Loose Threads News

Volume 20 Issue 4 January 2015

1st Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting
Show and Tell

2nd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

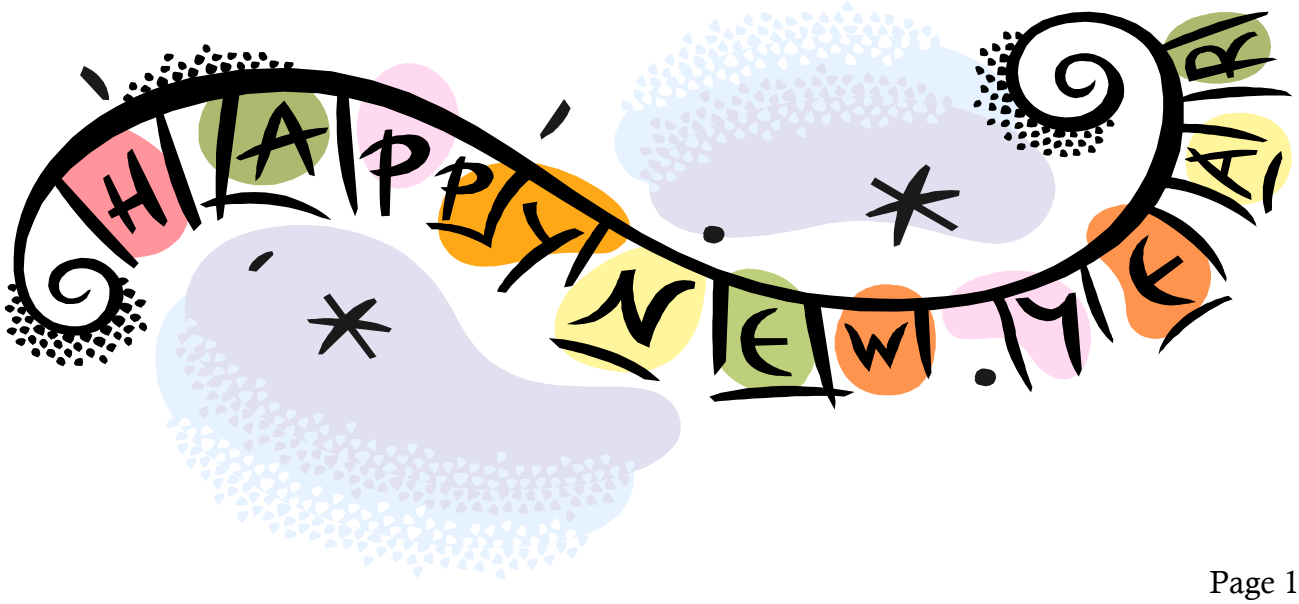
10:00 Sit & Sew Your UFO!

President's Message

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."
- Edith Sitwell

The older I get, the more I actually look forward to January, for all of the reasons in the quote above. Now is the time to work on the comfort of a quilt, with a pot of soup simmering on the stove, and if you're lucky, some friends to join you with their projects in front of a warm fire. Even if you're just enjoying some quiet time alone after the rush of the holidays I hope you find some time to pull out some sewing to work on. Our Tea quilt show and the library displays are just around the corner and we're hoping to show something from all of our members.
Happy New Year!

