Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

AUGUST 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

EILEEN HAHN 8/8 KELLEY POOULOS 8/16

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak

HI hope you all have been finding ways to beat the heat. I find spending time in my quilt room is cool and it helps me get some things accomplished.

Now that Quilt Registration is over, I am getting so excited about the quilt show. We have almost 250 quilts registered including Bed Turning. Now the hard work of the show layout, preparing the story cards and hang tags, final publicity promotions, etc begins. So many members are hard at work making our 2026 Quilt Show a success and I am so grateful for this talented and dedicated group of Gems members. It is always such a relief on Friday night of the Show when it all comes together!

The Board has selected the 2026 Gem of the Year, Lise Mundwiller. Lise has served as President, Program Chair, cooked food for our Christmas party, chaired the Auction Committee and generally helps with just about everything along the way. She is also a talented fiber artist along with her fabulous quilt making skills. Congratulations Lise!!

Happy Quilting!
Sue

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP A YARD SIGN AND 2 STICKERS WITH THIS YEAR'S SHOW DATES AT THE AUGUST GENERAL MEETING!

2026 Quilt Show

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

It is almost here! Jusy a few short weeks until the show. Continue finishing all those quilts that you entered. The exact number of entries will be revealed at the August meeting, so don't miss it.

A few reminders -

- If the size of your quilt changes from what you entered, please contact Sue Wozniak, Kelley Poulos, Shawna Knapp or Sam McClintick. Accurate dimensions are essential for the setup crew.
- You still have time to sign up to volunteer. Many hands make for lighter work.
- We are accepting donations for door prizes. Fat qtrs, sewing notions - in new or like-new condition, full spools of thread, stencils, quilt clips, etc. Remember, every paying person who plays Plinko will get a door prize.
- While at the show, if you are asked to help out somewhere - even though you are not signed up, please agree to help out. We are trying several new things this year and the amount of support may be different than expected.
- If you find that you absolutely will not get an entry done as the show approaches, please contact Shawna or Sam.
- Volunteer sign up is available through Sign Up Genius. Everyone received an email with the link right before the July 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 her at the meeting. **PLEASE CONSIDER ESPECIALLY AMBASSADOR AND ADMISSIONS SLOTS.**
- We will again this year accept credit cards at admission and the Gift Shoppe.
- Contact Georgia Schmidt if you have questions about Gift Shoppe donations.

*** Be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors. We have kept the price lower than other shows, so lets show everyone that ours is a quality show and a great deal! ***

Let's have a real KNOCK OUT of a show!

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

Our beautiful raffle quilt will be on display at our quilt show. Just in case you haven't seen the raffle quilt it is foundation paper pieced, approximately 68" by 68" and is a pattern by Quiltworx. It was constructed using multiple blue and green batiks in an intricate star design set into a flying geese border. The backing is a deep blue batik. The quilt is called "Arctic Star" and was made by Gems member Sue Tolly, quilted by Sheri Zalar, and bound by Janet Shanks.

We ask each member to participate in the raffle quilt drawing by buying or selling two raffle ticket booklets for a total of $10. This helps raise money for our guild to continue the projects, activities and efforts of the GEMS. Please pick up your tickets at the August meeting or at the quilt show in order to save mailing costs.

Postcards advertising our show are being handed out at other local quilt shows and the quilt will be on display at these local shops:
August- Prairie Points Quilt Shop, Northpoint Shopping Center, Peoria
August 22 & 23-Gems Quilt Show, Life Together Center, 3625 N. Sheridan Rd, Peoria
September-Piece & Applique Quilt Shop, 2524 W. Market St., Bloomington
October-Sewing Center by Ron, 243 E. Main, Galesburg
November-The Quilt Corner, 2037 S. Main, Morton

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

50 50 Committee

Karen Rush, Linda Sprouse, Betty Meyers

The winners of the 50/50 drawings at the July meeting are: Janet Shank won the money, Melissa Sholl won the cookies and Phyllis Heskett won the fabric. Congratulations to all.

Equipment/Store

Georgia Schmidt 309 453 6630
Shawna Knapp. 309 361 0350

The Sewing Machines are looking forward to the September 19th workshop. 2 of the ladies are ready for this show, 3 more are waiting in the wings! Text or call Georgia Schmidt 309 453 6630 to reserve.

Join in the "Sew-ciety" fun August 5th, 6th, & 22nd 23rd

PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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



Be the Stitch that holds it together!
NICU/PICU needs new committee chair.

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

Is anyone interested in taking over the NICU and/or PICU committee next year?? I have had a lot of fun being the liaison for the NICU and PICU groups, but it's time for some fresh ideas to come to these committees. 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 these committees 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 these committees.

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 19 th – Jelly Roll Time (National Jellyroll Day) 9am-3pm @ St Paul Lutheran Church. Class fee is $10. Sign up during the August meeting. Bring your favorite jelly roll and/or pattern!

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

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

Did everyone celebrate the Fourth of July with parades, backyard barbecues and fireworks? I always eat too much and fall asleep before the pyrotechnic show. I would like to welcome Lisa McCarthy as the newest member to the guild, bringing our membership to 134.

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 let me know.

