

# Prairie Star Press

Prairie Star Quilt Guild  
St. Charles, IL

Volume XLIV  
PSQG website: [psqg.org](http://psqg.org)

Issue #1  
August 2022

## FALL IS CLEANING AND LEARNING TIME

It's August. For me that means time to review my quilting practice as the kids return to school. This is essential to continue to produce finished projects, keep my skills sharp, and my quilting space productive.

First, I determine how many quilting projects I am actively interested in working on and where I am in that process. I create a master list of about ten items that I am in the middle of. I keep this list updated on a white board so I know where I am, at a glance, in any project.

Second, I ask myself, "how is my quilt space working for me? Are the pertinent elements of my craft positioned in the most ideal places in my room?" I practice several crafts that all share the same space, so I need to be sure all of the items work nicely together. I regularly tame and contain the bins of colorful collectibles that overflow their spaces.

With current projects and physical space in order, it is time to reacquaint myself with collected books, patterns and magazines brimming with new ideas.

Reading the articles gets me excited to learn new skills, and that's where our guild comes in!

Our speakers are teachers! That is why we have them visit us. We hear a lecture, but if that is all you do, you are missing out! I encourage you to take a class and allow your skills to go to the next level. Does your stomach get 'butterflies' when you read about our next class being offered? Good! That is a sign that you need to be there! Are you afraid that you won't understand the material? Don't worry! We are in a class with peers who will help us over the hurdle. Are you thinking that you don't need another PhD (Project half Done)? Then don't start a whole new quilt. Turn your learning piece into a pillow or table topper.

I hope you will join me in supporting our guild by attending our workshops. If we eliminate workshops due to non-attendance, we may lose the ability to hear certain lecturers. Some speakers will only lecture if they also teach a workshop.

Going back to school in August is not just for the children. It is for all of us who love to learn. Won't you join me in welcoming our speakers to our corner of the world where we can learn at our own pace?

See you in class!  
— Susan Egner, daytime VP

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## Upcoming Guild Meetings:

**August 22, 2022 at 7 pm**  
**August 23, 2022 at 9:30 am**  
**September 26, 2022 at 7 pm**  
**September 27, 2022 at 9:30 am**

All meetings at Congregational United Church of Christ unless otherwise noted.

*Congregational United Church of Christ  
40W451 Fox Mill Blvd.  
St. Charles, IL*

## Next Newsletter Deadline:

Thursday, September 8, 2022.  
Send info to Melanie Murphy at  
[melaniemakeups@gmail.com](mailto:melaniemakeups@gmail.com).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

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

Quilts of Valor® is sewing! First Tuesdays we're at the Moose Lodge in St Charles starting at 9am. (NOTE: No September meeting). Third Tuesdays we're at the VFW, Montgomery on River St starting at 9am.

Help us recognize those who served our country by piecing 58" x 68" quilt tops, doing longarming, or finishing up the binding! Our local QoV has awarded close to 300 quilts since Memorial Day. With Veterans

Day just 3 months away, the need is great. Contact Rita P. if you have availability to help. This is a great way to support our veterans.

NICU Isolette Covers & Fidget Quilts are always in need. Contact Linda S.

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 J.

Thank you to all the amazing supporters of our Quilts for Kids

Program. Let us know if you need projects to work on or need a pickup/drop off of completed quilts. Contact Sandi W.

We do have dog bed kits available but we are not collecting dog beds at meetings. Please drop off your completed dog beds at a shelter or foster near you. Click here for information: [Shelters & Fosters](#)

Not sure who to contact? You can email Community Projects via email right on the PSQG website! Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate project leader.

## BEEKEEPER BUZZ

Barb Gillespie and Beth Koos are planning to host an Open House for anyone who is interested in joining a bee, starting a bee, or just looking for more information about some of the bees that are attended

by members of the guild. The date hasn't been decided on yet, but it will probably be in September. We encourage any Bee contact person or another member of your Bee to attend.



