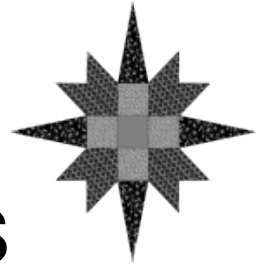


# PRAIRIE STAR PRESS



PRAIRIE STAR QUILTERS GUILD  
St. Charles, IL

PSQG Website: <http://www.prairstar.net>

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE NO. 7  
January 2010

## FROM THE MORNING VICE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all! Are you cozy inside today with the snow falling? We are certainly immersed in winter, but just think, there is no outdoor gardening or lawn mowing to do, so are you working on your Challenge Quilt? Remember it is due this month at either meeting or to me by February 1<sup>st</sup> ... see information in this newsletter.

I hope your Thanksgiving and December Holiday was wonderful and that you are settled back into routines of sewing and quilting (and working for a lot of you). I did finish lots of projects including a Charity quilt I once pieced and didn't think I could quilt well enough. When collecting all the Charity supplies I saw it again and told myself that I just had to quilt it, so I did. You will see it at the AM meeting.

We had a wonderful class from Georgia Rodney in November, and if any of you finished a quilt top, please show it at the meeting. Georgia is a wonderful teacher ... "Thanks, Georgia!" Don't forget to bring your show-and-tell, charity quilts, items for our quilt show baskets and "Buy it Now" table to our meetings, as well. Our show is now only nine months away. Bring your money and/or checkbook to buy tickets for our UFO, and to sign up for workshops.

The new contracts team has a terrific line-up of guest speakers for next year so watch for announcements and articles in the following newsletters. These girls have spent a lot of time deciding who to ask, writing to them to finalize their contract, deciding on workshops, and hosting when they come into town ... so support the Guild by attending our meetings and signing up for workshops. There is so much still to learn about quilting.

"Fun Quilts" this month. Keep on quilting!

Ginny Wright  
[ginny.wright@comcast.net](mailto:ginny.wright@comcast.net)



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Checks made payable to PSQG for workshops can be sent to Lynn Murphy, 3709 Ridge Pointe Dr., Geneva, IL 60134, or email Lynn at [drslm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drslm@sbcglobal.net).

**\*\*\*EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY – IF WE DO NOT REACH OUR MINIMUM ENROLLMENT NUMBER 30 DAYS PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED WORKSHOP, WE WILL HAVE TO CANCEL – SO SIGN UP EARLY!\*\*\***

**\*\*ALL SUPPLY LISTS MAY BE FOUND ON PSQG WEB SITE\*\***

**\*\*FOR WORKSHOPS THAT OCCUR DURING THE LUNCH HOUR, LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A SMALL FEE\*\***

### JANUARY

#### Lecture: January 25 & 26

FunQuilts was founded by Weeks Ringle and Bill Kerr in 1999. It is a design studio, not a retail shop, where Weeks and Bill create one-of-a-kind and limited edition contemporary quilts, design fabrics, write books, write for magazines and design for manufacturers.

[www.funquilts.com](http://www.funquilts.com)

#### Workshops:

##### FROM IDEA TO QUILT

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Kane County Extension Center  
You have an idea for an original quilt, but you need to figure out the details. What size are the pieces? Does the palette need some work? How are you going to quilt it? How would different binding fabrics change the look of the final quilt? This class is designed to coach you through the process of making an original quilt. Come with the desire to try new

colors, techniques and textures. Bring a sketchbook and several ideas that you would like to put into fabric: a celebration of your life; a birth or death of a loved one; a wonderful memory (vacations, a special place or time, etc.). Cost: \$58 (\$68 for non-members).

### IMPROVISED PIECING

Tuesday, January 26, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Think of "Improvised Piecing" as a modern version of the crazy quilt. Learn how to use improvised piecing with either new fabrics or scraps as small as 1"x1" to make free-spirited quilts of several different styles. You will be shown several different techniques for improvised piecing and how color decisions can turn a mound of scraps in to a work of art. Patterns will be available for those who want them and others may choose to develop their own pattern using the technique. Purchase a kit or bring your own scraps. Cost: \$30 (\$40 for non-members). **NOTE:** If you want to use a kit, you must order and pay for it at the November guild meetings.

