Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

June 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

The hot July weather showed up well before July. That makes quilting a bigger challenge with the quilt laying on top of you when sewing. I did the Central Illinois Quilt Shop Hop and there were changes in 3 of the stores with the Indigo Quilt Studio in a new building on the opposite side of the square.

Our presenter at the June meeting will be Karen Edwards on Art Quilts.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the June meeting. Remember to bring any fabric you want to donate to the Auction in July at the June meeting. Also remember your Show and Tell to show all what you have been making.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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. Wear your Red, White, & Blue and let's celebrate the 4th Of July by raising your bid card high. **Hint – we have over 75 panels – you will want to get a few for 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 again and spent 2 hours organizing and pricing items you brought to the May meeting. We do still need: - **Fabric**, quilt shop quality - Sewing/Quilting notions - Quilt books - Sewing machines (must work) - **And more Fabric!** We currently have 45 full boxes of fabric, and another 15 partially filled boxes, but would like even more boxes for our auction. In preparing all the items for 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 the 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 and a delightful evening of applause.

October 1 - brings a special guest, Linda Strickland is 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. She is a Virginia native and now resident of East Moline. She will 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. Cost for the workshop is $45.

November 4 - Michael Nardi, from the Chicago area, will be filling us with laughter and inspiration.

WORKSHOPS

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

Everyone had a good time at the Boutique Bonanza workshop! Lots of items were made for the Quilt Show.

The next workshop will be June 21st – Bindings and Labels with Georgia! This workshop will be from 9 -12 at the church. The cost is $10. Georgia will be teaching us from 9a - 12p. There will be open sewing time in the afternoon from 12-3. This will give you plenty of time to finish those bindings/labels on your show quilt!

July 19 - Rope Bowls with Sue Wozniak. More info will be available at the June meeting.

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: **85** (donation planned by end of May)

NICU Quilt Sizes: **36x36** and **40x40**.

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.

May Gems meeting: OMG!! Thank you to everyone who returned their completed quilts / quilt tops. I think we got close to 30 tops. Once the labels are completed (thanks to Sandy and Perry!), I will be dropping off the quilts at OSF. And thank you to everyone who took a kit / quilts to be quilted.

QUILT SHOW

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

It's getting closer!!!!!

Mother's Day is behind us. The flowers are blooming and today the temperature is going to be in the high 80's! It must be getting close to the 2025 Quilt Show! I hope you are all excited and have begun inviting people to join us for a fabulous weekend! Find as many ways as you can to help this year! Finish up those beautiful quilts so they can be entered for all to see! Have you started your "Challenge Quilt?" Soon it will be time to set out the "Yard signs!" Don't let those "Sticks" just sit at the bottom of your purse! Set them out, absolutely everywhere you go! If you don't share them, then you have denied that person a chance to attend. Amy and Joyce have worked out a fantastic layout for this year's show! This year, I would like to have a member or two at every corner and door, inviting people to check out the next room, the next row of quilts. Hospitality Matters! I want this to be the quilt show where people can't wait to come back! I want this to be the quilt show that the first day isn't enough! I want this Quilt show to be so exciting and fun that Saturday people are bringing their friends back with them on Sunday because, "OMG! You've got to see this!" So, let's get excited! Let's spread the word! Get on the phone and let me know that you can't wait to help out! It's time to start getting EXCITED!

Bed Turning:

This year's theme is “That 'A' Word”. Yes, we are talking about Applique. Have you ever used applique in a quilt? Was it a positive experience? Was it a negative experience? Either way, we'd love to see your quilts and hear their stories. Any size is ok. Quilts, table runners, wall hangings are all ok. Didn’t get around to finishing it? That is ok too. They do need to be registered in the show under the category “Bed Turning” with a designation of "Agreeable Applique" or "Adverse Applique". Some "A" word lists are linked to aid you in your descriptions of your quilts and the experiences you had with them.

Positive Vocabulary Words that Start with A - Vocabulary Point

Negative Words That Start With A (Negative Adjectives) - Vocabulary Point

Please email your stories to sammcclintick@gmail.com. If you prefer snail mail, my address is on our member list under Samantha McClintick.

Thanks for sharing!

