

# LOOSE THREADS

## NEWSLETTER

November 2009

[www.loosethreadsquilters.org](http://www.loosethreadsquilters.org)

Volume 14: Issue 11

**President:** Joyce Stemple    **Vice President:** Jane Russell    **Secretary:** Debbie Oister    **Treasurer:** Susan Glaser

**Babysitting:** Jean Atwood

**Basting:** Jean Sullivan

**Block of the Month:** Silvia Homa

**Challenge:** Lenore Clark

**Charity Projects:** Kiti Williams

**Field Trips:** Amy Smith-Moniz

**Fish Bowl Raffle:** Judy Shafer

**Historian:** Joanne Cantwell

**Holiday Brunch:** Shirley Horning

**Hospitality:** Bonnie Swartzentruber

**Librarian:** Bernie Hughes

**Newsletter:** Wendy Cole

**Nickel Squares:** Wendy Cole

**Programs:** Debbie O'Keefe

**Raffle Quilt:** Laurie Kelly

**Retreats:** Carolyn Thompson

**Secret Pal:** Gayle Hammond

**Speakers:** Linda Hamel

**Sunshine:** Linda Glass

**Tea:** Elizabeth Snead & Amy Smith-Moniz

**Website:** Joyce Stemple

### Holiday Brunch

Just a quick reminder of what you need to bring to the Holiday Brunch on December 2nd:

- ❖ A wrapped gift valued at \$15 if you choose to participate in the Gift Exchange
- ❖ Your own holiday mug
- ❖ One dozen holiday cookies
- ❖ The recipe for the cookies that you bring
- ❖ Your 2009 challenge quilt with your quote on a separate piece of paper

### December Workshop

Kanzashi is a kind of Japanese origami flower made out of fabric. This is a very easy and fun project that Debbie O'Keefe will be presenting at the December workshop. What do you do with these flowers? Some ideas are a set of napkin rings, brooches, embellishments for quilts or bags or you could decorate headbands or hair clips with them. This is a hand sewing project so you don't have to tote your sewing machine to the meeting.

For each flower you will need 8 to 10 - 3 inch squares of fabric per flower. You may want to bring some smaller squares, 2 or 2 1/2 inches, to experiment with as well. You will also need straight pins, a needle, matching thread, small scissors and a few buttons to be used as the centers of the flowers. Several irons will also be needed. Eager beavers may want to come with their squares already folded in half to form triangles (press with an iron).

If you want to get an idea of what we will be making, you can Google "kanzashi" for a preview or you can come and just be pleasantly surprised.

**\*Just a reminder! We will not be meeting in our usual space in the church for this meeting.**

## A “Lovy” Note

Dear Loose Thread Quilters,

I thank you immensely for that *beautiful* quilt! What a nice surprise! You are truly ‘top drawer.’ When I saw the photo holding the quilt, I really had to shed a few tears. We’re slowly settling into our new home. The previous owners did not leave this home the way we left our home in East Vincent.

Our neighbors have been very nice. Last Saturday the residents on our street gave us a luncheon at the Community Pub. It was a warm welcome.

You’re invited to visit us here in Topsham. May you have a good year, a wonderful “Thanksgiving” and a “Merry Christmas.”

Many blessings,  
Lovy

## Loose Threads Library

Our librarian, Bernie Hughes, reports that she has acquired 10 new books for the guild library. They are as follows:

- ~ “**Baby Love**” by Allison Jane Smith
- ~ “**Flower Festival**” by Kim Schaeter
- ~ “**Just Desserts**” by Edie McGinnis
- ~ “**The Pokeberry Quilt**” by Jan Patek
- ~ “**Prize Winning Quilt**” by Rita Weiss
- ~ “**Six Halves Make a Whole**” by The Quilt Branch
- ~ “**Quilts for Men**” by Landauer Books
- ~ “**Wedding Ring, Pickle Dish and More**” by Carolyn Cullinan Mc Cormick
- ~ “**The Portable Crafter - Quilting**” by Mary Jo Hiney
- ~ “**Alzheimer’s - Forgetting Piece by Piece**” by Ami Simms (Curator)

Have fun browsing through the new books as well as the older ones, but please remember to check out the books before you take them home and check them in when you return them. Enjoy!