I hope to see everyone in person at the August guild meeting and I look forward to seeing everyone's amazing works of art at the show.

Gems membership is $20.00 as of 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 you need to update, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fresh Off the Frame

The Center for Prevention of Abuse & Little Gems

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

I was excited to make our donation to the Center with the lovely things you made and brought to the July meeting. Thank you for your donations. The coordinator asked if there is any way we could make some more twin sized quilts.

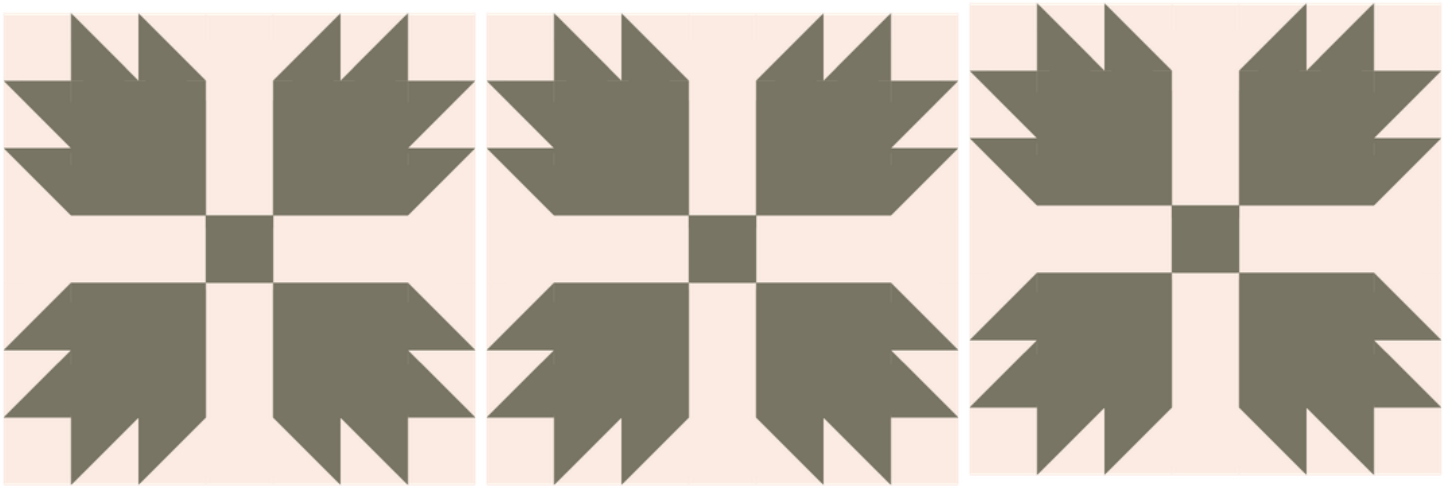
I searched through the tubs of Gems supplies and chose two twin sized quilt tops. One that is tan and blue focused and one that is green pieced arrows going around feature squares. I will have them and their bats and backs at the August meeting. If there is any way someone would be willing to quilt them, I would greatly appreciate it. Any other twin tops and/or quilts are also welcome. Size should be 65" X 85 or greater. See you all next week.

Little Gems

In June I took 24 quilts to OSF Children's Hospital. Be assured they were very happy to receive them and will continue to distribute the quilts to the children patients.

At the Wheels of Time workshop we made well over 100 kits to make quilt tops SO-I would like to ask for help and encourage you to take a kit and sew it up.

Also, there are many kits in the closet waiting to be quilted. Many of these are smaller and could easily be quilted on your domestic machine-you do not have to have a longarm. I encourage you to take one and complete it.



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: 49 (3 are Christmas)
2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 354
NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and 40x40.

Save the Date: October 24. This is a Saturday and there will be a NICU / PICU workshop. Location: Wheels of Time museum in north Peoria. I will add a Facebook event. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Lunch will be provided: I'm thinking veg soup … but, will see what sounds good as we get closer to that date.

The next quilt drop off for NICU will be in September – after the Quilt Show. Some of your donated quilts will be on display in the NICU / PICU spaces. Also, Amanda (NICU nurse) will be presenting at the Quilt Show on Sunday, Aug 23 at 1:30pm. If you haven't heard her speech, please plan to attend. It's very heart-warming to hear about the NICU unit and then how our quilts are used.

PICU (Pediatric ICU)

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: 14
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. The next quilt drop off for PICU will be in September – after the Quilt Show. Some of your donated quilts will be on display in the NICU / PICU spaces. Also, Laura (manager of the PICU area) will be presenting at the Quilt Show on Sunday, Aug 23 at 1pm.

PICU is a new area for Gems to be assisting, and this will be our 1 st time to hear from that group. See the NICU section for the upcoming October workshop at the Wheels of Time museum. Also, there will be a Facebook event added for the October workshop. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Treasurer's Report

June 30, 2026

	Balance 4/30/2026	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 5/31/2026
Checking	6,690.27	684.60		(1,853.47)	28.46	5,549.86
Money Market	17,063.66					17,063.66
PayPal	28.46				(28.46)	-
Subtotal	23,782.39	684.60	-	(1,853.47)	-	22,613.52
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	684.60	-	(1,853.47)	-	58,815.23

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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