



# Thimbles & Friends Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 27 • Issue 3      November, 2025

## Board and Committee Members 2025-2026

**Chair:** Doris Furness

**Co-Chair:** Julia Blanchard

**Treasurer:** Joanne Cumming

**Co-Treasurer:** Suzanne Kresser

**Secretary:** Deborah White

**Charity:** Wendy Moore & Susan MacDonald

**Facilities:** Pat McCollem

**Membership/Hospitality:**  
Phyllis Barry

**Newsletter Editors:**  
Taryen Shannon, Wendy Foley,  
Beverly Ciaburri

**Web & Social Media:** Sarah Norris

**Programming Coordinators:** Taryen Shannon & Sheila Hadayia



## Guild Website

<http://www.thimblesandfriendsquiltguild.org>

**Newsletter Note:** Just click on the picture of any quilt to see the Web page it came from.

## Newsletter Submissions

All guild members are encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter. Share an interesting article, picture cartoon, own story etc. Add your thoughts and please provide the source or web address. If you like it, we will, too! If the newsletter is published that month, we will save your article for a future publication.

- Taryen, Wendy F., Beverly

## Meeting Dates

Here is the information for our remaining guild year. Meeting times are 10:15 AM – 2 PM.

Nov 1	Open Sew/ Quilted bookmarks
Dec 6	HOLIDAY PARTY by Veronica, Rhonda, Pat
Jan 3	Ruler work by Wendy M.
Jan 31	Sashiko class
Feb 12-15	Retreat
March 7	Freezer paper class by Joanne
April 4	Quest
May 2	Tea Party



## *From the Chairman*

I don't know about you, but turkey is not my favorite meal. I like the skin and an occasional piece of dark meat, but that's about it. What I do love, though, are the sides. I live for the mashed potatoes (made with yellow potatoes, of course!), squash, and stuffing! And don't get me talking about the desserts!

As I have thought about it, it's really the sides that I spend a lot of time thinking about when I am preparing a meal, whether it's Thanksgiving or just having some friends over for a home cooked meal. And, as I thought about this further, it occurred to me that one of the things I like most when we gather are the side conversations that always seem to pop up! This is when we don't talk about quilting or sewing, but rather when we share a little bit about who we are and what, in addition to pursuing our love of sewing or quilting, we have done in our lives.

For instance, did you know that Sue MacDonald spent 20 years in the service? Or that Veronica Kane was also in the service working as a pediatric nurse practitioner? (Thank you, Sue, and Veronica, for serving our country!) And that Debbie White has her PhD in Instructional Technology? (Is that why she can take such great minutes?!!) I learned about the backgrounds of these women as we have chatted during side conversations, those welcome opportunities when we aren't focusing on the "main course" of sewing a quilt. It's the side conversations that have really opened up connections and admiration for you folks.

So, as we prepare for our Thanksgiving feasts, let's also be grateful for all the "sides" both at a festive table and in our quilting gatherings. We can find blessings in both places.

- *Doris*



## *Charity*

Thimbles and Friends Quilt Guild continues to amaze me with our charitable donations.

There are still several pillowcase kits for those who wish to make one. Collectively, so far, the guild has donated 676 completed pillowcases! That means 676 smiles to children with serious hospitalizations.

Thimbles and Friends will continue to support the Shore Shore Visiting Nurses. They will happily accept quilts in any size for children through adults, including wheelchair quilts and isolette covers. In addition, they will accept crocheted and knitted items, afghans, hats, mittens and socks.

On October 28 I brought 47 quilts, three afghans and multiple mittens and hats for distribution to the home care division.

Way to go TNF!

- *Wendy M. & Susan MacDonald*

## Programming

**November**-We will have an open sew along with making “Quilted Bookmarks.”

We are looking forward to spending time together and enjoying Joanne's tutorial on making bookmarks.

November Program: “Quilted Bookmarks” Tutorial by Joanne

Supplies Needed:

-Lots of Scraps of favorite fabrics, each piece at least 2.5” by 1.5”, (the smaller the pieces, the more piecing will be done) it's up to you.

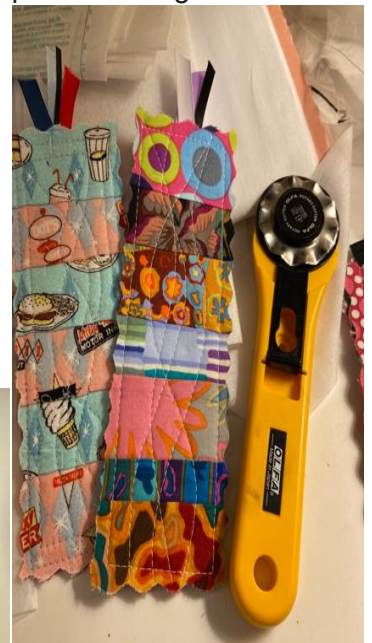
-Interfacing to stabilize the bookmark. You can use your scraps, too. Choose light to heavy weight types, even Peltex, they can be layered as needed. No batting or fleece, will make the bookmarks too thick. If you need interfacing I will bring extra.

