

Prairie Star Press

Prairie Star Quilt Guild
St. Charles, IL

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A Year of Challenges and Change, Yet We Sew On

As we soldier on into the 4th quarter of 2020, I took some time to reflect on where we have been this past year and where we are headed next year. And the first thing I have to say is, Holy Cow... this has been one crazy ride and for some of us that does not conjure up warm fuzzy feelings. Some of us may have lost loved ones this year, some due to the corona virus and others from various other illnesses. So, if you are the slightest bit like me, you may be thrilled to put 2020 behind you!

The pandemic presented a whole new shift in the way we have had to operate as a guild, and it forced our board members to put on our heavy-duty thinking caps and get creative. I must say how awesome our guild was in stepping up and making thousands of masks to help our healthcare workers and fill our community's needs when the pandemic first began. All of you who worked tirelessly to crank out mask after mask were truly showing a servant's heart and we as a board, we want to congratulate you and commend you for a job very well done!

We faced a lot of decisions during the early days of the pandemic and our first goal was to keep our members safe, which meant we had to make the sad decision to cancel our in-person meetings. It was the hardest decision we had to make, but it was certainly the right thing for everyone.

As we struggled over the many decisions we had to make about the May Banquet, and the unfortunate decision to cancel the in-person quilt show, I was amazed at the creative think tank the ladies became and how fast they all went into problem solving mode. We were forced to cancel workshops and retreats and all we hold dear.

As I sat back and watched what unfolded, I felt truly blessed to be a part of a group of such intelligent and hard-working people. I think some of us felt a bit like fish out of water at times, so it was a year of many learning curves too.

As we launched doing our monthly guild meetings on Zoom, I approached it with all the ambivalence of a Kindergartener going to my very first day of school!

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Upcoming Guild Meetings:

November 23, 2020 at 7 pm
November 24, 2020 at 9:30 am
No Meetings In December!

**ALL MEETINGS VIRTUAL
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

All meetings via Zoom to keep everyone safe and healthy. Email psqgboard@gmail.com with questions.

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Thursday, January 7, 2021. Send info to Melanie Murphy at melaniemakeups@gmail.com.

But how could I fail? I had Chris Macenski at the controls being the “producer” for me. And thus, a new era was born. We had a few whoopsies along the way, but we have learned, and improved and have become a force to be reckoned with!

And let us just talk about that quilt show for a minute... Wow, wow, wow, is all I can say about Melanie and Krista and their entire group of tireless workers who pulled off a truly magnificent electronic quilt show! What they did was groundbreaking, and we were leaders to which others will surely want to emulate. I could not be prouder of the ingenuity many people employed to make that show remarkable despite the blips they encountered along the way.

Janet Francis in programs had to go into maniac mode to figure out

how to pull off workshops without being able to meet in person. She rose to that challenge in warrior style fashion.

Chris Schwarz, who along with “Melanie Murphy Productions”, learned to create some mighty fine educational videos, which I have come to thoroughly enjoy!

Lastly, how would we keep all our systems running without the incredibly talented Chris Macenski who finds a way to fix any web site or computer disaster that is thrown in her direction with the skills of a Jedi Master!

When I sit back and reflect on all we have endured this last year and all the challenges we faced, I am proud of each and every person who was willing to think outside the box to provide an engaging experience

for our valued members! I assure you all, we have more exciting ideas, and plans to continue bringing you an amazing guild experience electronically until such time as it is safe to meet again!

As we cautiously move on into 2021, we are never quite sure what the immediate future will hold in terms of the pandemic. But what I am sure of, is with our team, we will make it bigger and better no matter what it takes! As you enjoy your upcoming holiday season, I wish you all good health, good family, and many blessings and we all look forward to the day when we can be together in person again. Until then, be brave, be creative and sew on!

Sandi White
Evening Vice-President

Award a QOV at our July meeting

The July 2021 meeting has been set aside to honor our veterans by wrapping them with your Quilt of Valor. We are cautiously optimistic we will be in-person by then. It's not too early to start thinking about your quilt.

As before, you nominate your Veteran(s) but this time, due to us

not meeting in person, you can fill out the form online (QOVF.org). Print the form and snail mail or email it to me. You then make the quilt, and wrap your nominated veteran at our Veteran celebration meeting.

To nominate, go to QOVF.org, Nominations and Awards, and

fill out the form. In the notes, put PSQG or my name so we can gather the information for our Program.

You will also find the Basic Requirements, size, etc.

If you have any questions, email me or give me a call.

- Rita Pennington

Retreat Summary and a January Virtual Retreat!

