



Cottonwood Quilters of Nebraska The Cottonwood Courier

Volume 46, Number 8

April 2026

Appreciation
of the Art of
Quilting, Its
History,
Makers and
Fellowship.

Spring has sprung! Flowers are popping up, fresh foliage is emerging, and longer days are coaxing trees out of dormancy. Do you start to feel more energized in the spring? I do! I find myself collecting seed packets, planning my annual gardens, and looking forward to that burst of color. I hope you're feeling inspired by the beautiful hues of spring flowers. Some of my favorite quilt color combinations came from a floral bouquet.

For those of you heading out on the *Dakota Dash*, please be prepared to share some of your favorite moments at our April meeting. I look forward to hearing your stories, and welcome a few of your much-loved photos—they may be featured in our April slideshow.

Our final speaker of the year will be **Carolyn McCormick**, creator of the *Add-A-Quarter* ruler. I look forward to hearing about her journey from developing a useful tool to how she successfully marketed it. It is one of the rulers I could not do without. She will highlight some of the women in quilting who have influenced quilters today.

At our April meeting, we will introduce and elect new guild officers for the 2026–27 year. Please consider how you might support them in the coming year. You'll have an opportunity to "fill a need" for the next guild year, with volunteer sign-up forms circulating throughout the meeting.

A reminder that **April 21** is the deadline to nominate a dedicated guild volunteer for an award. Award details and criteria are outlined in this online newsletter. The success of our guild depends on our volunteer leaders, so please take a moment to honor someone who consistently goes above and beyond. Recent award recipients can be found in our Directory and on our website.

Finally, a heartfelt *thank you* to **Gaylene Brennan** for volunteering to organize our Potluck Salad Supper for the combined May meeting. Details are included in this newsletter. Plan to arrive early (5:30 p.m.) to cast your vote for your favorite Challenge quilt and Block of the Month quilt, enjoy a relaxed meal, and celebrate our dedicated members.

Warm regards,

Terry Micheels, Chairperson

April In-Person Program

Carolyn McCormick, www.CMDesignsOnline.com

Program: "The Women That Have Influenced Quilting"

See Page 3 for a lecture description.



April Greeters

Monday Evening
Alice Janecek
Liz Jonas

Tuesday Morning
Mary Hamilton
Kathy Lienemann

April Holders and Folders

Monday Evening
Diane Andress
Kitty Bailey
Betty Cook
Alma Santos
Ann Wickenhauser
Volunteer?

Tuesday Morning
Volunteer?
Volunteer?
Volunteer?
Volunteer?
Volunteer?
Volunteer?



April Welcome Committee

Monday Evening
Marilyn Seidel
Kay Sieck

Tuesday Morning
Nancy Deicke
Volunteer?

Birthdays

April

1 Sandy Albers
2 Lori Vermeulen
4 Jackee Brock
5 Alma Santos
8 Susan Marino
9 Patti Gatewood
9 Rhonda Hildebrand
10 Diane Bengtson
10 Marilyn Fitch
14 Deb Neumann
16 Pat Sears
16 Susan Snyder
20 Claudia Beach
24 Mary Hanke
25 Nancy Deicke
25 Peggy Fischman
26 Chris Claassen
26 Darla Majewski
30 Susan Poling

May

1 April Bluvus
2 Susie Bonder
2 Deb Kubik
4 Betty Cook
6 Beth Meier
8 Nancy Haack
8 Bonnie Mayer
9 Sandra Kovanda
14 Hazel Stahl
16 Judy Hess
21 Tania Uram
22 Samala Brown
22 Toni Iwasaki
22 Frances Williamson
23 Jeannie Staub
24 Barb Maag
25 Mary Ann Morris
29 Ruth Jaynes
29 Peggy Oliva
29 Mary Welsh



Remember to turn off or silence your cell phones before the meeting starts!

*** Please note that since we have a speaker, there will be a \$10.00 charge for any non-member guests ***

COTTONWOOD QUILT GUILD GENERAL MEETING

March 16, 2026

Terry Micheels, 25-26 chairperson, welcomed Cottonwood Guild members to the March meeting.

Gaylene Brennan introduced our speaker, Karan Medcalf-Paquette from The Nebraska Quilt Company. Karen shared her quilting journey. Her first experience with sewing was 4-H sewing projects. Karen showed quilts made of blocks that were made by her mother and put together and quilted by her grandmother. Karen shared many other beautiful quilts she has made. Nebraska Quilt Company offers many classes. She is a certified teacher for the Stripology rulers.

Terry introduced and welcomed new members and guests.

Announcements

May 18th meeting will be a combined meeting held in the evening. We will have a salad – dessert luncheon like last year. Terry thanked Gaylene for organizing.

Bus trip – April 17th & 18th.

