



The Plume

October 2023
Volume 19, Issue

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

Our recently held End of Summer Block Party was a smashing success; and we thoroughly enjoyed the company of our lovely Feather Princesses who attended. The fantastic fellowship was awesome and the cherished camaraderie was awe-inspiring and marvelous. We didn't dip our toes in the sand at the beach; but we did gather with our fabulous appliqué friends; and we stitched the day away. The time flew by quickly as we chatted, laughed, and stitched our individual appliqué quilt projects and gift items for our upcoming sale as well. And the delicious goodies and snacks were delightful, too—tasty breads, cookies, candy, fruit, salads, snacks, the best ever Cuban-styled pork, and more! (Our handsome Prince, Mr. Nick Benitez, really knows how to cook that pork. Thank you, Nick and Princess Karen!) It was another fun-filled Feather Princesses party; and as always, it was so nice—and so much fun—to gather with our beautiful appliqué friends!

One highlight of the day was an amusing Word Scramble game we played, where we unscrambled the letters of sewing/quilt related words. And the theme for the particular words we unscrambled was "Places Where Quilters Hide Their Fabric Stashes." Talk about FUN! There were letters (that made up various words where quilters hide their fabric stashes) to unscramble such as the car, dresser drawers, bedroom closets, bathroom closets, and the garage to name a few! It was a fun game; and you could hear a pin drop as the Princesses focused intensely on unscrambling each and every word. And we're happy to report that Princesses **Karen Benitez** and **Joanne Rodriguez** won the game—both tying by unscrambling 27 words. Congratulations **Karen** and **Joanne**!

When the party ended and the day was done, precious memories of the magnificent time with the Princesses consumed my thoughts, particularly the Word Scramble game. It made me think why in the world do we quilters buy fabric and then hide it? It made me realize now that Autumn is here, we should not hide or store our fabrics for later; BUT, rather we should pull them out and enjoy them now more than ever before. We all adore the radiant shades of orange, gold, and red this time of year; but each and every color of fabric has a place and a purpose in our quilting. So there really is no reason to hide or store it. With that said, Princesses let's go to our cabinets, closets, and drawers, and take out our gorgeous fabrics, enjoy, and

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October Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

The leaves are falling, the days are getting shorter, and the temperatures are just a tad bit cooler. By golly, Autumn is here! So, come and celebrate appliqué and this long awaited and cherished season with us and enjoy our exciting October guild meeting. Come in, get settled, sit back, and relax because it's going to be an awesome Autumn celebration!

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**, provide your emergency contact information, and pick up your new 2023-2024 *Membership Directory*.
- 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 "Orange, Green, and Brown" 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*.
- *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Karen Benitez**, to ask questions about our upcoming Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat.
- *Sunshine/Birthday Chair*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to sign-up for the October birthday drawing.

Also:

- During Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you appliqué your stunning Autumn quilt projects.



October 11, 2023

Spring Hill 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.
- Autumn Splendor Challenge Quilt Check-In begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 10 a.m.
- Autumn Splendor Challenge Voting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m.
- Retreat Meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the hotel lobby
- Guild Meeting begins at 11 a.m.

- From 9 a.m. – 10 a.m., see our *Vice President*, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, to check-in your Autumn Splendor Challenge quilts.
- From 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., see the quilts and then vote for your favorite quilt and wallhanging.
- At 10 a.m., attend our 2023 Retreat meeting with our *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Karen Benitez**, in the hotel lobby, to get the last minute details of our upcoming Retreat.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business.
- Next, be inspired with a continuation of the informative program we began at our September guild meeting, "Live on the Edge," presented by Princesses **Joanne Rodriguez** and **Dorothy Johnson**.
 - We will look at more fabric samples used for wavy and scalloped appliqué borders; and we will see more pictures of quilts with these intricate borders as well.
 - Also, we will also peep at a likely Autumn character, the beloved scarecrow, to get you in the Autumn harvest spirit!
- During the break, enjoy the delicious lunch or snack you brought from home.
- 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.

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(President's Message - continued from page 1)

embrace them. Let's find the appropriate appliqué patterns, mark and cut the gorgeous fabrics we've been hiding, and let the appliqué and stitching begin! With the holidays on the horizon, there are stunning appliqué quilt projects to complete and countless lovely gift items to make. So, Princesses let's get going, get our fabrics out of hiding, and appliqué some quilts.

And speaking of getting going, 26 beautiful Feather Princesses and friends will go to Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center on October 26 – October 30, for our annual Feather Princesses Retreat. Our prolific *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Karen Benitez**, has done an outstanding job coordinating and planning our retreat this year; and it promises to be one of the best we have ever had. So, we sincerely thank you, Karen, and our amazing Princesses, for supporting this spectacular guild event.