The November retreat was another great success with twenty-five participants raising \$500 for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. As usual, there was much sharing and conversation. Sharon T had the best tip of the weekend. She uses an old fashioned toilet brush to pick-up stray threads off the floor to prevent them from getting wound in her chair wheels and the vacuum beater

bar. We are all going to use that tip for sure.

At the retreats we work on our own projects. However, I do encourage participants to consider adding a charity project to their weekend. I have several meet-up's scheduled during the day or evening (none of which are required, nor is participating each day). At these meetings throughout the day it is exciting to see everyone's progress.

Sometimes we have a Saturday evening game. If this sounds like fun to you consider signing-up for the next retreat January 16 & 17. A link on the website (psqg.org) is coming soon.

-Barb Gillespie



Bee Keeper Buzz

I have been spending time calling members of the guild with several goals in mind. First, I want to determine which bees are still active. Most seem to be holding off until it's once again safe to meet in person. Some have met in a socially distanced group. Some have started meeting by Zoom.

Second, I am inquiring if each bee is interested in meeting by Zoom. If the answer is yes, then we usually have a short discussion about this form of meeting.

Third I'm making a list of the contact person for each bee.

I am still sorting through the information that I received from our previous beekeeper. So much has changed. Some of the previous contact people are no longer members of the guild.

If you have a bee that is still active, please feel free to send your information to me or to the PSQG email (psqgboard@gmail.com). I am interested in knowing the name of your bee, what type of bee it is and who is the contact person.

The Swedish Bee has openings for up to four new members of Scandinavian ancestry. They are meeting via Zoom. The contact person is Marcia Cameron.

-Beth Koos



Thank you so much for all you do for our Community!

Quilts of Valor is going strong! If you'd like to help please contact Rita Pennington at garipenn@att.net. There is another article in this newsletter about the QOV event planned for July 2021.

Try sewing something new! Fidget quilts and marble maze items for Kids with Special Needs are in demand especially with Virtual Schools in session. NICU Isolette

Community Service Programs

covers are always in need. We have kits available for all items. Contact Linda Stoyhoff at lstoyhoff@att.net or 630-444-1115 for further information.

Finished 3' x 6' mats for the homeless are still being collected! If you don't crochet, how about doing some recycling and making balls of Plarn for those who do? Contact Joyce Jensen mykids357@gmail.com

Quilts for Kids are in the process of making up new kits to be ready for winter sewing. Please contact Sandi White at text/phone at 630-294-9322.

Interested in helping with the Hospice Memory Bears program? Contact Nancy Krasinski at nancy.krasinski@gmail.com.

Quilt Show News

Website Still Available

The website is still running, and the plan is to keep it going through the end of the calendar year.

Ruby Rhapsody Winner

Our very own Marcia C. won the opportunity quilt! Congratulations!

On to 2022!

There is no time to really rest! We have to start thinking about the next quilt show. We have the DuPage County fairgrounds reserved for October 2022. Krista and Melanie will continue as chairpeople, but we really need a third! Won't you join us? It's also time to make a new quilt! Someone needs to take on the task of organizing the creation of the new opportunity quilt. Ideally, it

would be made early in 2021 so we could have it quilted and start selling tickets.

Sales

At this time, there are no new updates about in-person sales. However, if you are a Bonnie Hunter fan, she announced her new mystery on Halloween including her recommended colors. Our scraps committee is offering time slots to come shop at Susan Strasser's house if you need scraps to use for the mystery. Contact Susan if you'd like to come shop. An appointment and a mask are required.

-Melanie and Krista

2020quiltshow.psqg.org

Upcoming Programs

At this time, all speakers and classes will be virtual in some way. Our list of speakers is subject to change at short notice.

Nov. 23/24, 2020
Modern Quilt Studio
modernquiltstudio.com

December 2020
No meetings. Happy Holidays and bye-bye 2020!!

January 25/26 2021
Kathleen Herbach



Our web store is open

Place your order and select pick-up instead of shipping. Susan Egner will pick up your order and contact you to make arrangements for delivery. We also have the white travel mugs available. Contact Susan if you'd like one.

psqgstore.logofactoryusa.com



Modern Quilt Studio



Weeks Ringle and Bill Kerr are celebrating their 20th year as professional quilters and co-founders of Modern Quilt Studio, a design studio in Oak Park, Illinois. Bill and Weeks are pioneers of the Modern Quilt Movement, having written the first book on Modern Quilting.

Their lecture at both meetings will be "What makes it modern?". Their workshop is called "Curved Piecing" and will be via Zoom in 2 parts. Watch the class and then participate in the live event.

Curved Piecing
Date: December 5
Time: 12pm-2pm

[Click here](#) to register for the workshop! Cost is \$40.

