

# Prairie Star Press

Prairie Star Quilt Guild  
St. Charles, IL

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

Issue #6  
January 2023

## “ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU – ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY,” – PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address inspired children and adults to see the importance of civic action and public service. His historic words, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country,” challenged every American to contribute in some way to the public good. In 2023, please ask yourself how the theme in President Kennedy’s inaugural address, civic action, applies to your relationship with PSQG.

The start of a new year is a time when many of us assess our lives, our homes, our sewing and crafting spaces. What do we like and want to keep? What do we need to change or reorganize? The typical resolutions that we hear outside of the sewing room have to do with goals such as losing weight, eating healthier, or getting more exercise. For many of us in the quilting, sewing and crafting world, this is the time to participate in a decluttering challenge. Others may decide to learn a new quilting technique, finish some UFO’s, or become more proficient in color theory. The list goes on.

As you, our members of Prairie Star Quilt Guild, are thinking about the changes and improvements you want to make in your lives, please consider the ways that your own unique life experiences could be utilized in the care and upkeep of our guild. Each of us has our own skills, talents, and interests. Are they being put to good use or are they lying dormant? Our hope is that these wide-ranging skills, talents, and areas of interest could be put forth as an opportunity for public service with your guild.

We have openings on the board for President, Treasurer, PM Vice President, Programs, Contracts, Nominations and possibly 1 or 2 more, depending on the final decision of the current board member in each role. Whatever your interest or talent, we ask you to please speak up and let us know how you can help. We will find a place for you to fit in on the board, and that doesn’t mean a huge commitment. Many hands make light work, and we are seeking those hands right now. Action and inaction are both

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### Upcoming Guild Meetings:

January 23, 2023 at 7 pm  
 January 24, 2023 at 9:30 am  
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 February 27, 2023 at 7 pm  
 February 28, 2023 at 9:30 am

The January and February meetings are held over Zoom.

*Please watch your email for an invitation to the Zoom meeting.*

### Next Newsletter Deadline:

Thursday, February 9, 2023.  
Send info to Melanie Murphy at [melaniemakeup@gmail.com](mailto:melaniemakeup@gmail.com).

choices with consequences. The harsh reality is, without a President and Treasurer to elect in April, our guild will no longer be legal and will cease to exist. **The deadline for all these positions to be filled is March 27, 2023.** According to our bylaws, we must announce the slate of nominees 30 days before the election. Our April meeting is the business meeting where we hold the elections.

When the guild was originally formed and the first board set in place, the idea was to have an executive board consisting of the President, Treasurer, and Vice Presidents. The remainder of the board are COMMITTEE POSITIONS. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a committee as, "a body of persons delegated to consider, investigate, take action on, or report on some matter." **A body of persons**, not just one. Several board

members have been juggling the role of 2 board positions, and that is not in the spirit of having committees nor is it fair to ask someone to take on that amount of work. We currently have 268 members with 14 active board members. That is 5% of our membership doing 100% of the work. Is that a situation you would like to find yourself in? **This is a sincere plea for help.**

Truthfully, none of these positions are supposed to be overwhelming, but they are at this time. Most could be shared by a small committee, even as small as 2 members, sharing the load. The ideal board would be made up of 2 or more people per position, with one person attending and reporting at the board meetings. Your committee might even decide to take turns.

If you are a new member, speak up and get involved. This is a great way to meet other members and

be one of the first to hear what is planned for the guild, as well as share your thoughts on what's to come. Get involved. One hand raised may encourage another hand to raise. Tasks for an organization that feeds your need for creativity, lifelong learning, and fellowship should be a labor of love. Please excuse my liberal use of and rewording as I borrow President Kennedy's quote: Ask not what your guild can do for you--ask what you can do for your guild.

If you have questions about a [specific position](#) or would like to volunteer, please [contact a board member](#) or send an email to [psqgboard@gmail.com](mailto:psqgboard@gmail.com).

-- Originally written by Beth Koos, edited by Melanie Murphy, on behalf of your PSQG Board

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

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

Help us recognize those who served our country by piecing 58" x 68" quilt tops, doing longarming or finishing up the binding! First Tuesdays we're at the Moose Lodge in St Charles starting at 9am. Third Tuesdays we're at the VFW, Montgomery on River St starting at 9am. Rita P has tops ready for quilting.