Also needed:

-Glue sticks, pinking rotary cutter or shears, ribbons for decoration, if desired, and all the usual sewing tools of course. Sewing machine.

Customize your taste. Decide on the size of your bookmarks, both length and width. Mine are usually about 7”-8” long and 1.75” to 2” finished. We will be piecing small pieces together into strips a little longer and wider than you want, attaching interfacing(s) with glue/fusing. Instructions on layering, quilting, decoration and trimming will be shown at the tutorial.

Some of you may remember these from a past Christmas party where I made these as gifts. Maybe we can make some to donate to the library. Cute bookmarks can encourage kids to read more! See the pictures for inspiration...



**January**-We're excited to announce that we've booked a Sashiko class for our January 31 meeting! To hold the class, we'll need a commitment of a minimum of 15 people by our December meeting. The cost of the kit is \$30, which will be due by the December 6 meeting also.



- *Taryen and Sheila*

## **Quilt Show**

Hi Janice, it's Sue.

J: Hi Sue, glad you called.

S: I think we need to chat about the quilt show.

J: Yes, what we need and who might help.

S: I think we need registration, white gloves and a title.

J: Joyce did the registration for last show, maybe she'll explain the procedure at our next meeting if she's there.

S: Was Wendy F. In charge of the white glove sign up?

J: Yes, we have a lot of members that will help out on that.

S: We should chat with Sue W to get some help.

J: The guild should suggest a title also and have a vote.

S: ok

J: I have a title in mind.

S: ya what is it.

J: Let's Rip Up Some Quilts.

S: humm, no

J: well , I was just thinking.

S: Thinking, is that new to you?

J: Funny

We've already have baskets, buck a block, raffle quilt and boutique, I think we have advertising and the church booked. So girl, let's get this show on the road. Don't hold back on any suggestions or ideas guild. Do we want a title?

- *Janice and Susan*

Thank you Janice and Susan for chairing the Quilt show!!

## **Buck a Block**

Here is a picture of the buck a block. I will be bringing more fabric and copies of the pattern at the November meeting. If you have any completed blocks, please bring them with you. Thank you. Happy stitching!

- *Sue-Ellen*



## **Retreat Info and Payment**

If you have not paid your \$50.00 deposit it is due at the November meeting, with the final payment due at the first January 2026 meeting. If deposits are not paid by November, then the "spot" will be released to a nonmember to reach our 40 participant thresh hold. This money pays for the Sewing Room, and two congregate meals, lunch buffet Saturday and breakfast on Sunday and all administration fees and taxes.

Most TNF members are paying the full \$116.00, rather than two payments. If you have unforeseen circumstances, please contact Wendy M. who is the Hotel 1620 coordinator.

When making your reservations for your sleeping room, please use ONLY the Hotel 1620 phone number. There are many phone numbers on the internet that will charge you more money. If you have any problems, contact Wendy. And last, if you wish to come on Wednesday – tell Wendy as we can get the same discount rate – but only if Wendy knows ahead of time and the hotel can block those rooms. There are already several of us planning on Wednesday – we could enjoy one of the local restaurants together or enjoy the pool.

**(Note: entry into sewing room is still 9 AM on Thursday)**

- Wendy M.

## **Fun Committee**

Do you have a lanyard with plastic sleeve that held your name tag from last retreat? Please bring to next meeting and give to Sue M, Janice or Mary Ann.

## **Upstairs quilt shop**

Upstairs quilt shop has lots of \$2.00 a yard fabrics. Some 60 inches wide! Also, a smaller selection of free fabric. This fabric is a continuation of Jonathan Fabric.

I am available most days and some nights. Give me a call or a text to set up a date and time. Grab a friend and bag and come on over!

- Wendy M.

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more

# **Why Does My Thread Keep Breaking?**

*Why is my sewing machine thread breaking while sewing? Let's dive into the chief causes and solutions.*

CALE SCHOENBERG

OCT 20



## **"My thread keeps breaking in my sewing machine."**

This is one of the most common issues we see at The Sewing Machine Shop. In this edition of The Sewing Machine Newsletter, I'll walk you through the exact troubleshooting process I use, step by step, when a machine is breaking thread.

Rethread the sewing machine with quality thread and insert a new needle that is size 80/12 or 90/14.

1. Make sure I am using a spool cap that is slightly larger than the end of the plastic end of the

thread spool.

2. Perform the pull test to locate potential thread snag in the upper half of the machine.
3. Inspect the needle plate, bobbin case, and presser foot for burrs.
4. Inspect the machine for adhesive on the bobbin case and/or hook; clean off adhesive if need be.

