



# The Plume

July 2023  
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## THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://floridastatefair.com/event/tampa-toy-con-3/2023-07-09/>)

Santa is sipping a tall cold drink as he drifts down the sea on a pink flamingo float, snowmen are decked out in their sunglasses as they frolic along the shore shielding themselves from the sun, and happy beachgoers are relaxing in the sand as they play and have fun! The palm trees are decorated with colorful lights; and beautifully wrapped gifts in all shapes and sizes are positioned along the coast line! By golly, it's Christmas in July! Join us this coming Wednesday, July 12, as we relax, let our hair down, and celebrate this lighter side of the Holiday. Come and enjoy Christmas music, gifts, games, delicious Holiday treats, and most of all our stunning Christmas appliqué quilts!

Speaking of gifts, this weekend, the Tampa Toy Con was held here at the Florida State Fairgrounds. According to an ad, there were new vendors, more inventory and toy displays, and more than 150 tables filled with comics, games, toys, and more stuff—a little something (or a lot of something) for everyone. Hearing about this show brought visions of Christmas morning into my head. It made me think of how thrilled we all are every single year on December 25, when we open our gifts and receive the items on our wish list—when we get the things we've been hoping and yearning for. It made me think of the true meaning of Christmas, what it signifies, and just how special Christmas Day really is, when we spend it with our loved ones.

As we gather this coming Wednesday to celebrate Christmas in July, have fun, and get a jump-start on the Holiday season, let's keep in mind the true meaning of Christmas and enjoy the gifts that we receive. Let's remember the real gift (the frosting on the cake) is the sweet admiration, love, and respect that we have for each other. Let's remember how Blessed and fortunate we are to have an appliqué guild and to enjoy the stupendous gifts and talents that we each bring to the table, to create our breathtaking award-winning appliqué quilts.

Also as we think of gifts, I am honored to announce that we have a new specialty appliqué quilt group on the horizon. Our very talented member, Princess Peggy Wattenbarger, and her two gifted cohorts, Princesses Sandi Snow and Maxine DiPietro, will lead our new Appliqué Quilt Design Group; and the first meeting will convene on

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## July Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

With joyful spirits and songs of merriment in your hearts, join us at Springhill Suites for our exciting July guild meeting/Christmas in July Celebration. Come and enjoy the exhilarating Christmas festivities and cherished traditions, and revel in the precious Feather Princesses fellowship! Thoroughly enjoy this gathering of gifted and talented Feather Princesses members and quilting friends, as we celebrate appliqué 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.
- See our *Community Service Project Chair*, Princess **Shirley Williams**, to drop off your non-perishable food items for our Community Service Project.
- Enjoy a cup of delicious coffee or tea, and Christmas 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 "Red and Green" fat quarters. (They do not have to be Christmas fabrics.)
- *Guild Photographer*, Princess **Beverley Abenante**, to sign-in and photograph the quilts you will present during Show N Tell, and to get a number for your Christmas quilt(s).
- *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.



We cordially invite you to our ...

### 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.

- *Special Block Chairs*, Princesses **Shirley Williams**, **Jackie Tarr**, and **Carol Hibbard** to get a kit for our "Special Anniversary Cupcake Block."
- *Sunshine/Birthday Chair*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to sign-up for the July birthday drawing.
- *Vice President*, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, to turn in your "Chillin' With My Gnomies" Special Christmas Block and to get a ballot to vote on the Gnome block with the most unique design.

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 9:30 a.m. the *Christmas in July Celebration* will begin. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m., listen to Christmas music, and participate in the Christmas in July games to win prizes.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business.
- Next, be inspired with the informative program, "Christmas Ornaments," presented by our very talented member and *Vice President*, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**.

**Joanne** will provide the instructions and guide us through the most fun ever, as we make adorable Christmas ornaments.

- At the lunch break, savor your delicious lunch you brought from home and continue enjoying the special Christmas holiday treats.

(continued on page 3)

## Resume and Improve - Annual Membership Renewal

by Dorothy Johnson

We all know the internet is the authority on everything, right? So, when searching the meaning of the word "renewal" we found that it means the process of resuming an activity. We also learned that it means the improvement, renovation, or restoration of something. So, this really hit home in regard to our Feather Princesses membership renewal process.



