Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

MARCH 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

March Birthdays!

Lisa McCabe 3/2

Laura Tomblin 3/2

Ann Unes 3/12

Vicki Lee 3/29

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak

It is hard to believe we are half-way through February already, but it is great to have some warmer temperatures. Our February speaker enticed us to use some of those scraps we have been hording. I know I am guilty and now motivated to make another attempt to pare them down maybe with a charity project.

We held a very successful QOV workshop on February 7. Several beautiful quilt tops were completed. Thank you to Kelly Harvey, Shawna Knapp, Candy Rizzo and all the volunteers who came ready to work. The QOV project is one of our most significant efforts. March 21, we have another workshop to work on NICU, St. Jude and Center for Prevention of Abuse quilts. We will be well on our way to having many quilts to donate this summer. Happy Quilting Day on March 21.

Quilt Show season is commencing. Check our Facebook page, where I will post all the notices we receive from other guilds and organizations regarding upcoming shows. Speaking of Quilt Shows, our Quilt Show Committee is getting underway and have many exciting ideas. If you have not gotten involved in the Quilt Show in the past, this is a great time to start. All are welcome to find a place they can assist.

Join in the “Sew-ciety” fun March 4 & 21st!

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

The **March 4, 2026** Gems meeting will be hosted on ZOOM. A link will be sent to all members a few days before the meeting. The meeting begins at 6:30.

March 4: Pat Speth (Zoom) 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.

Little Gems & The Center for Prevention of Abuse

Karen Goloff kgoloff@yahoo.com
Donna Leber donnaleber3@gmail.com 309-692-0228

“We will be having a workshop on Saturday March 21 from 9 to 3 at the church for Little GEMS (St. Jude and The Center for Prevention of Abuse).

Bring your sewing machine if you would like to piece. If not, there will be opportunities to play with fabric to match backings to tops, cut blocks for piecing kits and possibly cut batting for quilting kits. We hope ‘to do it all’ for St. Jude.

There will also be opportunities for making pillowcases and quilts for The Center for Prevention of Abuse.

Lunch will be provided. Come for the whole time or just an hour or two. Hope to see you there.
Thank you, Karen and Donna”

Workshops

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

Hi everyone! The first in person workshop was a great success! We had over 30 participants come and work on Quilts of Valor projects. Lots of quilts were put together. Check out the Gems Members Only Facebook page for the pictures.

Saturday March 21st - Little Gems service workshop. This FREE workshop is 9am-3pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church where our guild meetings are held. Lunch will be provided. Please bring yourself and workshop tools. If you can't or don't want to sew, there will be plenty of other duties to work on. Duties may include being a cutting or ironing fairy. Sign ups can be sent to Candi Rizzo. Let's try and get lots of members to join in on the fun!

Saturday April 18th – All the Things Tote. Pam Knollenberg will be teaching us how to make this tote bag. Class fee is $10. There will possibly be an additional supply fee. Pam is looking into getting the pattern at a discounted rate if we buy multiple. This class will require some pre-work (like quilting or straight stitching). Members can sign up now. There is no May monthly workshop as that is a special speaker workshop month.

Saturday June 20th – we are still looking for your ideas. What would you like taught?

Saturday July 18th – Painting a Barn Quilt. There will be 3 new designs for this year's workshop. But if you liked one of last year's, that is available also. Class fee is $10. There will be a supply list also given at the July meeting.

There will be no August workshop due to our wonderful quilt show!

Let's have a great year!

Equipment and Store

Georgia Schmidt gquilten@gmail.com 309-453-6630
Shawna Knapp sewwhat2020@yahoo.com 309-361-0350

The Sewing Machines are available for the March 21 workshop. They all want to be part of this fun charity sewing event, sew please text or call Georgia Schmidt - 309 453 6630 to make your reservation.

Stitches that reach out...

NICU

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

2026 Goal: 300 (stretch goal: 400)
Quilts donated: 80 (24 from Peoria Notre Dame students)
Quilts ready to be donated: 17
2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 354

NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and 40x40.

March 21 Service workshop – We (Sandy and I) will be there with plenty of kits! If you don't want to sew and feel like cutting, I will have fabric and patterns to make NICU kits. And, if you have completed quilts that you want to get out of your house, feel free to bring them. Also, I mentioned this service workshop to the OSF team, and there is interest in the NICU team in joining us at the workshop. So, we may have extra hands to help that day!

PICU (Pediatric ICU)

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

2026 Goal: ??
Quilts donated: 18

PICU Quilt Sizes: 50x50

As Sue Wozniak mentioned at the February guild meeting, Gems has agreed to support the PICU unit at OSF. The kids in this wing are older than the newborn babies in the NICU. The quilts donated to PICU will be given to the patients for them to keep and take home. The original request was for 15-20 quilts each month. I don't know if that this is feasible, and that's why I have ?? for the 2026 goal. At the March 21 service workshop, we will have PICU kits available. Or, if you want to cut fabric, that would be helpful also!

Quilt Show

Joyce Blank Jblank914@msn.com
Amy Lister listeramy@hotmail.com

Good news on the show committee front. All committees have at least one person in place! Anyone who would like to join a committee is more than welcome. Learn the ropes this year and teach someone new next year. This plan lends itself for a smooth transition from year to year. Come join the fun! Amy and I are already working on our thank you gifts for committee personnel. Make us go back and make more!!

