



The Plume

June 2023
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THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

Some say there's something magical about baseball, that it is America's favorite sport, and that it will always be America's favorite pastime. Yes, baseball season is here and the Boys of Summer are taking their positions on the field to play—and to win. Fans from all over the country are attending in droves, munching franks, guzzling their favorite beverages, and watching this game that they so dearly love and embrace.

At our recently held "Scrappy Appliqué Quilt Group" meeting, our talented leaders, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **Jackie Tarr**, took their positions in our first Summer group meeting, hit the ball, and knocked it right out of the park. They scored a spell bounding homerun and made an outstanding presentation! They were **SUCCESSFUL** and their performance was **EXCELLENT!**

With a record-breaking 18 eager Feather Princesses in attendance at the meeting, we placed our fabrics on the tables and then walked around the tables, selecting the fabrics of our choice and stuffing our mesh scrap bags with fabric tidbits for our new appliqué quilt projects. Thank you so much Princess **Betty Jo** for sharing these bags with us! What a great idea! Then we plowed through a plethora of quilt books and appliqué patterns, looking for that perfect design to stitch. And **WOW**, did we come up with some amazing designs and patterns to create!

Each inning of this meeting was played with accuracy and precision! And amid all of the fervor and zeal, we were inspired with the stunning scrap wallhangings and quilts, displayed on the library room walls. We sincerely thank Princesses **Nancy Hale**, **Cheryl Haynes**, **Carol Hibbard**, **Betty Jo Lecaroz**, **Jackie Tarr**, and **Shirley Williams** for bringing their beautiful quilts to share with us.

As the meeting proceeded, the explosion of enthusiasm and excitement was reminiscent of fireworks at an evening baseball game. Princess Jackie set-up an attractive display of fat quarter bundles for a drawing. And the Princesses stepped up to plate, hit the

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June Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

Scoop up some FUN as we usher in a splendid Summer at our exciting June guild meeting. Come and revel in the fabulous Feather Princesses fellowship, as we commemorate Flag Day and Father's Day! And enjoy our gathering of gifted and talented members and quilting friends, as we celebrate applique and each other.

When you arrive, please be sure to:

- See our *Membership Chairs*, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**, to sign-in at our **Welcome Table**, renew your FP membership, and provide your emergency contact information.
- Drop off your non-perishable food items for our **Community Service Project**.
- Enjoy a cup of delicious coffee or tea, and other delicious seasonal refreshments so lovingly prepared by our *Hospitality Chair*, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, and other Princesses.
- Mingle, greet our guests and visiting friends, and then introduce yourself to a Feather Princesses member you do not already know.

As you make your way around the meeting room, be sure to see our:

- *Fat Quarter Exchange Chair*, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, to turn in your "Ice Cream Colors" fat quarters.
- *Guild Photographer*, Princess **Beverly Abenante**, to sign-in and photograph the quilts you will present during Show N Tell.
- *Healing Hearts Chair*, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, to turn in your **Healing Heart** blocks and fat quarters.
- *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Karen Benitez**, to register and/or make payments to attend our Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat.
- *Special Block Chair*, Princess **Shirley Williams**, to turn in your Spring Special Block.
- *Sunshine/Birthday Chair*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to sign-up for the June birthday drawing.



Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Springhill Suites Marriott
Tampa Suncoast Parkway
16615 Crosspointe Run
Land O'Lakes, FL 34638

- Doors Open at 9 a.m.
- Happy Hour begins at 9 a.m.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

- *Vice President*, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, to turn in your "Chillin' With My Gnomies" Special Christmas Block.

Also:

- During Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you appliqué your stunning appliqué quilt projects.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business.
- Next, be inspired with the informational program, "Collage Quilts," presented by our very talented member, Princess **Maria Nunez**.
- At the lunch break, savor your delicious lunch you brought from home and then enjoy our delightful Ice Cream Social.
- During Show N Tell, enjoy the amazing and astonishing Show Offs and be inspired with the very stunning appliqué quilts and wallhangings made by our talented Princesses. And be sure to bring your "Flag" quilts and quilts for "Dad."
- Enjoy the exciting **Spring Special Block** drawing that Princess **Shirley Williams** will conduct. Cross your fingers in hopes that you will win and carry home the adorable "hot air balloon" blocks with you.
- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting June birthday drawing and door prize drawings, as you just might be a winner.

We'll see you this coming Wednesday at our June guild meeting.

We Are Appliqué Addicts - Annual Membership Renewal

by Dorothy Johnson

There are several different forms of needlework out there for us to delve into and spend our time. Of course, there's knitting, crocheting, rug hooking, needlepoint, cross stitch, smocking, and tatting, to name a few. And over the years, most of us needle artists have attempted or maybe even mastered these various art forms at different times—and truly enjoyed the process. But for most of us Feather Princesses, even after trying our hands at these, we always came back to appliqué and quilting. We liked the aforementioned art forms; but we love appliqué and we simply can't seem to get enough! We are addicted!