April 20th – next workshop – Yellowstone Trail

Maddie from the Omaha Public library spoke on the new library opening at 72nd and Dodge. There will be a Do Space with sewing machines and a longarm. She is seeking volunteers for skill classes. They are also seeking supplies like fabric and ideas for program development. If interested please contact Maddie at 402 444 3399.

Terry led a fun game of “Wheel of Fortune” with quilt blocks as the puzzle. Fun prizes were awarded.

Business meeting:

Minutes from the February meeting was approved

Financial report was approved

Slate of Candidates were announced for next year:

Chairperson – Nancy McReynolds

Chairperson – elect – Gaylene Brennan

Secretary – Jill Straight (2nd year of 2-year term)

Treasurer – Kitty Bailey

Program Chair – Susie Bonder

Gaylene announced upcoming classes:

April 20 – Yellowstone Trail

August 17th or 18th Machine Applique with Amy Bradley

September 21st Jelly Roll Rug

October 19th Miniature Quilt

November 16th Snow Crystal – Table Topper

February 15, 2027 – Sashiko

March 15, 2027 - Quilted Bags

April 19, 2027 Antique Hanky Quilt

If class is full, please sign up on the waiting list.

Committee reports:

Janelle Reed – 50th Birthday Party celebration. Seeking a block design used for Logo. The block should be sewer friendly, can be original or traditional, must have a tree, green and gold, and 12 ½ inches. Bring block to August meeting and a viewers choice voting will be held.

Janelle also reported on the block of the month. Quilts due in April. They will be displayed at the May meeting for viewer’s choice voting.

Barb Trochim, “This is How I Roll” challenge quilts to be turned in at April meeting and will have viewer’s choice voting at May meeting. Please add what you rolled on the back of the quilt.

Deb Kubik – NICU quilts – quilts are available to take home. Also, several to be quilted.

Becky Jensen – Quilts and Covers – A sew day will be held on April 25th at St John’s Lutheran Church in Bennington, 9am to 5 pm. Please bring dish to share for potluck lunch.

Bus trip – Bus trip is a go! 40 have signed up. Can take 45. An email will be sent to participants next week. The Dakota Dash will visit 8 quilt shops April 17th and 18th

Show and Tell

Fat Quarter drawings. Next month will be batiks
Door prizes

Next meeting is April 20th at the Relevant Center

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Straight, Secretary

The Cottonwood Courier

Cottonwood Quilt Guild			
Financial Report			
Beginning Checkbook Balance 3/1/2026			\$ 23,735.26
Income			
	Deposit	Membership Income	\$ 227.00
	Deposit	Interest Income	\$ 18.77
Total Income			\$ 245.77
Expenses			
4095	Susan Seidel	March Newsletter Printing	\$ (54.28)
4096	Carol Coniglio	Refund of April Workshop Fee	\$ (50.00)
4097	Mary Hanke	Refund of 1/2 New Membership Fee	\$ (17.50)
4098	Brooke Erickson	Refund of April Workshop Fee	\$ (50.00)
4099	Gaylene Brennan	February Speaker Meals, Copies for Programs	\$ (81.63)
4100	Alma Santos	Refund of April Workshop Fee	\$ (50.00)
Trsf	Credit Card - Office Depot	Envelopes for Treasurer	\$ (67.19)
4101	Navigator Motorcoaches Inc	Bus Trip Expense	\$ (3,050.00)
4102	Susan Schwalm	Refund of April Workshop Fee	\$ (50.00)
Total Expenses			\$ (3,470.60)
Ending Checkbook Balance 3/31/2026			\$ 20,510.43

IT'S RENEWAL TIME

With the arrival of spring, the guild is winding down its year and that means renewal time is once again upon us. We will be taking renewals at the April and May meetings.

Please bring your completed renewal form from off our website or out of your online newsletter, fill it out ahead of time and have your **CHECK** ready. **NO CASH, PLEASE** as this complicates the bookkeeping. Your advance prep work will help move the line forward more quickly and allow everyone to get on to the fun and fellowship of the actual meeting.

REMEMBER, if you don't pay your dues by the May meeting, you will be charged a \$5.00 late fee and run the risk of not having your name in the membership book that comes out in the fall. It is also MUCH easier at the August meeting if all you have to do is check in and pick up your Yearbook.

Also remember that we have a Junior membership level for kids from 10-18. They must, however, be accompanied to meetings with a sponsor that is a current member, and they are not eligible to attend workshops.

See you in April and May and thanks for your cooperation and support.

March Meeting Attendees:

Night: 64 members
Day: 41 members

Shelter Donations

No items in April or May.
Deb Kubik & Sandy Kovanda

2025-26 PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

(For Workshop sign-ups, please use the form in the online newsletter)

Sign-up now!

APRIL 20 & 21, 2026

Speaker Carolyn McCormick, www.CMDesignsOnline.com

Lecture "The Women That Have Influenced Quilting"

Carolyn will share about ladies like Marie Webster, Carrie Hall and Rose Kretsinger and many more. Learn how they have impacted the quilters of today. Carolyn will also show her quilts that are using some of their designs.

