

# Prairie Star Press

Prairie Star Quilt Guild  
St. Charles, IL

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

Issue #7  
January 2025

## PREPARE FOR THE “F” WORD

I am going to talk about the ‘f’ word. My children would be horrified! But you all know where my mind is headed. The word is: Finish. Usually, we assure each other that it is more than okay not to finish. We urge our friends to start something new. There are no rules. You took that workshop and learned a new skill, but you don’t have to complete the project. After all, who could resist that new pattern? Or that new line of fabric in our favorite color choices? Go for it and begin another one.

Being the new year, we often want to start new habits. Anyone here working on losing weight for the past few weeks? Writing a journal? Cleaning out a cupboard each day? I’d like to walk some number of minutes each day, increasing as I march into spring. Perhaps you are thinking about your quilting life and have made goals for this new year.

If not, I would encourage you to think about this quilting endeavor of ours. Take a moment and think

about this past year. Did you take a class to learn a new skill? Did you watch a video to guide yourself to new and better techniques. Sometimes we read an article or book to try a new pattern. Have you done this? At times we fall into a groove that has us remaking the same pattern over and over because we know it well. There is nothing wrong with that, of course. I would like to encourage you to look back over the past twelve months and think about where your quilts are taking you. If you did not stretch at all, maybe you could this year. Possibly working in a bit of a color you do not usually use would be enough of a challenge.

But even more, I would like to urge you to pick one project and finish it. Yep. I said it. I am not advocating the method where you write down your top twelve UFO’s and work on one each month. How many of you have actually gotten to the end of the year and completed twelve projects? I’d like to know how you kept that motivation going.

*continued on page 2*

### In this issue:

Be Thankful .....	1
Updates & reminders ....	2-3
Upcoming programs .....	4
Funny Pages .....	5
Magazine special offer .....	6
Birthdays & Board members .....	7

### Upcoming Guild Meetings:

January 27, 2024 at 7 pm
January 28, 2024 at 9:30 am
-----
February 24, 2024 at 7 pm
February 25, 2024 at 9:30 am

January and February meetings are held via Zoom. Check your email for the link.

Meetings will resume at Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Charles, in March.

### Next Newsletter Deadline:

Thursday, February 6, 2025.  
Send info to Melanie Murphy at [melaniemakeups@gmail.com](mailto:melaniemakeups@gmail.com).

**page 1 continued**

I recently started in on an old project; and I finished! Now it is hanging on my wall where I had always imagined it would go and looks amazing to me. The feeling of accomplishment

each time I see this quilt buoys me up and encourages me to go back to my sewing room and get the next unfinished one out and on its way to being completed. I encourage

you today to choose one old project and give it the attention it needs to become “Finished”.

— Susan Egner, AM VP

---

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Thank you so much for all you do for our community and the guild’s programs! 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 kits.

Thank you for supporting the local Quilts Of Valor. You’re invited to the QOV sew-ins held monthly on the first Tuesday at the Moose Lodge in St. Charles, and the 3rd Tuesday at the VFW in Montgomery. Contact Rita for more information.

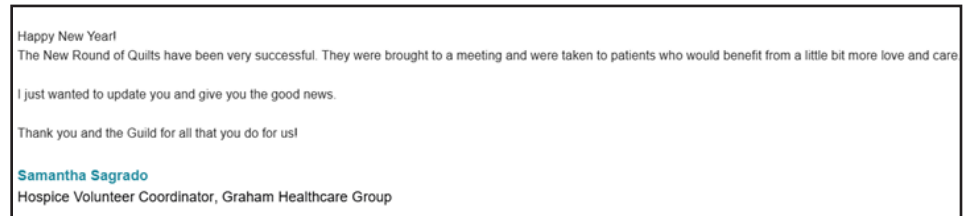
Palliative care doctors at Delnor Hospital are delighted with the fidget quilts and marble mazes that the guild provides to their patients. DuPage Care Center is also in need of fidget quilts. Kits are available or you can check out the [PSQG Community Projects webpage](#) for videos and size requirements to make them from your own stash. NICU isolette blanket kits are also available. If you need a kit or have questions, please contact Linda S.

Thank you for the plentiful donations of plastic grocery bags last November! Linda S. says there’s no need to bring more.

Residential Hospice in Lisle asks for quilts and comforters for their patients. Pin a note to the item if it’s been washed (unscented detergent, no softener is preferred). They will also accept fidget quilts and marble mazes. Contact Sheila C. if you have items. Here is Residential Hospice acknowledgement after delivering seven quilts in December.

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 use fabric, stuffing, and hook and loop from your own stash. Contact Pam S. and Ann G.

Got scraps to fill a pet bed? We have pet bed kits for you! We are not collecting dog beds. Please drop off your completed dog beds at a [shelter or foster](#)



Thank you to all the wonderful supporters of our Quilts for Kids Program. There were over 450 quilts donated in 2024! This is also a gentle reminder that the hospitals do not want kids quilts larger than 40" x 52". Sandi W. is very thankful to all of you for your generosity to this program. Batting donations are very much welcomed as well. Please contact her if you have any questions.