## Correction

There is one correction we all need to make on the member list: Millie Skean does not have an e-mail address. Please cross it out on your sheets.

## Tea Block

There is a correction on the instructions for the Tea Block pattern that was in the November newsletter. First, it is the **2010** block, not the 2009 one. Second, you will need to cut **8 - 2 1/2 inch squares of the medium fabric**. Sorry for the inconvenience.

## New Book Review

### “If Quilts Could Talk” by Whimsicals

If you like the folksy style of the Whimsicals’ quilt designs, their new full-color book is for you. Terri Degenkolb of Whimsicals has created 11 new projects, running the gamut from full quilts to pillows. Google the name and you can view a sheet that shows you the projects in the book. The retail price is \$24.

## Quilt Chat

Judy Peters has been contacting vendors about door prizes for the Tea. She has ended up on many e-mail lists. Fairfield products (poly-fil & batting) is one of those companies and they have invited us to visit their website [www.poly-fil.com](http://www.poly-fil.com) for inspiration and education. There you will find free patterns, a quilt gallery and unique BOM quilts. If you subscribe to their e-newsletter, you will receive free patterns, special offers, quilting tips, how-to videos, flyers and everything you ever wanted to know about batting.

## Quilt Jumble

Rearrange the jumbled letters to spell out a quilting term.

M Y A E S L B S

I G E P N C I

\_\_\_\_\_

The answer to the Jumble is on page 7 along with a description of this quilting term.

## December Birthdays

4th Elizabeth Bedell

10th Linda Garthe

10th Carolyn Thompson

14th Jean Atwood

18th Lenore Clark

20th Bernie Hughes

## Quilt Shop Review



### **Cotton Weeds Quilt Shop**

541 U.S. Route 1  
Freeport, ME 04032  
207-865-4600

[www.cottonweeds.com](http://www.cottonweeds.com)

Monday - Saturday 10 - 4  
Thursday 10 - 6  
Sunday 11 - 4

On a trip to Maine, Debbie O'Keefe visited this shop and reviewed it for the guild. "Thanks, Debbie."

This shop is about a mile from L.L. Bean, "not even," Debbie says. She walked to it. It is in the lot of an Econo Lodge motel. It's a charming shop with a variety of fabric. They tend toward traditional, batiks and bright fabrics. Punch needle projects and wool are also available. They stock a good selection of books. The staff is friendly but not overbearing. This shop is definitely worth a stop if you're going to be in the Freeport area.

The Econo Lodge is okay, nothing fancy but they do let your dogs stay and they have a free continental breakfast, but Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts are up the road. Sounds like this stop has everything that a quilter needs, fabric, caffeine, sugar, fat and chocolate.

## "Wanted" or "Want to Give Away"

**"WANTED."** Elizabeth Snead came up with the idea for this column and we thought it was a good one. If there is something that you are looking for, like a purple and green polka dot square of fabric for a quilt you are working on or if, as Elizabeth was, you are looking for the plastic bags that newspapers come in to use as pooper scoopers when she takes her dog for a walk, let us know and we will post it in the newsletter.

**"WANT TO GIVE AWAY."** On the other hand, if you have something that you are not using anymore and you want to find a good home for it rather than tossing it, tell us and it will go in the newsletter and most likely you will find a new home for your old treasure.

Joyce Stemple wants to let everyone know that she has 6 or 7 fur coats that she bought at yard sales to make bears and guess what, she never did. If anyone is interested in any or all of them, contact her.

