Gems of the PRAIRIE QUILTERS

OCTOBER 2026

HTTPS://GEMSOFTHEPRAIRIE.COM/

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Rita Serrano 10/2
Christine Gottman 10/7
Sheri Zalar 10/10
Nancy Light 10/11
Jackie Pilon 10/14
Ann Kamp 10/21
Anne Forret 10/22
Monica Franciscovich 10/23
Kari Palanos 10/30

President's Message

Sue Wozniak

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of September. The Quilt Show was fantastic. Everyone's quilt was beautiful. There were so many wonderful comments from our visitors. A huge thank you to Joyce and Amy for putting together a great team of Quilt Show Committee Chairs. And to all the Committee Chairs and volunteers, great job and thank you so much for making this a great show.

Now that the show is over and fall is coming around, I am itching to get into my sewing room more often. I have lots to get done before Christmas!! I am looking forward to accomplishing a lot of piecing at November to Remember. And can hardly wait to make my witch hat at the October workshop. I hope you can join in the fun.

Joyce is going to be putting together her Committee roster for 2027. Please consider volunteering to chair a Committee. Once we have next year's committee's set, we will hold a joint Committee Chair meeting. I anticipate this happening in early November.

Enjoy your Fall sewing while also admiring the turning of the leaves and the crisp Fall weather.

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

Time is running out for you to get your chance on this year's beautiful quilt, "Arctic Star" which was constructed by member Sue Tolly, quilted by Sheri Zalar, and bound by Janet Shanks. Measuring approximately 68" by 68" it is a foundation paper pieced pattern by Quiltworx.

We ask each member to buy or sell just two raffle ticket booklets which is $10 total. Raffle tickets not picked up at a Gems meeting or the quilt show have now been mailed to 23 members. If anyone needs more tickets please call or text Donna or Sandy at the numbers listed above.

The quilt will be on display at the following locations in the coming months:
October--Sewing Center by Ron, 243 E. Main, Galesburg (the store that was in Metro Center)
November--The Quilt Corner, 2037 S. Main, Morton

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

FABRIC from the closet or that room in the corner at the church will be available at our November 4th meeting for you. Since the Gem's do not meet in person from January through March this will give you the opportunity to obtain fabric and panels to sew during those cold snowy days. The caveat is by taking this fabric you are asked to return it at the April 7, 2027 meeting as a completed project for Little Gems, PICU, NICU or items for the 2027 Quilt Show Gift Shoppe (quilts, bags, placemats &&&). Let's all look forward to a very large Drag and Brag aka Show and Tell at our April meeting.

50/50 COMMITTEE

Karen Rush, Betty Meyers,
Linda Sprouse

The Winners at the August meeting were: Cookies, Joyce Blank and Jean Vieck, Cat with candy, Luann Claudin and the cash, Sherry Munstedt.

The winners at the September meeting were: Flowers, Jodi Morse, Bread, Nancy Light and Cash, Andy Traver.

Congratulations to all! Thanks everyone for supporting our 50/50 drawings.

Join in the “Sew-ciety” fun October 17th & 24th

Workshops



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

We had sew much fun at the Jelly Rolly Workshop!
We even did some bowling! The last workshop for the year is the Witch’s Hat and it is a FULL class! Thank you to everyone who has made workshops great this year.

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.

Wheels of Time – Saturday, October 24.

Please join us in October for a NICU / PICU workshop. The previous workshop was FUN !! We had multiple attendees to the Museum who stopped by and wanted to see what we were doing. Location:Wheels of Time museum in north Peoria.There is a Facebook event. I will also have a signup sheet at the October guild meeting. Lunch will be provided: I’m thinking soup … but, will see what sounds good as we get closer to that date.

Equipment/Store

Georgia Schmidt 309 453 6630
Shawna Knapp. 309 361 0350

The Sewing Machines farewell tour dates for 2026
October 17 - Quilted Witches Hat
November 6 & 7 - November to Remember

The ladies do not want to miss these last 2 performances of 2026.Text or call to make your reservation.

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

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

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 just realized that Christmas is less than three months away. Have you been sewing gifts? I am never as prepared as I would like to be. Please stop by the membership table at the next guild meeting and show me what you are sewing for gifts.

I would like to welcome back Laurie Harkness as the newest members to the guild, bringing our membership to 164.

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 October 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.

A November to Remember

Caroline Zimbrick iceblossom@comcast.net (309) 416-4264

Friday Nov 6, starting a tad earlier this year if you can be there -- 9:00 AM
through Saturday Nov 7, out of the church by 3:00 PM
Price: $20 and Potluck Participation

We are about about 1/4 full, plenty of room. Come sew with us on your own projects. Make memories of remembering while we are there, or work on making your own memories in projects, or come share what you want with me. Is a casual weekend retreat where you can be more social or more making the best of time with limited distractions. I was a happy solitary quilter for years, but I really enjoy the energy of people working around me.

I'm a newer member to the guild, moved to the area about 3 years ago, and joined last year at the show. I finally changed my cell number to local and you can text or call there. I am somewhat visually impaired but I can read short text, otherwise call or email is best.

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

I was overwhelmed by the donations you brought for the Center at the September meeting. Thank you so much for your support. We do pillowcases for the Center which are given to those who are admitted to the shelter to spend some overnight time. I have kits and directions at the Center table. We also do wheelchair lap quilts which should be 36" by 45". These are given to a senior for comfort, by an ombudsman going into a nursing home for an investigation and for those being visited who are in protective custody. Lastly we also do twin quilts for the Center. They should be a minimum of 65" X 85". They are used in part to help supply an apartment for someone moving into their own housing. I truly appreciate your help with these projects.

NICU

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

2026 Goal: 350 (stretch goal: 400)
 # Quilts donated: 235 (24 from Peoria Notre Dame students)
 # Quilts ready to be donated: 32
2025 TOTAL Quilts donated to OSF/NICU: 354
NICU Quilt Sizes: 36x36 and 40x40.

PICU (Pediatric ICU)

2026 Goal: 100
 # Quilts donated: 55
 # Quilts ready to be donated: 5
PICU Quilt Sizes: 50x50

Treasurer's Report

	Augsust 31, 2026					
	Balance 7/31/2026	Income	Interest	Expenses	Transfers	Balance 8/31/2026
Checking	940.33	14,516.43		(5,398.89)	5,000.00	15,057.87
Savings	17,063.66		0.47		(5,000.00)	12,064.13
PayPal	-					-
Subtotal	18,003.99	14,516.43	0.47	(5,398.89)	-	27,122.00
CD Matures 9/13/202	20,485.95					20,485.95
CD Matures 8/5/2026	15,715.76		181.64			15,897.40
Total	36,201.71	14,516.43	182.11	(5,398.89)	-	63,505.35

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