## VIRTUAL RETREATS CONTINUE

The Virtual Zoom Retreats continue on the 4th weekend of every month, Saturday and Sunday.

Come for one day, both days, or even a few hours. Admission is free and you don't have to pack up your machine, projects, or supplies! You

can also get a little peek at what other sewers rooms look like, and we can relate if it's a mess!

The next chat is August 27 & 28. [Email activities to signup](#) and receive your zoom invitation. Come join in on the fun!



# QUILT SHOW 2022 UPDATES

## 2 months to go!

What?! Each month we get closer to our quilt show, scheduled for October 14 & 15, 2022 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds.

It's time to get really serious about finishing quilts, sewing on binding, and attaching hanging sleeves.

## Volunteer sign-ups

Ready to help at the quilt show? Please stop by the table at the meetings and sign up for a shift to earn free admission to the show.

## Open positions

- Quilt show director(s) for 2024
- Quilt Display (Set-up/Take-down)
- Scraps team (2024 show)
- Signage

Our next **committee meeting** is coming up on **August 10 at 7pm** via Zoom.

You can reach the 3 show directors at our personal emails, found in the directory, or by emailing [psqgquiltshow@gmail.com](mailto:psqgquiltshow@gmail.com).

Aside from scraps, trunks will be open at the August meeting.

## Opp. Quilt Ticket Sales

Buy your tickets at one of the meetings. We ask each member to purchase at least \$20 in tickets. You can then sell those tickets to friends or family members, or keep them for yourself and have a chance to win this beautiful quilt! It has Jamie Wallen's stamp of approval, you know.

Now that guilds are starting to hold in-person meetings and events once again, if you hear about a good place for us to show off our beautiful quilt, please share! And if you have time to take our quilt to an event, please volunteer.

## Challenge Quilt

Don't forget to sign up for the Little Quilt on the Prairie Quilt Challenge. Your quilt must represent the prairie and use a piece of mystery fabric that will be supplied with registration. [Details and the registration form](#) on the website.

## Scraps

Collection time has passed. We are overwhelmed with scraps and looking for some help measuring and folding.

We will be selling small pieces of fabric (less than 1/4 yard) at the quilt show by the pound. Please save your clean and dry plastic grocery store type bags for us to use.

We are still looking to build a committee to take over for the 2024 show. Now would be a good time to shadow us so you can learn what it takes to organize scraps for a successful show.

## Boutique

We would like to thank everyone who has so generously donated to the Boutique already and for helping to make our show a success. We have received some beautifully crafted items and look forward to collecting more.

See you all very soon.

Diana S. & Louette B.

## Quilty Things

You can make arrangements to drop off those books, patterns, magazines, etc. you no longer need. Contact Susan E. or Barb T.

## New! Youth Challenge

The Prairie Star Quilt Guild is excited to announce a new category for our 2022 Quilt Show!

A guild member can sponsor and help one or more youth(s) create a block for this new and exciting



category in the show. This is an unquilted piece, just a flimsy block. The block will be displayed at the 2022 quilt show in October.

There will be three age groups: K through 4th grade, 5th grade through 8th grade, 9th through 12th grade. The 12" block (unquilted) can be an original design or based on an existing pattern. Adhesive may be used, but the block must include either hand or machine stitching. There will be a \$5 entry fee, paid by the sponsoring guild member. A [sign up form](#) is on the website.

The finished 12" block can be submitted to either Beth Koos or Susan Plaster at the September guild meeting with the entry form pinned to the quilt block. An admission ticket to one day of the show will be given to the contestant.

Thank you all; sew on, and sew forth!

-Melanie, Krista, Mary, and the committee

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

All programs subject to change.  
More info on our website.

### August

[Barbara Eckmeier](#)

### September

[Kathy Steere](#)

### November

[Carol Wilhoit](#)

### January 2023, virtual

[Meg Cox](#)

### February 2023 , virtual

[Lisa Ruble](#)

### March 2023

[Lori Dickman](#)

### May 2023

[Melody Crust](#)

## OUR WEB STORE IS OPEN



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

[psqgstore.logofactoryusa.com](http://psqgstore.logofactoryusa.com)

# August



## Barbara Eckmeier

Barbara learned to sew in 4-H and made her first quilt while in high school but didn't start quilting seriously until after her marriage in 1984. She has been teaching quilting since 1990 and her favorite technique is applique.

