



Monthly News

18 August 2025

COMMON THREADS
QUILTING GUILD OF PARMA, OHIO

Pieces from the President — Betty Deemer

Hello Common Threads,

Thank you all for participating in our “Quilt Show Celebration” last month. Lots of good food. A great conversation about the quilt show. *And*, we were able to celebrate each other’s participation in the 2025 quilt show. We all worked hard — and best of all — new friendships were made and existing ones were deepened.

The quilt show committee will be turning in their report at the August meeting. So, if you haven’t yet turned in your own report to the co-chairs, please do so asap.

Our guest speaker in August is Judy Phillips from **Sew Deja Vu**. (You’ll want to bring your cards or cash....) See Luci’s article below for more details.

The 2025 Common Threads Guild Quilt Challenge was announced at the July meeting. We’re going to celebrate America’s 250th birthday. Details for the challenge are included as an attachment to the newsletter email. All challenge quilts will be due at the December meeting.

Last, but definitely not least, I am very excited to announce that **Anna Costanzo** has agreed to take over as the Editor for the newsletter. Please take a moment to thank her for taking on this job. Also, please thank Brenda Garofolo for being the editor for the last three years. Brenda did a fantastic job and I know that Anna will do so as well.

August’s meeting is going to be a ton of fun!

Show and Tell — bring your finished (*or mostly so*) Show & Tell items. (*Guests are also welcome to bring items to show.*)

Block of the Month — Brenda Garofolo and Mary Ellen Butler will be doing the Block of the month. This is the first block. Hopefully, we can all try to participate.

Business Meeting —

- Quilt show report from the co-chairs
- Reports from other committees
- Cuyahoga County Fair update

50 / 50 Raffle — Buy a ticket and you could be the winner of this fun raffle!

Looking forward to seeing you all on **Monday, August 18th at 6:30 pm**. *Please don't forget your name tags — you can also give them to Charlene or Karen to keep for you.*

All the best!
Betty



PS: Our website — CommonThreadsParma.org — has up-to-date news between newsletters. You can also join the conversation on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/commonthreadsparma>.

Where and when we meet: **All Saints Episcopal Church Hall** — 8911 Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH 44134

Minutes from July 21, 2025 Meeting – Mary Ellen Butler, *Secretary*

- President Betty Deemer welcomed everyone to the July meeting. She briefly ran through the agenda for the evening. This evening, we had no speaker. Everyone enjoyed a celebratory potluck dinner and quilt show recap.
- **Guests:**
Laura Blanche
Rose Welsh
Joyce Karbon
Ellen Omilanowski
- **New Members:**
Kim Hamley
Ellen Snyder
- The 50/50 raffle was \$73 and \$37.50 was won by Paula Keiper. Also, a second item was raffled. It was a Zero Waste Quilting book won by Ellen Omilanowski.
- Show and Tell took place and Block of the Month. Show and Tell participants were Sophie Schraner, Heidi Dietz, Laura Blanche, Ruth Nickels, Nancy English, Darryl Conrad, Jane Morris, Ronald Conrad, and Lottie Conrad.
- Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were approved.
- **Committee Reports:**
Block of the Month – Brenda Garofolo and Mary Ellen Butler will be heading BOM this year. All blocks will finish at approximately 18.5 inches. There will be one block per month. The blocks have all been designed and the fabric requirements will be included. If you choose to make a charity quilt and you want the fabric to coordinate, these requirements will be helpful. Otherwise, you can use scraps or use your own fabrics. The quilt should finish around a twin size. All blocks will be considered beginner level so everyone can participate.
Community Service – Lottie stated that the Cuyahoga County fair is August 5-10th. She has assigned the schedule for the fair and confirmed with all people volunteering. The arts and crafts chairman has asked Lottie to review the quilt category list and offer suggestions for changing the categories in the future. Any ideas would be welcomed from our guild – please let Lottie know. You can still enter an item in person for the fair by Wednesday, or online by 7/26. The cost is \$15 to enter an item. Linda Miller will be judging the quilts at the fair this year and Charlene VanDeWeerd will be her scribe. (*Editor's Note: Charlene VanDeWeerd was unable to scribe at the fair.*)

Quilt Show – Each sub-committee chair was asked to present their committee members and discuss what they did for the show. The presenters were Elaine Wise, Charlene VanDeWeerd, Donna Kowicki, Pat Dolezal, Mary Ellen Butler, Luci Slywka, and Linda Golubuski. “Thank you” gifts were handed out by President Deemer. A thank you gift was given to Anna Costanzo for her contribution of the two raffle quilts. It was a framed “thank you” from the members, and a wooden tool caddy for her longarm machine.