So, if you're an appliqué addict and want to continue the exciting appliqué adventure here in our Feather Princesses guild, be sure to renew your Feather Princesses 2023–2024 membership, now through August 9, at the cost of \$45 for the new year. Our lovely *Membership Chairs*, Princesses, **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**, will gladly accept your membership dues payments at our June 14 guild meeting. So, be sure to bring your debit/credit cards, cash, and/or checks (made payable to the Feather Princesses). And if you write a check, please write "Membership Dues" on the Memo line of the check.

Another exciting year of fabulous appliqué awaits us at our illustrious Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild! Get ready, come, and be inspired with total appliqué education, excitement, friendship, and fun! And remember that you must renew your membership dues by our August 9 guild meeting, to be included in our new *Feather Princesses 2023–2024 Membership Directory*.

It's okay to play with the other forms of needlework; but let's make APPLIQUÉ our number one priority.

June Program: Collage Quilts - Making One Quilt from Many

by Joanne Rodriguez and Maria Nunez

A collage is a picture in which various materials or objects (paper, cloth, photographs, etc.) are fused or glued onto a larger surface. And because we quilters all love fabrics, it's all about thinking freely and painting with fabrics, to create gorgeous collage quilts. The fabrics can be bits or scraps in any color, pattern, or size; and when placed together in layers with other fabrics, they come together to create the design as the overall collage evolves.

At our June program, we will take a look at collage quilts and how to make them. We will try NEW things and learn to be free thinkers! Our talented member, Princess **Maria Nunez**, will lead us on a fabulous applique fabric journey and show us how she makes her stunning and unique collage quilts. As an intro, Maria usually thinks of a theme and then she chooses a couple of different fabrics within that theme, using the same colorway and fabric texture. And she then simply cuts the fabrics and begins to build the design.

Also, during the inspirational program **Maria** will share relevant hints and tips for creating impressive and attractive collage quilts:

- Sewing/quilting supplies needed to make a fabric collage quilt
- Process for making the fabric collage quilt
 - deciding on the subject or pattern
 - auditioning and selecting the fabrics
 - cutting and placing the fabrics
 - gluing the fabrics
 - finishing the collage by adding blocks, borders, etc.
 - securing the layers and quilting the collage.

Maria will not only tell of her personal travels through the fantastic world of fabrics and how to put them together using appliqué, but she will also dazzle and dazzle us with her fabulous collage quilt samples. So come one, come all to hear **Maria's** spectacular presentation about her phenomenal creative process of making exquisite collage quilts.

Our Exciting Ice Cream Social

by Linda Woytisek

"I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!"



Reminiscent of the "Old Fashioned Ice Cream Socials" of days gone by, for a very special frozen treat and time of fellowship and fun, come and enjoy yourselves at our exciting Feather Princesses **Ice Cream Social**, convening at our awesome June 14 guild meeting. We will have this delectable creamy treat of course, along with all the fixins'. If you like a bowl of ice cream with toppings, banana split, root beer float, and more, then this is definitely for you. So, come and scoop up your favorite delight with us! There will be edible treats to satisfy every taste and palette—a treat for everyone, so do not miss it!

We have already collected the bowls, cups, plastic ware, straws, and several items and toppings for this affair; but to complete the list of goodies and to ensure your total enjoyment, more fixins' are needed. So, if you would like to bring one of the following items (or other items) to share, please contact me, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, by email at 35april76@gmail.com to let me know what you plan to bring.

- root beer soda: one 6-can carton
- orange soda: one 6-can carton
- whipped cream
- miniature marshmallows
- butterscotch syrup
- microwavable hot fudge
- chopped nuts
- M & Ms candy
- Magic Shell

Lovely Feather Princesses, be sure to watch your food intake and save your calories this week, so you can "splurge" at our exciting **Ice Cream Social**. It's going to be FUN and SWEET!

And if you have blood work coming up any time soon, you just might want to rethink that. Ha! Ha!

Thanks so much and we'll see you this coming Wednesday!

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

ball, and entered their names in the drawing to win these bundles. So, before the meeting ended, Jackie pulled the names; and each and every Feather Princess ran around the bases and won one of these gorgeous bundles—no strike outs there! And just as baseball fans everywhere carry home souvenirs after each game, lastly **Jackie** presented a lovely fat quarter to each Princess as a memento of the inaugural "Scrap Applique Quilt Group" meeting.

Attending this game, (uh, meeting) was a rewarding experience for us all, as we learned, we laughed, we shared with each other, and most of all we had a wonderful time as we made a great start on our new scrappy quilts! And we're already anticipating the next "Scrappy" get together, convening on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. We expect another record-breaking attendance; and the tickets for this game will go fast. So, don't wait until the last minute. Start preparing now, gather your scraps, and then join us for another spectacular game at the July "Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group" meeting! Be sure to see page 7 of this newsletter for more info.

Thanks so much and we'll see you this coming Wednesday at our June 14 guild meeting.

