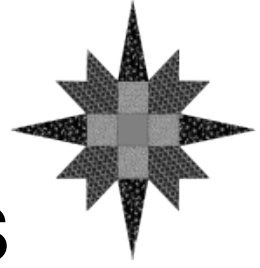


PRAIRIE STAR PRESS



PRAIRIE STAR QUILTERS GUILD
St. Charles, IL

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

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE NO. 8
February 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, Happy 2010! It's my turn to write the opening message to all our quilting friends. I hope everyone had the opportunity to see one of the chapter speakers from Fun Quilts in January. I'm not an art quilter, myself, but I was so impressed with both Bill Kerr who spoke at the evening chapter and his amazing wife, Weeks Ringle, who spoke at the morning chapter.

If you heard both lectures, you wouldn't realize they were doing the same lecture except for the quilts and slides. They both are so talented: he is a mathematician, and she is pure artist, and together they surely make beautiful and memorable quilts. They were so inspiring that I thought I might be capable of creating something artistic like that. Pure delusion, I assure you.

Watch for the opportunity to join us for a replay of Georgia's fun-filled Fibonacci class. It will be held right after the AM chapter meeting this month. If you go, you will have a great time and learn a really usable skill. See you there!?

Gail Myers

FROM THE MORNING VICE PRESIDENT

Many of you enjoyed the poem I read at the January meeting, so here it is:

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA (by Valerie Waite)

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind.
I've even used the Internet.
But nothing did I find.

In desperation I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative.
Not a thing was found "online."

So, if inside your "in-box,"
My Grandma you should see,
Please "Copy", "Scan" and "Paste" her
And send her back to me.

Ginny Wright

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.

*****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****

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

Workshops:

JESTER'S COURT

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SIGN-UPS

ARCHIPELAGO

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SIGN-UPS

"ENCORE" Presentation of Georgia Rodney's FIBONACCI Workshop

Do you wish you had taken Georgia Rodney's FIBONACCI Workshop last November?? Especially after seeing all the Show-and-Tell items! That had to be a record for the number of members who had made progress on their projects. Georgia has agreed to do an "encore" presentation of her workshop in FEBRUARY!! This workshop will be held after our Tuesday morning guild meeting, February 23, 1-4pm.

For more information or to register, please contact Susan Jensen at (630) 232-9089 or jensencbs@yahoo.com. The class fee is \$25, payable to Susan before the workshop by mail or at the February Guild meetings. The class will be limited to 20 students. Here's the supply list:

12-15 coordinating fat quarters (or 6"x9" scraps if you like a very "scrappy" look)
basic sewing kit
sewing machine
cutting mat, rotary cutter and rulers
Georgia will supply paper and pencils for drafting blocks

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

Workshops:

NOTE: Both March workshops are currently full, with waiting lists
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

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. 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)

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 March 4th ... thanks!

Jennifer Neuman, Editor

jenniferneuman@wideopenwest.com

(847) 608-4323

"LIVING WELL" FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I have always been of the mind that you have to give to receive. I have had various opportunities to volunteer in my life and have been thankful for the opportunities.

In October of 2004, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2005, Living Well Cancer Resource Center opened its doors in Geneva, IL. I went to one of the opening functions. As soon as I walked in the door, I knew it was going to be the next place I wanted to give of my volunteer time and energy. I felt so fortunate that I was going to be able to beat cancer and I wanted to give back to those who would have a rougher time with it than I did.

Living Well is #1 as far as my experiences of volunteering go. It is such a warm and inviting place because of the people who work there. The staff and other volunteers are compassionate about helping others.

Here is just one example of how I ended up feeling very good at the end of my volunteer shift. I work at the reception desk. One afternoon a lady walked in the door with a stressed look on her face. She was wondering if we could tell her where she could go to shop for a wig for her mother who was not able to go out. I told her I could give her a couple business names, but that we also had some wigs to choose from that were of no cost to her. I took her into our "boutique" and we started looking at wigs. She was uncertain as to which one would look the best. So, I engaged her in a conversation

of what color her mother's hair was, what style of hair-do she normally wore, etc. Very soon, she had it narrowed down to a couple of choices and then made a decision. She walked out of the door with the wig in her hand and a smile on her face. I had a smile on my face, too, because we at Living Well had just made her day! It felt so good!

Living Well offers educational classes, exercise classes, support groups, library materials, counseling, etc., as well as just good old listening. It is funded by grants and donations, and all of the services offered to cancer patients, their family and their caregivers are free of charge.

To find out more, call Living Well at (630) 262-1111. If you want to ask me any questions, call me (Bev Livermore) at (630) 584-6033.

RAFFLE BASKETS

The February theme for donations to the Quilt Show Raffle Baskets is "For the Love of Your Life." The "love of your life" could be the man in your life, or your pet, or maybe its food! Think creatively and bring something new or use your quilting skills to make something. It will be fun to see what you think fits our theme. We also need large baskets to hold all these wonderful items. Thank you for all your donations!

We have 12 bees working on baskets and with your generous donations each month at guild meetings we should have another dozen baskets. Remember that half the money earned from the baskets will

benefit the Living Well Cancer Resource Center in Geneva.

Completed baskets were to be collected at the May guild meetings, but someone pointed out to us that the May meeting is the banquet. So, we have changed the raffle basket deadline to the June meetings. You now have a little extra time to donate or to add more to your bee baskets. Any questions? Give us a call.

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

Marcia Cameron
mec515@sbcglobal.net
(847) 742-2963

INSTANT GRATIFICATION BOUTIQUE

Apparently Caron Carlson has her best ideas while in the shower. The quilt show board has asked her to begin taking at least 2 or 3 more showers per day! Here's Caron's idea:

Instant Gratification Boutique PREVIEW and SALE!!!