[near you.](#)

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

— Sheila Cisko, Community Projects Coordinator

# PSQG COMFORT QUILTERS, A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

In the PSQG 2025 budget, the guild approved spending \$1,000 for charity beyond the projects that we put our hearts into for sewing for others with our Community Service Project Team.

I am excited to announce that the board has approved creating a subcommittee that will be led by the treasurer and consist of 4 guild members. I am calling the sub-

committee the PSQG Comfort Quilters. The purpose of the committee will be to make a recommendation to the board on how we, as a guild, would like to spend the money that we have set aside in the 2025 budget and provide a voice for the guild in preparing for the 2026 budget.

If you would like to be considered for this subcommittee, please [send](#)

[me an email](#) by Friday, January 30th with your contact information and a brief summary of why you would like to be selected to be a part of this giving group. The nominee's will be brought to the board, selected and announced by Friday, February 7, 2025.

— Lori McMahon  
PSQG Treasurer



## UPCOMING RETREATS & EVENTS

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

The next chat is January 25 & 26. [Sign up](#) to receive your zoom invitation. Come join in on the fun!

Registration is full for the in-person retreat at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aurora, scheduled for March 27-30, 2025. If you would like to be on the waiting list, the [contact information](#) is on the website.

## 2026 QUILT SHOW

Hello Members!

While we are still celebrating the success of the 2024 Quilt Show, it's already time to look towards the next one. We have a date at the DuPage Event Center & Fairgrounds of **October 16th & 17th, 2026** (Friday & Saturday) and want

to remind you to save the dates. But it's not just about the week of the show. A lot of planning and prep work goes into the show.

Please take a few moments to think about what you'd like to do to help with the show. Is there something that

you'd like to do? What would you like to be involved with? Do you want to be involved with an area but not be "in charge"? Are you not sure but would like to talk about what you'd like to do? Contact Sue Ann R.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

### January 2025

Pat Speth, Pat Speth Quilts

### February 2025

Rob Appell, Rob Appell Designs

### March 2025

Chris Schulte, Green Light Quilts

### April 2025

Business meeting

## 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](https://psqgstore.logofactoryusa.com)

# JANUARY



Join us via Zoom in January for Pat Speth and Nickel Quilts!

Pat Speth began quilting in 1988 when she purchased a wool quilt batting from her Grandmother's auction. "I checked out a stack of quilt books from the library and fell in love with the patterns and designs, I knew I could not stop with just one quilt."

Pat started working with 5 inch squares as a basis for her quilting in 1993 after attending her first retreat. She was asked to do a program for her guild in 1997 using the 5" squares, which gave her the push to explore new uses and techniques for working with the squares. Pat, while working a full time job, started on the book, Nickel Quilts in 1998 and was able to have it ready for the publishers in June 2001.

After juggling her full time job and her quilting for many years, Pat moved into a full time quilting career in July 2003. "I have found my passion in life, and I can't imagine doing anything else."

She will present two lectures in January, Five Inch is a Cinch on Monday, January 27, and Nickel Borders on Tuesday, January 28. Both lectures are via Zoom.

## SHOW & TELL

During our virtual meetings, you have the best seat in the house for show & tell! To include your quilts in our virtual show & tell, [submit your pictures and description](#) before **January 24, 2025**.

Items submitted the weekend prior to the scheduled guild meeting may not be shared until the following meeting. I'm excited to see what you've been working on!

# UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

**March 24, 2025**

Aunt Margaret's Scrap Basket Workshop

Join the fun at the March 24, 2025 workshop, Aunt Margaret's Scrap Basket. Work on these new techniques from 9 am to 3 pm for \$65. This will be our first workshop for the 2025 year. Learn some new half square triangle techniques and enjoy a day of fun sewing with friends, new and old.

Chris Schulte from Green Light Quilts will be teaching a full day workshop on Monday. She guarantees to instruct and entertain us for the day. At the workshop you will make one block. From this block you can make 20 blocks for a quilt, 4



blocks for a table topper or 1 block for a wall hanging. The possibilities are endless.

— Barb Tuman

In addition to the half square triangle, raw edge applique will be used to make the flowers, blossoms, and leaves.

Have some fun and register for the workshop to show Chris what a great guild we have.

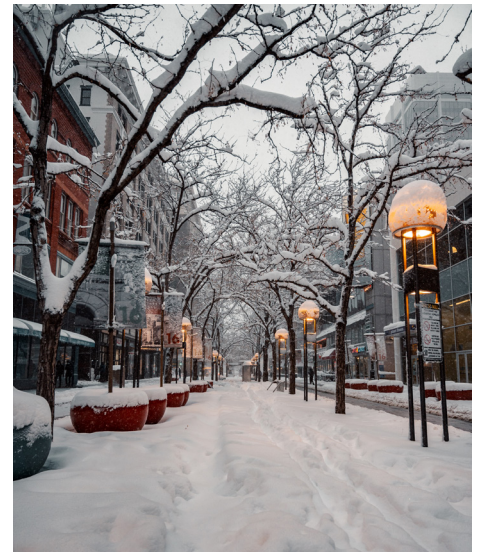
## ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

As we start our Winter on-line meetings, 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!





