Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

SEPTEMBER 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JOYCE BLANK 9/3
CAROLINE ZIMBRICK 9/5
DONNA CAMERON 9/10
EMILY WALSH BARNETT 9/13
LINDA REASON 9/16
KELLY HARVEY 9/18
JO RUTTER 9/20
VICKY SCHWEGMANN 9/21
TERESA SEITZ 9/25
DONNA LEBER 9/26
KATHLEEN DENNEY 9/28
SANDRA FANDEL 9/3

President's Message

By Sue Wozniak

As I write this update, we are two days from Quilt Show Set Up. I hope the entire membership has been involved in the show in one way or another. I want you to know that so many members have put in many hours in preparation for the show. Each year, as new committees form, innovation happens, making our show better each year. This year will have some changes, that we are excited to see implemented.

I can hardly wait to see all your beautiful quilts hanging in the show. I know they will be spectacular, since every year I say the quilts are the best this year. I want to thank everyone who made things for the "gift shop" and volunteered at the show or served on a Quilt Show Committee. You are truly all amazing in your willingness to serve. Besides, the quilt show, this summer, we have been very busy making Quilts of Valor, NICU and PICU quilts, and quilts and pillowcases for the Children's Hospital Cancer Clinic and the Center for Prevention of Abuse (Little Gems). As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

The September Meeting will feature the Ribbon Winners from the 2026 Quilt Show. I can hardly wait!!

Sue Wozniak
President

2026 Quilt Show

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

By now, the quilt show is a memory. A big thank you to all who chaired a committee, volunteered, donated to the Gift Shoppe and/or entered quilts. Without your efforts, the show could not happen.

A follow up meeting will be held monday September 14, 2026 at St Pauls. 6:30 pm in our regular meeting room. Please come prepared with your committee reports and any suggestions for improvements for future years. Your committee report should include (but is not limited to):

- timeline - complete with what tasks need to be done, listed by the date you should start, plus the date it must be completed
- Expenses - what was purchased and the cost, plus what may be needed for next year
- Helpful hints for the next person who would do this committee
- suggestions for improvement for this committee

Please take the time to complete this report. I lost count of how many chairs stated that the previous year report was inadequate or simply not there. I do know there were reports that did not get to the binders. Let's make a real effort to NOT repeat this again this year.

Thanks again to all!
Joyce Blank
Amy Lister



Equipment/Store

Georgia Schmidt 309 453 6630
Shawna Knapp. 309 361 0350

The Sewing Machines farewell tour dates for 2026 are as follows -

September 15 - Jelly Roll workshop
October 17 - Quilted Witches Hat
November 6 & 7 - November to Remember

The ladies do not want to miss these performances sew -
Text or call Georgia Schmidt at 3094536630 to make your reservation.

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

We hope everyone had an opportunity to stop at the raffle table at the quilt show to secure your chance to win this year's raffle quilt, "Arctic Star", made by Gems member Sue Tolly, quilted by Sheri Zallar, and bound by Janet Shanks. Measuring approximately 68" by 68" it is a foundation paper pieced pattern by Quiltworx.

We ask each member to participate in the raffle drawing by buying or selling just two (2) raffle ticket booklets. That is just $10 total. If you have not picked up your envelope of raffle tickets, please do so at the September GEMS meeting as this will save a lot of money mailing your tickets to you. If you need more tickets please call or text Donna or Sandy at the numbers listed above.

The raffle quilt will be on display at these local quilt shops in the coming months:
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

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.

Join in the "Sew-ciety" fun September 2nd and 19th

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 !!!

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!

A November to Remember

Caroline Zimbrick iceblossom@comcast.net

This is my first report, I am Caroline Zimbrick, a newer guild member and the new host for this year's event. I will be at the sign up table at guild meetings, or you can reach me via email at iceblossom@comcast.net

Who: Sign-ups have been started, still plenty of openings but we are limited to 24 people. There is a cost of $20 per person.
What: A chance for us to make memories of your own or with/for others. A super casual dress comfy come as you are and sew weekend. You can stay overnight if you want or retreat for the comfort of your own bed! We will be bringing our own fabric and fun, and one potluck item, lunch on Saturday will be Gondolas.
Where: At our usual meeting spot at St Paul Lutheran Church (1427 W Lake Ave, Peoria)
When: Friday, November 6 through Saturday, November 7.This year we are starting the day a bit earlier, 9:00 am Friday – note there is no lunch scheduled for Friday, that is up to you and when you arrive. We will be leaving the premises at 3:00 pm Saturday.

Hope to see you there or come say hi at the desk at the meetings until then.

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 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 https://www.sewastory.com/
9am – 3pm @ St. Paul Lutheran Church.
Class fee is $10, you will need to download the pattern from the website above. This workshop will also be an Open Sew day if you don’t want to work on the hat.

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

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 known around Peoria for Stone Well Gardens and her watercolor artwork. She has written a book Girls in White Dresses, stories gathered and tales spun from the fabrics of our lives.