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## **Step 1: Rethread and Replace the Needle**

First, I rethread the machine with **quality thread** and insert a **new needle** (preferably size 80/12, or 90/14). Old or cheap thread is brittle and often the sole cause of breakage. You can spend \$150–200 on a service, or spend [\\$3.30 on a spool of Mettler](#) and fix it yourself. I've seen it happen many times.

Next, I install a fresh needle. The size of the needle corresponds with the size of the eye — the eye of a size 70/10 needle is smaller than the eye of a size 80/12 needle, which is smaller than a 90/14, which is smaller than a 100/16, and so on.

A small eye (e.g. size 70/10 or 65/9 needle) may be too small for the thread to pass through smoothly, therefore increasing friction, which can shred the thread. I want to eliminate a small needle eye as possibility for thread breakage, which is why my first step of troubleshooting is to insert a fresh needle with a sizable eye (80/12 or 90/14).

Again, full service on a machine costs \$150-200. [A fresh needle is less than a buck.](#)

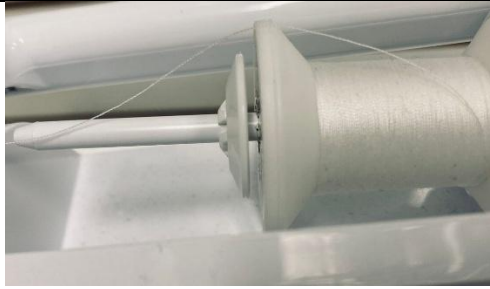


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## **Step 2: Check the Spool Cap**

When rethreading, take a close look at your **spool cap**.

The end of your thread spool is made of rough plastic with tiny imperfections. The spool cap, by contrast, is smooth. If your cap is too small, the thread rides over the rough edge of the spool instead of the smooth plastic of the cap. That can cause snagging and breakage.



Bad!!! The spool cap is too small, so the thread passes over the rough edge of the thread spool instead of the soft plastic edge of the spool cap.

**Rule of thumb:**

The spool cap should be *slightly larger* than the end of the spool — not smaller, and not way bigger. Too small and the thread will snag. Too large and the cap itself can interfere with thread flow.

Many machines come into our shop with this exact issue. Fixing it takes two seconds and saves a lot of headaches.



Perfection: the spool cap is slightly larger than the plastic end of the thread spool



Note: in the photo above, the spool cap is too big for the thread spool. You want the spool cap to be slightly larger than the spool, but not way larger than the spool. A spool cap that is way too large for the thread spool can cause thread snagging that messes up stitch quality.

If you find my work valuable, please consider upgrading to become a paid subscriber. All revenue supports my family and goes a long way in helping me to continue to write.

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## **Step 3: Perform the Pull Test**

If the thread is still breaking, I perform The Pull Test.



### **The Pull Test**

[CALE SCHOENBERG](#) · MAY 15, 2024

[Read full story](#)

Longtime readers of this newsletter may recall The Pull Test as a cure for thread loops on the underside of the fabric — so why would I perform The Pull Test for thread breaking? Because I want to check for thread snags.



Thread your machine fully, except for the needle, and [lift the presser foot](#). Gently pull the thread. It should move freely, with almost no resistance. However, if the upper thread was snagging on something, then I should be able to feel that snag while performing The Pull Test.

If you feel a snag or drag, that means the upper thread is catching somewhere. Slowly unthread the machine while repeating the Pull Test to pinpoint the location of the snag by **process of elimination**.

Continue performing The Pull Test as you slowly unthread the machine. Do you feel a snag now that the needle thread guide is no longer threaded? If the answer is yes, then continue to gradually unthread the machine while performing The Pull Test. If the answer is no, then the snag is located in the needle thread guide, and you need to smooth it out or replace it. The same principle applies for if you happen to locate the snag at the tension discs, the take-up lever, the checkspring, and so on.

## Step 4: Inspect for Burrs

If the Pull Test is smooth but the thread still breaks, the problem may be in the **lower half** of the machine.

Check for burrs or rough spots on the:

- Needle plate hole
- Presser foot
- Bobbin case and bobbin basket

Even a tiny burr can shred thread. Lightly buff it out with emery cord, or replace the part if the damage is severe.



burrs on needle plate hole



Burr on presser foot



Burrs on bobbin case basket

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## **Step 5: Check for Adhesive Buildup**

If you use adhesives while sewing (like sticky stabilizers or fusible products or velcro), inspect the bobbin, bobbin case, and hook for residue.

Excess or poor-quality adhesive can gum up the lower mechanism, causing the thread to stick and snap as the machine cycles. Minor buildup can often be cleaned carefully at home; heavier buildup may require a technician to disassemble and clean the machine.

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## **The sewing machine thread is still breaking. . . .**

### **Now what?**

If your thread still keeps breaking after these steps, it's time to bring the machine to a trained technician. Some causes of thread breakage are subtle and maddening, even for professionals. I've seen many repairmen throw their tools in frustration after chasing this problem.

- Submitted by Wendy M. from *The Sewing Machine Newsletter*.