Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

January 2026

https://gemsoftheprairie.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

It is hard to believe that 2026 is upon us! Our Guild has had a great 2025 and I hope to lead you to an even better 2026.

Our Guild has developed a wonderful reputation in the community. We get so many emails to our website asking to donate fabric to our charity projects. At the December, we received a very generous donation ($500) to our Quilts of Valor project form the East Peoria Knights of Columbus. Several of the members have received quilts from us. I hope to compile a list of total quiltss and pillow case donated by our guild to all the charities we support.

We had a wonderful Quilt Show. The quality of the quilts just get better every year. It was great to see some of our new members win a ribbon. Our auction was a great success. The proceeds allowed us to purchase five Pfaff Passport machines, which will be available for members to use at workshops. We are developing procedures for checking out the machines. More info will be coming shortly.

Remember, the January, February, and March meetings will be on Zoom.

Stay safe and get lots of quilting done during the upcoming winter months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Board and Committee Chairs if you have questions or concerns.

Sue Wozniak, President

.

MEMBERSHIP

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. As we start the new year Gems currently has 78 members that have renewed. If you have not renewed, please do so 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. To ensure that our database is up to date I am asking that all members please fill out a membership form. There should be one in this newsletter. Membership dues will be $30.00 for January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026.

Happy Birthday to our January birthday members!

Marene Hull	1/2	
Peg Gutgesell		1/9
Danila McAsey	1/10	
Nancy Powell	1/12	
Jane Thompson	1/14	
Tina Cowan	1/14	
Teresa Miller	1/16	
Janet Shanks		1/18
Barbara Fiedler	1/20	
Ann Conver	1/22	
Cathy Hewitt	1/23	
Cindy Traver	1/28	
Amy Lister	1/29	
Nikki Mitts	1/30	
Gleneta Reaugh	1/31	

Happy quilting,
Noemi Bowers
noemibo@aol.com or (915) 241-7011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

LuAnn Armstrong armstrong1530@gmail.com 309-690-8853
Lise Mundwiller, Pooh6673@aol.com 309-657-2489

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

QUILTS OF VALOR

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

So proud of you ladies that we presented 33 Quilts of Valor in 2025. 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

Candi Rizzo candiang1@gmail.com 309-635-4515
Lori Levar lorilevar@gmail.com 309-826-5009

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! Signups have already started! Let's have a great year!

50/50 COMMITTEE

Karen Rush kjrush16@gmail.com 309-696-6909
Linda Sprouse ls1943@prodigy.net 309-369-5319
Betty Meyers dadz71@mtco.com 309-383-2066

The winners of the 50/50 drawing at the November meeting were:

Kathy Shapley 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.

Quilt Show

Amy Lister listeramy@hotmail.com
Joyce Blank jblank914@msn.com

Please consider chairing a committee for our 2026 show. We will be calling you after the 1st of the year to join in the fun. Beat us to the punch and contact either of us with the good news that you want to be a member of our show team!

Thanks, and let's have a great show!!

NICU

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

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: **354**
2026 Goal: 300 (stretch goal: **400**)
 # Quilts ready to be donated: **44** (will be donated in early 2026)
 # Quilts donated to Pediatric ICU: **18**

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

THANK YOU to everyone who picked up a quilt kit in November and December. If you get those done and want to get them out of your house, or you did not get any quilt kits, or want more … let me know. I am happy to meet you to pick up / drop off. I plan to be at the February QoV workshop if you want to meet there.

Peoria 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 2025. Each team of 2 (20 students), will make 1 NICU quilt and some pot holders. 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.

I am inviting both Teachers to the January ZOOM guild meeting, to give an update on their class.

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.

Newsletter Editor

Kathy L. Shapley *klshapley@gmail.com* *210-379-9162*

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

Newsletter Editor

Kathy L. Shapley *klshapley@gmail.com* *210-379-9162*

🛋️ *Stitches & Snacks: A Quilter's Treat Corner* 🍪

Did you know: The largest quilt in the world is the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which weighs over 54 tons and contains more than 48,000 panels commemorating lives lost to AIDS.

Parmesan Crusted Chicken

6-8 boneless skinless chicken breasts
½ cup of melted butter
1 cup shredded parmesan cheese
1 cup Pepperidge Farm Corn Bread Stuffing

Salt and pepper the chicken breasts. Mix cheese and stuffing together. Dip chicken in melted butter then roll in the mixture of cheese and stuffing. Place in a baking dish. Pour leftover cheese/stuffing mix and butter over the top of the chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for 45min-1hour.

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.

==========

_____New Member **DATE _____**

_____Renewing Member **DATE _____**

_____Change of Information **DATE _____**

==========

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip Code_____

_____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address_____

Birthday (MM/DD) _____

==========

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

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

July-December $20

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

Quilt Show_____