

# LOOSE THREADS

## NEWSLETTER

February 2010

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

Volume 15: Issue 2

**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 Clarke  
**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



# HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

As we've said before, nothing goes better with fabric than **CHOCOLATE** ! I guess that makes Valentines Day the perfect holiday for quilters! This month we also have Ground Hog Day! Hopefully, on February 2nd, Phil will not see his shadow so that we can all look forward to an early spring. With all the teeth chattering temperatures we've endured this winter, the sight of those spring bulbs poking their heads up through the soil would certainly be welcome.

We would like to thank everyone who has given us recipes, quilt shop and book reviews and other tidbits of interesting quilting information. Keep them coming. The more everyone participates, the better the newsletter will be.

## February Workshop

We will be spending the February Workshop reviewing information for the Tea. Bring a pad and pencil to jot down reminders. Linda Glass will also be giving a demonstration on fabric dying and discharging.

**DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS !!!**

## January Minutes

- ◆ The meeting of the loose Threads Quilting Guild was called to order by President, Joyce Stemple.
- ◆ Jane Russell brought her daughter Claire as a guest this week.
- ◆ After all the expenditures, the balance in the account as of Jan 8th was \$5,583.94.
- ◆ The membership is full.
- ◆ The block of the month is a snowflake and the pattern was on the back table.
- ◆ For the raffle, Judy Shafer won and the prize and it will be brought to the next meeting.
- ◆ For the challenge quilt, Lenore Clarke is collecting money for the “ulgy” fabric and she will be sending the instructions for it by G-mail. The fabric will be given out at the Feb business meeting.
- ◆ Charity quilts: 25 condolence quilts and 13 quilts for kids.
- ◆ It was voted to scrap the charity support raffle.
- ◆ Historian Joanne Cantwell read thank you notes from Jolene and one from the Indian Reservation. She is asking for anyone that has pictures of the challenge quilts to give them to her.
- ◆ For the library, books are being offered by the Connecting Threads at 40% off.
- ◆ Jean Sullivan is in Mercy Hospital, room 414.
- ◆ January's workshop will be the Alzheimer's quilt blocks and the directions are in the Newsletter.
- ◆ The blocks for the raffle quilts are needed by the next meeting.
- ◆ Clem Dupont is handing over her information to Carolyn Thompson because she will be traveling and can not fulfill her duties at this time.
- ◆ Gayle Hammond has forms for the Secret pal to get started for this year.
- ◆ Linda Hamel reported that they are firming up a speaker for March and looking into getting a speaker for the History of Quilts in June.
- ◆ From the Sunshine Committee, they reported that they are in need of cards and it was agreed that the budget for this Committee needs to be increased. A card will be sent to Jean Sullivan.
- ◆ The tea for this year will be opened at 9 am instead of 9:30 am. Those working on the quilt show should be there at 7am. There is a checklist on the table for the tea if you did not get one via e-mail. There was a sign up sheet for food for the tea. It was voted to discontinue making favors for the tea. Yarn is needed for the tea .
- ◆ Start bringing in fabric to Kathy Travis, even small pieces, she will package them for the tea.
- ◆ Send ideas for crafts to Wendy Cole for the newsletter, be careful when submitting the directions. Small prizes will be given for ideas that are picked.
- ◆ We are now collecting bottle caps, they need to be the deep ones from soda bottles and some water also.
- ◆ When responding to e-mails, send your response to the first person on the gmail otherwise the right person will not get your response.
- ◆ There will be small prizes given for wearing name tags.

Secretary, Debbie Oister

## Holiday Brunch

Shirley Horning (Brunch Chairperson) wants to “thank everyone on the Holiday Brunch committee. We all had fun making the table favors and the centerpieces. Many hands make light work. Hope you all enjoyed the Holiday Brunch.

## March Workshop

In a description from their website, “Lizzie B Creative is a wholesale pattern company created by two woman who share a passion for quilting. And, coincidentally, they also share the same name, “Elizabeth Hawkins.” Beth Hawkins lives in Arizona and her sister-in-law and partner, Liz Hawkins, resides in Pennsylvania. Traditional is not their focus...whimsical is! Liz will be at our March program meeting presenting a lecture, “Who is Lizzie B?” She will describe how the pattern company was born, design inspirations and she will be bringing a trunk show of their quilts. After a break for lunch there will be a 3-hour workshop on hand appliqué, “Easy as a Chocolate Pie!” Participants will receive step-by-step instructions and a demo to make a “chocolate” table topper. Check out their website at [www.lizziebcre8ive.com](http://www.lizziebcre8ive.com).

