Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

May 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

We finally have nice Spring weather. That makes quilt shop hopping easier. The Central Illinois Quilt Shop Hop is the end of May.

It was great seeing all of your smiling faces at the April meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. It was a great meeting with some new members and renewing members. We reviewed the new Store space for the service quilts fabric. We encourage all members to take advantage of the wonderful fabric donated to Gems by family of a lady who quilted and passed. I know the daughter-in-law and she would love to see pictures of anything made from her mother-in-law's fabric.

Our presenter at the May meeting will be Mary Alice Hart from Wisconsin on Flower Power. It should encourage you to quilt flowers you see and love.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the May 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*

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 19 – Quilt Show planning meeting 6pm, St Paul's
June 21- Bindings and Labels Workshop by Georgia Schmidt, 9pm – 3pm, St Paul's
July 2- Gems Auction instead of meeting DOORS OPEN AT 6:00. LIVE AUCTION AT 7:00
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

WORKSHOPS

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

Happy Spring!
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 the May meeting! I can't wait to see everyone.
June 21st – Bindings and Labels with Georgia! This workshop will be from 9-3 at the church. Cost is $10. More info will be provided at the May meeting. We will have lots of fun!



Follow up from the April Meeting:
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The winner of the much coveted and talked about Workshop Trophy for 2024 was Monica Fransicovich. She attended nearly every workshop and had a great attitude having fun with everyone. Congratulations Monica!!

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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!!!!! Bring a VERY BIG BAG!! There is SEW much stuff and you will want it all. **Hint – we have over 75 panels – you will want to get a few of our special event workshop October 2nd.

The guild has been blessed by the donations of 2 generous individuals, with kits, fabric, panels, quilt tops, and finished quilts.
Our team met at the storage facility and spent about 4 hours organizing and pricing items in April and we have many fantastic items already! We do still need:

- Fabric, quilt shop quality
- Sewing/Quilting notions
- Quilt books
- Sewing machines (must work)
- And more Fabric!

We currently have 23 full boxes of fabric, and another 30 partially filled boxes, but would like even more boxes for our auction.
In prepping all the items on our workday, we discovered over 75 beautiful panels. These panels would be perfect for our October 2nd workshop with Laura Strickland- “Panel Panache”.
We will be accepting items for the auction at our May and June meetings, but you may also reach out to Georgia or Lise’ anytime if you have a donation.

August 2 – will bring us Lynn Conti an appraiser from the Chicago area. Since our quilt show is at the end of August, this is a good time for us to review how to look at our quilts. Her program for us is *The How and Why of an Appraisal, Quilt Repair and Restoration.*

September 3 will be our annual *Quilt Show Review* where we celebrate each other for a job well done. Bring your ribbon winning quilts for this program.

October 1 brings a special guest, Linda Strickland presenting her program *Panel Panache.* Have you ever bought a panel you loved but then became stumped with how to incorporate it into a quilt? Plan to join us to hear Linda Strickland – a Virginia native and now resident of East Moline – discuss concepts on designing around a panel. Linda

is a fiber artist, pattern creator and fabric designer. There is a $10 fee for non members to attend this meeting. She'll also present a workshop "Panel Panache" on October 2nd. Sign up to begin in June.

Special Note from the April Speaker:
It was a great visit and I thank you so much for your hospitality. Kindred spirits.
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Candyce Grisham
icandyfiberart.com
"Dresden Quilt Blocks Reimagined "
Creative Spark online

Tools of the Trade A-Z

A Aqua doodle marker to erase blue marks
Aprons – keep track of phones, tools, scissors
Address sticky labels for tool marking
Adding machine tape – measuring borders for quilt designs or piecing

B Binoculars for viewing work (backwards)
Bamboo skewers – chopsticks for turning
Binder clips – large for templates, patterns, rulers (also shower rings)
Bannister rails – cut into 12-15" segments for ironing ham for open seams (see icandyfiberart on Etsy for purchase)

C Camera - iphone
Chenille stem (pipe cleaner) for cleaning sewing machine
Carpenter's chalk line for marking straight lines for quilting or cutting
Chip magnets – hold needles or stray pins clipped on to machine
Clear notebook pages for articles in 3 ring binders
Coffee filters – templates (especially circles), stabilizers, thread catchers and iron cleaners
Cookie cutters and coloring books for patterns
Contact paper – sticky backed template for quilting. Cut shape, remove backing and adhere to quilt, stitch and reposition
Containers: Boxes, drawers
Command Strip clips, hooks, hangars of every type

D Drawer or shelf liner placed under sewing machine pedal to prevent sliding
Door peep hole to view work
Dental floss – needle threader or sewing buttons on
Dental mirror – see under or behind
Dryer sheets – stabilizers and iron cleaners
Drying rack – portable – hang strips, pieces of fabric for projects

E Exam table paper – tracing, drawing paper piecing
Elmer's school glue
Empty bottles – use for needle disposal or storage
Erasers – Mr. Clean – iron cleaning

F Fishing Line – hanging small quilts
Flannel backed tablecloth for design wall

Fly fishing scissor fob
Frisbees – holding items on table
Foam toe separator – bobbins holder
Foam brushes apply pouncing powder to templates for quilting
Frixx pens – heat removal marking pens
Freezer paper – templates, quilting designs, center circles, protection from fusibles

G Golf tees – hold bobbins on spool of thread
Glass pane suction cup handle - rulers

H Head lamp – when you need extra light
Ham - pressing made from bannister railing or dowel rod
Hemostats - pulling needles thru, holding needle in sewing machine

I Iphone to take pictures of work in progress and use apps to measure and level and estimate fabric needs
Insulation board covered with flannel or batting for design wall
IKEA
Ice cube trays for organizing

