Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

October 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

To Gem Members,

It is officially Fall and the trees are starting to change color. Are your quilts starting to change colors as well? Mine are! I am also starting to think about Santa and Christmas.

I want to complement everyone on our Quilt Show again. I continue to hear compliments from members and vendors. Everyone did a great job.

I took the Barn Quilt class on September 20th. It was a fun group! I still need to finish mine as my back was having fits!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the October meeting!

Sincerely,

Vicki Lee
GEMS President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

October 1 - Meeting 6:30 October Laura Strickland
October 2 – "Panel Panache" workshop by Laura Strickland 9am-3pm
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*
Lise Mundwiller, *Pooh6673@aol.com* *309-657-2489*

Please join us for a fun program by Laura Strickland from Orange Blossum Quilt Design Studio in East Moline, IL. She designs patterns and fabrics and enjoys making works of art with fabric. She is going to show us how to take panels and make wonderful quilts with them.

In addition, Laura will be conducting our all-day workshop on October 2, from 9am-3pm at St Paul's Lutheran church. The workshop is called "Panel Panache" where Laura will help you with those beautiful panels you have bought and don't quite know what to do with them. if you haven't signed up yet, there is still room for you to attend. You can sign up on PayPal or at the meeting on October 1st. The cost for the workshop is $45. You can bring a sack lunch or go out to lunch.
Hope to see you there!

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*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I have enjoyed the workshops this year! Everyone had fun at the Barn Quilt Paining workshop. I hope everyone who participated in the workshops this year learned a lot and had fun!

There are no more monthly workshops for the rest of the year. Please enjoy the October program workshop and November to Remember!

On a side note, I want to thank everyone who helped with the ribbons this year! They turned out great!











QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

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

Now is the time to get your chance to win this beautiful quilt. This year's raffle quilt, "Friendship Rings", was 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.

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 effort of the GEMS.

If you have not picked up your envelope of raffle tickets, the October meeting is the last chance before we mail your envelope to you. Please help the quilt guild save money and pick up your raffle tickets.

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.

If you have yet to view this year's fabulous raffle quilt, check it out at these following locations:

October - **Peace & Appliqué Quilt Shop**, Bloomington, IL
November - **The Quilt Corner**, Morton IL

Our drawing is coming up, just 64 days away and you could own this gorgeous quilt! Don't miss out, get your tickets today! Thank you and Happy Quilting!

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*

Recently I delivered 24 quilts to the OSF St Jude Children's Hospital. They were very happy to receive them.

I want to thank everyone who has helped in whatever way you could to complete those 24 quilts. Your contribution is very appreciated.

All members-Please think about taking 1 OR MORE kits during the October or November meetings. Since December is the Christmas party and we will be on Zoom during the winter-you will have LOTS of time to complete them.

I have kits for sewing tops and kits that need quilted. Some of those that need quilted are smaller in size and could easily be quilted on your domestic machine-you DO NOT have to have a longarm.

Thank you all
Your Little Gems Committee
Karen Goloff

NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

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

We can sign up for November 2 Remember at the October 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.

NICU

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

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **248**
2025 Goal: 300 (stretch goal: **400**)
 # Quilts ready to be **donated**: **25**
 # XMAS Quilts ready to be **donated**: **48** (will be donated before Thanksgiving – please turn in your Xmas quilts by the November meeting)

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

December guild meeting: I am hoping to have many Kits available for you to pick up for the winter months. I know that sometimes, I just need something "easy" to work on, and hopefully a NICU quilt will fit that need.

NOTRE DAME – Jan 5-16, 2026

Woo Hoo !! We have been asked to assist 2 Teachers for the Winterim classes at Peoria Notre Dame.

1st Class: Sister Jude Andrew is replicating her Quilting class that happened in January of this year. Each team of 2 (hoping for 20 students this year – last time was 18), will make 1 NICU quilt and some pot holders.

2nd Class: Elena Kiser is having a Sewing class. The students will make a pair of PJ pants and decorate a T shirt. In talking with the teacher, we think this activity will take 3-4 ish days of time. The rest of the time, the students will be sewing Squares for input to a Quilt for us. I'm thinking … St Jude, Center or QoV (wanting to share the "fruits of the kids labor" with all of our Service groups).

Please let me know if you are available to assist with Volunteering for either of these classes. We would like 3-4 volunteers per class. The teachers will use the same classroom and sewing machines and supplies (irons, etc). I've already started making a list of details that we will have to do each day (making sure Sister Jude Andrew's class is only using cotton thread, etc – whereas the other class can use Polyester thread, etc).

MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone is busy getting their holiday sewing started. I know I always wait till the last minute and forget someone. If you have any easy items to sew in a jiffy send them my way. Our membership is currently 167.

Happy Birthday to our October birthday members!

Sheri Zalar	10/10
Nancy Light	10/11
Ann Kamp	10/21
Anne Forret	10/22
Jean Slater	10/24

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 everyone has a wonderful October. I will see everyone at the November 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 Bo 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

QUILT SHOW

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

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to everyone who helped with the 35th Anniversary Quilt Show! We had a great show with nearly 300 Beautiful quilts on display! Everyone loved the new layout, both vendors and viewers! Everyone also seemed to love where the Boutique was located and certainly that room was brighter and felt more spacious. Thank you to each of you for your warm hospitality, for the laugher that could be hear, for the warm greetings, and for all of the hours you donated to make this year's show so wonderful and so much fun! Now, back to those sewing machines! Next year's show will be here before you know it, and Amy and Joyce are looking for your best work ever!! Thanks again to everyone one of you!

Pastor Lisa and Carol

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 August. If you have any questions, you can always contact me, and I will be happy to help walk you through the figures.

August, 2025

	Balance 07/31/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 8/31/2025
Checking	9,011.42	13,931.25		(8,297.92)	2,263.81	21,323.17
Tills, Auction/Quilt Show	2,245.00				(2,245.00)	0
Money Market	17,061.31					17,061.31
PayPal	18.81	80.78			(18.81)	80.78
Subtotal	26,059.54	14,014.03		(8,297.92)	-	24,393.23
CD Matures 9/8/2025	20,000.00					20,000.00
CD Matures 1/5/2026	15,345.88					15,345.88
Total	63,682.42	14,012.03		(8,297.92)	-	73,811.14