Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

MAY 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

MAY BIRTHDAYS

JACKIE O'LAUGHLIN	5/22
CAROL WALKER	5/27

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak

Now that Spring is here and we are meeting face to face again, we have many fun activities upcoming. By the time you read the newsletter, Pam Knollenberg will have taught her awesome tote bag. We hope to see everyone's completed bag at the May meeting.

Prior to the May meeting, there will be a trunk sale of items we have cleared out of the storage shed. Any items left after the trunk sale, will be donated to the Helping ands Resale Shop in Peoria.

Our May program by Linda Halpin should be great. She will be discussing border treatments. May 7, is our special event workshop, also by Linda Halpin. She will be teaching Mexican Stars, a really dynamic pattern. There are still lots of openings, so sign up at the meeting or by PayPal. A link will be placed on the website.

I want to thank Joyce Blank for chairing our April meeting. A huge thanks to Georgia Schmidt and Lise Mundweiller and friends for cleaning out and organizing the storage unit. I would also like to welcome Monica Franciscovich to the Board, as our new Guild Rep. Many of us will be heading to Paducah to take in all the quilty eye candy and just maybe adding a bit of fabric to our stashes. I hope to catch up with many of you while there. I am always so inspired by the quilts in the show and the National Quilt Museum exhibits.

Join in the “Sew-ciety” fun May 6th & 7th!

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. Our May program "Borders on Parade" by Linda Halprin will explore the wide range of possibilities for border treatments on your quilts. Linda will also have a trunk show and items to sell. Linda is not set up for charge cards but will accept cash and checks.

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. We still have openings for the workshop on May 7th- "Mexican Cross ". Lunch will be provided, Taco Bar with all the trimmings. Water will be provided.

Please contact Lisé or Louann if you would like to attend!

Spring Fling... a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Georgia Schmidt gquilten@gmail.com 309-453-6630

SPRING FLING - May 6th from 5p - 6p ! For ONE hour only we will have patterns, books, fabric, ribbon, baskets and other Quilty items for you. All for FREE. This is your chance to come find a treasure, take it and brag about it ! Come early to the Church parking lot and find something that is just what you need and want. The fling will stop at 6p, in order for us to pick up and be ready to attend the meeting. In case of bad weather, Spring Fling will be held indoors!

2026 Quilt Show

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

Plans are moving forward for our next quilt show. We will announce some of the changes that are planned at the May meeting.

Publicity

- ad has been submitted for the Shop Hop magazine
- New signs are planned to heighten the show

Gift Shoppe

- all former Boutique items have been sorted at the shed. All items handmade have been kept for the Gift Shoppe, some will be reduced in price to increase turnover in the inventory.
- Spring Fling with the other items will take place BEFORE the May meeting from 5 - 6 in the St Paul parking lot. Come and select your treasures. Items not selected will be donated to Peoria charities.

Registration

- will begin on June 15, 2026 and continue through July 15, 2026. More on this at the meeting.

Amy, Joyce and Georgia will be at a table at the meetings to answer questions and collect Gift Shoppe items.

Bed Turning

Our theme this year is "**I love this quilt because....**"
Please take time to think about a quilt that you love. It may be one you made, one you received, one you gave to someone else. Enter it in the Bed Turning at this year's quilt show to share this quilt and its story.

Gwen Lombard and Rita Serrano
Co-Chairs

50 50 Committee

Karen Rush, Linda Sprouse, Betty Meyers

Congratulation to our winners at the April meeting.

Cupcakes winner was Shawna Knapp
Fabric and Money was Rita Serrano

Workshops

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

On Saturday April 18th, Pam Knollenberg taught us how to make the All Things Tote! We had lots of fun making them. Everyone's choice of fabrics were amazing!

There is **no May** monthly workshop as that is a special speaker workshop month. Please sign up with Programs.

Saturday June 20th – Spinwheel by Jamie Getz 9am – 12pm @ St Paul Lutheran Church. Class is $20. Pattern is $12 cash. Come learn a different Half Rectangle Triangle method by using a ruler you probably already have! Jamie is a quilt pattern maker local to the area. Her HRT method is used in all her patterns. She will be having a Show-n-Tell and have her other patterns available for purchase at the workshop. Sign ups will be at the May meeting.



Saturday July 18th – 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 fee/list also given at the July meeting.
There will be no August workshop due to our wonderful quilt show!
Saturday September 19th – Jelly Roll Time

Saturday October 17th – 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!

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

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.
May 23:	9-3 at Wheels O Time Museum - 1710 W Woodside Dr, Dunlap, IL 61525 Quilt of Valor Workshop Kelly Harvey
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

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

Hello May! I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful spring blooms and warmer weather. With Mother's Day, graduations, and the end of the school year coming up, I hope everyone is ready for this busy month. We currently have 129 members in our guild, and I would like to welcome our newest member, Bev Fordham. 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 May 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.

Little Gems & The Center for Prevention of Abuse

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

"Donna and Karen will be having a work day at Wheels of Time Museum in Dunlap on June 27 for Little GEMS. Karen will have a signup sheet at the Little GEMS table at the May and June meetings. We can probably only have 12 or 14 people, but if you can only come in the morning, someone else could come in the afternoon or vise versa. We plan to mostly do fabric matching and some cutting for making kits. No sewing machines needed. If one or two people want to bring their machine and sew that would be fine as well. Time is from 10:00 to 5:00. You might want to arrive at 9:45 as there is also a car show there that day and we will be parking in the back but space may be limited. Car pooling is encouraged."

Equipment/Store

Georgia Schmidt 309 453 6630
Shawna Knapp. 309 361 0350

The Sewing Machines are excited for the 1st Special Event of the year! **May 7th will be the Mexican Star Workshop.** One machine is already reserved Sew get busy and contact Georgia or Shawna for 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: 58
 # Christmas Quilts ready to be donated: 3

2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 354
NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and 40x40.

Winter Sewing … OMG … you have blown me away!! 44 quilts were turned in during the March workshop and April guild meeting!! NICU kits will be available at the May guild meeting.

Save the Dates: **July 25 and October 24**. These are Saturdays and there will be a NICU / PICU workshop. Location: Wheels of Time museum in north Peoria. More details will be included in the next Newsletter and at the May guild meeting.

PICU (Pediatric ICU)

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

2026 Goal:??
 # Quilts donated: **18**
 # Quilts ready to be donated: **4**
PICU Quilt Sizes: **50x50**

Thank you to everyone who are working on PICU quilts. As I mentioned before, these quilts are given to kids in the PICU unit and then taken home with them. We can use any kind of batting, and flannel is OK on 1 side of the quilt. PICU kits will be available at the May guild meeting. See the NICU section for the upcoming July and October workshops at the Wheels of Time museum.

Treasurer's Report

Below is our first quarterly report for 2026 on 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 3/31/2026
Checking	2,144.72	585.00		(7,488.57)	7,082.12	2,323.27
Money Market	29,063.07		0.59		(6,000.00)	23,063.66
PayPal	313.06	810.00		(40.94)	(1.082.12)	-
Subtotal	31,520.85	1,395.00	0.59	(7,529.51)	-	25,386.93
CD Matured 4/8/2026	20,479.86				(20,479.86)	-
CD Matures 9/13/2026			6.09		20,485.95	20,485.95
CD Matures 1/5/2026	15,345.88				(15,345.88)	-
CD Matures 8/5/2026			369.88		15,345.88	15,715.76
Total	67,346.59	1,395.00	376.56	(7,529.51)	-	61,588.64

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_____

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