And as we all know, our Feather Princesses year runs from August of one year to July of the next year. And because we are currently in the month of July, this year of phenomenal appliqué will soon come to an end. (And what a year it was—moving to a fun new meeting place, having our exciting quilt show, and hosting an incredible national teacher.)

But now that July is here, and August is quickly approaching, we will resume our tried and true activities and pursue new ones. Next month as we start a new year of appliqué, we will enthusiastically continue having fun, making new valuable friends, and capturing precious memories. We Feather Princesses will go on! And we will

improve our skills, continue learning techniques unfamiliar to us, and sharing our invaluable knowledge and expertise with our fellow members. Again, we Feather Princesses will prevail!

So, if you would like to be a part of this phenomenal opportunity to "resume" and "improve," 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 July 12 guild meeting. You may pay by 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.

Also, if you want to renew your FP membership, but cannot attend our guild meetings, you may mail your check to our lovely Treasurer:

**Michelle Barry**  
1813 Staysail Drive  
Valrico, Florida 33549

This new year, let's resume and improve our appliqué skills with total appliqué education, excitement, friendship, and fun! So, let's renew our FP membership.

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.

*(July Guild Meeting - continued from page 2)*

- 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.

Get a good look at the Christmas quilts and wallhangings, and then vote for your favorite.

- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting July birthday drawing and door prize drawings, as you just might be a winner.
- And be sure to stay at the meeting to the end, when the makers (*Most Unique Gnome Block Design* and the *Favorite Christmas Quilt/Wallhanging*) will be announced and awarded a prize.

Fabulous Feather Princesses, our Christmas *in July Celebration* will be so much fun. Of course, there will be lots of prizes and surprises, so come and enjoy the festivities with us!

We'll see you this coming Wednesday at our July 12 guild meeting. Attend this exciting meeting and get a head-start on the 2023 Holiday season, by celebrating Christmas in July!

*(President's Message - continued from page 1)*

Wednesday, July 26. At our July 12 guild meeting, they will make an informative presentation to tell us what the group is all about, what we will learn, and what we will do to create and enhance our appliqué quilt designs. So, please stay tuned to find out more about this dynamic new group, please plan to attend the meeting when it convenes on July 26, and be sure to see **page 10** of this newsletter for more detailed information.

Going forward, let's not wait until December 25 to unwrap the special gifts with which we are so abundantly Blessed. At any time, just come to our Feather Princesses guild meetings, quilt circles, group meetings, or special activities and events to feel the love and warmth that abounds, and to embrace and receive the wonderful gifts that we already have—our beloved members, YOU lovely Feather Princesses!

**Joanne, Ritu, Michelle,** and I look forward to celebrating Christmas in July with you this coming Wednesday!

## July Program - Christmas in July Ornaments

By Joanne Rodriguez

With our fabulous quilt show, "Appliqué in Tampa Bay V – Fun in the Sun" being a fading memory, the pressure is off for a while for us to produce stunning appliqué quilts. Yes, appliqué is still our passion, and it always will be. That will never change. But we want to take some time now to relax, let our hair down, and have some fun, as we celebrate Christmas in July! We want to PLAY!

At our fun-filled Christmas in July Celebration, we will create some beautiful Christmas ornaments. And tell me, who doesn't like an adorable Holiday ornament? We will provide most of the supplies for each of you to completely decorate your ornament; and I will give a few instructions and share some fun decorating ideas and tips for completing your beautiful Christmas ornament by hand. As you all know by now, I like "to push" your thinking and challenge your skill levels just a wee bit, because you CAN do it! You can do anything you set your minds to.

When I gathered some of the supplies (especially the fabrics) and played with them on the table at home, I thought of Christmas sugar cookies. So as a hint, during the program, we will cut out some bits of fabrics and then sew them on. We will play and have some FUN! I will also provide supplies and teach you how to make yo-yos from beautiful Christmas cotton fabrics.

