



A Message from Carol O'Dell, President

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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, we need your help to do this. Please let **Kathy Beitzl** (kbeitzel@att.net) know of anyone who might need a card.
Thanks.



Thursday, March 13, 2020 – Jen Henry, Sandy Piatak, Kathy Mueller and I were at Panera in Plainfield, having an emergency meeting for the 2020 quilt show that was to take place that weekend. We had just heard that the schools were telling their students to take home their books and supplies for approximately 2 weeks as the state shut down for an unknown virus called COVID 19.

We made the very difficult decision to cancel the quilt show, 1 day before set-up and 2 days before the quilt show was to begin. It was with much angst that we called vendors and explained that we were not going to be having our quilt show. We knew many had prepared quilt kits, supplies, inventory and candies to sell at our show. We notified the school as well as those companies we had engaged with in order to have the show. You see, we knew what losing quilt show funds would mean to our guild.

March 2023 – Jen Henry, Sandy Piatak, Sharon Thomsen and myself are co-chairs of the quilt show. With much help from everyone, and especially grateful for the vendors who came, and Richland Center School, we had our first, post-COVID quilt show. It was a doozy as we had been so busy during those few years and had many quilts to share. It was an exciting time, yet with much trepidation, as we didn't know how many attendees to expect. Would our visitors feel comfortable coming to a group setting? What was the feeling of the school as they could have said "cancel" at any time along the way. How much would the admission charge be? How many would come? Needless to say, it went off without a hitch. It was good to be together, working for the good of the guild, seeing the lovely quilts, visiting with vendors and taking home more projects.

And now, here we find ourselves, one year away from our 2026 quilt show. Will we have over 300 quilts to share? Maybe, maybe not. But I can tell you, they will be stunning and we will see a variety of quilt skills throughout the show. It is fun to see the "easier" quilts, as well as the more challenging, because no matter what project we make, we learn something or improve our skill. We want a variety of skill levels presented because we want those who attend to go home and say, "Maybe I could give that a try". What are you working on for the show? I know we've been given a challenge by the Program Committee to finish some unfinished objects (UFOs). I am hoping that at our March meeting, we will see many finished quilts that can be entered into our next show. Plus, we have a good variety of programs and workshops this year that we could finish a particular project or two to enter in the show.

Reflecting back, we have come so far. I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to many who worked so hard to make this possible. Previous presidents, board members and the guild members, who continued with their memberships even though our guild meetings looked very different than previously. I am very much looking forward to our show, working together as a guild, strengthening relationships and seeing what everyone has created.

Thank you in advance, Jen Henry, for being the 2026 quilt show chairperson. I can't believe we're only 1 year away!

Carol O'Dell

Upcoming Events:

- 3/20** **POP Guild Meeting** **7pm**
Lakeside Quilt Guild Opportunity Quilt visits
- 4/4 - 4/5 Hands All Around Quilt Guild's Show *
Bloomington-Normal
- 4/5 - 4/6 Salt Creek Quilt Guild's Quilt Show *
LaGrange, IL
- 4/5 – 4/6 Bensenville Park District Quilt Show
- 4/10** **POP Guild Meeting** **7pm**
Joliet Quilt Guild Opportunity Quilt visits
- 4/28 Newsletter Articles Due
- 5/2 – 5/3 Decatur Quilt Guild's Quilt Show
- 5/5** **POP Board Meeting followed by Quilt Show Meeting**
- 5/15** **POP Guild Meeting** **7pm**
Faithful Circle Quilt Guild's Opportunity Quilt visits
- 5/17** **POP Workshop with Linda Lambert** **9:30am**
Zion Lutheran Church
- 5/17 - 5/18 Northwest Suburban Quilt Guild's Quilt Show *
Judson University – Elgin
- 7/25-7/27** **POP Quilt Retreat at Carmelite Retreat Center, Darien, IL**

Just a Reminder...

Don't forget to check out our website. Stephanie Ferrara has done a great job of loading pictures from our guild meetings onto the website, in addition to a wealth of information regarding our guild programs, workshops, Policies and Procedures, By-Laws and similar items of interest.



Thank you!