Don’t Miss a Stitch

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2026

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

FUTURE PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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

Fresh Off the Frame

GEMS GEAR

Laurie Schierer 309-357-9601

It's Gems Gear time!!!! You will be receiving an email from the webmaster with the Teamworks link to order your Gems Gear around **February 6th**. Once you receive the email with the link to the Teamworks store, you will have **until March 6th to order** your gear. All sales are final. If you have any questions about sizes, please feel free to check with your Gem friends with gear, or call Teamworks. The polos tend to run a little small, and everything pretty true to size. Delivery will take place at the April meeting. If you cannot make the April meeting and you have no one to pick up your order, please choose to have it shipped to you when you place your order. If something comes up at the last minute, PLEASE call Laurie Schierer and make arrangements for pickup.

Looking forward to seeing you lovely ladies in April!!!

MEMBERSHIP

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

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2026—we now have 127 members! An email was sent to those who had not renewed as of January 30 th , and I appreciate everyone who has responded so far. If you notice a friend has not renewed, would you please consider reaching out to them? Sometimes emails are overlooked when life gets busy.
Gems membership is $30.00. If you are planning to renew, you may pay 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.

Treasurer's Report:

Lisa McCabe mbacpa3@gmail.com 309-840-0937

First, I would like to thank the wonderful members who participated in the audit committee for me and took the time to review the 2025 financial records for the Gems of the Prairie Quilters. That process is now complete and below is the report on the income and expenses for December 2025 as well as an accounting for the full year. If you have any questions, you can always contact me,

December, 2025

	Balance 11/30/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 12/31/2025
Checking	971.59	1,690.00		(602.25)	85.38	2,144.72
Money Market	29,062.34		0.73			29,063.07
PayPal	85.38	330.00		(16.94)	(85.38)	313.06
Subtotal	30,119.31	2,020.00	0.73	(619.19)	-	31,520.85
CD Matures 4/8/2026	20,479.86					20,479.86
CD Matures 1/5/2026	15,345.88					15,345.88
Total	65,945.05	2,020.00	0.73	(619.19)	-	67,346.59

Income	**2025 Total**
eBay Sales Income	722
Fifty-Fifty Income	428
Membership Income	4,270
Raffle Quilt Income	2,702
Total for Committee Income	**$8,122**
Donations	858
Interest Income	1,613
Total for Misc Income	**$2,471**
Program & Special Event Income	
Auction Income	6,394
Christmas Party Income	1,770
Special Program/Workshop Income	1,234
Total for Program & Special Event Income	**$9,397**
Quilt Show Income	
Quilt Show - Admissions Income	5,893
Quilt Show - Boutique Income	4,502
Quilt Show - Other Income	682
Quilt Show - Vendors Income	2,440
Total for Quilt Show Income	**$13,517**
Workshop Income	
Monthly Workshop Income	500

Administrative Expenses	**2025 Total**
Credit Card/PayPal Fees	193
Donations - Other	100
Equipment Exp - Purchase/Repair	5,966
Ins Expense - liability	1,194
Meeting Expense	1,338
PO Box Expense	182
Postage & Office Supplies Exp	244
State Form 990 Exp	31
Storage Rental QS Expense	1,932
Web Site Expense	247
Total for Administrative Expenses	**$11,427**
Bank Charges & Fees	20
Committee Expenses	
Challenge Quilt Expenses	100
Membership Expenses	0.32
Raffle Quilt Expenses	614
Total for Committee Expenses	**$714**
Program/Special Events	
Auction Expenses	772
Christmas Party Expense	1,936
Monthly Programs Expense	2,432

November to Remember Income	630	Special Program/workshops Exp	2,150
Total for Workshop Income	**$1,130**	Travel Reimbursement	1120
Total for Income	**$34,637**	**Total for Program/Special Events**	**$8,411**
		Quilt Show Expenses	
		Boutique Expense	214
		Facility Rental Expense	2,250
		Other QS expenses	583
		Pole Rental Expense	1,828
		Printing Expense	89
		Publicity Expense	1,102
		QS - Admission Expense	15
		Ribbons Expense	218
		Vendor Expense	99
		Volunteer Expense	506
		Total for Quilt Show Expenses	**$7,086**
		Service Projects	
		NICU Expense	1,085
		QOV Expense	751
		Service Project Supply Store	450
		St Jude Expense	600
		Total for Service Projects	**$2,886**
		Workshop Monthly Expenses	
		November to Remember Expenses	385
		Workshop Expenses	1,400
		Total for Workshop Monthly Expenses	**$1,786**
		Total for Expenses	**$32,330**
		Net Income	**$2,307**

Here below is our first report for 2026 of our income and expenses. If you have any questions, you can always contact me, and I will be happy to help walk you through the figures.

January, 2026	Balance 12/31/2025	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 1/31/2026
Checking	2,144.72	345.00		(4,786.57)	6,313.06	4,016.21
Money Market	29,063.07				(6,000)	23,063.07
PayPal	313.06	780.00		(39.40)	(313.06)	740.60
Subtotal	31,520.85	1,125		(4,825.97)	0	27,819.88
CD Matures 4/8/2026	20,479.86					20,479.86
CD Matures 8/5/2026	15,345.88		369.88			15,715.76
Total	67,346.59	1,125	369.88	(4,825.97)		64,015.50

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_____