



The Plume

May 2023
Volume 18, Issue 10

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

We Princesses enjoy and love appliqué and quilting so much, to the point that we have become fanatics. Recently at one of our quilt circles, we talked about the quilts we were making as though they were our children. (Rather fitting as we get ready to celebrate Mother's Day, huh!) We plan our appliqué quilts, we give birth and life to them, we nurture and watch them grow and develop. We see them evolve and take shape—from a pattern, fabrics, and threads—to full grown, bed-sized, masterpiece quilts. And after we finish making them, we love them even more, protect them, and give them the very best care. YES, our appliqué quilts are our babies, we are fanatics, and here are a few telltale signs to let us know:

- We can't find the time to vacuum the house; but we will stay up until 2 or 3 a.m. appliquéing.
- We go into withdrawal if we can't visit a quilt shop or fabric store on a regular basis.
- We can never, ever have too much fabric—there is no such thing as too much fabric.
- The minute our adult children leave home, we immediately convert their bedrooms into a sewing room.
- We would rather appliqué than eat.
- We love learning and enhancing our appliqué skills, so we master a new quilting technique one after another after another.

The last point hits close to home because we Princesses always share our knowledge, expertise, and supplies with each other; and we help each other out as best as we can.

For most of us the month of May is chock full of special opportunities to spend time with the precious people we love and care about. So in addition to reveling in our appliqué, let's make a concentrated effort to acknowledge every invitation we receive, attend every gathering, and celebrate and honor those we love, as we celebrate the very special occasions this month.

Happy, Happy Mother's Day!

May Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

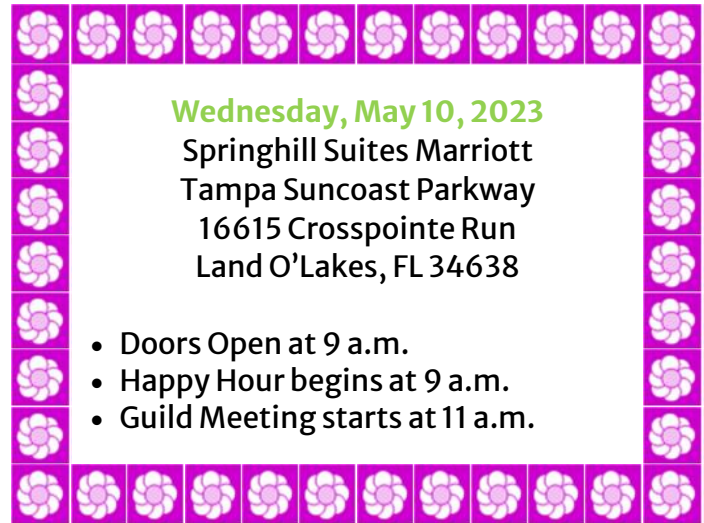
Meet with us at Springhill Suites for our exciting May guild meeting, revel in the fabulous Feather Princesses fellowship, and enjoy our gathering of gifted and talented members and quilting friends, as we celebrate Mothers and each other.

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 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 "Small Flowers" fat quarters.
- *Guild Photographer*, Princess **Beverley 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.
- *Newsletter Chair*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, to place an ad in our newsletter, *The Plume*.
- *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 May birthday drawing.
- *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, "Quilts From the AQS 2023 Paducah Quilt Week" presented by Princesses **Joanne Rodriguez** and **Dorothy Johnson**.
- During Show N Tell, enjoy the amazing and astonishing Show Offs and be inspired with the very stunning appliquéed quilts and wallhangings made by our talented Princesses.
- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting May birthday drawing and door prize drawings, as you just might be a winner.

Fabulous Feather Princesses, come for a day of inspiration and learning by seeing the phenomenal quilts made by our talented Princesses and other gifted quilters throughout the world.

We'll see you this coming Wednesday at our May guild meeting. Come, celebrate Mothers, spread some appliqué joy, and have a great time with us!