More details:

A link will be sent to all PSQG members on 11/16/20 for viewing for 7 days prior to the lecture. The Question & Answer portion will take place at our regular guild meetings on November 23 at 7:15 and November 24th at 9:45.

Workshop: Curved piecing is scheduled on Saturday December 5th at 9:45. Class starts promptly at 10:00 am and runs until Noon.

All members who signed up for the workshop; if you desire to purchase supplies and kits, suggested patterns are included on the artists website at www.modernquiltstudio.com. Please note that the workshops are not kit-based, but optional. Some participants may choose to just follow along in the workshop. I received my pattern within 2 business days.

The class is delivered in a two part process.

- 1) A prerecorded lecture and demonstration of at least 1 hour will be made available to the participants via YouTube unlisted link.
- 2) A live via zoom session of at least 2 hours.



JANUARY



Kathleen Herbach from Wheaton IL

Kathleen has been quilting since 1993 when her mother introduced it to her and started a foundation flip and sew block. She was hooked and started watching Simply Quilts and other shows for inspiration and techniques. She has sailed on a quilting cruise and taken two trips to Japan to study (also known as purchase fabric). She has taught at Peaceful Hearts, Prairie Shop Quilts and Quilters Quest. She is part of the winning team of "Iron Quilter" with Debbie McCaffrey at the Rosemont Show.

Kathleen will be presenting her quilts in a virtual trunk show at our regular scheduled Guild meetings.

Workshops:

1/25/21 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Max of 20 students. Basic Binding
1/26/21 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Max of 20 students. Beyond Basics Binding

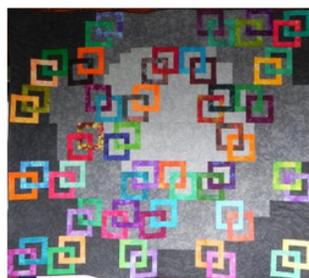
Location, if live, to be determined pending State of IL COVID guidelines.

I have requested that she work on possibly doing a virtual Zoom Workshop.

More details to come as January gets closer.



Portfolio



Donated items for sale

Several high-value items were donated to our community service group. These might have been items for our “quilty things” booth at the quilt show, but we thought we would offer them to all of you first. They are priced to the best of our knowledge, but we will take the best offer (OBO).

Sue Ann Reiner has these items, so please contact her if you're interested.



Pfaff 2144/2170 Embroidery Module and Accessories \$250 OBO. The member who donated it said she used it a few times and gave the machine itself away to someone who didn't want the embroidery items.



QuiltCut 2 set - quiltcut.com - \$250 OBO. Gently used. The carrying case still has the tag on it and the shoulder strap is also still wrapped. Melanie M owns one of these, and it's really great for speed cutting strips and pieces of the same size. Scrap quilt fans, this would speed up your cutting immensely.



KNK Zing Digital Cutting Machine \$250 OBO.

Donor purchased at a quilt show and said she doesn't think she even used it. I was afraid to pull it from the box as it looks like it's never been out! It cuts fabric and paper using computerized software (software not included, but you can download it free, link below).

