Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

APRIL 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

April Birthdays!

Amber Lowery 4/9
Jennifer Shambaugh 4/10
Phyllis Heskett 4/13
Lynda Roberts 4/14
Camilla Roberts 4/18
Kathy Shapley 4/24
Donna Phillips 4/30

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak

March is still roaring in but hopefully by the time of our April meeting, it will have left like a lamb.March 21 is Natioinal Quilting Day and we will have completed lots of work on our charity quilts. A big thank you to the committee chairs who make this event possible and to all the Gems who volunteer their time and talent to give back to our community. If you are not aware, we make a big impact on many who are less fortunate or who are suffering. This is one of the things I love about our Guild.

As many of you know, Pastor Lisa is leaving our community. She will be living in Iowa but will remain a member and will return for the Quilt Show in August. Pastor has served faithfuly as a Guild rep for a little over a year. Due to her move, she has resigned her role as Guild Rep.We must elect a replacement at the April meeting. Monica Franciscovich has been nominated to fill out the rest of Pastor Lisa's term.Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the April meeting.

I want let you know that I will be out of the country for the April meeting. Joyce Blank, our President Elect will chair the meeting.We are leaving for Guatemala on March 30. This trip was planned over two years ago, before I knew I would be serving as your President. I know you all will support Joyce. Don't let her be too wild!!

See you all in May.

Join in the “Sew-ciety” fun April 1st!

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.

Little Gems & The Center for Prevention of Abuse

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

Just a quick reminder to keep an eye open for any pillowcase kits you have and to bring them with you to the April meeting. Since I am new at this, it would help me get a good feel for where we are with kits. If you can get the kit done by the meeting, GREAT, but if you are not able to complete it, do not worry, bring the kit back as is. I will appreciate it either way. Instructions for the pillowcases are on the GEMS website, members only page. Huge Thank you!

Equipment and Store
Georgia Schmidt gquilten@gmail.com 309-453-6630
Shawna Knapp sewwhat2020@yahoo.com

The All Things Tote Bag Workshop on April 18th has 3 machines that need a sewer. Please text or call Shawna Knapp or Georgia Schmidt to reserve.
Happy Spring Sewing! Georgia & Shawna

Workshops

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

On Saturday March 21 st we had the Little Gems service workshop. This FREE workshop was held from 9am-3pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church where our guild meetings are held. Several members attended and we had so much fun!

Saturday April 18 th 9am-3pm @ St Paul Lutheran Church – All the Things Tote. Pam Knollenberg will be teaching us how to make this tote bag. Class fee is $10. The pattern All Things Tote from Knot and Thread is required. Kaitlyn has generously given a 25% discount on anything from the website https://knotandthread.com. Code: GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE. This is only good until April 4th, so hurry up and get your pattern (which can be a PDF or physical)! This class will require some pre-work (like quilting or straight stitching).

Go to the Gems website and then click on Member Resources: Healing Hands / Workshop to get the Pre-Work for this workshop. It mostly involves quilting the bag part, 2 end panels and 2 pockets.

Members can sign up now by email, text, FACEBOOK created event, or in person at the April meeting. Class fee can be paid at the April meeting also. Lunch will be on your own.

There is no May monthly workshop as that is a special speaker workshop month.

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

Saturday July 18 th – Painting a Barn Quilt 9am-3pm @ St Paul Lutheran Church. There will be 4 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!

Saturday September 19 th – Jelly Roll Time
Saturday October 17 th – Quilted Witch's Hat (Pattern by Sew A Story)

I have been making Facebook invites for some of the workshops already. Please be on the lookout for future ones!

Let's have a great year!

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 – Thank you to everyone that came on Saturday!! It was fun hanging out with you and seeing what you worked on. Also, thank you for those that cut kits.

NICU kits will be available at the April (in person) guild meeting.

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.

March 21 workshop - Thank you to everyone that took a PICU quilt !!

PICU kits will be available at the April (in person) guild meeting.

Quilt Show

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

We are looking forward to another great show this year. Publicly is in the works and vendor letters are going out. If you have suggestions for new vendors, please let Jackie O'Laughlin know. Amy and Joyce will be at a table at the April meeting for all inquires and comments. A full oral report will be given at the April meeting. Take advantage of gloomy days and work on your entries!

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Welcome to Spring! I hope everyone is enjoying the early spring season. While my garden has experienced some confusion due to a brief return of winter weather, I am optimistic for warmer days ahead. We currently have 128 members in our guild, and I kindly ask that each member review their information on the membership roster, which can be found in the members-only section of our website. If you notice any discrepancies, please reach out to me so that updates can be made. I look forward to seeing everyone in person at the April guild meeting.

Membership Renewal Details

Gems membership is $30.00. You have several convenient options to join or renew: in person, via PayPal on the Gems website https://gemsoftheprairie.com or by sending a check to Gems of the Prairie Quilters at PO Box 9543, Peoria, IL 61612-9543.

If you have any questions or simply wish to chat, please feel free to contact me.

Happy Quilting,

Noemi Bowers

Gems of the Prairie Membership: 2026

____**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_____

Gems of the Prairie Quilters
PO Box 9543
Peoria, IL 61612-9543