Loose Threads News

Volume 28 Issue 5 February 2023

1st Wednesday

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

Show and Tell

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Sew Together Bag - Lori Memmen

President's Message

Ah, February, the month of love (along with a bunch of other things that we should be aware of, celebrate or just enjoy). Among the things that I love are my family, my friends, my animals and my quilt guild, in no particular order. For the purpose of this note, the emphasis will be on my quilt guild.

There are many things to love about our guild: the people, first and foremost, are the best. They are willing to help out, they are compassionate, they are kind and they are really funny! They are talented, they are creative, they are passionate and, did I mention, they are really funny! Spend enough time with all of us and you will find yourself laughing a good bit of the time. Guild meetings, field trips and lunches always leave me wanting more!

Wishing all of you creative, compassionate, kind and funny people a month of love!

Betty Ann

The Penn Oaks Quilters would like to invite you to a special event:

An Evening with Jenny Doan

Jenny will be joining us via Zoom. However, attendance will be in-person only, and seating is limited. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.

When: Monday, March 13th, at 7:00 pm
Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 400 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
Fee for non-members: $10

Guests should email pennoaksquilts@gmail.com,

January Minutes

The Monthly Business Meeting of the Loose Threads Quilt Guild was held at the United Church of Christ in Spring City on January 4, 2023 facilitated by President Betty Ann Dawson. The meeting was called to order at 10:03.

Announcements: Two Thank-you letters were received and read by Betty Ann, one from Salvation Army and one from Manatawny Manor for our donations.
There is a code available for a discount on purchases from the *Quiltfolk* website. Linda will publish it.

Basting: Next basting day is 3/29/23.

Block of the Month: Sylvia recommended using a scant ¼ inch seam with this month's square in a square block.

Challenge: Only nine packets left and if interested, see Sylvia.

Charity Projects: Need more quilts for donation.

Evening Bee: Next bee is 1/11/23. We meet at Giovannis at 5:00 for dinner and then meet at the church at 6:30.

Field Trips: Sign-up sheet is being passed for trip on 1/25/23 to Lititz.

Hospitality: Gayle says we are good until April.

Library: Carolyn is going through magazines and purging the older ones.

Membership: Josie reports that we have 49 active members.

Programs: The next program is a show and tell of our quilt journey. Members should bring their first quilt made and their favorite quilt.

Round Robin: All is coordinated so far.

Sunshine: Susan Glaser still under the weather. Lil Evans is doing better and Kathy Neiman is scheduled to see an oncologist. Cards are appreciated.

Tea: The Tea is March 25th.
- There are 76 registrations so far with 2 discussion groups filled already.
- Nancy Miller is collecting the finished tea blocks.
- Linda Hamel is starting to take donations for the basket raffle.
- Betty Ann is encouraging donations to the sewing room.
- Sylvia is also encouraging people to make crafts for the craft sale. Members can either donate the proceeds entirely or pay a $7 fee and keep all the sales.

Treasurer: Marylou gave the treasurers report.

Website: All up to date per Diane. Membership reminded of password.

Other Items: Guild is celebrating 35th anniversary this year. The guild will have a luncheon possibly at Landis Creek in May. Cost per person will be $20.

Raffle Winners: Gift donated by Carly
Business Meeting Raffle: Rosemary Geisler
Name Tag Winner: Margie Allen

The meeting concluded at 11:12 followed by Show 'n Tell.

Respectfully submitted by:

Winnie McCarraher

Secretary

Road Trip to Lancaster County

Our road trip to Weaver's in Lancaster County turned into a memorable occasion, but not in any way we had anticipated when the day began. There was some snow forecast for the morning, supposedly changing to rain around noon, but the roads were clear and dry on our drive out. But in an ominous sign that we paid little attention to, big fat snowflakes began to fall as we entered the quilt shop, everyone eager to begin their fabric searches.

