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## MEMBER INFO

Our Guild tries to send notes of encouragement or sympathy to our members who are ill, have had an accident or lost a loved one.

Because we are a large group, I need your help to do this. Please let Lynn Poulos [lpoulo1@gmail.com](mailto:lpoulo1@gmail.com) know of anyone who might need a card.



## A Message from Jennifer Henry, President

Here we are, saying goodbye to 2023 and hello to 2024! I always look forward to the start of a new year. Getting a new calendar ready with birthdays and appointments marked down. And, of course, I write down some New Year's resolutions. Unfortunately, I'm not very successful when it comes to keeping them. I get discouraged and run out of steam.

This year I decided that cleaning and organizing my sewing room should be at the top of my list. And I "enlisted" some help. Karen Brown, of Just Get It Done Quilts (you can find her on YouTube) is doing "The Sewing Room Declutter Challenge 2024". I'm hoping that with her encouragement I will be able to hang in there and see some real results. So far, I have finished Days One (trash), Two (removing anything that doesn't belong there), and Three (magazines). Right now, I'm working on Days Four and Five (books and patterns). I'll be posting my progress on Facebook. There are some quilt projects that I want to work on in 2024, such as the Red & White Challenge for the guild's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's quilts in June. I also have an I Spy quilt that I have been collecting fabric for.

What do you want to work on in 2024?? Do you have a UFO list?? Maybe you have multiple UFO lists?? Or do you wait to start a new project until you finish your current project?

Our January Guild meeting will be on Zoom, so we can all stay warm and cozy at home, and not worry about the weather. Sarah Goer will be speaking on what we can do with our scraps (I have "a few" of those!) and demonstrating how to make "Scrappy Slabs". Our February is an important one that you won't want to miss. We will be starting the Mystery Block of the Month, designed by our very own Eileen Uchima. We will also be voting on our new Board. There are still many open positions. Without a President and Vice President, the guild will no longer exist. Please consider stepping up and helping out your guild.

Jennifer Henry

# New Board Members needed for 2024



We are moving ahead in filling position for our board, but we still haven't had anyone volunteer for PRESIDENT. We ABSOLUTELY CANNOT CONTINUE AS A GUILD WITHOUT ONE. The job may sound intimidating, but it is not. There is a Board ready to help you through. Conducting the Guild and Board meetings are the main jobs. YOU CAN DO THIS! Think of the Guild and all it has to offer. Do you really want this to go away?

## Open positions:

President  
Philanthropy  
Membership  
Zoom Coordinator

We will be voting on the slate of potential new board members at our February meeting as the positions will be filled starting March 1. Please remember as you consider volunteering for a position that there are members who formerly held the position and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to our 2024-2025 calendar year!

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## Proposed By-Law Changes

The current Board has suggested changes to the By-Laws and they will be reviewed during our January meeting for a vote of members present during the February meeting. The proposed changes will be available in writing along with the Zoom meeting information for your review prior our next meeting.

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## Important Membership Reminder!

It is time to renew your membership for 2024.  
The updated membership form is on the website.  
**Annual dues continue to be \$30 and are due no later than February 29!**

Please make checks out to Pride of the Prairie Quilters

Checks and membership forms can be turned in at the February meeting.

Checks and forms can also be mailed to:  
Pride of the Prairie Quilters  
Po Box 501  
Plainfield, IL 60544

*If mailed, the postmark must be February 29, 2024 or earlier.*

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## Upcoming meeting information

**January 18, 2024 – Sarah Goer “Creating a Scrappy Slab” virtual lecture/demo.** Get your scraps out of your scrap bin and into a project! In this lecture/demo, Sarah will demonstrate her techniques for building a scrappy slab from scrap fabrics of any size. In addition to show and tell about numerous projects using these slabs, Sarah will outline a variety of ways for you to use scrappy slabs in your quilting. You will leave this virtual lecture/demo ready to sew your own scrappy slabs. **This will be a Zoom meeting that you can watch from the comfort of your home. Watch your email on Tuesday, January 16 for the Zoom link information. If you do not receive anything by Wednesday morning, please reach out to Sharon at [sharonkthomsen@aol.com](mailto:sharonkthomsen@aol.com) .**

**February 15, 2024 – Eileen Uchima Roll up for the Mystery Tour!** Consider this an invitation to join Eileen for a Magical Mystery quilt. For the next six months we will be working on a mystery quilt, designed just for Pride of the Prairie by member, designer, and teacher, Eileen Uchima. In February, Eileen will present a talk on the history and process of designing her original Block of the Month quilts. At this meeting, we will begin our tour with a handout and tips on the fabric required to construct the mystery quilt. Each month, members will stop by the Mystery Tour table to receive another clue in the mystery...as well as any tips or tricks that may help with that step. In August, we will have a workshop day to get you well on your way in the final assembly. Are you just a little curious? Instructions will be written for both a lap-sized quilt (that could easily be expanded into a bed quilt) and a table runner/topper!