Volunteer:

Volunteer Sign Up will begin the day after the next Gems meeting, June 5. Sign Up will again be through SignUp Genius. A link will be emailed to members as well as posted on the Gems Member Resources page under Quilt Show Information. Many volunteers are needed to make the Quilt Show a success. We can also assist you to sign up at the Gems meetings, over the phone, or via email to sammcclintick@gmail.com

The Quilt Show is our largest fundraising opportunity and allows the Gems to continue to offer great programs and workshops as well as continue our numerous charity projects. While there are many volunteer slots that do require standing or lifting, there are also slots available for those who require sitting. Don't let what you can't do keep you from doing what you can do. Everyone is appreciated.

QUILT CHALLENGE

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

The challenge quilt is proving to be a challenge to all – including understanding the parameters! To make it easier, think of a square of 30” x 30”. Your quilt should touch all 4 sides at a minimum of one place on each side. The quilt can be any shape – so long as it touches all four sides of the square at any one (or more) point(s). It does need to contain coral and jade to represent our 35th anniversary AND 20% needs to be of a new technique that you have not tried before (or at least have not shown in a previous Gems show).

Some examples of techniques include, but are not limited to: design your own pattern, prairie points, trepunto, applique, paper piecing, stack 'n wack, embellishments, irregular border, paints, thread painting, Dresden Plate, free motion quilting, hand quilting,

Mariners Compass (or any complicated pattern), fabric folding, fabric manipulation, a design in miniature (still needs to meet overall size as stated above). For beginners, it could be flying geese, triangles, 60° angles, mitered corners, etc.

Your creation should be registered through the website the same as any other quilt (when registration opens). When registering, be sure to include how you used the coral and jade and what new techniques you used. It is to be dropped off at the check-in with all other entries.

Entries will be judged by a non-member quilter. Consideration will be given for how close you came to the size requirement, the use of your colors, new techniques you used (and the percentage of the use). Creativity will also be taken into consideration as well as overall appeal.

Feel free to contact Amy or Joyce for questions. Don't be afraid - Have Fun!!!!

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*

We hope you have been hard at work on your quilts for the show in August. If you have time, we have several activities we hope to have you join fellow Gems members to sew for the Boutique. Here is a run-down of the upcoming Boutique events:

1. 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!
2. 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!
3. 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 Mother's Day with family and friends. We currently have 144 members. I would like to welcome Linda Bealmer, Nancie Cassidy, Anne Forret and Peggy Hessling to the guild.

At the April guild meeting I asked if members would please let me know their birthday. I would like to be able to send birthday greetings every month. If you would like to participate, please email me or send me a text with your name and birthday (no year). **Happy Birthday to our June birthday members!**

Members, please 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 June 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. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or just want to chat.

MISCELLANEOUS

Senior World - Gems have been contacted by Senior World, a local day care for seniors, operated by OSF. They are in need of walker bags, fidget blankets, and lap blankets. After discussion at the May meeting, it was agreed that Gems will not adopt them as an official charity but those members who wish to support them should do so. I will be happy to accept items and deliver them to Senior World. I can either pick them up from you or at the meetings.

There is a tub in the storeroom at the church with zippers and other items for fidget blankets. I will also be looking for patterns and posting them as I find them.

If you have questions, please contact me at 309-657-2348 or my email suewoz@comcast.net

QUILTS OF VALOR

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

Please bring your quilt tops and finished quilts to the June 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.

50/50 RAFFLE

Congrats to the following!
Geraniums: Eileen Hahn and Rita Serrano
$53.50 Michele McCullough

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Below is the report on the income and expenses for the Gems of the Prairie Quilters Guild for the month of April. If you have any questions, you can always contact me, and I will be happy to help walk you through the figures. As you can see, we are maintaining a higher balance in our money market account right now to ensure that we have sufficient funds to cover our budgeted expenses for the upcoming fiscal year, most specifically for the quilt show.

April, 2025

	Balance 3/31/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 4/30/2025
Checking	4,179,47	924.00		(2,950.81)	71.40	2,224.06
Money Market	23,061.31					23,061.31
PayPal	71.40	75.00		(3.60)	(71.40)	71.40
Subtotal	27,412.18	999.00	.48	(1,710.06)	.00	25,356.77
CD Matures 9/8/2025	20,000.00					20,000.00
CD Matures 6/5/2025	15,000.00					15,000.00
Total	62,412.18	999.00	.48	(1,710.06)	-	60,356.77

Prepared by Newsletter Editor

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