



Starlight Express

Starlight Quilters Guild

On the web at <https://starlightquilters.com>

On Facebook at www.facebook.com/StarlightQuiltersGuild/

May 19, 2026

Starlight Quilt Guild Officers and Committees

President: Donna Holloway

Heartland Quilt Network Rep: Mary Honas

KCRQF Representative: Tara Culley

Vice President: Janette Sheldon

Guild Meetings Operations Manager: Alison Erickson

Guild Meetings Volunteers: Ann Doherty, Jan Ketchum, Shirley Lewis

Program Committee: Mary Lou Guy

Past President: Amy Ubben

Quilting Activities Manager: Barbara McMahon

Accuquilt: Cheryl Tomson

Community Service: Pam Lanza

Guild Challenge: Karen Edwards & Shirley Lewis

Project Linus: Mary Honas & Kate McCabe

Retreats: Donna Holloway

Workshops: Tammy Smith

Treasurer: Barb Dietz

Membership: Diane Phillips

Monthly Raffle: Janette Sheldon, Donna Holloway, Amy Ubben

Quilt Show: Janette Sheldon, Kim Cawthon, Alison Erickson

Raffle/Opportunity Quilt:

Secretary: Michele Fix
(starlightquilters@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Suzanne Andrews
(starlightnewsletter@gmail.com)

Photographer/Graphic Design: Laura Bogue

Website Manager: Janice McKee



From the President

Why Some Quilts Appear to Glow

Have you ever stepped back from a quilt and thought, Wow, that one really shines? That “glow” isn’t your imagination, and it’s not accidental either. It comes down to how our eyes actually see color and contrast.

One of the biggest secrets is that our eyes notice light and dark before they notice color. That’s why quilts with clear value differences tend to read better and feel more lively, even from across the room. You can use a whole rainbow of fabrics, but if they’re all similar in value, the quilt may feel a little flat. On the flip side, just a few well-chosen lights and darks can make a simple design really pop.

Color combinations play a big role too. Colors that sit opposite each other on the color wheel—like red and green or blue and orange—create energy when placed side by side. They make each other look brighter and sharper, which adds to that glowing effect. At the same time, colors are never seen in isolation. A fabric that looks bold on the cutting table might fade into the background once it’s sewn in, all because of what’s around it. That’s why moving blocks around can suddenly make a quilt come alive.

Warm colors tend to move forward visually, while cool colors step back. Quilters use this all the time, often without thinking about it, to create movement and depth. Lighting matters too. Quilts usually look their best in natural daylight, while indoor lighting can shift colors warmer or cooler than expected.

When a quilt really seems to glow, it’s usually because everything is working together—contrast, color relationships, placement, and light. It’s not magic. It’s just a little bit of science quietly doing its thing, one stitch at a time.

Encouraging everyone to explore color and also come join us to learn about mixing prints with our speaker this month and attending her Workshop the following day (May 27th).

Happy creating! Donna

~Donna Holloway
SQG President



STARLIGHT QUILTERS GUILD
Treasurer's Report
April 2026

	Beginning Checkbook Balance	\$ 12,105.79	
	CD's at Capitol Federal	17,415.07	
	Petty Cash	60.00	
Cash Balance			29,580.86
Income			
	Membership Dues	875.00	
	Quilt Show	3,525.25	
	Bucket Babes	60.00	
	Workshop fee - March	55.00	
	Total Income		4,515.25
Expenses			
	Meeting Facility Rental	230.00	
	Storage Expense	130.00	
	Charitable Contribution to The Sewing Labs	500.00	
	Quilt show expense	350.00	
	USPS - Box rental	288.00	
	Door prizes and new member expense	112.50	
	Misc Exp - Cord cover for meetings	30.64	
	HQN meeting	25.00	
	PayPal Fees	12.51	
	Total Expenses		1,678.65
	Ending Checkbook Balance	14,942.39	
	CD's at Capitol Federal	17,415.07	
	Petty Cash	60.00	
Cash Balance			\$ 32,417.46
	Submitted by Barbara Dietz, Treasurer		

May Fat Quarters

The May fat quarter theme is Americana! So break out your red, white, & blue stash for your chance to win.



