

# PRAIRIE STAR PRESS

PRAIRIE STAR QUILTERS GUILD  
St. Charles, IL

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

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE NO. 6  
November 2009

## FROM THE EVENING VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings, fellow quilters,

Hope you all were not too spooked by the ghosts and goblins on Halloween so that you can prepare yourselves for the holiday season ahead. I always look forward to this time -- but this year for me will be tinged with some sadness ... missing my dad. That said, it is on to new traditions as well as fond remembrances.

At our recent board meeting there was much serious but productive discussion related to the financial/programming issues as mentioned last month by our president, Gail Myers. We reviewed our budget parameters and directed the contracts committee to go back and rework the proposed slate of programs for the 2010-2011 year to be sure that we stay within the budget. We are confident that the Guild will continue to offer great

speakers, fun and educational workshops, and the marvelous fellowship that we all enjoy as we pursue our love of quilting.

A small housekeeping item: While reorganizing and repacking the library materials for storage, a slide projector has been unearthed. Way back when, before laptops and power points, this was how programs and lectures were presented. Before this item is disposed of, we wanted to afford the owner the opportunity to claim it, but we do not know who that lucky person is. If anyone knows, please let either Gail Myers, Susie Wing, or Ginny Wright know. Thanks!

Please be sure to look ahead for workshop opportunities in the coming months and sign up early. Remember, if classes are not filled, we will be canceling and that is not a happy thought!

When we do gather in the days right before Thanksgiving, Donna Langford will be sharing her knowledge about textile preservation methods. She is the museum curator at Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum & Gardens in Rockford. Georgia Rodney will be leading a class after the Tuesday meeting on the use of Fibonacci numbers in quilt design. (Wish I could be there!)

Until the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> -- quilt away!  
Susie Wing



## 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\*\***

### NOVEMBER

#### **Lecture: November 23 & 24**

This month we will be showcasing two of our talented guild members! Donna Langford will provide an interesting lecture entitled, **"From Our House To Yours: Preserving Your Textiles."** As the museum curator at the Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum & Gardens in Rockford, Donna has applied preservation methods to the 19th century textiles in the museum's collection and will be sharing her experience with us.

#### **Workshop:**

##### **NO FEAR FIBONACCI**

Tuesday, November 24, 1:00 pm– 4:00 pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Guild member Georgia Rodney will help take the mystery out of working with Fibonacci numbers to design your quilts. After a short discussion of Fibonacci and divine proportion, and looking at quilt examples, students will begin working on

their own projects, from a table runner to the beginning of a bed-size quilt. Cost: \$25 (\$35 for non-members)

**DECEMBER: No meetings  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

### 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**

Saturday, February 20, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Kane County Extension Center  
 Cost: \$50 (\$60 for non-members) Check PSQG's website for a picture of this quilt.

**ARCHIPELAGO**

Monday, February 22, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 Cost: \$50 (\$60 for non-members) Check PSQG's website for a picture of this quilt.

**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,

*Elizabeth Coleman* Owner & Worker-Bee  
**PRAIRIE QUILTING**  
*A Long-Arm Quilting Service*  
**847-931-9440**

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

#### **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>

### **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)

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 January 7<sup>th</sup> ... thanks!

Jennifer Neuman, Editor

[jenniferneuman@wideopenwest.com](mailto:jenniferneuman@wideopenwest.com)  
(847) 608-4323

### **GOING, GOING, GONE!**

There are only three spots left in our upcoming retreat, January 15-17. Don't be left out! Call me for more info or check the September newsletter.

Caron Carlson, Activities Chair  
(630) 879-0983

[bigtimequilter@yahoo.com](mailto:bigtimequilter@yahoo.com)

## QUILT SHOW RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets for the Quilt Show raffle quilt will be distributed at the January Guild meetings. If you need tickets for the holidays (early printing), contact Deb Figved at (630) 837-6393. Tickets will be 6 for \$5, or \$1 each.

## INSTANT GRATIFICATION BOUTIQUE

The quilts, wall hangings and runners, etc. are piling up in my goodies closet. Thanks to all who pitched in to make things for the boutique. We have things from pincushions to ornaments to larger pieces. We could use some bags, purses, pillow cases and children's themed items. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the next sew-in, Monday, November 23 from 10 am to 2 pm. You can bring items to work on for the boutique or drop me an e-mail and I'll bring you a "kit" to work on.

Georgia Rodney  
Instant Gratification Boutique Chair

## BUZZ FROM THE BEEHIVE!

The Beehive welcomes the newest Bee to our Guild family - *Let's Bee Friends!* *Let's Bee Friends* is a daytime quilt bee meeting at *Prairie Shop Quilts* (Batavia) on the third Thursday of each month (except December), 9:30am to 2pm. If you are interested in more information about this wonderful group of quilters, contact Joyce Cooper (an Evening Chapter member) or see me at the Beekeeper's table at your chapter meeting ... they would love to have you join them!

