let cool for an hour?! Just don't burn your fingers when you eat the first one.

Debby O'Keefe

DoubleTree Signature Cookie Recipe

½ pound butter, softened (2 sticks)
¾ cup + 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
¾ cup packed light brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 ¼ teaspoons vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 ¼ cups flour
1/2 cup rolled oats
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
Pinch cinnamon
2 2/3 cups Nestle Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 3/4 cups chopped walnuts

1. Cream butter, sugar and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer on medium speed for about 2 minutes.
2. Add eggs, vanilla and lemon juice, blending with mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, then medium speed for about 2 minutes, or until light and fluffy, scraping down bowl.
3. With mixer on low speed, add flour, oats, baking soda, salt and cinnamon, blending for about 45 seconds. Don't overmix. Remove bowl from mixer and stir in chocolate chips and walnuts.
4. Portion dough with a scoop (about 3 tablespoons) onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper about 2 inches apart.
5. Preheat oven to 300°F. Bake for 20 to 23 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and center is still soft. Remove from oven and cool on baking sheet for about 1 hour. *Makes 26 cookies*

Cook's note: You can freeze the unbaked cookies, and there's no need to thaw. Preheat oven to 300°F and place frozen cookies on parchment paper-lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake until edges are golden brown and center is still soft.

This meal sure isn't for the calorie counter, but it sure is tasty, especially with the pickles. The grandkids absolutely loved it.

Clem Dupont

Cheeseburger Casserole

Ingredients:

1 ½ pounds ground beef
1 (3 ounce) package real Bacon Bits
2 cups Cheddar Cheese, shredded
1 (32 ounce) package frozen Tater Tots
1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed Cheddar cheese soup
2 cups sour cream
Bread and butter pickles for topping

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a 9 x 13" baking dish with nonstick spray.

In a large pan, brown ground beef, then drain any excess grease.

Mix soup with sour cream, stir in cheese, then Bacon Bits, browned beef and Tater Tots in a large mixing bowl until well combined.

Evenly spread mixture into baking dish, then bake for 45-50 minutes, or until bubbly.

Serve with pickles, if desired. Enjoy!

Margie Allen – Quiche…doing lots and lots of cooking!

French linen apron I made to protect myself from many drips and spills!

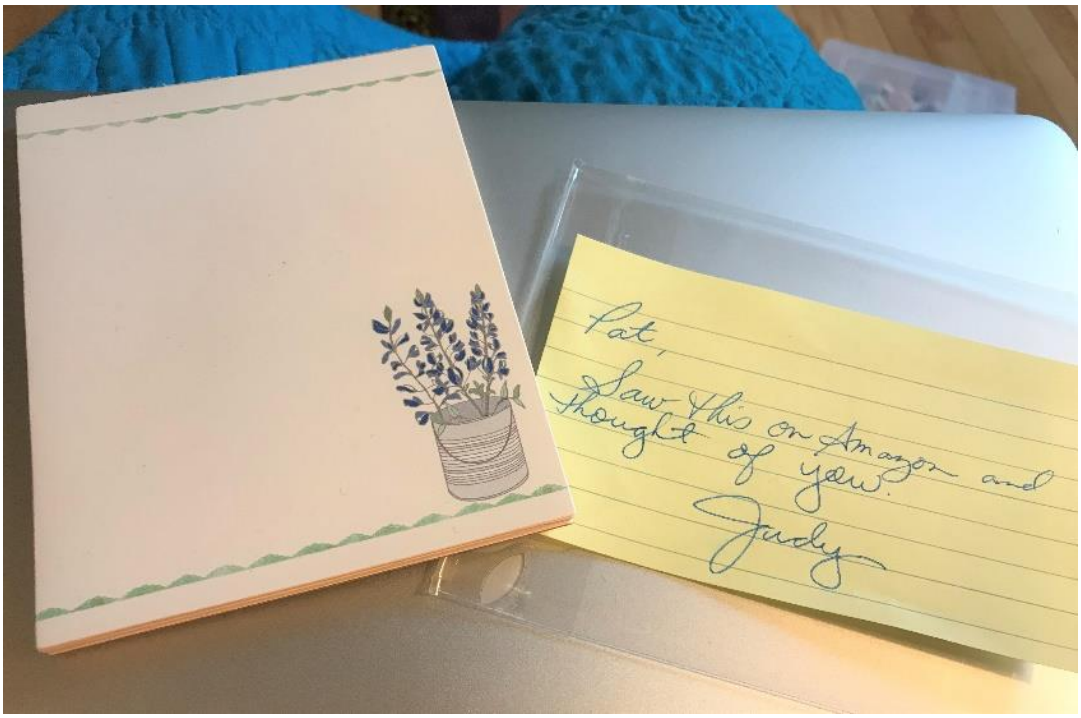
Pay It Forward

Several years ago, a movie came out called "Pay It Forward." The idea sparked in the mind of a child. It starts by doing something to change the life of three different people; they in turn change the life of three people and on it goes. The change becomes exponential. While the movie has a very sad ending, I won't spoil it, I do highly recommend it.

This past Saturday marks 10 weeks that we have been in self-quarantine. Probably like many of you, it's getting old. I miss people. I miss family, friends, and even strangers encountered throughout an ordinary day. Earlier this week, I made yet another trip to the mailbox but something was different this time. I found a yellow padded envelope with my name on it. I opened it and found this cute gift and a note. In case you don't recognize, those are Texas bluebonnets on the notecards. I missed my trip to Texas this spring and did not get to see the bluebonnets. It was a disappointment, for sure. The note said, "Pat, Saw this on Amazon and thought of you. Judy". It was from Judy Magner. She saw the bluebonnets and thought of me! It warmed my heart and this feeling of aloneness faded for a moment. My friend thought of me! What a wonderful thing.

