



The Plume

December 2023/January 2024
Volume 19, Issue 5/6

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon
- 3 Reindeer Facts for Christmas
- 4 You Have to Be Present to Win
- 5 Sunshine and Shadows • December Calendar • Tool Time
- 6 Healing Heart Blocks • December/January Community Service Project
- 7 December/January Fat Quarter Exchange • December/January Birthdays
- 8 Let's Unwrap This Marvelous Gift
- 9 A Really Neat Surprise for You • Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt
- 10 Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group • "Light the Way" - Feather Princesses 2023 Special Christmas Block • January Calendar
- 11 January Guild Meeting
- 12 Our January Program - Kawandi • Quilt the Rainbow - 2024 North Florida Shop Hop
- 13 We'll See You at the Fair in 2024 • Join Us At a Fabric and Pattern Sale-A-Thon
- 14 The 2024 Winter Florida Quilt Show Season Is About to Begin
- 15 Our Art - Library Quilt Display • Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group

President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

The true spirit of Christmas really does come alive during the Holidays. From expressing sincere sentiments of gratitude at Thanksgiving, to giving and sharing gifts of joy and love at Christmas, to embracing hope and peace at the New Year, this season really is the most wonderful time of the year and the happiest season of all! And here in the Feather Princesses, as we celebrate "Light the Way," we are reminded of just how wonderful this season really is — for us to be able to celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus, and for us to be so abundantly Blessed—and to have the colossal opportunity to Bless others, especially with our marvelous quilting skills, talents, and friendships.

What these gifts mean to us and how we use them to benefit ourselves, each other, and our guild is of utmost importance. Just as every Christmas Eve when Santa and his reindeer "Light the Way" and spread cheer all over the world to children and adults alike, let's forge ahead and take this opportunity in 2024 to reach new heights in our personal quilting development, share our phenomenal skills and talents with other Feather Princesses, and serve to help meet the needs of our guild, to ensure and guarantee our maximum satisfaction and success. So lovely Feather Princesses, in 2024, let's accomplish our dreams and goals that we're hoping and striving for—let's "Light the Way."

Celebrating Christmas and then transitioning into the New Year, is the perfect time for us to "Light the Way" and to put our thoughts and plans into action! In the coming days, what if we all take a few minutes (or hours) to think about what we would like to personally achieve, and then list our aspirations and dreams for the New Year? And what if each of us defines the appliqué techniques we'd like to master, the skills we would like to enhance, the quilts we would like to create? How magnificent would that be?

And to carry it a step further, what if we think about how we could use our talents and skills to "Light the Way" for others? What if we share our knowledge and expertise with our fellow Feather Princesses by presenting a program, teaching a class or workshop, or leading a quilt circle or specialty appliqué group? Of course, it would be absolutely divine to inspire our eager members to learn new techniques, explore unfamiliar quilting methods and procedures, and to help instill in them the confidence to step up and try something new.

(continued page 2)

December Guild Meeting/ Christmas Luncheon

by Dorothy Johnson, Joanne Rodriguez, Ritu Haldar, and Michelle Barry

At department stores, Christmas parades, tree lightings and other Holiday events, Santa has a pretty good game of his own. But on Christmas Eve when it's time to deliver the many gifts to good little boys and girls all over the world, the reindeer get the job done—they are the stars. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph take center stage. So come out and celebrate "Light the Way" with us at our December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon. The atmosphere will be electrically charged; and our spirits will be high as we celebrate these seasonal characters who light the way each year and bring Christmas cheer to all!

We welcome you to come, bring a special friend, and spread great joy! And be sure to enjoy the special fun, gifts, goodies, and prizes that will be in store just for you!

When you arrive, be sure to see our:

- *Membership Chairs*, Princess **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**, to sign-in.
- *Community Service Project Chair*, Princess **Shirley Williams**, to donate cash to our Community Service Project.
- *Healing Hearts Chair*, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, to turn in your Healing Heart blocks.
- *Special Block Chair*, Princess **Maria Nunez**, to turn in your completed Christmas Special Block, "Light the Way."
- *Sunshine/Birthday Chair*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to sign-up for the December birthday drawing.

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

Also, what if we put into action ways to "Light the Way" for our phenomenal guild? What if in the New Year each of us thinks of a way to fill a need in our guild, and then to serve and make it happen? What if we come up with constructive and positive ideas to contribute to our executive board, committees, quilt circles, and specialty appliqué groups to make our guild even more effective—to make it better? Well guess what? We can do it ladies! In 2024, each and every one of us can put our skills and talents to the test, to further enhance our quilting, to encourage, motivate, and help pave the way for others, and to serve our wonderful guild. So, I say, "Let's Do It - Let's Light the Way!"

Joanne, Ritu, Michelle, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



December Guild Meeting/
Christmas Luncheon
Mandola's Italian Kitchen
14703 N. Dale Mabry Highway
(Market Place North Plaza II)
Tampa, Florida 33618
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
10:45 a.m.

And please remember that ***we will not have the following activities this month***; but they will resume at our January guild meeting next month:

- Fat Quarter Exchange
- Show N Tell

Also, before you come to the luncheon, remember to brush up on some reindeer trivia, because we will test your knowledge and have some fun, to see just how much you know about reindeer.

Above all enjoy your tasty meal at Mandola's Italian Kitchen; and enjoy the merriment and sweet fellowship of the Feather Princesses! Excitement and good times will be at the top of our list!

When we finish eating lunch, we will continue enjoying the meeting with the following fun-filled festivities.

