Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

JULY 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

JULY BIRTHDAYS

ANN KENNEY LYNCH 7/4
BARB CROWSON 7/17
BRIANNA SIMS 7/5
JOAN KROGMAN 7/22
KAREN GOLOFF 7/8
CANDICE RIZZO 7/24
LUANN CLAUDIN 7/9
CAROL FRIETSCH 7/30
PERRY FRENCH 7/9

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak
July 2026 President's Report

Happy 250 th Birthday USA. As quilters, we celebrate along with our country. The history of American Quilting is fully aligned with American History. From the birth of our country across the years, quilters have been piecing together their own histories. Quilts commemorated travel west, the Civil War, the Victorian era, World War I, women's suffrage, temperance, the Great Depression, World War II onward to our 100 th birthday in 1976.

The resurgence of quilting in American began around the bicentennial. Think of the innovations we have thankfully been able to incorporate into our hobby. The rotary cutter and acrylic rulers and now templates for every shape imaginable. Then came computerized sewing machines and embroidery machines along with longarm quilting machines. We could get more quilts made with much less effort. We now have computer driven longarm machines electronic cutting machines, and quilt design software. Our grandmothers would certainly be amazed by what they would see in our sewing rooms.

While it is hard to imagine what will come next in the quilting world, we can still reflect on the legacy quilters of the past have given us. Some of us still enjoy "slow stitching", hand embroidery, hand stitching bindings and English paper piecing.
The Gems is one way to stay connected with your "people" just as our grandmothers did around the quilting frame. Be sure to take advantage of all your membership offers.

Happy Quilting! Happy Birthday!
Sue

Join in the "Sew-ciety" fun July 1st, 18th & 25th

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

July 1: Meeting 6:30 – Quilt Trivia Evening and Quilt Show Prep

Workshop

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

We had lots of fun with Jamie Getz teaching us her method of Half Square Rectangles! I can't wait to see everyone's finished quilts!

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.

N I C U / P I C U

July 25th " 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, cole slaw, chips. Please bring your own drink. And, if you'd like to borrow one of the guild's sewing machines, please reserve with Georgia or Shawna … and then let me know and I will pick up from the church.

Equipment/Store

Georgia Schmidt 309 453 6630
Shawna Knapp. 309 361 0350

The Sewing Machines are going to enjoy a quiet July. Their next event in the Special Event Workshop on Aug 6th. To make your reservation contact Georgia Schmidt.

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

Just in case you missed the announcement of this year's raffle quilt, it is called "Arctic Star", made by our Gems member Sue Tolly, quilted by Sheri Zalar, and bound by Janet Shanks. The quilt is foundation paper pieced, approximately 68" by 68" and is a pattern from Quiltworx. It is constructed using multiple blue and green batiks and is an intricate star design, set into a flying geese border. The backing is a deep blue batik.

If you were not at the June meeting now is the time to get your chance to win this beautiful quilt. We ask each member to participate in the raffle quilt drawing by buying or selling two (2) raffle ticket booklets. That is just $10 total. This helps raise money for our guild to continue these amazing projects, activities and efforts of the GEMS. Pick up your envelope of tickets at the July meeting.

The raffle quilt will be on display at these local quilt shops:
July & August - Prairie Points Quilt Shop, Northpoint Shopping Center, Peoria, IL
August 22 & 23 - Gems Quilt Show, Life Together Center, 3625 N. Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL
September - Piece & Applique Quilt Shop, 2524 W. Market St., Bloomington, IL
October - Sewing Center by Ron, 243 East Main, Galesburg, IL
November - The Quilt Corner, 2037 N. Main, Morton, IL

We want to thank all of you for your continued efforts with the raffle ticket sales and wish you luck in the quilt drawing in December. Happy Quilting!!

50 50 Committee

Karen Rush, Linda Sprouse, Betty Meyers

Congratulations to the winners at our June meeting, they are for the Hummingbird feeder,

Peg Gutgesell and for our money drawing,
Laura Tomblin.

Thanks to all who participate in our drawings.

2026 Quilt Show

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

Life Together Center corner of Sheridan and War Memorial

Registration is open for the quilt show! You can register your projects until July 15, 2026. Thank you to those who have reached out to determine the best category for your project. Continue to reach out for help in registration to Amy Lister and Joyce Blank.

