Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

July 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

The wonderful fireworks will be coming soon to acknowledge those in our military service and our recognition of the importance of our country. I finished the Central Illinois Quilt Shop Hop and noticed the changes in a couple of shops.

The July meeting is our great Auction of lots of fabric from members and donations from past quilters in the community. Be sure to show up in time to pick up your auction numbers and look at the other items for sale (books/magazine, rulers, patterns). We made a good amount of money 2 years ago and want to make enough to buy machines for members to use for classes and teaching others how to quilt.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Auction! Make sure you are prepared to pay for what you buy. There will be no formal meeting or Show and Tell.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
GEMS President





The June 4 Guest Speaker was 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 shared some of her original creations, techniques she uses to create art quilts and some of the supplies used in the process. She enlarges her own photos. Then uses trace paper and interfacing for the major pieces. She uses 3 shades of each color for her Thread Painting while having the same color bobbin thread as the top thread for visual interest. She will even paint and markers on the fabric to achieve the correct color for items such as sunrise/sunsets. She enjoys buying fabric while on her vacations to use in her quilting pieces depicting photos from the same area.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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*

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 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. Watch your email for more detailed information.

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 is our annual Quilt Show review. Bring your Ribbon winning quilts for a delightful evening of applause.

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 who is now 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. Please email Georgia for registration at this time as there will be No sign up at the July meeting. We will begin PayPal on our website at the end of July.

November 4 has Michael Nardi from the Chicago area filling us with laughter and inspiration.

December 3 will be our annual Christmas dinner. Reservations will begin at the October meeting.

WORKSHOPS

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

I hope everyone had a good time at the June workshops with Georgia! It was so much fun learning about labels and bindings!

The next workshop is Saturday July 26th – Rope Bowls with Sue Wozniak. The workshop is from 9am-3pm at the church. The workshop is $10 and there is an additional $7 kit fee payable to Sue at the workshop. Thanks to those who have already signed up for this workshop. I will be out of town for the July meeting so Sue Wozniak will take more signups if you didn't already do so. Lunch will also be on your own. There is a supply list that will be handed out when you sign up and pay.

There is no workshop in August due to the Quilt Show.

(continue Workshops)

I will be taking signups for the September 13th workshop during the June and July workshops and at the August meeting. Hold on to your hats because we will be painting Barn Quilts! I am still gathering up more info on the cost for supplies, but the class is $10. I don't think the supplies should be more than $20. I am limiting this workshop to 20 members. Supplies will include an 18x18 or 24x24 wood board (going to take a poll on size at workshops) that will be prepped and have pattern already on board. There may also be an option for canvas, just need to find the sizes.

September will be our last workshop for the year as October has a speaker workshop, November is November to Remember and it's December! My, how the year has flown already!

QUILT SHOW

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

OMG! It's almost Quilt Show time! A huge thanks to the many of you who are working to make this show a huge success! We will be handing out the yard signs at our July 2nd GEMS meeting. Please help us out by taking as many as you can to get the word out in your community and neighborhoods! If you have sticks lying on the bottom of your purse, please hand those out ASAP. We can always get you more! All records from the past indicate that the personal invitation and yard signs were the most valuable publicity! Oh yeah, and, whoop! Register those beautiful quilts!!!!! What a great show it will be!!!!

Quilt Registration 2025

Registration will open on June 16, 2025. You can find the online Quilt Registration form on the Members Only Tab, dropdown menu: Quilt Show Information for Members. Also listed here are the Category Guidelines.

This year, there will be a new category for your entry in the Quilt Show. It is for quilts made on a domestic machine only.

"Solo or duet, minimum of 200 inches perimeter, made entirely on domestic machine".

This is a trial category. We want to see if there is enough interest to separate these quilts from those done freehand on a long arm. This category is intended for a larger quilt, so any quilt smaller than 200" perimeter will be entered as before. If there are too few entries, they will be moved to the appropriate 'non-computerized' category. If there are many entries, the category will be divided according to the entries. As stated, this is a trial. Your entries will determine if there is a need for this division. Please direct all questions to Joyce Blank. Phone/text: 309-231-9675 email: jblank914@msn.com

Quilt Show Mums for Sale

Our mums this year are called Mumbo from Hoerr Nursery. Each pot has three colors, so colors will be pretty much the same. They will be in bloom for the show, and will be available for sale for $15.00 each, an increase of $3.00 from last year to cover the increase in our cost, but well worth it. I will have a sign-up sheet at our next meeting on July 2nd, so please bring cash or your checkbooks to make sure you get one or two or three or more of these beautiful mums!!! They'll be available to take home at the end of the show on Sunday. Thank you.