- Trivia Questions
- Special Surprises and Presentations
- December Birthday Drawing
- Door Prize Drawings

We'll see you this coming Wednesday at our December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon!



Reindeer Facts for Christmas

submitted by Dorothy Johnson

(This entire article was written by Jennifer Gaeng and taken from <https://a-z-animals.com/blog/12-incredible-reindeer-facts-for-christmas/>)

It is Santa's team of loyal reindeer that allow him to visit good little children, and quilters, too, on Christmas Eve each year. So, tell me, what do you know about reindeer? How well-versed are you? Well read on, as some of the following facts just might surprise you!

1. Male Reindeer are Bulls and Females are Cows

Male reindeer are also called bull or stag, and female reindeer are referred to as cows. Male reindeer are distinguished from females by their larger stature, tougher hooves, and more impressive antlers.

2. Reindeer Have up to a 20 Year Lifespan!

A wild adult reindeer or caribou can live up to 20 years in captivity, although the typical lifespan is about 15 years. Males have a shorter life than females, as much as four years less! This is likely because of the male counterpart's larger size and hence greater dietary requirements. Also, because of their behavior, males are more likely to put themselves in harm way and sustain injuries.

3. Reindeer Females Have Antlers -

Reindeer are the only deer species in which the females grow antlers, making them unique among deer! This is because even female reindeer need antlers to dig through snow and soil in search of food and to defend themselves in rough terrains.

4. Reindeer Communicate Like Dogs

Reindeer are vociferous members of the deer species. Reindeer use grunts and barks to communicate with one another, much like dogs do. They also use their bodies to communicate with each other. They use these sounds and displays for mating, as well as alerting their herds or calves if they become separated or threatened.

5. Reindeer Have the Largest Antlers of Any Deer

Reindeer are larger than most deer and the overall fifth largest species of deer. Their coat is different than most deer species; usually grey-white, with flecks of brown. Adult reindeer have the largest antlers compared to their body out of all the deer species. For reindeer antlers to grow stronger and more stable, they shed their antlers once a year. Two layers of fur protect them from the elements: a soft undercoat and a thick, long-haired outer coat. Reindeer are about ten times the size of a dog, with a height of 180–214 cm (71–84 in) and a weight between 80–120 kg (180–260 pounds). However, the largest reindeer can weigh up to 700 pounds!

6. Baby Reindeer are Called Calves

Baby reindeer are called calves while a single reindeer is called a calf. The largest deer species, the moose, is also called a calf. However, other baby deer species are commonly called fawns.

From late September to early November, breeding season for reindeer is in full swing. Males use reindeer antlers to compete for females during this time of year. Up to fifteen female reindeer can be selected for mating by the victorious male reindeer. The female gives birth in an isolated location after the mating process. It takes female Reindeer around 228–234 days to give birth.

There are no outside furs on baby reindeer when they are born. Mother reindeer can readily identify their offspring in the wilderness, even among massive herds. As with people, a reindeer typically has just one baby at a time.

7. Reindeer are Social Creatures

In their natural habitat, reindeer form large groups known as herds. In herds of ten or more reindeer, they travel, rest, and eat together. During Spring, the number of members of their group grows significantly and can reach thousands!

8. There is a Herd of Reindeer the Size of Seattle!

Russia has the biggest population and herds of reindeer, with an average of 700,000 reindeer, that's about the same population as Seattle, Washington! Canada has the second-largest herds with an average of 200,000 reindeer. The number of reindeer in the wild is rapidly dwindling, and the species is now classified as vulnerable, which is a step closer to extinction.

This means that if reindeer numbers continue to plummet, the species will be listed as endangered. In some snow-covered places, such as the Arctic tundra, northern Asia, or North America, this species' population is nearing the threshold of being labeled endangered.

9. Reindeer “Click-Clack” as They Walk!

When reindeer walk, they produce a clacking sound. This “click-clack” is caused by the sesamoid bones of their feet snapping over the tendons. When it's snowing or foggy, experts believe that the clacking helps herd members stay connected.

10. Like Rudolph, Reindeer have “Red” Noses

Much like Rudolph, reindeer can have “red” noses, too. The reindeer has a network of small veins to circulate heated blood around their nose to keep the air they intake warm. In freezing weather, these blood vessels supply and regulate the body's temperature while also

(Continued page 4)

(Reindeer Facts for Christmas - Continued from page 3)

tinting the reindeer's nose pinkish-red!

11. Reindeer Have Unique Winter Adaptions

Reindeer are a closely related species of deer found in the tundra and grasslands, but they prefer the cold, snowy climates of the northern hemisphere Winters. It is difficult for a reindeer to survive outside of the frigid air. As a result, they tend to congregate in northern latitudes like Alaska, Canada, Europe, and Russia.

Because they spend 40% of their lives in the snow, reindeer have developed several unique adaptations. To help them stand on snow and squishy ground, their split-in-two cloven hooves provide traction. They're also great swimmers, and their hollow fur helps keep them warm.

12. Reindeer Have Different Names Across the World

A reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) is classified as a member of the Cervidae family of animals and is also known as caribou in certain regions. Domestic reindeer are known as reindeer in North America, while wild caribou are known as caribou. In Europe, they are known as reindeer regardless. Reindeer are a species of deer. There are over forty species of deer, many of which prefer milder weather, but reindeer prefer colder conditions.

Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group

by Barbara Belcher and Winnie Miale

Magical scenes of Holiday cheer and excitement are nestled around every corner. Shopping and selecting those perfect gifts for family and friends, gathering and dining with loved ones, traveling to long awaited destinations, attending Christmas Holiday concerts, services, and shows, and celebrating at festive Christmas parties—the list goes on and on! But wait, there's another exciting event that we **Crazy Wool Princesses** have anxiously anticipated and looked forward to for a long time. It's our annual Christmas Luncheon.

Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group Christmas Luncheon

Sioux City Steakhouse
8515 Little Road

New Port Richey, Florida
(727) 845-7347

Tuesday, December 19, 2023
11 a.m.

Contacts: Princesses Barbara Belcher
and Winnie Miale

You Have to Be Present to Win

by Dorothy Johnson

Sometimes life gets busy, unexpected activities come up, and our commitments and plans unfortunately change. And, for many of us, from time to time we experience a bump in the road, which forces us to alter our "iron-clad" plans and revise our "carved in stone" schedules. This seems to be especially true on our guild meeting day, the second Wednesday of the month. It seems that scheduling conflicts always come up. But it's okay—we realize that sometimes we have to miss a meeting here or there. Or we come to our guild meeting and then we have to leave to go to a doctor's appointment or to go back home to meet the plumber or the repairman. And again, this is okay. It's called life and we all thoroughly understand it.

But, we love it when you're at the meetings. We enjoy seeing you. And we absolutely enjoy having you participate in the exciting guild meeting activities and have fun! Informative announcements and reports, inspirational presentations and programs, spellbinding Show N Tell, yummy refreshments, and exciting door prize drawings are the order of the day! But remember that it is of utmost importance for you to be there in the meetings with us, to indulge in these activities. You must remain at the meetings to partake of these fun activities, especially the ever popular door prize drawings. You must be present to win.

So, during the door prize drawings at all of meetings in the future, we hope your number will be called and we certainly hope you will be there at the meeting to claim your wonderful prize. Remember, you gotta be there, you have to be present at the meeting to win!

Come, experience the joy of Christmas, and celebrate with us. At the restaurant's alluring and inviting environment, we will embrace a wonderful time of warmth and fellowship, as we make precious memories to store in our hearts forever! Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this gala event for delicious Holiday cuisine and good times with us.

Be sure to let us know (by Wednesday, December 13) that you plan to attend, so we can add your name to the headcount at the restaurant.

Cheerful, joyful, and exciting times await us at our exciting **Crazy Wool Appliqué** Christmas Luncheon! We look forward to seeing you there and in the New Year.

Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



Hello Dear Ones! Here we are together at the end of a wonderful year! What a beautiful journey we are on? One that is filled with a hobby that brings us together, and our love of appliqué which inspires us and offers us a sense of community. You are so encouraging and bounteous, too, as your giving of yourselves in artistry and friendship is unmatched! Thank you for a fabulous 2023! We are so looking forward to a spectacular 2024 together! Cheers!

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! And most of all, we hope the new year will bring you good health, so you can feel better soon.

- Dee Anderson
- Roni Hunt
- Shirley Kasprzyk
- Janet Kiene
- Betty Jo Lecaroz
- Joanne Rodriguez
- Krystal Weidman
- Meredith Wilmath
- Linda Woytisek
- Pat Yucatonis

December Calendar

Wednesday, December 6

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

Feather Princesses December Guild Meeting / Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 19

Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 20

Team Legacy Christmas Holiday Adventure

Thursday, December 21

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, December 29

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Tool Time

by Roni Hunt

Merry Christmas to all of our wonderful Feather Princesses!

As we say goodbye to 2023, I would like to thank every single Feather Princess for the enthusiasm shown during the Tool Time presentations every month at our guild meetings. At our upcoming December Tool Time unveiling, we will reminisce about various presentations we have already enjoyed.

Some of the tools and ideas we presented in 2023 were:

- Plastic zip bags attached to hangers and used for storage
- Just 10–15 minutes of sewing time to get a little bit of stitching done
- Our little project notes gathered from here and there and then stored in a journal
- Many uses of masking tape
- SEWER paper from Home Depot (not to be confused with sewing paper) used as an overlay for appliqué
- Scissors – We learned that Princess Winnie Miale has at least 56 pairs!!!

In 2024 we will continue finding the many tools and tips that will help make our appliqué a breeze. And as always, please share your ideas with everyone at the meetings, or text/email me with any questions or ideas that you have. Tool Time is your informative and inspirational presentation; and having your input is invaluable.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. May 2024 bring joy and good health to you and yours!



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 NEW 2023–24 FP Membership Directory.

Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk

Merry Christmas Feather Princesses! We hope you are savoring every marvelous moment of this Holiday season, as you prepare to celebrate Christmas. For many, the Holidays can be challenging and stressful and they can be a lot of work. And to get right down to it, preparing for the Holidays can take a lot of time out of our already busy schedules, too. So, as our to-do lists grow longer by the day, let's not stress about what still needs to be done. Let's not worry about when or how we will do it. Let's not worry about a single thing. Instead, let's enjoy the amenities of this glorious season, do whatever relieves us of anxiety, brings us joy, and makes us calm again.



Stitching is an outlet that we all use to relax; and using our creative talents to Bless others is always a rewarding experience, too. So, as we maneuver through this busy season, let's remember Princess **Roni Hunt's** "10 - 15 minute rule" from our November Tool Time. Let's set aside a few minutes every day—to appliqué and stitch. You will be amazed at the progress you will make and the satisfaction you will feel. And when you stitch and create your Healing Heart blocks, I guarantee you will reap an extra reward of gratification and satisfaction, as you use your creative talents to stitch these blocks for others—our dear members who are Healing Heart block recipients. It will be a win-win situation for you and our lovely recipients as well.