May Program

by Joanne Rodriguez

Get that bowl of movie-styled, buttered popcorn ready to devour because we're going to see a video of quilts—lots of quilts exhibited at the recently held AQS 2023 Paducah Quilt Week. For your enjoyment and edification, there will be all kinds of quilts to feast your eyes on—appliqué and patchwork, art, modern, traditional, Baltimore Album, and Japanese—just to name a few. And you will see gorgeous quilts in all colors, shapes, and sizes, too, created from a variety of themes.

So come, sit back, relax, and enjoy this incredible "flick" of gorgeous quilts displayed at the 2023 AQS Paducah Quilt Week. See the quilts that other quilters from all over the world have made and then be inspired to create your masterpiece quilt, too! After all, it just might be a winner!

Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



We really hope the arrival of this newsletter adds a sparkle to your day. We just want you to know that we are thinking of you and sending tender loving care and virtual hugs to lift your spirits today. You are loved and we are stitching up some happy healing thoughts, buckets of sunshine, and good cheer your way. So, be good to yourselves this month and relax and enjoy!

We Feather Princesses extend our love and very best get-well wishes to you; and we look forward to seeing you soon! Feel better lovely ladies!

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

May Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

If you like small floral fabrics, then look no further than our exciting **May Fat Quarter Exchange**. The small flower fabrics are bold and sweet and they can be used to create stunning and timeless appliqué quilts and exquisite gifts, too. And although tiny in design, from classic to cute, small flower fabrics are king; and they make our gorgeous appliqué quilts pop and sing, too! So, enjoy a fresh bouquet of small flower fabrics all year long, using tiny cotton prints in your striking appliqué quilts; and do not miss a single petal along the way.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for May is "**SMALL FLOWERS**" So, gather your "small flower" fat quarters in all colors and then bring them to our May 10 guild meeting; and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Plan your next impressive floral appliqué quilt projects, using the elegant variety of hues and shades of beautiful and striking small floral fabrics. Win some luxurious and sumptuous fat quarters in an array of gorgeous colors; and relish every single moment as you create your new stunning small floral 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 "SMALL FLOWERS" this coming Wednesday at our Fat Quarter Table.

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

With Mother's Day just around the corner, for many people the focus is on flowers. With their colorful and beautiful blooms, flowers are often seen as symbols of joy and pleasure. And different types and colors of flowers bring unique meanings. Some flowers are seen as symbols of friendship and purity, while others are tied to forgiveness, and even prosperity.



The red rose is known as the flower of love and it symbolizes deep emotions and desires. Other types of love flowers include peonies, sunflowers, or tulips, which also symbolize happiness, prosperity, and romance.

Flowers have the ability to induce immediate feelings of happiness and delight. Also, flowers have a long-term positive effect on our moods. So fabulous Feather Princesses, let's express our sincere love and generate genuine happiness by appliquéing beautiful flowers on our **Healing Heart** blocks this month. Let's pair the flowers with the hearts and stitch some stunning blocks for our precious **Healing Heart** recipients.

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.

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

- 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 May 10 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.

Community Service Project

by Shirley Williams

This month, Princess **Beverly Abenante** will deliver our donations to the Grace St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, located in Spring Hill, Florida. We sincerely thank **Beverly** for her dedication, service, and support; and Feather Princesses, we truly appreciate your generosity and love, and for making the lives brighter of the less fortunate people in our communities, during this celebratory time of year.

We are extremely grateful and truly appreciate the food and cash donations that you so freely give each month, to help feed the hungry and less fortunate people in our Tampa Bay communities. But more than that, our hearts are touched and we experience total joy when we deliver these much needed donations to the various charities and food banks, and when we see the gratitude on the recipients' faces and when we hear their thankful comments and expressions. Feather Princesses, we thank you all for your continued support of our **Community Service Project** this year. You have consistently made very generous donations to the various food banks in our Tampa Bay communities; and we are sincerely grateful to you for your unwavering generosity, love, and support.

May Birthday Greetings!

By Ritu Haldar

Happy Birthday wishes are going out to our magnificent Feather Princesses who will celebrate a birthday in the month of May. Beautiful flowers, Birthday cake or donuts or ice cream is wished for you this month. Yes! It's your birthday and you get to celebrate it your favorite way—however you want to! That birthday candle gives you all the permission you will ever need!