J Jewelry, bead boxes for organizing small items; sewing machine feet, buttons, trims

K Kitchen cabinets for base and wall tables, storage, cutting

L Lids for templates
Laminating sheets - patterns

M Magnet bowls for pins
Magic markers – kids type, water erasable for marking fabric
Masking Tape to 'pick' threads out after ripping seams, mark lines for quilting, mark ruler when cutting, mark or number rows of blocks, mask when painting or decoloring fabric, marking ¼'' line on sewing machine for seams
Micro Fiber cloths – throw in wash with fabric and they will pick up loose threads
Magnet Wands – pick up pins, keep tools handy
Manilla folders for templates or pressing guides
Muffin pan – 6 hole. Screw to underside of table and pull out for organizing small items
Mouse pad to stabilize pedal

N Numbered or lettered beads or pins to mark rows for sewing Can DIY

O Over the door shoe hangars for scraps, rolls, rulers, stencils, bags

P Painters tape
Pants hanger for rolls of stabilizers
Pyrex baking dish with light for light box
Plexiglass sheet to design quilting patterns with dry erase markers
PVC pipe for table legs or scrunching fabric
Pizza boxes for blocks (clean)
Paint brushes – lint removal
Pool noodles – wrap quilts around to store

Q Q tips – Match bobbins to spools, clean out machine and bobbin areas

R Rulers – heaving metal for marking qulting lines, border edges

Ruler – metal, long – place on ironing board to use as guide when ironing strips
Ruler – Carpenter for accurate measuring

S Sand paper for applique boards
Scrubbies for cleaning off bits of fusible from ironing boards
Seam ripper stands from discs or thread spools
Seam roller (wall paper type) for opening seams
Silver foil – cut through to do a quick scissor sharpening
Skirt Hangars – hold patterns, strips, small wall hangings
Soap slivers -marking quilts
Sticky notes to mark cutting lines, seam lines

T Tool boxes from hardware store for organizing tools
Tooth brush – scrub blue marks out
Tweezers – ripping, holding
Toy boxes – especially match car for spools of thread
Telephone book - foundation paper
TP or paper towel rolls to store strips or binding

U You – using your head and creativity

V Velcro strips to hold tools, bags,
Vinyl sheets to transfer applique patterns or design quilting patterns

W wasp spray – protection
Welder's chalk pencil - marking lines, especially on dark fabric
Water pic – clean out glue tips
Wreath hangar to hold rulers, stencils, bags
Wax paper to make a pattern
Wine bottle rack for rolls or patterns

X Xtra large Ziplocs for storage

Z Zippered pencil pouches to hold supplies

HEALING HANDS

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

Wow! 465+ blocks were turned in at our April meeting. That's a great start for our service projects! Each month we will collect your blocks using any of the block patterns. Sign in with the number of blocks donated and in December we'll have some prizes for anyone donating blocks. Shop the storage room for fabric if you need some to complete blocks. If you need a hard copy of the block instructions, contact Cindy Potter at 309-868-5995 and we'll get one to you. They are also available on our website.

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.

NICU:

Pam Knollenberg, *psknollenberg@gmail.com*

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 83
2025 Goal: 300 (stretch goal: 400)
Quilts ready to be Donated: 48

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.

April Gems mtg: Thank you to everyone who returned their completed quilts / quilt tops (they are really cute!) – and those that picked up a kit. Also, thank you to Sandy and Perry for putting labels on the returned quilts. I will have more kits available at the May guild meeting.

QUILT SHOW

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

I hope you all are doing well and excited for this year's Quilt Show! Just a real quick change to our next meeting! There was already a Boutique Sew Along Scheduled for that time that I unfortunately was unaware of, sooooo
We will have our next meeting:
June 19th at 6:00 PM!
Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. We will meet in our usual meeting room instead of down the hall. Blessings to each of you during this holiday time.
Keep Quilting!

QUILT CHALLENGE

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

There have been questions about the 2025 Challenge, mostly the size requirement. Think of it this way: if you have a 30" x 30" frame, the quilt should touch all 4 sides at some point. It should not extend beyond the 30" frame on any side, nor should it be short of any of the 4 sides. How close you come to this requirement will be part of the judging. The shape is your choice. Be inventive! This could be the skill you have not tried before. Step outside of your box (no pun on the 30" requirements) and have some fun! Please continue to contact Amy or Joyce with your questions. Good luck! Can hardly wait to see your originality!!

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 us for the Boutique Bonanza on May 17 at the Church from 9 am - 3 pm.
2. 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!
3. 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!
4. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter with family and friends. We currently have 140 members. I would like to welcome new members Faith Schmidt, Jennifer Green and Georjean Lipovsky to the guild.
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 at the May 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.
Noemi Bowers
noemibo@aol.com or (915)241-7011

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

MISC

The Gems store is up and running in the storage area at St. Paul's church. We have cleaned and re-organized the space and added 3 more storage racks to hold the tubs of fabric and Gems items. When you enter the room, you will note our luggage to the left which holds our irons, extension cords, and other items we use for our workshops and the quilt show. Moving clockwise around the room, the first storage rack holds QOV fabric, second rack holds general Gems items for meetings etc., continuing clockwise around the room you will see a roll of batting, and the next storage rack holds our Little Gems fabric and kits, and the last rack holds tubs of fabric that all Gems members may use for our service projects. Also, in the room on the last storage rack there is a clipboard for each member to sign out what they have taken. This is all on the honor system, and the documentation is to help the board determine the value of this store for our members now and in the future.

Prepared by Newsletter Editor

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