As you know, here in the Feather Princesses, we lift the spirits of our lovely Princesses, as they face challenging and difficult times. We appliqué stunning Healing Heart blocks for the lovely recipients on our Healing Hearts list; and we give the lovely blocks to express our concern and support, and to honor these lovely ladies in our guild who experienced a life threatening illness or the loss of a spouse or child. We express our endearing love through our appliqué.

Princesses currently receiving the Healing Heart blocks:

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

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

December/January Community Service Project

by Shirley Williams

We thank you all for your continued support of the Feather Princesses 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.

At our December 13 Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon convening at Mandola's Italian Kitchen, regrettably we will not be able to accept food donations; however, we will accept cash. So, in the spirit of giving at Christmas, we kindly ask you to consider making a cash donation when you come to this celebration, to help feed the needy people in our community during this season of joy, love, and peace. Our beautiful member, Princess **Carol Hibbard**, will deliver the cash donations to Atonement Lutheran Church, located in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

Looking ahead, our Feather Princesses 2024 Community Service Project donation schedule is already complete. And in January 2024, we will resume receiving your cash and food donations at each of our guild meetings. At our January guild meeting, yours truly, Princess **Shirley Williams**, will deliver our cash and food donations to St. Timothy Catholic Church, located in Lutz, Florida. So in advance, we express our sincere appreciation to you for filling your bags with non-perishable food items and bringing them, along with your cash, to our January guild meeting and donating these items to help feed the less fortunate people in our area.

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

You may mail your completed Healing Heart blocks directly to the recipients or bring them to our December 13 guild meeting and turn them in to me, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**; and I will give them to the recipients. And if you do not complete your blocks in time to bring them to our December guild meeting, do not stress or worry about it. We will be pleased as punch to receive your blocks at our January 10 guild meeting, and turn them in to the recipients at that time.

The *Healing Heart Block 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.

Feather Princesses, let's make every moment count during this Holiday season. And let's remember to relax, stay calm, and not worry about a thing.

December/January Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

(Excerpt taken from <https://cssgradient.io/shades-of-blue/>, <https://www.ranker.com/list/best-movies-with-blue-in-the-title/ranker-film>, and <https://www.musicgrotto.com/songs-with-blue-in-the-title/>)

If you are a movie buff, you probably remember these movies from the past with the word "blue" in their titles—*Blue Velvet*, *Deep Blue Sea*, and *The Blue Lagoon*. And then of course, there is the ever popular song, *My Blue Heaven*, recorded by the late singer Nat King Cole; and the popular tune, *Blue Suede Shoes*, recorded many years ago by the late Elvis Presley. And we all remember the iconic hit, *I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues*, recorded by the famous singer, Sir Elton John.

This month as we merrily celebrate Christmas at our *December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon*, we will forego our exciting Fat Quarter Exchange. But hold on, do not put away your fabrics just yet, because in January we will commemorate the Winter season, by exchanging luscious blue fabrics. Blue is a primary color that comes in many shades—light, medium, and dark blue to name a few. And according to the internet, there is a vast selection of shades of blue—actually over 100 different shades of blue from which to select.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for January is **BLUE**. So what blue fabrics will you stitch, if you win a bundle of stunning blue fabrics? Will you use light blue to stitch the sky, medium blue to create oceans of water, or dark blue to appliqué those fresh, plump, and tasty blueberries—perfect for your muffins and pies? A beautiful snow-capped Winter scene consisting of gorgeous shades of blue fabrics also comes to mind. So no matter the shade of blue, we guarantee you will become inspired and motivated to coordinate and stitch various blue fabrics in your future stunning 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 gorgeous **BLUE** fabrics at our January 10 guild meeting, at our fat quarter table.

December/January Birthdays

by Ritu Haldar

"Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus,
right down Santa Claus Lane
Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer pulling on the reins.
Bells are ringing, children singing, all is merry and bright.
So hang your stockings and say your prayers,
'cause Santa Claus is coming tonight."

Santa and his prancing reindeer are really making good time this year, traveling and bringing toys to happy youngsters all over the world. And they are also bringing yummy birthday cake and lively party favors to our lovely Feather Princesses celebrating a birthday this month and next!! Yes, my friends—it is that time again—time for birthday excitement, fun, and gaiety! And during this magical time, we will mix and mingle and have a glorious time together, as we celebrate this wonderful season of friendships, giving, joy, and love.

So, please let's take a moment to wish our beautiful Feather Princesses friends a very Happy Birthday! Our dear ones deserve a big and special birthday celebration, as we end this year and quickly start a new one, too! We wish each and every birthday Princess a fabulous year ahead!

With our glasses filled to the brim with delicious and refreshing eggnog, we extend our gift of love to you all celebrating during the month of December.

December Birthdays

Karen Benitez - 12/02
Joanne Rodriguez - 12/07
Shirley Williams - 12/13
Carol Hibbard - 12/24
Maria Nunez - 12/24
Cathy Kessler - 12/25
Michelle Barry - 12/27

January Birthdays

Barbara Belcher - 1/01
Diane Vestal - 1/04
Trudy Flynn - 1/05
Maxine DiPietro - 1/07
Cathleene Tokish - 1/20



And with our top hats (uh, tiaras) tipped to our gorgeous Feather Princesses celebrating during the month of January, we wish each and every one of you joy, peace, and happiness in the new amazing and phenomenal year ahead!

Let's Unwrap This Marvelous Gift

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Gift giving is an ancient tradition, likely to be as old as humanity itself. And to Christians, the gifts given at Christmas time are symbolic of the tributes made to the baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men, after his birth during the story of the Nativity.