Thank you to our outgoing board members for their willingness to serve the membership this past year. It has been a pleasure to serve with you! Those members leaving their board positions are:

Diane Swaney-Smith	Secretary
Lynn Poulos	Programs
Lynn Scheimann	Programs
Melanie Hinds	Membership
Anita Marsh	Membership
Jane Stevens	Membership
Eileen Uchima	Contracts
Melanie Hinds	Contracts

Our incoming board members include:

Marjorie McNichols	Secretary
Cathy Formanek	Contracts
Vicky Pampe	Contracts
Melanie Hinds	Programs
Eileen Uchima	Programs
Delia Tokarz	Membership
Camille Ellsworth	Membership
Donna Borowiec	Membership

Welcome to our 2025/2026 board members! I am looking forward to working with each of you, including our board members that are staying on from the previous year.

SUMMER QUILT RETREAT

We are having a quilt retreat on July 25-27, 2025 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center In Darien, IL. Surrounding the building are acres of beautiful grounds.

We can arrive at 9 am on Friday and need to depart by 2 pm on Sunday. Five meals are included in our package, and we will have access to a large meeting room with tables for sewing. There will be a couple of ironing boards and irons for general use. You may bring your own iron and ironing table if you desire.

The pricing options are: 1) a single occupancy room with a bathroom for \$295, 2) a double occupancy room with a bathroom for \$225 per person, or, 3) if you wish to commute and not take advantage of overnight accommodations, that cost would be \$170. For commuters, the fee also includes 5 meals. The cost may increase slightly if there is any damage to their tables. If requested, special meals, such as gluten free, vegan, etc. are available for a slight additional fee.

Coffee, tea and water are always available in the sewing room. There is a refrigerator to share with other guests. If desired, attendees can bring additional treats to share.

We are accepting \$50 deposits to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by our June 19th guild meeting.

Pack up your projects, sewing machine and supplies and come out for a wonderful time of sewing and visiting. Don't forget your power strip and extension cord.

Won't you join us?

Please see Vicky Pampe, Sandy Piatak or Carol O'Dell to make your reservation.

In Case You Couldn't Make It:

Please refer to the attached minutes from the January and February guild meetings for information for this issue.

Membership

The updated membership form is on the website.

Annual dues continue to be \$30.

Please make checks out to Pride of the Prairie Quilters

Forms can be found on the website and are available at the meeting

Checks and forms can also be mailed to:

Pride of the Prairie Quilters

Po Box 501

Plainfield, IL 60544

Upcoming meeting/program information

March 20th 2025 UFO Deadline. Remember, each finished item will get you a raffle ticket for prizes. If you are not sure what you committed to please contact Lynn Scheimann.

FUN WITH FRIENDS IN MAY

It's always fun to learn a new technique with friends from POP. In May we are happy to host Linda Lambert for a presentation AND a workshop. Linda Lambert is a certified Laura Heine Collage Quilting Instructor. She will be joining us for our May 15, 2025 meeting presentation. In addition, she will be teaching us this simple and unique technique at a workshop on Saturday May 17th at Quilters Quest Quilt Shop 7305 Lemont Rd., Downers Grove. (630) 969-2205. QQ is also preparing kits for the class at a reasonable price. The project is a beautiful small tomato pin cushion that can be made into a banner, wall hanging or project bag. Grab a friend and register for the workshop while there are still openings. Our members only pay \$55.00 for a full day of fun and relaxation. For more information please contact Eileen Euchima or Melanie Hinds.



Are you looking for a new scrap buster BOM program that is **Free**?

Check out the information below about a new program at GEDesigns. Go to their website at www.gedesigns.com to join in the fun!



Join our **FREE** Dangerous Block of the Month (BOM) program and embark on a 10-month quilting adventure! By "purchasing" this **free download**, you'll instantly receive the **prep instructions** to get started.

◇ **Program Details:**

- Features **9 unique quilt blocks** + finishing instructions
- **First block is released in February**
- Subsequent blocks release on the **4th Tuesday of each month**
- The **finishing instructions are released in November**

Whether you're a seasoned quilter or looking for an exciting new project, this BOM program offers **creativity, community, and a stunning quilt by the end of the journey!**

This is a downloadable product, nothing will be shipped.

QUILT SHOW 2026

The Quilt Show is only 12 months away! Are you working on your quilts??
Mark your calendars! The Pride of the Prairie Quilt Show is set for March 14th and 15th of 2026.

BOOKMARKS ARE COMING!

