



# Monthly News

20 OCTOBER 2025

**COMMON THREADS**  
QUILTING GUILD OF PARMA, OHIO

## Pieces from the President – Betty Deemer

Hello Common Threads,

Welcome! Our guest speaker in October is Cindy Oravitz from **Quilter's Fancy**. She does amazing work and her visits are always very interesting. You can find out more about Cindy here: <https://www.quiltersfancy.com/meet-cindy-oravecze.htm>. Plus... there will be opportunities to shop!

The Christmas Party is approaching quickly. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jane Morris asap. Don't forget that the guild challenge is due at the party! See Luci Slywka for details.

Meeting Agenda:

- **Guest Speaker** – Cindy Oravitz, **Quilter's Fancy**
- **Show and Tell** – bring your finished (or mostly so) Show and Tell items. (Guests are also welcome to bring items to show.)
- **Block of the Month** – Please bring your next block to the meeting to share with everyone. Questions regarding how to make the blocks are always welcome – email/see Brenda Garofolo or Mary Ellen Butler.
- **Business Meeting** – We'll have a short business meeting after our coffee/meet & greet. Chairpersons will give updates on their areas.
- **50/50 Raffle** – Buy a ticket and you could be the winner of this fun raffle! There will also be a basket raffled.

Look forward to seeing you all on Monday, October 20th at 6:30pm. 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](http://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 • 6:30pm

## Minutes from September 15, 2025, Meeting – Mary Ellen Butler, *Secretary*

DATE: September 15, 2025

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 pm

ADJOURNED: 8:29 pm

1. President Betty Deemer welcomed everyone to the September meeting. She briefly ran through the agenda for the evening. This evening, we had Cathy from Sew Creative Cottage discuss sewing machine maintenance.
2. Guests:  
Jeff Butler  
Becky Unger  
Char Truman  
Susan Warren  
New Members:  
none
3. The 50/50 raffle collected \$54 and, \$37 was won by Lucy Slywka. Also, a second item was raffled. A tote donated by Nancy English was won by Lottie Conrad. Next month Jim Armstrong will be raffling off a basket with “yarny” items. This will be a separate raffle from the 50/50.
4. Show and Tell took place followed by Block of the Month. Show and Tell participants were Diane Sieckowski, Pat Kalnasy, Jan Kiraly, Jeff Butler, Lynn Faenza, Ruth Nickels, Amy Congeni, Luci Slywka, Kim Pless, Paula Keiper, Anna Costanzo, Krista McDonald, Darryl Conrad, and Jim Armstrong.
5. Treasurer and Secretary reports were approved. Betty announced that the audit had been completed by Sophie Seckel. Everything balanced and the ending balance is approximately \$10,000.00.

### New Business:

Betty introduced new features to our guild website. There is now a tab on the menu where members can create an account. Once you create an account you will be able to access a private level of the website where additional content will be available. This is in the beginning stages but will eventually house the guild newsletters and other member information. Anna Costanzo has been testing the site as it is being improved. (**Editor's reminder:** Please sign up for the "members only" portion of the website if you have not already done so. <https://commonthreadsparma.org/> )

Betty reviewed the board officers' positions for the guild, and the need for people to step up to take these positions for the next term. She introduced Kim Pless who is interested in 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and had Kim briefly tell us about herself. There will be a need for 2-3 people to take over the Quilt Show committee in the future. Binders with information will be available for all board positions and the quilt show. Betty encouraged all committee chairs to create a binder of information to assist people in future positions. North Coast Needlers Quilt Guild has approached our guild as well as some of the other larger guilds to host bigger name speakers and classes. A group will be meeting in Oberlin to further discuss this idea for the future. These types of speakers are much more costly to host and would require a larger facility to accommodate an event of this type. We worked with Polka Dot Pincushion in the past in the same sort of capacity.

### Committee Reports:

*Community Service* – Lottie is starting a quilting group at Church of Hope that will meet the second Saturday of the month. Any skill level can attend this group. She encouraged our members to attend. Lottie has a large amount of poly/cotton fabric pieces to use for community service. She is looking for ideas for how to use this fabric.

*Christmas Party/Dinner* – Jane Morris and Luci Slywka will need help organizing this event. Please contact them if you can assist.

*Challenge Quilt* – Due at the December meeting. The theme is Celebrating 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USA. Predominant colors need to be red, white and blue, although you can incorporate other colors into the piece. It can be patriotic or historical. The quilts need to be 18 inches wide by 24 inches tall. Our quilts will be exhibited at Lake Farm Park next year for their show. The challenge quilts need to have a faced binding. Betty demonstrated how to create a faced binding. (**Editor's Note:** President Deemer is in the process of arranging to have our challenge quilts displayed at Lake Farm Park. It has not been finalized yet.)