May Program

The Magic of Mixing Prints

Tara Miller of The Quilt District is a quilter from the Atlanta area. She is a quilter, historian, pattern designer, teacher and a rule breaker, among other things. She will speak on "The Magic of Mixing Prints" at the guild meeting. Color mixing and using prints from different designers and eras are some of the techniques she will discuss. The following day she will host a workshop and those signing up will get a hands-on learning opportunity. See our Workshops for the registration. Tara's website is <https://quiltdistrict.com/>

*~Mary Lou Guy
Programs*

Have YOU renewed your membership?

Starlight currently has 107 members. We had 51 members and 1 visitor attend our April meeting. We are happy to have these new members join us!

Please welcome: Bobbie Cissell & Melissa Cowan

If you have not paid your \$35.00 membership dues, which were due in April, you will need to renew on or before our May 26th meeting. If you are not sure if you've paid or not, please see or contact me. My email is: diane.phillips131@yahoo.com

We will be sending an updated membership directory for all members next month. This is another reason to keep your membership current!

*~Diane Phillips
Membership*



Project Linus

Another good month for Linus quilts!

Chris & Kathy Foos – 1

Anonymous Member - 1

Mary Lou Guy – 9

Theresa Benson - 6

Shirley Lewis – 2

Opal Yarnell - 1

I think some of these quilts are from Rosie's tops but I don't have a current total of those.

This is a total of 20 for the month of April. The total for the year is **92**. Unbelievable number for four months into 2026.

Don't forget, if you need batting, quilting or binding we have quilters in our guild to help out.

*~Kate McCabe
Project Linus*

Accuquilt News

This month's featured die is the Ohio Star which makes a 12" finished block. It goes together as a four-patch made up of squares and quarter squares so these components can be used to create many other blocks. This die can be used with the guild's Accuquilt cutter or the smaller Go Me. As always, contact me to check out the Accuquilt cutter or dies and remember that the Accuquilt is available at every guild sew day.

~Cheryl Tomson
Accuquilt Manager



Website Update



There have been a few small updates to the website this month. Please refer to the information there if you have questions about programs, events, and group projects.

Workshops has been renamed to **Workshops & Sew Days**. Signup links for upcoming events will be found here.

2026 Challenge has been added to show you the details for our "Animal House" Challenge.

Fall Retreat information is updated and includes a payment link.

As always, if you have suggestions and changes to make for your committee, please send them to me at maidmerriam1@gmail.com.

~Janice McKee
Webfumbler

Mixing Prints Masterclass Workshop

With Tara Miller from The Quilt District

Do you have some pretty prints in your stash that you love, but you just don't know what to do with them? The Mixing Prints Master Class workshop is the solution! This upcoming Starlight Quilters Guild workshop will spark creativity with fearless fabric play and build confidence mixing prints. In the workshop, taught by Tara Miller from The Quilt District, you will use seven different prints to make a 20"x20" Block or a 20"x58" Table Runner.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 27th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Merriam Community Center. Only four of the 15 slots have been reserved so far, so you can still join in the fun! The workshop costs \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members.

Here's the Registration and Class Supply List website link: <https://starlightquilters.com/SQG/index.php/workshops/>

~Tammy Smith
Workshops



Starlight Quilters Guild Fall Retreat

The **Starlight Quilters Annual Fall Retreat** will be **Friday-Sunday: November 6-8, 2026**. This year we will be going to a more tranquil location and retreating at the Hollis Renewal Center. <https://holliscenter.org/> The Lodge will accommodate 38 day retreaters and has a large deck, access to many trails and is in an overall serene setting. We will also have access to the cottage next door that has a very large living room/lounge area if you need a break from sewing and the weather isn't cooperating. Day retreat price will be \$75 and includes your workspace and 4 meals (dinner Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and lunch on Sunday). The workspace will be available starting from 10AM Friday until 4PM Sunday – you can stay as late or arrive as early as you'd like throughout the weekend.

