Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

January - 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

President's Message

Vicki Lee

I hope you all have had a wonderful end of 2024 time with family and friends. I think we have all had a challenging year with family and friends health and travel. It is now challenging to think that it is 2025. I want to thank you all for electing me the Quilting Guild of Peoria's President. I also want to thank all of the members who have volunteered to hold elected officer positions and committee chair positions. The Guild cannot function well without all of your efforts and help in this next year.

In addition to the annual Quilt Show in August we will also have our second quilt auction for fabric, patterns, and other tools related to quilting in place of our July meeting.

I am also very pleased to let all of you know the new audio/video system in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church should be in place by the end of December, 2024 to improve it's use for meetings and education workshops.

Our first meeting of 2025 will be via Zoom on January 8, 2025 at 6:30. I look forward to seeing all of you and hearing how this new year is going for you.

Keep quilting. Show us what you have been working on at the end of our January meeting.

Have a wonderful beginning of 2025.

Vicki Lee
President

Calendar Of Events

Kelly Harvey

January 8	(Zoom) Meeting 6:30
January	no workshop
February 1	Workshop QoV National Quilting Day, 9am – 3pm
February 5	(Zoom) Meeting 6:30
March 5	(Zoom) Meeting 6:30
April 2	Meeting 6:30
April	no workshop due to speaker
May 7	Meeting 6:30
May 17	Boutique Bonanza Workshop
June 4	Meeting 6:30
June 21	Bindings and Labels Workshop by Georgia Schmidt
July 2	Meeting 6:30 (Gems Auction)
July 26	Rope Bowls Workshop by Sue Wozniak
August 6	Meeting 6:30
August	no workshop due to quilt show
August 23 - 24	Quilt Show
September 3	Quilt Show Wrap Up Meeting 6:30
September	TBD Workshop
October 1	Meeting 6:30
October	no workshop due to speaker
November 5	Meeting 6:30
November 7 and 8	November 2 Remember Gems Retreat, St Pauls
November	no workshop due to N2R
December 3	Christmas Party 6:00
December	may do a UFO workshop

Meetings are held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1427 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL
January, February, and March meetings will be via Zoom only.
Please contact Kelly Harvey at kellyharvey@hotmail.com or 309-453-2022 to have events added to this calendar.

Programs and Special Events

Georgia Schmidt and Jean Vieck

Welcome to our 2025 Programs and here are the “zoom” meetings you will be looking forward to this winter. Dial in instructions will be sent prior to the meetings. Enjoy!

January 8: Vicky Conley (Zoom)

Inspired by the Parks

Vicky is located in New Mexico and will be sharing her inspiring journey through the national parks and how she combines photo inspiration and imagination to make graphic style art quilts. She will share funny stories, give a little history about the parks, and touch a little about the various techniques used such as turned edge machine piecing, fussy piecing and silk screening.

February 5: Bridget O’Flaherty (Zoom)

Stitching Change: Exploring Sustainable Paths in Quilting

Embark on a transformative journey with Bridget O'Flaherty, a seasoned textile artist, as she shares her own personal journey and insights in this engaging one-hour talk on sustainable paths in quilting. Bridget unravels the threads that connect our craft to a more conscious and eco-friendly future. As a passionate advocate for sustainability in quilting, she will guide us through the intricate landscape of ethical sourcing, mindful production, and the environmental impact of creative choices. Her compelling storytelling and profound knowledge offer valuable insights into incorporating sustainability into quilting projects, inspiring every mindful stitch to weave a narrative of positive change.

March 5: Brita Nelson (Zoom)

Every Last Crumb

Brita Nelson, from questioningquilter.com has put together a lecture that takes us on a fun, informative and inspirational trek to find the best way to handle a mountain of left-over fabric. She had over 30 years’ worth of accumulated scraps and will demonstrate some great ways to use that stash and how to incorporate basic color and contrast principles to make your scrap beauties really shine.

Workshops

Amy Lister and Joyce Blank

Thank you to all who attended our workshops this year. We all had great fun. Please support Candy Rizzo and her crew for 2025 workshops. The Guild is helping to support the workshops by having no fee and providing lunch at service project events. I'm sure no one will want to miss out!

