

Prairie Star Press

Prairie Star Quilt Guild
St. Charles, IL

Volume XLV
PSQG website: psqg.org

Issue #7
February 2024

GETTING INVOLVED HELPS YOU MEET NEW FRIENDS

Although we have certainly benefited from our wintry Zoom meetings, I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person again in March. I have been part of this guild for over a dozen years now and enjoy walking into the room and meeting up with so many friends and acquaintances who I have known over these years.

When I entered the meeting room for the first time years ago, I did not know a single person. I only knew that the people gathered in the space were all there for the same purpose - to hear about, learn and enjoy the practice of quilting.

The first year, I attended meetings and did not speak to anyone. Can you imagine that? At the end of the membership year I had a choice to make: continue on and be more open or leave the group. I decided to continue but I knew that I needed to change the way I interacted within the group. I had to try to meet people to make the meeting time more enjoyable. I signed up for a retreat without knowing

anyone (now do you see where I am going?) At the retreat, each time I had to use an iron, I would alternate between the two that were set up which required me to wade through all the tables to the other side, passing many new faces every time.

While ironing, the women seated alongside said hello and introduced themselves. During the meal times, I was able to meet a whole table full of women and join in with their conversations. By the end of that weekend, I joined a Bee and they are among my best friends today.

We have a Guild Retreat coming up in March. There is never a best, most convenient time to go away for the weekend, but I guarantee you that if you make the time, you will not regret it! First, you will have solid time to sew and work on a few projects that may be languishing on your tables. Second, you will share stories and conversations with people you may or may not know. This is LIFE! I do not want to close down my

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Upcoming Guild Meetings:

February 26, 2024 at 7 pm
February 27, 2024 at 9:30 am

March 25, 2024 at 7 pm
March 26, 2024 at 9:30 am

The February meeting will be held via Zoom. Check your email for the link.

In March, meetings resume at
Cong. United Church of Christ
40W451 Fox Mill Blvd.
St. Charles, IL

Next Newsletter Deadline:

Thursday, March 7, 2024.
Send info to Melanie Murphy at
melaniemakeups@gmail.com.

continued from page one...

pathways as I age but rather open them up to new friends, new skills and new fun! There is space for you at our retreat at the Hampton Inn North Aurora at Orchard and I-88. You do not have to stay at the hotel, but you can. The sewing room is pleasant and includes a fountain drink dispenser. There are a few nice food places close by. I encourage you to sign up on our website or print the form and mail it in to the address on the website. The dates are March 14 -17. The cost is \$75 for the event. I know some of you are on the fence. Maybe you are feeling those nervous butterflies in

your stomach. If so, I urge you to give it a try!

If that is too much of a commitment, we have less time consuming ways to meet a few people and help the guild. Our Quilt Show is this October. We have tasks that need to be completed to make the show run smoothly. Why not commit to helping? Some of our newer members may not know what they can do now. Start by cleaning out your books, patterns, notions and scraps. You may not need these items but someone else will enjoy them. These can be donated at our regular meeting for resale at the show. We have

a boutique that sells small hand sewn items, such as ornaments, table mats, book covers, needle keeps and other items. Sew a few of these things now while the weather is chilly. Of course, work on your own quilt to hang in the show. We will soon be asked to submit our registrations for quilts to display and we would love for every guild member to participate.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon at our February Zoom meeting!

— Susan E. AM VP



UPCOMING RETREATS

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

The next chat is February 24 & 25. [Email activities to sign up](#) and receive your zoom invitation. Come join in on the fun!

Sign up for the in-person retreat at the Hampton Inn North Aurora. March 14-17, \$75 per person. Details are on the website: <https://psqg.org/activities/retreat-registration/>.

ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

We have one more Winter on-line meeting; please keep a few things in mind when you're on Zoom:

- Start Zoom well before the meeting to check for updates and allow them time to install.
- Familiarize yourself with Zoom and where the mute and video buttons are for your set-up.

- Join the meeting on time.
- Mute yourself when you're not participating in a conversation.
- Turn off background noise like radios and televisions before the meeting.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone virtually, and we're glad we don't have to worry about going out in the ice and snow!



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Thank you so much for all you do for our Community! Make sure to check out tutorials on the website or stop by the Community Projects tables at the meetings to ask questions, see project samples, or pick up a kit or two.

There was a great turnout at the Quilts of Valor Foundation Sew-In Day on February 3rd. Thanks to those who attended! Rita P. has quilts to be quilted, please contact her if you're interested. When you submit a QOV quilt, please attach a slip with your name and city to be added to the label. Recommended quilt sizes are on the PSQG website. Contact Rita if you have questions or would like to stop by to help at the monthly events at the Moose Lodge in St. Charles on the 1st Tuesdays or at the VFW in Montgomery on the 3rd Tuesdays.