Debby

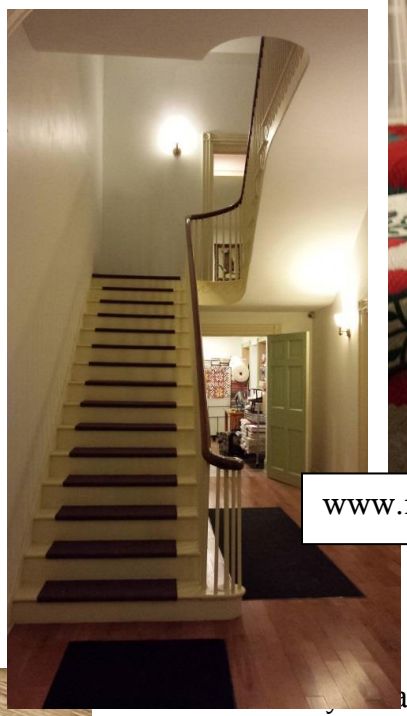


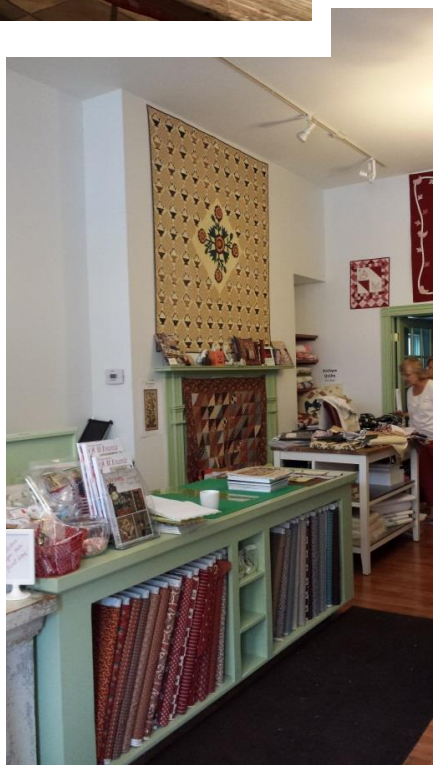
Retreat / Quilt Shop Review

About 3 hours west of here, below Altoona, is a sweet little town called Bedford. On the main drag you can find Mary Koval's quilt store in a building from the 1830s. Mary is a quilter, appraiser, quilt dealer, collector and fabric designer. Her store has antique quilts for sale, and repros of 19th century fabric, many of which she has designed.

www.marykovalantiquequilts.com

Upstairs are nestled 5 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, a large sitting room and modern kitchen for a pleasurable quilt retreat. The sewing room is downstairs, best for 4-6 machines only; with cutting and ironing in the spacious hall. The sitting room is ideal for comfy hand work.





and I recently were on a retreat here and had a lovely time. We were in charge of our own breakfast and lunch then walked to nearby local restaurants (no chains!) for dinner.

The staff is very friendly skilled quilters. While we were there they were getting ready for Quilt Market in Houston.

This was a pleasant change-of-pace. Grab a few friends, and go visit Mary. It's about 15 miles from the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville. It's $75 per night, sheets and towels included, full kitchen available, as are local yummy eateries.

Lenore Clarke

Speaker

Liz Hawkins

Main Line Quilters
January 16, 2015 at 9:45

The January speaker at Main Line Quilters, Liz Hawkins of "**Lizziebcrea8ive Fabric and Quilt Design Studio,**" lives in Pennsylvania. She has a background in fine arts and loves the conception and design side of the fabric and quilt design business that she partners with her sister-in-law Beth. (Beth lives in Kansas.) Liz will be presenting "Cre8ive in Quilting" slide and trunk show at the Main Line guild meeting held at the Tredyffrin Library located on 582 Upper Gulph Road in Strafford.

www.Lizziebcreative.com

Evening Bee

Good news! Since attendance and enthusiasm have been high, the evening bee will continue into the new year. The church has been reserved for the next 4 months on the 2nd Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30. The weather can become iffy through the winter months, so check your email for a cancellation notice. Nancy Miller will send out an email notice by 4 o'clock in the afternoon if the bee is cancelled. If the winter doldrums are setting in, perhaps an evening out among friendly quilters is just the thing you need; please join us! Any questions, contact Nancy Miller at 610-970-6260 or nancymiller922@comcast.net.

January Program

From quilting expert Janet Wickell on the ***about home*** web site, "Quilters have tagged a unique meaning onto the term UFO. To quilters, UFOs are not objects flying in the sky (unless we toss them around because they're so ugly). A UFO is an Unfinished Object -- the remnants of those quilts we start to make but never seem to finish. You'll find UFOs tucked away in the bins and baskets of nearly every quilter, and we're not the only generation of quilters who have accumulated extra quilt blocks. Look for vintage quilts listed in online auctions, at estate sales and flea markets and you'll find blocks and quilt tops from lots of eras."