We will provide most of the supplies you will need to make both ornaments; but please bring the following items, so you can participate during the program:

- #7, 8, 9, or 10 needle to use with hand quilting thread
- paper/craft scissors
- basic sewing supplies

Princesses, we will have FUN; so please do not miss the program. I'll see you this coming Wednesday at our Feather Princesses *Christmas in July Celebration!*

## Community Service Project

by Shirley Williams

Feather Princesses please know that we are providing a tremendous and very worthwhile service to our communities. 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 areas. So, we thank you again for supporting our **Community Service Project**.

This month our donations will go to Oak Grove United Methodist Church, located here in Tampa; and Princess **Cathy Kessler** will deliver these donations to the church for us. Over the years, we have made donations to Oak Grove several times; and the congregation has always been very grateful and thankful for our generosity, kindness, and love.

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.

## Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



Greetings Lovely Friends!

Here comes the month of July! Summer is definitely here, sweltering temperatures, even the BBQ wants to move indoors! Indoors is exactly where you will find me. Chillin' out and working on my appliqué! Hope you all are well, keeping cool, and hunkering down in the shade with a cool salad and tall icy glass of lemonade! Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate those fingertips because we must do what we do best! Appliqué! We're sending you all some precious virtual hugs and we can't wait to see you this month!

- **Dee Anderson**
- **Eileen Leonard**
- **Terry Montaldo**
- **Joanne Rodriguez**

Come one, come all! Grab your buddy by the thread and let's get together!

We hope to see you at the meeting!

## Healing Heart Blocks and Fat Quarters, Too

by Shirley Kasprzyk



With the 100-degree plus sweltering temperatures we're having right now, a tall glass of cold lemonade on a hot summer day really hits the spot! It's cool, it's refreshing, and it's so good! And gone are the days of yesteryear when we drank just plain old lemonade. As with just about everything else in life these days, there is quite a variety of yummy fruit flavors to mix with lemonade to quench our thirst.

On a recent outing, I enjoyed a frosty glass of strawberry lemonade. And then on another jaunt, I gulped down a tall glass of sweet blackberry lemonade—Yum, Yum! And yet at another gathering, I polished off a mug of marvelous mango lemonade—how delightful was that! Oh my goodness, the different flavors of refreshing lemonade just go on and on and get better and better.

The same is true with the stunning **Healing Heart** blocks that we make for the lovely Feather Princesses on our **Healing Hearts** list. We select a variety of fabric colors along with matching threads, based on each recipient's preference. And then we pick and choose gorgeous heart designs to stitch from a field of appliqué heart patterns. With much anticipation and excitement, we mix these ingredients and pair them with our stitching talents; and the heart shaped blocks take on a zest of their own, just like the luscious lemonade mixed with tasty fruit flavors. The **Healing Heart** blocks are so cool, so refreshing, and so good, too!

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:** Please note that our lovely member, Princess **Laura Brooker**, is added to the **Healing Hearts** block list.

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

- **Laura Brooker** likes red and green
- **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 July 12 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.

## Tool Time

by Roni Hunt

Happy July to all of our lovely Feather Princesses. Summer is here! And our temperature gauge is working overtime. Although I love Summer, I am grateful for air conditioning!!



I want to thank all of the Princesses who reached out to tell me how they liked the journaling tools from last month. Being given permission to collect all of our little notes here and there seemed to hit home for a lot of us. This just proves that we all need to find our own style, even if it's way outside the box.

Trying to find different tools and tips each month can be a bit daunting. I never fail to find something different each month!!! That just blows my mind. But with all of the different online sites, I seem to always find something. And maybe it's just using a common tool differently!!

I have two words for July—masking tape. Who knew one could find so many uses for it! So, hold on to your tape dispensers and prepare to be amazed. I found this on YouTube while watching Karen Brown's channel, "Just Get It Done Quilts." The video I viewed was "My Top 10 Favourite (sp) Quilting Tools."

I look forward to seeing you all at the SpringHill Suites! Don't forget to bring your awesome tools and tips along to share with our gifted Appliqué Sisters!!!!