A Barn Quilt Painting workshop will be offered on Saturday afternoon by The Blue Bee. Create your own wooden barn quilt block in a guided, beginner-friendly workshop. Cost will be \$55 and includes a prepped 12x12 wooden board, all paints and supplies and guided instructions to complete a painted 12x12 wooden quilt block for your wall (or barn!). More details and signups for the workshop will be posted soon!

For those interested in staying overnight at the retreat center, the following lodging will be available at a first come/first serve basis:

Meadow Cottage: 2 bedrooms available (1 Queen bed; 1 Full Bed) for additional \$90 each.

Tiny Cabins: Two Cabins available for additional \$150 for cabin that has 2 beds (\$75 each double occupancy); additional \$200 for cabin that has 3 beds (\$67 each; triple occupancy or \$100 each; double occupancy). Both cabins have a Q bed downstairs, and a Full or Full/Twin up in the loft. They do not have running water, but do have a private composting toilet, wifi, microwave, fridge, and Keurig. There are shower/running water facilities a short walk away in the Meadow Cottage. Let me know if you are interested in this option – if you don't have a roommate, I may be able to pair two or three single ladies together to share the cost. Please check out the facilities at the Hollis Renewal Center website – as a picture speaks volumes; the Tiny cabins are much nicer than I can describe.

Retreat Registration link: <https://forms.gle/1rBYLPXZJop6ZVW67>

Contact Donna if you have any questions!

*~Donna Holloway
Retreats*

June Open Sew Day

The next Open Sew Day will be at Merriam Plaza Library, Webb Family Meeting Room, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 9-5pm. Open Sew Days will be scheduled for September, October, and November 2026. Open Sew Days will alternate between Fridays and Saturdays for maximum flexibility. Please sign up for the June Open Sew Day on the Starlight Quilt Guild website using the following link: <https://starlightquilters.com/SQG/index.php/workshops/>

See you there!

~Tammy Smith
Workshops



Another Sewing Opportunity!

The Indian Creek Library in Olathe has a sewing group on the first Thursdays of the month, the next one being June 4 from 6-8 pm. It is drop in, no reservation needed. There are some machines and notions available on a first served basis but people are also free to bring their own projects & gear. People can also do hand work if that is more their style. Here's the link for more information: [Olathe Library Sewing group](#)

Don't let anyone talk you out of that 30-minute sewing project. Those two hours could be the most enjoyable six hours you've ever spent sewing.



Mark Your Calendars:

April 1-May 31

All Kansas & Nebraska Shop Hop

May 26 – SQG Meeting

Merriam Community Center
Tara Miller

May 27 – Workshop

Mixing Prints Masterclass
Tara Miller
Merriam Community Center
9am-4pm

June 4 – Library Sewing Group

Indian Creek Library
6-8pm

June 27 – Open Sew Day

Merriam Plaza Library
9am-5pm

May Member Birthdays:

Chris Foos	5/01
Tammy Smith	5/02
Willie McCallum	5/09
Karen Edwards	5/10
Kathy Foos	5/29

Happy Birthday!



Quilt Show Wrap-up

The following are the winners from the 2026 quilt show:

2025 Stripe Challenge, voted on by committee

1. Bright Stripes, Shirley Lewis
2. Stripes at Sea, Mary Honas
3. Last Song at Sunset, Barbara McMahon

Best Theme, voted on by committee – Sylvia's Bridal Sampler, Janice McKee

By Hand and/or Embellished

1. Pumpkin Spice, Jan Skillman
2. Baby Moves, Laurie VanderPol
3. I Beat Breast Cancer Twice, Kim Cawthon

I Did it All

1. In Flanders Field, Susanna Ford
2. Azure Dragon, Susanna Ford
3. 45 Degree Triangles, Janette Sheldon

Large Quilts

1. Sylvia's Bridal Sampler, Janice McKee
2. Thistle, Eudora's 2025 Round Robin, Janette Sheldon
3. Mariner's Compass, Barbara McMahon

