Loose Threads News

Volume 25 Issue 11 August 2020

1st Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

Time to renew your membership! Don't forget to bring Marylou Boryta your completed membership form and $20 check or cash.

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 TBA

President's Message

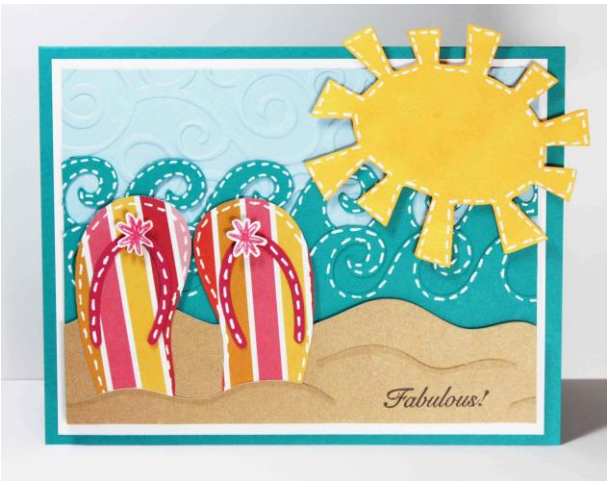
When will this heat end? Hot weather is not my friend! All of you lizards out there, I hope you're enjoying this. It makes me not want to do anything, including sewing, except sit in the AC and read a book!

Ok, that's all of my complaining, on to better things. High on my list of better things is the fact that my Loose Threads family has been able to meet at the Church. It's so nice to see the smiling (behind the masks) faces of our members. I hope that as we get more comfortable with masks and social distancing that we'll see more of you at meetings. Unfortunately, still no coffee, tea or snacks.

Don't forget that we still have lots of fun things coming up. Our President's Doily Challenge is due in September. Day Camp is tentatively scheduled for October. Our yearly Guild Challenge is due by the beginning of December. We do have to figure out what we are doing about our Christmas luncheon. I'm sure that we can come up with creative ways to see that our Guild life goes on.

Keep cool!

Betty Ann



Ladyfingers Sewing Studio

Although closed during the early days of the ongoing Pandemic, a bright light during recent months for some Loose Threads members has been Ladyfingers Sewing Studio in Oley, PA. They have offered curb-side service and willingly ship fabrics and accessories to their many customers. Owner and principal figure at Ladyfingers is Gail Kessler, a marketing director for Andover Fabrics for 13 years. The building that she chose for her business is a unique former hotel, the Griesemers, on the stagecoach line from Pottstown to Reading. Built in 1860, it is a red brick 3-story structure that sits by itself in a lovely country setting and was restored by Gail in 1995. Today it features over 4000 bolts of fabric and serves quilters and sewing enthusiasts worldwide as well as offering the use of their long-arm quilting equipment.

Gail is known as creator of Andover "Dimples" that are offered in over 140 colors. These fabrics are very versatile and are incorporated in many of the quilts sewn by Loose Threads members. Ladyfingers offers fabrics and thread, patterns, books, and kits and now sells Bernina machines as well. They also feature classes that meet in comfortable classrooms upstairs over the retail shop as well as offering a long-arm quilting service.

To some Loose Threads members, Oley may seem far, far away however it's only about a 30-minute drive from our meeting site in Spring City. Ladyfingers is now open for shopping by appointment via phone at 610-689-0068 or contact them online at Ladyfingerssewing.com. Enjoy a pleasant drive in the country some time and visit Ladyfingers. Another incentive is the handy Oley Dairy just down the road where you can find icy treats during the hot summer days ahead or, in other seasons, check out Reppert's Candies around the corner, a real treat for the Holidays.

Joanne Cantwell

Guild Officers

At our July meeting, the current slate of new officers was presented to the 22 members in attendance. There were no additions to the slate when further nominations were solicitated. The slate was approved with members accepting that there was not a quorum.