## July Calendar

Wednesday, July 5  
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, July 12  
Feather Princesses July Guild Meeting  
"Christmas in July Celebration"

Wednesday, July 19  
Team Legacy - Baltimore Album  
Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, July 20  
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Tuesday, July 25  
Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Wednesday, July 26  
Appliqué Design Quilt Group Meeting

Friday, July 28  
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

## July Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

Beautiful appliqué quilts made from red and green fabrics are quite popular right now. Quilters have admired the red and green color scheme for hundreds of years; and the appreciation and respect for this color combination remain strong to this day. The red and green palette takes its place among the classic vintage quilts, as well as with the more recent quilts quilters are making today. And, the red and green color combination can be used to make patchwork and appliqué quilts, in many styles including antique, contemporary, vintage, and Christmas quilts, too!

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for July is "Red and Green" fabrics. So, gather your fat quarters in "Red and Green" and then bring them to our July 12 guild meeting; and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Plan your next appliqué quilt project, using these magnificent colors from our *Christmas in July Celebration*. Win some of these sumptuous fat quarters in red and green, have a blast, and enjoy every single moment as you create your stunning new classic or Christmas appliqué quilt.

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 "Red and Green" fabrics this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.

## July Birthday Greetings!

By Ritu Haldar

Happy Birthday wishes are going out to our lovely Princesses celebrating their special birthday in July! You lucky ones get the option of a BBQ and margaritas for a birthday celebration – YUM!

We're singing a happy tune and sending the very best birthday greetings to our dearest Princesses celebrating this July. Ladies, stay cool and enjoy your very special day!

**Terry Montaldo - 7/6**

**Jackie Tarr - 7/8**

**Roni Hunt - 7/9**

**Miriam Pacheco  
- 7/18**

**Chris Sudberry -  
7/18**

**Janet Kiene -  
7/25**

**Eileen Leonard - 7/27**



## July Hospitality

by Linda Woytisek

We want you to come and have a spectacular time at our July guild meeting. So, we're planning a marvelous celebration to ensure your total enjoyment and satisfaction. Colorful fabrics and other quilting goodies, delicious foods, and fabulous fun will be the stars of the day! We already have the beautiful quilting treats to share as gifts and prizes; and the games and other activities automatically guarantee fantastic fun! (We Feather Princesses really know how to party and we always have tons of fun when we're together, right?) We even have some yummy Christmas refreshments all ready to serve, to satisfy your palettes. But we take this opportunity now to welcome you to bring your favorite Christmas delights as well.

So, if you have a favorite Holiday dessert, dish, or snack you would like to share, please feel free to bring it and share it with the Princesses. We would love to taste your favorite Christmas treats—fruit, candy, cake, cookies, breads, brownies, and more. Whatever treat you like, I'm sure we will like it, too!

Thanks so much; and we'll see you and your yummy Christmas treat at our **Christmas in July Celebration** convening this coming Wednesday.

## "Chillin' With My Gnomies" Christmas Gnome Special Block

by Joanne Rodriguez

If you've been out shopping at the stores lately, you probably noticed that Gnomes are really "hot" right now. There are Summer Gnomes, Autumn Gnomes, Garden Gnomes, Patriotic Gnomes, and more! And then there's our favorite, the ever-popular Christmas Gnomes.



Last year at our 2022 Christmas Luncheon, we distributed a Christmas Gnome Special Block kit, "Chilling' With My Gnomies" to most of you. And we hope you learned and had fun as you created 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 received a kit and now prefer not to make the block, please return the kit to me, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, so we can share it with the lovely Princess who wins the completed Christmas Gnome blocks.
- 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-inch 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 the winner(s) 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 July 12 guild meeting. 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](mailto: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!

## Show-Off Your Christmas Quilts - Take a Chance to Win a Cash Prize

by Beverly Abenante

Let's be honest! We Feather Princesses love showing-off our stunning appliqué quilts at our phenomenal guild meetings and at our dynamic quilt shows. We deliberately and intentionally display our stellar quilts for all to see our amazing accomplishments, skills, and quilt-making talents!

So, be sure to bring your breathtaking appliqué quilts, especially your Christmas appliqué quilts and wallhangings, to our **Christmas in July Celebration**, because we want to see them there, too.

