Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

JUNE 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

MELISSA SHOLL	6/3	KATHY MORGAN	6/18
SHAWNA KNAPP	6/6	LINDA SPROUSE	6/24
GEORJEAN LIPOVSKY	6/7	LORI LEVAR	6/27
LAURA OTTEN	6/7	LEE ANN WRHEL	6/27

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak

Gems of the Prairie has a lot going on. Our May program with Linda Halpin was so inspiring. Many ideas for border treatments were demonstrated in her trunk show. The Mexican Cross workshop was also great. Linda had lots of tips for us. I always wonder how quilt designers come up with their techniques to make piecing a complex block easy.

The upcoming June workshop is going to be another great project. I hope you will take advantage of some of the workshops, because our costs cannot be beat. The national shows charge much more for classes. This is one of the benefits of Gems membership.

We unveiled our raffle quilt at the May meeting. It is fantastic. Thank you again to Sue Tolly for piecing this gorgeous quilt, Sheri Zaler for working her magic with custom quilting, and Janet Shanks for binding the quilt. The Raffle Ticket committee plans to have raffle tickets available at the June meeting. Also, a huge thanks to all who participated in the free trunk cleanout for our storage area.

It is time to think about nominations for Gem of the Year. Consider Gems members who have made a significant contribution to the Gems and have a body of work available to exhibit at the Show. For your reference, a list of former Gems of the Year is available on the Members Only tab on the website. We need those nominations in writing no later than June 15th.Please email your nominations to me. The announcement of the 2026 Gem of the Year will be made at the July meeting.

Last is a reminder that there are several opportunities coming up to help with some of our Charity projects. A workshop to support Little Gems quilts and Center for Prevention of Abuse will be held June 27th at Wheels of Time. While all of these activities are going on, I hope you are finding time to work on your challenge quilts and quilt entries for the show. I suddenly realized that time is moving so quickly and I, for one, need to get crackin' on my sewing.

See you all at the June meeting.

Join in the "Sew-ciety" fun June 3rd, 20th & 27th

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.

Workshop

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



June 20th – Spinwheel by Jamie Getz 9am – 12pm @ St Paul Lutheran Church with a sew-in to finish your quilt 12-3pm. 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 pat-tern 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 June meeting. There are still plenty of spots available.

Work Day

June 27th "Donna and Karen will be having a work day at Wheels of Time Museum in Dunlap for Little GEMS. Karen will have a signup sheet at the Little GEMS table at the June meetings. Space is limited to 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 spinning out of control to join you at the June 20th Spinwheel workshop. Text or call Georgia or Shawna to reserve your favorite machine.

One Lucky Ticket, One Beautiful Quilt

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

DONNA PHILLIPS DPHIL430@AOL.COM 309-453-2440
SANDY FANDEL SANFAN50@GMAIL.COM 309-657-0751

The Gems of the Prairie 2026 Raffle Quilt called “Arctic Star” was revealed at our May meeting. The pattern is from Quiltworx and is approximately 68” by 68”. It was paper pieced by Sue Tolly, quilted by Sheri Zalar and bound by Janet Shanks.The quilt was constructed with multiple blue and green batiks and backed with a deep blue batik. The quilt features an intricate star design set into a flying geese border. Beautiful design, construction and quilting, ladies! Thank you for a beautiful quilt!

Raffle tickets will be available in an envelope with your name on it for you to buy or sell at the June meeting. We ask each Gem member to be responsible for selling/buying at least two (2) raffle ticket booklets.

The raffle quilt will be displayed and raffle tickets will be available at local quilt shops during the following months:

- June -Sewing Studio, Hudson, IL THIS WILL BE DISPLAY ONLY
- July & August-Prairie Points, Peoria, IL
- August 22 & 23- Gems Quilt Show, Life Together Center, Peoria, IL
- September-Piece & Applique Quilt Shop, Bloomington, IL
- October-Sewing Center by Ron, Galesburg, IL
- November-The Quilt Corner, Morton, IL

Thank you for your continued support of the Gems raffle quilt and good luck in the December drawing!

50 50 Committee

Karen Rush, Linda Sprouse, Betty Meyers

Congratulations to our winners at the May meeting.
The lovely plant was won by Christine Gottman.

The 50 50 money was won by Lee Ann Wrhel

2026 Quilt Show

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

Registration will open on June 15, 2026 and close on July 15, 2026. There were some new changes and clarifications announced at the April meeting. Here they are:

Class changes:

- Removal of the Child's quilt category. This is due to logistics in hanging. If you have a child's quilt, it should be registered in the appropriate Small, Medium or Large category.
- New category for Panel – where the panel is the focus of the quilt. A single panel or multiple panels may be used.

Class clarifications:

- If your project is in a frame of any kind, it needs to be entered in Home Deco. This includes an exterior frame or mounted on a frame.
- Home Deco is for items that do not fit in another category. Wall hangings should be entered in the appropriate size category previously listed. Examples for Home Deco include (but are not limited to) Swags, Door decorations, Table Runners (does not include your challenge project), Toys, Clothing, useful items (such as pot holders, Bowls, etc.) Purses, Totes and any type of bag.If you are unsure of where to enter your project, contact Amy or Joyce. We will be happy to guide you to the correct spot.
- If the size of your quilt changes after it has been registered, PLEASE notify the registrar. It is important for the setup/tear down committee to know the actual size for hanging. Even if
- registration has closed, let the registrar know of the updated dimensions.
- When measuring your quilt, round fractions of an inch to the nearest inch – under ½", round down. ½" or more, round UP to the next inch. DO NOT ENTER AS A FRACTION OR DECIMAL OF AN INCH. It really messes with the program.