In today's world, giving a gift to someone we care about allows us to communicate our feelings and appreciation for them. Also, giving gifts is a special gesture to let family and friends know that we care about them. People give gifts as a way of showing their affection, love, and thoughtfulness. And when we give gifts, it brings joy and pleasure to the recipients. In addition, giving gifts usually makes the giver feel good, too.

So, as our remarkable quilt circles celebrate Christmas this year, they give us the gift of excellence, carefully placed in a gift box enclosed in sparkling tissues, and then beautifully wrapped in gorgeous Holiday foils, adorned with a big, bright, shiny bow. This gift of excellence includes mastering creative design techniques, perfecting color coordination and fabric selection, and accomplishing supreme stitching and workmanship, to make stunning award winning quilts! It also exudes a warm and welcoming spirit, gladly greeting and receiving all of our lovely Feather Princesses and special quilting friends. This gift is an example of our love!

So, come to these amazing quilt circles during the month of December, unwrap this marvelous gift, and experience this extraordinary bequeathal of excellence. And be sure to bring a special quilting friend or a Princess Pal; and share this magnificent gift with them, too!

Here are our wonderful December quilt circles :

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Thursday, December 21, 2023

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

NOTE: *The Tuesday Sit and Stitch Circle will convene at Barnes & Noble Carrollwood on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 10 a.m.*

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Sweet Darling Quilts

26240 Wesley Chapel Boulevard

Lutz, Florida 33559

(813) 994-2994 (shop)

Friday, December 29, 2023

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter
and Cathleene Tokish

And when Christmas is over and the New Year is here we'll put away the box, wrapping, and bow; but the gift of excellence will remain in our hearts and spirits forever. We'll honor and keep the miraculous tradition of gift giving alive. We'll always welcome our beautiful Feather Princesses and other quilting friends to come and experience our love and cherished camaraderie and fellowship. And we'll commit to creating those stunning, award-winning quilts by mastering creative design techniques, perfecting color coordination and fabric selection, and accomplishing supreme stitching and workmanship.

Here are our spectacular January quilt circles:

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Thursday, January 18, 2024

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, January 23, 2024

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, January 26, 2024

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter
and Cathleene Tokish

A Really Neat Surprise for You

by Dorothy Johnson

Wishes and dreams do come true and we are so excited BECAUSE we have a really NEAT surprise in store for you! We are ecstatic to make this announcement at the Christmas time of year because it is a gift that will benefit each and everyone of us in our guild! It is a gift that we all will truly like and enjoy!

We thought of waiting until after the new year; but we just can't keep it to ourselves any longer, so we will tell you now. Feather Princesses, we have a new guild *Librarian* and we will present her to you at our December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon. She is bright, smart, and intelligent; and most of all, she is eager and ready to roll up her sleeves and start serving our guild. At our January 10 guild meeting, she will make a presentation unveiling her plans on how the library will work, review the guidelines with us, and solicit volunteers to assist her. And at our February 14 guild meeting, our library will become fully operational again. YIPPEE!

So, hold on tight and get ready to again enjoy the many volumes of delightful quilt books currently in our guild library. And please let's assist and support our new Librarian and help her make our library a whopping success in 2024!

Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group

by Roni Hunt

Our **Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group** has had a wonderful 2023. Even if you couldn't attend our group meetings, you were able to see our progress, as we showed off our stunning blocks during our exciting guild meetings. Our 2023 block winner was Princess **Betty Jo Lecaroz**. We were so happy that **Betty Jo** won the first set of stunning Baltimore Album blocks.

In September 2023, we began defining our Baltimore Album 2024 project; and we are happy to share that the project consists of stitching our individual Baltimore Album center blocks, and then adding to the center blocks to create our individual wallhangings, table toppers, or table runners.

This month, our phenomenal **Baltimore Album Quilt Group** will join our Team Legacy sisters in the **Civil War Quilt Group** to celebrate our festive Christmas Holiday Adventure on Wednesday, December 20; and we gladly welcome all of you wonderful Feather Princesses to join us! The itinerary is:

Team Legacy Christmas Holiday Adventure

We'll do some Christmas shopping (wink-wink) at:

Rainbow's End
1080 Kapp Drive
Clearwater, Florida 33765
10 a.m.

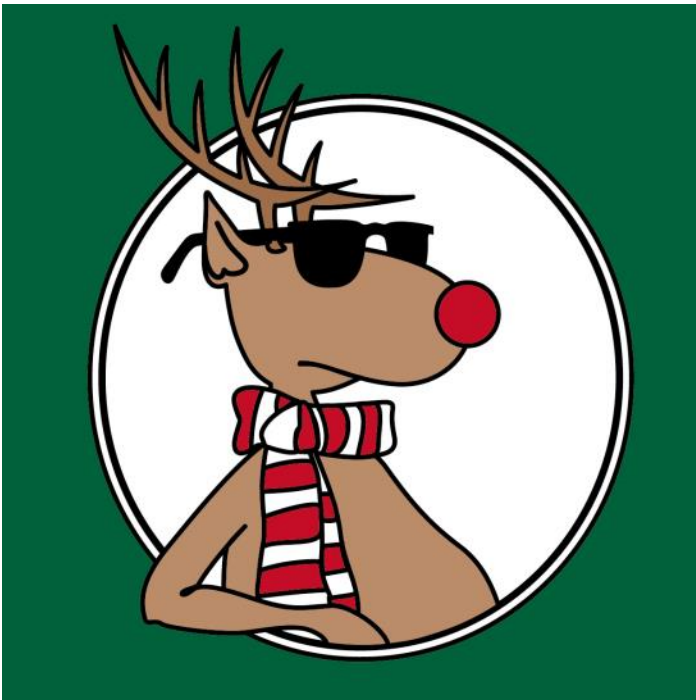
Then we'll have a delicious Holiday lunch at:

The Lucky Dill
33180 U.S. Highway 19 North
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684
11:30 a.m.