Community Service Project

by Shirley Williams

The local food banks, churches, and other support organizations are sincerely grateful for receiving our monthly cash and food donations, as they help feed the many hungry families in our communities. So lovely Feather Princesses, we thank you again for supporting our very worthwhile **Community Service Project**. This month our donations will go to St. John Missionary Baptist Church, located in Dade City; and Princess **Dorothy Johnson** will deliver these donations to the church for us.

Princess **Dorothy** recently met with the church Pastor and his wife, who were very appreciative and grateful at the prospect of receiving donations from us. A "Blessing Box" (food pantry) is located on the church grounds, where the church congregation stores food items for the needy people in the

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June Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.google.com/search?> and https://www.breyers.com/us/en/products.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI2pyk6byt_wIVytbICh1NRADsEAAYAAAEgK4N_D_BwE&gclid=aw.ds)

Many years ago, vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and neapolitan flavored ice creams were the stars of the show. But as we all know now, today there is a plethora of different flavors in the ice cream shops and grocery store frozen food departments. In addition to the classic varieties of ice cream, there's also a bundle of fruit flavored delights, such as mango, banana split, and wild berry. And if you really like to chow down, a variety of ice cream flavors include almonds, pecans, and walnuts, too. And to further satisfy your taste for this sweet treat, some varieties of ice cream contain candies, such as M&Ms, Reeses Peanut Butter Cups, Hershey's Kisses and more! And of course, there's always the brownie, cookie dough, and birthday cake varieties of ice cream, along with all of the swirls!

There's definitely a wide selection of ice cream flavors available to lick-up these days; with several different benefits, too. There's reduced calorie, carb conscious, snack size, no sugar added, lactose free, non-dairy, and gluten-free to name a few. But back to the ice cream flavors, each coming in a different color. Images from as early as 1876 show vanilla ice cream as a pale white color; and since that time the ice cream manufacturers have produced delicious and tasty flavors in all different colors of the rainbow.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for June is "ICE CREAM COLORS." So, gather your fat quarters in all "colors of ice cream" and then bring them to our June 14 guild meeting; and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Plan your next adorable Summertime quilt project, using the colorful shades of ice cream. Win some of these sumptuous fat quarters in an array of gorgeous colors; and relish every single moment as you create your new stunning ice cream appliqué quilt projects.

The *Guidelines for the Fat Quarter Exchange* are located on the Members Only section of our website.

Thanks so much and we'll see you and your "ICE CREAM COLORS" this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.

Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



Greetings Beautiful Friends!

Happy June! It's time for BBQ, lemonade, and appliqué! It is always time for appliqué!

I hope the special time with your friends and family brings you joy and brightens your days. Please know that you are loved and valued. If you haven't attended a Feather Princesses guild meeting recently, please know that you are missed and we would love to see you and spend the day with you. Do get in touch with a friend who can perhaps give you a ride or meet up so you can ride shotgun!

This month brings ice cream colors for our **Fat Quarter Exchange**, which also means a certain sweet treat will be part of the meeting menu! Have I tempted you yet? We would love to have you there, so let's go! Let's appliqué! Let's visit with each other and have a good time!

Feel better soon! We'll see you at our June guild meeting!

- Dee Anderson
- Eileen Leonard
- Terry Montaldo
- Peg Jacques
- Joanne Rodriguez
- Peggy Wattenbarger
- Linda Woytisek

Information Now Located on: www.featherprincesses.org

Click on the links below to access the following information:

- [Previous Month's Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Healing Heart Blocks Guidelines](#)
- [Fat Quarter Exchange Guidelines](#)

NOTE: The password for the Members Only section is located on the bottom of page 1 in the 2022-23 FP Membership Directory.

Healing Heart Blocks and Fat Quarters, Too

by Shirley Kasprzyk



We're really telling our ages here; BUT, do you remember those memorable Saturday and Sunday afternoons of precious times gone by, when folks actually concocted home-made ice cream—in some of the most yummy and delectable flavors? I fondly recollect these unforgettable occasions when we poured the milk/cream, sugar, ice cream mix, flavorings, fruits, and more into the churn; and I also remember adding the ice and salt to the bucket. It was a simple recipe and process indeed, which yielded very tasty results. And the excitement and fun of it all really began when it was time to turn the handle on the churn, to make the mixture freeze. We kids would actually time ourselves to see who could turn the handle the fastest and the longest. This fun process went on for an allotted time; and after churning the mixture with every ounce of vim and vitality we had, we served up and devoured the creamiest, smoothest, and most delicious ice cream ever. Our tummies were full and we were happy!

The same is true with our **Healing Heart** blocks. We follow a simple set of guidelines as well, which yield amazing results, brightening the spirits of our lovely **Healing Heart** block recipients. We select the appropriate colors of fabrics along with matching threads, based on each recipient's preference. And then we decide on gorgeous appliqué heart patterns to stitch. And the excitement begins when we make every single stitch and the heart shapes come to life. Unlike with turning the handle on the ice cream churn though, we don't time ourselves or rush. Instead we take our time and make every stitch as perfectly as we can with love. And then when we complete the blocks, we feel the greatest sense of euphoria, happiness, and satisfaction ever!