**BACK TO BASICS**  
**March 21 -22, 2025**

**9 am to 4 pm daily**

Admission \$8 per person

Children under 12 free

Featuring:

Vendors

Door Prizes

Bed Turning

Quilter's Garage Sale

Members' Boutique

Cafe including soups and  
 dessert

Little Galilee Christian  
 Camp  
 7539 Little Galilee Rd  
 Clinton, IL 61727



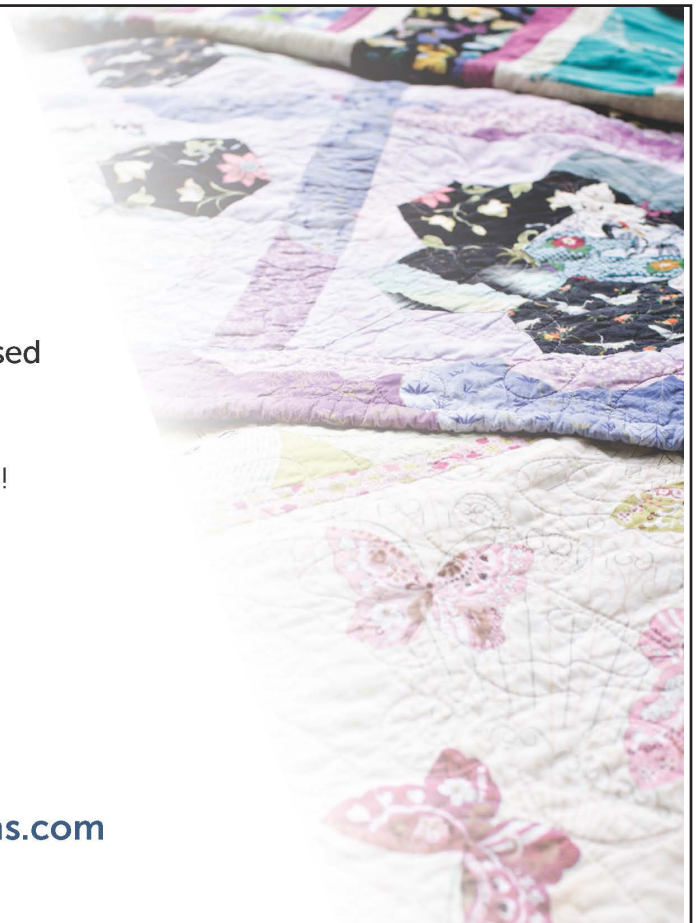
## Longarming Services

Providing a collaborative and customer focused approach to longarming!

- See patterns on your quilt, before longarming!!
- Computerized Edge to Edge
- Crib to King capabilities
- Currently running 4-6 week turnaround
- Stocked Batting
- Simple Flat Rate Pricing
- Rewards Program

Have a quilt ready to Longarm?

Email us at [longarming@jfquilteddesigns.com](mailto:longarming@jfquilteddesigns.com)

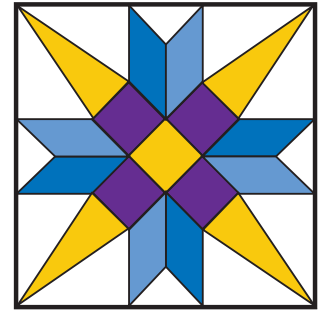




*Carnation*

**JANUARY  
BIRTH FLOWER**

Devotion  
Loyalty  
Love



**2024-2025  
BOARD  
MEMBERS**

- President:**  
Cindy Krelle
- Evening VP:**  
Barb Tuman
- Daytime VP:**  
Susan Egner
- Programs VP:** Zohra Arastu
- Secretary:**  
Ruthann Heidgerken
- Treasurer:**  
Lori McMahan
- Membership:**  
Aileen Vogel
- Newsletter:**  
Melanie Murphy
- Education:**  
Chris Schwarz & Foxy Beez
- Activities:** Nanci McAtee
- Media:** Nancy Krasinski
- Tech support:** Chris Macenski
- Bee Keeper:** Beth Koos
- Library:** Liz Fitzgerald
- Community Projects:**  
Sheila Cisko
- Nominations:**  
Sue Plaster
- Contracts:** OPEN



*Violet*

**FEBRUARY  
BIRTH FLOWER**

Virtue  
Modesty  
Humility

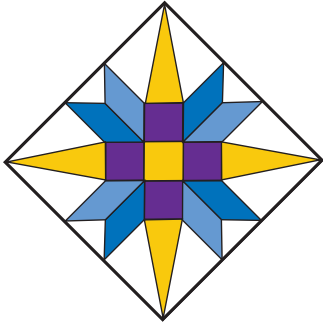
*Happy Birthday to all our members who have their special day in January and February. For privacy, I will no longer list the names here.*

**NEW BOARD NOMINATIONS**

Looking to do something new in 2025?  
It's the time to start searching for the new board members who will take over in June 2025.

I am stepping down as newsletter chair, and there are also several other open positions that need to be filled. Please talk to our Nominations chair, Sue P., if you are interested in filling a position.

# JANUARY 2025 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.