*Once Upon a Christmas Craft Fair* – This will be held at Grace Church in Middleburg Heights, on 11/7 and 11/8. Our guild will be participating in the hopes of selling more items created for our quilt show. Lynn Faenza is the chair, and she passed around a sign-up sheet for members to help. Contact Lynn if you would like to help.

A brief discussion took place regarding guild members buying donated fabric from Lottie Conrad's basement, by Betty Deemer. This was after the meeting was adjourned and will be further discussed next month.

October speaker is Cindy Oravitz from Quilters Fancy.

The meeting was adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ellen Butler, Secretary

## Membership – Charlene VanDeWeerd & Karen Braatz, Co-Chairs

Greetings Members!

- We hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather.

### Membership Roster

- There are no changes to the Membership Roster. The most current update was last month, and the membership roster from September 2025 is also attached to this newsletter.
- If you notice any errors or have any changes to your information, please let Charlene VanDeWeerd know at [rvandewe@verizon.net](mailto: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 meeting this month of October, 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, October 20th. 🍂

**Treasurer's Report – Donna Kowicki, *Treasurer***

October 2025	
Beginning Balance	\$9,662.90
Income	337.10
Expenses	161.77
Ending Balance	9,838.38

*SHOW & TELL*





**Presenters:** Diane Sieckowski, Pat Kalnasy, Jan Kiraly, Jeff Butler, Lynn Faenza, Ruth Nickels, Amy Congeni, Luci Slywka, Kim Pless, Paula Keiper, Anna Costanzo, Krista McDonald, Darryl Conrad, and Jim Armstrong

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Fundraising – Jim Armstrong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Hello,

I would like to thank our members who purchased 50/50 raffle tickets which provided Lucy Slywka \$37.00 in winnings. We had a second winner, Lottie Conrad, who won a tote bag that was donated by Nancy English. As a reminder, we will have a second drawing in October for a gift basket that was donated back to the guild. This drawing will be separate from the 50/50 drawing. If interested in this basket of crochet items you must purchase a separate ticket(s) for a chance to win.

### **Community Service – Lottie Conrad, Lynea Derwis & Mary Ellen Butler, Co-Chairs**

Community service needs the following items at this time.

Tote bags for Edna house which can be completed using the YouTube video – “How to Make a 2-Seam Tote Bag” by Tracy. It is an easy tutorial to follow, and she walks you through each step. ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm6dAc8rVky&t=1s> ) If you do not want to use this video, the best size for their needs finishes at about 14” wide by 16” tall. You can use donated fabric from Lottie Conrad if you are preparing items for charity. Lottie also has black and white webbing available for the handles if you would like to use it.

Burp cloths and quilts are always needed. We do have one charity quilt that needs to have a binding added. Lottie will have this quilt at the next meeting. See her if you have the time to bind this quilt.

As always, thank you for your time and effort in supporting our goal of providing charity items to our community.



## **Once Upon a Christmas Craft Show – Lynn Faenza, *Chair***

Common Threads Quilting Guild of Parma will have a table at:

### **Once Upon a Christmas Craft Fair**

Grace Church

7393 Pearl Rd.

Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

Friday, November 7, 2025 – 3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday, November 8, 2025 – 10 am to 5 pm

Admission is Free

Come and support our guild. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Faenza.

## **Hospitality Committee – Jane Morris, *Chair***

Barbara Buckley and Olivia Hopkins signed up for Hospitality at the October meeting. If anyone else would like to bring a treat, it would be happily accepted. Thank You!

## **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. If anyone missed the demo for the faced binding please see me (Luci) for a quick demo and explanation.

## Block of the Month – Brenda Garofolo & Mary Ellen Butler, *Co-Chairs*



**Presenters** – Anna Costanzo, Kim Hahn, Lynn Faenza, Diane Sieckowski, Kim Pless, Elaine Wise, Lynea Derwis, Lottie Conrad, Jane Morris, Brenda Garofolo, Mary Ellen Butler

We were happy to see so many participants in our September BOM! For our new members, it's not too late to join in the fun. Let Brenda Garofolo know if you need the first three "Block of the Month" instructions emailed to you. (Although, you don't need to make up blocks and can start any time to make new blocks.)

We look forward to seeing everyone's version of the October BOM, "Whirlpool," at our October 20 guild meeting.

## Sunshine Committee – Elaine Wise, *Chairs*

A get-well card was sent to Paula Kieper after her surgery...get well quickly, Paula!