Married to a military man, quilting became her portable career as they moved around the country and to South Korea for military assignments.

She is the mother of two, grandmother of one, and author of four quilting books. Barbara is a fabric designer for Paintbrush Studio Fabrics, a pattern designer, a Craftsy instructor, and she presents programs and workshops to guilds around the country.

Barbara lives in Lansing, Kansas with her husband and two dogs. In addition to quilting she enjoys flower



gardening, baking pies, writing, and sailing on their vintage sailboat at nearby Perry Lake.

Find out more [on her website](#).

Barbara will present one lecture and two workshops.

Her lecture is entitled, "Big block, small block". Her workshops are "Charming Baskets" and "It's all in the Sashings".

More information and signups are available on [our website](#).





# September

## Kathy Steere

Kathy Steere has been creative her entire life. The form of expression changes with her stage of life: doing craft kits as a child, making floral displays for work, leading scout projects and activities, visualizing flag routines as a color guard instructor, drawing for botanical art, and always, teaching. Kathy can draw, teaches drawing, and has always found coloring to be very restful.

She tripped into quilting in 2007. It did not take long for her to realize matching points and accurate  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams were not in her future. Free-motion quilting, though, was drawing using a needle and a power tool.

An art friend introduced Kathy to water-soluble crayons. While researching how to improve her technique on canvas, she discovered the crayons could be used on fabric. After much trial and error, more research, and practice, Kathy has figured out how to "color in the lines" on fabric.

Kathy Steere is an award-winning artist who enjoys sharing

her knowledge with others and genuinely wants her students to feel successful.

Kathy will present two lectures and three workshops!

The evening lecture will be "Colored Wholecloth and More". This trunk show/power point presentation will "go behind the curtain" and show the process of making select art quilts. You'll see how several different techniques come together to make the final piece – and how sometimes the best results come from messing up!

What is "colored wholecloth"? There are three basic steps: 1) Find/make a line drawing and transfer it to a single piece of cloth (taught in "The Illusion of Drawing" workshop). 2) "Poof" out selected areas using machine trapunto (see "Cookie Cutter Faux Trapunto" workshop). 3) Then pull out your inner child and color! ("Color Blending Basics" workshop)

The morning lecture will be "Life is a River - one artist's tale".

No, I did not grow up quilting at my grandmother's side. Nor did I paint at my grandfather's knee You'll hear about some of the twists and



turns that brought me to the point now of being an artist who quilts.

Kathy's 3 workshops will be:

- The Illusion of Drawing
- Cookie Cutter Faux Trapunto
- Color Blending Basics

[Visit our website](#) for more details and to sign up.

## FEATURED BOARD POSITIONS

Over the next few months, we will be presenting a short summary of what the board positions entail in hopes that you will, if asked, consider accepting a position on the board. Our nominations position is open for this new year.

Our fiscal year starts in June each year, with elections held in April.

**President:** This is one of our 2 year positions and must be someone who has previously served on the board.

- Facilitates board meetings (which are now held via Zoom),
- Reviews and signs all Guild legal documents and contracts,
- Fills in at Guild meetings when VP's aren't available,
- Conducts the annual election for the Guild's Board of Directors.

### Activities:

The Activities chair position has been responsible for scheduling quilt retreats, organizing the Quilts of Valor ceremony that occurs every other year in July, and planning/organizing the annual May banquet.

The best part of this position is connecting with members in the guild and making new friendships. This is a position that is not very restrictive, you can really make it your own as you serve the members of the guild.

This next year I will be planning multiple retreats throughout the year in the hopes that we will provide something for everyone. I welcome anyone (and everyone) to join with me in planning, and spreading the word about activities at the meetings!