After lunch, we will conclude our exciting adventure by Christmas shopping (wink-wink) at:

MK Quilts
38565 US Highway 19 North
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

If you would like to participate in any or all of the stops along our Christmas Holiday Adventure, please contact Princess **Dorothy Johnson** via email by Wednesday, December 13, so, we can confirm our reservation head count at The Lucky Dill. We hope you all will join us at our exciting and fun-filled Christmas Holiday Adventure. You all have been so good this year, right - ha! ha!? And, Santa has already said that you may purchase whatever you want, when we go to the quilt shops! Do remember to bring your shopping list.



Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

Merry Christmas beautiful Feather Princesses! We extend our very best wishes of hope, joy, peace, and happiness to each and every one of you this Holiday season! And we hope your Christmas will be fabulous, festive, and full of joy, as you spread good cheer and celebrate with your lovely families and precious friends! We also hope you will celebrate with us at our first ever **Team Legacy Christmas Holiday Adventure!** For the details, be sure to see the article, "Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group" by Princess **Roni Hunt**, located on page 9 of this newsletter. Our Christmas Holiday Adventure will convene on Wednesday, December 20 and it will be exciting and magical, for sure. So, by Wednesday, December 13, please confirm that you will attend this gala affair, so we can include your name in the headcount at the restaurant.

When the Holidays are over and we get back to the serious business of stitching again, be sure to join us at our next inspirational **Civil War Group** meeting. The info for this group meeting is:

Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

"Light the Way" - Feather Princesses 2023 Special Christmas Block

by Maria Nunez

Throughout the year, reindeer play and frolic in the forests; but at Christmas time, they "Light the Way" as they travel with Santa to bring good tidings and joy to children all over the world. Our adorable 2023 Christmas Special Block, "Light the Way," consists of an adorable reindeer adorned with seasonal holiday flowers and more, cheerfully and energetically prancing about in the fields, in preparation for Christmas Eve. As this enchanting figure springs about, consider appliquéing him on a lovely teal background of flora, and using luscious cotton fabrics from your stashes.



If you purchased a kit, we hope you have had fun stitching this stunning block. If you are still stitching your block, please follow the easy instructions included in the kit and please use the background fabric and black fabric provided, plus quality cotton quilter's fabric from your stashes for the pattern pieces, to complete the block.

Remember to turn in your completed block to me, Princess **Maria Nunez**, by our Feather Princesses December 13 guild meeting/Christmas Luncheon, 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 mnunez7@tampabay.rr.com or 813-468-3810. Thanks so much and Merry Christmas to you one and all!



Wednesday, January 3
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 10
Feather Princesses January Guild Meeting

Wednesday, January 17
Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group Meeting

Friday, January 26
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Thursday, January 18
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Tuesday, January 23
Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Wednesday, January 24
Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

January Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

We're excited with EVERYTHING NEW—a new year, new appliqué quilt projects, new fabrics, supplies, and patterns—NEW EVERYTHING! Let's start 2024 with a clean new slate. So head to Springhill Suites and experience this new perspective on appliqué at our January guild meeting! Come in, get settled, sit back, relax and have fun as we continue saluting appliqué, sharing our knowledge and new ideas, and putting plans into place for making the most awesome appliqué quilts in 2024. Come and experience this new beginning!

When you arrive, please be sure to:

- See our Membership Chairs, Princess Betty Jo Lecaroz and B. J. Weber, to sign-in at our Welcome Table.
- 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 other 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 "Blue" 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.
- *Newsletter Chair*, Princess Michelle Barry, to place an ad in our newsletter, The Plume.
- *Sunshine/Birthday Chair*, Princess Ritu Haldar, to sign-up for the January birthday drawing.

Also:

- During Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you appliqué your stunning new appliqué quilt projects.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business.
- Next, be inspired as our Vice President, Princess Joanne Rodriguez, takes us on a journey to learn



Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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

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

other quilting methods and show how they are similar to appliqué and quilting and how to adapt these techniques in our work.

As we travel with The Feather Princesses through 2024, we will be showing a few techniques that may seem similar to each other but are also very different in their application; and Princess **Joanne** will begin by introducing us to Kawandi.

- During the break, enjoy the delicious lunch you brought from home and other delicious snacks provided by our generous Feather Princesses.
- 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.
- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting January birthday drawing and door prize drawings, as you just might be a winner.

The year 2024 is here! So, come and have a great time with us, as we create new breathtaking quilts in this New Year!

We'll see you at our January 10 guild meeting.

Our January Program - Kawandi

by Joanne Rodriguez

I love traveling and I would like to take you on a journey with me to learn other quilting methods and show how they are similar to appliqué quilting and how to adapt these techniques in our work.

As we travel with The Feather Princesses through 2024, I will be showing a few techniques that may seem similar to each other but are also very different in their application. I would like to begin by introducing you to Kawandi.

Some other methods we may learn this year which are used by different peoples from other countries include Boro, Sashiko, Mola, Pojagi, Adinkra, Amate, and Kantha. The world is the limit! I could say the sky is the limit, but I don't know of any quilt shops in space... yet! Haha!

For the January 2024 program, I will be showing you some YouTube videos pertaining to Kawandi. I would like you to bring the following items to the January guild meeting, so we can begin making a small Kawandi piece together.