Workshop "Yellowstone Trail"

How many jelly rolls do you have? Have you ever thought of making a quilt using a jelly roll that is not just strips? Yellowstone Trail is the perfect quilt for that. It combines a jelly roll with paper piecing.



MAY 18, 2026 – Year End Wrap-Up Meeting

2026-27 PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS SNEAK PEEK

(For Workshop sign-ups, please use the form in the online newsletter)

AUGUST 17, 2026

Speaker Amy Bradley w/Amy Bradley Designs www.amybradleydesigns.com

Lecture "TBD"

Workshop "Applique" – Participants may choose any of Amy's patterns. We are anticipating this to be a very popular workshop; therefore, we are tentatively offering this workshop twice. If the Monday, August 17 class 'sells out', then a second workshop will be offered on Tuesday, August 18.



SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2026

Speaker To Be Announced

Lecture "Quilts, Quilts, and More Quilts!"

Workshop "Jelly Roll Rug" w/Marguerite Hansen

Learn the tips and tricks of this fun jelly roll rug in our class. Marguerite will walk you through all the steps first by making a coaster and then you will have the confidence to tackle your own rug in colors to match your decor. She'll also show you how to adjust the size for trivets and placemats as well.



OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2026

Speaker Karen Hill

Lecture "Miniatures Just for Fun"

Karen has always been attracted to little versions of big things which define miniature quilts. While they are difficult to cuddle under, they are fun to make and easy to display. This lecture discusses the criteria and techniques for creating miniatures just for fun and her 'Trunk Show' will provide the inspiration.

Workshop "Miniature"

Learn techniques that help to create miniature quilts. A miniature quilt will be started in class.



NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2026

Speaker Cindy Erickson, Quilt Judge

Lecture "From Seam to Supreme – How Quilts Win Hearts (and Ribbons)"

Workshop "Snow Crystal" with Carol Coniglio

In this class you'll learn to use Studio 180 Design's Star 60 Tool to create this beautiful project. With Carol as your instructor, you will learn the tips and tricks of this ruler to create a wall hanging, table topper or tree skirt. Three different sizes are available (32", 46", 60"). Carol is a certified Studio 180 Design Certified Instructor. Be sure to follow her on Facebook – Just One More Seam.



JANUARY 18, 2027 (Zoom)

Speaker Phyllis Cullen w/Phyllis Cullen Art Studio www.phylliscullenartstudio.com

Lecture "It's All About the Face"

This all about portrait quilting. As the authors of the book by the same name Phyllis will guide you through numerous examples and style of quilted portraits, of people and animals. She will include lessons on the various aspects of creating these pieces, including posing, choosing photos, creating patterns, values, choosing fabrics, and how to quilt faces. You'll receive lots of information and hopefully inspiration to get out and "make a face!"

Workshop none



FEBRUARY 15 & 16, 2027

Speaker Chris Hoffman w/Acme Fabric & Quilt Company, www.acmefabric.com

Lecture "To Market ... to Market"

Chris has turned a beloved hobby into a brick-and-mortar shop in Blair, Nebraska. Her shop is full of vibrant fabrics, sewing notions, and quilting supplies to meet the creative needs of our community! Chris will be sharing how the quilt markets inspire her merchandise purchases that tempt us all.

Workshop "Sashiko Stitching 101" w/ Susie Bonder

Learn how to do Sashiko with this beginner-friendly class with Susie. You'll learn basic stitches, patterns and tips to start this Japanese hand sewing technique.



MARCH 15 & 16, 2027

Speaker Cottonwood Members

Lecture "Speed Dating"

This is an opportunity to connect with several speakers to learn new quilting techniques.

Workshop "Bodobo Bags" w/Brooke Erickson

Join Brooke as you make not one, not two, but all three sizes of these adorable fully-lined nesting bags with no exposed seams.



APRIL 19 & 20, 2027

Speaker David and Teresa Duwe, with Yesweduquilts Yesweduquilts.com

Lecture "What's Old is New Again"

Join David and Teresa as they share a collection of over 40 quilts recreated and reborn using newer techniques, many with old linens.

Workshop "Antique Hanky Quilts"

What do you do with all your old linens? Make a small fat quarter quilt.



MAY 17, 2027 – Year End Wrap-Up Meeting



Cottonwood Nominating Committee



The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce members who have agreed to serve Cottonwood as officers for the 2026-27 year:

Chairperson - Nancy McReynolds (1-year term)
Chairperson-Elect – Gaylene Brennan (1-year term)
Treasurer – Kitty Bailey (starting a 2-year term)
Secretary - Jill Straight (finishing a 2-year term)
Program Chair 2026-27 - Gaylene Brennan (finishing a second 2-year term)
Program Chair 2027-28 – Susie Bonder (starting a 2-year term)

Nancy McReynolds has agreed to continue to be the Daytime Coordinator next year too.