### FEBRUARY

#### Lectures: February 22 & 23

Blue Underground Studios has been publishing quilt patterns since 2005. Their mission is to publish quilt patterns that are clear and innovative, allowing all quilters, no matter their skill level, to make fantastic quilts. On Monday evening we will have a trunk show and lecture titled "**The Philosophy of Quilting.**" Tuesday morning, the lecture topic is "**Designing and Publishing Patterns.**"  
[www.blueundergroundstudios.com](http://www.blueundergroundstudios.com)

**Workshops:**

**JESTER'S COURT**

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SIGN-UPS

**ARCHIPELAGO**

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SIGN-UPS

**MARCH**

**Lecture: March 22 & 23**

Talented quilter, Edyta Sitar, of Laundry Basket Quilts, will join us to talk about the "Reasons for Quilting". Edyta will reflect on quilters' work and how they find inspiration to create, express, and mark milestones in their lives. The program includes historical information as well as personal stories to which many quilters can relate.

[www.laundrybasketquilts.com](http://www.laundrybasketquilts.com)

**Workshops:**

**STARS IN QUILTS**

Monday, March 22, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm,  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

This is a splendid workshop to honor one of the most common loved quilt designs - a Star. Edyta will help you to create beautiful star blocks and inspire you by sharing her thoughts, knowledge, and star quilts. This workshop features 15 different star patterns. Through these patterns, we will look at star blocks, layouts, sashing and different techniques to set stars in quilts. Cost: \$50 (\$60 for

non-members), plus \$20 kit fee to be collected in class.

**PAPER FOUNDATION PIECING: ON EAGLE'S WINGS**

Tuesday, March 23, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm,  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

If you like precision sewing, this class is for you! During this class you will learn the relationship of various colors, fabric designs, value of measuring and pre-cutting all pattern pieces before sewing, and the precision of paper foundation sewing. Any level of quilter is welcome and a starter fabric kit will be provided. Cost: \$35 (\$45 for non-members), plus \$20 kit fee to be collected in class.

**APRIL JOINT BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, April 26

**MAY BANQUET**

Monday, May 24

Award-winning quilter, Suzanne Marshall, joins us in May for the banquet and two exciting workshop opportunities! Suzanne learned to quilt by checking out library books and making quilts for her children. As a self-taught quilter, she has made her quilts by trial and error. Suzanne will share her quilting journey with us.

[www.suzannequilts.com](http://www.suzannequilts.com)

**Workshops:**

**WACKY BIRD**

Monday, May 24, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm,  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Have you ever wondered how to applique a multi-pieced pattern without marking the background or using transparent overlays? This Wacky Bird will come together perfectly and without effort using the take-away applique method. Ideas for enhancing the block with patchwork will be illustrated and discussed. Picture

*Elizabeth Coleman Owner & Worker-Bee*

**PRAIRIE QUILTING**

*A Long-Arm Quilting Service*

**847-931-9440**

available at [www.prairiestar.net](http://www.prairiestar.net). Cost: \$50 (\$60 for non-members)

### **QUILTING WITHOUT A HOOP OR FRAME**

Tuesday, May 25, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm,  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

YES, it is possible to quilt without a frame or a hoop! Wonderful results can be obtained, often with smaller stitches, by using this quilting method. The class includes preparing the quilt for quilting, discussion of battings, demonstrations, and hands-on experience. This particular method is much less stressful on joints and allows more comfortable sitting positions. The class is suitable for beginners as well as for hand quilters who would like to learn a new way to quilt. Cost: \$40 (\$50 for non-members)

### **BUZZ FROM THE BEEHIVE!**

Welcome back to the Bee Hive! Hope your holidays were particularly special this year. This worker bee had a wonderful Christmas, nice quiet New Year and learned a new skill -- knitting!! Now it's time to get back into the quilting saddle and ride like the wind!

This being our Quilt Show year, let's make something really extraordinary and share the joy with our Bee. Nothing better than quilt show excitement to stir the hive into

#### **Longarm opportunity**

APQS long arm machines are available for you to rent in my studio. Contact me for training or custom computerized quilting.

Deb Figved (630) 837-6383

<http://quiltandsew.net>

some crazy buzz! Let's not let these winter blues get us down or the cold freeze our joy. Get together with your quilting Bee and put a little heat in the needle ... show the quilt world what your Bee can do with fabric and thread!! If you don't belong to a bee and wish to, see me at your guild meeting and we'll find a home for you. We have great interest in a Saturday Bee, an Applique Bee and a Newbie Bee ... we'd love to have you join in one the fun!



