Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

December 2025

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

This is my last Guild Membership letter I will write as your President. It has been a fabulous year and all of you have been very supportive. The officers and committee chairs made my life easier. We added more members to the Guild this year. The Auction was successful. The Quilt Show went very well with many beautiful quilts revealed. All members who helped with these activities made all who participated as members or observers made both events fiscally successful.

Sue Wozniak will be a great Guild President. This will be another great year. There are great educational programs planned. The Guild will purchase 5 sewing machines for members use throughout the year at classes and for student's use at the Notre Dame quilting classes.

As I finish my last report to you, I want to share where money will go that members give at our Christmas party. I have adopted 4 of my 5 dogs from PAWS. My current dog, Sophie, is 14 years old. I adopted her when she was 3 1/2 years old. She makes life fun!

Hopefully you will get all your quilting projects done for your loved ones in time for the holidays.

Respectfully,

Vicki Lee
GEMS President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2025

December 3:	Christmas Party 6:00, St Paul's Church

2026

January 7:	ZOOM Meeting 6:30 - Timna Tarr
January 10:	LOVE paper pieced via ZOOM
January 5-16:	Peoria Notre Dame High School quilt classes
February 4:	ZOOM Meeting 6:30 - Beth Helfter
February 7:	Quilts of Valor sew day 9-3, St Paul's Church
March 4:	ZOOM Meeting 6:30 - Pat Speth
March 21:	Little Gems (NICU & St Jude) @St Paul Church 9am-3pm
April 1:	Meeting 6:30 - Carol Wilhoit, St Paul's Church
April 18:	TBD
May 6:	Meeting 6:30 - Linda Halpin, St Paul's Church
May 7:	Mexican Star Special Workshop 9am to 3pm - Linda Halprin, St Paul's Church, Mexican Potluck lunch.
June 3:	Meeting 6:30 - Juli Johnson, St Paul's Church
June 20:	TBD
July 1:	Meeting 6:30 – Quilt Trivia Evening and Quilt Show Prep
July 18:	Barn Quilt Painting @ St Paul Church 9am-3pm
August 5:	Meeting 6:30 – Sharon Wasteney, St Paul's Church
August 6:	A Leaf Collection Special Workshop 9am to 3pm – Sharon Wasteney, St Paul's Church
August 22 & 23:	Quilt Show
September 2:	Meeting 6:30 – Quilt Show Wrap Up, St Paul's Church
September 19:	Jelly Rolls (National Jelly Roll Day),St Paul Church 9am-3pm
October 7:	Meeting 6:30 – Janice Powers, St Paul's Church
October 17:	Witches' Hat/Sit-n-Sew Day @ St Paul Church 9am-3pm
November 4:	Meeting 6:30 - TBD
December 2:	Christmas Dinner 6:00, St Paul's Church

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

December 3: Our annual Christmas 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. This is by reservation.

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.

January 7: Timna Tarr (Zoom) https://www.timnatarr.com/

Flying Colors Trunk Show

Timna Tarr is known for making fun, colorful, award winning quilts. Join her for a zoom trunk show of her quilting journey. She talks about her design and color choices, as well as personal stories behind the quilts.

February 4: Beth Helfter (Zoom) https://evapaigequilts.com/

Oompah Accordian Sewen HST

What happens when you have a designer who not only wants to be as scrappy as possible but also hates wasting fabric? Beth figured out a way to create HST that don't have a twin, and waste no fabric, by sewing HSTs that are "accordians". Add another step and you can sew the blocks for an entire quilt. This lecture will have you picking up your accordian and joining the oompah sensation!

March 4: Pat Speth (Zoom) https://patspeth.com/

Five Inch is a Cinch

How Nickel Quilts are Created – This lecture is sure to get quilters fired up about using 5" squares of fabric. Many of the ideas can also be adapted for using other precuts. She will show an assortment of quilts from her collection focusing on the blocks and the components they are made from. **Note – Pat is no longer traveling to guilds to give lectures. So don't miss this opportunity to see her on zoom.

April 1: Carol Wilhoit

Gaps in My Quilting Education

During 40 years of making quilts and being part of the quilting community, Carol has learned much about quilting. However, many techniques that she uses are rarely discussed and almost missed learning about them. Fill some gaps in your education with the most valuable information that she failed to learn about thread, fabric, piecing, batting and machine quilting.

May 6: Linda Halpin

Borders on Parade

Linda says you should bring your camera to this lecture! Borders are not just to make your quilt bigger! Over 3 dozen quilts will be shown, all with different border treatments for your consideration. This program will explore the wide range of possibilities.

May 7: Linda Halprin

Mexican Star Special Event Workshop

This is a great pattern to use up lots of different fabrics in one quilt and the construction technique cleverly creates a bonus quilt out of the cutaways. Join us for a Taco Lunch to celebrate Cinco De Mayo.

June 3: Juli Johnson

Process, not Pattern

This textile artist will explain the focus on the journey from concept to creation, with imagination and inspiration leading the way to create. We will hear the stories of how some of her projects where dreamed, then developed and made. Come gain inspiration to push your boundaries of creativity.

July 1: Quilt Trivia Evening & Quilt Show Prep

Quilt Trivia – Make your team of 8! Prizes for quilting knowledge, team name, team costume (gear) and be ready to laugh. The remainder of the evening will be Quilt Show prep, its that time of year.

