# Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

# August 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

We are halfway through Summer already! Trying to stay cool remains the challenge. Hope all of you were present at our July Auction with 108 boxes of fabrics auctioned to those in the room. Georgia and Lise did a great job of organizing the Auction, keeping fellow members focused on getting all the fabric donated organized, and all that was sold to those who attended. I can't wait to hear the total in August.

I hope all of you are finishing your quilts for the Gems Quilt Show and getting them all registered. I am always impressed by all that you have made and want to show everyone else. I have a couple of things to get done. I am also looking forward to Sue Wozniak's "rope basket" class on July 26th.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our August meeting.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
GEMS President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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 20 – Painting Barn Quilt 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

## PROPOSED 2026 GEMS SLATE OF OFFICERS

A Nominating Committee consisting of Sue Wozniak, President Elect, and the two Guild Reps, Pastor Lisa Dietrich and Pam Knollenberg present the following slate of officers for the Board of the Gems of the Prairie Quilters.

President: Sue Wozniak
President Elect: Joyce Blank
Recording Secretary: Nikki Mitts
Corresponding Secretary: Kelly Harvey
Treasurer: Lisa McCabe
Guild Rep: Pastor Lisa Dietrich, second year of her term
Guild Rep: Ann Conver, for two-year term, replacing Pam Knollenberg

According to the Bylaws, voting on the slate of officers should take place in August. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting or from the members by email to any member of the Nominating Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you would like to serve in an elected position or wish to nominate another Gems member for an elected position.

I am very much looking forward to another great year in 2026.

Sue Wozniak, President Elect.
suewoz@comcast.net 309-657-2348

## PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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 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 at our Aug & Sept meetings. Cost for the workshop is $45. We will begin PayPal on our website 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*

Our July Rope Bowl workshop with Sue Wozniak is July 26. I am sure we will have lots of fun! I can't wait to see what we make!

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

The last monthly workshop for the year is…**Barn Quilts**! This workshop is **Saturday September 20th** (this is the correct date despite the last newsletter). We will meet at the church at 9am-3pm. Lunch will be on your own. Class fee is $10 and there will be a supply kit fee of $20 (payable to Candi). There are only 20 spots available – 8 of them are already taken! The best thing about this workshop? You don't have to bring your sewing machine!

Sign up for the Barn Quilts workshop will be available at the July workshop and August meeting.

November is November to Remember

## QUILT SHOW

*Lisa Dietrich* *pastorlisadietrich@gmail.com* *319-243-8136*

It's almost time!!!! Quilt Show Time!!!!!

The 35th Anniversary Gems Quilt Show is quickly approaching! Here are a few things that you can do to help make this year's show a huge success!

* Pass out those sticks! Dig them out of the bottom of your purse or bag and put them in people's hands! It's up to you! Word of mouth is always the best advertisement!

* The Boutique needs your donation! What we need are handmade items please!!! Look around! Do you have a table runner, a Christmas Ornament, a Glasses Case, A potholder, a bow for a pet? Anything that you can whip up or already have? We are asking that everyone who attends the August Gems meeting please bring at least one item for the Boutique! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your help!

* Sign up on the Volunteer Sheet! Many hands make light work! There is something there for everyone to help with!

* We could use more Quilts for the Bed Turning! This doesn't have to be a quilt that you have made! One that you have a story with; it was made by your grandmother.... It must contain some Applique- that's the only qualifier! Tell us the story and what that special piece means to you!!!

* Come with a Spirit of Fun! This event is always well attended and so many people look forward to seeing all your beautiful Quilts and Faces!

### 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.

## (CON'T QUILT SHOW)

### Bed Turning

Thank you to everyone who registered an applique quilt for the Quilt Show Bed Turning. If your story was not included with your registration, please email it to Sam McClintick at sammcclintick@gmail.com.

### Volunteer:

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for various time and activity slots so our Quilt Show runs smoothly!

Did you know that there are 234 slots in the signup genius? Did you know that 68 (48%) of Gems members have signed up for 158 (67.5%) of those slots?
If you have not already signed up, please help us over the 50% participation mark and sign up today! We can also assist you to sign up at the August Gems meeting, over the phone to Sam at 309-453-3230, or via email to sammcclintick@gmail.com

While there are volunteer slots that do require standing or lifting, there are many more slots available for those who prefer to sit. The Ambassador slots are for only one hour and we can have one of those slots be sitting at the "T" of the hallways giving incoming guests directions. Don't let what you can't do keep you from doing what you can do. Everyone is appreciated.

P.S. If you are one of those, "I'll just be there and available all weekend," please let Sam know so we can call on you as needed.

Gratefully,
Sam McClintick

## QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

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

Just in case you missed the announcement of this year's raffle quilt, it is called "Friendship Rings", created by our Gems member, Barb Crowson and quilted by Sheri Zalar. The pattern for this quilt was designed by Liz Porter of Fons and Porter. The quilt is approximately 88” by 102" and 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 and has a pale blue batik. Thank you, ladies!

So, now it's time to get your chance to win this beautiful quilt. We ask each member to participate in the raffle quilt drawing by buying or selling just two (2) raffle ticket booklets. That is just $10 total. This helps raise dollars for our quilt guild to continue the amazing projects, activities and efforts of the GEMS. Pick up your envelope of tickets at the August meeting or come to the quilt show and fill your tickets out.

Already 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 on display at these local quilt shops:
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 quilt drawing in December. Happy Quilting!!

## QUILT CHALLENGE

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

We are looking forward to seeing the creative Challenge Quilts at the show. Quilts will be judged by a former member on either Friday evening or Saturday morning. Names will be covered to avoid any bias, but the stories will be visible. Ribbons will be placed after the judging is complete. Thank you to all who have expressed interest and have entered your creation. This should be a fun display!

## 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 quilt show. The Boutique could still use your hand-made items! We are a bit behind where we were at this time last year. If you have it in you to make one item for the boutique the committee would be very grateful.

## 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: **50** (will be donated after Quilt Show)

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. I will also have some available at the August guild meeting. THANK YOU to everyone who has picked up a kit, returned a quilt top, completed quilt, and those that have completed the quilting. It takes a TEAM and I am very thankful for everyone's help.

If you didn't see these pictures last month … the following are pictures I received of how they use our quilts in the NICU.




## MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone is getting ready for the 2025 Gems Quilt Show. I can hardly wait to see all the beautiful quilts that the talented Gems members create. We currently have 145 members. Please bring your friends that are curious about the guild to the August meeting.

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 August birthday members!

Eileen Hahn 8-8

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 August guild meeting and the 2025 Gems Quilt Show.

Gems half year membership is $20.00. 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 for the month of June. If you have any questions, you can always contact me, and I will be happy to help walk you through the figures.*

*June, 2025*

| | Balance 5/31/2025 | Income | Interest | Expenses | Transfers | Balance 6/30/2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Checking* | *3,503.96* | *332.75* | | *(1,504.79)* | *1,520.00* | *3,851.92* |
| *Tills, Auction/Quilt Show* | | | | | *3,480.00* | *3,480.00* |
| *Money Market* | *22,061.31* | | | | *(5,000.00)* | *17,061.31* |
| *PayPal* | *-* | | | | | *-* |
| *Subtotal* | *25,565.27* | *332.75* | | *(1,504.79)* | *-* | *24,393.23* |
| *CD Matures 9/8/2025* | *20,000.00* | | | | | *20,000.00* |
| *CD Matures 1/5/2026* | *15,000.00* | | *345.88* | | | *15,345.88* |
| *Total* | *60,565.77* | *332.75* | *345.88* | *(1,504.79)* | *-* | *59,739.11* |

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