Autumn is the most spectacular time of the year for gathering with family and friends. So, dear Feather Princesses, be sure to enjoy it! Princesses **Joanne, Ritu, Michelle**, and I promise not to hide our fabrics and we look forward to having fun with you this coming Wednesday at our October guild meeting. We'll see you there!



(October Guild Meeting—continued from page 2)

- Sit on the edge of your seats, as our *Vice President*, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, presents the Autumn Splendor Challenge quilt entries. Enjoy the presentation as the maker of each quilt and wallhanging shares their motivation for making the quilts; and then cheer for the winners when **Joanne** announces their names and presents the ribbons.
- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting October birthday drawing and door prize drawings, as you just might be a winner.

Anne of Green Gables once said, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." And you know what Princesses, so are we! Fabulous Feather Princesses, our favorite time of year is here! So, come and have the most FUN and the very BEST time ever at this fantastic Autumn celebration. We'll see you this coming Wednesday!

October Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brittanyanas/2023/08/31/use-the-fall-foliage-2023-prediction-map-to-plan-your-leaf-peeping-trip/?sh=71eabee4265> and <https://hyggeinspired.com/2020/10/07/leaf-peeping-101-tips-for-experiencing-the-beauty-of-fall/>)

Do you smell that luscious aroma of pumpkin spice in the air? If you do, it signals that Autumn is here. And, whether you bake yummy pumpkin-flavored cookies, take a trip to the pumpkin patch, or sip that delightful pumpkin spice latte, it's time to celebrate the season. It's time to enjoy the Fall festivities. So, just how will you commemorate the glorious season this year?

Right now many areas of our country are ablaze with color. From the Carolinas, to New England, to the Pacific Northwest leaves are changing colors, falling from the trees, and displaying the most magnificent performance of Mother Nature's finest work. Leaf-peepers travel from near and far to gaze and stare at these famous Autumn color palettes that paint the trees in brilliant shades of the many radiant Autumn colors. What a marvelous sight for the eyes to behold?

If you plan to travel to see the change of leaves this year, then chop-chop, and get going. Remember to do your research to figure out exactly where you want to go, check the weather predictions and reports, bring your camera along, dress comfortably, don't forget your bottled water and snacks, and then have the best, most invigorating time ever. Enjoy the time and savor every single moment of nature at its best! If you're staying close to home and stitching this Fall, you can still enjoy nature at its best by making an Autumn-themed quilt. Just imagine using the radiant and colorful fabrics to create the different Autumn appliqué scenes—a pumpkin stand, outdoor camping and fishing, or just plain old relaxing on the front porch.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for October is "**Orange, Green, and Brown.**" So, now is the time to select those radiant **Orange, Green, and Brown** fabrics from your stashes, and then bring them to our October 11 guild meeting; and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Win some of these sumptuous fat quarters; and then enjoy every single moment as you create your stunning new Autumn-themed appliqué quilts. Play with these fabrics and have a great time, using these magnificent colors!

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 "**Orange, Green, and Brown**" fabrics this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.

October Program: "Live on the Edge" Continued

by Joanne Rodríguez and Dorothy Johnson
(Excerpt taken from <https://www.thefactsite.com/facts-about-scarecrows/>)

We are excited as can be, as we continue the informative program we began at our September guild meeting, "Live on the Edge." We will look at more quilts with different kinds of appliqué borders that are not straight, fabric samples used for wavy and scalloped appliqué borders; and we will show more pictures of quilts with these intricate borders as well.

And although October is here, we won't take a trip to the pumpkin patch just yet. But we will inspire you to embrace the Autumn harvest spirit by exploring the likes of a seasonal figure and fun character, the "scarecrow." Did you know that scarecrows:

- Were originally made to do exactly what their name suggests: scare off crows and other birds that might ruin the farmers' crops.
- Have been around longer than you might think—the first scarecrows known to history were made about 3,000 years ago!
- Were first made by the Egyptians to protect their wheat fields, especially along the Nile River.

Well now these adorable (but sometimes scary) characters are showing up in our quilts. So, we will explore how these Fall symbols are stitched in our quilts—how they are appliqué—their stringy golden hair, happy cheerful faces, and clothing—denim overalls, floral, plaid, and patchwork shirts, and heavy black boots.

You do not have to bring any sewing/quilting supplies to the meeting for this program; but you may bring a pad and pencil to take notes, if you like.

Also, if you stitched a wavy border using the sample fabrics we distributed at our September guild meeting, please bring them to our October 11 meeting to share with us. And, if you have a quilt with wavy or scalloped borders, please bring it too.



Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



Hello Dear Ones! Fall has arrived. My absolute favorite time of year. For those of us who are a bit under the weather, please know that you are loved and cared for as you recuperate.