Here's what's in the works ... we will soon have a Saturday Bee!! Yea!! Would you like to receive an invitation to the Kickoff Meeting? How about an Applique Bee? We have interest in getting one started! Are you brand new to quilting and want to be in a Bee with other newbies? We would like to put out to you an idea of starting a Bee for Newbies! There are some terrific ideas for this Bee and I'd love to share them with you! Send me an email or buzz on over to the Beekeeper's table at your Chapter Meeting in November and let me know of your interest!

The Beehive would like to introduce you to ***Stitch-a Little, Talk-a-Little***, our featured PSQG Bee for this month!



**How long have you been together as a Bee?** We started our bee in 1983 in the town of Lombard.

**How many are in your Bee?** We have 7 members.

**How did you come up with your Bee name?** *Stitch-a-Little, Talk-a-Little* is a take off on *The Music Man*.

**What kind of projects do you like to work on?** We mostly do handwork at Bee. We also have had block exchanges and round robins.

**What does a typical Bee meeting look like?** We arrive at the hostess' home around 7:30pm, visit, stitch, laugh, have show & tell with treats around 9:30pm ... all of the fun usually involves chocolate in any form!!

**How do you organize your Bee meetings?** We have a hostess rotation.

**Do you do anything together outside Bee meetings?** Yes, we enjoy a road trip now and then ... and some of us go to "quilt camp!"

**What would you like your fellow guild members to know about your Bee?** We are good friends, some of us have moved from the homes we lived in when we started in 1983, but still travel once a month to be together. The road to a friends home is never far!

**What other hobbies do your members enjoy?** Gardening, hand-stitching, baking, beading, machine embroidery and knitting.

**What quilt or quilt block best describes your Bee? Why?** The Crazy Quilt!! We are all ages, different personalities and specialize in different techniques!

**Is your Bee closed to new members?** No! We're open to meeting new people and widening our circle of friends!

Wow!! What a wonderful Bee!! Don't you want to hang out with them? I do!! Thanks so much, *Stitch-a-Little, Talk-a-Little!* If you are interested in more details about this Bee, see me at your Chapter Meeting or send me an email.

May the joy of friendship be a part of your quilting life!

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

## IS IT QUILTED ENOUGH?

Quilting "density" refers to the amount of quilting in a given area of a quilt. Batting manufacturers indirectly talk about density when they indicate how closely batting must be quilted to maintain its integrity after handling and washing. You can find batting that recommends quilting as close as 1/4-inch, or up to 10 inches apart!

When deciding on how much quilting to add to a project, consider these points:

- What does the batting manufacturer recommend?
- How soft and supple do I want the quilt to feel?
- Do I want any areas to "pop out" by creating texture or background quilting?
- Do the designs I have chosen consistently fill the quilt's spaces?
- Is my border as heavily quilted as the body of my quilt?
- Will the quilt be washed frequently?

- Are there any straight lines or seams that I want to keep straight? (Think stitching in the ditch.)

Your answers to these questions will help guide you in determining how much quilting to add to your project. As you start your next project, avoid two common pitfalls when it comes to quilting density:

- Heavily quilting the quilt's interior but lightly quilting the borders, resulting in wavy edges.
- Leaving large areas unquilted, including appliqué pieces, which will cause those areas to wear more quickly as they shift on the batting.

The next time you go to a quilt show, pretend you are the judge -- what would you have written the comment, "Needs more quilting"?

**BACK TO BASICS at the Education**

**Table this month:** Stop by the Education table this month to view some ideas for the new quilter or quilters who need help in brushing up their skills.

Education Chairs  
 Deb Figved (AM) and Gail Maggio (PM)

**RAFFLE BASKETS TO BENEFIT LIVINGWELL**

The Quilt Show Committee has chosen to support the LivingWell Cancer Resource Center with half of the proceeds from the Raffle Baskets. The other half will benefit our guild.

The LivingWell Center is located in Geneva and you can learn more about it by going to [www.livingwellcrc.org](http://www.livingwellcrc.org).

LivingWell's mission is to help those working to overcome the effects of cancer in their lives. It has 30 programs and services which are provided free of charge. 100 percent of their budget is dependent on the generosity of donors. Overhead costs are low, with 88 percent of all funds raised supporting programing.