I am sure many of you have had sweet surprises like this in the past weeks. I just want to encourage all of us to pay it forward. Think of a friend and put that thought into action. Send a card, a small gift, deliver homemade cookies to a doorstep – I'm sure you can think of 100 possibilities. I have some friends who will receive surprises thanks to Judy's inspiration of kindness. Let's pay it forward and "make the day" for others!

Pat Leiter



Future Gathering

Share the Irises
July 15, 2020

Some of our guild members have an abundance of irises just begging to be divided and shared. Just like fabric, they come in all colors. And just like fabric, it's fun to share with our friends.

Let's pencil in the date Wednesday, July 15 for a potential iris sharing day. We can do this at the church around the guild meeting. If there's no meeting, interested people can potentially meet up in the parking lot around lunchtime if the church approves and we follow physical distancing.

Please print out some photos of your irises that are blooming now. That will help people to choose something they might want. I will be bringing beautiful purple and white irises given to me by longtime guild member, Mary Dolby (who would be 105 if she were still with us.)

Divide the irises after the blooms are gone. It's a big job but very healthy for your irises. In fact, if your irises have stopped blooming, they will be revived after dividing. Below is a website with information on what to do to divide and plant irises.

Eileen Frankil

https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/bulbs/iris/dividing-transplanting-iris.htm

Member Show and Tell

Carolyn Thompson - The 100 log cabin blocks completed and together. Now to get the borders done! Again, each block has 32 different fabrics! Taking a break and doing some long-arm practicing in the interim.

Carolyn Thompson - Completed my UFO Pat Sloan quilt from how many years ago?

Linda Glass - The last king size quilt I'll ever make! It took a pandemic quarantine to get it done!

Lenore Clarke – Part of sock madness 2020

Judy Snook – I made this quilt for my great niece who is headed to the University of Delaware

Judy Snook has been on a pillow kick!

Margie Allen – Christmas quilt with my kitty. Almost done! Just have to sew rows together.

Judy Peters - A few of my sewing projects. A queen quilt top, a few charity quilts, flower pot bags from cut-off jeans legs and I have stopped counting the masks that have been delivered.

Block of the Month

Susan Glaser

Linda Hamel

Clem Dupont – My grandsons diplaying the Nutcracker handwork project I've been doing while here in Chicago.

Mary Larkin - I am working on *The Beatles* song blocks. I have quite a few more to do. This project will be for my grandson Ryan. I also finished some sports fabric face masks for my family, with still more to make.

Linda Hamel – Making progress on my Victory Garden quilt.

Susan Glaser – Two baby quilts

Kathy Parker - Baby blankets and facemasks

I have been busy making baby blankets. With everything that has been going on lately, babies are still coming into this world! The first two pictures are of the two blankets I just finished.

I have also been making masks. Some had permanent elastic sewn into them. Then I found that there were times that the elastic was either too tight or too loose. So, I started making them where the elastic could be pulled through the end and tied. I leave the elastic ends a little longer in case the mask is too tight. And, on the other hand, if it is too big, the elastic can be shortened up and trimmed. The masks also have a plastic-coated wire inserted to mold over the nose.

Some people didn't like the mask being so close to their nose and mouth so I tried another style. The last picture shows a mask that has one large pleat on the outside. It is stitched on each long edge to help keep its shape. This style helps keep the fabric further away from the face. I am still making masks but mostly for older folks who need them to go to the doctors, etc.

That's my story and I am glad to share it!

Kathy Parker

Marie Traxler - My granddaughter Olivia holding the quilt I made for her son, my great-grandson, Jaxon.

I should have been in Montana right about now...meeting my quilter pen pal, Shelly, for the first time and enjoying a retreat. Like so many other people's plans, that was not to happen.

I Zoomed in on Shelly's quilt guild meeting on Mother's Day--*San Diego Modern Quilt Guild*. That was interesting. Their guild normally meets at the Quilt in a Day Store...interesting. I got into quilting after reading the article about making a quilt in a day in a magazine many years ago.

Shelly learned about this event and shared it with me: https://retreatfromhome.com/learn-more-sew-in-your-jammies-2020/

I shared this sew along with the Loose Threads FB group and I think at least one lady is doing it. Simple blocks, uplifting messages, free.

https://jacquelynnesteves.com/the-silver-lining-is-here/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn4dsCZL-m4

Susan Koederitz

Debby O'Keefe - These are my works in progress. The churn dash quilt top used most of the blocks from my 100 Day Project. The nine patch is my evening tv watching project-hand quilting! I bought the top years ago and finally decided it deserved to be finished in my lifetime. Maybe even this summer.

Kiti Williams made this amazing hand-pieced, hand-quilted queen size quilt from an uncompleted project left by an unknown quilter on the stage at a guild meeting.

Officers & Contacts

PRESIDENT
Betty Ann Dawson wildberryfarm@dejazzd.com

VICE PRESIDENT /MEMBERSHIP
Virginia Gates virgates@aol.com

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
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 Quilters
Newsletter available on our website
www.theloosethreadsquilters.org

Loose Threads News is a monthly newsletter for the members of Loose Threads Quilt Guild.

Lenore Clarke – First an ask:
Need ideas on how to quilt these Christmas trees. The pieces are appliqued prior to back being put on. Can anyone show pictures of what they did?

Then a show. This is ~50 x 65. I picked it up from the stage at the guild a while back. I realize I will never be quilting it. Anyone else interested? Hand pieced 9 patches. Most likely feed sack.