Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

February - 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

President's Message

Vicki Lee

I hope you are all staying warm either making quilts or being wrapped in them as you do other things in this cold weather.

I hope all enjoyed Vicky Conley's presentation on quilts has created based on National Parks. I made me think in more details about what I want any land-based quilt I might want to create. The variety of blues in the sky does make a difference.

For February 1st we have a sewing day at St. Paul's Church with the focus on Quilts of Valor. You can cut or iron if you don't want to sew.

The new AV system in in place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the ground floor. Lise was quite excited about it being put in.

The Winter-In class at Notre Dame went very well with a good size class of both girls and boys participating and getting excited about sewing, 2 nurses from NICU did a great presentation about how they used the quilts that are made by Gems members and students from Notre Dame. Looks like this class probably will take place next year.

Continue to participate with Gems meetings and classes via Zoom in February and March. Keep quilting. It is always fun to see what everyone is working on.

Vicki Lee
President

Calendar Of Events

Kelly Harvey, kellyharvey@hotmail.com, 309-453-2002

February 1	Workshop Quilt of Valor National Quilting Day, 9am – 3pm
February 5	(Zoom) Meeting 6:30
February 16th	Quilt Show Meeting 6:00 at St Paul
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
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, gquilten@gmail.com and Pooh6673@aol.com

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!

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.

Healing Hands

Cindy Potter, cpotter730@icloud.com, 309-868-5995

As we hibernate in the cold weather, you can help out Healing Hands to support our service projects by making some blocks. Choose any blocks to work on, in patriotic colors or in any other colors. Blocks can be handed in at our first in person meeting in April or if you have patriotic blocks made, you can drop them off at the QOV National Sew Day Workshop on February 1st. Even just a block or two makes a difference when combined to complete donation quilts. The pattern pdf is available on the Gems website under Member Resources or if you want a printed copy, contact Cindy Potter at 309-868-5995 or cpotter730@icloud.com.

Quilts of Valor

Kelly Harvey, kellyharvey@hotmail.com, 309-453-2022

We have 13 Veterans on our list to present in 2025 at this point. There will be more needed as names are submitted throughout the coming year.

WHAT : Quilts of Valor workshop
WHEN : Saturday February 1, 2025
TIME : 9AM - 3PM
WHERE : St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1427 W. Lake Ave, Peoria, IL

Lunch will be provided (Avanti's gondolas and pasta salad). Please bring your own drinks. If you would like to bring any sides for lunch or snacks to share, please do so.

What to bring:

Sewing machines (if you choose), don't forget to bring the cords! LOL
Thread, scissors, rulers, cutting mats, markers, painters tape, extension cords - anything you use when you go to workshops, except irons.

There will be lots of fabric cut or to be cut. We will be making kits for take home or to work on at the workshop. If you have a kit at home to work on, you can bring it. If you have a pieced top that needs backing or binding, please bring it.

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
Make sure you select GEMS of the Prairie – Peoria, IL for the Registered QOV Group

Looking forward to having a fun workshop!

Candi Rizzo, candiang1@gmail.com, 309-635-4515 (register for the event)

NATIONAL QUILT OF VALOR - One Nation. One Mission. These T-shirts are only available through the National Quilt of Valor Website. You will need to register with them as a member to order the T-shirts.
Almost 1,400 I Quilt for Heroes T-shirts and sweatshirts were ordered last year to raise funds for the Longarmy! This fundraiser is once again live and will be the final time it is offered. Proceeds will go to help the Longarmy with their material costs. Orders must be postmarked by March 15th, 2025. Shirts run true to size with minimal shrinkage, they are Gildan brand, and 50% Poly/50% Cotton; Long Sleeve T-shirts are Bella Canvas 100% Cotton (same as the short sleeve) and very little shrinkage; All sizes are Unisex; and Colors are listed on the order form. Shipping is included in the price. Shipping date of orders is around April 30, 2025.Shipping is included in the price. Shipping date of orders is around April 30th.
Questions should be emailed to cindy.grunert@qovf.org. No changes will be made to the design, color, or brands of apparel used. Reminder, these are Cindy's designs and are not to be used to print your own apparel.



Quilt Show – August 23-24, 2025

Brittanee King Hopkins, k.brittnee@yahoo.com, 954-562-9955
Pastor Lisa Dietrich, pastorliasdietrich@gmail.com, 319-243-8136

Quilt Show Quips!
* First and foremost, The Quilt Show is scheduled for August 23rd and 24th!!!!! Mark every calendar that you own! We don't want you or your friends or your families to miss out on this 35th Anniversary Quilt Show! This is a big, big, big event and you are needed!
* We are especially looking for a couple of people to help with Admissions. Admissions is not a difficult job, but it would help out if we didn't have to take someone from their current position and place them at Admissions, soooooo if you are not signed up to help at the Quilt Show this is your year for Admissions- and here's a little secret (you can sit down on the job!).
* We can't wait for our email or our phones to start blowing up with your cries to help out! To help with that Pastor Lisa's phone and email are: 319-243-8136 and pastorlisadietrich@gmail.com. You can reach Brittnee at: 954-562-9955 and k.brittnee@yahoo.com.
* We will also be having a meeting for all who are committee chairs for the Quilt Show, that meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday February 26th at 6:00 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church.
* Brittnee and Pastor Lisa have some extra special ideas for this year's Quilt Show and we are really excited for these Gems of surprises! No telling what we might be up to! You will just have to help out on the Quilt Show to find out what is in store!
* Hey, if you haven't caught on yet, we are having a Quilt Show!!!!!!!! See you all soon Quilty Peeps! Call or email us right NOW to volunteer, you aren't going to want to miss out!*

Good afternoon all!
Writing to you from South Texas in 70 degree weather! Brittnee and I have set a date for our next Quilt Show meeting- February 16th at 6:00 p at St Paul. We will meet at the other end of the hallway. Still drive around to the back of the church, we will meet in the room that is near the Bathrooms. I will bring treats! We will talk about budget and check in on how you are all doing and maybe brainstorm some new ideas as well. While it is warm here, I am missing you all!