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Princesses:

Winnie Miale - 5/2
Laura Brooker - 5/4
Ruth Alber - 5/7
Victoria Miller - 5/7
Becky James - 5/9
Francie Nelson - 5/14
Mary Moody - 5/25
Helen Klett - 5/26
Fazie Mohamed - 5/30



CONGRATULATIONS, Judy!

by Dorothy Johnson
 (Excerpt taken from <https://cherrywoodfabrics.com/pages/graffiti-cherrywood-challenge>)

We are honored to CONGRATULATE our very gifted and talented member, Princess **Judy DenHerder Loving**. Judy's stunning quilt entry in the 2022 Cherrywood Challenge was accepted and exhibited at several prestigious quilt shows throughout the country, including the recently held 2023 Paducah Quilt Week.

The 2022 Cherrywood Challenge is a juried art quilt contest sponsored by Cherrywood Hand Dyed Fabrics and co-sponsored by Mistyfuse; and this challenge theme was "Graffiti." Quilters were challenged to capture the graphic art form of "Graffiti" in fabric, using just eight colors to create a 20-inch square of quilted art work—no other colors of fabric could be used, except by adding more colors with thread, Stringy Bits, paint, pencil, ink, beads, etc. And the participants were encouraged to be creative and think outside the box. ==>

Tool Time

by Roni Hunt



April Showers bring May flowers. I love to plant and bring flowers to life in the spring. Out with dull landscaping and in with bringing new life to my porch with beautiful plantings is what I like to do. It's like looking at our sewing area and wanting to bring new life to that space. How do we accomplish this? One of the ways to do that is with our tools, of course!

Tools! Tools! Tools! We find them everywhere... sewing tools that is! Many of the tools can cross the line between household uses and sewing necessities. The most popular of these tools are scissors. Yes, although we well know that fabric scissors DO NOT HAVE OTHER USES OTHER THAN FOR CUTTING FABRICS!!

So, how many pairs of scissors do you have? Do you collect scissors? Do you hide them away in their sheaths? Do you display your scissors? Do you have your 'go' to scissors? Do you have decorative scissors? Do you have specialty scissors? Do you lose them? Take some time now to bring out your scissors and display them so you can enjoy them as you enjoy new plantings and flowers on your porches.

Count the number of scissors you have and then write it down. Write it on your hand, a piece of paper, note it in your cell phone, or remand it to memory. We'll have a little surprise for the Feather Princess with the largest collection!

On another note, be sure to read the important information regarding a recent recall on travel irons at: <https://www.steamfast.com/recalls/travelirons>. This info will be very helpful to you.

We'll see you all at our May guild meeting! And don't forget to bring any tools you'd like to share with your Feather Princesses sisters!!!

Judy, we applaud your stellar accomplishment, as your striking challenge quilt is truly a work of art. We can hardly wait to see your next new challenge quilt and we wish you many more successes in the future!

May Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

TRADITIONAL APPLIQUÉ QUILT GROUP MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 6

DERBY DAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

FEATHER PRINCESSES MAY GUILD MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 16

CRAZY WOOL APPLIQUÉ AND COTTON-PICKIN' STITCHES
QUILT GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

TEAM LEGACY - BALTIMORE ALBUM QUILT GROUP MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 18

PLUM CREEK QUILT CIRCLE

MONDAY, MAY 22

HAWAIIAN APPLIQUÉ QUILT GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23

TUESDAY SIT & STITCH QUILT CIRCLE

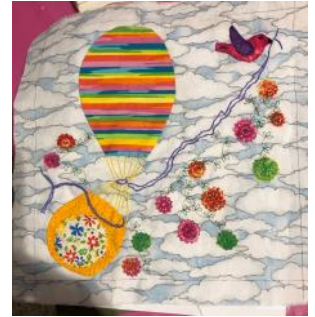
FRIDAY, MAY 26

WOOLY CHICKS QUILT CIRCLE

2023 Spring Special Block

by Shirley Williams

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.britannica.com/technology/balloon-flight/Hot-air-ballooning>)



Hot-air balloons are commonly used for recreational purposes. In addition to quiet morning or afternoon flights drifting cross-country to enjoy the view, many balloonists

enjoy competitive sporting events, attempting to set new records. A balloonist may fly alone in the basket or carry several passengers. Often several balloons meet to launch together without any competitive goals. Individual flights generally last from one to three hours and may go several kilometers, though they often land very close to the take-off point.