In July, we will once again have our special QOV draping event. It's never too early to start thinking of the veterans (or two) you know and starting on their quilts. Contact Rita if you have questions.

Also, Rita would like to extend an invitation to the **National Sew Day on Saturday, February 4 at the Moose Lodge**. Its from 9 am - 4pm with a Potluck lunch. Email Rita P to RSVP. She needs to know how many are coming; there will be kits available.

NICU Isolette Covers & Fidget Quilts are always in need. Contact Linda S. for a kit or information on sewing using your own fabrics.

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.

We are not collecting dog beds or scraps for filling. Please drop off your completed dog beds at a shelter or foster near you. [Click here for information](#).

Thanks 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.

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

The Swedish Bee is open to 3-4 new members. The original focus of the bee was for people with Swedish ancestry. Over time it was opened to people with Scandinavian ancestry. Their current focus has become more about people who have an interest in Scandinavian fiber arts. For more information you can contact me or Marcia Cameron.

One of our members is hoping to start or join a bee in eastern Dupage County. She lives in Glendale Heights. I know that a couple of other members were hoping to also start a bee in Dupage County, but it

never seemed to get off the ground during the shutdown. If anyone is interested in this you can contact me and I will help to put you in contact with each other. If I remember correctly, the original idea for a bee in this area was for the evening, and this one is a request for daytime. Either way, please feel free to contact me if you are interested in either of these options.

One member has expressed interest in a Deb Tucker Bee. If you are interested in this please contact me and I will keep a list until there are enough members to form a bee.

When we once again start meeting in person, I have a few ideas to acquaint our members with our bees. I may start sponsoring something along the line of a “Bee of the Month”. Or, I may organize an event in which anyone can participate in a “speed dating” style of introducing the various bees. So far, this is just one of my “Big Ideas”. I will keep you informed once I have decided on a plan.

-Beth K, Beekeeper

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## GET OUT OF TOWN

Our Activities chair, Sue P., has been hard at work setting up several great retreats for 2023. Choose the time and location that works best for you and join us for one of these fun events. Retreats are glorious! You will meet so many wonderful quilters, and there is no need to worry about forgetting something. Someone will have it, or there can be a little side trip to a quilt store.

Roommates, too, need not be a concern. Talk at the meetings about needing a roommate and one may pop up. Or sign up and see who you

get placed with. It just might be a new best friend!

The dates and locations are listed on the next page. Be sure to pay attention to the deposit amounts and deadlines. If you're interested in the Dekoven Center in September, there is a place on the form to indicate your interest and be added to the contact list when more details are available.

You may view and print the details and [sign up forms](#) from our website.



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## 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 January 28 & 29. [Email activities to signup](#) and receive your zoom invitation. Come join in on the fun!

## 2023 RETREAT UPDATE!

### **May 25<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Pilgrim Park Camp & Conference Center*  
26449 1340 N. Avenue, Princeton, IL

### **August 24<sup>TH</sup> thru August 27<sup>th</sup>**

*The Gathering Retreat Center (Primitive Gatherings)*  
8567 South Loop Road, Larsen, WI



### **Sept 28<sup>th</sup> thru October 1<sup>st</sup>**

*DeKoven Center*  
600 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Racine, WI

### **October 5<sup>th</sup> thru October 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Hampton Inn & Suites Chicago/Aurora*  
2423 Bushwood Drive, Aurora, IL

### **MAY 2023 – PILGRIM PARK – Arrival time 4 pm – Departure time 10 am**

Deposit of \$100 is required upon registration and final payment (balance owed) is due March 1, 2023  
After March 1, 2023 all monies paid are nonrefundable – exception if we find a retreator to replace you  
Cost is as follows and includes 3 meals and coffee service -  
Single Occupancy \$275  
Double Occupancy \$255  
Triple Occupancy \$245

### **AUGUST 2024 – THE GATHERING – Arrival time 3 pm – Departure time 11 am**

Deposit of \$200 plus tax (\$210) required upon registration – THIS IS A NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT  
Final balance is due June 24, 2023. Please read refund policy on The Gathering Registration form  
Cost is as follows and includes 3 meals and coffee service  
Double Occupancy \$600  
Triple Occupancy \$550  
Quad Occupancy \$550