Vendors

We are beginning to hear from vendors! We have contracts from the Olde Master Pen Shoppe and Alice Ridge Quilts (aliceridgequilts.com). We have also heard from Yellow Creek and Roberts. We are just waiting for the contracts to come in.

Silent Auction

We will have a silent auction with our POP quilt show in 2026, and need quilty items to auction, with all proceeds going to the guild for programs in 2026 and 2027. We would like you to donate to the quilty items for this auction. The obvious - quilts and wall hangings of any size, table runners. Other quilty items such as quilted coasters, pin cushions, mug rugs, bowl cozies, drawstring jewelry bags, pot holders, small zippered pouches for sewing odds and ends, small purses or fanny packs, wallets, pencil or crochet hook holders, etc.

If you have more ideas, let us know - perhaps quilt kits or new, unused, rulers could be a part of this auction. Let us know what you think.

Please contact –

Anita Marsh 630-643-0001 anitamarsh@aol.com or

Anita Baranski 815-342-1188 ALJB1@sbcglobal.net

Strip Search Committee

Just a reminder, now that the holidays are over, we are seeking donations of fabric that can be packaged and sold at the 2026 Quilt Show in our “Strip Search” sales area.

We are looking for clean, good quality, quilting fabric that is at least 2.5” wide. They can be from commercial jelly rolls that you have, or strips left over from your projects.

If you have strips of leftover fabric that are slightly larger than 2.5” wide we will consider those also as we may be able to package them as a collection of fabric remnants in various sizes (e.g. 3”, 4,” etc.).

Please check with someone on the committee if you are uncertain about your donation.

We have a plastic bin in which all donations can be placed during guild meetings.

Thank you for any donations!!

Melanie Hinds 630-995-6514 melanie.hinds1259@gmail.com

(on behalf of the Strip Search Committee)



Opportunity Quilt

The Opportunity Quilt has started traveling! Not just to sell tickets, but it's also a way for us to advertise our Quilt Show. Susan Janasik has a list of locations, dates and times, and volunteers are needed to escort it. Please see Susan to volunteer!

Contact Susan Janasik 630-546-4927 sjanasik0926@gmail.com

Books, Magazines and Patterns

Please start collecting books, magazines and patterns. Bring them to the Quilt Show the night of set up.

If you have any questions, please contact –
Teena Giliberto 815-238-5097 teenalp@outlook.com or
Vicky Pampe 318-366-5720 vickyv11@yahoo.com

Raffle Baskets

The Raffle Basket Committee is hoping to put together some great raffle baskets for the show and we will need your help. We are asking for donations to fill up some fun and interesting baskets. To get started, we are hoping that all guild members will contribute at least one spool of thread and one fat quarter – **new and good quality**. We are also asking for donations of sewing/quilting/embroidery and scrapbooking items. And raffle baskets do not have to contain only sewing/quilting items. We hope to put together some specialty baskets. Just a few ideas we have for specialty baskets may include: embroidery, wools, batik, knitting/crocheting/needle work, scrapbooking, civil war reproduction, holidays/seasons, gardening, patriotic, leisure/games, spa and relaxation, children, items men would like, sports, wine, etc.! Feel free to donate any new and usable items or even put together a basket individually or with a group.

We have many ideas for baskets already if you might need a little guidance. But all donations are wanted and greatly appreciated. We hope everyone will donate at least one fat quarter and one new spool of thread. It should be the quality that you would use. Feel free to donate any new and usable items to fill up the raffle baskets or even put together a basket individually or with a group.

Listed are some of our basket ideas so far:

Embroidery	Wools	Batik	Needle Work
Scrapbooking	Wine	Holidays/Seasons	Gardening
Patriotic	Leisure/Games	Spa/Relaxation	Children's Basket
Men's Basket	Sports	Civil War Reproduction	

We will set out a large plastic tub at the guild meeting to collect any donations. Find either of us at a meeting or feel free to call, text or email us with any comments or questions. Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

The Raffle Basket Committee

Kathy MacKenzie 708/299-6610
Jean Yates 630/271-0140

kjmackenzie@sbcglobal.net
jmrei@prodigy.net

Opportunity Quilt- Travel Schedule Jennifer got us started with some dates for our Opportunity Quilt. This is what we have so far:

3/22/25	Quilters Quest
4/3/25	Sinnissippi Quilters, Rockford (1:00 and 6:30)
4/7/25	WEGO Oswego
4/10/25	Kankakee quiltmakers Guild, Kankakee
5/8/25	Salt Creek Quilters Guild, Hinsdale
6/25/25	Faithful Circle, Downers Grove

Susan Janasik
Sjanasik0926@gmail.com

Philanthropy

We are very grateful for all the quilts you have been making for philanthropy. Everyone doing even a small part produces big results! Last month, 10 quilts were sent to Los Angeles to help those affected by the fires.

