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Thank you to the Board Members

I want to extend a heartfelt “Thank You” to all the members of the board who have generously agreed to continue their current positions for an additional year as we wade through the chaos of the 2020 pandemic. Most of us, myself included, were to change over in March of 2021, but feel we owe it to the membership at large to continue to fulfill our duties until such time as we can safely return to our “normal” activities and so we will stay on until March of 2022. Thank you to all for your continued service to the members of our Guild.

We Have a Winner!

Back in January and February Bernina of Naperville ran a guild contest to see how many guild members would mention our special word when in their store. Of all the local guilds participating in the contest, Pride of the Prairie was the winner of a gift certificate to be won by an individual member. The drawing was held at our Drive In meeting in June and Barb Parini was the lucky winner of a \$50 gift card to Bernina of Naperville. Congratulations Barbara and thank you to Bernina of Naperville!

Letter from the President

What a treat it was to finally gather again, in an unconventional way to be sure, and see your smiling eyes peering at me from above your masks. I must say that it was sometimes difficult to determine who some of you were with our Covid haircuts, masks and sunglasses but it was a treat to see so many members attend our drawing in June! I will admit that it was very warm out there in the sunshine so I did tend to move things along rather quickly in order for everyone to stay comfortable. Thanks to all who brought Cool Ties for Julie and all who took stocking and quilt kits. Pride of the Prairie has always been about service to others in our community and even a pandemic doesn't stop this awesome group of quilters! Bravo!

Even though we have moved in Stage 4 of Recover Illinois, please keep in mind that our traditional in-person group meetings are considered a product of Stage 5 so we are not able to meet as we once were allowed. Keep in mind that the church is not yet open either. Given this situation, all speakers and workshops have been canceled through the remainder of 2020 in order to maintain the health and safety of our members, guests and speakers. These speakers live outside the state and given the status and spread of Covid-19 around the country, our decision is a wise one for everyone. Be assured that the Board is working diligently behind the scenes to offer some opportunities for gathering either via Zoom meetings or some type of socially distanced outdoor gathering and we will be sending information as those options become clear. We would very much like to hear from you as to whether you would be interested in having general meetings via Zoom during our regularly scheduled meeting times. Please email me directly at sharonkthomsen@aol.com using the subject line POP ideas and let me know your thoughts.

Be safe, be kind, wear a mask in public and enjoy some time to be creative!

Sharon Thomsen

Next Raffle Quilt

With the 2020 raffle quilt winner drawn and the quilt presented, we need to start working ASAP to produce another quilt. Please contact me directly (sharonkthomsen@aol.com) with your interest to help! Thank you!

PHILANTHROPY

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to take the Stocking and Philanthropy Kits. Our guild is generous with their time and talents.

We will need the Stocking Kits by September 17, 2020 which is a normally scheduled guild night. We can meet you at Zion Lutheran Church at 6Pm. If you want to return sooner contact Elaine or Sandy by email.

Elaine email: salatoe@yahoo.com

Sandy email: dspiatak@sbcglobal.net

If you want to use up some of your stash, Philanthropy Patterns are now available on our P.O.P. Website. You can print the patterns out easily. This is a great way to reduce stash so you can purchase more fabric!

Happy Sewing,

Elaine and Sandy

SIENA 2020 FALL RETREAT

Our fall retreat at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI is a GO!!!! After many weeks of isolation, we are going to be able to come together to quilt, laugh, eat and explore the beach (maybe not in that order!).

Siena has a Coronavirus Guideline in place which will require daily temperature checks, social distancing and wearing of masks in all areas (except when eating or alone in your bedroom. There will be a health-screening document to fill out. Your bedroom will also be assigned prior to arrival so if you have a special need (firm mattress, queen size, close to elevator, etc), let me know when you sign up.

The dates are Monday, September 21st - Thursday, September 24th and the cost is \$309.00. If you are interested let me know via email or phone call. I am not taking any deposit/money until the end of August to insure that things haven't changed and we are really going.

Siena Retreat Center is located on the banks of Lake Michigan and is a picturesque, peaceful setting. The room we quilt in is spacious, well lit and offers a view of the lake. You are provided a 6 foot table for quilting. We have a kitchen area included although meals are provided by the Retreat Center. Everyone has a private bedroom with their own bath. A perfect place to relax, quilt and socialize! Any questions, contact Kathy Mueller, scpbklane@aol.com or call at 815-953-6601.

SIENA 2021 FALL RETREAT

For those of you who like to plan ahead—the Siena 2021 Fall Retreat is set at Monday, September 27th – Thursday, September 30th.