### **SEPT 2023 – DEKOVEN CENTER – Waiting on contract**

### **OCTOBER 2023 – HAMPTON INN Arrival time 9 am – Departure time 5 pm**

Deposit of \$35 is required upon registration and final payment of \$40 is due by August 1, 2023  
After August 1, 2023 all monies paid are nonrefundable – exception if we find a retreator to replace you.  
Cost is as follows & includes soda, coffee, tea  
Per Quilter - \$75 for the weekend  
You may call the hotel and reserve a room, make sure you ask for the 'CRAFTERS RATE'

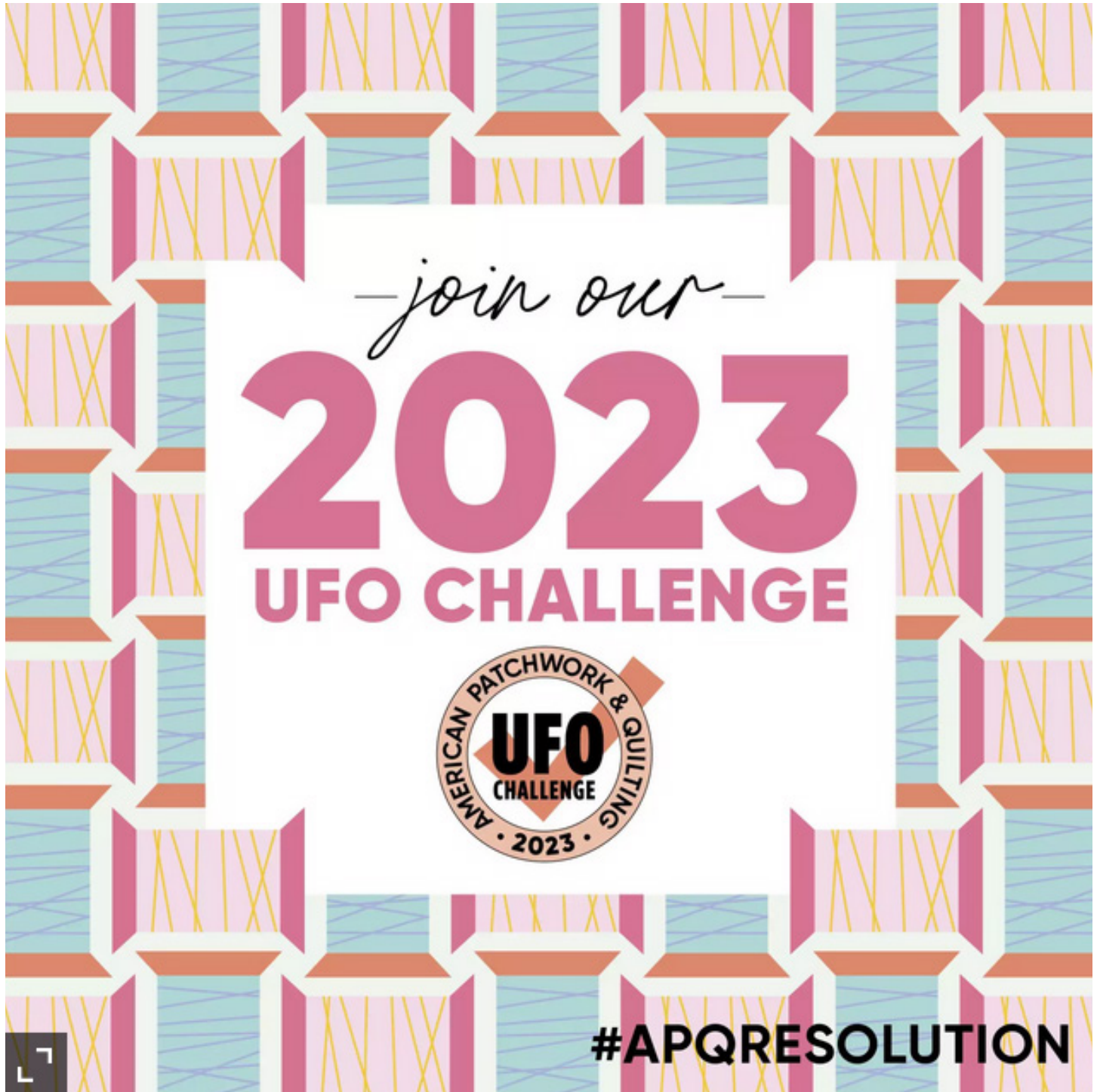
# 2023 UFO CHALLENGE

Are you looking for a way to finish some of your UFOs this year? American Patchwork & Quilting starts a challenge each January. You can [visit their website](#) and print the

free worksheet. Each month, they announce the number, and you focus on that project for the month.

