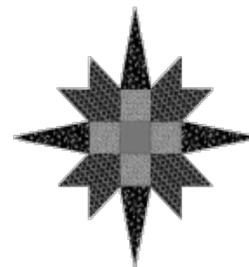


PRAIRIE STAR PRESS



PRAIRIE STAR QUILTERS GUILD
St. Charles, IL

PSQG Website: <http://www.psqg.org>

VOLUME XXXIII, ISSUE NO. 7
January 2013

From the Evening Vice-President

Happy New Year!

By the time you'll be reading this, we will be several weeks into the year. Despite the lack of snow, it *is* winter and the peak time for the "other" winter sport: *quilting!* I don't mind winter much at all and I actually like snow – it's magical – but the short daylight hours and lack of sunshine can get me down. I've found that working on a brightly colored project is good medicine for that. I've started some of my most wildly colorful quilts in January, including the Cinço de Mayo quilt that hung in our last guild show. This year I am working on a batik pineapple quilt in warm golds and ochres, rich plums and purples, deep blues, and my happy color: turquoise.

So where do you stand on New Year's Resolutions? Make them? Hate them? Break them? Personally I don't have a good track record on keeping resolutions on things that I should do, like eating healthier and exercising more. Face it: who *likes* to be should upon??? I've had much better success setting a few personal goals that are enjoyable and help me grow creatively, like visiting a new place either far or near, and taking 2 to 3 quilting or art-related classes. I'm hoping to snag a spot in one of the May workshops when long anticipated Scrap Queen Bonnie Hunter comes to town. Signups open at the January meetings, but you must have payment in hand (cash or check) when you sign up! Remember, while the purpose of a workshop may be to learn a new technique, it's also a great place to socialize and have fun. Or perhaps just bask in the aura of a famous and accomplished quilter and hope some of the fairy dust rubs off.

(cont'd)

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There are still has some openings in the January, February, and March workshops which also sound like a lot of fun. Looking at Any Bradley's whimsical patterns you can't help but smile, so I bet time with her is going to be a blast. Also coming up in March is the spring Guild Retreat – and spaces are going fast!

The board has been hard at work. We already have the full slate of officers and revised bylaws ready to vote on at the April joint business meeting. Then we'll have a fun activity TBA after the biz is out of the way.

Be happy, be healthy, be inspired, stay warm!

Piecefully yours,

Beth Hoffman, Evening Vice-President



Upcoming Programs and workshops

January 2013: Stephanie Nordlin

[Stephanie Nordlin](#) will join us from Poplar Grove, IL. She is an art quilter and successful competitor and specializes in fabulous quilted garments. She promises a great trunk show and will talk about chronicling her travels in her quilted garments.

On Monday, January 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stephanie will teach [Wearable Postcards](#). The workshop fee is \$55. Learn to take fond memories and mementos and turn them into art, either wearable or "hang-able." And Tuesday, January 29th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (after the morning meeting) we will learn a fun technique called [Slash 'n Switch](#) to make adorable and easy art quilts with a great fused binding! This workshop costs \$35. Click for your [Wearable Postcard Supply List](#) or your [Slash N Switch Supply List](#).

Special note: We will begin taking **member-only registrations** for Bonnie Hunter's workshops (see the Scraps article later in this newsletter) **at the January meeting. You must pay when you register.** We will open registration for **non-members after our morning February** meeting.

February: Rachel Wetzler

February 25th and 26th brings us [Rachel Wetzler](#) Rachael is a local gal made good. A previous PSQG member, her work has won acclaim and she has ribboned at major quilt shows all around the world. Her lecture will be titled *That's My Story* and we are very lucky to have her!

For our workshop, our own **Sandy Schweitzer** presents *Ready, Set, Finish!* Learn how to make and apply a bias binding with ninety degree mitered corners and how to hand stitch your binding so it is properly filled. She will cover making a sleeve, blocking and labeling. Her workshop will include a trunk show of multiple edge finishes, and will be Tuesday after the morning meeting. The cost is \$35.