A couple of notes to keep in mind:

- If you win a ribbon and want your quilter to receive one, enter in the appropriate duet category. A second ribbon will not be awarded in any category other than for duet.
- If your quilt size has changed since registration, please contact the registrar so the dimensions can be updated. This is important for proper category placement and for the set up crew.
- All descriptions for the categories are in the website. Go to member resources, quilt show information. Feel free to print copy to use as an easy reference while registering.

Exciting advertising is planned. Come to the meeting to hear how, where and when it will appear. To be eligible for a ribbon, Just volunteer for at least one slot or donate a handmade item to the Gift Shoppe.

Volunteer sign up is available through Sign Up Genius. Everyone received an email with the link after the June meeting. The link is also available on the website, members only section, quilt show info tab. Everyone's help is needed and appreciated. If you need assistance with sign up, please reach out to Lee Ann Wrhel by phone, text (309-241-1352), email (gwrhel@yahoo.com) or see me at the meeting.

We are looking for donations for door prizes such as fat quarters, seam rippers, new full spools of thread, other quilting notions.

We’re all excited about showcasing our skills and passion to the public. Invite a friend or neighbor, or better – both!

It takes an entire team to have a successful show. Many hands make lighter work. Team spirit will be encouraged at the July meeting. (Hint: come see the fun!)

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

Quilt Show Reminders

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

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

June 27:	Little GEMS workday at Wheels of Time Museum. No sewing machines needed.
July 1:	Meeting 6:30 – Quilt Trivia Evening and Quilt Show Prep
July 18:	Barn Quilt Painting @ St Paul Church 9am-3pm
July 25:	NICU & PICU workshop 10-5 @ Wheels of Time
August 5:	Meeting 6:30 – Sharon Wasteney, St Paul’s Church “Hand Me Down Quilts”
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, “Girls in White Dresses” St Paul’s Church
October 17:	Witches’ Hat/Sit-n-Sew Day @ St Paul Church 9am-3pm
October 24:	NICU & PICU workshop 10-5 @ Wheels of Time
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

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 enjoyed a wonderful Father's Day with family and friends. With all the rain we have been getting, the gardens may be thriving, but the humidity has certainly been a challenge. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July weekend!

We currently have 133 members. I would also like to welcome Carol Clark and Susan Coad 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 July guild meeting.

Membership Renewal Details
Gems membership is $20.00 starting July 1st. You can join/renew in person, 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.
If you have any questions or just want to chat, please don't hesitate 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

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

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: 7
PICU Quilt Sizes: 50x50

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 July 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: 350 (stretch goal: 400)
 # Quilts donated: 155 (24 from Peoria Notre Dame students)
 # Quilts ready to be donated: 33 (3 are XMAS)
2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 354
NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and 40x40.

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, cole slaw, chips. Please bring your own drink. And, if you'd like to borrow one of the guild's sewing machines, please reserve with Georgia or Shawna … and then let me know and I will pick up from the church.

I feel like a broken recorder … but, I truly mean it – Thank you to everyone who has taken a NICU kit, sewed from your own pattern/fabric. I wouldn't have been able to drop off 75 quilts last month – without all of the work you members do to help. NICU kits will be available at the July meeting.

2027 … Is anyone interested in taking over the NICU committee next year?? I have had a lot of fun these last 1 ½ years, and Sandy and Perry have been a godsend … sewing on all of the labels. But, I'm looking forward to 2027 and spending more time on sewing quilts to be donated. I talked with Joyce Blank (next year's President), and she was OK with me asking to see if anyone is interested in this committee for next year. If you are interested, let me know and you can join Sandy and me throughout the rest of this year, to learn more about this committee.

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.

Karen Rush

May 31, 2026

	Balance 4/30/2026	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 5/31/2026
Checking	4,729.69	2,325.50		(2,364.92)	2,000.00	6,690.27
Money Market	19,063.66				(2,000.00)	17,063.66
PayPal	-	30.00		(1.54)		28.46
Subtotal	23,793.35	2,355.50	-	(2,366.46)	-	23,782.39
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	2,355.50	-	(2,366.46)	-	59,984.10

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