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Membership Renewal Time!

Please note that our fiscal year ends on February 28, 2021 and all membership renewals should be received by that time. As an added incentive, all renewals sent and postmarked no later than February 28, 2021 will be eligible for a reduced rate of \$25! As of March 1, 2021, all membership renewals will go back to the regular rate of \$30. Please note that since we are currently not allowed to meet in person, all renewals should go through the USPS and sent to: Pride of the Prairie Quilters, PO Box 501, Plainfield, IL 60544. The check should be made out to Pride of the Prairie Quilters and should be accompanied by a completed Renewal Membership form. The new form is available on the website and is included in this newsletter.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all members that if you know of a member who is sick, injured or recuperating, to please let me know so I can send a card on the Guild's behalf. Thank you.

Jennifer Henry
Vice President

Letter from the President

It is 2021! Time to turn the page on the calendar! We have made it through a difficult time in the world's history and there is light at the end of our Quarantine tunnel. Vaccines are on the way and there are visible signs of Hope. That doesn't mean things will get "back to normal" anytime soon but it somehow feels a bit lighter as we look with renewed optimism toward the future. We are in this together and the village that is Pride of the Prairie Quilters continues to stand together to uphold the values of community service and expanded learning.

I am very excited about the Walking Foot Quilting information that will be offered by our very own Laura Blanchard in January and February and as Anita mentioned in our December meeting, we can all learn something new every time we watch someone else share and explain a technique no matter how skilled we are. Now is the time to get ready to put into practice what Laura has to share by piecing together a small Philanthropy quilt top. Be sure to check out the patterns on our website for fast and easy instructions.

I'm also looking forward to seeing all of the progress made by our members to get the Opportunity Quilt kits put together and returned to Jane Stevens and her team by mid-February. Many thanks again for their willingness to chair and participate in the production of this biannual endeavor. We have a long standing tradition at POP of having a very high percentage of members participate in the piecing of this quilt and it's always such strong talking point when sharing the opportunity to purchase tickets.

There is so much to look forward to as we welcome the New Year and I encourage each of us to check out the Resolutions suggestions and see what or how many speak to us as goals for the coming year.

Stay safe, wear a mask and keep stitching!

Sharon Hallett Thomsen

Happy New Year
2021

Last Minutes Handmade Gift Ideas

Did you miss the December meeting or misplace the information shared about last minute handmade gift ideas? If yes, check out these ideas and start making things today to stash away in a gift drawer for fast and easy last minute gifts all year long!

- Fabric Napkins, Quilt as you Go Trivets, Fabric bottle gift bags and Fabric Woven Hearts all GEasy designs from Gudrun Erla of GEDesigns. You can find these free patterns at gequiltedesigns.com Look under the tab for “Shop” and then under “Free Patterns”.
- Assorted Holiday Tree Ornaments from Matthew Boudreaux at Misterdomestic.com
- Scissors Cozy from Svetlana of Sotak Handmade at Sotakhandmade.blogspot.com – She has many wonderful free patterns in her Tutorials tab and lives here in the Chicago suburbs

Programs

An online zoom presentation on an Introduction to Machine Quilting by Walking Foot, given by our own Laura Blanchard at the January and February meetings. This is a great opportunity for you to learn about machine quilting and how easy it is, if you’re new to quilting, or pick up some clever tips if you’ve been machine quilting for years. This class assumes that you’re quilting on your own home domestic sewing machine, rather than a long-arm machine.

Laura will cover quilt layering and basting, battings, threads, use of the walking foot for straight line machine quilting and marking tools. There will be time for questions after each video. Handouts will be available on the guild website right before the January meeting.

Don’t miss this opportunity to improve your machine quilting skills and learn some cool tips.

In Meeting Instruction

- January 21, 2021 – Laura Blanchard
 - Walking Foot Quilting Part 1
- February 18, 2021 – Laura Blanchard
 - Walking Foot Quilting Part 2

New Year’s Resolutions for POP Guild Members

- Renew your membership
- Attend Zoom Guild meetings
- Help make blocks for the opportunity quilt
- Make a small charity quilt top and watch our January and February meetings for quilt completion inspiration
- Make (or catch up on making) your Block Exchange Blocks
- Participate in a Sew Along or learn a new technique



Higgins, Beth	Jan 02
Lipscomb, Pat	Jan 04
Nawrot-Casey, Mary	Jan 05
Charley Linda	Jan 06
Baranski, Anita	Jan 10
Lichtenstein, Marilyn	Jan 12
Greenough, Shawn	Jan 13
Schwarz, Chris	Jan 23
Arand, Judi	Jan 26
Barkdoll, Cheryl	Jan 26
Kelly, Mary L.	Jan 27
Kelly, Angela	Jan 28
Krzak, Alice	Jan 30
Gruchala, Carol	Jan 31
Parker, Cheryl	Feb 03
Erman, Marilyn	Feb 06
Sheffer, Rachelle	Feb 07
Flynn, Diane	Feb 10
Snider, Jo	Feb 10
Marland, Carol	Feb 12
Henry, Jennifer	Feb 13
Niersbach, Bernie	Feb 13
Winegar, Mary	Feb 13
Karls, Terri	Feb 27

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice due to Covid 19 protocols and concerns.

All Show and Tell photos should be sent to Sharon Thomsen at sharonkthomsen@aol.com NO LATER THAN the Sunday prior to the meeting date in order to have them be part of the Power-Point slideshow.



PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE QUILTERS 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Special Discount Rate of \$25 if postmarked by February 28, 2021

Check one below

- Renewing member**
Complete name and any changes
\$30.00
- Information change**
Paid – Existing Member
No Charge
- New member**
Complete entire form
 \$30.00 (March – Feb)
 \$15.00 (Oct –Feb)

**Completed form and check payable to Pride of Prairie Quilters must be mailed to:
Pride of Prairie PO Box 501 Plainfield, IL 60544**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Home Mobile

Birthday (month/date): _____

NOTE: if you choose to receive your newsletter by postal mail, there is an extra \$15 annual charge to cover the cost for printing and postage. Otherwise, the newsletters are distributed via email.

Email Postal Mail (extra \$15 annual charge)

FOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Membership dues/fees paid: Date: _____ Amt: \$ _____ Chk #: _____ Cash: \$ _____

Additional Newsletter Mailing Fee Paid: Amt: \$ _____

Membership List Updated Date: _____ New Member Packet Prepared Date: _____

Newsletter Editor Notified Date: _____ Member Name Tag Prepared Date: _____

Program Committee Notified Date: _____

Pride of Prairie Guild Block Exchange

Time period: September 2020 to April 2021

Blocks: Churn Dash and Nine Patch

I hope you are working diligently on the block exchange. I personally am behind in making my blocks but now I have ample time to get caught up. How are you doing with your blocks? I have included the requirements for making the blocks because if you have not started, you still have time to join in the fun!

Requirements:

1. Each block will measure 6 ½” unfinished.
2. To make sure they are 6 ½” use a 6 ½” square ruler to square up each block.
3. All fabric must be quilt shop quality.
4. You are required each month to make two of each block. Total 4 blocks each month. Grand total 32 blocks by April.
5. The blocks will be scrappy with low volume background.

What is low volume? It is just fabric that has low color value. They are usually tiny prints and the background of these prints are generally white, cream, or light gray.

Examples: white fabric with multi-colored dots, cream with tiny plus signs, off white with tiny florals, tone on tone white, creams, or grays, and shirtings.

Solids can be used as long as the background fabric are whites, creams, or light gray.

The blocks will be collected at our April meeting. If we cannot meet in April just keep making blocks until we have a guild meeting. Please put all of your completed blocks in a bag with your name on it. However many blocks you make, that is how many you will receive. For example: completed 24 churn dash and 24 nine patch, you will receive 24 of each with a total of 48 blocks.

The blocks will be distributed the following month to each participant. We should have enough blocks to make table topper or quilt for philanthropy. 48 blocks will make a small quilt.

Enjoy and what a fun remembrance we will have of this time period in our lives.

Another thought why not write down 10 quilt projects you really want to complete in 2021. It seems we have more free time than usual to finish those “works in progress” or this could be the time to attempt a new

technique such as working with curves, some type of applique, creating your own design, etc. We could share our lists with each other through our newsletter just a thought.

Peacefully,
Sandy Piatak



Philanthropy

We have donated to HelloBaby, 26 receiving blankets, 2 changing mats, and 6 baby quilts. They were ecstatic to receive our donation and each item had a new nifty sew-on label. You can check out their website “helloworldbaby-chgo.org” for more information.

If you have flannel in your stash, why not make a receiving blanket and the approximate size around 38 inches. JoAnn’s is having a nice sale on flannel. Remember, go to our website to find many quilt patterns to help you use up your stash.

Our guild is so generous with their time and talent in giving to others.

Elaine S. and Sandy P

Zoom Meetings can be attended by all Members!

Do you know that you can attend a Zoom meeting on your Smart Phone, Tablet, iPad or even desktop computer?

I attend most of my Zoom meetings with my Smart Phone – at least those done outside my husband’s work hours (which can be in the evening at times and is always during daytime hours) – and while it is not optimal, I have enjoyed the ability to participate and hear what others are saying and see what is being shared.

Do you know that you can attend a Zoom meeting without a camera on your device?

While the other participants will not be able to see you, you will be able to see all of the other participants who do have camera access as well as whatever is being shared by the Host or Speaker’s screen.

If there is a specific reason that you are not able to attend the Zoom meetings that we might help you address so that you can participate, please let me know at sharonkthomsen@aol.com with the Subject line “POP Zoom Question”

Raffle Quilt

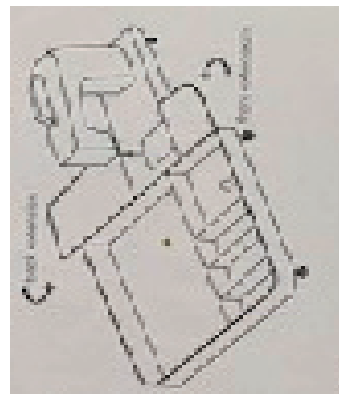
Our raffle quilt will consist of log cabin blocks with sashing of flying geese all made by foundation paper piecing.

The kit contains detailed instructions, two log cabin paper patterns, four flying geese unit paper patterns, fabric cut to size for all patterns

Anyone wishing to help should contact Jane Stevens (jmssampler@earthlink.net, 708-218-3587). There will be a kit pickup on Tuesday January 5, 2021 from two to four in the parking lot of Zion Lutheran church. Please let Jane know you are coming. If you can’t make the pickup, arrangements can be made to get you a kit.

For Sale

Available - a quilting extension table that can adjust to most machines. The top flips open for storage and can also be used as a lightbox. Moving so asking \$30. Message Kelley at Kelleydonovan895@gmail.com





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

Membership – Laura Blanchard & Shawn Greenough plus Sharon Thomsen

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

Programs – Anita Marsh

Web - Jan Mueller & Sharon Olson