Loose Threads News

Volume 20 Issue 8 May 2015

1st Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00 Business Meeting

Want your $5 pledge back? Bring all those completed UFOs to Show 'n Tell for the UFO challenge!

Bring in your nominations for next year's officers.

3rd Wednesday Agenda

9:30 Doors open - refreshments & socializing

10:00

CRAZY QUILTS
Jane Russell, Jo Quaglia & Sally Ater

President's Message

As the present guild year starts winding down it's time to start thinking about which committee(s) you would like to serve on next year.

First of all, to review - All active members are required to serve as an officer or on a committee. All associate members are encouraged but not required to participate on a committee. The difference between being in a quilt guild and being in a quilt bee is that a guild requires responsibilities and commitment to make certain things happen - fundraising, getting speakers,organizing activities, etc. A quilt bee is basically social - no dues, no rules, no fundraising, no speakers. Just camaraderie and sewing.

If you're going to be a Loose Threads guild member it's not enough to show up at meetings. We need everyone, not just the officers and committee heads, to be committed to doing her part to make the guild lively and productive.

Debby

Thank you from my husband, Greg and me for all the cards, phone calls, soup and well wishes we received while he was going through treatment for lung cancer. Though not completely done with therapy, doctor says all good news for us. We are both deeply touched and thankful to have the support of so many wonderful friends.

Sincerely,
Linda Glass and Greg Billesbach

Terry Kramzar Workshop

Great teacher, fun class…have you finished your tulip yet?

May Program

Crazy Quilts was one of the most popular discussion groups at our recent Quilter's Tea. They used the following as the class description, "Not just your great-grandmother's handwork! We will show you old traditional crazy patch, different ways to use small scraps OR one big piece of gorgeous fabric with the machine stitches you have never used." Jane Russell, Jo Quaglia and Sally Ater will give us their talk which had all the Tea guests raving.

May Road Trip

The Loose Threads Quilt Guild is planning a field trip to the Penn Dry Goods Market on Friday, May 15. Located at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in nearby Pennsburg, PA, the Penn Dry Goods Market is an annual Antiques Show and Sale. It features antique and vintage textiles and Americana plus interesting textile history lectures and classes**.**

Approximately 20 antique dealers will be exhibiting at the Market from VT, MD, NJ, VA and some from as near as Oley, PA. Exhibits will include needlework, linens, baskets, clothing, antique and vintage textiles and quilts.

Contact Betty Ann Dawson if you're interested in taking part.

Upcoming Events

For the Love of Quilting VIII - May 1-2, 2015. Presented by Penn Oaks Quilters at 1325 Pottstown Pike, Glenmore, PA www.pennoaksquilters.org/quilt-show-2015

A World of Quilts XXXVI - May 2-3, 2015. Presented by the Northern Star Quilter's Guild at Kennedy Catholic High School, 54 Route 138, Somers, NY www.northernstarquilters.com/quiltshow/2014-quilt-show

In Full Bloom - May 30-31, 2015. Presented by Garden State Quilters Guild at Morris Sports Arena, Morristown, NJ www.gardenstatequilters.com/quiltshow.html

Net Notes

"**Crazy mom quilts**", like many web sites, has patterns and blogs and tutorials. It also has a blog dated April 18th called Finish it up Friday that has 151 links to projects other quilters have finished! Like a big show-'n-tell. It's got me very inspired again.

http://lovelaughquilt.blogspot.com/2015/04/friday_17.html does a clever block with a couple of four patches. Now I just have to go thru the other 149 to find that clever quilt made with half square triangles.

Finally, "Crazy Mom"Amandajean, has a birch trees quilt and pattern that I keeps me coming back. Check out: http://crazymomquilts.blogspot.com.

Linda Glass

Minutes - April Meeting

Debby O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses were for the Tea, Speakers Fee and bus driver tip for the Lancaster Quilt Show trip. Credits were for the Tea, guest fees and Lancaster bus tickets.