Pastor Lisa and Brittnee

Quilt Show Boutique

Lisa McCabe, mbacpa3@gmail.com 309-840-0937
Cindy Potter, cpotter730@icloud.com 309-868-5995
Monica Franciscovich, msf1959@sbcglobal.net 309-635-2823

The calendar of events for Gems is packed full of wonderful activities and I hope you are looking forward to all of them as much as you are the Boutique Bonanza Workshop on May 17! Last year the Boutique Bonanza brought in so many great items for the Boutique that we asked the workshops coordinators if they could put us back on the schedule again but a bit earlier in the calendar. This way not only can you come and enjoy the day, but if you want you will have time to grab a kit we will have made up and take it home to make and bring back a finished item to us at a later meeting. In addition, take a look at your UFOs, is there something in there that would be just perfect for the Boutique? Finish it up and bring it to a meeting. If you have ideas for items for the Boutique but do not have time to make them yourself, let us know and we can add them to our list of kits we will make up for the Bonanza. Thank you to everyone in advance for everything that you make and contribute for the Boutique. Without your support, we wouldn't have the successful Boutique that we have.

NICU / Notre Dame Project

Pam Knollenberg, psknollenberg@gmail.com

NICU:

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **83**

NICU Quilt Sizes: PLEASE NOTE, the sizes have been updated to: 36x36 and 40x40. We are no longer accepting 24x31 quilts. The sizes of their isolettes have changed.

NICU Kits … **input PLEASE**:
I am happy to put together NICU kits, but I need your input on what you'd like:
1) I have 187 Healing Hands squares. Most of them are 12x12 size, so 9 squares will make a 36x36 NICU quilt. If I cut a Back and Batting, and strips for Binding, would anyone be interested in completing these quilts?
2) Would anyone want a NICU kit? If so, what is your definition of "kit"?
   a) 4 ½ or 5 ½ inch squares, along with a Back, Batting and strips for Binding?
   b) 5-6 ¼ yards of fabric (or FQs), a Back, Batting, Binding?
   c) other?

I plan to provide NICU kits for the March 15 Service Project workshop, for anyone who wants these.
Please send your input to me via Facebook Messenger, or to my email: psknollenberg@gmail.com

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Notre Dame project:

Wow … just WOW!! I posted daily updates and pictures on Facebook. If you haven't had a chance to check that out, please do so.

Summary: The 2 weeks flew by quickly. The students and teacher were energetic, they quickly jumped into their task of learning about their sewing machine (turning it on and off, threading the needle, filling a bobbin, learning to stitch a straight line, etc.). Then became the FUN of picking fabric!! and start working on pot holders and their NICU quilts. There were 18 students, in pairs of 2. 6 Boys, 12 Girls.

Typically, with classes, kids show up on time, take their scheduled break time, and leave when class is over. This did not happen. Students when given the chance to take a break or keep sewing, they chose to KEEP SEWING! Many students grabbed their lunch and came back to the classroom to keep working during lunch. At least 1 student came back after school was over, and asked if he could work on a potholder he was making for his girlfriend. Our classroom was frequently the place other students came to visit … and see what our students were creating. (The cooking class may have gotten the most visitors, but, I think our classroom was #2 on the most visited classroom from other students!)

The creativity of these students was amazing to watch. One of the students decided to create a pillow for his almost 4-year-old brother. Making pillows for friends / family, quickly became popular, along with the pot holders.

On the last day of class, the Art, Calligraphy, Dry Flower arrangement, and Quilting classes hosted an "event" in the Library. Lisa and Eric from OSF/NICU came and chatted about the NICU and how our quilts are used within the NICU. Their talk was AMAZING and has re-energized me into wanting to make even more NICU quilts!! Also, Lisa confirmed to me that: they do use our quilts and they will take as many as we can make.

I'm not sure who had more fun, the students or the Volunteers. Thank you to everyone who donated fabric, towels, supplies, volunteering in the classroom. Thank you to Lise for agreeing to donate some GEMS supplies, and loan other supplies. I am hoping that this is repeated again next year.

Membership

Noemi Bowers, noemibo@aol.com

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

Lisa McCabe, Treasurer, mbacpa3@gmail.com, 309-840-0937

December 2024

Account	Balance 11/30/2024	Deposits	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 12/31/2024
Checking	8,211.04	1,795.50		(3,341.55)	265.21	6,930.20
Money Market	6,393.72		0.46		9,000.00	15,394.18
Savings, Grant	9,507.08		0.11	(8.00)	(9,000.00)	499.19
PayPal	265.21	870.00		(44.66)	(265.21)	825.34
Subtotal	**24,377.05**	**2,665.50**	**0.57**	**(3,394.21)**	**(0.00)**	**23,648.91**
CD MaturesCD	25,617.08					25,617.08
CD MaturesCD	15,000.00					15,000.00
Total	**64,994.13**	**2,665.50**	**0.57**	**(3,394.21)**	**(0.00)**	**64,265.99**