March: Amy Bradley

Join us in March for the awesome pattern and fabric designer [Amy Bradley](#). Just to look at her fun and whimsical designs tells you that she will really entertain! A full day workshop Monday (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bethlehem, \$55) will allow you to work on any of her dozens of patterns (a nice selection will be available soon at Prairie Shop Quilts). She will offer general applique tips and tricks, and then give each student some individual instruction, based on the pattern you have chosen. Don't miss out...

April

April will be our always important Joint Business Meeting, don't miss it!

May: Bonnie Hunter

And, for the Bonnie-files of the world, the wait is soon over!! **Bonnie Hunter** of [Quiltville](#) fame will be our May Banquet Speaker and due to high demand will be teaching **three** (3) different workshops. Complete info regarding the supply lists, cutting instructions, and other specifics will be on our website under the programs tab, and **sign-ups will begin at the January meetings**. We will begin sign-ups 1/2 hour (no sooner!) before each meeting and at the break. You may sign-up one friend that may not be able to make the meetings. Please make your preferred selection prior to the meeting, and here are the short descriptions...

All workshops are \$55 and run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday's workshop is at Charlestown Mall (details to follow) and the others are at the church as usual. Lunch will be an option: sign up when you check in.

[Jamestown Landing](#)—Sunday (book required). Stars and chains in blues and neutrals are sure to capture any star-lover's fancy! What a great way to clear out scraps by choosing two color families: A foreground (Blue) and a background (Neutral). Students will learn the basics of string piecing along with learning to use the Easy Angle ruler to create half square triangle units from 2 1/2" scrap strips.

[Pineapple Blossom](#)—Monday (free downloadable pattern). Students will bring pre-cut 2" strips ready to power sew into courthouse step type blocks, and altering them into pineapple blossom blocks by adding on quick corners. This method produces bonus corners and discussion includes various layouts for the blocks (with or without sashing) as well as alternate ideas for using the bonus corners! Students can also have fun swapping strips with each other for more variety in their quilts. Focus on USING YOUR STASH encouraged!

[Scrappy Mountain Majesties](#)—Tuesday (free downloadable pattern). A great quilt for using larger pieces of leftover fabrics! Students will

bring pre-cut 8.5" squares in pairs of light/dark. Many layouts provide lots of options for this fun quilt! You will be amazed at how easy Bonnie makes this complicated looking quilt, and you will get a big chunk done in class (yeah!).

If you do not have web access or have other questions that are not addressed in this article or on our website, please call or email me.

Caron Carlson
 Program VP
 (630) 879-0000
bigtimequilter@yahoo.com



Looking Ahead ...

June	*
July	Picnic time!
August	*

* See the crossword puzzle on the next page for clues!

Spring Retreat

There are only a few spots left for the PSQG spring retreat! It will take place on the weekend of March 8-10, 2013 at the Carmelite Center in Darien. The fun begins around 3:00 p.m. on Friday and continues until about 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Your room and meals from Friday dinner through Sunday brunch are included in the cost. Everyone works on their own projects, but we will have a few activities planned for the group. Sign-up for the retreat continues this month, and we only have room for 30 participants. Your spot is held when we receive your payment – \$165 for a double room or \$195 for a single room - so please bring your checkbook to the guild meeting. What a great time to finish a few UFOs or start a new project!

Diane Moore and Chris Schwarz (630-483-0383)

when we pass the food court. By the time you receive this newsletter, I hope we are in full swing. The holidays did a number on my hips!

We have two names on the **Beading Bee** list so if there are any others, please sign up at the January meeting. If there is another Bee you are interested in, please see me at either of the Guild meetings or email me. Are there still those interested in another **Art Bee**? We do have one name for daytime. Happy quilting!