Here in the Feather Princesses, we appliqué stunning **Healing Heart** blocks for the lovely recipients on our **Healing Hearts** list and we select gorgeous fat quarters, too. We give these to express our concern and support, and to honor the lovely ladies in our guild who experienced a life threatening illness or the loss of a spouse or child. We lift the spirits of our lovely Princesses, as they face challenging and difficult times.

NOTE: Our lovely member, Princess **Carol Hibbard**, is added to the **Healing Hearts** block list.

Princesses currently receiving the **Healing Heart** blocks:

- **Carol Hibbard** likes aqua and teal
- **Maria Nunez** likes blue
- **Laura O'Connor** likes burgundy
- **Barbara Roberts** likes blue and yellow

Princesses currently receiving the **Fat Quarters**:

- **Sandy Davis** likes Civil War prints

Feather Princesses you have always been and continue to be so generous in making the **Healing Heart** blocks and giving the fat quarters; and each one is greatly received and appreciated. Your outpouring of love is phenomenal; and we sincerely thank you.

You may mail your completed **Healing Heart** blocks and fat quarters directly to the recipients or bring them to our June 14 guild meeting and give them to me, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**; and I will give them to the recipients.

The **Healing Heart Block and Fat Quarter Guidelines** are located on our Feather Princesses website, [Members Only](#) section, **Healing Heart Blocks**. We sincerely express our gratitude to you for lifting the spirits of our very special recipients.



Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group

by Betty Jo Lecaroz and Jackie Tarr

Feather Princesses, we did it! We pulled off the successful inaugural meeting of our exciting new **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group**; and we are so proud to report that it was a very BIG HIT—a whopping SUCCESS! It went off without a hitch, as we exchanged our scraps, marked our background fabrics, and started stitching. And we had such a good time that we're ready to do it again—and again. So, going forward we will meet on the first Wednesday of each month; and our next get together will convene on Wednesday, July 5.

We welcome each and every one of our gifted Feather Princesses to attend our next meeting:

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Betty Jo Lecaroz
and Jackie Tarr

At this meeting, we will continue exchanging fabric scraps. So, come and bring a special friend and bring even more of your fabric scraps to use and to share. Also, we will continue searching for just the right appliqué patterns to use for making our unique scrap quilts. Please bring your books and patterns, and we will bring ours as well.

If you've already selected a pattern, then by all means start marking, cutting, and stitching your fabric pieces AND bring this project with you to the meeting.

Enthusiasm will abound and the good times will continue, as we feed off of each other. Enjoy Independence Day and then come and celebrate scrappy appliqué quilts on Wednesday, July 5. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tool Time

by Roni Hunt




Happy June to all of our lovely Feather Princesses. Summer isn't due to arrive until June 21; however, I think she's heeerrrrreeee!!!! Hurricane Season is also here, bringing the daily summer thunder storms. When my siblings and I were children, there were daily storms at 4 p.m.; and we didn't like that the storms interrupted our play. Now, I look forward to them for some relief from the heat. And who can't resist a good rainstorm!!

"I, myself, am entirely made of flaws, stitched together with good intentions." – Augusten Burroughs

The quote above fits me to a "T" and of course during the Tool Time presentation at our June guild meeting, you're going to hear why that applies to me. I'm easily distracted from all of my good intentions because "a+b=c," and "c" results in another idea or thought, and then I'm off. My mind just goes into overdrive when I get an idea which, in turn, explodes into several other ideas. Let me confess one of the best of my "good intentions"... quilt journaling.

Quilt journaling is such a good concept. Yes, I have several great journaling notebooks and programs. Do I always utilize them? Alas, NO! Of course, I find a new way to journal and I'm gung-ho at the onset; and somewhere along the way I fall short. A pre-printed journal, a book, an online tracking system... you name it, and I've probably tried it. My flaws are all stitched together with good intentions. Something as simple as keeping track of my projects...poof! I keep needing to get back on the correct road.

This month I'll show you some great ways to keep up with journaling. Then I'll show you how I've been able to reign in that beast for me. Remember that each of us is unique. Each of us must find their own best practices. I may have found mine, at least for now. Find out what I've uncovered for myself at our June 14 Feather Princesses guild Meeting! I look forward to seeing you all at the Springhill Suites!



JUNE CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7
SCRAP APPLIQUÉ QUILT GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14
FEATHER PRINCESSES JUNE GUILD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
TEAM LEGACY - CIVIL WAR QUILT GROUP MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
PLUM CREEK QUILT CIRCLE

FRIDAY, JUNE 23
WOOLY CHICKS QUILT CIRCLE

TUESDAY, JUNE 27
TUESDAY SIT & STITCH QUILT CIRCLE

(Community Service Project - continued from page 4)

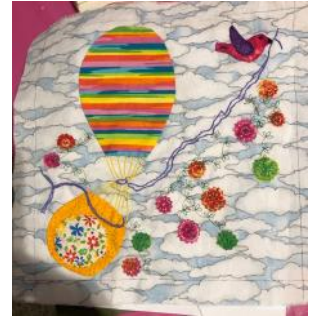
community. The Pastor confirmed that they stock the "Blessing Box" three times per day—at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m.; and it is widely used each and every day, many times being left empty after the evening meal.