**March 21, 2024 Sarah Hochheiser, Quilted clothing**

**April 18, 2024 Sue Pawlowski - Trunk show and April 20, 2024 Workshop Dancing with the Squares** Sue Pawlowski is the quilter behind Jack Squares Studio. She has been quilting for about 23 years and haven't gotten tired of it yet. Guess that means she is hooked. A few years ago, she decided to try her hand at writing quilting patterns. It has been an interesting journey with a huge learning curve. Her goal is to create patterns that make you really happy. After all, isn't that why we do this thing called quilting?!! [Jacksquaresstudio.com](http://Jacksquaresstudio.com)

**May 16, 2024 Open**

**June 20, 2024 40<sup>th</sup> (Ruby) Anniversary Red and White Party, Ruby Challenge**

**July 18, 2024 - UFO**

**August 15, 2024 First Quilt/Last Quilt, Workshop Eileen Uchima Mystery Tour Quilt finishing**

**September 19, 2024 Catherine Redford Language of Flowers**

**October 17, 2024 Open**

**November 21, 2024 Kelly Ashton 60 Degrees of Inspiration, Workshop 11/22/24**

**December 2024 No meeting**

## 2024 will mark the 40th Anniversary of the Pride of the Prairie Quilt Guild!

We plan to Celebrate this milestone during the June 2024 Meeting.

We would like to put a challenge out to the guild. “What kind of Challenge” you ask? With the 40th Anniversary stone being ruby, let’s go red and white! Here are the details...

- **Must be Red and White only.**
- We will let you decide how much of each color.
- Any design.
- **Must be 24” x 24” square.** No bigger, no smaller
- **100% made and quilted by the guild member**

These quilts will be displayed at the 40th Anniversary celebration.

If you would like to help with the planning, that will be appreciated. Always looking for ideas. Please email Lynn Scheimann at [lscheimann@comcast.net](mailto:lscheimann@comcast.net) or any of the members on the Programs committee.

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## Quilt Show 2025 Needs You!!!!

Several positions have already been filled, but we need to fill all of the positions listed below so that work and planning can begin right away. Our guild needs you to sustain itself moving forward.

- Co- chairs (2)
- Quilt Layout
- Travel Quilt Team (2)
- Vendors
- Quilt Labels
- Quilt Registration
- Quilt Flyer
- Silent Auction (2)
- Strip Search (2)
- Raffle Baskets (3)
- Exterior Signage
- Publicity (2)


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## Out and About and In Our Backyard

January 1 – 31

The Wheaton Library is featuring a Fiber Arts Exhibit on the first floor of the library. Several local quilters work is on display. Grab some friends for a short excursion to be inspired by these talented quilters.

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# Philanthropy

Amazing! As a result of your efforts and generosity, Pride of the Prairie was able to distribute and donate over one hundred and twenty-five quilts this past year! Thank you!!!

A list of some of the place that we donated quilts to include Angel Grace Hospice, Edward Hospital's Cancer Center, Edward Hospital's Camp Hope, Guardian Angel in Joliet and the Will Count Pregnancy Resource Center. In all cases, the quilts were received with great appreciation.

Please continue to keep up the good work! We are currently accepting all size quilts, as well as pillow cases. Some kits will be available at the in-person meetings.

Lynn Bogue, Diane Swaney-Smith and Sandi McHenney

## November and December Birthdays

Beth Higgins	Jan 2
Anita Baranski	Jan 10
Vicky Pampe	Jan 11
Carole Naughton	Jan 15
Karen Shibley	Jan 19
Chris Schwartz	Jan 23
Judi Arand	Jan 26
Mary Kelly	Jan 27
Carol Gruchala	Jan 31
Cheryl Parker	Feb 3
Jennifer Henry	Feb 13
Mary Winegar	Feb 13
Stephanie Ferrara	Feb 27
Kathy MacKenzie	Feb 28



## Monthly Guild Meeting Checklist

- **Name Tag** (you are eligible for a prize ONLY if you are wearing yours!)
- **Show and Tell Items**
- **Items for the Freebies Table** (remember that this is not for junk but rather items or bagged scraps in good condition)
- **Your checkbook** in order to pay for your Raffle Tickets, Workshop fees and any traveling quilt tickets that might be attending our meeting



**Newsletter Information:** The Guild newsletter is published six times per year in January, March, May, July, September and November. Articles should be sent to the editor, Sharon Thomsen at sharonkthomsen@aol.com no later than the last day of the previous month.

Advertising rates are as follows:

Ad Size	Yearly (6 issues)	Single Issue
Business card	\$50	\$10
Quarter Page	\$60	\$15
Half Page	\$80	\$20
Full Page	\$160	\$40

Ads must be prepaid and received by the Editor before the 1st of the month to appear in the next newsletter.

## **2023-2024 Pride of the Prairie Officers**

President – Jennifer Henry

Vice President – Lynn Poulos

Secretary – Laura McCormack

Treasurer – Susan Janasik

Contracts /Programs – Kathy Beitzel, Pat Herman, Melaine Hinds,  
Lynn Scheimann & Eileen Uchima

Publicity – **OPEN**

Newsletter – Sharon Thomsen

Zoom Coordinator - Sharon Thomsen

Philanthropy – Lynn Bogue, Sandi McHenney & Diane Swaney-Smith

Membership – Melanie Hinds, Anita Marsh, Elaine Salato & Jane Stevens