The plan for our January program meeting is **Sit & Sew Your UFO.** Dig into that pile of unfinished projects and find one you'd like to work on. Bring your machine or plan to do hand work. Or perhaps you're stuck on exactly what to do next with your project… if you need advice or opinions there will be plenty available. Sometimes UFOs are unfinished for a reason. People usually need some kind of help or motivation to get going again. So bring a UFO you'd like to finish this year to get inspiration and to give some to others!

Local Quilt Shop Day is a worldwide celebration for independently-owned quilt shops everywhere. Meant to connect retailers and fabric lovers, **Local Quilt Shop Day** will be held on **Saturday, January 24, 2015** with special events, depending on your shop.

Holiday Brunch

The unofficial start of the holiday season is always the Loose Threads Holiday Brunch. This year's party was busy from start to finish with the challenge, gift exchange, BOM challenge, secret pal reveal, announcement of the 2015 challenge, a special birthday and, of course, all that delicious food. The Brunch committee went over the top with lovely decorations, clever favors and the special 'take-home' gifts that decorated each table. Smiles all around…it was a wonderful event!

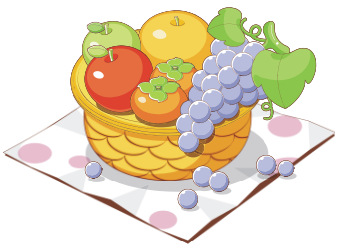
Our holiday brunch emcee, Susan Glaser.

One of our long term members, Jean Atwood, celebrated her 91st birthday in December. An event like that could not pass without her quilting friends marking the occasion with singing, hugging and some holiday flowers.

The organizers of last year's Block-of-the-Month, Carolyn Thompson and Linda Garthe, sent out a challenge to members. All participants who managed to finish their BOM quilt or even complete the top would be eligible for prizes. Donna Mathias, Takako Pike and Lil Evans displayed beautiful completed quilts and Sally Ater, Melinda Novatnak and Linda Garthe all had their quilt tops sewn together.

Salad Challenge 2014

The Loose Threads 2014 Challenge – affectionately known all year as the Salad Challenge -- was a resounding success. There were 23 participants with inspiration salads ranging from antipasto, cole slaw and taco salad to numerous fruit salads and even the Seven Layer salad popular years ago. Tied at the top of the viewer's choice list were Linda Glass and Linda Hamel, with Silvia Homa our third place winner.



Twelve Days of Quilting Christmas

One sewing machine
Two rotary cutters
Three quilting workshops
Four finished projects
Five golden thimbles
Six spools of thread
Seven shops to hop
Eight fat quarters
Nine marking pencils
Ten fabric bundles
Eleven yards for backing
Twelve friends to quilt with
And a rockin' quilt guild for the New Year!

The FLOWER fabric exchange for January is blue/mini flowers.

All blocks should be 6 ½ inches square. Fabric can have the color of the month in the flowers or in the background.
Cut 11 squares and put in one zip lock bag marked with your name and JANUARY.

NEW YEAR'S RESOULTION:
If you've missed any months since the exchange began, the New Year is a great time to get up to date! Package up those squares into baggies, label with the month and your name and get them to Lil Evans.

Pattern

Donna Mathias did a beautiful job on the tablerunners for the Holiday Brunch and eight lucky ladies who had a sticker under their chairs were able to take them home. The pattern is called the **15 Minute Tablerunner** . There were so many questions about the 'how-tos' that we have included this link to the pattern. Here are step-by-step instructions with photos. Have fun!

http://www.pineneedles.net/store/pc/catalog/15_minute_tablerunner.pdf

At our December program meeting Silvia Homa showed us how to make a simple Christmas ornament, using two contrasting fabrics with just a little bit of sewing.

Kathy Neiman and Jean Sullivan were pleased with the results!

January Birthdays

1 Takako Pike
14 Lil Evans

Astrology of the Quilt Guild

Excerpts from *A Gathering of Quilters* by Luana Rubin, McCall's Quilting Magazine

Capricorn Dec 22th to Jan 21rd

If you put enough time and money into the hobby of quilting, eventually, Capricorn, you will find a way to make it a career or at least a part-time form of income. Capricorn will turn the investment of classes and fabric into a service or product that is salable, or at least practical and usable. So if you are a serious quilter, you are probably teaching through your guild or selling your quilts at guild shows. Perhaps you have gone so far as to invest in a long-arm quilting machine so you can make a living as a quilter. The guild is an important way to further your goals as a professional quilter – even if it is just a part-time endeavor.