So Feather Princesses, we thank you again for expressing your love and helping to ensure that the less fortunate people in our communities do not go hungry. And as we announced at our May guild meeting, now that school is out for the Summer, we express our gratitude to you even more for bringing extra food items, to help feed our kids.

2023 Spring Special Block

by Shirley Williams
(Excerpt taken from <https://napavalleyballoons.com/hot-air-balloon-facts.php>)

If you would like to take to the skies and see the world from above, consider riding on a hot air balloon. Hot air balloon rides continue to capture the imagination of people from all over the world—they provide an unparalleled opportunity to rise to the skies and take in the slowly changing landscapes below, as they breathe in the fresh air.



Here in our appliqué guild, if you would like to take a quiet balloon ride to relax and chill-out, consider stitching a hot air balloon—a colorful fabric hot air balloon, that is! Earlier this year, we presented our adorable **2023 Spring Special Block**. The design consists of a hot air balloon flying through the clouds, with a gondola (basket) suspended beneath, adorned with seasonal flowers, leaves, and vines. And flying close to the balloon is a gorgeous bird, chirping and singing a happy tune coming straight from it's heart!

June is here and now it's time for the drawing. So, if you purchased a kit, we hope you had fun following the easy instructions included in the kit, and stitching this stunning block; and we wish you much luck in the drawing. If you purchased a kit but have not yet started stitching the block, get busy now. To make the block, please use the background fabric provided, plus any additional quality cotton quilter's fabric (in colors of your choice) from your stash to complete the block.

Remember to turn in your completed block to me, Princess **Shirley Williams**, at our exciting Feather Princesses June 14 guild meeting, when the drawing will be held. The number of winners will be determined by the number of completed blocks turned in. You must turn in your completed Spring Special Block to me, to be eligible for the drawing.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at swilliams110@verizon.net or 813-892-2431.

Christmas in July Celebration

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.google.com/search?q=History+of+Christmas+in+July> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_in_July)

Get ready, lovely Feather Princesses because next month, we will celebrate Christmas in July. It is a second Christmas celebration held during the Summer season; and it is centered around Christmas-themed activities and entertainment, including small gatherings, seasonal music and specials, and shopping, with the goal of getting the public in the "Christmas spirit" during the Summer season. According to one story, Christmas in July was first celebrated at a Girls Summer Camp in 1933, in Brevard, North Carolina, complete with fake snow, a decked-out tree, a gift exchange, and of course Santa. While another story boasts that a Washington, D.C. church started a Summer donation drive in 1942 to gather holiday gifts to send to missions around the world in time for Christmas, and they called it Christmas in July.

Here in our guild, we Feather Princesses just really can't seem to get enough of Christmas. We absolutely love it! And even though this holiday season requires a substantial amount of energy and work to prepare for, it is definitely worth it. Once we get into the true spirit of Christmas (giving, loving, sharing, and spending precious time with the people dear to us) we really do enjoy it. So amid the hustle and bustle, it really is "the most wonderful time of the year!"

To get "a jump" on the 2023 holiday season, we will celebrate Christmas in July this year. So, mark your calendars now and plan to join us at our exciting Christmas celebration this Summer, as we enjoy tasty Christmas treats, holiday music, and other seasonal delights.

Christmas in July Celebration

Spring Hill Suites Marriott Tampa Suncoast
Parkway
16615 Crosspointe Run
Land O Lakes, Florida 34638
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
Doors Open at 9 a.m.
Meeting Begins at 11 a.m.

As we prepare for this grand celebration, be sure to:

- Complete your "Chillin' With My Gnomies" Special Christmas Blocks and turn them in to Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, to be eligible for the drawing. (Also, We will display all of the completed blocks turned in, vote, and award a \$25 prize to the maker of the block that receives the most votes for the "Most Unique Applique Design.")
- Pull out your Christmas applique quilts and bring them to share during our magical Christmas Show N Tell.
- Also, put the finishing touches on any Christmas applique quilts and wallhangings you have in progress, complete them, and then bring them to the celebration for us to see as well. We will display all of the wallhangings and quilts, vote for our favorite, and award a \$25 prize to the maker of the wallhanging/quilt that receives the most votes.
- Read and stay abreast of the future updates we will announce regarding additional activities we will have at this fun-filled holiday event. There is more to come!

Thanks so much for making our Christmas in July a really cool event and whopping success! Now let's get busy baking those delightful Christmas cookies! Yum, yum, yum!

Thank You

by Laura Brooker

Thank you all so much for the beautiful dish garden, your sympathy cards, your kind, comforting words and for your prayers. I cannot begin to tell you how much all of this meant to me during this very sad time.