If this challenge doesn't help you reach your goal, a quick Google

search for "quilt challenges 2023" will provide a list of so many more! Happy quilting!



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

**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)

# JANUARY



## MEG COX

Ohio native Meg Cox has been earning her living as a writer since graduating from Northwestern

University. She was hired as a staff writer by the Wall Street Journal, and worked at the WSJ in Chicago and New York for 17 years. While at the Journal, Meg contributed hundreds of front-page stories and was lauded for her feature writing. Her beats included financial futures, agriculture, the business of the arts, and publishing.

Her two main specialties are FAMILY TRADITIONS and QUILTING, two wildly misunderstood topics. Both are thought to be old-fashioned and unhip, which could not be farther from the truth.

Her expertise on QUILTING stems partly from the 25 years that she has been a passionate quilter. Additionally, Meg served on the board of the national nonprofit Quilt Alliance for 10 years and was president for 6 years. She writes a popular free monthly e-newsletter called Quilt Journalist Tells All. See her commentary on modern quilting in the hit 2011 documentary, *Stitched*.

What do all Meg's books have in common? They are so jam-packed with practical information & inspiration, that readers' well-thumbed copies are bristling with bookmarks and Post-It notes.

Meg will present two lectures:  
**Making Meaning: How Quilters Celebrate Life**

This lecture will be presented on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

A fun, inspiring lecture that changes lives. Meg shares what she has learned in 20 years of research about what makes traditions unforgettable. Whether you're looking for a way to liven up your monthly quilt group or mark major life milestones, you'll come away with concrete ideas and inspiration

**Take Better Quilt Photos Now**

This lecture will be presented on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

More than ever, quilters need to know how to take clear, well-composed photographs of their quilts for blogs and social media, to enter contests, and to simply document their work. This lecture includes a slideshow and handouts, and a demonstration of how to create a professional quality photographer's set-up at an affordable price.

**Read more about Meg and sign up any guests [on our website](#).**



## LISA RUBLE

Lisa blogs under the name Ellie Q (Ellie = L.E. = Lisa Erin and “Q” for Quilter) at Quilty Zest (Formerly Color My World). In her dreams of being a writer, she always wanted a pen name, so she figured why not try it out here?!

She was bitten by the color bug early on in her life, and has dabbled in drawing, painting, photography, and fabric. She learned to sew as a young girl, making clothes for her Cabbage Patch Kid, and then got into quilting about 20 years ago.

In addition to freelancing as a “day” job (which often reaches into the wee hours of the morning!), she spends her time hanging with her husband and three little boys, (who add a whole different type of color to her world—they’re 13 and 11, and 8!), scheming to paint every room in her house, and finding time to spend in her sewing studio, playing with fabric.

Lisa will present two virtual lectures and two virtual workshops:  
**Hooked on Improv Quilting Trunk Show**

This lecture will be presented on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

In this trunk show, Lisa will share the quilts that illustrate my journey from traditional to modern quilting. If you’re interested in exploring the no-rules world of improv piecing and the design doors it can open, this is the lecture for you!

### **Confessions of a Quilt Magazine Editor**

This lecture will be presented on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

In this hour-long lecture, Lisa offers an insider’s look at the world of quilt magazine publishing. Drawing from eight years of experience as an editor for several different quilt magazines, Lisa provides a behind-the-scenes look at assigning projects to designers, the magic of photoshoots, and how a magazine comes together. She’ll also share tips and tricks for submitting designs and thoughts on how the industry is changing in the advent of digital publishing. This lecture includes a trunk show of projects featured in quilting magazines.