## Meet a New Member

Our new member this month is Melinda Novatnak. Melinda lives in Kutztown and she has one son, a "great daughter-in-law" (our own Silvia Homa), and four grandchildren. She is semi-retired but still works part time. Melinda says that she has been sewing for as long as she can remember. She has done many types of sewing over the years, including hand stitching, making clothes and draperies. Now she makes quilts, her own as well as finishing some of her moms. Welcome to the Guild, Melinda!

## January Refreshments

**January 6..... Fruit or Beverage - Bonnie Swarzenruber**

**Baked Goods - Debby O'Keefe and Marylou Boryta**

**January 20.... Fruit or Beverage - Amy Smith-Moniz**

**Baked Goods - Carolyn Thompson and Jean Atwood**

## Nickel Squares

I am going to have to make a change as to how we sort and hand out the nickel squares every month. From now on, you will still bring your bag of fabric squares to the first meeting of the month and put them in the nickel square container, but you will be getting your bag of squares back at the *next, second,* meeting of the month. I was not expecting so many members to participate when I started this activity and I am finding that trying to sort 363 fabric squares during the meeting is a daunting and confusing task and believe me, I don't need to be any more confused than I already am. I will be taking them home with me to sort and assemble the bags and I will then return them to you at the second meeting.

I would also like to remind everyone that there are **11 people in every group!!!** I am still getting bags that are short one square. If you are going to round out the number then round it up, please. When you are cutting the squares, please cut them to a **6 inch square and that does not include the selvage!!!** Also remember that **all the squares in the bag that you hand in should be cut from the same fabric!!!**

If you are having trouble remembering to bring in your squares or if you are going to be away, some members have been giving me some, or all, of their blocks to hold. I am more than willing to do that.

**A reminder: January's color is Blue**

## Road Trip

We have three dates available in January to help repack quilts in Harrisburg. January 13th, 21st and the 26th. This is a full day of quilty, lunchy fun, approximately 8am-5pm. You may invite friends and members of other guilds to join us. Space is limited so sign up quickly. It will be first come, first served. You can sign up by talking to Amy Smith-Moniz at the meeting or by sending her an email at. Please tell Amy what date(s) you prefer, if you are interested in carpooling and whether or not you can drive.

## Priority Alzheimers Quilts

At the January workshop we will be making small "Priority Alzheimers Quilts" for AAQI. Amy Smith-Moniz will demonstrate some techniques for using "orphan blocks," or you can do your own thing. This would also be a great opportunity to use some of the techniques from the Cheryl Lynch workshop. Quilts will be displayed at the tea, then sent to AAQI for auction. For more info about AAQI, look here at <http://www.alzquilts.org/>

**No orphan blocks? Want to trade orphans? Get one from Amy at the December or January meeting.**

## Recipes of the Month

Here is a great recipe from Kim Jacobs for a yummy dish that would be perfect on any buffet table over the holidays!

### Scalloped Pineapple

3 c. fresh white bread cubes  
1 16 oz can pineapple chunks (drained)  
2 eggs  
1 1/2 c. sugar  
2/3 c. melted butter

Toss together the bread cubes and drained pineapple. Place in buttered 2 qt. baking dish. Combine beaten eggs, sugar, and the melted butter. Pour over the bread-pineapple mixture in the baking dish. Bake covered for 20 minutes at 350 degrees F., then uncover and bake for about 10 minutes more or until the top is nicely browned. This is a great dish to serve with your favorite ham.

Linda Garthe made this tasty cake for our last meeting and she had many requests for the recipe, so here it is. Enjoy!

### Sour Cream Coffee Cake

12 Tbsp. (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter at room temperature  
1 1/2 c. granulated sugar  
3 extra-large eggs, at room temperature  
1 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract  
1 1/4 c. sour cream  
2 1/2 c. cake flour (not self rising)  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. salt

#### For the streusel:

1/4 c. light brown sugar, packed  
1/2 c. all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. salt  
3 Tbsp. cold, unsalted butter, cut into pieces  
3/4 c. chopped walnuts, optional

#### For the glaze:

1/2 c. confectioners sugar  
2 Tbsp. real maple syrup

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 10 inch tube pan. Cream butter and sugar, until light. Add the eggs 1 at a time, then add the vanilla and sour cream. In a separate bowl, sift together the dry ingredients. With mixer on low, add the flour mixture to the batter until just combined. Finish stirring with a spatula to be sure the batter is completely mixed.