Love, Laura



Our Fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat

by Karen Benitez



Hello lovely Princesses!

We are still taking sign-ups for our fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat and we would love for you join us! As a reminder, the retreat info is:

Date: Thursday, October 26th - Monday, October 30th

Location: Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, 39034 County Rd 452, Leesburg, FL 34788

Cost (all inclusive):

- Single Room - \$570
- Double Room - \$470 per person

You may register for the retreat at our guild meetings. I will accept cash, credit/debit cards, and checks (payable to the Feather Princesses). The payments must be made in \$50 increments and you will also need to complete a Retreat Registration Form. The form is located on our Feather Princesses website, Members Only section > Retreat. The password for our website is located at the bottom of page 1 of our *Feather Princesses 2022-23 Membership Directory*. For your convenience, I will also have a few copies of the *Retreat Registration Form* at our upcoming guild meetings. The deadline to sign-up and make payments is at our **August 9, 2023 meeting**. That is also the deadline to cancel and to receive a refund.

If you are unable to attend the guild meetings, you may mail your registration form and checks to me at:

Karen Benitez
7741 23rd Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33540

If you have any questions, you may text or call me at 925-895-8129.

We are anxiously looking forward to yet another wonderful retreat!! Come and enjoy the fun and festivities with us!

Row By Row Experience 2023

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://rowbyrowexperience.com>)

Okay, gorgeous Feather Princesses, it's time to take a brief break from our stitching and get out on the road again. The Summer is beaming with festivities; and now that we've had a short hiatus from the spectacular 2023 Florida Winter quilt show season, let's get up, get out, be adventurous, and explore quilting again.

Put the petal to the metal and participate in the exciting and fun-filled Row By Row Experience 2023. It has returned in grand style and will convene now through Thursday, August 31. This year's theme is "Summertime;" and the following participating Florida shops will interpret this fun theme in their own unique ways. Travel to each of these shops here in our state and collect a free "row" pattern. What a sensational deal!

- AA White Sewing Center - Holiday, Florida
- Cotton Patch Quilt Shop - University Park, Florida
- Country Crossroads Quilt Shop - Orange Park, Florida
- Fabric Art Shop - Lake City, Florida
- Fabric Smart - St. Petersburg, Florida
- Inspire! Quilting and Sewing - Plant City, Florida
- Kathy's Quilt Studio - Titusville, Florida
- MK Quilts - Palm Harbor, Florida
- Stitches & Sweet Tea - Daytona Beach, Florida

The guidelines are:

- Every participating quilt shop is giving away a free pattern to make their shop's unique 9" x 36" row. Row by Row patterns are only available for free when you visit the shops in person, and the kits can be purchased when you visit them virtually.
- Create a "Row by Row Quilt" with 8 different rows from 8 different quilt shops. Your quilt will tell the story of your travels and the great quilt shops you found along the way.
- From July 1 to September 30, every Row by Row shop will award one amazing prize! To win, be

(continued page 11)

Exciting Summer Block Party

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from https://www.google.com/search?q=what+is+a+summer+block+party%3F&rlz=1C1CHZN_enUS960US960&oq=&aqs=chrome.0.69i59i450l8.195243116j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#ip=1)

[q=what+is+a+summer+block+party%3F&rlz=1C1CHZN_enUS960US960&oq=&aqs=chrome.0.69i59i450l8.195243116j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#ip=1](https://www.google.com/search?q=what+is+a+summer+block+party%3F&rlz=1C1CHZN_enUS960US960&oq=&aqs=chrome.0.69i59i450l8.195243116j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#ip=1)

There's no better way to kick off the season than with an exciting Summer Block Party—delicious food, refreshing drinks, entertainment, games, music and most of all, close family and good friends! Summer Block Parties are an American tradition that started many years ago, and that we still celebrate and enjoy today. The name comes from the form of the party, which often involves closing an entire city block to vehicle traffic or just a single street—an outdoor public party put on by the residents of a neighborhood or city block. Neighbors fire up the grill, spend time catching up on each other's lives, and engage in adult appropriate activities, while the kids play on inflatable houses, ride in bike parades, set-up face painting stations, and indulge in all sorts of creative fun. The Summer Block Party is an anticipated and festive celebration for all!

Our Feather Princesses Summer Quilt Circles are a big hit as well; and there's no better way to start the Summer season than by attending an amazing quilt circle with our talented quilting friends. Quilt circles (also called a quilting bee) are an American tradition that started many years ago, and we still celebrate and enjoy them today. A quilt circle is a social gathering at which the participants make quilts; and that pretty much sums up what we Feather Princesses do at our phenomenal quilt circles. That's what we're all about. We come together and bring our books, patterns, fabrics, and other sewing/quilting tools. And we eagerly stitch our blocks and quilts, as we share information and exchange ideas with each other. We chat, learn, and master appliqué techniques, as we eat and laugh all along the way. It goes without saying that we have a great time! Our Feather Princesses Summer Quilt Circles are a festive celebration for all!