### **Workshops**

#### **Intro to Improv Piecing**

Monday, February 27, 2023

1:30 pm-4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Members \$30, Non-members \$35

*Supply list available on PSQG website*

I’ll walk you through the steps to create three different improvisationally pieced blocks: wonky stars, wonky flying geese, and wonky log cabin blocks. Wonky piecing can seem intimidating, but I’ll make the blocks along with you, and you’ll leave the workshop with



confidence in your improv abilities! I’ll also share quilts I’ve made using these techniques for added inspiration.

**BONUS:** The blocks I demonstrate are featured in *Wonk Around the Block*, my new 6-part Block of the Month pattern.

#### **ZuZu Squares**

Tuesday, February 28th

1:30 pm-4:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Members: \$30, Non-Members: \$35

*Supply list available on PSQG website*

Take wonky piecing to the next level with this whimsical design! ZuZu Squares combines wonky log cabin techniques with pieced skinny strips (feel free to use a printed stripe or other contrasting fabric instead) for a quilt packed with wonkiness! This workshop includes step-by-step demonstrations for piecing the skinny strips, and then creating wonky log cabins, log by log. As we sew, I’ll share cutting and measuring tips to help your blocks come together more easily.

## NEWSLETTER NEWS

You probably noticed this newsletter is the same as it has been, and it's not a blog post.

I gave it a great deal of thought over the December break, and I decided it is not the right time to make that change. I will revisit the

idea in a few months. Perhaps I'll make that change in June when our new fiscal year starts.

Honestly, I need more time to get settled into my new schedule, and making this change was too much for me at this time.

I'm always trying to present a great newsletter for the guild, and I will continue to do that in the best way possible for all of us.

### **Moving Sale!**

Dixie is downsizing, so she's selling some of her quilting supplies. Fabric and accessories, plus much more.

One big item to sell is her  
**Accuquilt Studio Cutter**

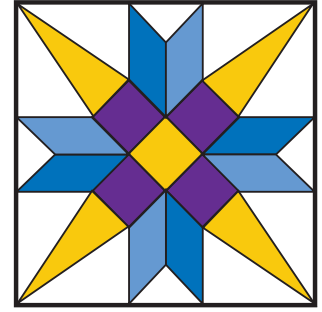
Many dies: Sets, Strip Cutters, Squares, Rectangles, Parallelograms, Triangles and Odds & Ends  
Dixie Riley 630-542-0109







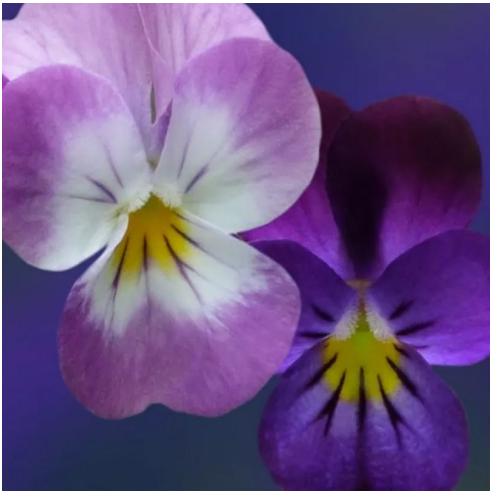
*Carnation*  
**JANUARY  
 BIRTH FLOWER**  
 Devotion  
 Loyalty  
 Love



**2022-2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

*These board members start their term in July.*



*Violet*  
**FEBRUARY  
 BIRTH FLOWER**  
 Virtue  
 Modesty  
 Humility

- President: Barb Gillespie  
 Evening VP: Sandi White  
 Daytime VP: Susan Egner  
 Programs VP: Open position  
 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:  
 Open position  
 Nominations: Open position

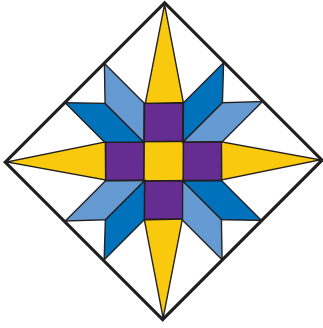
2024 Quilt Show Chairs\*:  
 Liz Fitzgerald, Yvonne Richter,  
 and Diana Sharp.

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

*Happy Birthday to all our members who have their  
 special day in January and February.  
 Due to privacy concerns, I will no longer list the names here.*



# JANUARY 2023 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.