And please remember:

- Before the guild meeting begins, see me (**Beverly**) to get a picture taken of your quilt(s) and to get a number for each Christmas quilt you plan to show during Show N Tell.
- During our lunch break, we will distribute a voting ballot to each Feather Princess at the meeting.
- As the Show-Offs show their Christmas quilt(s) during Show N Tell, the Princesses will vote for their favorite.
- After Show N Tell ends and the ballots are tabulated, we will announce the name of the maker of the Christmas quilt/wallhanging that received the most votes, and award a cash prize to that Princess.

We gladly welcome you to bring non-Christmas quilts for Show N Tell; however, only the Christmas appliqué quilts/wallhangings will be eligible for the voting and cash prize.

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## Our Fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat

by Karen Benitez

Hello lovely Princesses!

There is still time to sign-up for our fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat; and we would love to have you join us! As of now, 22 Princesses have registered and we all are anxious to get there and have another wonderful time together. As a reminder, the retreat specifics are:



► **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 and make payments for the retreat at our July and August guild meetings. Our August guild meeting is the deadline to sign-up and pay in full, as we must provide Lake Yale with our final headcount at that time. It is also the deadline to receive a refund, if the need arises for you to cancel your registration. As always, I will accept payments in the forms of cash, credit/debit cards, and checks. And if you have not yet completed a Retreat Registration Form, I have copies to provide to you.

If you are unable to attend our Feather Princesses guild meetings, you may mail your registration form and checks (made payable to Feather Princesses) to me at:

**Karen Benitez**  
7741 23rd Street  
Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Please note that starting with our August 9 guild meeting, we will have a retreat meeting at 10 a.m. in the front lobby of the hotel, to begin discussing some of the activities, demos, games and other important retreat information. I will also distribute an informational email prior to that time. In the meantime though, if you would like to volunteer to present a tutorial on a specific technique or a demo, please let me know.

*(Show Off Your Christmas Quilts - continued from page 7)*

Feather Princesses, take some time now to pull out your Christmas appliqué quilt beauties, and then bring them to show at our July 12 guild meeting, as your lovely quilt just might be the winner.

## Row By Row Experience 2023

by Dorothy Johnson

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

The temperature is sizzling outside; but inside the quilting world, there's a very cool event taking place this Summer. The Row By Row Experience has returned; and bright-eyed, bushy-tailed quilters from all over our land are hitting the road to partake of this exciting and fun event.

So Princesses, let's put the petal to the metal and participate in the exciting and fun-filled Row By Row Experience 2023. This year's theme is "Summertime;" it will convene now through Thursday, August 31, and the following Florida shops are participating. So be sure to travel to each of these shops here in Florida and collect a free "row" pattern to stitch. 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 now to September 30, every Row by Row shop will award one amazing prize! To win, be 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.

*(continued page 10)*



## Our Exciting Autumn Splendor Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson and Joanne Rodriguez

Most of us truly love Autumn; and we can hardly wait for October to get here. For with the sweltering temperatures we are having, we are beyond ready for Autumn to arrive. In fact, a little more than two months of Summer still remain before Fall officially arrives on Saturday, September 23, at 2:49 a.m. (Are we counting the days, hours, and minutes or what?)



So, "chop-chop" Feather Princesses. Let's get moving (or should we say "let's start stitching") our gorgeous Autumn quilts and wallhangings, because in about three months, our Exciting Autumn Splendor Challenge will convene at our highly anticipated October 11 guild meeting. Again, we're not counting, BUT the days of Summer really are flying by fast; and our radiant orange, gold, green, brown, and burgundy fabrics are calling our names. They're anxious to get out of our fabric stashes and stitched into our beautiful appliqué quilts. These fabrics are ready to play!

So over the next few months, 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.

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.

Pull out your calendars and start counting the days, because Autumn is on its way. We'll see you and your awesome Autumn-themed quilts at our phenomenal October 11 guild meeting.



## Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group

by Betty Jo Lecaroz and Jackie Tarr

Feather Princesses, we're all looking forward to our upcoming Porcelain (18th) Anniversary Celebration, convening on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. We will have fun dressing to the nines, sporting our tiaras, relishing in royalty, and celebrating appliqué and each other. But before we tilt the sparkling tiaras just so on our heads, let's come together at our exciting **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting on the first Wednesday, August 2.