Sometime later, we were ready to move on to Weber's Chocolates and from there to lunch in Lititz. When we got outside there was about 3 inches of wet slushy snow everywhere. No worries, our six cars would caravan the ½ mile out to the main road and get on with the rest of our day. But Mother Nature had other ideas! Underneath that snow was an icy road surface which made driving up the gradual hill beyond Weaver's (that I hadn't even noticed on my way in!) virtually impossible. One of the front cars in our caravan couldn't make it up the hill and then, to our horror, wound up off the road in a ditch as she slid without control trying to back down. It looked like a tow truck was going to be her only option. The caravan backed up into Weaver's parking lot to ponder our next move.

Meanwhile, other traffic was attempting the hill with varying degrees of success. A very large semi was the next 'victim' of the hill, faltering 2/3 of the way up and then winding up diagonal across the road as he tried to back down. Betty Ann sprang into action, calling emergency services who connected her to the State Police. A plow and sander would come to our aid, but who knew when.

Thanks to the kindness of a benevolent stranger taking over the driving and others pushing at the back, the car was rescued from its home in the ditch. Now we had to endure the long wait for road assistance, but on the bright side, what better place to be stranded in a snow storm than a quilt shop? An hour or so later the sander and snow plow appeared at the top of the hill (to the cheers of all of us gathered outside of the shop) and in due time the semi was able to continue up the hill.

It was 2:30, the snow had changed to rain and we decided to stop for food at a nearby restaurant which was right on the main road. All six cars pull into the restaurant parking lot greeted by a large sign taped to the door "Closed due to the weather." We finally got the hint…time to call it a day!

Happiness prior to stepping outside

The plow has arrived!

Page 3

Lancaster Home & Fabric
(formerly Weaver's)
108 W. Brubaker Valley Road
Lititz, PA

- Great selection of fabrics
- Amazing selection of panels & novelty fabrics
- Well organized with good lighting.
- Good prices

Mystery BOM – February Clues

Boy, is this ever an easy assignment for this month! Remember the clue for last month…DO IT AGAIN.

For February: We will be making **another** set of 24 HST from fabric A and B

- Cut (12) 4" X 4" squares from A and B.
- With RST draw a diagonal line on the back of either square and sew ¼ inch from both sides of the line.
- Cut in half so you'll have 2 HST measuring 3 ½" when you are done.
- You should end up with (24) 3 ½" HST.

Any questions see/call me (484 – 459 - 5591)

Silvia Homa

January Show & Tell

Joanne Borgnis

Joanne did an online 'embroidery stitch-a-day' in this intersecting format. She plans to frame it for hanging.

Susan Koederitz recently loss her mother-in-law who was a very talented quilter. She showed a much admired quilt that she had made for Susan years ago.

Josie Sharp showed this charming baby quilt.

Marcela Sivco

Tea Reminders

- **Tea Block:** Please make this year's Tea block – SWEET CAROLINE. And if you're feeling ambitious, two blocks would make you eligible for the guild drawing of extra blocks. The pattern is available on our web site, under the December newsletter or the Tea Invitation section. The blocks are due by Friday, March 24th, but turn them in any time prior to Nancy Miller.

- **Quilt Show:** Put the finishing touches on your quilting projects so they will be ready for display at the Tea. We hope that everyone will have something to show at our annual show. Don't forget about the Placemat Challenge and the Kaleidoscope workshop quilts. NOTE: If your quilt is larger than 50 x 50" please attach a sleeve for hanging. This makes the quilt show committee's job so much easier. Attached with this month's newsletter are instructions to create a quilt sleeve.

- **Book Sale:** We are accepting book donations for the Tea. The last day to accept books will be at the Tea set-up day Friday, March 24th. No donations the day of the Tea!
WANTED: Accepting quilt books or quilt novels, general fiction and biographies (fairly recent and in good condition) and quilt magazines that are no older than 2015.
NOT WANTED: In an effort to reduce the number of leftover books, we will NOT accept: children's books, cookbooks, knitting or craft books, instruction "booklets," or any dusty, damaged or otherwise unappealing books. When you drop off books in the Maple room your name MUST be included on the bag. Book Sale Committee: Judy Snook and Linda Glass

- **Sewing Room Sale:** Lil Evans and Betty Ann Dawson are working their magic on all of your donations that will, yet again, turn our sewing room sale space into a mini quilt shop. It's not too late to add to their fabric stock this year. Please measure and label fabric yardage.