The co-chairs for the show were called up next. Lynea Derwis, Paula Keiper, and Brenda Garofolo. They were presented with gifts from president Deemer. The co-chairs also recognized the set-up and take-down volunteers that they oversaw. They stated that the setup and take down ran very smoothly. Overall, they stated that it was a great show!

All sub-committee chairs are being asked to email procedural notes/summary to Paula Keiper so they can be included in the overall notes for the quilt show.

Quilt Show Discussion – Brenda Garofolo opened a discussion about feedback for the show. She stated that the chairs felt the show ran very well. She asked for positive feedback and concerns from the members.

Positive feedback:

- The tear down was very organized and easy.
- Venue was easier to set-up and tear down.
- The layout for the show was good and had a nice flow.
- Black drapes on all quilts looked very professional.
- The location was easy to find. The signs were helpful.
- Big thanks to Church of Hope; Jim and Pastor Shane and all their accommodations.
- Church has a full-time maintenance man which was a positive. Quick to respond.
- From the church, a stability walker was available to assist those in need.
- Very positive comments from attendees.
- The show gave members an opportunity to get to know each other better.
- 227 votes were counted for Viewer’s Choice.
- The judge forms were positive and very helpful.
- Location was better and closer to where the guild meets.
- Linda Miller did a great job and helped hang the ribbons.
- There was positive feedback regarding the Challenge Quilt wall.
- Having the IX show prior to our quilt show was a plus.

Areas of Concern:

- A lag on Friday between 5-6pm.
- Should we have the show that late?
- Saturday seemed to be slower than Friday for attendance.
- Some people were looking for “real” food vs snack food.
- There was too much food. Little was sold and maybe we should re-examine for the future.
- Suggestion was made to maybe do a bake sale instead of selling food items.
- A concern was raised about having more substantial food and drink around the quilts.
- More signs were needed for the snack area. The most sold item was the ice cream treats.

NEORQC – Jim Armstrong announced that the next meeting will be held on October 4, 2025, at the United Methodist Church on Rt. 43 in Streetsboro, Ohio, south of Rt 14.

- A vote was taken to continue our contract at All Saints Church through December 2025. The members approved staying in this location. We will look at a 2026 meeting location closer to the end of the year. Lottie stated that Church of Hope is not available on a Monday night. Donna Kowicki was asked to write a check to the church to pay for the next 4 months.
- The Quilt Expo for 2026 will be held in Akron at the John Knight Center. There was some discussion about the IX center being sold and that it would not be available for this event in the future.
- The 2025 Challenge Quilt Competition for the guild was discussed and it will be due in December. The theme will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. The colors need to be predominately red, white, and blue. You can add additional colors but red, white, and blue need to be the primary focus of the piece. The size should be 18x24 inches. Be creative! Betty is considering asking Lake Farm Park to display the challenge quilts in the show next year. Because of this, the pieces need to have a facing instead of a binding to finish the quilts. She will provide more information on how to create a facing in the future. This information is also available on YouTube.
- **A newsletter editor is needed.** One or two people could take on this task. It is best if you know Word or InDesign or equivalent software. Task involves writing, spelling, editing, gathering information, and sending out bulk emails. Let Betty Deemer know if you are interested.
- Upcoming additional speakers:
 - August – Judy from Sew Déjà vu
 - September – Sew Creative Cottage
 - October – Quilters Fancy
 - November – Judge Linda Miller
- The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Butler, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report — Donna Kowicki, *Treasurer*

July 2025	
Beginning Balance	\$6,151.67
Income	4,993.12
Expenses	2,120.72
Ending Balance	\$9,024.07



SHOW & TELL



Presenters: Sophie Schraner, Heidi Dietz, Laura Blanche, Ruth Nickels, Nancy English, Darryl Conrad, Jane Morris, Ronald Conrad, and Lottie Conrad



COMMITTEE NEWS

Membership — Charlene VanDeWeerd & Karen Braatz, *Co-Chairs*

Greetings Members!

- We hope this finds you enjoying the summer weather!

Membership Roster

- Attached is an updated Membership Roster for August with the **addition of Ellen Snyder and Kim Hamley**. Please give them a warm welcome! We are glad to have you as members!
- The membership roster for August is attached to this newsletter. With the addition of Ellen and Kim, we have **58** members.
- If you notice any errors or have any changes to your information, please let Charlene VanDeWeerd know at rvandewe@verizon.net or Mobile: 703-967-8772, Home: 440-268-6472.