NICU isolette covers, fidget quilts, and marble mazes are always in need! Kits are available or you can check

out the PSQG Community Projects webpage for videos and size requirements. Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital is delighted with and appreciative of the fidget quilts and marble mazes that you've made. Thank you to all who've submitted your finished projects. Contact Linda S.

Thank you to all the incredible supporters of our Quilts for Kids Program. Kits are available if you would like a project before the March meeting and there are kits ready to be quilted by long armers. Contact Sandi W. for a kit drop-off.

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.

Got scraps to fill a pet bed? We have pet bed kits for you! PLEASE note that we've been informed that Anderson Animal Shelter in South Elgin is no longer accepting pet

beds. We are not collecting dog beds. Please drop off your completed dog beds at a shelter or foster near you. The list has been updated with the recent change.

Many thanks to Pamela S. and Ann G. for stepping up to take over the Port Pillow program! Port pillows provide relief to chemotherapy patients. They are attached to the underside of a crossbody seatbelt and positioned over the patient's infusion port. The pillows are given to Phil's Friends, a local organization that supports those affected by cancer. Kits are available, although you can also use fabric, stuffing, and hook and loop from your own stash. Thanks to Sandy A. for starting this program last year.

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.

— Sheila C.

PSQG'S 3RD DESIGN IT-MAKE IT-GIVE IT EVENT!

Saturday, March 2nd, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

University of Illinois Extension, 535 S Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174

The name says it all; you can design or plan out an item, take it home, complete it, and then give it to the guild for distribution to charities or for the Quilt Show Boutique. Beat the winter doldrums! Sort and play with precuts to make kits for others to sew or help us cut fabrics for kits.

Bring your creativity, rotary cutter, and your favorite cutting mat and ruler. Fabrics, simple quilt kits, design aids, sample quilt layouts, free patterns, Accuquilt cutters, and more will be available.

The guild will also provide cutting and ironing stations, but you can bring your own. Email communityprojects@psqg.org or Sheila C. if you would like to receive an email reminder a week before the event.

Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact CommunityProjects@psqg.org

QUILT SHOW 2024

We are making progress and have most of the positions for the October show filled. We still need someone to chair the set-up and take-down of quilts, someone to put up and take down signs, and a group to be involved in transporting pipes, drapes, and other stuff to and from the storage unit. If you can help out, please let us know. These are essential jobs involving work during the week of the show.

The entry forms for the show and for judged quilts will be available soon. You can turn them in at a meeting or mail them in. (Address will be provided on the form.) The tops don't have to be finished to enter, but need to be finished with hanging sleeve for the show.

— Liz F. & Yvonne R.

Boutique

Make some items for the Instant Gratification Boutique while you're keeping warm this winter. Think of items that you would love to get from a friend; that is what we are seeking. Any questions, feel free to contact me. Thanks in advance for your creativity, help, and contributions. Contact Sheryl A, Boutique Chair.

Books, etc.

Time to clean your sewing room! Now is the time to start donating your old books, magazines and patterns to the Quilt Show for us to sell and for others to enjoy.

From past Quilt Shows, we have learned that not all books and magazines will sell.

We are limiting donations to newer books, which are books with copyrights from 2000 through 2023. We have found that the premium quilting magazines, art quilting magazines, and foreign magazines will sell.

We are limiting donations of magazines to include ones like *Quiltmania*, *Simply Moderne*, *Simply Vintage*, *Quilting Arts*, *Piecework*, and magazines from other countries like *Today's Quilter*, *Love Patchwork and Quilting*, *Quilter's Companion*, and *Make Modern*. We will accept any patterns, but they must be complete.

There are a few exceptions to these rules. Please ask if you have any questions.

We will accept donations starting in March, as well as all in-person Guild meetings in 2024, through September. Bring donations to the Opportunity Quilt table or let us know and we will get them from your car. Any questions? Contact Liz F.

Quilty Items

It is time to start gathering quilty items to donate for the 2024 quilt show. Items should be gently used; rulers, sewing supplies, and quilt-related gift items are all welcome. Collections will re-start in March. Start collecting your trinkets to be sold at the quilt show.

Contact Barb T and Heidi C.



Fabric Resale

Quilty Resale is looking for volunteers to oversee Orphan Blocks & UFOs.

Do you have items that would be good for one of our raffle baskets? We will collect them at the meetings. If a Bee would like to provide items for a themed basket, that is welcome, too. Aileen V. is the contact for raffle baskets.

A reminder about prepping your donation
<https://psqg.org/wp-content/uploads/PSQG-Fabric-Resale.pdf>

If you have any questions, concerns, would like to donate fabric but can not prep it all on your own, if you would like to help another member organize their donation, if you have a time sensitive need to donate fabric prior to the March meeting, please contact me.