Ginny Wright, Beekeeper
630-513-1418 or 630-715-2266 (cell)
ginny.wright@comcast.net

Get involved with Community Projects

Looking to meet fellow PSQG members for a couple of hours while making a difference in the lives of the neglected children of Kane County? Please join us for our **first-ever kitting party!**

One of the goals of PSQG is to provide quilts as charitable donations for community

organizations in need. PSQG's Community Projects committee is working closely with CASA Kane County, which advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the juvenile Court system. PSQG's guild members make quilts for these 500+ children, ages 1 to 18, to take with them as they are placed in the safe embrace of a loving family.

Community Projects has collected several bins worth of donated fabric. **We need your help** to assemble these fabrics into kits that can then be given to other guild members to make into simple quilts to donate to CASA. Full, easy instructions will be available when you arrive, so there is nothing to prepare for. You'll be put to work with another guild member, either ironing or cutting fabric. What a great way to meet other guild members and join in on a worthwhile task! The more help we have, the more we can contribute to CASA.

Where: At the home of Joyce Keane, 2030 Wagner Rd, Batavia, IL (southeast Batavia)

When: Any or all of these dates/times (you don't have to stay the whole time – even just a couple of hours during any of these times and arriving fashionably late is fine!)

- Monday, Feb 4th
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb 10th
12 noon – 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, Feb 11th
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

What to bring: You don't need to bring any quilting supplies. Note that we'll have little snacks, but you may want to eat lunch or dinner before you come, or bring a bag and take a break to eat while you're

Thinking About A Quilt Retreat?

Check out Illinois Amish Area Quilt Retreat

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See: <http://www.arcolaflowerpatch.com/Package-19-Quilt-Retreats>



with us.

RSVP: If you know in advance you're coming, it would help us from a planning standpoint, so please email or call us and let us know, even if it's on that day! And if you just want to show up unannounced because you've made a last minute decision to join us, that's perfectly fine. We appreciate all the help we can get!

Contact: Joyce Keane at 630-842-3717 or jkeane2030@comcast.net

Thank you!

PSQG Community Projects Co-Chairs, Nancy Aho and Joyce Keane



From the Education Table

So did you get your window clings and plastic placemats at the after the holiday sales? If you didn't, you may want to see if you can still find them. Use the window clings (**not** the gel type) mark your ruler so you return to the same line each time. They don't always stick on the back of the ruler – it depends on the brand but at least if you use it on the top you know about where you should be. If you really want a line marked so you can “bump” up against it, use the easy-to-remove painter's tape. Use a razor blade to cut down 3 to 4 layers and peel them off as a group. On the back side of the ruler, they will mark your line and give you something to shove up against the edge of your fabric each time. The plastic placemats are great taped down to your work surface near the sewing head of your machine. They let you pin edges together etc and not gouge

your work surface. The plastic sold for templates also works but is more expensive. American Science & Surplus sells 2 flexible cutting mats for \$1.95 and The Dollar Stores often have a similar product. A sheet of ¼” grid graph paper under the plastic allows you to see how accurate your seam is.

Stores that carry office supplies have inexpensive plastic 9mm replaceable lead pencils. The Fons & Porter white lead for marking fabric fits them and so does the pink Sewline lead from the Quilt Merchant. I now have two sets of white, pink, and lead colored – one for home and one for my travel kit – so I'm not switching depending on the color of fabric I'm using.

At the last guild meeting, I was showing quilters how to make their own “square-up” ruler that locked into the seam when trimming half square triangles. The tape for the Dynamo labelers also works well. I will be providing a piece of the tape which is enough to make a 4” ruler into a “square-up” ruler at the next meeting. Adhesive backed foam sheets sold for making children's stickers can also be cut into strips and used.

If you haven't made a photo copy of the owner's manual for your machine, you really should. Enclose the pages in the plastic sheet protectors and put them in a 3-ring binder. That way they are protected and you have a back-up copy. The same is true of any quilt pattern you are working on. It is too easy to cut the appliqué pages and later find you want to use them for another project.