Medium Quilts

1. On Eagles Wings, Donna Langley
2. Third Rock – Warm Colors, Marsha Reeves
3. 30's Circles, Donna Langley

Miscellaneous

1. Good Old Hoodie, Peggy Skaith
2. Stained Glass Magnolia, Opal Yarnell
3. Giraffe Panel, Mary Lou Guy

Small Quilts

1. Chloe!!, Shirley Lewis
2. Democracy Dies in Darkness, Barbara McMahon
3. New Christmas Tree Because of 2 Puppies, Theresa Benson

Newbie Quilter

1. Spin Me Around, Susie Steele
2. Out of This World, Folded Corners, Susie Steele
3. Small Smackerel of Something, Mary Rogge

Original Design

1. Nobody's Home 3, Shirley Lewis
2. KC Regional Festival Showcase Quilt, Mary Loue Guy
3. It Takes a Village 2, Shirley Lewis

Best of Show – Nobody's Home 3, Shirley Lewis

Continued on next page

Thank you all for your entries, we truly believe this could have been the most impressive display of quilts ever. A number of the winners were not present at the last meeting. All ribbons that were not picked up will be available at the May meeting. I will have them back at the buckets.



Wrap up, cont.

The show committee this year was made up of Kim Cawthon and me as co-chairs, Laura Bogue doing graphics and photographs, Michele Fix handling the vendors, Alison Erickson with the boutique aka yard sale and Janice McKee with publicity. The biggest job was marshalling the quilt registration and layout, done by Donna Holloway. Please consider volunteering to chair the next quilt show. Without a new chair, there won't be another show. I can't speak for Michele and Alison, but Laura, Janice and Donna will most likely help the next round. The key to an easy show is having these valuable members of the team who have filled these positions many times and know their jobs.

Everyone wants to know about the revenue. The numbers for 2026 include the following:

Income:		Expenses:	
Admissions -	\$1480 (296 paid admissions)	Rent	\$1600
Boutique	1691	Advertisement	350
Bake Sale	313	Sales Tax	321
Vendors	270	Printing	160
Total Revenue -	\$3755	Total Expenses -	\$2431
Net Profit -	\$1324		

In comparison with the 2024 show, even with a few more in attendance and a couple more vendors, total revenue was \$3911, and expenses were \$5753 giving us a total loss of \$1842. Here's a special thanks to all of you who volunteered. You did a great job! And of course, those of you who didn't put a quilt in for display or volunteer to help – you still made a valuable contribution to the show by coming.

*~Janette Sheldon
Quilt Show Co-Chair*

The Newsletter Needs You

Do you have any familiarity with Microsoft Word? Are you looking for an opportunity to help Starlight, but don't feel ready to lead workshops or hold an elected office?

Newsletter Editor might be the job for you! The commitment is about 2-4 hours per month and can usually be accomplished in one weekend afternoon or evening. There isn't even a ton of typing involved, most of what I do is copy and paste. The trickiest bit is remembering to send out reminder emails for committee chairs to submit their articles, but once it's on your calendar, it's easy to remember.

If you think you might be interested, you can reach out to me at a meeting or by emailing me at starlightnewsletter@gmail.com. You can also reach me by texting me at the number in the member directory. I'm happy to share my process and help you get started. It's really only stressful if you have term papers to grade and a toddler pestering you for a snack. 😊

*~Suzanne Andrews
Editor*

2026 Block Party Boutique & Bake Sale

Our 2026 Boutique and Bake Sale was a wonderful success! To everyone who donated, helped set up, helped take down, and worked the checkout - Thank you!!! I want you all to know how much goodwill and positivity came out of this year's boutique. And how much joy was spread having homemade goodies for our wonderful guests.

Every quilter who found amazing fabric at \$4 per yard was tickled pink. Every sweet grandbaby with a darling bucket hat or a stuffed frog or a crocheted friend was so excited - and the moms and grandmas knew what a treasure they were getting - it made both their days! Every hubby and hungry quilter perusing the baked goods was in heaven. And our boutique shoppers were extra excited after they purchased their sewn items, they came back around to purchase homemade treats for the ride home. Such a joyful way to spend the day, amazed at quilts on display, perusing the silent auction, stopping by vendors, and scoring some deals on the way out!