### Nominations:

The Nominations Chair is responsible for preparing a slate of members who are interested in and willing to serve in available board positions for the following year. It helps to know what is involved in each of the board positions so that an appropriate nominee can be found.

In my experience in this position, guild members help by suggesting the names of people they think would be a good fit for a certain job. Members also may always nominate themselves. You need to be able to hear "no" as an answer but still press on to ask other people.

This can be a great job for encouraging new people to get involved with the board. The Nominations Chair is also responsible for making sure board position job descriptions are correct.



The Piatt County Museum in Monticello, IL, is having a quilt festival August 20, from 10am - 3pm. You can see more details on [Facebook](#).



*Aster*  
**SEPTEMBER  
 BIRTH FLOWER**

Wisdom  
 Faith  
 Valour

**September**

Rebecca Lamb .....	9/04	Barbara Carlson.....	9/17
Claire Erickson.....	9/07	Melanie Hutter .....	9/20
Yvonne Richter.....	9/09	Holly Lampier .....	9/20
Darlene Hoctor.....	9/09	H. Diane Moore.....	9/22
Gail Fields .....	9/12	Carol Cunningham.....	9/22
Bonita Gillette.....	9/12	Diane Duncan .....	9/24
Janet Miller.....	9/12	Sheila Cisko.....	9/25
Dixie Riley.....	9/12	Ruthann Heidgerken .....	9/25
Meg Hemmerich .....	9/17	Sheryl Keiler.....	9/27
		Lorraine Barker .....	9/27



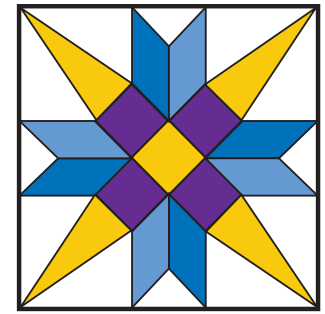
**NEWSLETTER NEWS**

Effective in January 2023, this newsletter will be changing. Starting with our January issue, it will be a biweekly blog on the PSQG website instead of a monthly newsletter.

You will still be able to read all the great information you see here about the Guild, just more frequently (every 2 weeks vs monthly) and in smaller articles. With news changing so rapidly these days, I feel it's time to move to this format. The hope is we can cut back on the number of guild-wide emails we have to send.

When the blog launches, we will provide a subscription option so you can be notified via email when there is a new post. It will be an evolving process, so we will adjust as necessary when we get your feedback. Also, our plans are still developing, so I will keep you up-to-date in the coming months.

Starting in June 2023, our new fiscal year, we will no longer offer an option to pay an extra fee with your membership to have the newsletter mailed to you. Those who receive a copy in the mail now will get extra information regarding this service.



**2022-2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

*These board members start their term in July.*

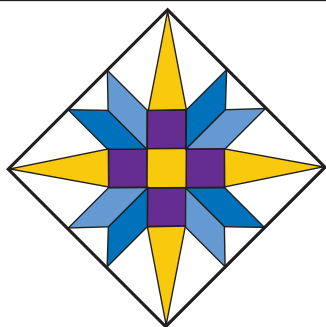
- President: Barb Gillespie
- Evening VP: Sandi White
- Daytime VP: Susan Egner
- Programs VP: Diane Moore
- Secretary: Yvonne Richter
- Treasurer: Diane Hubberts
- Membership: Aileen Vogel
- Newsletter: Melanie Murphy
- Education: Chris Schwarz  
 & Foxy Bees beez
- Activities: Sue Plaster
- Media Chair: Chris Macenski
- Bee Keeper: Beth Koos
- Library: Liz Fitzgerald
- Community Projects:  
 Sue Ann Reiner
- Contracts 2022- 2023:  
 Diane Moore

**Nominations: OPEN**

2022 Quilt Show Directors\*:  
 Mary Clemens, Krista Katzen,  
 and Melanie Murphy.

\*Quilt show is not a board position, but listed here for convenience.

## AUGUST 2022 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.