New Business:

- Raising Membership dues by $5 which would go toward the Tea food costs will be assessed and voted on in May 2015.
- In future, nonrefundable deposits will need to be covered by participants. These events will need to be coordinated well in advance of the event.
- Linda Hamel is looking for articles for the Newsletter. dhamel1283@aol.com Everyone is enjoying the biographies written by Joanne Cantwell.
- The Nominating Committee is now in process of making up the slate of candidates for the new board that will take over in September. All positions will need to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer's position is a two year term.
- Jane Russell is running a bus trip from Jenner's Pond. Contact Jane if you are interested at janer76@verizon.net .
- Funds are accumulating in our bank account beyond what is allowed for a non-profit. Need to spend some of this.
- The Henrietta Hankin quilt display went up over the weekend. The display will be up until the end of April.
- A motion was presented by Linda Garthe to buy three 100 cup coffee pots for the Tea for next year. It was seconded and passed.
- Judy Snook and Lil Evans won the Tea Blocks.
- Clem Dupont will be looking into the necessity of liability insurance.

Sunshine:

- Gail Kessler's father passed away. Gail is the owner of Ladyfingers Sewing Studio in Oley and supporter of our Tea. Betty Ann will deliver pansies and a card to her after today's meeting.
- Millie Skean will be 91 this Saturday! Happy Birthday Millie!! Pat Philion will deliver a plant and birthday card this afternoon.

Basting: There are several quilts (1 queen, 1 full, 2 or 3 twins) to be basted at the basting meeting on April 29th. Contact Takako Pike at catseyequiltstudio@dplus.net or Jean Nalbandian at nalbandian19@verizon.net for scheduling.

Speakers/Programs:
Reminder: There is a $5 fee for Associate Members attending lectures by outside speakers. Please pay Judy Peters the day the program is held. Workshop fees for Assoc & guests are variable and depend on the guild's cost for each speaker. Confirm your cost when you sign up with Laurie Kelly.

- Please remember to turn cell phones OFF during the Guest Speakers program.
- Carole Cossa to work with Judy Snook to organize a charity sew for June, July or August. More to follow.
- Several of the Tea Discussions will be planned for future dates. Crazy Quilts (Jane Russell) is scheduled for May.

Fabric Exchange: Please keep up to date.

Library:

- Culled books will be offered to members at deep discount prices. Anything unwanted will be put into next year's Book Sale.
- Rosemary Geisler received patterns, DVDs, CDs from Ricky Tims. These will be available through the Library.

April Minutes, continued

Challenge: This year's challenge quilts focus is flowers. You can use flowered fabric or your detail can be flowers. Contact Linda Hamel, dhamel1283@aol.com , for details. Quilt needs to be no larger than 160 inches around the perimeter.

Hospitality: New list went around during the meeting for dates through July.

Retreats: Please contact Carolyn Thompson, cthompso99@dejazzd.com or Lenore Clarke, LenoreClarke@gmail.com and check the Newsletter for details.

- May 11th – 14th – Cocalico Quilter's Inn, Denver, PA
  - Accommodates 16
  - For additional info: www.cocalicoquiltersinn.com/gallery
  - Payment is due 1 month in advance of the retreat. Lenore will be accepting payment at the April 1st and April 15th meetings to reserve your spot at the retreat. The checks for $50/night are to be made out to Carolyn Thompson for the number of nights you will be staying. The shared $150 cleaning fee payment will be collected at the time of the retreat.
  - A food sign-up sheet will be available at these meetings as well.
- October 13th – 16th – Blue Lake

UFO Challenge: The UFO challenge is back!!! Have some UFO's? Here is an opportunity to get at least 1 done by the business meeting in May. We will reveal our projects in May during show and tell. Anyone interested in participating in the challenge should see Silvia for the pledge form and bring $5 that will be refunded once the challenge is completed. At Show and Tell, Linda Hamel reported having 23 UFO's and brought in a finished UFO to show. I don't have any …… HA! Do you????? :o)

Field Trips: Several Field Trips are being planned. Signup sheets were sent around during the meeting. If you are interested, contact Betty Ann Dawson, wildberryfarm@dejazzd.com.