August 5: Sharon Wasteney

Hand Me Down Quilts

This trunk show is focused on her book and how we can share the stories of our quilts past and present for future generations of quilters.

August 6: Sharon Wasteney

A Leaf Collection Special Event Workshop

In this workshop you will learn 5 artful techniques with leaves as the motif resulting in a small project. These creative techniques can be applied to future projects that can be separated into stand alone quilting projects.

September 2: Quilt Show Wrap Up

Gems annual quilt show Ribbon Winners Show and Tell. Bring your ribbon winning quilts and join the fun of this show and tell, drag and brag or hey look what I did !!!

October 7: Janice Powers

Girls in White Dresses

Jan is locally know around Peoria for Stone Well Gardens and her water color artwork. She has written a book Girls in White Dresses, stories gathered and tales spun from the fabrics of our lives.

November 4: TBD

December 2: Christmas Dinner

Dinner, program, raffle quilt, prizes

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

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

Going . . . Going . . . Almost Gone!

You have until 6:00 PM on December 3 to get your last raffle tickets turned in for your chance to win 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.

If you cannot make it to the December Gem's meeting, please call or text Kathy Morgan, 309-397-5135 to arrange for your tickets to be included in the drawing.

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING TICKETS ONLY FROM 5:30 - 6 PM ON DECEMBER 3 PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The more tickets you buy, the better chances you have to win! Thank you and Good Luck!

QUILTS OF VALOR

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

So proud of you ladies that we presented 33 Quilts of Valor this year. It's a great accomplishment and I'm excited to start working on 2026.

We have 10 Veterans on our waiting list and I really need your help. Please consider taking a kit from the Christmas party and returning it in the spring. It's so impossible to honor these Vets without your help. I am so grateful for your support!

WORKSHOPS

Candy Rizzo, *candiang1@gmail.com* 309-635-4515
Lori LeVar

Hi everyone! Our first workshop for 2026 will be a Zoom one. It will be Saturday January 10 starting at 9am. We will be doing a LOVE paper piecing workshop. Details will be available by the January meeting, if not sooner! If you are interested in participating, please let me or Lori LeVar know.

The February workshop is the Quilts of Valor. This is on Saturday February 7, 2026 at St Paul Church from 9am – 3pm. This is a FREE workshop and lunch will be provided. Please let Candi or Kelly Harvey know if you can make it! Sign ups have already started! Let's have a great year!

50/50 COMMITTEE

Karen Rush, Betty Meyers, Linda Sprouse

The winners of the 50/50 drawing at the November meeting were:
Kathy Shaply won the cash prize and Linda Sprouse won the very delicious cookies. We would like to thank everyone who participated in our drawings throughout this past year.

NICU

Pam Knollenberg, *psknollenberg@gmail.com* *309-360-6243*
Sandy French, *szwergelfrench@gmail.com*

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **354**
2025 Goal: 300 (stretch goal: **400**)
 # Quilts ready to be donated: **55** (will be donated in early 2026)
 # XMAS Quilts donated: **106** WOW!!!!!

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

December guild meeting: I will have Kits available for you to pick up for the winter months. These are not "due" until next spring. Thank you to everyone who picked up kits and dropped off quilts in November!

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 (20 students), will make 1 NICU quilt and some potholders. As time permits, they will begin a 2nd quilt (NICU, St Jude, Center).

2nd Class: Elena Kiser is having a Sewing class. The 20 students (working in pairs of 2) will make a pair of PJ pants and decorate a T shirt. The rest of the time, the students will be working on NICU / St Jude, Center quilt tops.

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 assist. 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* *309-360-6243*

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.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Have you finished all your holiday gifts? I haven't started, does buying the fabric count? Gems currently has 169 members. I will begin taking membership renewals for the 2026 Gems Guild year at the December meeting. To ensure that our database is up to date I am asking that all members please fill out a membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Membership dues will be $30.00 for January 1, 2026- December 31, 2026.

Happy Birthday to our December birthday members!

Brittnee Hopkins	12/3
Mary Shryock	12/3
Jordan Miller	12/7
Gwen Chandler	12/30
Lisa Dietrich	12/30

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 I don't see you at the Gems Christmas Party, I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season with your family and friends.

Happy quilting,
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 October. 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 09/30/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 10/31/2025
Checking	8,677.50	1,687.50		(3,301.38)	128.82	7,192.44
Money Market	29,062.34					29,062.34
PayPal	128.82	20.00		(1.19)	(128.82)	18.81
Subtotal	24,393.23	1,707.50		(3,302.57)	-	36,273.59
CD Matures 4/8/2026	20,479.86					20,479.86
CD Matures 1/5/2026	15,345.88					15,345.88
Total	73,694.40	1,707.50		(3,302.57)	-	72,099.33

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

Gems of the Prairie Membership: 20____

___ **Yes or** ___ **No**: I approve of Gems using pictures of my quilting projects for publicity purposes.

___ **Yes or** ___ **No** : I have internet access to receive the Gems newsletter.

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_____New Member **DATE _____**

_____Renewing Member **DATE _____**

_____Change of Information **DATE _____**

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Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

_____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Birthday (MM/DD) _____

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Membership $30 **January – December** **Student ½ Price _____**

Cash _____ **Check _____** **PayPal _____**

July-December $20

Cash _____ **Check _____** **PayPal _____**

Quilt Show_____