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 hair balloon, that is. A couple of months ago, 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!

If you purchased a kit, we hope you will have fun as you follow the easy instructions included in the kit, and stitch this stunning block.

To make the block, please use the background fabric provided, plus any additional quality cotton quilter's fabrics (in colors of your choice) from your stash to complete the block.

Remember to turn in your completed block to me, Princess **Shirley Williams**, by our 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.

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



Christmas in July Celebration

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_in_July)

Get ready, lovely Feather Princesses because in a couple of months, we will celebrate Christmas in July. Christmas in July (or Christmas in Summer or Early Christmas) is a celebration held during the summer season, mainly in July. It is centered around Christmas-themed activities and entertainment, including small gatherings, seasonal music, and shopping, with the goal of getting the public in the "Christmas spirit" during the summer season.

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.

Feather Princesses 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.

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."

- Pull out your Christmas appliqué quilts and bring them to share during our magical Christmas Show N Tell.
- Put the finishing touches on any Christmas appliqué quilts and wallhangings you have in progress, complete them, and then bring them to the celebration for us to see.
- 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 and successful event!



Feather Princesses at Derby Day Party

May 6, 2023

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group!

by Ritu Haldar

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.flowerleis.com/info/what-is-a-lei-symbolism/>)

Aloha, Friends!

Giving a lei is a great way to show friendship, love or to celebrate or honor someone. It's also a useful gift for greeting someone warmly. It symbolizes the spirit behind the aloha and the way this greeting draws you in and makes you welcome. When you walk around any island of Hawaii, you see just how many leis are used by those who live there. Leis are common at graduations and for celebrations and parties. School dances and weddings are the perfect times for leis; and leis are even used in the office to honor someone and celebrate achievements.

So during this month of May, as we celebrate special occasions such as Mother's Day, graduations, proms, and weddings, be sure to give a lei to a very special friend and also put on your lei and gracefully sway on over to Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library for our exciting **Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting. This awesome meeting will be a grand celebration for sure!

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 276-3762 (library)
Monday, May 22, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please bring the following supplies with you:

- One white colored fat quarter
- One red colored fat quarter (not orangish red but more like wine/ burgundy red)
PLEASE NOTE: *batiks or cotton accepted*
- Portable Appliqué Sewing Kit
 - needles, threads, scissors, paper-cutting scissors, basting thread or glue
- Lunch
- Sweater

We are so looking forward to meeting again, as we will be ready to have a ton of fun stitching, not to mention wearing our leis and designing our beautiful quilt together!

Team Legacy – Baltimore Album Quilt Group

by Roni Hunt

Hi to all our fabulous Feather Princesses. Welcome to MAY!! Our phenomenal **Baltimore Album Quilt Group** will meet this month; and we eagerly invite you to our inspirational and lively gathering.

Team Legacy – Baltimore Album Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3672
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Roni Hunt

We will continue exploring Baltimore Album quilts and some of the techniques utilized by their creators! Even if you don't plan to make a Baltimore Album quilt, we invite you to join us. We will have a great time sharing our thoughts and company. Appliqué techniques are used across the board with all type of quilts, so don't be shy... join us for some needlework applications!

This month we'll work on tiny stems; so, if you'd like to enhance your skills in this area, please join us. In addition to focusing on the basic methods, we always learn tricks from each other. If you would like to participate and practice making tiny stems, bring a background fabric (any will do—especially muslin) and a couple of pieces of cut bias strips at $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " about 5-to-8" in length, at the most.

Another technique we'll look at is inking blocks. This is a technique we haven't looked at previously and it will be fun to explore. I will have all of the supplies necessary to practice this technique.