President: Betty Ann Dawson

Vice-President: Marylou Boryta

Secretary: Silvia Homa

Treasurer: Diane Hess

Virtual Quilt Show

In lieu of World Quilt New England and the Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza, Mancuso Show Management is proud to present our 2nd in a series of Online Quilt Festivals. These will be around the clock from start to finish no matter what your time zone. For our 2nd ever Online Quilt Festival, virtual show-goers will be able to view two quilt galleries, shop the vendors online, and take virtual interactive workshops from the comfort of home. NEW for our August event, quilters will be able to enter into the "Visuals #1" Quilt Competition - Online for show-goers and participants to see! Whether it be your desktop computer, tablet, laptop, or smart phone you can enjoy a great festival no matter where you are! Join us for #OLQF **August 12-15, 2020**. More info at https://www.quiltfest.com/upcoming-shows-and-events/online-quilt-festival/.

Minutes - July Meeting

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Loose Threads Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City, PA on July 1, 2020 facilitated by President Betty Ann Dawson. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Old Business: Iris exchange 7/15. Lenore has some to share, just call or text if you want some.

New Business: The business meeting raffle is on hold.
President challenge: Doily challenge is due Sept 2nd.
Winter theme challenge: due at holiday brunch Dec 2 and Silk Purse challenge: (see June newsletter for explanation). Turn something ugly or inferior into a thing of value with this project. Due at holiday brunch.

Basting: Next one is 7/29 so far still is a planned meeting, let the committee know if you have a quilt for basting.

Block of the Month: Almost done, one more month to go. Start thinking about borders.

Evening Bee: Is out on hold for now. Will revisit in upcoming meetings April, May June and July already paid for. A suggestion was made to donate those payments to the church.

Field Trips: If you want to go solo, Schwenkenfelder Library, 105 Creamery St, Pennsburg, has exhibit on crazy quilts until 9/25.
Ladyfingers is open for appointments (every 1/2hr - 2 people at a time may enter).
Wooden bridge is going curbside.
Old Country store and Burkholders are open.

Fabric Exchange: Waiting for more responses- give your fabric to Toni Hughes.

Hospitality: Kitchen is closed.

Newsletter: Linda is doing a great job finding content for us to read every month. Send any pictures or info to Linda Hamel.

Speakers: Cheryl Lynch is scheduled for Oct 2020. Karen Combs is scheduled for Nov 2020 assuming it's still a go.

Secret Pal: Do what you can during this time, you can send cards or gifts in the mail.

Tea: Give any receipts for reimbursement to Diane. Any Chinese Auction baskets that have food in them, will be raffled off to our guild members in August and September.

Treasurer: Diane gave most recent report of guild's finances.

Raffle Winners: Name tag: Lori Memmen, UFO draw for April: Judy Peters

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Silvia Homa – Secretary

Margie Allen - Making this for my daughter for Christmas. Not done because I am going to try to machine quilt it...oh dear, I'll probably kill it!!! It needs buttons for the snowmen and embroidered stick arms.

July Show and Tell

Welcome back to Cathy Nelson whom we hadn't seen since December! She completed the Gyleen Fitzgerald Workshop project.

Jane Russell acquired a completed top (all hand pieced) from one of the residents where she lives. Lil Evans quilted it and it will be auctioned on EBAY with proceeds going to the Benevolent Assoc. at Jenner's Pond.

Judy Snook had a bagful of small projects she had completed – this one is from the Frieda Anderson Workshop.

Rosemary Geisler finished a turtle mosaic quilt designed by Cheryl Lynch. Cheryl is scheduled to come to our guild in October to teach a mosaic workshop.

Lori Memmen completed a project designed by Karen Kay Buckley. The pattern was for a large quilt, but Lori decided to stop with this block

T.L.C. for Quilts

Whether your quilt is just-made, or an antique, it deserves the best care you can offer. Fabric is sensitive to light, heat, humidity, chemicals, dust, oils, smoke and frequent washing. To be sure your textile lives a long life, there are some basic guidelines to follow.

