Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

November 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Fall weather is officially here with changes in temperature and leaf colors. I hope all are adjusting. It took me a while to find my autumn coat for walking Sophie. She has worn her sweater once especially in the wind.

Our directors reviewed recommendations from Georgia and Lise' about the results of the Auction in July and recommendations for the future.

It is hard to believe that my year as President of Gems is almost over. I know Sue Wozniak will do a great job as President next year.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our November meeting as we prepare for the upcoming holidays. The best to all of you as you start traveling for Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
GEMS President

PRESIDENT ELECT MESSAGE

Sue Wozniak *suewoz@comcast.net* *309-657-2348*

I want to thank all who have agreed to chair a committee next year. We still have one committee chair to fill: Workshop Committee. Please consider helping your guild. If you have any questions, please email me or give me a call at 309-657-2348. Many of the workshops are standard, such as Quilts of Valor and Boutique. I have a couple of workshop ideas already identified.

If we don't have a chairperson for Workshops, we will be unable to offer workshops in 2026.

Gems Clothing:
Several people have asked when we will have the online Gems Logo gear available again. Laurie Schierer has agreed to open the store in the spring, in plenty of time to have the items delivered by the April meeting. Watch the newsletter for more information and we will email a link to the store when the time comes to place your orders.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2025

November 5:	Meeting 6:30 Michael Nardi
November 7 and 8:	November 2 Remember Gems Retreat, St Paul's
December 3:	Christmas Party 6:00

2026

January 7:	ZOOM Meeting 6:30 Timna Tarr
February 4:	ZOOM Meeting 6:30 Beth Helfter
February 7:	Quilts of Valor sew day 9-3, St Paul's
March 4:	ZOOM Meeting 6:30 Pat Speth

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

November 4 has Michael Nardi from the Chicago area filling us with laughter and inspiration. November is the month of giving sew bring a friend to share the laughter.

December 3 is our annual Christmas dinner. Reservations can be made at the November meeting or contact Georgia Schmidt no later than November 12th. Cost for dinner is $20. Don't forget that dinner is at 6 pm, doors open at 5:30p for social time. There will be a donation table set up for the church pantry.

Zoom on in for:
January 7: Timna Tarr - Flying Colors. https://www.timnatarr.com/
February 4: Beth Helfter Accordion Sewen Half Square Triangles.
https://evapaigequilts.com/
March 4: Pat Speth - Five Inch is a Cinch. https://patspeth.com/

Reminder - because of zoom we are able to present these national quilters that we would not be able to bring to our in-person meeting. Take time to look up these speakers' websites and be ready for the amazing programs they will be presenting.

For your 2026 calendar and planning, our 2 Special Event workshops this year will be May 7th and August 6th. Mark those dates now so you can join the fun of sewing all day!

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

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

Just one month until we draw the winning raffle ticket for this year's 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.

During the month of November our raffle quilt will be displayed at The Quilt Corner in Morton, if you have not had the chance to view it or want to take another look.

We will have the raffle ticket table at the November meeting, so now is the time to turn in your remaining and any unsold tickets (which hopefully you don't have any of these.) All

the raffle tickets that had not been picked up were mailed to Gem's members, giving everyone a chance to purchase or sell tickets, which are just $2.00 each or 3 tickets for $5.00.

If you cannot make it to the November Gem's meeting, please call or text Kathy Morgan, 309-397-5135 to arrange for your tickets to be included in the drawing or mail tickets to: 2603 E Cedar Hills Dr, Chillicothe IL 61523.

ALL TICKETS MUST BE TURNED IN PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GEMS CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 3. WE WILL BE ACCEPTING TICKETS ONLY FROM 5:30 - 6 PM THAT EVENING.

The more tickets you buy, the better chances you have of winning! Thank you and Good Luck!

HEALING HANDS

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

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of our members who have contributed to the Healing Hands blocks. These are sorted and passed onto our service projects to make kits to make the quilt tops. By building blocks, you have allowed us to be able to provide for these wonderful organizations. Now I have a challenge for Gems members: We would like to see every member participate by building at least one block this year. They are super easy and if you need fabric supplies, please ask for assistance at the share closet in our meeting room at St Paul and we can help you get what you need! I have patterns available if you still need them. Let's end 2025 with a big Hurrah!

LITTLE GEMS/ST JUDE

Karen Goloff, *kgoloff@yahoo.com*

There are still many kits ready for St. Jude quilts. Kits for piecing a top and kits for quilting. If you pick one up in November, you will have all winter to finish it as we will be going to Zoom meetings! Thank you all for everything you do for the St. Jude children!!

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: **40** (will be donated in early 2026)
 # XMAS Quilts ready to be donated: **70 (**will be donated before Thanksgiving – please turn in your Xmas quilts by the November meeting. If you have a XMAS NICU quilt, and you won't be at the November mtg, please let me know and I will meet you somewhere to get from you.)

NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and **40x40**.
November / December guild meetings: I have 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

As I mentioned before, we will be assisting 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 potholders.

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 not take the full 2 weeks of time. The rest of the time, the students will be piecing a quilt top for us (St Jude, Center, NICU).

Thank you to everyone who has already told me that you are available to volunteer for these classes. If you haven't already told me, please let me know if you'd like to attend. I will be making the schedule in December … for each day of class. Both teachers will use the same classroom, sewing machines and supplies (irons, etc.).

FACEBOOK – Members Only

Pam Knollenberg, *psknollenberg@gmail.com*

If you are not yet a Member on our Members Only Facebook, please search: Gems of the Prairie Quilters Members Only … and ask to Join. I am an Admin, and will approve your request.

NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

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

We can sign up for November 2 Remember at the November 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 love this time of year. Nature gives us a fabulous color palette for inspiration. Gems currently has 169 members. I will begin taking membership renewals for the 2026 Gems Guild year at the November meeting. Membership dues will be $30.00 for January 1, 2026- December 31, 2026.

Happy Birthday to our November birthday members!

Sandy French	11/5
Georgia Schmidt	11/21

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.

Gems half year membership is $20.00 and will end on December 31, 2025. 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 September. 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 08/31/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 9/30/2025
Checking	21,323.17			(726.45)	(11,919.22)	8,677.50
Money Market	17,061.86		0.48		12,000.00	29,062.34
PayPal	80.78	135.00		(6.18)	(80.78)	128.82
Subtotal	26,059.54	14,014.03		(8,297.92)	-	24,393.23
CD Matures 4/8/2026	20,000.00		479.86			20,479.86
CD Matures 1/5/2026	15,345.88					15,345.88
Total	73,811.69	135.00	480.34	(732.63)	0.00	73,694.40

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