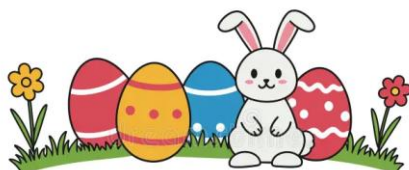
Nancy McReynolds – Chairperson (1-year term)

I was born in Nebraska and lived in Wyoming and Missouri until 2005 when we were transferred from St. Louis to Omaha. I have worked in many settings from hospitals, craft stores, a mobile computer lab to elementary schools. My husband and I have a daughter and son here in Omaha and a son, daughter-in-law and a granddaughter in central New York.

I inherited quilt blocks my mother had started before she passed away and I thought I could finish it quite easily because I had sewn clothing for myself and my children. This project is still in the box on the shelf as I learned that quilting is not the same as sewing a dress or a set of curtains. My neighbor suggested I join the Cottonwood Quilt Guild and the members were so kind and talented. Now quilting is a major part of my life.

Gaylene Brennan – Chairperson Elect (1-year term rolling into Chairperson position the following year **AND** **Program Chairperson 2026-27** (finishing a second 2-year term))

I'm a Nebraska girl. I grew up in Grand Island and moved to Omaha with a job transfer several years ago. My grandmother, an amazing grandma/seamstress/quilter/ gardener (I don't think there was anything that she couldn't do.), taught me to sew when I was in junior high – mostly garments and I really enjoyed those sewing lessons and the time spent with grandma. I didn't start quilting though until several years later. I began taking classes from various quilt shops, enjoyed learning different techniques and especially enjoyed getting to know other quilters. During one class, I met some women who invited me to join a quilt guild – said it was the best group of women anywhere – and they were right! I've been a member of Cottonwood since 2013.



Kitty Bailey – Treasurer (starting a 2-year term)

I was born and raised in Hawaii and have lived in Washington State (twice), South Africa, Virginia, Florida, Maryland and finally Nebraska. Most of these moves were prompted by my husband's job which brought us to Omaha in 2007. My work experience has been primarily retail including working at a fabric store in Hawaii (back in the day when quilt fabric was a few bolts of calico) and a quilt shop in Washington State. I have a linear, mathematical mind which gets its best workout when I spot a quilt I like and whip out a spreadsheet to calculate piece counts and how much fabric I need.

I started working with fabric as a teenager, sewing garments. I finished my first quilt in 1981, using a cardboard template to draw squares on my garment fabric scraps and cut them out by hand with scissors. It was 10+ years before I made another quilt and by the mid 1990's I was really getting serious about quilting. Those early years were self-taught, checking out books from the library and watching PBS shows. It wasn't until I moved to Omaha that I joined a quilt guild; first Omaha then the Cottonwood Guild in 2009. Being a member of a guild has exposed me to so many creative people and has inspired me to try many new-to-me techniques. I've come a long way from that first quilt and these days am a sucker for all the latest quilting gadgets! I have to confess though; my favorite quilts are still scrap quilts.

Jill Straight – Secretary (finishing a 2-year term)

I grew up on a farm in Iowa and moved to Gretna about 8 years ago. My grandma taught me to sew at a young age and helped me with my 4-H sewing projects. I made my first quilt about 45 years ago and with Grandma's help tied the quilt with yarn. Even though the quilt had 5/8" seam allowances and points cut off, I enjoyed using it as a bedspread for several years. Quilting and sewing took a back seat while raising my three sons. I now have eight grandchildren but find time to quilt every day. A day is not complete without spending time at my sewing machine or longarm. I enjoy sewing with friends, gifting baby quilts and going to quilt retreats. I am retired after working 34 years with USDA. I am also involved with church activities and am a member of the Omaha Modern Quilt Guild. I look forward to serving you as your Secretary.

May Meeting - Salad Supper

For our final meeting of the 2025/2026 guild year on May 18th, we will have a potluck salad supper. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the dinner begins at 6:00 pm.

We're asking everyone to bring something to share (see below).

- 1) Last names starting A-M – bring a dessert.
- 2) Last names starting N-Z – bring a salad or veggie.
- 3) Everyone to bring your own drink (water will be provided).

Any questions, please see Terry Micheels or Gaylene Brennan.

Nominations cont.

Susie Bonder – Program Chairperson 2027-28

(starting a 2-year term)

I was born in Omaha and have lived here all my life. Like many quilters, I am also an avid landscape and vegetable gardener. I made my first quilt in the 70's in high school from a Simplicity pattern. My 2nd quilt wasn't until I was expecting my first grandchild in the early 90's. I am retired which to my joy gives me lots of sewing time. I am also active in the Omaha Modern Guild and enjoy making all different kinds of quilts. I especially like learning new things and techniques. I usually have 3-4 projects I'm working on at any given time, with one of them some kind of handwork, (including knitting). A couple of years ago I got my great grandmothers spinning wheel and have been learning to spin and recently started a bit of weaving. This year I have a personal goal of getting more comfortable with custom quilting on my domestic machine.