Before I forget, Quilting on the Beach at King Kamehameha's Kina Beach Hotel is Feb 2-9. Email your questions to retreat@quiltpassions.net. And yes, I've already started a box of scraps for the next quilt show.....

Yvonne Richter
Education coordinator

A note from the kitchen

Please remember: **bring a refillable mug** to the guild meetings for many reasons:

- It will save the kitchen money when we don't have to buy disposable hot cups for your coffee and tea.
- It will keep your hot drinks hotter for a longer time.
- It's kind to the environment.
- Not only will you be happier, but the church will be grateful that we have less garbage.

This will be a great way to start the New Year and is an easy resolution to keep.

Thanks from the kitchen team

Member News

This is a section dedicated to news from you, the members!

Have you shown your quilts somewhere else, and perhaps won a ribbon? Or the County Fair? Let us know! Are you having a "sewing room garage sale?" Let us know. Space permitting, your name could appear here!

Upcoming Member Birthdays

Martha Lauger	Jan. 2
Sarah Martin	Jan. 4
Kari Grece	Jan. 6
Jodi Werkema	Jan. 12
Lori Smalarz	Jan. 17
Sandy Biederstadt	Jan. 18
Marcia Cameron	Jan. 20
Chris Wiseman	Jan. 22
Karen Kennedy	Jan. 23
Chris Schwarz	Jan. 23
Angelika Brinkman-Busi	Jan. 24
Diane Evinger	Jan. 24
Marion Schlindwein	Jan. 24
Linda Santoro	Jan. 25
Nancy Gambrel	Jan. 27
Barbara Stewart	Jan. 29

Leanne Hurley	Jan. 31
Sue Hedke	Feb. 1
Sharon Bold	Feb. 2
Marcy Christensen	Feb. 2
Mary Conway	Feb. 2
Charlotte Drew	Feb. 4
Lauretta Schneider	Feb. 4
Judy Corfield	Feb. 5
Kathy Newcomb	Feb. 6
Elaine Morgan	Feb. 8
Susan Cook	Feb. 12
Charlene Cooper	Feb. 11
Mary Winegar	Feb. 13
Betty Evans	Feb. 14
Julie Grisham	Feb. 14
Pat Polachek	Feb. 14

Submitted by Barb Stewart, Membership



Newsletter Info

Do you have any quilt-related news to share with the guild?

Email me and I'll add it to the next newsletter (space permitting).

**Deadline for the next newsletter:
February 7, 2013, 6:00 p.m.**

Becky Hall, Editor
beckyh@rchconsulting.com

Calendar of Events

Check the body of the newsletter for more details. All events take place at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles unless otherwise noted.

January Meetings

Evening Guild: Mon. Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m.

Morning Guild: Tues. Jan. 29, 9:30 a.m.

February Meetings

Board Meeting: Tues. Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Evening Guild: Mon. Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m.

Morning Guild: Tues. Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/8 page \$10/issue (business card size)

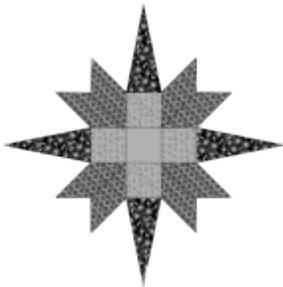
1/4 page \$20/issue

1/2 page \$40/issue

Above rates apply to a single issue. A purchase of the same-size ad for a year (11 issues) earns a 10% discount. Ads accepted only for quilting or quilt-related subjects and must be prepaid. Deadline for ads (getting copy or camera-ready artwork to the Editor) is the first of the month in which you wish the ad to appear. Call or email the Editor if you have any questions.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Prairie Star Press Subscription Only Rate: Non-members of PSQG wishing a subscription to the **Prairie Star Press** may subscribe for \$15/year (11 issues). Make check payable to PSQG and send to PSQG, P.O. Box 1460, St. Charles, IL 60174-1460. PSQG trades complimentary issues of the **Prairie Star Press** with other guilds upon request.



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