Cooler temperatures, hopefully, will have you feeling more comfortable and on your way to healing. Know that we are here for you and waiting to have you back at the table. We're sending love and healing vibes to each and everyone! We're sending love throughout the guild!

Precious Feather Princesses, we hope to see you at the meeting!

- Dee Anderson
- Shirley Kasprzyk
- Janet Kiene
- Terry Montaldo
- Maria Nunez
- Pat Yucatonis

October Community Service Project

by Shirley Williams

Ghosts and goblins are the stars this month; and Trick or Treating is a BLAST! But, with inflation at an all-time record high, more and more families are struggling and are unable to feed their loved ones. So, feeding the less fortunate and hungry people in our local communities is a top priority now more than ever before. And during this season of abundance and gratitude, ensuring that no one goes hungry is of utmost importance. So, wonderful Feather Princesses, let's step up to the plate, share food from our cupboards and cash from our pockets, to ensure that the less fortunate people have food to feed their families this month.

At our October 11 guild meeting, I will announce the name of the charity our donations will go to this month and the name of the Feather Princess who will deliver them.

We thank you for expressing your love and support, and for bringing your donations to our October 11 guild meeting, to ensure that the less fortunate people in our communities do not go hungry. We are so grateful to you for caring and for sharing!

Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk

(Excerpt taken from https://www.calendardate.com/columbus_day_2023.htm and <https://www.google.com/search>)

When someone makes a discovery, they become aware of something that they did not know about before. A discovery can also be recognizing something that already exists, that nobody has found before, for example how Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas. School children of all ages have studied and learned about this great discovery that Columbus made; and Columbus Day is now commemorated on the second Monday of October each year; and it marks the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival to America on October 12, 1492. He was an Italian explorer who took three ships - the Santa Maria, Nina, and La Pinta and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean looking for a faster way to get to the Far East; and by accident he landed in the New World. On Monday, October 9, 2023, here in America, we will commemorate the day that Columbus discovered America.



Here in the Feather Princesses, we also have made some rather amazing discoveries as well. First of all, we learned and became aware of just how significant the beautiful Healing Heart blocks are that we make and what a vital role they play in the healing process of our precious members. 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 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.

Secondly, we discovered that making the Healing Heart blocks using the colors the recipients like will make them happy and feel good. So, we select gorgeous fabrics to make the blocks, based on the recipients' color preferences. We discovered that their color preferences are calming, lift their spirits, sooth their moods, boost their creative energy, and get them through the challenges they encounter in life.

Princesses currently receiving the Healing Heart blocks:

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

You may mail your completed Healing Heart blocks directly to the recipients or bring them to our October 11 guild meeting and turn them in to me, Princess Shirley Kasprzyk; and I will give them to the recipients.

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.



Tool Time

by Roni Hunt

Here we are, Princesses. It's the last quarter of 2023 and Autumn time in Florida. We may have a change of season according to our calendar, but not according to our weather. It's ok though, because that's why we live in Florida.



Preparing projects is a tool I never used until a friend showed me how she had "Projects-in-Waiting." And as Princesses, we should practice having PIW. It is the regal way. At our October 11 guild meeting, we will address this tool. Please don't hesitate to share your best practices in prepping a project for the long haul or perhaps a quick sew for 10-15 minutes. By having a PIW, you will see how easy it is to have projects FALL into place and ready for your needles.

I look forward to seeing you all at our October guild meeting. Don't forget to share any tools, thoughts, and ideas you have, to help us all in our quilting journey!



by Ritu Haldar

Fall has officially arrived! The air is crisp, the heat has ebbed; and we can enjoy our pumpkin spice lattes. October also brings ghosts and goblins, haunted houses, and fun-filled opportunities for Trick or Treat. And it is a wonderful time to enjoy the gorgeous Fall colors, quilts in the parks under palm trees, wonderful craft fairs, and our Fabulous Feather Princesses Retreat.

So, pull out that Fall-themed quilt from the closet and submit it in our guild's annual Autumn quilt display and contest, "Autumn Splendor Challenge." Most importantly, call your October birthday friends and spread the love. With the arrival of Fall, radiant outburst of nature, and pretty quilts, let's wish "Happy Birthday" to our special friends who have a birthday this month!

Happy Birthday wishes to our awesome appliqué sisters!