We continue to need small lap, patriotic quilts that we donate to the Angels Grace Hospice in Bolingbrook, and are given to veterans. They ask that they be red, white, and blue and the size they need can range from **36 / 40"** by **50 / 60"**.

We prefer finished quilts – pieced, quilted, bound, and washed. We will add the labels that say *Made by Pride of Prairie Quilters, Plainfield, Illinois*.

The quilting does not need to be intricate – simple cross-hatching, wavy lines, straight lines, in the ditch.

Thank you for your generosity!!

We continue to need your help as there are ongoing needs in our communities. Please consider using up leftover scraps to make a quilt. Our website offers several patterns to follow. There are many free patterns online, offered by various fabric companies such as Moda, Robert Kaufman, Dear Stella, Riley Blake. In addition, many shops have patterns for you to use such as Fat Quarter Shop, Sweet Daisy, Quilt Expressions, Cluck Cluck Sew, etc. So pour yourself a cup of tea or coffee and let a computer search help you discover your next creation.....to donate, of course!!

According to Care.com and other sources, typical quilt sizes are as follows;

Receiving blanket	18 x 18" to 36 x 36
Crib / baby	30 x 40, 40 x 40, 40 x 50, 48 x 57
Lap	56 x 74, 60 x 70, 64 x 76
Wheelchair	33 x 40, 36 x 40, 40 x 40

Our ongoing needs; batting, yardage for backings, domestic and longarm quilters

We anticipate delivering many quilts this month. In the meantime, here's a peek into what we've been up to.....



- The two of us meet on a weekly basis to prepare the tops for completion. This involves pressing, measuring, and trying to locate a batting, backing & binding.
- For the batting, we try to be frugal & use up pieces that we fuse together, using 2” strips of Pellon 906F or SF 101. This is a very time-consuming step. We would greatly appreciate if guild members could do this for us. An average batt size should measure 55 x 65” to 60 x 70” after being pieced together.
- Our biggest challenge is to locate backs for the quilts. As you know, many quilts require several yards of fabric. Several of us are doing the longarming, for which we need 3-4” of extra fabric on all sides past the size of the top. Many times we use our personal funds to pay for this. We will happily accept all donations of good quality yardage for this!
- For binding, we can creatively use what’s left over from the backing or even make it scrappy.
- Before donating, we label & wash every quilt.

Yes, it’s a lot of work and hours spent, however, the rewards are great. We can tell we are warming the hearts of many people by the smiles and gratitude we receive upon donating!

Peace by piece,
Sandy and Jill

Newsletter Article Submissions:

<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Article Due Date</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
May/June 2025	April 28,2025	May 10 ,2025
July/August 2025	June 29, 2025	July 10, 2025
Sept/October 2025	August 29, 2025	Sept. 10, 2025

March and April Birthdays

Mar 2	Carol O'Dell
Mar 15	Kathy Beitzel
Mar 17	Sally Pawlak
Mar 18	Marjorie McNichals
Mar 21	Glenis Orlowski
Mar 26	Elaine Salato
Mar 31	Tina Giliberto
Mar 29	Valli Schiller
Apr 4	Barb Snyder
Apr 15	Lisa Madej
Apr 26	Cathy Lucas
Apr 28	Camille Ellsworth
Apr 29	Sharon Thomsen



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, Workshop fees and any traveling quilt tickets that might be attending our meeting



NEWSLETTER AD 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, Jane Stevens at jmssampler@earthlink.net 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.

2024-2025 Pride of the Prairie Officers

President – Carol O'Dell

Vice President – Kathy Beitzel

Secretary – Marjorie McNichols

Treasurer – Pat Herman

Contracts - Cathy Formanek and Vicky Pampe

Programs – Melanie Hinds and Eileen Uchima

Publicity and Website – Stephanie Ferrara

Newsletter – Jane Stevens

Philanthropy – Sandy Piatek, Jill Stuck

Membership – Melanie Hinds, Anita Marsh, & Jane Stevens