- **Loose Threads Auction:** Do you have a quilt, UFO, fabric, new skein of yarn or sewing item that might work (or add to) an auction basket? Then, please consider donating to the Loose Threads Auction. If you signed up to donate a 'themed' basket, bring that anytime to Linda…and no need to have it in a basket!

- **Craft Sale:** Here is an opportunity to sell your sewing or even non-sewing related crafts. Prices are set by each crafter. Each crafter will pay a $7 registration fee and then keep all of the money from sales. We will take items up to Friday, March 24th. If possible, please bring in some type of display source for your items. Contact Silvia Homa with any questions.
Be sure to fill out a form with your name, item, price per unit and the number of items. Silvia will have the forms and they are also available on the website to print.
  - **No items will be accepted without a form.**
  - **Each item must be labeled with your initials and price, with a tag or dot label.** (If you need some labels, see Silvia)
  - **Please make a copy of your form**

February Program – Sew Together Bag

The Sew Together™ Bag is a nifty little bag with three zippered pockets, four open pockets, a pincushion and a great little needle landing all held together by a zipper that forms two handles.

This bag will easily hold your 8" scissors, rotary cutter, marking pencils, seam ripper, extra needles, thread, snippers, and much more. It will amaze you how much you can hold in this fun and compact bag.

At our February program meeting Lori Memmem will be instructing members in the making of the **Sew Together Bag**. Carefully review Lori's tips and reccommendations on the following page PRIOR to our meeting.

SEW TOGETHER BAG LECTURE PRE-WORK and SUPPLY LIST

During this meeting we'll focus on installing the zippers and creating the pockets. I'll then summarize the steps to complete the bag. I recommend getting the pattern directly from the author at Sew Together Bag

There is also a smaller version from a different author. I've not made this yet, but if you prefer see pattern at Mini Double-Pocket Bag

For the Sew Together Bag I use a tutorial as I found the pattern a little light on instruction, and for me pictures make all the difference. You don't have to look at it before we get together, I provide this as a helpful reference. And since it will not be possible to complete the bag during the meeting, you'll want to reference the tutorial and/or the youtube videos mentioned below to complete your bag. http://quiltbarn.blogspot.com/2014/03/sew-long.html

Search for "Sew Together Bag" on youtube for tutorials created by the author of the pattern. Some of the tutorals include how to enhance the bag by creating a landing, welt pocket, etc.

The lecture/workshop will make more sense if you are able to read through the pattern and cut your fabric ahead of time. Make the decision to go scrappy or "planned".

What to bring:

Exterior fabric – have this embellished and/or quilted before cutting to size of 13 ½" x 9 ¾". Use regular batting or fusible fleece when you quilt this. This is where you can put your personality into the bag!

Lining fabric – 4 pieces cut at 8 ¾" x 9 ¾". Apply fusible light weight interfacing to each of these pieces. I usually use Pellon SF101

Pocket lining fabric – 6 pieces cut at 4" x 9 ¾"

Additional fabric for side panels and bindings – You'll need less than ½ yard, 2 fat quarters will work. You will cut these when ready. I have used the same fabrics as inside pockets or contrast/compliment the outside fabrics. Obviously your choice!

Zippers – I get mine from Zipit at Etsy. https://www.etsy.com/shop/zipit Search on Sew Together, she packages whatever colors you want just for this pattern and it's very reasonable and she's quick to deliver. You need one (1) 18" zipper and three (3) 9" zippers. I find it fun to have them be contrasting color with some of the fabrics, and coordinating works well too.

Thread(s) to coordinate – there will be top stitching that will encourage your choices. Suggest bringing bobbins already wound for your machine.

Sewing machine WITH walking foot. Very important to have a walking foot. We will be talking through the pattern, so it's up to you if you want to sew at the meeting or at home.

Basic sewing supplies/tools.