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

### Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Betty Jo Lecaroz  
and Jackie Tarr

Drum Roll, please!!! At this meeting, we will have Show N' Tell. After collecting fabric scraps for a while now, we want to see the colorful scrap quilts you are working on (or have completed). So, please bring your scrap appliqué quilt projects, no matter the stage of the quilting process they are in. If your project is "in progress," remember to bring your quilting supplies and tools, so you can continue working on it during the meeting. And if you're just getting started, don't be shy. Come, bring your scraps and pattern, and let the fun begin! We will be available and happy to assist you.

Come one, come all to our phenomenal **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting! We welcome you all to bring a very special friend and even more of your fabric scraps to use and to share!

**(See pics on Page 12)**

*(Row by Row Experience - continued from page 8)*

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!

## Appliqué Design Quilt Group

by Peggy Wattenbarger

Hip, Hip Hooray! Hip, Hip Hooray! Independence Day celebrations have come and gone; but we eager Feather Princesses are just beginning to celebrate! Sparks are flying and bursting into the air, because we are starting a new and exciting specialty appliqué quilt group! We will increase our knowledge and hone our skills by exploring and designing new appliqué quilt patterns.

The idea was born from a recent conversation between Princess **Dorothy Johnson** and me. **Dorothy** expressed disappointment in her recent trip to AQS Paducah Week, where she did not find any new appliqué patterns. Yes, a plethora of appliqué patterns was available, but none that were really new and challenging.

So, I somehow took on the role of trying to rectify this situation. But I am the least likely person to lead such a group, as I know the least about appliqué. However, I had to design my own patterns ever since the mid-90s when an aneurysm burst in my brain; and I couldn't read or comprehend following a pattern. Thus, I had to improvise and I started designing my own quilts.

The objective of our group will be to inspire our Feather Princesses to think outside of the box, come up with new appliqué quilt design ideas, and have fun every step of the way. And with the help of two other very talented members of our guild, Princesses **Sandi Snow** and **Maxine DiPietro**, we will start this journey by designing "creative backgrounds." At our July 12 guild meeting, we will present a few samples of different backgrounds and discuss the techniques used to create them.

So please mark your calendars now, attend our inspirational group meeting, and see what we're all about. Spend some time with us, learn all along the way, and watch your gorgeous appliqué designs come to life and take on a whole new dimension—a style that is your very own.

### Appliqué Design Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Peggy Wattenbarger

We anxiously look forward to you exploring and creating new appliqué designs with us—and having lots of fun, too!

## Team Legacy – Baltimore Album Quilt Group

by Roni Hunt

Hi Princesses! We welcome you all to our **Baltimore Album Quilt Group**. This year is slipping by so quickly; so, if you have not already joined us, we hope you will be able to attend our exciting group meeting soon and join in some Baltimore Album fun!! We all love to appliqué; but we know that everyone is not inclined to make a stunning Baltimore Album Quilt. And, the truth be known, you don't need to complete a quilt to join us. We just want you to come and learn along with us. We focus on some techniques used in other styles of appliqué—some that might be beneficial for you to know. So, when you create the appliqué quilts of your choice, you will be able to apply the techniques you learned.

This month we will make 3-D (dimensional) berries and perfect the points on our leaves. It's fun to make those cute little berries and sharpening the points on our leaves is always a plus, right? So, please mark your calendars and plan to attend this meeting with us. And please bring the following supplies, so you can participate and hone your skills:

- 5-inch square of fabric
- A dime
- Needle and thread
- Pad and pencil to take notes

The Baltimore Album Princesses and I anxiously look forward to seeing you all at our inspirational meeting:

### Team Legacy – Baltimore Album Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
2902 W. Bearss Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33618  
(813) 273-3672

Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Roni Hunt

Also, please remember to bring a bag lunch, and a jacket or sweater as well.

Thank you, Princesses. As always, I'm excited and looking forward to this phenomenal appliqué adventure!