## Quilt Shop Review



### Kindred Quilts

21 East Main Street  
Clinton, NJ 08809  
908-730-8896

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

When it comes to quilt shops I (Elizabeth Snead) admit to being biased. I have a strong emotional tie to Kindred Quilts. Kindred Quilts is located in the “quintessential town” of Clinton, New Jersey, not far from where I lived prior to moving to Pensa. I spent nearly two years working 3-4 days a week at the shop and loving every minute of it. The town of Clinton itself is worth the 90 mile drive. Poetically situated on the South Branch of the Raritan River, the town offers several nice places to eat lunch and numerous quaint shops.

Kindred Quilts is owned by Toby Preston and staffed by a wonderful group of very talented ladies and one extremely cute 3 legged rescue dog named Cody. Another claim to fame is that Mark Lipinski, of Quilters Home fame, pretended to work in the shop for several months during my time there. Kindred Quilts has appeared in several issues of McCall's Quilting, McCall's Quick Quilts, Quilter's Home Magazine and Irish Quilting.

The shop has a bit of everything, batik, reproduction, wool, embroidery, flannel, contemporary, punch needle, etc. Sample quilts cover the walls, changing frequently, and there is a “sale room” where fabric can sometimes be found for \$2/yd.

Every other fall the shop sponsors “Quilts at the Red Mill.” All quilts are accepted into this fabulous outdoor show. There is no judging or Viewers Choice. This show is strictly to celebrate the abundance of beauty in thread and cloth set against the timeless treasures of the Red Mill Museum Village. Quilts are hung on clotheslines, fence rails, doors of buildings, anywhere they look good!

F.Y.I., Kindred Quilts has made a generous donation to our Tea's Chinese Auction. I think I feel a road trip

## March Refreshments

**March 3..... Fruit or Beverage** - Eileen Frankil

**Baked Goods** - Marie Traxler & Marylou Boryta

**March 17..... Fruit or Beverage** - Susan Glaser

**Baked Goods** - Gayle Hammond & Elizabeth Snead

**March 31..... Fruit or Beverage** - Linda Garthe

**Baked Goods** - Geri Dulis & Jean Atwood

**\* Please remember to sign up for refreshments. If you don't, we all go hungry and 50 hungry quilters is not a pretty sight!**

## Tea Discussion Groups Need Your Samples

Please consider lending your project samples, patterns, books, or other resources to the discussion group leaders. Please get in touch with leaders ASAP if you have items to share. The leader can answer your questions about what's needed and when to bring items in. Label your items with your name and any details you might want to share with the group. Our guests love to see samples and resources. Thanks for your help! It's really appreciated!

Alzheimer's Quilts – Amy Smith-Moniz, [moniz@aol.com](mailto:moniz@aol.com)

Fabric Dyeing and Discharging – Linda Glass, [glasslinda@hotmail.com](mailto:glasslinda@hotmail.com)

Embellishments – Jane Russell, [janer76@verizon.net](mailto:janer76@verizon.net)

Handbags, Totes, and Wallets – Eileen Frankil, [efrankil@comcast.net](mailto:efrankil@comcast.net)

Memory Quilts – Laurie Kelly, [family5kelly@comcast.net](mailto:family5kelly@comcast.net)

Hand Piecing – Joyce Stemple, [joyce@thestemples.com](mailto:joyce@thestemples.com)

Kanzashi Fabric Flower Folding – Debby O'Keefe, [dokeefe19@hotmail.com](mailto:dokeefe19@hotmail.com)

## Tea Donations

The Tea Committee is reminding all guild members to gather up their...

- ❖ Books for the book sale.
- ❖ Any particularly nice notions or partially finished projects for the Chinese Auction as well as a skein of yarn.
- ❖ Crafts for the craft sale; 10% goes to guild, 90% to the craftswoman.
- ❖ Sewing related items can be brought in to Kathy Travis anytime for the garage sale. Merchandising any fabric will help: ie. cut into charm squares, measured yardage, jelly rolls, etc.

## Fish Bowl Raffle

**March:** Cathy Nelson

**April:** Linda Hamel

**May:** Laurie Kelly

## Nickel Squares Alert

**February's color is PINK.** Bring your 11 pink squares to the first meeting of the month. Send your squares in with someone else if you won't be attending. Pick up your blocks at the second meeting of the month.