Lori Memmen

January Program – FIRST & FAVE

Debbie Popp, Debby O'Keefe, Barbara Sherman, Linda Hamel, Betty Ann Dawson, Marie Traxler, Judy Peters

Many thanks to all the helpers that made the day go smoothly!

By the end of the meeting, it seemed everyone was in agreement, January's program turned into one of the most enjoyable guild programs we've had in quite a while. There were 27 members who participated in our FIRST and FAVE show and tell. It was amazing to see the beginning of each quilting journey and then to ooh and ahh at the current capabilities. There were many familiar lines, "I knew how to sew clothing, so how hard could quilting be? Can't believe I actually choose that color combination. I simply used polyester fabric, a sheet for the back, no quilting, just yarn to tie tack…just fill in the blank!"

Judy Snook, Nancy Miller, Pat Leiter, Diane Hess, Susan Koederitz, Melinda Novatnak, Carolyn Thompson, Chris Rivard

Sue Umstead, Marcela Sivco, Margie Allen, Marylou Boryta, Judy McCourry, Jean Sullivan, Laurie Kelly

Judy Peters describes her FAVE

Margie Allen told about her FIRST…made with polyester fabric!

Hospitality

	February 1	February 15
Snack:	Barb Sherman	Sharon Beideman
Snack:	Joanne Borgnis	Nancy Kinyon-Samac
Drink:	Rosemary Geisler	Jean Sullivan

A Note of Thanks –

To all my quilting friends who sent me cards, emails and text messages while I will sick, I send my heart-felt thanks for your thoughts and best wishes. Covid is certainly a nasty disease. I am one of those patients who has been diagnosed with "Long Covid". I am not contagious, but will have the side-effects of the disease for a few months. Some days are good and some are not, but I look forward to being free of these bad days and back full-time with all of you. Again, thank you so much for thinking of me. You are the best!

Kathy Parker

Malvern Retreat House Invites you to

2023 Art Show

Wednesday, Feb. 1 - Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023
Free Admission All Days
315 South Warren Ave.
Malvern, PA

Over 100 Juried Artists – includes painting, sculpture, photography, jewelry, fiber art, glassware and ceramics.

Upcoming Events

AQS Quilt Week - February 22-25, 2023. Presented by AQS at the Ocean Center, 101 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL www.quiltweek.com.

Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival - February 23 - 26, 2023. Presented by Mancuso Show Management at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA www.quiltfest.com.

Lancaster Quilt Show - March 29- April 1, 2023. At the Wyndham Lancaster Resort and Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Highway E, Lancaster, PA. The show features over 40 vendors, a quilt exhibit and classes throughout the week.www.thelancasterquiltshow.com/

February Birthdays

1	Joanne Gardner
3	Pat Leiter
4	Virginia Gates
8	Eileen Frankil
13	Sally Ater
15	Kathy Parker
20	Judy Magner

MAQ

MAQ (Mid-Appalachian Quilt) is actually a guild that meets in Gettysburg once a year in July offering quite a variety of classes taught by really good teachers. Classes are held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, generally one day classes although a few are two days.

Besides the classes, in the evening there is a speaker, a chance to win blocks that people have made for the raffle, door prizes, and show and tell.

You can choose to stay in the dorms. The suites of single rooms share a common area and a bathroom. I've stayed in the dorm a few times and they are fine but I have decided to stay in a hotel instead.

If you stay in the dorm, you get three meals a day. If you stay elsewhere, you can buy a ticket for a meal. The food is okay with a variety of choices.

The classes are held on campus in air conditioned buildings. While you have to lug your sewing machine, etc. to class, after each day's class is over, you can take all of your things to where your next class meets, a huge benefit from taking it back and forth to wherever you are staying.

My daughter and I have gone to MAQ for many years and look forward to seeing what classes we want to take each year. I'd love to see friends come too. If you go to www.maqonline.org, you can see the schedule of classes for this year. March 4 at 10 a.m. is when registration begins. Sometimes it is a good idea to register right away.