LIGHT:

1. Avoid direct sunlight
2. Fluorescent light should be filtered.
3. Keep incandescent lights at least 10 to 12 feet from quilts, and only use occasionally, because of heat.

CLIMATE:

1. Keep temperature from 60 to 70 degrees, and humidity around 50%.
2. Handle sparingly due to potential damage from skin oils. Wash hands before handling and if possible, handle with clean white gloves.
3. Don't store with or expose to other fabric which may be soiled. Expose to clean cotton only.

STORAGE:

1. Remove as much dust as possible from your quilts before storing. Air out, or vacuum, using a low suction hand vacuum. Protect the quilt by vacuuming through a non-metal screen. Never dry-clean an antique quilt. Dry cleaners use strong chemical solutions that may damage antique fabric, especially if it is silk or wool.
2. Try to avoid storing in wood; the oils can damage and stain fabric. If you must keep them in wood, protect with several layers of clean, 100% cotton, or line wood with aluminum foil. Acid-free, or at least acid-free tissue paper, provide safer protection.
3. Try to store as flat as possible, preventing tension on stitches.
4. Pad any folds with crumpled acid-free tissue paper, or washed muslin to reduce stress on quilt.
5. Refold every 6 months or so, avoiding existing fold lines. For example, if the quilt was folded in half, then half again, try folding in thirds.
6. Avoid stacking where possible, to diminish the chance of creases.

If you display quilts, try to rotate them frequently.

Update on Guild Challenges

President's Doily Challenge

This Challenge, which was to be completed this past spring, will now be due at our September business meeting – September 2nd. Inspired by an exhibit featuring doilies at last year's Oaks Quilt show, Betty Ann's challenge is to find some of your doilies and make absolutely anything out of them.

Guild 2020 Challenges:

Remember these rules:

1. You can do either challenge, or both, if you'd like.
2. Must NOT be larger than 100 inches!
3. Due Holiday Brunch, December 2, 2020

• Original Challenge - Winter Wonderland

What makes you smile on those "snowy days" of winter? Is it snowmen and sledding or skiing? Is it watching the birds (and squirrels) at the feeder? Is it sitting by a fire with hot chocolate or coffee as you watch it snowing out your window?

How about making a quilt to represent one of those "snowy" days so that you will have a wall hanging to keep up after the 2020 holidays?

You finished piece must be a "winter scene" that includes snow and/or snowflakes!

•Additional Challenge - Silk Purse

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.

Here's some inspiration – one project made from old jeans and a second made from funky striped silk ties.

The 'Spring' Day Camp has been cancelled and will NOT be rescheduled in the upcoming weeks. We will have our next Day Camp in the fall on October 13th & 14th. If you cannot make this new scheduling date or feel uncomfortable attending, Betty Ann will refund your $20 payment.

August Birthdays

7	Jane Russell
13	Stephanie Adrian
14	Geri Dulis
21	Marcela Sivco
24	Kathy Neiman
25	Pat Philion

The finances are being closed on our 2020 Tea. If you have any outstanding money to turn in or need reimbursement of funds you have expended, please see Diane Hess.

Geometric Fabric Exchange

August's squares should be Multi - Colored.

Membership

It's that time again. Membership Renewal! Beginning in August, we will be open for renewal of guild membership. The renewal form for you to complete has been sent along with this newsletter. Turn your form and payment in at the same time. You can do cash or check made out to Loose Threads. Highlight any updated information such as phone number or address changes on your membership form. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please mail check and form to Marylou.

Thank you!
Marylou Boryta

MY **PANDEMIC** EXPERIENCE

As do many grandparents each Spring, we looked forward to attending our grandson's high school graduation this past June. Alas! The **Pandemic** arrived, Brandon's graduation and many others were cancelled but we were eventually invited to a newly developed on-line "ZOOM" graduation service where the 80 graduates would remain in their respective homes on June 6.