Supplies needed in January:

- One piece of backing fabric 12" X 12" (press this under 1/2" all the way around the square)
- Large needle (your choice for use with four to six strands of embroidery floss or size 8 or 12 cotton floss)
- Embroidery floss or size 8 or 12 cotton floss
- Scraps of fabrics (quart or gallon size baggie is plenty)

Please find below an excerpt taken from *Dear Liza Blog, Adventures in Portland* (Author - Judy):

Kawandi quilting is from Western India and Pakistan, but it was brought there by immigrants from Africa. These Africans, called *Siddis*, introduced the kawandi quilts to India.

Kawandi are made from small pieces of fabric. They are not patchwork quilts like we make in America, but an appliqué type. Each little piece, called a *tikeli*, is sewn onto the backing fabric using long straight stitches. A layer of batting or fabric is laid in between the top and bottom layers to make the quilt thicker.

Instead of outlining each piece, you sew in straight lines, following the square shape of the backing fabric. Most people who make Kawandi start on the outside edge, so that's how I started. I looked at a few YouTube demos, and off I went.

Quilt the Rainbow - 2024 North Florida Shop Hop

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from *The Florida Register*, November - December 2023)

After the Holidays, if you're still yearning for shopping excitement, then by all means take to the road and attend the exciting 2024 North Florida Shop Hop, "Quilt the Rainbow."

It will convene Saturday, January 13 - Saturday, January 20, 2024:

- Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, January 14, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Monday, January 15 - Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Passports:

- Cost \$7 each until Sunday, December 31, 2023
- Cost \$10 each beginning Monday, January 1, 2024

The participating shops are:

- Bee's Quilt Shop & Studio - St. Augustine
- Cinnamon's Quilt Shoppe I - Jacksonville
- Cinnamon's Quilt Shoppe II - Jacksonville
- Cut Up & Sew - Palm Coast
- D & R Sewing Center - Jacksonville
- Miss D's - Palatka
- The Sew N Quilt Company - Holly Hill
- Tilted Quilters - Jacksonville

This spectacular shop hop will convene at these eight phenomenal quilt shops for eight fun-filled days. So check your GPS now and make plans to stop and shop at each and every one! Bring home more fantastic sewing goodies and start creating those award winning appliqué quilts in 2024.



We'll See You at the Fair in 2024

by Dorothy Johnson

We'll see you at the Fair in 2024. Popcorn, peanuts, soda-pop, and quilts await us! Several exciting fairs in central Florida will convene during the first quarter of this year. So for a different kind of adventure, let's get up and go to the fair. There will be all sorts of rides and exhibits—and ooh, so much to see! And if the rides do not appeal to you, the beautiful quilts will be a feast for your eyes to see—for sure! And while you are there, do not forget the corn dogs—a delicious fair staple not to be missed!

Let's put on our walking shoes—and let the prowl for food, fun, and quilts begin!

Manatee County Fair
Manatee County Fairgrounds
1303 17th Street W.
Palmetto, Florida 34221

Thursday, January 11 – Wednesday, January 24, 2024
www.manateecountyfair.com/

Florida State Fair
Florida State Fairgrounds
4800 U.S. Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33610

Thursday, February 8 – Monday, February 19, 2024
www.floridastatefair.com

Pasco County Fair
Pasco County Fairgrounds
36722 State Road 52
Dade City, Florida

Monday, February 19 – Sunday, February 25, 2024
www.pascocountyfair.com

Florida Strawberry Festival
Strawberry Festival Grounds
303 Berry Fest Place
Plant City, Florida

Thursday, February 29 – Sunday, March 10, 2024
www.flstrawberryfestival.com

Central Florida Fair
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida 32808

Thursday, February 29 – Sunday, March 10, 2024
www.centralfloridafair.com

Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair
Lee Civic Center
11831 Bayshore Road
North Fort Myers, Florida 33917
Thursday, February 29 – Sunday, March 10, 2024
www.swflcfair.com

Sumter County Fair
Sumter County Fairgrounds
7620 State Route 471
Bushnell, Florida 33513
Friday, March 1 – Saturday, March 9, 2024
www.sumterfair.net

Sarasota County Agricultural Fair
Sarasota Fairgrounds
3000 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34237
Friday, March 15 – Sunday, March 24, 2024
www.sarasotafair.com

Citrus County Fair
Citrus County Fairgrounds
3600 S. Florida Avenue
Highway 41 South
Inverness, Florida
Monday, March 25 – Sunday, March 31, 2024
www.citruscountyfair.com

Hernando County Fair
Hernando County Fairgrounds
Brooksville, Florida 34601
Friday, April 5 – Saturday, April 13, 2024
www.hernandofairgrounds.com

Join Us At a Fabric and Pattern Sale-A-Thon

by Michelle Barry

Grab your wallets, cause at our February 14, 2024 guild meeting, fabric and patterns leftover from our Quilt Show Boutique, will be up for sale.

The times for the sale will be from 9:30–11 a.m., during lunch, and after the meeting is over.

Because our February guild meeting will convene at the Carrollwood Recreation Center, we will have plenty of tables and room to display the sale items.

So, be prepared to sort through our goods and find a bargain at our February guild meeting. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Feather Princesses general operating fund.

The 2024 Winter Florida Quilt Show Season Is About to Begin

by Dorothy Johnson

Here in Florida, we quilters love oohing and aahing over stunning quilts at just about any time of year. Spring, Winter, Summer, or Fall we love seeing those gorgeous breathtaking masterpieces created by some of the most talented quilters from all over our state. And now that the 2023 Autumn Florida Quilt Season is history, many eager quilters are gearing up for the 2024 Winter Florida Quilt Show Season. It will begin in just a few weeks and we Florida quilters could not be more excited. We are getting anxious, and ready to thoroughly enjoy seeing the outstanding workmanship that is in store.