Sign-in Sheets

- As always, we will have the sign-in sheets at the August meeting, so please make sure you sign in.

Name Tags

- All new members are receiving a name tag. If you currently don't have one or need a new one, please sign up on the Name Tag sheet we will have at the meeting.
- We are looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday, August 18th!! 🌸

Programs – Luci Slywka, *1st Vice President*

We will be having Judy Phillips from Sew Deja Vu. She will be presenting a program about the benefits of notions and accessories.

Fundraising – Jim Armstrong, *2nd Vice President*

Thank you to everyone that participated in the 50/50 raffle to help support our guild. Thank you also to Nancy English for donating the Zero Waste Quilting book as the second prize. At our next meeting, we will also have another second prize, donated by Paula Kieper.



Quilt Show Emporium — Lottie Conrad, Lynn Faenza, Co-Chairs

We want to thank everyone that helped with the Emporium and raffle baskets for the Quilt show. We have a lot of stuff left, so I'm wondering if anyone has any ideas of what to do with it. We will have some items to sell at the Cuyahoga County Fair this week. Since the Sewing expo will be in Akron again, I am not in favor of having a booth there, so we will just have the fair for 2 years and then the next quilt show. I'm open to ideas. *(Editor's Note: There will be future discussion and a membership vote regarding a booth at the 2026 Expo.)*

The Cuyahoga County Fair is going on right now, and I know some of our members have entered items. I hope everyone does well. I also want to thank all of the workers who are volunteering at our table and providing demonstrations.

Community Service — Lottie Conrad, Lynea Derwis & Mary Ellen Butler, Co-Chairs

We have a few quilts, some burp clothes, tote bags and pillowcases for Community service. If you have some time to work on Community service items we would appreciate it. We would like to be able to take some things to the Shelters before Christmas if possible.

Hospitality Committee — Jane Morris, Chair

If anyone would like to bring something for hospitality it would be welcomed. I do not have anyone signed up for our August meeting. I will have a sign-up sheet for September, October and November. Thank You

Block of the Month — Brenda Garofolo & Mary Ellen Butler, Co-Chairs

We are excited to offer our new Block of the Month patterns that will be designed for new quilters; the blocks will not require complicated piecing. A new block will be provided each month, resulting in a 12-block mystery series. Each of the 12 blocks will be approximately 18 inches large (finished size), which will result in a twin size quilt. Please see attached for the August block of the month called "Road to California."

Fabric requirements are included if you wish to make a color coordinated quilt. We look forward to seeing your first block at the August meeting!



Pat Dolezal sharing a log cabin block from an earlier BOM.

Sunshine Committee — Elaine Wise, *Chair*

A Get-Well card was sent to Karen Kashary after her knee replacement, and to Charlene VanDeWeerd for the hospitalization of her husband.

Quilt Show Committee — Lynea Derwis, Brenda Garofolo and Paula Kieper, *Co-Chairs*

We are wrapping up the details of the *2025 Lazy Days of Summer Quilt Show* and plan to share our summary information at the August meeting. This effort includes compiling all the sub-committee tasks and supporting information in a document that can be used as guidance for future shows. Also, the financial data will be shared so we can see how much income the guild was able to generate.

Thank you to all that participated in the discussion at our July Guild meeting; your input is greatly valued and appreciated!

2025 Red, White, and Blue Challenge – Luci Slywka, *Chair*

The 2025 Quilt Challenge is here! Instructions and guidelines are attached to this email. Challenge quilts are due at the December meeting – **December 15, 2025**. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded with cash prizes. Membership present at the December meeting will vote.



August Birthdays

Wishing all a very Happy Birthday!

Mary Hartnett – August 2

Heidi Dietz – August 7

Nancy English – August 16

Janet Kiraly – August 21

Elaine Wise – August 28

Anna Rohn – August 31

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE GUILD

NEORQC News *(submitted by Jim Armstrong)*

The next NEORQC meeting will take place on October 4th. The address is: United Methodist Church
8940 OH-43
Streetsboro, OH 44241

Doors open at 9:30 am and the meeting starts at 10:00 am. There is an opportunity for everyone to enter an “Eye” Spy Quilt Challenge: <https://www.neorgconline.org/neorgc-2019-20-fabric-challenge/> There are no special directions for the challenge other than to include an eye(s) somewhere within the quilt. There are no size or fabric requirements. If you have the opportunity, please participate – it would be greatly appreciated!