Little did we know that the violent wind storm that hit our area on June 3 and left us with many downed trees and a 5-day power outage would result in NO WI-FI!! A call to our local McDonald's led us to a perfect parking spot on June 6 at 9:00am in their parking lot where we received excellent reception on our iPad in the car. Using their Wi-Fi, we spent 2-1/2 hours viewing Brandon's virtual graduation from Sandy Springs Friends School in MD.

Positives: Could wear old duds, didn't miss the 6-hour round trip drive, enjoyed sipping McDonald's iced coffee, and… *it was ok that the quilt wasn't finished*!

Negatives: Missed those hugs!

Joanne Cantwell

NOTE:

To Loose Threads Members -- specific experiences that you have incurred during the **Pandemic** are of interest to others. Just jot an email to Joanne at **JMCCRC.com** and she will contact you for details and be happy to write a paragraph or two about your experiences for upcoming newsletters.

Proud Grandma

Hey there! I'm here!
Nolan Beyer Fremuth
First grandson of Debby O'Keefe

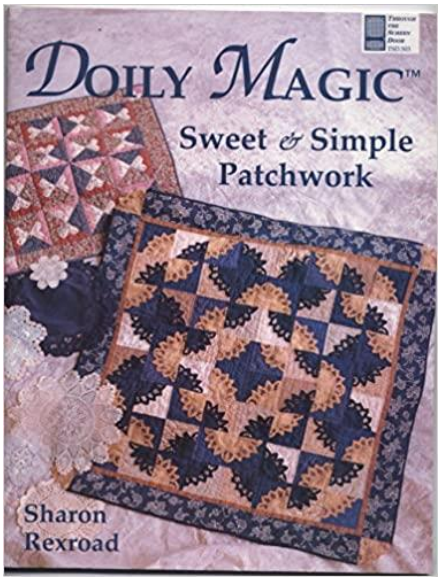
Rosemary Geisler – Making more fun potholders

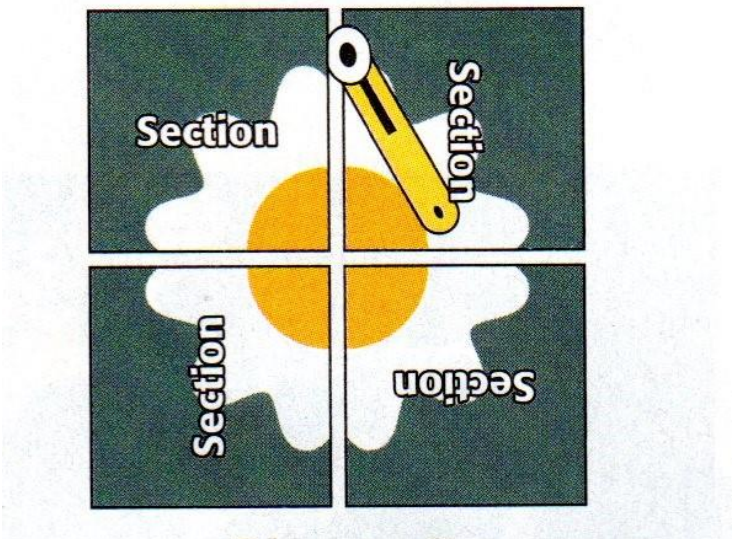
Doily Challenge Inspiration

The March/ April 2020 issue of *McCall's Quilting* has instructions for an interesting quilt made with doilies which was designed and made by Sharon Rexroad. She recommends using a glue stick to hold the doily in place. It's suggested to applique them in place prior to cutting the block into the sections that mimic a Drunkard's Path block.

Need more inspiration…Sharon has a book titled *Doily Magic: Sweet & Simple Patchwork* available in paperback from Amazon for $7.38.

September isn't that far away!





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 $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

Lori Memmen got back this New York Beauty quilt from Winnie McCarraher, one of our member long-armers, at the July program meeting. Winnie did her quilting magic adding to the amazing effect of this outstanding quilt. Lori said she was determined to keep on plugging away at these Sara Bond paper-pieced blocks during our 'stay-at-home' time this spring until, finally (!), it was finished.