- Penn Dry Goods Market, Schwenksville, May 15th– needlework, quilts, antiques, etc.
- June 24th – Jim Thorpe – Asa Packer Mansion, lunch, The Quilted Crow Quilt Shop
- Cathy Nelson is looking into getting a bus trip together in June for the DAR exhibit in Washington.

Secret Pal: Donna Matthias is in charge of the 2015 Secret Pal, john937@verizon.net. The theme is patriotism. A $10 cap on the each month's gift is suggested.

Block of the Month: Bunnies!!!!

Round Robin: Contact Clem Dupont, Cpdupont@verizon.net, for information about this activity. Due to snow and Tea activities, the rotation will resume in May.

Tea: Carolyn Thompson went over some of the comments from the Tea.

- Open the doors earlier to allow more time for shopping.
- Auction area is too congested. Look into using another space for this activity.

Website: Recipes used for the Tea are now posted.

Business Meeting Raffle: The Business Meeting Raffle was won by Linda Hamel.

The meeting was adjourned by Debby O'Keefe at 11:28 AM.

Jo Quaglia - Secretary

Getting to Know You Silvia Homa

If, as a patient or visitor, you ever find yourself in the ICU at Phoenixville Hospital *on a weekend*, you will likely run into one of our Loose Threads quilters. Born in Germany, Silvia Homa moved to PA as a child and traveled back on airplanes often, visiting there during summer vacations. Torn between a career as either a flight attendant or a nurse (she always *loved the smell of band aides* as a kid and had no idea just what nursing really involved….), Silvia went with nursing as a better career choice. She attended high school at a large school in Lansdale in a class of over 900, and then earned her BSN in nursing at West Chester University. She has been employed at Phoenixville Hospital for 26 years, with 22 of those years in ICU!

One busy lady, Silvia, the mother of four (ages 22, 15, and twin girls 12), has found that working every weekend seems to work out best for the family, however she also works at home during the week for a company that recertifies paramedics and EMTs.

A self-taught quilter, Silvia caught the "bug" about 16 years ago when she went into the wrong shop (on a search for stencils) and was stunned by the rainbow of fabrics and samples in a quilt shop. She quickly began to read books and magazines and watched TV shows on various quilting techniques, then attended a few classes and learned as much as possible. She loves to teach and has had opportunities to teach kids, adult evening classes, at quilt shops and at Loose Threads. She figured the best way to learn is to teach.

Joining Loose Threads 15 years ago (finding it on line) she loved the fact that it was close to home and offered babysitting, at the time a bonus! Her mother-in-law, Melinda Novatnak, helped fuel her addiction to quilting by buying her the first sewing machine she had owned, "Thanks"!

Since then, Silvia started making custom quilts and other fabric items (not clothes) under the business name of **"Itch'n Stitch Sewing."** She dreams of someday creating a sewing school for kids, however these days there is no time.

Silvia thanks her own mother for sharing flower gardening with her. Digging in the dirt and watching flowers and plants pop up, then grow into beautiful flowers is something she looks forward to each spring and enjoys throughout the year.

Joanne Cantwell

(On a personal note, as a new LT member nine years ago, I carefully followed Silvia's instructions for a mystery block-of-the-month project. It turned out beautifully and is my favorite quilt to date. Thanks, Silvia!)

Oatmeal Cake

Prep time: 15 min Cook time: 50 min Total time: 1 hour 10 min Serves: 16

Ingredients:

Cake
1½ cups hot water
1 cup old fashioned oatmeal
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup white sugar
½ cup butter, at room temperature
2 eggs
1⅓ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt

Topping
½ cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon milk
1 cup coconut

Instructions

● Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
● Combine the water and the oatmeal and allow it to soak while you prepare the remaining ingredients.
● Cream together the butter and both sugars. Beat in the eggs. In another bowl, mix together the flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Add half of the flour to the creamed butter mixture, followed by the soaked oatmeal, then the remaining flour, mixing between additions. Pour into the prepared baking dish and bake until set, 35-40 minutes.
● For the topping, turn the oven to broil. Combine the butter, brown sugar and milk in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, while stirring. Boil for one minute. Stir in the coconut. Pour over the cake, spread, then broil for one minute.