In addition, those participating in the NEORQC Shop Hop will receive an entry for a gift card drawing. Shop Hop forms were available at our last meeting and I will have more at our August meeting.

<https://www.neorgconline.org/neorgc-shop-hop/>

Lorain County Piecemakers Quilt Guild Quilt Show – September 12-14, 2025 – New Russia Township Lodge *(submitted by Brenda Garofolo)* The Lorain County Piecemakers quilt show includes over 100 quilts from antique to modern, with special exhibits and Member Challenges. A quilt will be raffled and lunch, desserts and beverages are available to purchase. Also included are raffle baskets, vendors, a door prize and Country Store. Admission is \$5; there is free parking. The show is located at 46300 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

AQS (American Quilter’s Society) 2026 Call for Quilts – AQS has announced two very exciting quilt shows for 2026: “Stars, Stripes & Stitches” and “America the Beautiful.” *Stars, Stripes & Stitches* is all about red, white, and blue. For more information go to: <https://www.americanquilter.com/call-for-quilts>. *America the Beautiful* tries to capture the breathtaking landscapes, natural wonders, and iconic landmarks that make America truly magnificent. For more information go to: <https://www.americanquilter.com/creativity-challenge>. Submissions are due by August 30, 2025.



Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting magazine discount offer – Common Threads members have been offered the opportunity to receive, individually, a substantially discounted subscription of **Love of Quilting Magazine** for a yearly price of \$15. *(Normally their subscription prices are \$59.95 per year.)*

If you wish to take advantage of this offer to our guild members, you must use this link: https://gpm.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=LOQ_promo&pk=N5HCTQGL.

We will keep the guild updated regarding this offer. *[Editor Note: After you subscribe, make sure to log into your account and turn off "auto renew". This will give you the option to try this new magazine without being obligated to subscribing at a higher price.]*

AQS Engagement Calendar Calls for Entry – AQS is seeking quilts to be a part of their 2027 calendar. It is FREE to enter this. Any quilts selected will receive a complimentary calendar. Submissions are due by August 30, 2025. For more information, go to: <https://contest.americanquilter.com/page/VrIDzEqZ>

Cherrywood Challenge – Everybody has stories and illustrations etched into their memories from childhood. That favorite story you read over and over as a child can be passed along to your children and grandchildren...much like a quilt. This challenge is all about connection, imagination and nostalgia. The Cherrywood Challenge has become a highly-anticipated annual contest that gives you a spark of an idea and eight colors. You take it from there and see how far you can push yourself. For more information, go to:

https://cherrywoodfabrics.com/products/storytime-challenge-bundles?_hsmt=369396535&utm_campaign=Marketing%20Partner%20-%202024&utm_content=369396535&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hs_email&variant=46627866050814

Original Sewing & Quilt Expo 2025 Quilt Contest – Enter your quilt into a traveling show for the Expo. Many prizes and ribbons will be awarded. Deadline for entry is August 18th. For more information, go to: <https://sewingexpo.com/Quilt-Contest>

All Ohio Shop Hop – The "All Ohio Shop Hop" has started! It runs from August 1 through September 30, 2025. You can just complete one of 6 regions or try for the whole state. What's more important is that it's a fun way to explore different quilt shops and meet other quilters. There are still magazines with the passports available. Have fun hopping! <https://allohioshophop.com/>



Who We Are:

Common Threads was started over 30 years ago by 15 founding members. We currently have almost sixty members and are actively seeking new members to join us. Our purpose is to “promote fellowship while increasing and encouraging interest and knowledge of our members in all aspects of the art of quilting.” Highlights of membership include community, a triennial Quilt Show, and an opportunity to learn from seasoned guild members and speakers.

As a Common Threads guild member: we **Learn** • we **Teach** • we **Give Back**.

Guild Officers — 2024-2026 Term:

- President – Betty Deemer
- 1st Vice President – Luci Slywka (Programming)
- 2nd Vice President – Jim Armstrong (Fundraising)
- Secretary – Mary Ellen Butler
- Treasurer – Donna Kowicki

Newsletter — Anna Costanzo, *Editor*

Please email your submissions for the next newsletter by **Friday, September 1** to **Anna Costanzo**:
scmusicae@gmail.com

Attachments:

2025 – 2026 Common Threads Members – as of August 2025

BOM pattern for block 1 – “Road to California”

BOM fabric requirements

2025 Red White and Blue Challenge with Facing Instructions

NEORQC Most Current Information (Thank you Jim!)