Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

April 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vikki Lee *vlee@mtco.com* *309-232-7767*

We have had some warmer weather this month. It was perfect for the Illinois/Iowa Quilt shop hop. The Geneseo store is closing as is the LeClaire, Iowa store. I saw several new lines of fabric and spent too much money! There is a shop hop in Southern Illinois the end of March,

A good group of members showed up for the Service Quilts sewing day on March 15th.

I am looking forward to seeing you all face to face on April 2nd at our first group meeting at the Church this year. Candice Grisham will be presenting on the Dresden Quilt block with a class on the modern approach on April 3rd.

We will be showing members the newly organized Storage space with lots of good quality fabric available for service group quilts.

We will talk about donations for the Guild Auction at the July meeting.

Remember to bring what you have been working on for Show and Tell.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

April 2- Meeting 6:30, Speaker: Candyce Grisham
April 3- Candyce Grisham workshop for Dresden blooms. 9am – 3pm at St. Paul's. Cost $45. Registration will be opened to the public on March 5.
April 10- Boutique Q&A Zoom 6:30-7:15pm
April - no workshop due to speaker
May 7- Meeting 6:30
May 17- Boutique Bonanza Workshop, 9pm – 3pm, St Paul's
June 4- Meeting 6:30
June 12- Boutique Zoom Sew-Along, 6-8pm
June 21- Bindings and Labels Workshop by Georgia Schmidt, 9pm – 3pm, St Paul's
July 2- Gems Auction instead of meeting 6:30 St Paul's
July 10- Boutique Zoom Sew-Along, 6-8pm
July 26- Rope Bowls Workshop by Sue Wozniak, 9pm – 3pm, St Paul's
August 6- Meeting 6:30
August - no workshop due to quilt show
August 22- Quilt Show set Up
August 23 and 24 – Quilt Show, Life Together Center
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 Paul's
November - no workshop due to N2R
December 3- Christmas Party 6:00
December - may do a UFO workshop

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Georgia Schmidt,	*gquilten@gmail.com*	*309-453-6630*
Lise Mundwiller,	*Pooh6673@aol.com*	*309-243-7154*

APRIL 2 brings us back to meeting in person. *Dresden Quilt Blocks Reimagined* by Candyce Grisham a St Louis quilter. Many of her works are traditional with a twist. Guests are welcome to attend for a $10 fee. Candyce will then teach our Special Event workshop - *Dresden Celebration* the next day - April 3, 9a - 3p at St Paul Lutheran Church. At the end of our meeting on March 5th, if there are any openings left for this workshop nonmembers can book to attend. You can register by Pay Pal on the Gems website or mail a check made out to the Gems to Georgia Schmidt. The fee is $45.

May 7 is *Flower Power* given by Mary Alice Hart. She is from Wisconsin and will be helping us welcome Spring! Her love of flowers, photography and quilting have come together, and she will share this confluence with us.

June 4 will bring us Karen Edwards from Sullivan, IL with a lecture on *Art Quilts*. She was the Grand Prize winner at the Amish Country Spring Quilt Show in Arthur, IL. She will share some of her original creations, techniques she uses to create art quilts and some of the supplies used in the process.

July 2 - AUCTION!!!!! Details are coming soon. Start saving your dollars.

QUILT SHOW

Brittnee Hopkins	*k.brittnee@yahoo.com*	*954-562-9955*
Lisa Dietrich	*pastorlisadietrich@gmail.com*	*319-243-8136*

Get those Scraps ready!! A sandwich sized baggie of scraps (or "swatches" if you haven't started yet) from your Quilt show quilts for this year!!
First meeting went great and with spring here it will be Show Time before we know it! Our next meeting is Thursday, APRIL 10 at 6pm at the church!
We look forward to seeing you all real soon in person!!

QUILT SHOW BOUTIQUE

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

The Boutique Committee has already been planning for this year's Quilt Show. We have several activities we hope will accommodate more Gems members who would like to be able to donate items to the Boutique. Here is a run-down of the upcoming Boutique events:

1. Join the Zoom Q&A on April 10 from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. We will give you ideas of what we can use and take your suggestions for things you would love to see in the Boutique this year.
2. Join us for the Boutique Bonanza on May 17 at the Church from 9 am - 3 pm.
3. Join one or both of our two Zoom Sew-Along evenings, June 12 and July 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Work on your own items to donate or grab a kit from one of the Boutique Committee members! Just join us and enjoy each other's company virtually as you sew, sew, sew!
4. Pick up a kit at an in-person Gems meeting or reach out to any one of the Boutique Committee and we can arrange to get you a kit and help stock the Boutique!
5. Any items that you would like to donate can always be dropped off at an in-person Gems meeting, but to help with those last-minute donations, the Boutique Committee members will make themselves available on August 13th for drop-offs. Just reach out to any one of the committee members and we will make a plan.