It's my great pleasure to introduce you to *How Swede It Is*, one of PSQG's terrific Bee's!! Thanks to Elaine Morgan and all the Swedish worker bees for sharing their Bee experience with us.

**How long have you been together as a Bee?** 2 years

**How many are in your Bee?** 9

**How did you all come up with your Bee name?** *How Swede It Is* -- we are all at least ½ Swedish!

**What kind of projects do you all like to work on?** Just about everything! So far we've only had one swap -- a red, white, and blue disappearing 9-patch. One of the members who is from Sweden wanted this color choice! The American members wanted blue and yellow! Go figure!

**What does a typical Bee meeting look like?** We sit around and gab and then have dessert! Some of the members actually bring handwork -- some just veg!

**How do you organize your Bee meetings/hostesses/etc.?** We meet once a month in members' homes -- three have two meetings a year and the remainder have one meeting/year.

**Do you do anything together outside Bee meetings?** We have had one field trip to shops in Rockford and we have an annual Smorgasbord in December with the husbands invited. Each of the members brings a homemade Swedish dish -- it is absolutely wonderful!

**What would you all like your fellow guild members to know about your Bee?** It is fun to talk about our Swedish relatives -- mostly our grandparents who immigrated from Sweden -- and our childhoods with Swedish roots. Surely there are enough German, Italian, English, French, Polish, etc. to start another "nationality" bee?

**What other hobbies do your members enjoy?** Knitting, crocheting, smocking, beading, baking, traveling.

**What quilt or quilt block best describes your Bee? Why?** Is there one about enjoying each other's company? Or about great desserts? LOL! There is a block in Carol Doak's book on paper-pieced Mariner's Compass called "Sweden" -- I guess that would be it? Most of us got here "by boat" -- and that's the "mariner" part -- the Sweden part is self-explanatory!

**This bee is closed to new members (yes or no)?** Sorry -- but, yes, it is.

I love that idea of a "cultural" bee...what do you have in common with other quilters besides quilting? Let us know about your great ideas!

Until next time ... feed your life from the well of sweetness -- good books, kind words, music that makes your spirit soar and movies that inspire ... and quilt, of course!!

Teresa Kasch, Beekeeper  
(630) 641-6410  
[tkasch@comcast.net](mailto:tkasch@comcast.net)

Have any quilt-related news to share with the guild? Email or call me and I'll put it in the next newsletter. Deadline for the next newsletter is February 4<sup>th</sup> ... thanks!

Jennifer Neuman, Editor  
[jenniferneuman@wideopenwest.com](mailto:jenniferneuman@wideopenwest.com)  
(847) 608-4323

## RAFFLE BASKETS

The January theme for donations to the Quiltfest Raffle Baskets is "Pamper Yourself". A few ideas are bubble bath, soaps, a pedicure kit, a wonderful smelling candle, a gift card to Ulta.

If Santa brought you something nice but you can't see yourself ever using it, please consider regifting it to us. We promise that we'll use it to enhance an appropriate basket, and half the money earned benefits the "Living Well".

We also need LARGE baskets. We already have plenty of smalls and mediums.

At the rate we're going, there will be several WONDERFUL baskets -- so keep those donations coming! Thank you!

Your Raffle Basket co-chairs,  
Nancy Gambrel  
[gambrels@comcast.net](mailto:gambrels@comcast.net)  
(630) 584-3959

Marcia Cameron  
[mec515@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mec515@sbcglobal.net)  
(847) 742-2963

## **CHARITY QUILTS - HOPES AND DREAMS**

I get the newsletter from Quilter's Dream Batting Company. Sometimes they have specials and if I remember to mention the "code word" when I place an order, they will send free a crib size batt. So, with this in mind, I greedily read through the newsletter. Right now, they are sponsoring a contest to raise awareness for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). The son of the owner of Quilter's Dream has ALS. I had no idea what a devastating disease it is until I read the letter she had written. The AARP Health Encyclopedia explains it this way: In ALS, nerve cells (neurons) waste away or die, and can no longer send messages to muscles. This eventually leads to muscle weakening, twitching, and an inability to move the arms, legs, and body. The condition slowly gets worse. When the muscles in the chest area stop working, it becomes hard or impossible to breathe on one's own. ALS does not affect the senses, bladder or bowel function, or a person's ability to think or

reason. There is progressive loss of ability to function or care for oneself. Death often occurs within 3 to 5 years of diagnosis, about 20% of patients survive more than 5 years after diagnosis.