Nancy McReynolds - Daytime Coordinator (not elected position)

Voting will occur on the above slate of officers at the April Monday Night Meeting on 4/20/26 only.

Quilts & Covers

Quilts and Covers will be having a sew day at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bennington, April 25, 2026. We will provide a meat/main dish, please sign up to bring a side dish, salad, dessert, etc. Please let Vaylene know if you can make it! We always have a great time visiting and sewing! If you don't want to sew, we have plenty of fabric to be cut as well. Vaylene can be reached at 910-574-2554.

Summer Retreat

Join us for the Summer Guild Retreat. We will be at Carol Joy Holing from July 16-19. You will have four days to sew to your heart's delight. So, come join us for all or part of the time.

Questions: call Christine Hess-Baker 402-306-6928 or email: scgjbaker@cox.net. The registration form can be found in the online newsletter.

Seeking Volunteers for 2025-26

As your Chair-Elect, I have been communicating with guild members to recruit volunteers for available positions in the upcoming year. Our guild depends on our volunteers to deliver successful programs, creative classes, and engaging activities. Volunteering offers benefits, such as developing new skills, connecting with others, and building new relationships. Without individuals who volunteer their time and effort, we would not be able to provide the many opportunities for our members.

The following positions are currently available for the 2026-27 guild year:

- Quilts & Covers Chairperson (or Small Group!)
- Studio Tour

For all inquiries, please contact Nancy McReynolds, Chair-Elect.

Monthly Volunteer Opportunities

At the April meetings, we will begin sign-ups for 2026-27 Greeters, Holders and Folders, and the Welcome Committee.

- **Greeters** meet people at the doors to welcome everyone to the meetings.
- **Holders and Folders** hold the quilts for the speakers and during Show and Tell. They also help deliver prizes for Fat Quarters and Door Prizes.
- **The Welcome Committee** meets brand new members of the guild at the Sign In table and takes them around to all the tables to explain what everything is about and to answer their questions.

Look for the sign-up sheets and please sign up now!

Small Groups

Make your quilting experience more fulfilling by joining a small group. Contact Kay Sieck by phone 402-677-2099 or email ksieckcottonwood@yahoo.com.



Quilts for the NICU

All quilts donated to Methodist Women's Hospital

Methodist Women's Hospital now has 63 beds in the NICU. Because of YOU, each baby staying in the NICU for a length of time will receive a quilt - **to date over 1,100 quilts have been donated.**

Want to be a part of this group project ... pick up a kit at the next guild meeting. You can also use your own fabric, if you'd like. We love completed quilts, but if you do not quilt, a completed top is very much appreciated. If you are new to long arming, here is a great way to practice your skills. We are always in need of volunteers: sewing tops, long arming, and binding finished quilts.

Specifications: Approximately 36 X 44, bright child-friendly fabrics (cotton or flannel – NO minke) with a coordinating backing. KITS should include: 3- 1 yard fabric pieces, backing, binding, and batting. **If you do not quilt your tops, please return batting and binding so the top can be completed.**

Finished quilts (or tops) can be turned in at a guild meeting or to any of us listed below

Ideas for NICU quilts - patterns (and free patterns) can be found on our web page under "Guild Activities – NICU Quilt Project". Just remember, quilts need to be approximately 36x44, so some adjustments need to be made.

NICU FABRIC NEEDED

For us to make up more kits, we are in need of child-friendly fabric. If you should be cleaning your studio and come across this type of fabric or larger amounts (we can use for backings), please drop off at the NICU table...

Thank you for all you do!

Carol Coniglio
Deb Kubik

Jackie Heyne
Cathy Pasko

Volunteers Needed

Thank you to all who have volunteered to fill elected and committee job positions next year. We have more positions to fill so please consider stepping up and volunteering! Please reach out to Nancy McReynolds with questions or to volunteer!



2025/2026 Quilt Challenge *This Is How I Roll!*

It's almost time to turn in your challenge quilt!! Bring your completed challenge quilt to the April meeting. Attach a slip of paper to your quilt indicating the 2 blocks and the 2 colors the rolled dice chose for you. Those have to be used and identifiable in your quilt. The quilts will be displayed at the May meeting for Viewers' Choice judging and awards!

As a reminder of the Guidelines for this year's challenge....