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For exciting and exceptionally good times, join us this month at these phenomenal quilt circles:

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Thursday, June 22, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Sweet Darling Quilts
26240 Wesley Chapel Boulevard
Lutz, Florida 33559
(813) 994-2994 (shop)
Friday, June 23, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter
and Cathleene Tokish

Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Tuesday, June 27, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Cheryl Haynes

(Row by Row Experience - continued from page 10)

the first person to bring in a completed Row by Row quilt using 8 different rows from 8 different 2023 participating quilt shops. To be "completed," the quilt must be quilted, bound, and labeled. You can win at any participating shop, but each shop will have only one winner.

To get the list of all participating Row by Row quilt shops throughout the United States, go to <https://rowbyrowexperience.com>.

Do not miss this awesome "Summertime" event! Get with your favorite quilting pals and plan a trip today!

Emergency Contact Information

by Dorothy Johnson

Lovely Feather Princesses, we really need your assistance and cooperation with this matter.

The number one priority here in our Feather Princesses Applique Guild is to provide a fun and safe environment for you to stitch and enjoy yourselves, when you attend our exciting activities, circles, and meetings. And I've gotta tell you, we really do enjoy ourselves when we get together at our guild activities. It is vitally important that when we gather though that we are all right, out of harm's way, and in a secure place or venue. But, as we all know, occasionally life does happen and unexpected incidents occur through no fault of our own. Sometimes, there is a bump in the road.

So, God forbid if/when that ever happens, it is of utmost importance that we be prepared and ready to contact the appropriate authorities and your families, if you are negatively impacted or involved in an incident. And to this end, we maintain an *Emergency Contact List*, listing each Feather Princesses' name, next of kin (contact person), that's person's relationship to the member, and that person's name and telephone number.

We began collecting this information back last Fall; however, we missed a few of you. So, if you have not provided your Emergency Contact information to us, please stop by the Welcome Table at our June 14 guild meeting and give your info to our lovely *Membership Chairs*, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**.

We promise that this information will remain confidential and we (the Feather Princesses Executive Board) will access it, only in the case of any emergency that involves you. We will *NOT*:

- Include the emergency contact info on our Feather Princesses website or in our *Membership Directory*
- Provide or share your emergency contact info with the public or on another site

We thank you for helping us ensure your safety, in case of an unexpected incident that involves you.

Our Exciting Autumn Splendor Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson and Joanne Rodriguez

With the official start of Summer just around the bend, dreams and thoughts of sensational sunny days at the beach, picnics in the park, and BBQs in the backyard come to mind. After the spectacular Spring we just had, the approaching Summer season will bring colossal opportunities for many magical moments in the sun. And it will be fun, but it will go by in a flash, as Autumn prepares to take center stage, amassing her radiant beauty!

So over the next few months, as the sunny seasonal activities consume our days, let's reserve some special time to appliqué our stunning Autumn wallhangings and quilts. Let's get busy creating and finishing our unique wallhangings and quilts for the **Exciting 2023 Autumn Splendor Challenge**. We all love to "ooh and ahh" over Autumn-themed quilts; and this year we hope to have a ton of gorgeous colorful and stunning quilt entries for you to see.

Winning entries in the past have been those which captured impressive Autumn themes and colors; and this year we welcome the same—your wallhangings and quilts that sing Autumn—school, leaves, pumpkins, harvest, football, Halloween, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, etc. The list goes on and on; and the guidelines are simple and are located on the [Members Only](#) section of our Feather Princesses website > [Members Only](#) > Challenges.

In addition to the challenge guidelines, please keep in mind that:

- Wallhangings can be of any size, from miniature to 60 inches.
- Quilts must measure 60 inches or larger.
- The maker of each quilted piece may decide if her entry is included in the wallhanging or quilt category.
- We will vote for our favorite wallhanging and quilt at our FP October 11 guild meeting.
- We will award a prize of \$25 to the maker of the wallhanging that receives the most votes; and award a prize of \$50 to the maker of the quilt that receives the most votes.

(continued on page 13)

"Chillin' With My Gnomies" Christmas Gnome Special Block

by Joanne Rodriguez

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.google.com/search?q=christmas+gnomes>)

Christmas Gnomes originated out of Scandinavian folklore and were "house gnomes" who lived in or under the house. They would protect the children and animals from evil or misfortune. Until recently, they have taken on the role similar to the American Santa. In Norway, they are called "Nisse."



We distributed a **Christmas Gnome Special Block** kit, "Chilling' With My Gnomies" to most of you at our 2022 Christmas Luncheon. And we hope you are learning and having fun as you create your special block. If you have already finished your adorable **Christmas Gnome Special Block**, we congratulate you! If you have not started creating your block, then we lovingly suggest that you take out your **Christmas Gnome Special Block** kit now, design and appliqué your "Chilling' With My Gnomies" block, and bring it to our upcoming Christmas in July Celebration, convening at our July 12 guild meeting.