## Quilt Challenge for Loose Threads 2010

### Rules:

- ♥ One-quarter (9 x 11) of the fat quarter must be used in your challenge, minimally.
- ♥ There are no size restrictions. It can be as big or as small as you need, as long as you follow Rule #1.
- ♥ Additional pieces of the challenge fabric may be purchased from Lenore, if needed for your challenge project. [lenoreclarke@gmail.com](mailto:lenoreclarke@gmail.com)
- ♥ You can enter more than once; each item submitted must follow Rule #1.

### Prizes will be awarded for:

- ♥ Merry Christmas! Since the challenges are due in December, the most obvious Christmas or Hannukah item wins a prize!!
- ♥ Best Wearable art--- such as dress, skirt, vest, etc., not to be confused with #3.
- ♥ Best Accessory--- not your clothing, but something you might accessorize your outfit with.
- ♥ Best wall hanging or quilt using the challenge fabric.
- ♥ Big kahuna---I used the most challenge fabric! (Note: this may not be who obtained the most fabric, but who USED the most fabric)
- ♥ Viewer's Choice--- I'd like to thank the Academy, my producer, director, my tired, my poor, my hungry family who I ignored while I made this my opus.

## Quilt Chat

Debbie O'Keefe wanted everyone to know about the new classes being offered at The Quilt Block in Exton. Classes include: Make your First Quilt, Day and Night Quilt, Bias Binding, Chenille Scarf, Kwik Crazy Tote, Charm Party Tote Bag, Scrappy Bargello Quilt and Free Motion Quilting. Check them out at [www.thequiltblockinc.com](http://www.thequiltblockinc.com)

Several guild members have mentioned that they enjoy these websites for free patterns and the cheapest prices on books. Here they are: <http://www.freequiltpatterns.info>, <http://www.quilterscache.com/QuiltBlocksGalore.html> and [www.fetchbook.info](http://www.fetchbook.info).

## February Birthdays

1st - Joanne Gardner

8th - Eileen Frankil

## **Your First Quilt**

While wasting time on-line one day, I came upon this idea that I thought would be fun for our guild. They were asking for readers to send in stories (and pictures if you have them) of their first quilts. You could include when the quilt was made, how much sewing experience you had when you did it, what pattern you used, was it a class, what kinds of fabrics were in it, where is it now and, most importantly, what lessons did that first quilt teach you. I know we all like talking about our quilts, so how about putting it down on paper and sharing it with the guild.

## **A Product Review**

Last year I (Linda Glass) purchased a Sewline Fabric Pencil. The packaging states “It has specially formulated leads to give a clear fine line on fabrics. Lines are easily removed from most fabrics with the special Sewline Eraser or removed by dabbing with a damp cloth or washing.”

So far I find the advertising to be quite accurate. In fact, it has become my favorite marking tool. Crisp lines, no chalk dust or sharpening tips that break and it stays on until you remove it. What more could you want?

It’s available in (6) various colors but I purchased the pink. It shows up well on both light and dark fabrics, the exception being pink, of course. It also comes with six extra lead pieces.

The mechanical pencil and refills cost \$13.00, which was more than my budget normally allows for a pencil, but I really like this thing and certainly recommend it.

I’ve since found it on line for \$10.95 and refills for \$4.50.

## **Quilt Jumble**

Rearrange the jumbled letters to spell out a quilting term.

**D B E E R O R I**

**E P E S R**

\_\_\_\_\_

The answer to the Jumble is on page 8 along with a description of this quilting term.

## **Donations**

Elizabeth Snead is asking anyone who is not using their Wegmans “coupons for freebies,” to please give them to her so that she can pick up the free food items and donate them to the Church Food Pantry.

## Quilt Book Review

Here is a review of an "Old quilting book that I (Nancy Miller) can't live without":

An old quilting book that I just can't live without is *Around the Block* with Judy Hopkins. This book was first published in 1994 and is still available (I checked on Amazon). It is a collection of 200 rotary-cut blocks. The first part of the book shows color pictures of each block. The remainder of the book lists each block, a diagram of how it goes together and, the best part, the measurements to cut each block in six different sizes. This is a great resource for me since I make a lot of table runners with fabrics that are not of my choosing. I find a block that will work with the number of colors that I have to work with, pick a size, and construct four blocks. I sew these together, put on a border and voila - a table runner. I also recently made a scrap quilt for my sofa using three color families from my stash. I looked through the color pictures for a block that was constructed using three colors, found a block that I liked, turned to the back section and selected a block size, and went to work. If you like to come up with your own quilt patterns/block combinations, this would be a great resource for you. With block sizes from 4 inches up to 14 inches, the possibilities are endless! Happy quilting!! Nancy Miller

## New Quilt Books on the Market

### **A Baker's Dozen**

From the staff at Patchwork Place, 13 quilts from jelly rolls, layer cakes and more. The stitching experts on staff designed and made 13 fabulous quilts - plus a bonus project - using precut fabrics! Now you can indulge your craving for fat quarters, Jelly Rolls, 5" charm squares and 10" Layer Cakes. Create lap quilts, wall hangings, and bed quilts in a wide range of styles for all skill levels.