## Colorful Florida Shop Hop

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from *The Florida Register*, July - August, 2023)

Summertime is FUN TIME, so let's add another exciting and fun quilting adventure to our Summer travel itinerary. Let's make plans to get in on the action at the upcoming "Colorful Florida Shop Hop," scheduled to convene Friday, July 21 – Saturday, August 5, 2023. Have a blast the last week of July and the first week of August, visiting the participating shops, meeting other quilters, making new friends, and SHOPPING (the most important part of all)!

The nine participating shops are:

- A Quilting Palette, Lady Lake – [www.aquiltingpalette.com](http://www.aquiltingpalette.com)
- Beyond The Stitches, Crystal River – [www.beyondthestitches.com](http://www.beyondthestitches.com)
- Nana's Quilt Shop, Brooksville – [www.nanasquiltshop.com](http://www.nanasquiltshop.com)
- Piece by Piece, Mt. Dora – [www.piecebypiecequilts.com](http://www.piecebypiecequilts.com)
- Sew Mini Things, Mt. Dora – [www.sewminithings.com](http://www.sewminithings.com)
- Sew Together, Wildwood – [www.sewtogetherquilting.com](http://www.sewtogetherquilting.com)
- The Sewing Studio Fabric Superstore, Maitland – [www.sewing.net](http://www.sewing.net)
- The Sewing Studio at Lady Lake, Lady Lake – [www.sewing.net](http://www.sewing.net)
- Tomorrow's Treasures, Ocala – [www.ttquilts.com](http://www.ttquilts.com)

### GUIDELINES:

- Passports cost \$7 prior to start of the Shop Hop, \$8 during the Shop Hop.
- Only 1 passport per person is allowed.
- Passports are non-refundable.
- Participants must be 9 years old or older.
- Participants must be present to have their passport stamped.
- Participants must have a stamp from all nine shops to be eligible for the Grand Prize Drawings.
- Winners have 30 days from the end of the Shop Hop to claim prizes.

## Travel Is Very Important

by Dorothy Johnson

We all agree that travel is a very important part of Summer recreation. Packing our bags and taking a trip for a few days (or for an extended period of time) is fun; and in today's world, it is sometimes necessary and vital to maintain our sanity, mental health, and well being. So, whether you go to the beach for a day or two, drive to the next state, fly across the country, or cruise around the world be sure to allocate some time in your busy schedules this Summer to travel.

When it comes to our amazing quilt circles, it is necessary and vitally important that we get up, get out, and attend them as well. The distance to the quilt circle meeting places is short; and usually the travel is easy—no lost bags, delays, or cancellations, such as what goes on in commercial air travel. And once you arrive at our quilt circles, fabulous fun and inspiration abound. We Feather Princesses do not disappoint. Each and every one of our prolific quilt circle leaders is extremely knowledgeable, talented, and ready to assist. And our gifted Feather Princesses members are always ready to help and share what they know, too.

So, for an exciting and exceptional travel experience this month, join us at the following phenomenal quilt circles. You won't need an airline ticket or map to get there. Just check out the weekly reminders we distribute, then pack your sewing/quilting bags, drive to the circles, and let the fun begin!

### Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
2902 W. Bearss Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33618  
(813) 273-3652 (library)  
Thursday, July 20, 2023  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Contact: Princesses Becky Gammons  
and Shirley Kasprzyk

### Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
2902 W. Bearss Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33618  
(813) 273-3652 (library)  
Tuesday, July 25, 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, July 28, 2023  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter  
and Cathleene Tokish

Feather Princesses looking through scraps at the  
**Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting, July 5, 2023.



## Save the Date - FP Porcelain Anniversary Celebration

by Dorothy Johnson, Joanne Rodriguez, Ritu Haldar, and Michelle Barry  
(Excerpt taken from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcelain#Production and https://www.southernliving.com/home/what-is-porcelain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcelain#Production_and_https://www.southernliving.com/home/what-is-porcelain))

Porcelain is a ceramic material made by heating raw materials, generally including kaolinite, in a kiln to temperatures between 1,200 and 1,400 °C (2,200 and 2,600 °F). The manufacturing process used for porcelain is similar to those used for earthenware and stoneware, the two other main types of pottery, although it can be more challenging to produce. It has usually been regarded as the most prestigious type of pottery due to its delicacy, strength, and high degree of whiteness. It is frequently both glazed and decorated.