1. The Quilt can be any size.
2. The quilt is to be inspired by the 2 blocks and 2 colors determined by your roll of the dice. Any other design elements may be used. Be motivated and imaginative in your interpretation.
3. Your Quilt can be traditional or art... pieced, appliqued, embroidered... mixed or painted on fabric.
4. You may add up to an additional three (3) colors.
5. Two (2) different borders (pieced, appliqued, embroidered or combination) must be incorporate on your quilt.
6. **Indicate what 2 blocks and 2 colors you had to use on a slip of paper and attach it to your quilt.**
7. Quilt must be completely finished. Quilted (not tied), bound and labeled.
8. Completed Quilts will be turned in at the April 2026 meeting for viewers' choice judging at our May 2026 meeting.
9. Prizes will be given for the top 3 viewers' choice picks.
10. Cost is \$5.00 to enter so prizes can be awarded.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact Challenge Coordinator.

Barbara Trochim – bunkieb48@gmail.com



“Starstruck” Block of the Month

It's Show Time!

The final patterns for the 8-point star blocks in the 2025-26 Block of the Month were emailed to participants last month. Bring your finished tops to the meetings in April. They may but are not required to be quilted and bound. If you will not be at the April meeting but want to turn in your BOM project, please contact Janelle Reed. Participants each paid \$5 into the Viewers' Choice Prize Fund and those prizes will be awarded at the May meeting.

Everyone is encouraged to view all the finished projects and vote on their favorite BOM before the May dinner.

I want to thank Jackie Heyne for volunteering to take over the Block of the Month next year! I can't wait to see what she comes up with!!

Janelle Reed, BOM Coordinator

Cottonwood Bus Trip-The Dakota Dash

April 17-18, 2026

We're at the starting line just waiting for the starter's GO!

April 17th at 6:30 a.m., 40 fellow quilters will head off on our shopping track to Alcester, Dell Rapids, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sioux City, Iowa and Wakefield, Nebraska.

Dashers, get your shopping lists in shape and make sure your racing shoes, (ok, walking shoes) are ready to go! Each “dasher” should have received an email with general information and an itinerary for the trip. If you did not receive that information, or have questions, please contact Mary Hamilton, mehamilton@cox.net or 402-689-6988.

Registrations for this trip are closed, but a waiting list will be started in case we have a last minute cancellation. Contact Mary to have your name added to the waitlist.

I'll report back on all the “winners” of the dash!

Mary Hamilton



The Cottonwood Courier

Cottonwood Quilters 50th Birthday Celebration!

March 2030

Cottonwood Quilters Guild will be 50 years old in March of 2030! That seems like a long way off, but we have some ideas for getting all members involved in the celebration and one in particular will take some prep time. If you would like to participate in the planning or have ideas to share, please contact Janelle Reed at janlsews@gmail.com or 402-639-4764.

Block Logo Contest

The 50th Birthday Committee is looking for a Block design to use as a logo for the celebration. It will be used for merchandise to commemorate the occasion and also for planned and to-be-determined group projects to include all members in the celebration.

Birthday Block Contest Rules are:

- Sewer-Friendly! We will encourage all members to participate in projects using this block.
- It may be an Original Design or a Traditional or Open Resourced Block or a variation of such.
- It must contain a tree – any kind of tree.
- Any technique may be used – pieced, paper-pieced, applique (hand-, fused-, or machine-) or a combination of techniques.
- Make a 12” block (12 ½” unfinished) predominantly green(s) and gold(s).
- Bring your block to the August 2026 combined meeting. We will display all blocks and hold a Viewers' Choice election to select The Birthday Block.
- All blocks will be returned to the makers.

Have fun and be a part of the Celebration!



Fat Quarter Exchange

April: Batiks

Helpful Guidelines/Reminders:

- *A fat quarter is 18" by 20-22" in size. NO ¼ YARD CUTS PLEASE! Please check your fabric to make sure it's a true fat quarter.
- *PLEASE Fabric must be good quality 100% cotton.
- *Please bring current fabrics that are new or unused.
- *Fabric color/print must comply with the theme for the month. To be determined by the people in charge
- *Limit of 5 FQs per month (but you can only win one bundle per meeting)

Evening:

Connie Cramer 402-558-2886 (H) 402-871-9660 (C)

Bonnie Balkovec 402-334-9419 (H) 402-960-3008 (C)

Morning:

Nene McManus 402-657-0455 (H)

Sunshine and Shadows

Sunshine and Shadows acknowledges a significant day, time or event, celebration, or condolences at time of need, by way of a card. A virtual hug by snail mail could brighten someone's day, if even for a moment. We would certainly like that everyone in the guild is included and knows that we care. Call or text me @ 402-516-2570 with the name, address, and event plus any pertinent information including members or former members that have passed away so we can inform our membership.

Thank you, Pat Sears (paqrattpat@yahoo.com)



Membership

Please let Carol Coniglio know if you have paid the additional for a mailing but still have not received your newsletter. Other address changes or Newsletter mailing problems? Also contact Carol Coniglio.