In four years, LivingWell has served more than 7,000 people facing cancer here in our community, thanks to 150 volunteers.

| <b>EXECUTIVE BOARD<br/>2009-10</b> |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| President                          | Gail Myers   |
| Program VP                         | Lynn Murphy*<br>Susan Jensen*                                      |
| Evening VP                         | Susie Wing   |
| Morning VP                         | Ginny Wright   |
| Treasurer                          | Joanne Sattler   |
| Secretary                          | Liz Fitzgerald   |
| Newsletter                         | Jennifer Neuman*<br>Mary Winegar*                                  |
| Education                          | Deb Figved (PM)<br>Gail Maggio (AM)                                |
| Membership                         | Liz Coleman<br>Diana Knight  |
| Contracts                          | Susan Jensen*<br>Jenn Garlitz*<br>Mary Stewart*<br>Susan Strasser* |
| Nominations                        | Marty Jacobsen   |
| Public Relations                   | Jan Sharpless*<br>Susan Carr*                                      |
| Activities                         | Caron Carlson  |
| Library                            | Kathy Kocunik  |
| Bee Keeper                         | Teresa Kasch   |
| Charity Projects                   | Claire Erickson  |

\*indicates co-chair

One-third of the volunteers are professionally licensed and certified and facilitate support groups, provide nutrition consults, lead yoga classes and provide massage therapy and healing touch.

Nancy Gambrel and Marcia Cameron are the organizers of the Raffle Baskets. Please join with a group of your fellow quilters to put together an appealing basket or donate items to Nancy and Marcia's themed baskets. These baskets will be raising money for a very worthwhile cause.



## WILL YOU HELP FILL OUR RAFFLE BASKETS?

We are counting on you, the PSQG membership, to help us fill the raffle baskets for the upcoming 2010 quilt show. Profits from the raffle baskets will be split 50/50 between the Guild and The LivingWell Cancer Resource Center in Geneva.

Thank you for your generosity thus far in responding to our monthly themes. The theme for November is "Fabrics from Other Times and Places." We would like new fabric that fits this theme. "Other Places" could include Asian, African, Australian fabrics or even novelty fabrics depicting famous places. Fabric from

"Other Times" could include reproduction fabrics from the Civil War Era or the 30's. What type of fabric do you think fits this theme?

We will have a basket at the back table at the guild meetings to collect your donations. We hope it will be easy to fill this basket!

Also, it's not too late for your quilt bee to consider filling a basket. Choose a theme and be creative. Just let us know what you are planning. We have guidelines for putting together your basket. Contact us with any questions.

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

## INSTANT GRATIFICATION BOUTIQUE

The quilts, wall hangings and runners, etc. are piling up in my goodies closet. Thanks to all who pitched in to make things for the boutique. We have things from pincushions to ornaments to larger pieces. We could use some bags, purses, pillow cases and children's themed items. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the next sew-in, Monday, November 23 from 10 am to 2 pm. You can bring items to work on for the boutique or drop me an e-mail and I'll bring you a "kit" to work on.

Georgia Rodney  
Instant Gratification Boutique Chair

## UFOS

Many thanks to those of you who have donated all of the UFOs to date. Also, we appreciate those of you who have gotten into the spirit of this new endeavor to raise money for the guild. We have made a little over \$300 since August. The money will be used to support the wonderful programs that we enjoy each month. Please let Marty Jacobsen know if you have something to contribute that you no longer want. It could be a book, an unfinished top or a bunch of blocks, a kit that you had dreams of putting together, fat quarters, or a quilting tool that you thought you couldn't live without and now can't figure out why you bought it.



## LIBRARY UPDATE

The books donated to the PSQG Library in memory of Barbara Holmes by Peter Holmes have been processed and are available for check-out in November. This is a bonus check-out period since we do not have a meeting in December, therefore all books are due at the January 2010 meeting.

Remember, if you forget to return on time, fines are \$3 per book per month. If you find that you aren't able to attend either guild meeting, on the weekend before please contact me by telephone for a one time renewal.

The website Library Book List will be updated in January 2010 to reflect all the new titles and authors.

PSQG has a wonderful library collection and hopefully more members will take advantage. There is something for everyone!

Happy quilt reading,  
Kathy Kocunik  
(630) 892-0537

**How would you like to hold the  
keys to the Quilt Shop?**



**Business For Sale  
Prairie Shop Quilts—Batavia**

**Contact Bonita Deering at  
630-406-0237  
Or [info@prairieshopquilts.com](mailto:info@prairieshopquilts.com)**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

**November meetings**

**Evening Guild, Mon., Nov. 23, 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Morning Guild, Tues., Nov. 24, 9:30 am**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**January meetings**

**Board meeting, Tues., Jan. 5, 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Evening Guild, Mon., Jan. 25, 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Morning Guild, Tues., Jan. 26, 9:30 am**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

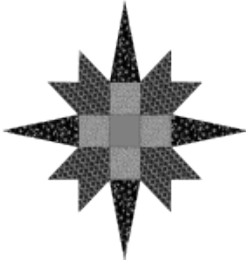
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**ADVERTISING RATES**

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.



Prairie Star Quilters Guild  
P.O. Box 1460  
St. Charles, IL 60174-1460

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