According to Southern Living, "Porcelain is more expensive than regular china because making porcelain truly is an art form. Devising the mix of kaolin and other ingredients, shaping a plate to a delicate edge or sculpting a figurine, glazing it, firing it, and creating a gorgeous, nearly translucent, durable piece is incredibly difficult. So the next time your nana asks you to dust the Lladró, be careful—you're dusting a figurine that has roots going back 2,000 years."

Just like making porcelain, creating stunning appliqué quilts is truly an art form as well. We carefully design or purchase our patterns, select top-quality quilting fabrics and supplies, execute the appropriate techniques to get the desired results and appearance of our quilts. It's a detailed oriented process for sure, but worth every single moment of commitment, dedication, and time to create our cherished and stellar quilts.

Our Feather Princesses 18th Birthday is coming soon; and on Wednesday, August 9, we will have our *Porcelain Anniversary Celebration*. Mark your calendars now so you will not miss this marvelous event!



This celebration will be "about the cupcakes!" We will decorate cupcakes, stitch adorable cupcake blocks, and have a drawing for one lucky Princess to win the blocks. There will also be exciting games, Feather Princesses trivia, special entertainment, door prizes, gifts, and more.

So join us at this royal event and divine celebration. It will be the talk of the town and you will have fun and enjoy yourselves for sure.

Eighteen (18) years of appliqué - YIPPEE!



## Let's Decorate Cupcakes

by Becky Gammons

Here in the Feather Princesses, there really is never a dull moment. To keep our guild exciting, our lives interesting, and our schedules full, we're always searching for new ideas and uncharted territory to pursue. So ladies, this year we have a very special anniversary celebration treat lined up, just for you.

At our **18th Birthday Party/Porcelain Anniversary Celebration**, instead of serving the traditional pink and white Feather Princesses birthday cake (which we have enjoyed over the years), we will decorate our own individual cupcakes. At our birthday party convening on Wednesday, August 9, we will have fun as we decorate our cupcakes with frosting from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., in any color frosting and any design that you like.

We will provide the cupcakes, frosting, and cake decorating supplies at each table. So, all you will have to do is come, allow your creative juices to flow, and decorate the most adorable cupcake ever, just as you create the most gorgeous appliqué quilts ever. And please do not worry about the mess, as we have a plan in place to clean up in lickety-split timing, before the guild meeting begins!

So, please stay tuned, as we will announce more detailed information at our July 12 guild meeting and in the August issue of *The Plume*.



## Special Anniversary Cupcake Block

by Carol Hibbard, Jackie Tarr, and Shirley Williams

We are so looking forward to our Feather Princesses **18th Birthday Party/Porcelain Anniversary Celebration**. It will be quite the elegant and royal affair—fabulous festivities, delicious food, and unlimited fun! So mark your calendars now and do not let anything stop you from attending this spectacular guild event on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

We love appliquéing blocks to commemorate the special occasions here in our guild. So, in preparation for our birthday party, we will appliqué adorable little 6-inch "cupcake" blocks.

And at our upcoming July 12 guild meeting, we will distribute a "cupcake" block kit to each and every Princess who wants one. The complimentary kit will contain the following:

- 7-inch background square
- Cupcake pattern
- Instructions to appliqué the block

Using fabrics in happy birthday colors from your stashes, you may appliqué the "cupcake" block and turn it in at our August 9 guild meeting. With only one month to complete the block, it will require a quick turn-around; but we can do it, Princesses. We can make this block in a month, as the pattern is very simple with only a few pieces to stitch.

At our **18th Birthday Party/Porcelain Anniversary Celebration**, we will display all of the charming little blocks and then have a drawing for the blocks. The number of winners will be determined by the number of completed blocks turned in.

So be sure to stop by our table at our July guild meeting this coming Wednesday and pick up a kit for the **Special Anniversary Cupcake Block**. We promise not to blow out the candle until you pick-up your kit.

### Information Now Located on: [www.featherprincesses.org](http://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.