### **A Bird in Hand: Folk Art Projects Inspired by Our Feathered Friends**

By Renee Plains for Kansas City Star Books. Feathered friends take fanciful flight in this diverse collection of 21 projects inspired by the timeless charm of folk art. Included are 6 avian-embellished appliqué quilts and 3 pieced quilts with bird-themed blocks. The book also features 8 vintage-style sewing accessories and four additional whimsical accents.

### **Blossom Lane**

By Renee Nanneman of Need'I Love. Inspire Spring fever with 5 new quilts of varying techniques, along with several accent pillows. Features quilts created with Andover Fabrics "Blossom Lane" designed by Renee Nanneman.

### **Feed sack Secrets**

By Gloria Nixon for Kansas City Star Books. The poverty of the Depression and fabric shortages during World War II made feedsacks highly important to the quilter. In *Feedsack Secrets*, quilt historian Gloria Nixon shares her research through tens of thousands of pages of old farm periodicals, magazines and newspapers. There are fascinating tidbits along the way: Feedsack prints and bags played a part in political contests, even accurately predicting that Truman would win the 1948 presidential election. This book is a colorful, fun and fascinating ride through a great period of American fabric history.

## Project of the Month

To give everyone more time to complete the “Project of the Month,” from now on you should bring your finished projects to the **2nd** meeting of the month. We will have a sample to view at the business meeting. Prizes for participants will be awarded at the 2nd meeting. Given the extra time, we’re hoping to see at least 40 projects on the table from now on!

## Recipe of the Month

I (Wendy) made this recipe for Christmas breakfast and it was a big hit. You make it the night before then bake it in the morning. Add a broiler pan full of bacon while the french toast is baking and a tasty breakfast is 45 minutes away. It’s perfect for a cold winter morning.

### Skiers French Toast

1 stick of butter  
1 c. brown sugar  
2 Tbsp. corn syrup  
5 eggs  
1 1/2 c. milk  
2 tsp. vanilla  
pinch of nutmeg  
1 loaf of French bread

In a small saucepan, cook butter, brown sugar and corn syrup until sugar is dissolved. Pour it into a 9” x 13” pan. Cut the bread into thick slices and layer over the butter mixture. In a bowl, mix eggs, milk, vanilla and nutmeg. Pour over the bread slices. Cover and refrigerate over night. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

## Quilt Jumble Answer

### BRODERIE PERSE

A French term meaning “Persian embroidery.” This is an applique technique that involves cutting shapes, like a flower, out of a large print fabric. The shape is then applied to another background. This form of applique was popular in Europe, starting in the 1700’s, when expensive print fabrics, like chintz, were imported from Asia and India. Cutting them up and applying them made the prints go further.

# 2010 Quilter's Tea Checklist and Reminder Sheet

## Friday: March 12, 2010

9:30 am, Set up: Tables, display frames for quilts, sale tables...

**All Guild Members must assist.**

## Saturday: March 13, 2010

**Set up:** Early arrival group 7am: Hang quilts, kitchen prep etc.

**Clean up:** Late stay group, 12:30 until complete

### Remember to bring:

\_\_\_ Quilts for Display: All Quilts require a label for the show. Please print out the following in 14 point Arial and cut into a 5" square, pinning it to your quilt. Your Name, Title of Quilt and a Brief Description/Inspiration....

\_\_\_ Garage Sale Donations: Clean out those closets girls!

\_\_\_ Bags for the Garage Sale

\_\_\_ Crafts to sell (10% of sale price goes to LTQG, 90% to you).

\_\_\_ Food: Every member is committed to bringing 2 dozen muffins or cookies, and either 2 quiches or Tea Sandwiches/Appetizers. Some members are assigned to bring fruit or vegetable trays. Quiches need to be cut into 10-12 servings. Please label food items using a toothpick and paper.