November 4: Service Project Spotlight
December 2: Christmas Dinner
Dinner, program, raffle quilt, prizes

January 6, 2027 – Robin Long – Virtual ZOOM - Modern Mariner's Compass – Strip Pieced!" Robin will give a detailed overview of the modern technique and projects using Robin Ruth Design's system of rulers, books, and patterns for strip pieced mariner's compass blocks and variations. Robin will share how she is bringing the mariner's compass block into the 21st century with her modern technique and projects for how you can create your own modern mariner's compass project. See lots of quilts and get inspired to give this new method a try!
www.robinruthdesign.com

February 3, 2027 – Virtual ZOOM - Kellie Kaczmarek, Silly Moon Quilting– Quilting with Rulers – It's Not Scary. An introduction to the world of quilting rulers. This lecture will guide us into mastering the art of the ruler. We'll kick things off with the essentials needed to jump in, celebrate why ruler works is totally awesome, and highlight what to look for in the perfect rulers. Silly Moon offers unique quilting rulers for both domestic and longarm machines.



MEMBERSHIP

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

I hope everyone enjoyed the Gems Quilt Show. Congratulations to all the members that had their beautiful works in the show. It's time to start making new projects to enter next year! I would like to welcome Diane Denekas, Virginia Hannon, Vicky Schwegmann, Caroline Zimbrick, Kimberly Shaw, Tina Frier, Annie Tabatowski-Bush, Judy Swanson, Carole Heinz, Savana Nelson, Emily Walsh Barnett, Donna Cameron, Kathleen Denney, Jackie Pilon, Debra Disney, Jodi Morse, Kari Palanos, Betsy Elliot, Jean Cullum, Rachel Minder, Elizabeth Majjaty, Michelle Stamper, Brittany Pham, Jaymee Draggist, Andrea Hering, Veronica Berres, Sue Davis, Janelle Hunsicker, and Cindy Lovelace as the newest members to the guild, bringing our membership to 163.

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 September guild meeting. 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 need to update your information, please don't hesitate to contact me.







Stitches that Reach out

The Center for Prevention of Abuse & Little Gems

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

Center for Prevention of Abuse
Wow. We got a very nice looking assortment of donations for the Center at the August meeting. Thank-you very much. Just a reminder that the size for lap quilts for the Center is 36" X 45" And twin quilts a minimum of 65" X 85". I also have a whole new batch of pillowcase kits ready for sewing. See you at the September meeting.

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: 95 (including Halloween, Christmas and others)
2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 354
NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and 40x40.

PICU (Pediatric ICU)

2026 Goal: 100
 # Quilts donated: 16
 # Quilts ready to be donated: 32
PICU Quilt Sizes: 50x50

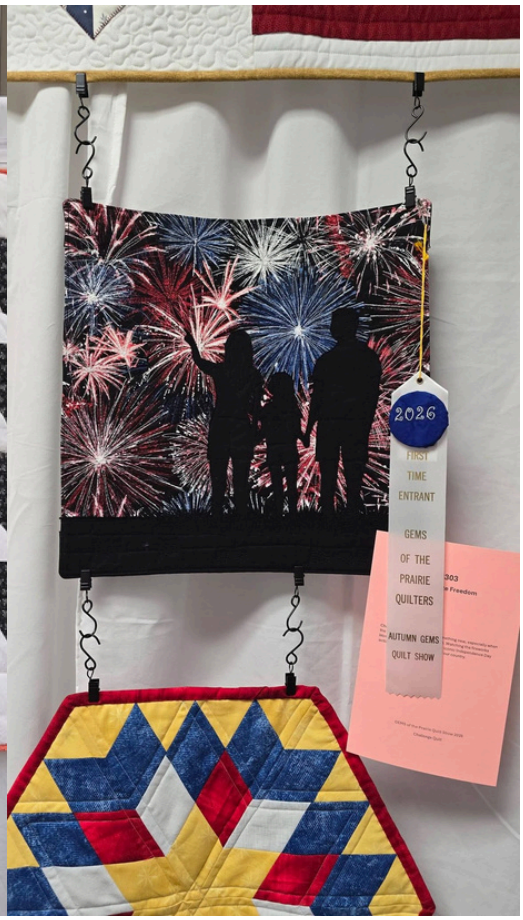
Wheels of Time – July 25. That was a LOT of fun !! We focused on NICU Halloween quilts. We had multiple attendees to the Museum who stopped by and wanted to see what we were doing. The next workshop for NICU / PICU at the Wheels of Time will be Saturday, October 24. Location: Wheels of Time museum in north Peoria. I will add a Facebook event. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Lunch will be provided: I'm thinking soup … but, will see what sounds good as we get closer to that date. The next quilt drop off for NICU and PICU will be in September – after the Quilt Show.
Some of your donated quilts were on display in the NICU / PICU spaces. Hopefully you got a chance on Sunday, Aug 23 to hear the PICU and NICU presentations. It's really heartwarming to hear how our quilts are touching others.

Treasurer's Report

	Balance 6/30/2026	July 31, 2026 Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 7/31/2026
Checking	5,549.86	585.50		(5,195.03)		940.33
Money Market	17,063.66					17,063.66
PayPal	-					-
Subtotal	22,613.52	585.50	-	(5,195.03)	-	18,003.99
CD Matures 9/13/202	20,485.95					20,485.95
CD Matures 8/5/2026	15,715.76					15,715.76
Total	36,201.71	585.50	-	(5,195.03)	-	54,205.70







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