New Members									
Last	First	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email	B-Month	B-Day
Jacobs	Susan	1942 N 151 Plz	Omaha	NE	68154-1062	574-520-8706	susan_m_jacobs@yahoo.com	6	15
Meyer	Sharon	7004 Harvest Hills Dr	LaVista	NE	68128-3137	402-707-2144	tunermeyer77@gmail.com	2	11
Schumacher	Kate	14625 Co Rd 34	Kennard	NE	68034	402-669-4894	kateschumacher2020@gmail.com		
Sedivy	Janice	P.O. Box 706	Valley	NE	68064	402-660-3611	fulltimesewer@msn.com	2	20
Smith	Kathy	5433 County Rd 29	Kennard	NE	68034	402-212-7637	kathysmith5433@gmail.com	6	29
Email Changes									
Last	First	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email	B-Month	B-Day
Hradec	Karen	2862 Read St.	Omaha	NE	68112-3124	402-451-1734	leftystitcher.1@gmail.com	9	28
Luebbert	Peggy	7115 S 140 Ave.	Omaha	NE	68138-6234	402-690-4685	peggyluebbert5@gmail.com	9	13

Cottonwood Quilters
P.O. Box 27
Elkhorn, NE 68022



Our next meeting is Monday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. at the **RELEVANT CENTER, 21220 Elkhorn Drive**

www.cottonwoodquilters.org

Calendar of Events

Now	International Quilt Study Center (IQSC) 1523 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE http://quiltstudy.org/
April 20	Carolyn McCormick Workshop See page 3 Cottonwood Quilt Guild General Meeting In-Person Meeting Relevant Center, 21220 Elkhorn Dr. Doors Open – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
April 21	Daytime Meeting In-Person Meeting Relevant Center, 21220 Elkhorn Dr. Doors Open – 9:00 a.m. Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
April 25	Quilts & Covers Workday St. Johns Lutheran Church, Bennington, NE See Page 6
April 27	Cottonwood Quilt Guild Steering Committee Meeting ZOOM Meeting 6:30 p.m.
May 18	Cottonwood Quilt Guild General Meeting In-Person Meeting/Potluck Salad Supper Relevant Center, 21220 Elkhorn Drive Doors Open – 5:30 p.m. Dinner/Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (Remember: No Daytime Meeting)

Don't forget to bring:

Nametag

Fat Quarters

Gift Fat Quarters

Mug WITH LID (BYO Drink)

Member of the Year Nomination

Workshop Forms & \$\$

Workshop Project for Show-n-Tell

Quilts & Covers

NICU Quilts

NO Shelter Donations

Show-n-Tell

[A prospective member!](#)

If you arrive 30 or more minutes before the meeting, please stay in the lobby until the Check-in team is set up and ready for you!

Reminders

Want a beverage?? You need to bring it in your own mug with a lid.

Do we know who you are??

Wear a nametag so you can have a door prize ticket, or you will have to pay \$.25 for a paper one.

Remember to turn off or silence your cell phones before the meeting starts!

Coordinator Job Descriptions

Please work up a job description for your current position to hand off to your replacement for next year and give to Terry Micheels or Nancy McReynolds by the May Meeting.

Member of the Year

Each year, with the help of our members, we try to recognize those members that have gone the extra mile to make Cottonwood Quilt Guild a special organization. There are many members who work very hard to make this group what it is. We would like your nomination for someone you feel has worked exceptionally hard to help our guild. Every active member is eligible, except the 5 elected officers.

The following are the typical categories, though not all categories have to be awarded. It depends on your nominations. An award committee will be established to decide on the winners.

Lifetime Achievement -- a member who has been active in the guild for at least five to seven years and who has been active in committees, on the board etc. to assist in making Cottonwood the great guild it is.

Yearly Service -- a member who has gone above and beyond in the current guild year.

Outstanding Achievement -- a member who has gone above and beyond and accomplished something out of the ordinary.

If you know someone who fits any of the above descriptions, please take time to fill out the form at right, put it in an envelope and mail to Terry Micheels or bring to the April meetings. You can also simply do a write-up and email it to Terry. The deadline for the nominations is Tuesday, April 21st at midnight.

See the Yearbook or the website here: (<https://cottonwoodquilters.org/about-us/member-of-year/>) for previous years' award winners.

2026 Member of the Year Nomination Form

I nominate: _____ for:

Lifetime Achievement _____

Yearly Service _____

Outstanding Achievement _____

Outline her contributions: _____

Explain why you felt she should receive this honor:

Your name (optional): _____

Spring
TIME





Cottonwood Quilt Guild

Membership Form

Bring this completed form and check to a meeting or mail to:

Cottonwood Quilters
PO Box 27
Elkhorn, NE 68022

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Please check all that apply: New Address () New Phone Number () New E-mail () Corrected Birthday ()