## October Birthdays

Wishing all a very Happy Birthday!

Paula Keiper – October 2

Betty Deemer – October 3

Kim Hahn – October 4

Emil Soltesz – October 24



## OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE GUILD

### **NEORQC News** (submitted by Jim Armstrong)

Registration for the **2026 NEORQC Getaway, "Quilters Still Play with Blocks,"** opens on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The registration form is attached for your use. Please remember to **print legibly** when completing the form. Classes are assigned in the order registrations are received. We will try to accommodate your first choice. The 2026 Getaway is February 20-22, 2026. We have a new location, Crown Plaza in Middleburg Heights.

Included with your registration is a 2-night stay (double occupancy); Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch; classroom instruction; sewing area; refreshments; hotel amenities; taxes and gratuities. The event opens on Friday with registration at 10:00 and classes beginning at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday, classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a lunch break. The event will conclude on Sunday after the last class (which runs from 9:00 to 11:00 am) and a luncheon with a presentation of the class projects. Two vendors will be on-site for your needs, and scissor sharpening will be available on Saturday.

The current listing of class options for the 2026 NEORQC Getaway is provided for your convenience and review on the NEORQC website, [www.neorqconline.org](http://www.neorqconline.org). Deciding which class to choose will be a challenge. Each of these projects is beautiful and sure to be of interest!

Registration closes November 15th, 2025. Please come and join us for a fun weekend. Continue to check the website and NEORQC Facebook page for updates and more details. Happy Quilting, from Barbara King, NEORQC President

**Lorain County Piecemakers Guild – New Russia Township Hall**  
46300 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin, OH 44074  
**GARAGE SALE – Thursday, November 13, 2025**  
10:30 am to 7:00 pm

You are cordially invited to our first ever Garage Sale on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Members only will be selling all kinds of items! There will be lots of crafting/quilty stuff and other curiosities to purchase from members at their tables. Please feel free to bring friends and meet our members!

Cash only since we aren't setup for credit card transactions at this time.  
Hope to see you there!

October 20, 2025



**North Coast Needlers Quilt Guild – “Ruby Jubilee” Quilt Show.** (See attached flyer.)  
Saturday, October 18 (10 am – 5 pm) and Sunday, October 19, 2025 (11 am – 4 pm)

Don Umerley Civic Center  
21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, OH 44116  
Free Parking – Handicap Accessible  
Admission: \$5 - Ages 10 and under: Free

**Traditional, Contemporary & Art Quilts**

Vendors - Raffle Quilt - Raffle Baskets  
Boutique (handmade items) - Quilts for Sale

For more information:

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

[NCNquiltShows@gmail.com](mailto:NCNquiltShows@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/538530379499226>

**The Lancaster Quilt Show at Lebanon Valley – March 25-28, 2026.** Preview the 2026 classes! Registration for the 2026 Lancaster-Lebanon Quilt Show will begin Saturday, October 4, at 10:00 am EST.

<https://www.aquiltersdestination.com/lancaster-pa?cid=87667451-4a4f-47b9-8750-366f8e00336b>

<https://aquiltersdestination.com/so/62PcMoeaD?languageTag=en&cid=87667451-4a4f-47b9-8750-366f8e00336b>



**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, you must use this link:

[https://gpm.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=LOQ\\_promo&pk=N5HCTQGL](https://gpm.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=LOQ_promo&pk=N5HCTQGL).

**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 click the link below:

[https://cherrywoodfabrics.com/products/storytime-challenge-bundles?\\_hsmi=369396535&utm\\_campaign=Marketing%20Partner%20-%202024&utm\\_content=369396535&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&variant=46627866050814](https://cherrywoodfabrics.com/products/storytime-challenge-bundles?_hsmi=369396535&utm_campaign=Marketing%20Partner%20-%202024&utm_content=369396535&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hs_email&variant=46627866050814)

## Who We Are:

Common Threads was started over 30 years ago by 15 founding members. We currently have about 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Luci Slywka (Programming)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jim Armstrong (Fundraising)
- Secretary – Mary Ellen Butler
- Treasurer – Donna Kowicki

## **Newsletter Editor – Anna Costanzo, *Editor***

Please email your submissions for the next newsletter by **Saturday, November 1**, to **Anna Costanzo**: [scmusicae@gmail.com](mailto:scmusicae@gmail.com)

Attachments:

2025 – 2026 Common Threads Members – as of September 2025  
BOM pattern for block 3 – Whirlpool  
2025 Red White and Blue Challenge with Facing Instructions  
Northcoast Needlers Flyer  
NEORQC 2026 Getaway Registration