Hospitality

	January 7	January 21
Snack:	Wendy Cole	Carolyn Thompson
Snack:	Barb Painter	Linda Garthe
Fruit/Veggies:	Mary Larkin	Sally Ater
Cold Drink:	Rosemary Geisler	Marie Traxler

January Block of the Month

The BOM colors for January are white with two shades of blue, a dark and a medium. One option, this feathered star block made up in blues, will remind you of the all those little snowflakes that can come any time during January. This block is challenging but here is a website for step-by-step instructions with plenty of photos to get you through it. http://sewnbyleila.blogspot.com/2012/06/35-feathered-star.html

To make a 12" Finished Block:
From the background fabric cut:
(1) 6 7/8" square - cut it in quarters along both diagonals
(4) 3 5/8 " squares
(12) 2 ¼" squares - draw a line along the diagonal
(8) 1 ¾" squares - cut in half along the diagonal

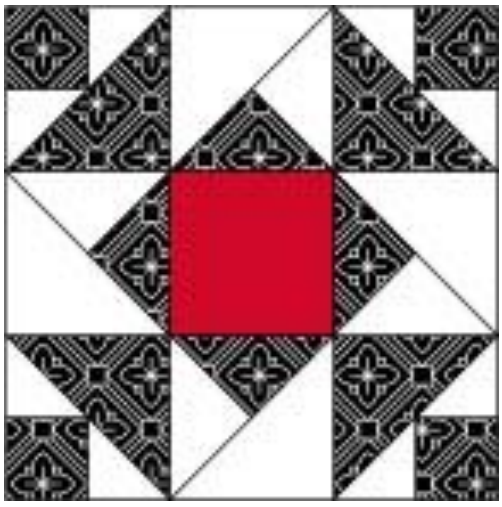
From the "Middle Star Fabric" cut:
(1) 4 ¼" square
(4) 2 ¾"squares - cut in half along the diagonal

From the "Feather Fabric" cut:
(12) 2 ½" squares
(8) 1 ½" squares
(8) 1 3/8" 45 degree diamond

BOM questions? This month email Silvia Homa

If you'd like to tackle something easier than the feathered star, try this block in the January colors of blues shades with white. Complete instructions are available at:
http://www.mccallsquilting.com/patterns/details.html?idx=7913#.VJzeappgJ-Q.gmail

To make a 12" Finished Block:
Black print
1-A ... 4 squares 2 ½ " x 2 ½ "
1-B ... 2 squares 4 7/8" x 4 7/8"; cut squares once diagonally to make 4 half-square triangles
1-C ... 1 square 5 ¼ " x 5 ¼ "; cut square twice diagonally to make 4 quarter-square triangles
White
2-B ... 2 squares 4 7/8" x 4 7/8"; cut squares once diagonally to make 4 half-square triangles
2-C ... 1 square 5 ¼ " x 5 ¼ "; cut square twice diagonally to make 4 quarter-square triangles
2-D ... 4 squares 2 7/8" x 2 7/8"; cut squares diagonally once to make 8 half-square triangles
Red 3-E …1 square 4 ½ " x 4 ½"



Walk down memory lane…

Came across this photo from September 2002 taken at the White Oak Bed & Breakfast in Lancaster County during a mystery quilt retreat. Thought that members might enjoy seeing a gathering of guild members from days gone by. And believe it or not, nine are still members!

Top row: Barbara Kuterbach, Clem Dupont, Pat Philion, Sue Ellen Dean, Sandy Michalec, Kristine Wynant, Lovye Oesterlin