Every quilter and sewist who bought a handmade tote bag, or zipper pouch, or jewelry bag, or bookmark, or kitty toy, or keychain could probably have made them for themselves... But they didn't have to! And they all remarked to me how wonderful they thought it was to have guild members donate those amazing creations so that our show participants could enjoy a little treasure after they walked the show. We heard "I have been thinking about joining your guild," many times over the two days, and some have even joined us! We had guests who were not sewists fall head over heels for your creations, and there is no price tag to put on sending that much joy into the world!

We all recruited new members with the show's vibrant quilt display of all your hard work, which was perfectly complimented by a sweet treat purchase - food or fabric - that made for an unforgettable weekend. We won't forget Cheryl Tomson's denim coasters that had people looking for them long after they sold out! We had amazing 20-something's go nuts for Jackie Rudolf's microwave potato bags - they especially got a kick out of their instruction sheets and the personal baking tips from the maker!

We learned about shoppers' projects and passions and wishes for future sewing purchases. We had one guest who said, "I sew for the Catholics, Lutherans, and Presbyterian church charities. And the Baptists and Methodists just haven't found me yet." We had one super-shopper who was an excellent patron - even tried to purchase the merchandise his wife had donated (Kim's Grady). And thanks to all our generous visitors, they bought donated books and magazines and patterns - which all adds up quickly - and we didn't have to sneak them back into guild members' luggage.

Our unsold books were donated to the Sewing Labs. Our bake sale sold out fast - obviously! And our crew of guild members that continuously helped sticker prices while donations kept flowing in and organizing tables while merchandise went to happy homes - I personally must thank you for all your kindness. It can be pretty stressful to collect and haul and organize that much stuff - and several sweet volunteers helped me laugh off silly comments from unhelpful critics and truly made me appreciate the good energy and laughs we shared (can you each please adopt me?). I am certain our baked goods and boutique finds helped with promoting the fun, friendly, and supportive sewing community we want Starlight to continue to be for all members. Huge thank you to Janette and Kim for welcoming me into the crew and for demonstrating amazing leadership for their final quilt show! Well beyond the dollars earned, our welcoming community had some great fun together! Keep on baking and sewing for others!



***Much love and thanks,
Alison Erickson***

Advertisements

City's Edge Quilt Shop has classes and more!
Amy Senatore, Owner www.citysedgestudio.com
616 W. Main Street, Warsaw, MO 65355
Mon-Fri 10a – 5p and Sat 9a – 3p

Custom Machine Embroidery – quilt labels, towels, gifts, T-shirts, logos, banners, and so much more. Fast turnaround time on orders.
Phone **Judy Brennan**, 913-788-0582

C & S Creations – Custom wood working projects. Let us help you with your sewing /hobby room needs. Custom workstations, Featherweight cabinets, ruler holders, scissor racks. **Cheryl & Scott Diebold**,
Phone 913-677-0838

Machine Quilting – Edge-to-Edge
Computerized longarm machine quilting by **Elizabeth Brown**. Phone 913-626-7135
Website www.Duelingthread.com

Rosecliff Quilts – Provide quilting services which include longarm edge-to-edge quilting for unfinished quilt tops, baby quilts, t-shirt memory quilts and embroidery patches.
Phone: **Stephanie Rector**, 816-560-9863
Email: rosecliffquilts@gmail.com

Donna's Singer Service – Does your Featherweight need a good clean and oil? Is it not sewing like it should? I can clean and service your Featherweight including Singer models 15,99, 221, 222, and 301. Reasonable fees & timely service.
Donna di Natale, phone 913-451-0283

Machine Quilting –Machine quilting, all styles of quilting from simple hand-guided designs to custom creations. Guild members, I will piece your backing at no extra charge!
Peggy Skaith 913-341-0525

Keehn 2 Quilt – **Kathy and Erin** provide high quality finishes for every project - custom hand guided and *Prostitcher* edge to edge precision offered. Contact us today to finish your quilt masterpiece!
913-940-9849 www.keehn2quilt.com keehn2quilt@gmail.com



CLASSIFIED ADS



Wanted: a crocheter who would be interested in assembling already made granny squares. Please contact Jan Ketchum if you're interested.