WORKSHOPS

Candi Rizzo,	*candiang1@gmail.com,*	*309-635-4515*

Happy Spring! The last workshop we had was Saturday March 15th for NICU/St. Jude/Center for Prevention of Abuse. We met at the church from 9-3 and had a great time!

There will be no workshop in April since we have a Special Speaker workshop. Please see the program committee if you are wanting to attend this event.

There will be a workshop on Saturday May 17 at the church from 9-3pm. It will be a Boutique Bonanza! All things Boutique for the upcoming quilt show will be made and lots of fun will be had. Signups will be available at our first in person meeting in April! I can't wait to see everyone.

HEALING HANDS

Cindy Potter, *cpotter730@icloud.com,* *309-868-5995*
Lisa McCabe, *mbacpa3@gmail.com,* *309-840-0927*

It'll be so nice to see everyone again in person and to see all those Healing Hands blocks you've been working on to support our service projects!
Haven't started yet? Choose any blocks to work on, in patriotic colors or in any other colors. 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.

NICU:

Pam Knollenberg, *psknollenberg@gmail.com*

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **83**
2025 Goal: 300 (stretch goal: **400**)

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: I have NICU kits available. Please let me know if you'd like any and I'd be happy to meet you to drop off.

Mar 15 Service Projects Workshop: What an AMAZING turnout!! Thank you to everyone that attended and worked on NICU kits and took home additional kits, and those that stopped by and picked up kits to take home. Also, Thank You to Denise / Monica / Nancy who cut out some really cute KITS for us to sew. I look forward to seeing the completed Quilts returned and then donate to NICU.

WHY am I pushing to get kits together and setting a Stretch goal? Lisa from OSF/NICU talked during the Notre Dame presentation of how our quilts are used within the NICU. They have 60 isolettes and at the time, only 6 beds were empty. Our quilts are changed out during the day, as needed. The info that touched my heart (I had heard it before, but hearing it again almost took me to tears), was that 90% of the babies in NICU get well enough to go home with mom & dad. The other 10% of the babies that don't make it, the nurses will take one of our quilts to wrap the baby in, for mom & dad to spend their last time together with the baby. That quilt is then sent home with the parents as a reminder of their time with their baby. She said that some of these quilts are turned into teddy bears. If you didn't already know, the label that gets put on every NICU quilt says: Made with Love …

QUILT CHALLENGE

Joyce Blank	*jblank914@msn.com*	*309-686-0088*
Amy Lister	*listeramy@hotmail.com*	*309-*

Directions for the Challenge Quilt requirements are on the website under Members Only, then Membership Resources. Please contact Amy Lister Or Joyce Blank with any questions. There is no cost to participate, but we request those interested to sign up.

QUILTS OF VALOR

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

Please bring your quilt tops and finished quilts to the April meeting so we can keep them moving along. And block your calendar for the next QoV presentation on May 18 at 2 pm at the Bartonville VFW located at 4518 S Lafayette Ave, Bartonville, IL 61607.

MEMBERSHIP

Noemi Bowers	*noemibo@aol.com*	*915-241-7011*

I hope everyone is having a wonderful early spring season. We currently have 136 members. If all members could do me a huge favor and confirm if their information is correct on the membership roster. The membership roster is in the members only area of the website. If you find any discrepancies, please let me know. Hope to see everyone again in person at the April guild meeting.
Gems membership is $30.00. You can join/renew in person, via PayPal on the Gems website https://gemsoftheprairie.com or send a
check to Gems of the Prairie Quilters, PO Box 9543 Peoria, IL 61612-9543.
If you have any questions or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to contact me.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa McCabe *mbacpa3@gmail.com* *309-840-0937*

February, 2025

	Balance 1/31/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 2/28/2025
Checking	5,325.75	1,645.76		(1,816.36)	641.74	5,796.89
Money Market	15,394.18		785.02		491.20 6,390.43	23,060.83
Savings - Now closed	491.20				(491.20)	0.00
PayPal	641.74	135.00		(5.96)	(641.74)	129.04
Subtotal	21,852.87	1,780.76	785.02	(1,822.32)	6,390.43	28,986.76
CD Matured 3/8/2025	26,390.43				(26,390.43)	-
New CD Matures 9/8/2025	-				20,000.00	20,000.00
CD Matures 6/5/2025	15,000.00					15,000.00
Total	63,243.30	1,780.76	785.02	(1,822.32)	-	63,986.76

Prepared by Newsletter Editor - *Shawna Knapp sewwhat2020@yahoo.com 309-361-0350*