Judy Snook

Labels

The Block magazine, Volume 6, 2022 has an article about the importance of labeling quilts. When I pulled out my "first" quilt for the Firsts and Favorites presentation, I was glad to see the initials of myself and friend, Wendy, and the year we made it hand stitched on it. 1987. WOW! Please consider getting out a quilt that you've been meaning to label (or maybe hadn't thought about doing) and jot some info down and sew it on, or simply write on the back (or front?!) Here is a picture of a quilt from the field trip to the Schwenkenfelder Center, the creator placed herself front and center.

Below are a few online sources for quilt label information.

https://youtu.be/jYajgujAb0M

https://scrapfabriclove.com/8-ways-to-label-your-quilts-and-why-you-should/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=113H-VFUBZU&t=11s

Susan Koederitz

Top 10 Sewing Room Organization Tips

Susan Koederitz found this information which may help you whip that sewing room into shape for the new year. Check out the website for all the details.

Hi everyone! I'm **Andy Knowlton, pattern designer and blogger at A Bright Corner**. I love creating pretty things every day and I've discovered that I feel way more creative and productive when my space is well organized.
Top 10 Sewing Room Organization Tips | Sewing | Diary of a Quilter

TIP 1*: SORT AND STORE YOUR QUILTING TOOLS BY USE & STORE NEAR THE WORK AREA.*
For example, keep all of your quilting rulers together by hanging them on a bar near your cutting table or workspace for easy access. Amy has another simple idea for *ruler storage using Command Hooks here*.
Another simple option would be ***a craft tool pegboard***.
Store scissors, pens/markers, rotary cutters, sewing machine presser feet and other sewing supplies in a kitchen organizer like this one near your sewing table.

TIP 2: CONSIDER HOW YOU USE YOUR PATTERNS.
If you refer to a few favorites often, they might be best stored in a 3-ring binder such as this one, with tabs to keep them organized and easy to find. Paper patterns stay organized in a ***mini binder*** using ***small page protectors***.

TIP 3: SPEAKING OF PATTERNS…
Always save a backup of any printable PDF patterns on a thumb drive, or hard drive! Once printed, I store PDF patterns and printable online tutorials in these cardboard magazine holders.

TIP 4: SORT YOUR QUILTING MAGAZINES & BOOKS:
Yearly, sort through all quilting magazines & books and donate or give away the ones that you're ready to let go of.

TIP 5: FOR YOUR FAVORITE MAGAZINE PATTERNS:
Tear out the pages you need and store them in page protectors in a 3-ring binder like this one.

TIP 6: FABRIC STORAGE:
Store your fabric according to how you use it! I usually start a quilt with a color palette in mind so I sort most of my fabric stash by color.

TIP 7*: STORAGE BINS*
Baskets or clear bins are a fantastic storage solution to corral your fabric storage.

TIP 8*: SORT YOUR SCRAPS*
When storing scraps, sorting by color is a great solution. Sorting by size is another option.

TIP 9*: STORING YOUR PROJECTS*
When storing quilting projects, store everything for one project all together. I like to use ArtBin Super Satchels You can find these at JoAnn's or on Amazon.

TIP10*: KEEP TRACK OF THOSE PROJECTS*
Use some kind of planner or tracking sheet to help keep you on track so no project gets left behind. I keep these on a clipboard that hangs near my cutting table.

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

Quilt Donation Thank You Notes

Thank you for your interest and support of the Salvation Army of Greater Pottstown this year. Your gifts of quilts for the Lessig-Booth Family Residence shelter are appreciated. The quilts came at a perfect time when we were running low on blankets and were very special to each person who received one.
Gifts like yours are invaluable to our families experiencing the trauma of homelessness. In the 2021-2022 program year the Lessig-Booth Emergency Family Shelter provided safe continuous care to 60 families.
Thank you for using your time and talent to make beautiful quilts!

Wendy Egolf
Director of Housing Programs
The Salvation Army

On behalf of our residents, we thank you for the wonderful donations. You have a very talented group and we are fortunate to be the recipient of the results of all the hard work.

Sincerely,
Janet Swiecicki, Acting Director
Manatawny Manor