Try this delicious cake that Carolyn Thompson made for a recent guild meeting.

ANOTHER RECIPE FOR THE TOPPING:
⅔ cup firmly packed brown sugar
¼ cup butter, melted
¼ cup heavy whipping cream or half-and-half
1 cup coconut
1 cup chopped pecans or your choice of nuts

Astrology of the Quilt Guild

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

Taurus

Apr 21st to Apr 22nd

Dear Taurus, you are as steady and constant as the North Star. As a result, you will be offered positions of responsibility in your guild because everyone knows you are so dependable. The problem is, you would rather be home playing with your stash instead of attending board meetings. However, if you are bribed with tangible rewards by the guild (Chocolate? A bag of fat quarters?), you will make one of the best guild officers they have ever seen. Hold out for the scrap bag of silks and velvets!

May Birthdays

8 Judy Shafer
23 Betty Ann Dawson

Pin basting - Use safety pins, rather than a needle and thread, to hold together the quilt layers of small projects.

Grapefruit spoon - This specialty spoon has notches at the tip to make scooping out a grapefruit section easier. They also make it easier to grip and close safety pins, which helps you avoid sore fingers when pin basting a larger quilt. (This one I will have to try.)

Jean Sullivan

The theme for May's flower fabric exchange is TROPICAL FLOWERS.

Hospitality

	May 6	May 20
Snack:	Betty Ann Dawson	Carole Cossa
Snack:	Silvia Homa	
Fruit/ Veg	Linda Hamel	Sally Ater
Cold Drink:	Susan Glaser	Jean Sullivan

Block of the Month

The colors to use for the May BOM are green, white and purple. Use a block of your choice or this tribute to Mother's Day, Flowers for Mama Block, designed by Kathie Travis.

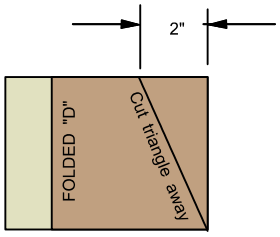
For style A, using flower fabric

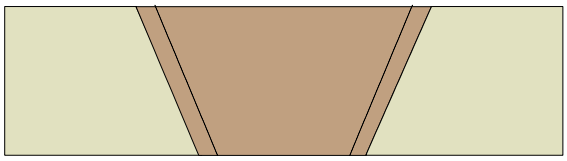
From background fabric cut:
(2) 1 ½ " x 12 ½ "strips "A"
(2) 4 " x 5 ½ " strips "B"
(4) 1 ½ " squares "C"
(2) 6 " x 4 ½ " "D"
(2) 1 ½ " x 5 ½ " strips "E"

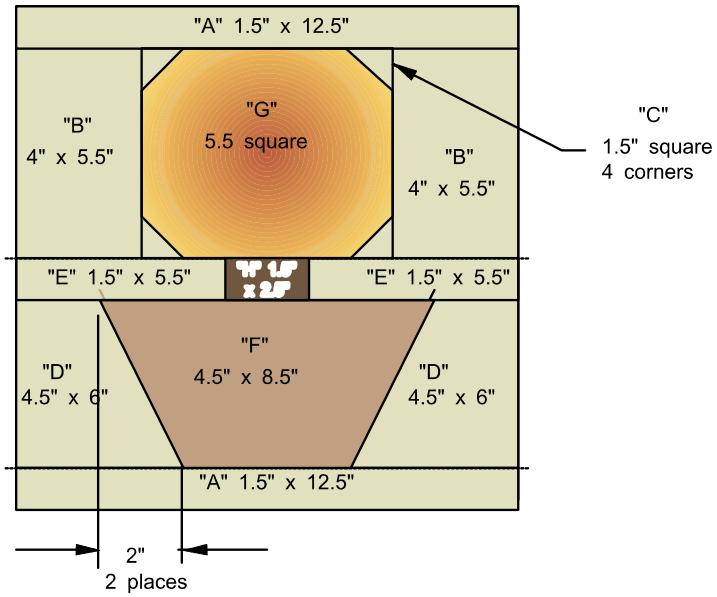
From planter fabric cut:
4 ½ " x 8" rectangle "F"
From flower fabric cut:
5 ½ " square "G"
From trunk or stem fabric cut:
1 ½ " x 2 ½ " rectangle "H"