Thank you for helping our Guild keep being incredible!

— Sue Ann R.
Fabric Resale Chair

BUS TRIP TO GRAND RAPIDS, ANYONE?



Each member should have received an email with the following info and questions. Please respond to the email with your answers. Write to activities with your answers if you didn't receive the email.

We want to arrange even more fun and exciting adventures for you and need your input!

The fabulous AQA Grand Rapids Quilt Week 2024 will take place August 21-24, 2024. We are in contact with the Grand Rapids city tourism and several area hotels for discounted group rates. The number of attendees will determine the cost and the hotel selected.

We need to gauge interest in a trip like this. **Responses must be received by Feb 24, 2024,** to determine if there is enough interest for this year.

If enough quilters are interested, we will start collecting money very soon.

A group trip would involve:

One discounted double-occupancy rate for up to 50 members bundled as follows:

- Travel together by large comfortable coach bus the 3 1/2 hrs (from St. Charles) to Grand Rapids, MI.
- Stay overnight, double occupancy, at the Grand Rapids DoubleTree hotel.
- Breakfast at the hotel each day.

Time allowing:

- Travel to 1 or 2 quilt shops in the area by our bus. Games and prizes on the bus!!
- Tour of The Meyer May house - a fabulous Frank Lloyd Wright creation.
- Group dinner somewhere nice.

[Email activities to answer these questions by Feb 24:](#)

____ Yes I would participate in this activity.

____ I would be interested in one overnight Fri to the end of the show Sat.

____ I would prefer two overnights to include additional activities.

____ I would prefer three overnights to make the most of all the possible activities.

____ I would participate only if we left early Sat morning, spent 4 hrs at the quilt show, and returned home by 10 pm on Sat.

____ I would participate in the future, but am booked up this year.

____ No, I am not interested in travel activities.

Thanks,
Nanci M.
PSQG Activities chair
activities@psqg.org

BEE KEEPER BUZZ

The bees keep buzzing along. To keep my contact info up-to-date, I will get ahold of the contact person for each bee in the next few months.

Please feel free to email me if you want to update the information personally.

We have a new member

who is interested in starting a new bee. She would like to meet in or near Huntley on an evening or weekend schedule. If you are interested in joining, please contact DeeDee K. or me, Beth K.

One of our newer bees, The Stash Buster Bee, has openings

for a few more members. The contact person is Eileen T. Although Eileen plans to head to warmer weather this winter, the other bee members are welcome to continue meeting throughout the winter months.

— Beth K., Beekeeper

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

February 2024 (V)*

Kathy Doughty, PM meeting
Scott Fortunoff AM meeting

March 2024

Mary Alice Hart

April 2024

Business Meeting

May 2024, Banquet

Cheryl Sleboda

* (V) = virtual meetings

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



Kathy Doughty will join us from Australia on Monday Night, February 26, 2024.

Kathy will present a virtual lecture on Organic Design, Monday, February 26 following the 7 pm business meeting.

Members will receive the Zoom link via email.

Guests can register for the lecture on our website. Cost is \$10.



Scott Fortunoff is our speaker on Tuesday Morning, February 27, 2024.

Scott is the President of

Jaftex Fabrics (AE Nathan, Blank Quilting, Free Spirit, Henry Glass & Co, Studio E, 3 Wishes). As a Fourth

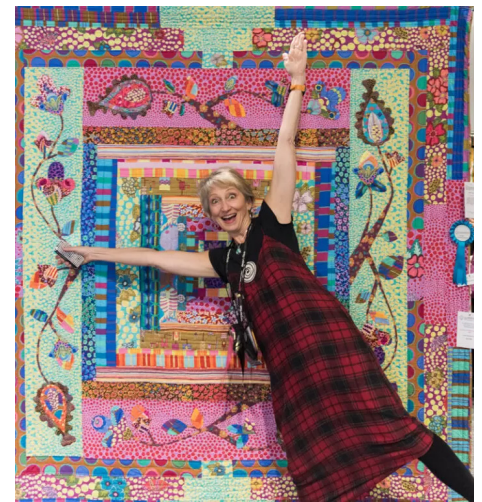
Generation Textile Executive, he knows the ends and out of the business.

In the past, we've heard from fabric designers and we know our favorite quilt shop owners, but just how much do we know about what happens in between? Scott will be doing his lecture Q&A style using our previously submitted questions as a springboard.

Scott will present his program Tuesday, February 27, following the 9:30 am business meeting.

Members will receive the Zoom link via email.

Guests can register for the lecture on our website. Cost is \$10.



NEW CONTRACTS CHAIRS!

