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Zoom Meeting Information

Please note that Zoom meeting invitation emails will be sent out on the Tuesday prior to our meeting on Thursday. Please watch your email and check your Junk mailbox as well. If for any reason you do not receive the email by Wednesday, feel free to reach out to either Olive Herman (oliveherman@att.net) or Sharon Thomsen (sharonkthomsen@aol.com). Please also note that any photos you wish to share for the Show and Tell Powerpoint presentation should be sent to Sharon Thomsen no later than the Sunday evening prior to our meeting. Please put "Show & Tell" in the subject line. She will send a confirmation email when it is received.

All Zoom meetings will open 30 minutes prior to the actual start of the meeting. You are welcome to join at any time during that time. This allows members to gather and chat as well as make sure that any technical issues are addressed if necessary. The meeting will start at 7.

Get Well Quick

If you know of a member who is sick, injured or recuperating, 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

March is the beginning of a new fiscal year here at Pride of the Prairie and I want to thank all of you who have renewed your membership. The past year has been quite the bumpy ride and we as a team have tried our best to keep all of our members informed and engaged as we have navigated the uncertainties of the Covid crisis and lockdown. Zoom has become the new norm in so many aspects of our lives and we crave the day when we are once again able to safely gather and meet in person inside a building.

During January and February we have been treated to an in-depth course in the stages and processes of machine quilting by our own Laura Blanchard and we are excited to see her conclusion during our March meeting. We will also be reviewing the Black & White plus One small quilt challenge originally scheduled for viewing at our 2020 Quilt Show and we will also be getting information about a new challenge. Speaking of challenges, were any of you able to meet Kathy Mueller's 3-day all in challenge? The idea was to not buy any fabric February 29, 30 or 31. Were you successful? (Thanks Kathy for the fun idea!)

Our contracts committee is busy behind the scenes looking for affordable and interesting speakers to fill in our upcoming calendar. At this time we are still planning on Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future and maybe parking lot gatherings once the weather and daylight make it a viable option. We will definitely keep you in the loop via email, Facebook and the POP website.

I am looking forward to an exciting year as we move forward together in artistry and community.

Stay safe, wear a mask and keep stitching!

Sharon Thomsen

Membership

As of March 1, 2021, all membership renewals have gone 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.

President's Challenge

Here is a fun way to do something new monthly (there are twelve items listed) that might spark your creativity or get you out of a rut. Let's try this challenge together.

- P** Practice a new technique (machine or hand quilting, piecing, pressing, applique, etc.)
- R** Revisit your UFOs and decide which one you want to complete next.
- I** Intentionally make time for quilting every day or weekly as your schedule allows
- D** Discover the stitches on your machine – make a stitch out reference chart
- E** Embellish a project with a new technique (couching, big stitch, embroidery, applique, etc.)

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- P** Participate in the small quilt challenge and/or a challenge from an upcoming show or your bee
- R** Repurpose/Recycle fabric from something else into a new quilted piece
- A** Arrange your stash (fabric, batting, precuts, thread, etc.) so that you can use it more efficiently
- R** Recommend a new tool, technique or pattern to the guild members during our share time.
- I** Instructional videos on YouTube or DVD is a great way to learn. Watch something new
- E** Enjoy the process. Don't rush and don't be critical of yourself or your work



FOR SALE

Child's Vintage 1950's Singer Sewing Machine - excellent condition; includes box and instruction manual. \$95.

Aniela Levin / 630-715-6315

anielaml@aol.com



McHenney, Sandra	Mar 01
O'Dell, Carol	Mar 02
Williams, Christine	Mar 03
Murphy, Marianne	Mar 11
Burke, Patricia	Mar 13
Beitzel, Kathy	Mar 15
Gill, Patricia	Mar 15
Pawlak, Sally	Mar 17
Orlowski, Glenis	Mar 21
Levin, Aniela	Mar 23
Maughan, Marcy	Mar 25
Salato, Elaine	Mar 26
Hardt, Christie	Mar 31
Valli Schiller	Mar 31
Madej, Lisa	Apr 15
Richter-Zeunik, Mary	Apr 20
Turnholt, Susan	Apr 20
Herman, Olive	Apr 21
Wirtz, Judy	Apr 23
Lucas, Catherine	Apr 26
Thomsen, Sharon	Apr 29

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 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



SIENA 2021 FALL RETREAT

For those of you who want something to look forward to—the Siena 2021 Fall Retreat is set at Monday, September 27th – Friday, October 1.

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! More info, price will come in the next few months and I will be taking deposits in May. Any questions, contact Kathy Mueller, scpbklane@aol.com or call at 815-953-6601.

My process for applying spray starch:

Our friend Sheri from Whole Circle Studio shows us when to use starch, a comparison of starch products, and tips for using.

1. When starching my fabric, I set my iron to medium heat. Using high heat with starch, can scorch fabric or leave flaky residue on your iron, pressing surface, or fabric. Be sure to keep your steam off and don't apply any water to your fabric until it's all pieced and quilted. Steaming or spray water on your fabric will remove your starch.
2. Preheat fabric by ironing it BEFORE applying starch. I find the starch adheres a bit better when the fabric is warm.
3. Evenly spray your fabric with starch before cutting. I spray the starch on the correct side of the fabric.
4. WAIT for your starch to dry (or partially dry if you're impatient like me) and then iron your fabric again to set the starch. Waiting for the starch to dry will reduce the chance of your starch flaking, especially on dark fabrics. I typically apply the iron on the correct side of the fabric.
5. Once I'm happy with the stiffness of my fabric, I'm ready to cut.

It's always best to apply your starch before you cut, but if you find your fabric is fraying or not quite stiff enough as you're working, you can carefully apply additional starch. Heat up your cut fabric by PRESSING (not ironing). Pressing is placing the iron on your fabric, but not moving it. Ironing, moving your iron, can distort your cut pieces. After your pieces are warm, apply your starch, let it dry, and then press with your iron again.

Using starch is a personal decision. I typically don't like to apply extra products to my materials, unless there is a significant benefit. I find that using spray starch for some projects makes my life easier and gives me better results. If you have any allergy or just don't like starch, you can still achieve piecing fabulous curves, strips, and applique, it may just take a little bit of extra work!



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