Please remember:

- If you did not receive a kit last December, but you want to make a block, please see me, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, and I will give a kit for you.
- If you received a kit and now prefer not to make the block, please return the kit to me, so we can share it with another lovely Princess who wants to make the block.
- As you create your block, please follow the easy applique instructions included in the kit.

Also please use the following supplies contained in the kit:

- White and silver snowflake (13" x 13") background fabric square.
- The background fabric square measures 13" x 13", allowing enough fabric for a generous seam allowance, resulting in a 12½" x 12½" square block. (12" inches for the appliqué design, plus ½" seam allowance on each side of the block, to be trimmed by the winner.)

- Black Christmas Gnome fabric, red/black check fabric, and green/black check fabric.

Also, remember:

- When you finish appliquéing your block, save your left-over fabric scraps, to share with other Princesses who want to make a block, and/or to share the scraps with the winners of the blocks to use to finish their quilts, if they desire.
- To turn in your completed block and fabric scraps to me at our monthly guild meetings, now through July 2023. You must turn in your completed block by July 12, to be eligible for the drawing.
- At our Feather Princesses July 12, 2023 guild meeting:
 - The drawing to win the blocks will be held at our "Christmas in July" Celebration.
 - We will display all of the completed blocks turned in, vote, and award a prize to the maker of the block that receives the most votes for the "Most Unique Appliqué Design."

If you have any questions, you may contact me, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, at joannerod51@yahoo.com or (813) 264-1841.

Be inspired, learn, share, and have fun as you design and appliqué your adorable **Christmas Gnome Special Block**. Best wishes to you all!

(Our Exciting Autumn Splendor Challenge - continued from page 12)

We extend our very best wishes to each Feather Princesses member who completes an entry for the challenge, including adding the quilt label! So, if you have not already started making a stunning quilt for this exciting challenge, get busy and start creating your winning challenge entry today.

Dive into Summer fun, play hard at the theme parks and museums, and then prepare for a fabulous Fall. We'll see you and your awesome Autumn-themed quilts at our phenomenal October 11 guild meeting.

Team Legacy – Civil War Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

Learning and mastering new appliqué and quilting techniques is what we're all about in our special appliqué group meetings. In our phenomenal specialty appliqué quilt groups, we really do inspire each other to stretch—to broaden our knowledge and enhance our skills in all areas of appliqué and quilting. We encourage each other to stitch and create different kinds of appliqué quilts, as we expand our repertoire, and deepen and increase our scope.

This is certainly true of our gifted members, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **Jackie Tarr**. Not only are these two talented Princesses motivating us to collect and use our valuable fabric scraps to create new appliqué masterpieces in our recently established **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group**. But they are also prompting us to pull out favorite appliqué designs from the past, to create fresh new appliqué quilts from them now. In our exciting **Team Legacy – Civil War Quilt Group**, **Betty Jo** and **Jackie** have thoroughly seized our undivided attention by intriguing us with their charming little "Dear Jane" blocks. These blocks are adorable, so much to the point that some of us Princesses were bitten by the bug and joined them. So, if you would like to try your hand at making the cute little "Dear Jane" blocks, be sure to come out and join us at our next Civil War Quilt Group meeting. We welcome each and every Feather Princess to come and have fun with us. And the advantage of making "Dear Jane" is that you won't have to go out and buy a thing. Just come, bring your scraps, and watch your very own interpretation of this stunning quilt come to life.

Team Legacy – Civil War Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Also at this meeting, we'll take a look at appliqué quilts that include the American eagle. As we frolic in fun-time Summer activities and celebrate our patriotic holidays, it's the perfect time to learn about

the American eagle, its meaning, and how it came to be in our quilts. We all just celebrated Memorial Day; and Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Veteran's Day are following closely behind. So let's pull out our patriotic appliqué quilt patterns that include the American eagle, inspire each other, and stitch.

Join us on Wednesday, June 21, and bring your Civil War quilt projects, fabrics to make adorable little "Dear Jane" blocks, and/or your patriotic American eagle patterns and quilts. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting!

June Birthday Greetings!

By Ritu Haldar

We're shouting "Happy Birthday" wishes to our lovely Princesses celebrating their special birthday in June!

Lovely flowers, birthday cake, and tons of hugs from family and friends are wished for you all this month. Yes! It's your birthday and you get to celebrate it all month long! Please do something memorable and special for yourself each and every day of the month. Keeping a list of things you are grateful for each day is a wonderful gift for your spirit.

Blow out that birthday candle and bite into that delicious cake because... It's your birthday! Happy Birthday wishes to the following fabulous Feather Princesses:

Annette Kocsis - 6/6

Brooke Miller - 6/7

Emilie Montfeldt - 6/7

Dee Anderson - 6/15

Ritu Haldar - 6/16

Meredith Wilmath - 6/16

Becky Madasz - 6/21

Linda Schropp - 6/24

Becky Gammons - 6/25

Cindy Holliday - 6/25

Karen Reitano - 6/26