This is the main site for the company: <https://knkusa.com/>

This is a link to the driver (software) <https://knkusa.com/resources/>

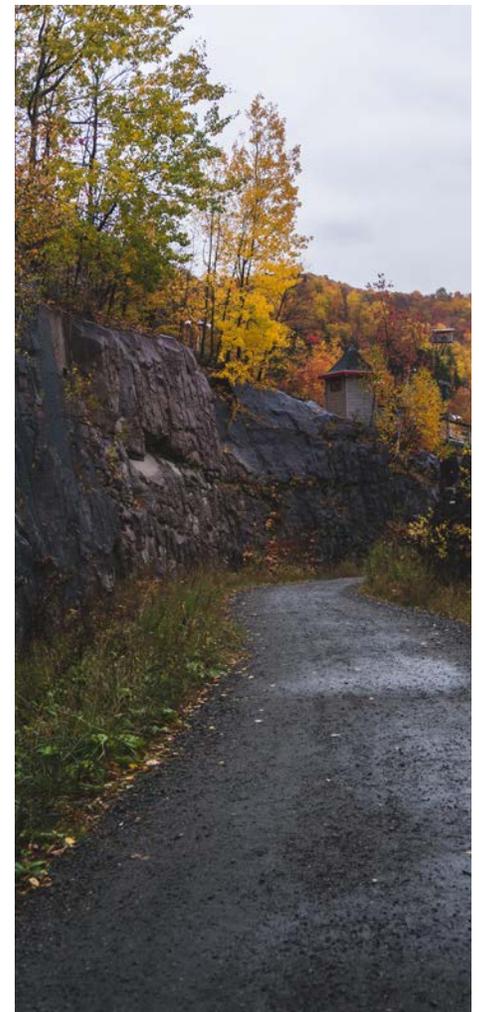


SHOW AND TELL

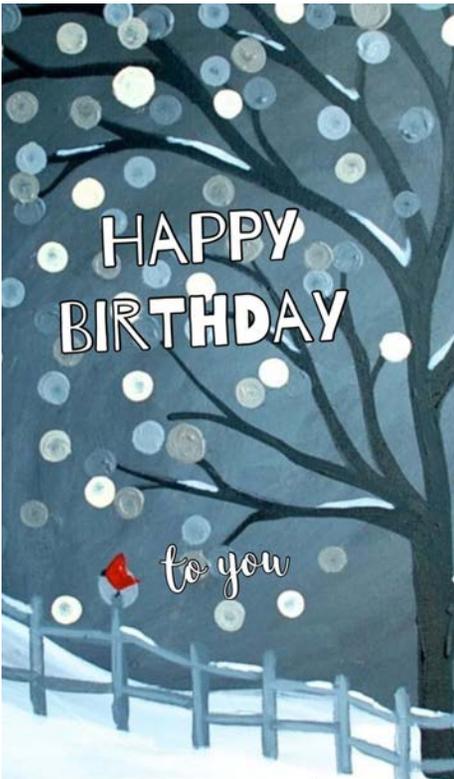
Get in line for show and tell! As you're making things and you want to share, please send your pictures and a description to psqgboard@gmail.com.

If you participated in the recent retreat, don't forget to send in pictures of what you worked on!

It's so inspiring to see what you're up to!



December/January Birthdays



December

Beverley Rose Enright..... 12/05
 Susan Egner..... 12/06
 Rita Pennington..... 12/06
 Merna Cunningham..... 12/08
 Kathleen Brown..... 12/16
 Britta Cuming..... 12/17
 Diana Sharp..... 12/19
 Dawn Schultz..... 12/22
 Beth Hoffman..... 12/23
 Christa Chocker..... 12/26
 Nancy Mueller..... 12/27
 Judy Scheppach..... 12/28
 Nancy Cleckner..... 12/30
 Ann Stoa..... 12/30
 Mary Jane Cross..... 12/31

January

Jane Phillips..... 01/01
 Debbie Konopka..... 01/04
 Pat Lipscomb..... 01/04
 Loretta Stenger..... 01/04
 Barbara Lies..... 01/07
 Mindy Bosso..... 01/08
 Irene M. Jones..... 01/08
 Denise Luper..... 01/09
 Nancy Pauli..... 01/09
 Joy Abts..... 01/11
 Karen Schroyer..... 01/12
 Judi Werkema..... 01/12
 Leslie DeBaun..... 01/14
 Marcia Cameron..... 01/20
 Chris Schwarz..... 01/23
 Angelika Brinkmann-Busi ... 01/24
 Diane Evinger..... 01/24
 Joyce Jensen..... 01/24
 Marion Schindwein..... 01/24
 Nancy Gambrel..... 01/27
 Anne Murray..... 01/29
 Barbara Stewart..... 01/29
 Mary Hudspeath..... 01/30
 Leanne Hurley..... 01/31
 Bonnie Prokop..... 01/31

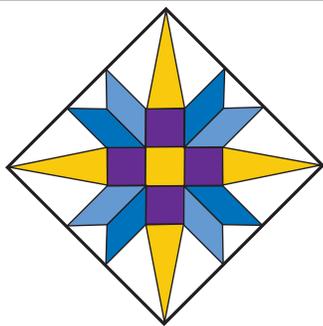


2020-2021 Board Members

President: Yvonne Richter
 Evening Vice President: Sandra White
 Daytime Vice President: Ann Johnson
 Programs Vice President: Janet Francis
 Secretary: Susan Strasser
 Treasurer: Alyssa Payleitner
 Membership: Lynne Curran
 Newsletter: Melanie Murphy
 Education: Foxy Bees bee - Chris Schwarz

Media Chair: Chris Macenski
 Bee Keeper: Beth Koos (AM)
 & Alyssa Payleitner (PM)
 Library: Liz Fitzgerald
 Community Projects: Sue Ann Reiner
 Contracts 2021- 2022: Janet Francis
 Nominations: Sandy Warzin
 2022 Quilt Show Co-Chairs: Krista Katzen &
 Melanie Murphy*
 Activities: Barb Gillespie

November/December 2020 issue



Prairie Star Quilt Guild

P. O. Box 1460

St. Charles, IL 60174-1460

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

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 (10 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 (10 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.