Raclawski, Judy	Jul 04
Vanderplow, Marlene	Jul 10
Black, Jean	Jul 11
Pompei, Judy	Jul 15
Contreras, Shirley	Jul 18
Adolfson, Lolly	Jul 20
Mashek, Dorothy	Jul 21
Scherer, Amanda	Jul 21
MacGlashan, Ileene	Jul 23
Kralik, Jennifer	Jul 25
Blanchard, Laura	Jul 30
Matlak, Carol	Aug 01
Marsden, Gail	Aug 15
Walter, Linda	Aug 20
Mueller, Jan	Aug 22



Cool Ties for our troops- .

These are a tube of fabric prepared with just a teaspoon of a pellet called Watersorb . Soaked in water for about 45 minutes they absorb up to 200% of their weight and keep people cool for a good number of hours. Troops wear them around their necks or tied like a headband. In the sweltering desert heat they are really welcome!

I would like to ask those interested to donate the start of the tie's by making the fabric tube to the specifications below. I will then add the watersorb and finish them off and deliver them to Operation Support our Troops.

If anyone is interested in doing this project through the summer and dropping them off to me I would be glad for that. I can give you some baggies of pellets for you to complete the entire tie as well. That would be wonderful! A baggie's worth makes about 20 ties. They are super, super easy to do!

Directions:

**** Gender neutral fabrics****- no light fabrics as they get too dirty, no girly, floral etc. They love sports teams and novelty fabrics. 100% Cotton only- no homespun or light weave fabric please.

Cut fabric 4 1/2 inches by width of fabric.

Sew along the long side- 1/4 seam or serged.

Turn right side out

Press.

Sew across the width in the middle- (short side) -both ends are left open I will fill and finish from there.

Thank you!

Julie

Opportunity Quilt Winner

We had a great turnout at the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot the evening of June 18th where the winning ticket was drawn for our "A Symphony of Colors" opportunity quilt.

The winner was Barbara Schober of Mundelein, IL

Barbara was so surprised to receive our call and thrilled to win the quilt. The quilt was presented by Sharon Thomsen and Aneila Levin at Quilters Quest. Photos of the event can be seen on our Facebook page featuring the social distancing and face masks.

In addition to this winner, we also had several guild member winners with the highest ticket sales. A gift card was presented to the following members, if present that night, or will be delivered shortly.

1st Place Sales: Glenis Orlowski (46 books)

2nd Place Sales: Sandy Piatak (18 books)

3rd Place Sales Tie: Jane Stevens and Lynn Poulos (16 books each)

Congratulations to our members for their hard work in promoting the opportunity quilt.

Sharon Butvilas and Carol Green
Raffle Ticket Sales Coordinators

Free Online Instructions

While our speakers and workshops are currently on hiatus, I would like to suggest that you check out the instructional YouTube videos of both Melinda Bula and Beth Helfter.

Melinda came to our guild a few years ago and has done a wonderful series of FREE YouTube video instructions on how to make her Zinnia quilt. For those of you who may have started the class, this is the perfect way to fall back in love with the process and complete your creation for display at our next show. She has even announced that she will soon be showing how to make another quilt featuring 3 different color zinnias all while using the single zinnia quilt pattern. Check it out!

Beth Helfter of Eva Paige Quilt Designs was to be our speaker in October and she teaches how to make totally scrappy half square triangles. I tried the method recently and found it to be an awesome and quick way to get a really scrappy look without loads of additional effort. I would suggest that you upsize your cut blocks by 1/4" in order to have perfectly trimmable blocks for piecing. Check her out on YouTube under Eva Paige Quilt Designs to see her accordion sewn scrappy half square triangles.

Sharon



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.prideofprairie.org

Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/PrideofthePrairieQuilters?ref=hl>

2020 Pride of the Prairie Officers

President – Sharon Thomsen

Publicity – Valli Schiller

Vice President – Jennifer Henry

Newsletter – Olive Herman

Secretary – Lynn Bogue

Philanthropy – Sandy Piatak & Elaine Salato

Treasurer – Jane Stevens

Programs – Laura McCormack & Mary Pichter-Zeunik plus Sandy Piatak as mentor

Membership – Laura Blanchard, Sharon Butvilas, Julie Guise, Gail Marsden, Glenis Orłowski, & Shawn Greenough

Contracts – Judy Pompei, Carol Arneson & Anita Marsh

Web - Jan Mueller & Sharon Olson