Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

September 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Summer is almost over but the weather is fabulous! Hope all of you were present for our August meeting when you found out the July Auction was very successful with over $5500 received from that event. Georgia and Lise did a great job of organizing the Auction, keeping fellow members focused on getting all of the fabric donated organized, and all that was sold to those who attended.

We discussed the need for members to be more quiet as others are speaking for report presentations or Show and Tell.

I also announced that Amy Lister was designated as the 2025 Gems Member of the Year. As a past president and Committee Co-chair she continues to be a very valuable member. Be sure to look at her quilt presentation at the Quilt Show.

I hope all of you all got your quilts for the Gems Quilt Show finished and in the show. The quilts were all fabulous with variations in pattern, fabric, and colors. It was challenging picking the winners of each category and the overall winner of the show.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our September meeting where you can reflect on all of the ribbon winners from the quilt show.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
GEMS President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

September 3 - Quilt Show Wrap Up Meeting 6:30
September 20 – Painting Barn Quilt Workshop
October 1 - Meeting 6:30 - no workshop due to speaker
October 2 – Panel Panache Workshop with Linda Strickland
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

Congratulations to Anne Forret for Best of Show 2025! Your hard work has paid off. What a way to celebrate your first time entering the quilt show.



2026 GEMS SLATE OF OFFICERS

The membership elected the following Board for 2026:

Sue Wozniak, President
Joyce Blank, President Elect
Nikki Mitts, Recording Secretary
Kelly Harvey, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa McCabe, Treasurer
Guild Representative, Ann Conver
Guild Representative, Pastor Lisa Dietrich will serve the second year of her two-year term.

We will shortly begin the process of appointing Committee Chairs. Please let me know if you have an interest in any committee roles. I am very much looking forward to the next year. We have many new members. We want to keep things interesting and exciting and welcome everyone's ideas.

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

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Georgia Schmidt, gquilten@gmail.com 309-453-6630
Lise Mundwiller, Pooh6673@aol.com 309-657-2489

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 Sept meeting. 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. Cost for dinner is $20. Don't forget that dinner is at 6p.

January, February & March will bring us back to zoom meeting. The lineup for 2026 is spectacular!

WORKSHOPS

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

Barn Quilt Painting – SOLD OUT!

The last monthly workshop for the year is…**Barn Quilts!** This workshop is **Saturday September 20 th** . 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 and ALL spots have been taken! I have started a waitlist, just in case.
I want to take a minute to THANK everyone who came out to the workshops this year!

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

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

We hope everyone had an opportunity to stop by the raffle table at the Quilt Show to secure your chance to win this year's raffle quilt, "Friendship Rings", created by our Gems member, Barb Crowson and quilted by Sheri Zalar. Measuring approximately 88" by 102", this quilt pattern was designed by Liz Porter of Fons and Porter.

Now is the time to get your chance to win this beautiful quilt. We ask each member to participate in the raffle quilt drawing by buying just two (2) raffle ticket booklets. That is just $10 total. Don't forget to ask your friends and family members to purchase raffle tickets too! Dollars raised through raffle sales go directly to our quilt guild, so we can continue the amazing projects, activities and efforts of the GEMS.

If you have not picked up your envelope of raffle tickets, please do so at the September GEMS quilt meeting as this will save a lot of money mailing your tickets to you. If you need them mailed, then please contact Kathy Morgan or Luann Claudin and we will send them 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 also be on display at these local quilt shops this Fall:

September - **Sewing Center by Ron (Galesburg Sewing Center),** Galesburg IL
October - **Peace & Appliqué Quilt Shop**, Bloomington, IL
November - **The Quilt Corner**, Morton IL

Don't miss out on winning this fabulous quilt! Get your tickets today! Thank you and Happy Quilting!