NOTE:Nearly 20 quilts were registered incorrectly last show. Please take care when registering your projects this year. It will save the set up committee hours of work.
donations or ask questions.

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

Quilt Show (continued

Ribbons – a second ribbon will only be presented to the categories stipulated for “duet”. If you win a ribbon in a different category (such as Modern, for example) and you had it quilted by another person, there will not be a second ribbon presented. You can make a ribbon of your own for your quilter or do something else in exchange if you desire.

Publicity – 'Postcards' are replacing the old 'sticks'. They are available from the Publicity committee (Ann Conver and Lou Ann Armstrong). New signage is being purchased to increase our visibility during the show.

Vendors – We have filled all our vendor spots. There is a waiting list.

Flowers – Fewer flowers will be purchased to outline the edge of the stage. These flowers will be given away instead of sold.

Timelines – Committee members, please keep track of what tasks you have done in a timeline.
This will make it easier for members on future committees.

Receipts – Please send a copy of receipts to Amy or Joyce so that we can keep an eye on the budget.

Bed Turning – The theme is “I love this quilt because . . .”. Send stories directly to Bed Turning committee (Rita Serrano and Gwen Lombard).

There will be a “Quilt Show” table at each of the next three meetings. Drop off Gift Shoppe

The Quilt Show Gift Shoppe

We are accepting homemade items for this year"s event. We are looking for items that are made by you or your family. Show us your talent - weaving, painting, card making, macrame, knitting, crocheting, jewelry, sewing, woodworking and other skills. And as always quilted items are in demand. A few ideas are witch’s hat, jackets, bags, totes, bibs, mug rugs and a long list of items. Quilts and quilt tops are welcomed. Please feel free to come and get fabric from the closet for your projects. We have an abundance that needs to be sewn. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items are always something that everyone, needs just one more of. Think about how you would like to buy something to give as a gift or what you would like to receive.

The Gift Shoppe committee thanks you!
Lise Mundwiller & Georgia Schmidt

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.

Workshops

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

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2026

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day with family and friends. Has everyone finished sewing Father's Day gifts? I keep meaning to finish the quilt I started for my husband, but it is still in the WIP pile.

We currently have 131 members. I would also like to welcome Sadie Fiedler and Kathy Svoboda to the guild. 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 June 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.

Fresh Off the Frame

Little Gems & The Center for Prevention of Abuse

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

We have been busy making 3 items the Center has requested. You are super stars at making pillow cases. Keep them coming. They are things of beauty that help people in a rough place feel some comfort. Instructions on the member's only website and hard copies at the Little Gems table at meetings.

They have also requested twin quilts to measure 65 by 80 or larger. And lastly requested lap quilts to measure 36 X 45. These are given to seniors and mostly used for those in wheelchairs so size is important. They are used by ombudsman who are seeing people in nursing homes and for people in protective custody who are being offered help in the community. Thank you so much for all of the hard work for the Center.

PICU (Pediatric ICU)

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

2026 Goal:100
 # Quilts donated: **16**
 # Quilts ready to be donated: 0
PICU Quilt Sizes: **50x50**

Thank you to everyone who are working on PICU quilts. May 21 was my 1st official day for dropping off PICU quilts (16). I initially dropped off 18, the end of Dec 2025, pulling from the smaller NICU 40x40 size. Since we just started making quilts for PICU this year, this donation was special because of your quick response.

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 June guild meeting. See the NICU section for the upcoming July and October workshops at the Wheels of Time museum. Also, there is a Facebook event for the July workshop. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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: 155 (24 from Peoria Notre Dame students)
 # Quilts ready to be donated: 16
 # Christmas Quilts ready to be donated: 3

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

Thank you so much for the Winter Sewing quilts that have been returned! Because of that, I was able to drop off 75 NICU quilts on May 21. Every time I contact NICU to do a drop off, their 1st words are … "Thank you so much. Please share with the other members how much we appreciate this." NICU kits will be available at the June 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. I added a Facebook event. Please let me know if you plan to attend. I know the space is more limited than what we have at the church. Lunch will be provided: Pulled BBQ chicken, coleslaw, chips. Please bring your own drink. And, if you'd like to borrow one of the guild's sewing machines, please reserve with Georgia and Shawna … and then let me know and I will pick up from the church.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you all for your patience in requesting checks while I have missed the first couple of in-person meetings. I appologize that I have been unavailable. If you need anything before the meeting, please do feel free to reach out to my by phone or email.

Lisa McCabe
309-840-0937

April, 2026

	Balance 3/31/2026	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 4/30/2026
Checking	2,323.27			(1,593.58)	4,000.00	4,729.69
Money Market	23,063.66				(4,000.00)	19,063.66
PayPal	-					-
Subtotal	25,386.93	-	-	(1,593.58)	-	23,793.35
CD Matures 9/13/2026	20,485.95					20,485.95
CD Matures 8/5/2026	15,715.76					15,715.76
Total	36,201.71	-	-	(1,593.58)	-	59,995.06

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