Well, I'm not going to get a free batting this month, but I am going to send a couple of quilts to help the cause. If you would like to know more, here is the link: <http://quiltersdreambatting.com/HD/ALS.htm>

Nancy Gambrel

## **A FOLK TALE**

For those "Lady of the Lake" quilt fans, here's a bit of folk lore from Wales.

This is the tale of the Lady Llyn y Fan (The Lady of the Lake) and her marriage to the son of Blaen Sawdde Farm. After their wedding, The Lady of the Lake told her husband that, if he should ever strike her, she would return to the lake. As might be expected in a folk tale, he did strike her and she left. However, the couple had three fine sons, and on many occasions, she reappeared to them and taught them the medicinal qualities of many plants and herbs. She told her eldest son, Rhiwallon, that he would be a benefit to humankind with his medicine. She gave him a bag of medical prescriptions. Subsequently, he and his three sons became physicians to Rhys Gryg, Lord of Dinefwr, who died in 1234. These folk remedies of the Physicians of Myddfai, as they came to be known, were recorded in manuscripts and were later published. Some famed medicinal flowers and herbs include foxglove, poppies and chamomile.

## CHALLENGE QUILT

This is the final reminder that the Challenge Quilts are **due at the January Guild meeting**, evening or morning, or to me by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Included in the newsletter is the Quilt Challenge Form in case you lost your paper copy which has the information as well as a half sheet to be turned in with your quilt.

You will also sign a form giving the Guild permission to photograph your quilt, use your name and information on your quilt. The quilts should be an original work of art, but you can use ideas from other quilts you have seen. If you used an idea you might reference the maker in your write up.

### FREE-MOTION QUILTING TRAINING

You're invited by the newly formed Northern Illinois Longarmers Guild.

**When:** Saturday: February 6, 10-1 pm.  
\$20 admission fee.

**Where:** Wood Dale Public Library,  
520 N. Wood Dale Road.

If you crave ideas for your free-motion quilting, enjoy a morning of lecture-training by DeLoa Jones—author and quilter of over 3500 quilts. DeLoa will present her designs using a long-arm machine—however, the designs can be done on your domestic machines too. This class will give you a multitude ideas as well as teach you many free motion techniques based on the continuous curve with other added surprises. DeLoa will also discuss ways to quilt those classics such as Double Wedding Ring, Log Cabin, Triple Irish Chain and several more that are quick and simple. This class is a companion her book "**Sampler Solutions**". Her website: <http://www.deloasquiltshop.com/>

Contact Deb Figved (630) 837-6393 if interested.

Basically, we are looking for quilts which have a perimeter 40" to 60" which are based on the 'word' you chose.

We will vote on some or all of them at the Guild Meeting in February so we can begin on the Calendar for the show in October.

Thanks for participating!!

Ginny Wright  
[ginny.wright@comcast.net](mailto:ginny.wright@comcast.net)  
(630) 513-1418

### EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009-10

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Bee Keeper	Teresa Kasch
Charity Projects	Claire Erickson

\*indicates co-chair

\*\*\*\*\*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(Check the body of the newsletter for more details.)

**January meetings**

**Evening Guild, Mon., Jan. 25, 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
**Morning Guild, Tues., Jan. 26, 9:30 am**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**February meetings**

**Board meeting, Tues., Feb. 2, 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
**Evening Guild, Mon., Feb. 22, 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
**Morning Guild, Tues., Feb. 23, 9:30 am**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

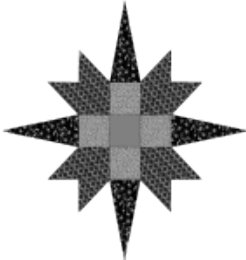
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**ADVERTISING RATES**

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 (11 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.

**Prairie Star Press Subscription Only Rate:** Non-members of PSQG wishing a subscription to the **Prairie Star Press** may subscribe for \$15/year (11 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.



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