Terri Martin and Susie Shaddle stepped up and will be the new Contracts co-chairs! The board is very excited to

welcome them and I'm sure we all look forward to the new speakers and programs they will find!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Our workshops are ready for sign-ups! Find what appeals to you and register ASAP. Remember, if workshops haven't met their minimum number of attendees 30 days in advance, we have to cancel. Don't hesitate to sign up online today or stop by the table at a meeting.

March 2024

Mary Alice Hart will have two workshops. See the website for details.



From Photo to Fabric Dogwood

March 25, 2024

10 am – 4 pm

\$40 + \$5 Kit
Kit payable in class

Congregational United
Church of Christ

May 2024

Cheryl Sleboda will have two workshops. See the website for details.



What in Carnation?

May 21, 2024

9 am – 12 pm

\$30

U of I Extension
535 S Randall Rd
St. Charles, IL

June 2024

Maday Delgado will have two workshops. See the website for details.



The Chaos of Perfection

June 25, 2024

6 pm – 9 pm

\$55 + \$20 Kit Fee = \$75 total

U of I Extension
535 S Randall Rd
St. Charles, IL



Scrappy Play

March 26, 2024

1 – 4 pm

\$25

Congregational United
Church of Christ



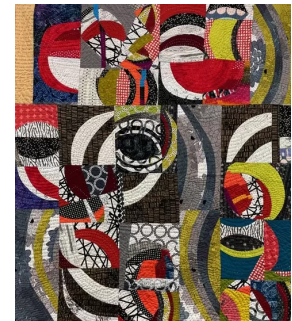
Artist Trading Card

May 21, 2024

6 pm – 9 pm

\$30 + \$20 kit fee

U of I Extension
535 S Randall Rd
St. Charles, IL



Improv Curve Piecing without templates

May 26, 2024

9 am – 4 pm

\$75

U of I Extension
535 S Randall Rd
St. Charles, IL

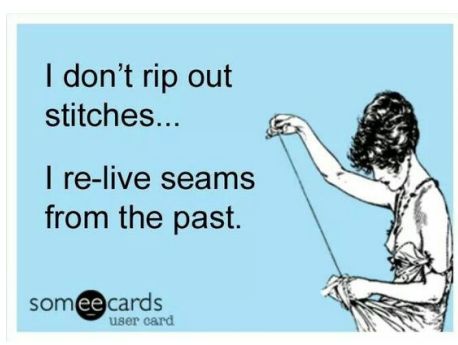
HUMOR FROM AROUND THE WEB



Quilting with Cats, Strategy 2:
The Empty Cardboard Box Diversion



Quilters' Poker





Narcissus
**MARCH
BIRTH FLOWER**

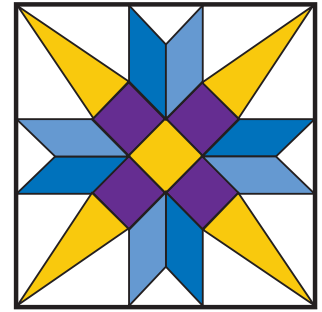
Rebirth
Faithfulness
Prosperity



Daisy
**APRIL
BIRTH FLOWER**

Purity
Innocence
Loyal love

*Happy Birthday to all our members who have
their special day in March and April.
For privacy, I will no longer list the names here.*



**2023-2024
BOARD
MEMBERS**

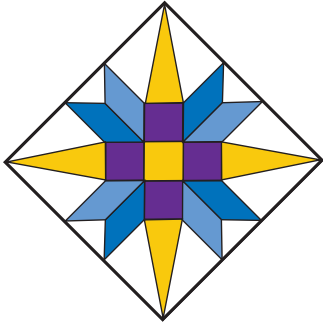
- President:**
Cindy Krelle
- Evening VP:**
Barb Tuman
- Daytime VP:**
Susan Egner
- Programs VP:**
Sue Ann Reiner
- Secretary:**
Ruthann Heidgerken
- Treasurer:**
Lori McMahan
- Membership:**
Aileen Vogel
- Newsletter:**
Melanie Murphy
- Education:**
Chris Schwarz & Foxy Beez
- Activities:**
Nanci McAtee
- Media Chair:**
Chris Macenski
- Bee Keeper:**
Beth Koos
- Library:**
Liz Fitzgerald
- Community Projects:**
Sheila Cisko
- Nominations:**
Sandy Andrews
- Contracts 2024:**
Terri Martin &
Susie Shaddle

2024 Quilt Show Chairs:
Liz Fitzgerald & Yvonne Richter

YOU'RE INVITED!

Did you know our board meetings are open for any member to attend? The meetings are held every month we have a guild meeting, on the first Tuesday of the month. To attend, drop the President an email so she can send you the Zoom invitation.

FEBRUARY 2024 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. Refer to our website for details.

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.