As if we guild members needed more incentive to come to the July picnic, the quilt show board has decided to offer for sale some items received for the show boutique at our July picnic. You'll have a chance to purchase some of the wonderful things we've been getting from our members BEFORE the show! Yep, bring your cash and get a jump on all other show attendees. Proceeds, of course, will

go toward the show's profits.

Look for our table at the picnic ... see you there!

Georgia Rodney
Instant Gratification Boutique Chair

P.S. How about making some tote bags (or purses) for the boutique? (Yep, another of Caron's ideas! Go shower, girl!)

CHARITY QUILTS

Nancy Gambrel shared two websites with me that I think are worth looking at if you have ever had a friend who has had to spend some time in the hospital. The first site shows what can be made and the second site offers a free pattern. Homemade HOSPITAL GOWNS from darling fabrics. What a perfect "get well soon" gift for anyone. Take a look!
<http://picasaweb.google.com/swhitgob/GIamourGown>
<http://www.lazygirldesigns.com/hospitalgown.php>

Claire Erickson

SHOW YOUR PRIDE!!!

That's right, you can now purchase clothing, note cards, mugs, mousepads and all sorts of cool things with the prairie queen block emblazoned! A portion of sales is returned to the guild, and T-shirts start at just \$10. Check it out at
www.cafepress.com/PSQG

BUZZ FROM THE BEEHIVE!

Hello from the Beehive!! We are freezing our little stingers off in here and hope that the warmth of the sun finds us all soon! Let's keep each other in a sunny state of mind by sharing the joy of needlework with our friends. A Bee is just the place for friendship, creativity, the sharing of ideas and projects and, as always, snacks! I would love to tell you more about our Bee program and see if I can help you find a warm cozy hive to create something sweet with other wonderful stitchers. If you are new to our Guild or looking to start a new Bee, see me at your Chapter meeting and we can chat!

This month we are pleased to let you know that we have scheduled a Kickoff Meeting for a new **daytime Applique Bee**. The meeting is Thursday, February 25th at the Beekeeper's house ... yeah, that's me! If you would like to receive an invitation, please let me know by email or phone (see below). We are also ready to plan a Kickoff Meeting for a **Saturday Bee**. If you would like to receive an invitation to that, just contact me. Exciting days for these new groups, won't you join us?!!

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day and I can't wait to see you all as we welcome Blue Underground Studios to our Guild next time we meet!!

Won't you Bee My Valentine,
Teresa Kasch, Beekeeper
(630) 641-6410
tkasch@comcast.net

A GREAT EXCUSE TO VISIT YOUR FAVORITE QUILT SHOPS!!

Do we ever really need an excuse to visit our favorite quilt shops?? Well -- sometimes!! You can help get the word out about our Quilt Show in October! Time to position our Quilt Show advertising in our local quilt shops.

We are looking for people who would be willing to take an 8.5"x11" sign and a stack of Quilt Show bookmarks to their local favorite quilt stores and ask to have the sign and bookmarks prominently displayed.

Susan Carr and I will have a table at the February meetings, with all the signs, bookmarks, and list of quilt shops. PLEASE stop by and volunteer to take signs and bookmarks to your local quilt shop. Thanks for your help!!

Jan Sharpless, Publicity

CHALLENGE QUILTS FOR THE 2010 QUILT SHOW

Thanks to all the members who were able to complete and turn in their Challenge Quilts! We have 52 of them. I hope you will be as impressed as I am at the talent in our Guild.

At both February meetings, we will vote for one quilt from each group of quilts for the first six words. You will receive a small "ballot" when you enter the room so, please, after you have chosen your seat and are settled, go around the room and mark the NUMBER of the quilt you like

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>

for each word. You will also have time to vote during the break. There will be a wicker basket near the door in which to place your completed ballot. Please do not touch the quilts or look at the back to see who made them. You will be able to read the title and their inspiration so you can decide which ones to vote for. Good luck, as many of the quilts in the same category are just marvelous!

As Jan said in her email, there are some of you who did not complete your Challenge Quilt in time, but did intend to do so. We would still like to see these quilts on display at our Show in October, so please turn them in at the August meetings at the latest. Call or email me with any questions.

Ginny Wright
ginny.wright@comcast.net
(630) 513-1418 (or cell (630) 715-2266)

GET READY FOR THE BANQUET!

It's that time of year again to get together for our annual banquet. This year we are dining at Riverside Banquets, at the River and Rte. 38 in Geneva. The room has a beautiful view of the river which I am sure will improve by May! And to make it extra special, we are celebrating PSQG's 30th Birthday! If you are a charter member or

know one in the area, we would love to have a good turnout of those that were around at the beginning.

More details about the menu along with tickets will be available at the February meetings, but mark your calendar for May 24, social hour (aka cocktail hour!) at 6, dinner at 7, speaker at 8. We were once again able to hold the cost at \$30. Decide before buying tickets who you would like to sit with, and give your group a name, like the "Hungry Quilters"

We look forward to you joining us!!
Caron Carlson, Activities Chair

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
2009-10**

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Charity Projects	Claire Erickson

*indicates co-chair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

February meetings

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

March meetings

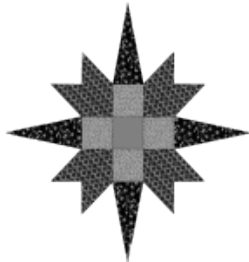
Board meeting, Tues., Mar. 2, 7:00 pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Evening Guild, Mon., Mar. 22, 7:00 pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Morning Guild, Tues., Mar. 23, 9:30 am
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material