So Feather Princesses, pull out your phones and calendars, jot down the following upcoming 2024 Winter Florida quilt shows, and get ready for fun!

Quilts by the Lake Quilt Show Ladies of the Lakes Quilt Guild

First Presbyterian Church
175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Friday, January 19 – Saturday, January 20, 2024

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days
www.ladiesofthelakes.org

Market Place 2024

The One Stop Shopper's Paradise

Quilting Guild of The Villages
Rohan Recreation Center
850 Kristine Way
The Villages, Florida 32163

Friday, January 26, 2024, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

qgotvmarketplace@gmail.com

Quilting in Paradise Quilt Show

Port St. Lucie Crazy Quilters

Mid-Florida Event Center
9221 S.E. Event Center Place
Port St. Lucie, Florida

Friday, February 2 – Saturday, February 3, 2024

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

www.pslcrazyquilters.org

2024quiltinginparadise@gmail.com

10th Annual Airing of the Quilts Free Outdoor Quilt Display and Sale

Sarasota Modern Quilt Guild
Maxine Barritt Park
1800 S. Harbor Drive
Venice, Florida

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

www.SarasotaModernQuiltGuild1.com

Belleview Busy Bees Quilt Show Busy Bees Quilt Guild

Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian Church
674 Silver Road

Ocala, Florida 34472

Friday, February 9 – Saturday, February 10, 2024

The Artistry of Quilts – Quilt Show 2024

Seaside Piecemakers

Melbourne Auditorium
625 Hibiscus Avenue
Melbourne, Florida 32901

Friday, February 16 – Saturday, February 17, 2024

www.SeasidePiecemakers.com

Pocketful of Sunshine

West Pasco Quilters' Guild Inc.

New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center
6630 Van Buren Street

New Port Richey, Florida 34653

Friday, February 16 – Saturday, February 17, 2024,

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WestPascoQuilters.org

Gathering of Quilts 2024 Quilt Show

Disconnected Piecers Quilt Guild, Inc.

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street

Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Friday, February 23, 2024, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

dpqginc@gmail.com

www.dpqginc.com

All Florida Shop Hop

- Over 74 Stores
- 100s of Prizes
- Free Gift at Every Store

(continued on page 15)

(The 2024 Winter Florida Quilt Show Season Is About to Begin - continued from page 14)

March 1 – April 30, 2024

www.AllFloridaShopHop.com or

Join the Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/allfloridashophop

Original Sewing & Quilt EXPO – Lakeland 2024

RP Funding Center

701 W. Lime Street

Lakeland, Florida

Thursday, March 14 – Saturday, March 16, 2024

<https://sewingexpo.com>

Quilts From the Heart Quilt Show

St. Andrew Bay Quilter's Guild

Central Panhandle Fairgrounds

2230 15th Street

Panama City, Florida 32405

Friday, March 15 – Saturday, March 16, 2024

www.sabqg.org

Suwannee Valley Quilt Festival

Gilchrist County Chamber of Commerce

Downtown Trenton

Located Near the Historical Train Depot

7120 4th Avenue

Trenton, Florida

Saturday, March 23, 2024

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Our Art - Library Quilt Display

by Sandi Snow

The Feather Princesses have been selected by the **Art Display Committee** to showcase our art for the 2024 exhibits at Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library. The committee recognized our awesome quilts as art. The display will hang in the library during the months of May and June of 2024. Depending on the size of the quilts, we will need between 7 to 10 quilts, to fill the space.

If you would like your quilt displayed, please provide a picture along with the size of your quilt. Quilts for the display will need a 4-inch hanging sleeve; but the sleeve may be attached with temporary whip stitching.

I'm required to submit pictures by March 2024, so I need your photos by the end of February. Please send pictures and dimensions to me, Princess **Sandi Snow**, at ssnow@verizon.net. We will collect the actual quilts at our Feather Princesses April 10 guild meeting.

This is the library's way of honoring our art. I hope you will participate. Thank you.

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group

by Betty Jo Lecaroz and Jackie Tarr

Happy New Year, Feather Princesses! Our hearts are overflowing with hope and joy for a spectacular year of scrap appliqué! More diverse fabrics, unique appliqué designs, and awe-struck patterns await us! In 2024, we will have more fun than ever before, as we continue our quest—collecting and gathering gorgeous scrap fabrics and stitching them to create our stunning scrap appliqué quilts.

So, let's get started! Our first fabulous meeting of 2024 will convene just a couple days after the New Year. So, celebrate on January 1 and then pack your scrap fabrics and join us on Wednesday, January 3.

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bears Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Betty Jo Lecaroz and Jackie Tarr

As a special treat, we will start a new Modern scrap appliqué quilt project in 2024, very similar to the adorable pattern, "Gossip in the Garden," by Hatched and Patched. Our stunning group quilt will consist of blocks in multiple sizes, appliquéd on a light background with fabrics bursting in shades of Spring. It's going to be absolutely lovely! And when all of the blocks are complete, we will have a drawing, and one lucky Feather Princess will win the blocks, to assemble into a quilt.

To get the details about this phenomenal new **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** project, attend our awesome meeting on Wednesday, January 3! Also remember to bring your Spring and Summer scrap fabrics. And remember to bring a special friend and introduce her to the exciting world of scrap appliqué quilts, too!