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

Kathy Morgan,	*K.morgan.1@hotmail.com*	*309-397-5135*
Luann Claudin,	*claudfam1311@gmail.com*	*309-*

The Gems of the Prairie 2025 Raffle Quilt called "Friendship Rings" was revealed at our June meeting. The pattern for this quilt was designed by Liz Porter of Fons and Porter. The quilt is approximately 88" by 102". It was pieced by Barb Crowson and quilted by Sheri Zalar. The quilt was constructed using pure white for the background and the borders and 40 different batik fabrics for the body of the quilt. The borders are machine appliquéd featuring a curving vine with "buds". Batik flowers are included in the four corners. The backing is a pale blue batik. Beautiful design, construction and quilting, ladies! Thank you for a beautiful quilt!

If you have not already picked up your raffle tickets (to buy or sell), there will be an envelope waiting for you at the July meeting. We ask each Gem member to be responsible for selling/buying at least two (2) raffle ticket booklets. If you want your envelope mailed to you, need more tickets or want to mail in ticket money, feel free to call or text Kathy Morgan, 309-397-5135 or mail to: 2603 E Cedar Hills Dr, Chillicothe IL 61523.

The raffle quilt will be displayed and raffle tickets will be available at local quilt shops on the following dates:

July & August - Prairie Points Quilt Shop, Northpoint Shopping Center, Peoria IL
August 23 & 24 - Gems Quilt Show, Life Together Center, Peoria IL
September - Sewing Center by Ron (Galesburg Sewing Center), Galesburg IL
October - Peace & Appliqué Quilt Shop, Bloomington, IL
November - The Quilt Corner, Morton IL

We want to thank all of you for your continued efforts with the raffle ticket sales and wish you luck in the drawing in December. Happy Quilting!!

QUILT CHALLENGE

Joyce Blank	*jblank914@msn.com*	*309-686-0088*
Amy Lister	*listeramy@hotmail.com*	*309-713-6594*

Please be thinking about your challenge quilt entry. We are excited to see what your creative minds can conjure up! To try to make the size requirements easier, think of a 30-inch square frame. Your entry should touch all 4 sides in at least one spot. We are looking for the overall size to be 30" x 30" including binding, but a target of 29½" to 30½" square is fine.

No matter the shape of your quilt, enter it as 30" x 30". (Perimeter of 120".) Remember To include something new you have not tried before. It should be at least 20% of the project. Use coral and jade to celebrate our 35th anniversary.

Be creative and have fun! All questions should be directed to Amy Lister or Joyce Blank.

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. Our final Boutique event will be another Zoom Sew-Along evening. Hopefully some more folks can join us on July 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Work on your own items to donate or just join us and enjoy each other's company virtually as you sew, sew, sew!

HEALING HANDS

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

Back again to encourage all Gems members to construct an easy block, or several, from the 2025 Healing Hands block patterns published on our website. If you prefer a printed handout, it is available for you as well at our meetings or by reaching out to Cindy Potter for a copy. You choose which block(s) you wish to make! We are 140-150 members strong, and we can do this! Did you know that NICU has already used blocks given to them this year to make quilt tops? This is a quick and easy way to contribute to our service projects without taking on a whole quilt. Stitch on!

NICU

Pam Knollenberg, psknollenberg@gmail.com

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **168**
2025 Goal: **300** (stretch goal: 400)
 # Quilts ready to be **Donated:** 35

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.

July Gems mtg: Auction time! I will not have a NICU table set up – but if you have any quilts to drop off, please bring. Also, I left a couple of NICU kits in the back room, if you would like one, please let me know.

The following are pictures I received of how they use our quilts in the NICU.





50/50 RAFFLE

Congrats to the following!
Brownies – Sherry Sansom
Tin of Sewing Clips – Jennifer Shambaugh
Cash – Betty Meyers

MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone is enjoying this warm weather with family and friends. We currently have 145 members. I would like to welcome Jeanne Flaherty 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 July birthday members!

Karen Goloff	**7-8**
Joan Krogman	**7-22**
Carol Frietsch	**7-30**

If all members could 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 July 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*

Below is the report on the income and expenses for the Gems of the Prairie Quilters Guild for the month of May. If you have any questions, you can always contact me, and I will be happy to help walk you through the figures.

May, 2025

	Balance 4/30/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 5/31/2025
Checking	*2,224.06*	*348.50*		*(140.00)*	*1,071.40*	*3,503.96*
Money Market	*23,061.31*				*(1,000.00)*	*22,061.31*
PayPal	*71.40*				*(71.40)*	*-*
Subtotal	*25,356.77*	*348.50*		*(140.00)*	*-*	*25,565.27*
CD Matures 9/8/2025	*20,000.00*					*20,000.00*
CD Matures 6/5/2025	*15,000.00*					*15,000.00*
Total	*60,356.77*	*348.50*		*(140.00)*	*-*	*60,565.27*