We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming **Baltimore Album Quilt Group** meeting. As always, bring a lunch and a sweater, and get ready to enjoy some great camaraderie, as we explore some of the legacies left behind by our quilting fore sisters.



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Our Fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat

by Karen Benitez

Hello lovely Princesses!

At our May 2023 guild meeting, we will continue the sign-ups and payments for our wonderful five day retreat at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center. We are already planning several different demos as well as other fun activities, too! Also, Linda from Clermont Sewing and Quilting will join us again with her pop-up shop. Linda joined us two years ago and she was an absolute delight, not to mention her gorgeous fabric selection!



The retreat specifics are as follows:

- ▶Date: Thursday, October 26 – Monday, October 30
- ▶Location: Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, 39034 County Road 452, Leesburg, FL 34788
- ▶Cost (all inclusive):
 - Single Room – \$570
 - Double Room – \$470 per person

You may register for the retreat at our upcoming monthly guild meetings and pay with cash, credit/

debit cards, and checks (made payable to the Feather Princesses). Please remember that:

- Payments must be in increments of \$50.
- Each retreat attendee must complete the *Retreat Registration Form*.
- The form is located on our Feather Princesses website, [Members Only](#) > Retreat.
- The password for our website is located on the bottom of page 1 of our *Feather Princesses 2022 – 2023 Membership Directory*.
- The deadline to sign-up, make payments, and request/receive a refund is our August 9, 2023 guild meeting.

If you are unable to attend the guild meetings, you may mail your *Retreat Registration Form* and check 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 looking forward to yet another wonderful retreat!!

Emergency Contact Information

by Dorothy Johnson

The number one priority here in our Feather Princesses Appliqué 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 are maintaining 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 May 10 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 only the Feather Princesses *Executive Board* will have access to it, in case of an 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 emergency or incident that involves you.

"Chillin' With My Gnomies" Christmas Gnome Special Block

by Joanne Rodriguez

On Mother's Day, enjoy every magical moment with your cherished families and friends and savor the beautiful aroma of the lovely bouquet of flowers you receive. Then take out your



Christmas Gnome Special Block kit and design and appliqué your "Chilling' With My Gnomies" blocks for our upcoming Christmas in July Celebration, convening at our July 12 guild meeting. If you have already finished your adorable Christmas Gnome Special Block, we congratulate you!

We distributed a **Christmas Gnome Special Block** kit, "Chillin' 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 did not receive a kit in December, but you want to make a block, please see me, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, and I will give a kit to 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 instructions included in the kit to appliqué it.

Also please use the following supplies contained in the kit:

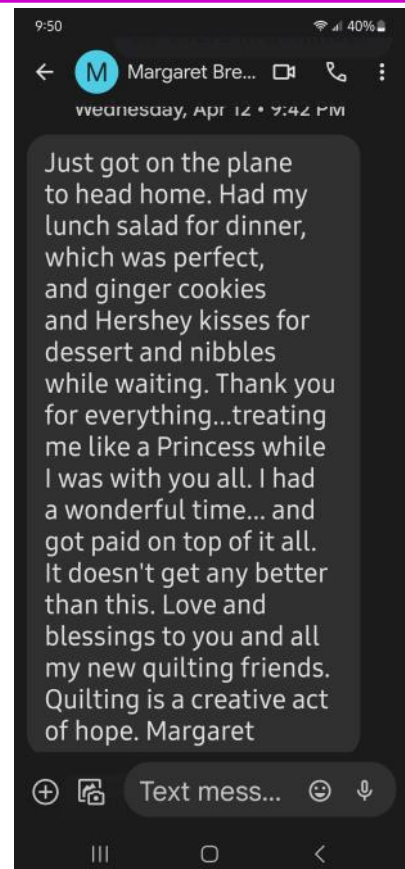
- White and silver snowflake (13" x 13") background fabric square.
 - The background fabric square measures 13" x 13," allowing enough fabric for a generous seam allowance, resulting in a 12½" x 12½" square block.
 - (12 inches for the appliqué design, plus ½" seam allowance on each side of the block,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

Please 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.
- 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!