QUILT SHOW CHALLENGE

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

A big thank you to all who completed a challenge quilt. The display looked great! It was fun to see the creativity and talent of each of you. Congratulations to Leslie Swearinger for taking home the 1st prize of $50! Congrats also to Jackie O'Laughlin for 2nd place ($30) and Lisa McCabe for 3rd place ($20). A former member, Mary Lambert was our judge. She had a VERY difficult time. She felt all entries were done very well. We appreciate the effort that went into what we considered a true 'challenge '.

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*

Thank you to everyone who contributed something for the Boutique!

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!

LITTLE GEMS/ST JUDE

Karen Goloff, *kgoloff@yahoo.com*

I have been busy making kits to be pieced into tops and kits with tops, backing and batting that need to be quilted. I would like to get many more completed quilts to St. Jude before the winter holidays so need members help in taking and completing kits.

NICU

Pam Knollenberg, *psknollenberg@gmail.com*
Sandy French, *szwergelfrench@gmail.com*

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **248**
2025 Goal: 300-400
 # XMAS Quilts ready to be **donated**: **20** (will be donated in December)

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

THANK YOU to everyone who dropped off a Quilt last month, those that took a Kit, and those that completed the quilting. It takes a TEAM. Also, I think we had about 13 Xmas kits picked up!! It's never too early to plan for Xmas. I'm hoping we can flood the NICU in December with the Xmas spirit !!

I hope you got a chance to hear Amanda Masters on Sunday at the Quilt Show. Her NICU presentation was really good. Hearing her talk about how they use our quilts, including to help warm up the isolette to put the preemie in after they get out of a cold surgery. And, when she goes to the quilt closet, she takes a few minutes to pick out the prettiest / "right quilt" for the preemie she's taking care of.

NOTRE DAME

As I mentioned at the August guild meeting, we have been asked to assist Notre Dame with their 2026 Winterim session for Quilting. The volunteers and I had so much fun earlier this year. If you are wanting to help, please let me know. I'm looking forward to another awesome session! I don't have a lot of information yet. After I meet with the Teacher in September, I will share the plans.

NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

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

We can sign up for November 2 Remember at the September meeting the details are as follows: Starting at 2 o'clock on Friday, November 7 and continuing until 3 o'clock on Saturday, November 8. It will be at St. Paul's church. People are welcome to stay the night. There are couches down in the youth room if you are interested.
Please reach out if you have any questions.

MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone enjoyed the 2025 Gems Quilt Show. There are so many talented members in our guild. I am always awestruck by the incredible works of art at the show. I want to congratulate all the members who had an entry in the show.

There were twenty new members who signed up at the show, bringing our membership to 168. I would like to welcome Cathy Boo, Joyce Brewer, Mary Clayton, Kimberlyn Crowe, Sandra Dean, Ellis Deputy, Patricia Gniadek, Joyce Goodwin, Susie Howell, Dianna Julien, Heidi Kear, Ann Kenney Lynch, Vickie Mahar, Annette Manthei, Linda Nieukirk, Laura Noren, Nicole Reed, Heather Rogers, Melissa Sholl, Bonita Simpson, Carmen Umberger, Peggy Whaley and Caroline Zimbrick.

Happy Birthday to our September birthday members!

Joyce Blank	9/3
Kelly Harvey	9/18
Vicky Schwegmann	9/21
Donna Leber	9/26
Sandra Fandel	9/30

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). 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.

I hope to see everyone at the September guild meeting.

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 do not hesitate to contact me.

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.]

July, 2025

	Balance June 2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance July 2025
Checking	3,851.92	4,697.05		(3,166.80)	1,235.00	6,617.17
Tills, Auction/Quilt Show	3,480.00				(1,235.00)	2,245.00
Money Market	17,061.31					17,061.31
PayPal	-					-
Subtotal	24,393.23	4,697.05	-	(3,166.80)	-	25,923.48
CD Matures 9/8/2025	20,000.00					20,000.00
CD Matures 1/5/2026	15,345.88					15,345.88
Total	59,739.11	4,697.05	-	(3,166.80)	-	61,269.36

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