Quilts of Valor

Kelly Harvey

I am so proud that we awarded 15 quilts to deserving veterans in November. Thank you so much for your support! We still have 13 Veternas on our list. We awarded 4 more at the Pekin VFW on December 3rd.

Quilt of Valor National is hosting a nationwide quilting day by ZOOM on Feb 1 and the Gems are going to participate. We will all get together at St Paul's from 9 - 3 to quilt and join in virtual festivities with other Quilt of Valor groups around the country. Shawna Knapp (309-361-0350) and Barb Vallet (402-984 -1116) are in charge. We will have fabric and kits. Feel free to bring your own projects or your basic sewing supplies and we will keep you busy.

You can also register with the National Quilt of Valor Foundation if you'd like to participate from home via Zoom. You'll receive an email from them for the Zoom link. https://www.qovf.org

Please sign up by contacting Shawna or Barb at the numbers above since the January meeting is also via Zoom.

Quilt Show

Brittanee King Hopkins and Pastor Lisa Dietrich

Great news! Most of the committees for the 2025 Quilt Show are filled! However, we still have vacancies in Admission. We NEED a primary and would like a secondary. Most of the time commitment is the day of the show in case being able to make meetings is an issue for you.

We'd also like to introduce the idea of a **Helping Hands Committee**! An idea born of supporting those who might need a little extra help! November to Remember was extra special for me this year because I thought I wouldn't be able to come, given I just had a baby. You lovely women stepped up and helped me enjoy some time I desperately needed. That said, Pastor Lisa and I would like to have 2-4 people to form this Committee. This is a new concept and we welcome input/ideas to make this happen. Arbitrarily, duties would include; at least one person be available for every Quilt Show meeting to help/play with kids/grandkids, and setting up an area the weekend of the show for kids/ moms to take a break. We don't want this to be a chore, but more of an opportunity to get some kid -time if that's something you're interested in!

Please contact Pastor Lisa or Brittnee with any interest and/or input!

Quilt Show Boutique

Lisa McCabe

Gems! It is already time to begin thinking about the 2025 boutique. As we hunker down during these cold winter months, it is a great time to sit and sew a few extra items for the boutique. Below are some items that sold out (or almost sold out) in 2024. Maybe think about making some of these items or come up with an item of your own that you would purchase if you were shopping at a quilt show. Think unique, think functional, think holiday, think fun!

~Glasses cases, quilted mats, placemats, project boards, purses, rope, bowls, tote bags, zipper bags, embroidered towels, or orphan projects. We would be happy to take any orphan projects you would want to donate for us to complete or sell as is. Gems will also have another Boutique Bonanza this year! We will get together to sew projects for the Boutique. Plan to join us on May 17, 2025 for a great day of sewing and fun! Gems will provide some kits or you can bring your own items to sew and donate.

Challenge Quilt

Joyce Blank and Amy Lister

Our caps have changed from workshops to Challenge! You will have to wait until into the new year to hear the fun challenge we have planned. Anniversary years require special plans. That is the only clue you will get for now. Prepare for an interesting project!

Healing Hands

Cindy Potter

Healing Hands - The 2025 pattern packet is on the website. If you need a paper copy before we meet in person in April (or Feb 1st Quilt of Valor Sew Day at the church), contact Cindy Potter at 309-868-5995 for your copy.

Membership

Janet Shanks and Sue Tolly

2024 was another good year for new memberships! We had a total of 33 new members join the Gems Quilt Guild, bringing our total to 167 members. We began taking renewals for 2025 at the November meeting. You can renew via U.S. mail by sending a check to Gems of the Prairie, P.O. Box 9543, Peoria, IL 61612 or through the Gems website and pay via PayPal.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Rush, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report	November	2024				
	Balance 10/31/2024	Deposits	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 11/30/2024
Checking	4,116.33	2,321.83		(5,227.13)	7,038.11	8,249.14
Money Market	32,893.72				(26,500.00)	6,393.72
Savings, Grant	5,007.08		0.04		4,500.00	9,507.12
PayPal	38.11	280.00		(14.79)	(38.11)	265.21
Total	42,055.24	2,601.83	0.04	(5,241.92)	(15,000.00)	24,415.19
CD Matu CD	25,617.08					25,617.08
CD Matu CD					15,000.00	15,000.00