Text from our teacher, Margaret Willingham



Let's Get On the Band Wagon... Annual Membership Renewal

by Dorothy Johnson



The more we roll up our sleeves and appliqué, the more we find just how much appliqué fun is still out there waiting for us to explore and enjoy. There's still so much appliqué and quilting uncharted territory for us to uncover and dive into. There's still so much out there for us to learn and do, as we have not yet even scratched the appliqué surface. So, if you would like to jump on the band wagon and continue this amazing and exciting appliqué expedition with us, we welcome you to renew your Feather Princesses membership and revel in the excitement of each and every awesome guild activity and event taking place over the next year. We're eagerly looking forward to more exceptional guild meetings, fun-filled quilt circles, remarkable specialty appliqué quilt group meetings, inspirational classes and workshops, exciting road trips, and more!

So, if you would like to be a part of this exciting appliqué adventure, be sure to renew your Feather Princesses 2023–2024 membership, now through August 9, at the cost of \$45 for the new year. (And of course, we are honored to offer free membership to our precious Lifetime members—90 years and older.) Our lovely *Membership Chairs*, Princesses, **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**, will gladly accept your membership dues payments beginning at our May 10 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 by our August 9 guild meeting, to be included in our new *Feather Princesses 2023–2024 Membership Directory*.

Our Exciting Autumn Splendor Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson and Joanne Rodriguez

As a gentle reminder, our exciting annual **Autumn Splendor Challenge** will convene in just five months; and Fall will be in full swing by the time we gather at our October 11 guild meeting at Springhill Suites. So, let's plan our Autumn Celebration right now. Along with enjoying the cooler temperatures, radiant colors, and delicious Autumn snacks, let finish our striking wallhangings and quilts for our **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, etc. The guidelines are simple and are located on the Feather Princesses website.

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.

We extend our very best wishes to each Princess who completes an entry for the challenge, including 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.

Forget about trips to the corn maze and the haunted house. We Feather Princesses will go to our phenomenal October 11 guild meeting for our fun-filled **Autumn Splendor Challenge!** We will see you there!

It's Never Too Late

by Dorothy Johnson
(Excerpt taken from *Better Homes and Garden Magazine*, May 2023)

It's usually at certain special occasions in our lives such as our birthdays or specific holidays such as Mother's Day that we pause to take stock of where we are in life—our dreams, goals, aspirations, and accomplishments. And it's usually at this point that we also make decisions to enhance, improve, or target specific areas of our lives to change, grow, and to get better at what we do.

A recent magazine article, "It's Never Too Late to Be Healthier" boasts that certain less than desirable health habits are hard to break, especially if you think changing those habits won't make any difference. But the article also went on to state that we can change our habits and now is the time to start. It is not too late to:

- Prioritize our mental health
- Start exercising
- Have satisfying relationships with family and friends
- Make a career move
- Quit smoking
- Boost brainpower

The same is true with our quilting and appliqué. It is worth every ounce of energy and brain power that we have to learn more about this artform we so dearly embrace, to broaden our knowledge, and to enhance our skills; and now is the perfect time to do it. It is not too late to:

- Read a new appliqué quilt book or magazine
- Watch a YouTube video pertaining to a particular appliqué /quilting topic
- Design a new appliqué quilt pattern of your own
- Learn an appliqué /quilting technique that you've never used or tried before
- Share an appliqué /quilting technique with your favorite Princess Pal
- Meet a new quilting friend
- Attend one (or all) of our Feather Princesses fun-filled and inspirational quilt circles. You will be utterly surprised at what you will learn there, because it is never too late to attend a Feather Princesses quilt circle, even if you have never attended before.

We will see you 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, May 19, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Barnes & Noble Carrollwood
11802 N. Dale Mabry Highway
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 962-6446 (store)
Tuesday, May 23, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Cheryl Haynes

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Sweet Darling Quilts
26240 Wesley Chapel Boulevard
Lutz, Florida 33559
(813) 994-2994 (shop)
Friday, May 26, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter
and Cathleene Tokish



Princesses Joanne Rodriguez, Elaine Randall, and Becky Gammons (seated) at FP Derby Day Party.

May 6, 2023