\_\_\_ Tea Block

\_\_\_ Tea Pots, Coffee Carafes, Warming Trays, Outlet Strips, Extension Cords (3 prong)

### Reminders:

Dress in layers, it can get hot

You may want a pair of sneakers for set-up and clean-up

Move your car out of the parking lot as soon as you unload on Saturday

The parking lot at the swimming pool is available to us.

### Bring your Smiles and plan to have fun!

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)

## Sounds Familiar

A friend sent me this and I believe that we all could be “founding members” of this club!

### Join our Knot-y Girls Stitchery Club!!

Before you can proudly display the official seal of a Knot-y Girl you must first meet our strict criteria:

1. You must embroider
2. You must have unfinished projects that you “will get to sooner or later”
3. You must own several patterns that you will probably never make
4. You must have, AT LEAST ONCE, purchased a pattern that you later found you already owned
5. You must have, AT LEAST ONCE, sewn either your clothing, tablecloth or a finger to one of your stitcheries

**Congratulations! You are now an official Knot-y Girl!!**

## Upcoming Area Events

**Layers: Unfolding the Stories of Chester County Quilts:** September 10, 2009 – February 25, 2010 (part two) - An exciting new exhibit of quilts never publicly shown before reveals the many stories of Chester County, PA quilts, their makers and their owners. For more information contact the Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380, 610-692-4800 or [www.chestercohistorical.org](http://www.chestercohistorical.org).

**Art Quilts from the Collection of John M. Walsh III:** Morris Museum 6 Normandy Heights Road Morristown, NJ 07960. January 13 – April 25, 2010. Drawn from the nationally recognized private collection, the exhibition will highlight the fascinating fusion of materials and techniques that are redefining the contemporary art quilt movement. These large and varied works transform the functional everyday quilt into an object of expressive design. Phone: 973.971.3700 or [info@morrismuseum.org](mailto:info@morrismuseum.org)

**2010 QUILT PREVIEW:** March 4, 5, 6 (Thursday and Friday 9 am – 8 pm, Saturday 9 am – 4 pm) View approximately 100 of the quilts that will be sold at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale, proceeds benefit Mennonite Central Committee. Shop for vintage treasures – orphan blocks, vintage fabric, linens, notions, patterns, magazines, and unfinished projects. Location: Material Resources Center 517 W. Trout Run Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 733-2847.

**Susquehanna Valley Quilters Presents: “Hurray for Spring!”** Hughesville Fire Hall, Railroad & Water Streets., 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)

**New Directions Presented by County Line Quilters:** Archbishop Wood School, 655 York Road, Warminster, PA. March 20 & 21, 10 am to 5 pm. Admission \$5. [countylinequilters.org](http://countylinequilters.org)

## February Project of the Month: “Teeny Tiny Pin Cushion”

This month’s project is a small pin cushion. It is the perfect size to keep in your traveling sewing kit. They work up so quickly and are so cute that you will want to keep making more and more.



### Supplies

- ♥ Plastic bottle cap that is at least 1/2” high
- ♥ Scraps of wool or felt
- ♥ Embroidery floss to match the wool or felt
- ♥ a small amount of crushed walnut shells
- ♥ A bit of stuffing
- ♥ Buttons or beads for embellishments

### Directions

Measure the circumference of the bottle cap and add a scant 1/4” to that measurement.

Measure the height of the bottle cap and add an 1/8” to that measurement.

Cut a strip of wool using those measures (a).

Trace around the bottle cap and cut out that circle (b).

Wrap the strip of wool around the bottle cap, overlapping it. With 2 strands of embroidery floss, start at the open end of the bottle cap and whip stitch the seam together. Don’t knot it at the end (c).

Take the circle of wool and place it on the solid end of the bottle cap. Using the remaining floss, whip stitch the circle to the strip around the cap (d).

Cut a circle of wool whose diameter is 2 1/2 times bigger than the diameter of the bottle cap.

With 2 strands of floss, baste around the outside of the circle (e).

Pull the threads to tighten slightly, forming a pouch (f).

Partially fill the pouch with the walnut shells. Put a tad of stuffing over the shells to hold them in place. \* *I will bring some walnut shells to the meeting on Wednesday.*

Pull the thread tight, forming a wonky ball. Make sure that you make it tight so that the ball is hard. Tie off (g).

Insert the tied end of the ball into the bottle cap opening. With two strands of floss, whipstitch the two pieces together (h).

Now comes the fun part, decoration. Using the pattern below, cut the heart out of wool (i). Embellish the heart with embroidery, buttons, beads, etc. (j). With two strands of floss, whipstitch the heart to the top of the pin cushion (k).