Middle row: Eileen Frankil, Kellie Schaffer, Alicia Paist, Linda Hamel

Front row: Linda Wright, Melanie Norman (our instructor) and Carolyn Thompson

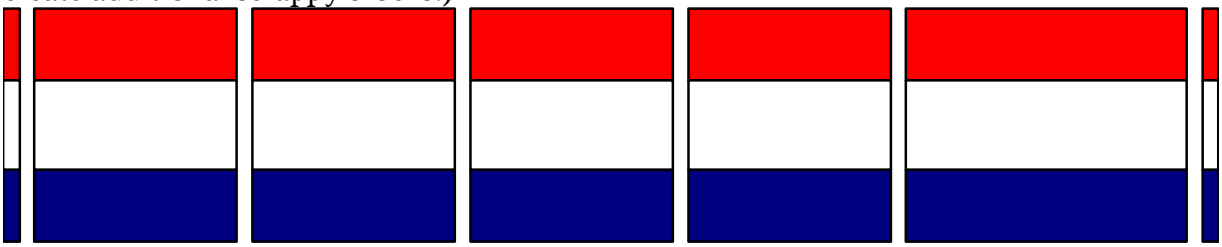
TEA BLOCK – All members should make a block prior to Tea on March 21st. Hand in to Kathie Travis.

Create a strip set from the following:

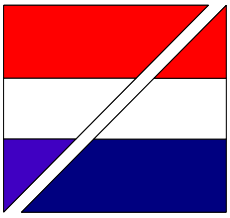
Red -	3 ¼" (3.25") wide x Width of Fabric
White -	3 ½" (3.5") wide x WOF
Blue -	3 ¼" (3.25") wide x WOF

Press seams away from the white strip

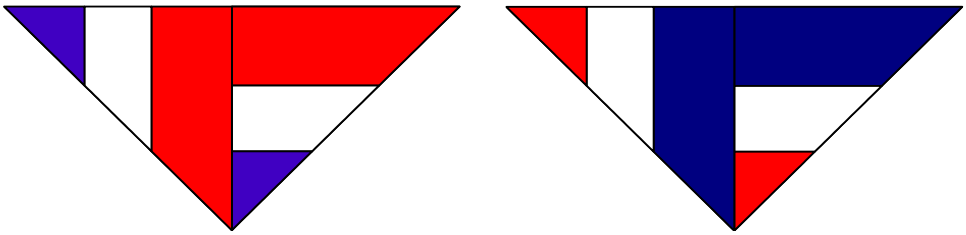
Remove selvedges and cut strip set into (4) 8 ½" (8.5") squares.
You will have a square left over. (Please bring this to toss into the "Leftovers" box. We will use them to create additional scrappy blocks.)



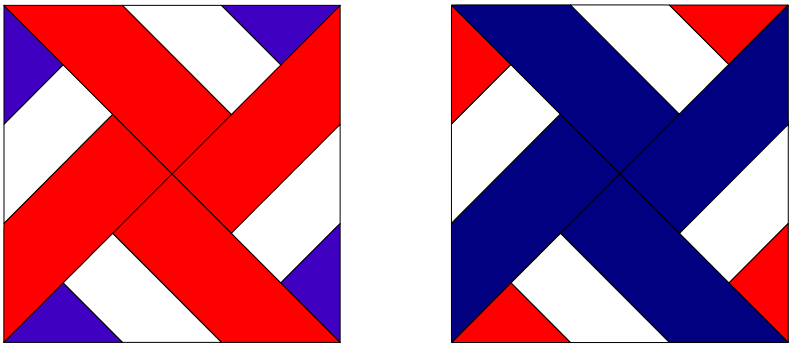
Cut each square into 2 Half Square Triangles from lower left to upper right.



Sew 2 triangles together to look like this:



Make 2 sets like this and sew them together to make a square that looks like this:



Blocks should be 12 ½" (12.5") square.

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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 News is a monthly newsletter for the members of Loose Threads Quilt Guild
and is available on our website
www.theloosethreadsquilters.org

Loose Threads Challenge 2015

Say It with Flowers

The theme for our next challenge is FLOWERS. You may use a quilt pattern with flower designs or choose any pattern, but then make it with floral fabric…or perhaps do both!

- Your quilt can employ any construction technique i.e. pieced, paper-pieced, applique
- Your quilt should be no larger than 40" x 40" (or 160" circumference)
- It may be any quilted item such as quilt, clothing, bag, pillow, etc.
- Your quilt must be made during the coming year, January – December 2015

Completed challenge quilts will be displayed and voted on at the Holiday Brunch, Dec 2015.
Any questions? Contact Jane Russell, Linda Hamel or Jeanne Nalbandian