Name (print) _____

Address (print) _____

City (print) _____ State (print) _____ Zip+4 (print) _____

Phone (print) _____ Birthday Month _____ Day _____

Email address (print) _____

Description	Amount	Sub-total
Annual Dues (May-May) Renewal during April & May meetings	\$35	
Junior Annual Dues (May-May) Renewal during April & May meetings	\$10	
Late Renewing Member Fee Renewal after May meeting	\$5	
February-May Dues Half year membership	\$17.50	
Mailed Newsletter	\$25	
Your Total:		

**PLEASE PAY
BY CHECK!
MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO
"COTTONWOOD
QUILTERS".**

Would you like more information on joining a small group? _____

Would you like more information on becoming more involved on a committee in the guild? _____

Please check here if you want to be identified in the Yearbook as a:

Long-Arm Quilter for Hire ()

Hand Quilter for Hire ()

Teacher for Hire: ()

For Guild Use Only:

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____ Late Member _____ Half Year Member _____

Date Paid _____ Check# _____

Amount \$ _____ Taken by: _____

COTTONWOOD QUILT GUILD
August 2025 – April 2026
Workshop Registration Form

WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

- You may register for one or more workshops.
- Workshop fees must be paid at the time of registration to reserve your spot.
- Costs:
 - Member - \$50
 - Non-member - \$65

Please bring your registration form with payment to a Cottonwood meeting or mail to:
Gaylene Brennan, 13545 North 74th Street, Omaha, NE 68122

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

If this is a cell number, may we text you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Cottonwood Member ☐ Yes ☐ No

WORKSHOPS

Sign Me Up!	Date	Workshop	Instructor
☐	Aug 18, 2025	"Tangled Twigs" (<i>paper piece</i>)	Terri VandenBosch
☐	Sept 15, 2025	Walking Foot Quilting	Coleen Merte
☐	Oct 20, 2025	Convergence (<i>Ricky Tims' pattern</i>)	Denise Stahl
☐	Nov 17, 2025	Posh Sunflower (<i>mini quick curve ruler</i>)	LuAnn Franzluebbbers
☐	Feb 16, 2026	Linked Together	Scott Flanagan
☐	Apr 20, 2026	Yellowstone Trail (<i>paper piece</i>)	Carolyn McCormick

of Workshops _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

Make checks payable to "Cottonwood Quilt Guild". (Checks will be cashed in Jul/Aug 2025.)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Amount: \$ _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Initials: _____

COTTONWOOD QUILT GUILD
August 2026 – April 2027
Workshop Registration Form

WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

- You may register for one or more workshops.
- Workshop fees must be paid at the time of registration to reserve your spot.
- Costs:

Member - \$50 Non-member - \$65

Please bring your registration form with payment to a Cottonwood meeting or mail to:
 Gaylene Brennan, 13545 North 74th Street, Omaha, NE 68122

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

If this is a cell number, may we text you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Cottonwood Member ☐ Yes ☐ No

WORKSHOPS

Sign Me Up!	Date	Workshop	Instructor
☐	☐ Aug 17, 2026 OR ☐ Aug 18, 2026	Machine Applique Choose from any of Amy's Patterns	Amy Bradley
☐	Sept 21, 2026	Jelly Roll Rug	Marguerite Hansen
☐	Oct 19, 2026	Miniature Quilt	Karen Hill
☐	Nov 16, 2026	Snow Crystal – Table Topper	Carol Coniglio
☐	Feb 15, 2027	Sashiko	Susie Bonder
☐	Mar 15, 2027	Bodobo Bags	Brooke Erickson
☐	Apr 19, 2027	Antique Hanky Quilt	David & Teresa Duwe

of Workshops _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

Make checks payable to "Cottonwood Quilt Guild". (Checks will be cashed in Jul/Aug 2026.)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Amount: \$ _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Initials: _____

Cottonwood Quilt Guild
Summer Retreat
July 16- July 19, 2026
Deadline June 30, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Emergency
Contact: _____ Cell: _____

Rates

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
Single: \$156__	Single: \$181__	Single: \$181__	
Double: \$126__	Double: \$145__	Double: \$145__	
Triple: \$118__	Triple: \$131__	Triple: \$131__	
Day Only: \$50__	Day Only: \$50__	Day Only: \$50__	
Total:	Total:	Total:	

Non-Members: Please add \$35 to Total cost. You will be automatically added to the Cottonwood Quilt Guild for the upcoming year. Welcome!

If you don't have the same number of people in your room from day to day your rate will vary for each night.

Make check payable to Cottonwood Quilt Guild: Check Number: _____ Total Due: _____

Dietary needs:

If you have a medically necessary need for a special diet please contact Dana at CJH to discuss your specific needs. 1-888-656-6254 or DJAHN@NLOM.ORG

Daytime Only: Contact Christine Hess-Baker 402 306-6928 or scgjbaker@cox.net

There is a limited number of day only spots available

Registrations: Total cost is due with registration form. Mail to Christine Hess-Baker 17711 Jones Street Omaha, NE 68118

Questions: Contact Christine Hess-Baker 402 306-6928 or scgjbaker@cox.net