Layer (2) pieces of "C" and folded piece "D" with cut edges even.
Make a mark 2 ½ " from the even, cut edges. Draw a line from that point to the opposite bottom corner. Cut triangles away.

Assemble the strip that forms the basket by sewing (1) "C" to each end of "D". Press seams toward basket.







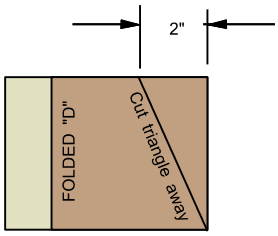
For style B, using applique, broderie perse, etc

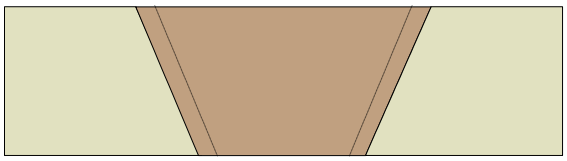
From background fabric cut:
(1) 1 ½ " x 12 ½ "strip "A"
(1) 7 ½ " x 12 ½ " strip "B"
(2) 4 ½ " x 6" rectangles "C"

From planter fabric cut:
(1) 4 ½ " x 8 ½ "rectangle "D"

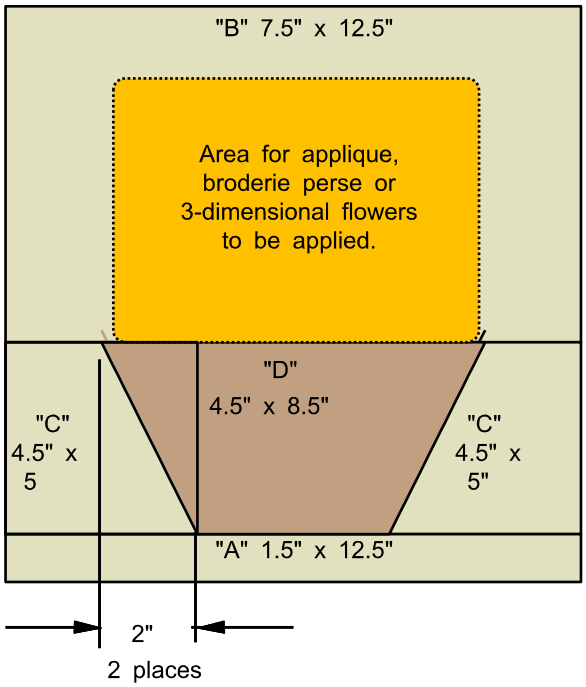
Layer (2) pieces of "C" and folded piece "D" with cut edges even.
Make a mark 2 ½ " from the even, cut edges. Draw a line from that point to the opposite bottom corner. Cut triangles away.

Assemble the strip that forms the basket by sewing (1) "C" to each end of "D". Press seams toward basket.





Assemble as shown below



Henerietta Hankin Library Exhibit

Lenore Clarke and her committee, Mary Lou, Carolyn, Cathy, Stephanie and Linda hung an exhibit of guild member's work that was shown at the Chester County Library from March 27 through April 25. The quilt show drew rave reviews!

Thanks for the photos Stephanie!

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 $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

With a motto like "If you can imagine it, we can create it" Charm City Cakes, located in Baltimore, Maryland makes some pretty amazing cakes. I was browsing through the gallery on their website and came across this dandy… everything entirely edible! Know a quilter with a special day coming up?

http://www.charmcitycakes.com/