For the streusel, place the brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt and butter in a bowl and pinch together with your fingers until it forms crumbs. Mix in the walnuts, if desired.

Spoon half of the batter into the pan and spread it out with a knife. Sprinkle with 3/4 c. streusel. Spoon the rest of the batter into the pan, spread it out, and scatter the remaining streusel on top. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, until a cake tester comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack for at least 30 minutes. Carefully transfer cake, streusel side up, on to a serving plate. Whisk the confectioners sugar and maple syrup together, adding a few drops of water if necessary, to make the glaze runny. Drizzle over the cake with a fork or spoon.

\*I substitute about 2 Tbsp. of the sugar in the cake and 2 Tbsp. of the sugar in the streusel with maple sugar. It can be hard to find but it adds a nice flavor if you can. The cake is still really good without it, though.

## Quilt Jumble Answer

### ASSEMBLY PIECING

*Stitching blocks or sections of blocks together in an assembly line fashion, completing the same step for each unit in sequence. Also called chain piecing, this is a time efficient way to piece many blocks that are the same. Sew them together in a "chain" and cut them apart later.*

## Upcoming Area Events

**Susquehanna Valley Quilters Presents "Hurray for Spring!"** Hughesville Fire Hall, Railroad & Water Sts., Hughesville, PA 17737 Mar. 5 – 6PM-9PM "Meet the Quilters" Sat., Mar. 6 – 10:00-6:00 Sun., Mar. 7 – 12:00-4:00 Admission: \$5.00 [www.susqvalleyquilters.org](http://www.susqvalleyquilters.org)

**AQS Quilt Show & Contest - Lancaster**, Pennsylvania Lancaster County Convention Center March 24 - 27, 2010 Welcome to the 1st Annual Quilt Show & Contest - Lancaster, PA

Type to enter textOur Guild meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, with a special basting meeting on the fifth Wednesday. We meet at the First United Church of Christ, 145 Chestnut Street, Spring City, PA 19475. Babysitting is available if arranged in advance with Jean Atwood. Dues are \$15 per year and guests are always welcome. Jane Russell, has more membership information.

Our newsletters are now on-line. Check us out at our website  
[loosethreadsquilters.org](http://loosethreadsquilters.org)

## Project of the Month - Thread Catcher

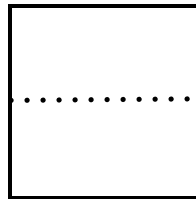
### Supplies:

10 1/2" square of outside fabric  
10 1/2" square of lining fabric  
10 1/2" square of thin batting  
Embellishments (buttons, etc.)

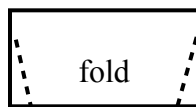


Stack the batting, the lining fabric, face up and the outside fabric, face down. Pin to keep the layers from slipping. Using a 1/4" seam, stitch around all four edges, leaving a 2" opening in the middle of one side. Turn, clip the corners and press flat, making sure that the corners form nice points. Don't worry about the unfinished edge as it will be caught in the seam later.

Fold the square in half with the outside fabric facing in.



Starting at the fold, 1/4" in from the outside edge, stitch on a diagonal to 2 inches from the top, stitch off the edge of the fabric and back tack to secure the stitches. Sew the other side the same as the first.



Now refold the fabric so that the opposite sides of the square meet, making sure to keep the top fabric to the inside. Repeat the sewing from *figure b*.

Turn right side out. Fold down the four loose points of the original square back and tack into place with a button or other embellishment.

***Since our first meeting is the holiday brunch, bring your finished Thread Catcher to the **second meeting** of the month and receive a prize!***