Linda Simmons - 10/7

Karen P. Hamilton - 10/11

Deborah Jaffe - 10/26

Linda Rhodes - 10/26

Linda Pazdzinski - 10/28



A Tremendous Opportunity - A Display of Our Breathtaking Quilts

by Dorothy Johnson

It helps to know people in high places, right? That is what the old adage says, anyway. Well, we can honestly say that it helps to know the wonderful librarians at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, because they have granted us the tremendous opportunity to display our breathtaking quilts on the walls of their Art Gallery, commonly known as the "Gallery @ 2902." They have invited us to showcase our stunning quilts for all to see, during the months of May and June, 2024. And by displaying our quilts, the general public will get to see and get to know who we are, and find out what our illustrious and prolific guild is all about.

And to put the frosting on the cake, our very gifted and talented member, Princess **Sandi Snow**, will coordinate the hanging of the quilts for us. **Sandi** has already met with the librarian in charge of the gallery displays; and **Sandi** has already started planning our display, to ensure that our quilts hang properly and look good. After the new year, **Sandi** will meet with us and share more detailed information regarding our display, so we will be ready to showcase our quilts on May 1.

We are extremely grateful to the Jimmie B. Keel Library Staff for granting this amazing opportunity to us; and we are thankful to **Sandi** for leading this effort for our guild. In the meantime, start looking at your quilts and figuring out if you have one you'd like to consider including in the display.

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.

Our Exciting 2023 Autumn Splendor Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson and Joanne Rodriguez



Here in the Feather Princesses, one of our most anticipated activities of the year is our very popular Autumn Splendor Challenge. For the past several months, our very talented members put their outstanding appliqué and quilting skills to the test, as they created some of the

most gorgeous Fall quilts and wallhangings ever. So our patience swung into gear, we quietly waited for October to come, so we could see the spellbinding quilts our gifted members had made. And now the time is here – our patience paid off!

As the old adage goes, "Patience is a Virtue;" and WOW, this is so true! This implies the ability to wait for something without frustration. Patience is a useful skill and a good indicator of a person's personality. So, Feather Princesses, we have certainly been patient the past several months and we waited, as our very talented members created their stunning quilts and wallhangings to enter in our phenomenal Autumn Splendor Challenge. And now that the wait is over, it's time for us to see some breathtaking Fall-themed appliqué quilts.

So everyone, be sure to attend our spectacular October 11 guild meeting and bring your Autumn Splendor quilts and wallhangings for all to see. And please remember that:

- Upon arriving at the meeting, each Feather Princesses member or guest will receive a voting ballot
- The Autumn Splendor Challenge Quilt Check-In begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 10 a.m.
- The Autumn Splendor Challenge Voting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m.
 - Feather Princesses members and guests will vote for their favorite quilt and wallhanging
 - Voting ballots will be tabulated during the lunch break
- After lunch at the designated time:
 - The maker of each quilt and wallhanging will present their quilt and tell about it.
 - Guild Photographer, Princess Beverly Abenante, will take pictures of each presenter and their challenge entry, as they tell about their quilt.
 - *Vice President*, Princess **Joanne Rodriguez**, will announce the winners, and present the ribbons and prizes.
 - *Guild Photographer*, Princess **Beverly Abenante**, will take pictures of the Autumn Splendor Challenge winners and their quilts.

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! For the complete list of guidelines, please see our website at www.featherprincesses.org.

Amid the Busyness

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breast_Cancer_Awareness_Month and <https://www.komen.org/about-komen/our-impact/breast-cancer/breast-cancer-awareness-month/>)

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM), also referred to in the United States as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure. And a variety of events around the world are organized in October, including walks, runs, and the pink illumination of landmark buildings.



So, Feather Princesses, amid the busyness of our every day lives—and our appliqué, let's make it a priority to take

care of ourselves. Understand the warning signs of breast cancer, risks of breast cancer, and what's normal for you, so you can take action if there are any changes in your breasts or underarm areas. It is vitally important to:

- Know your risks
- Get screened
- Know your normal
- Make healthy life-style changes
- Take action
- Seek help

Let's become more educated about this disease and take care of ourselves, so we can take the necessary steps to live happy and healthy lives, AND so we can come together at our quilt circles to appliqué!

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Our Fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat

by Karen Benitez

Hello ravishing Retreat Feather Princesses! We have just a couple of more short weeks until our fabulous 2023 Retreat convenes. Have you packed yet? If not, maybe you should start right now. We will have one more brief retreat meeting on Wednesday, October 11, at 10 a.m., in the hotel lobby, just before our exciting guild meeting begins. We hope to see everyone there!

In the meantime, as always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know! We want to ensure that you have all of the information you need, to successfully enjoy our Fabulous Feather Princesses 2023 Retreat! It's going to be a BLAST!

2024 Paducah Quilt Week Entry Deadline Quickly Approaching

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.americanquilter.com/aqs-quilt-contests#important-dates> and <https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/event/homepage>)

Talented Feather Princesses, once again it's time to compete with other gifted quilters from all over the world. The Granddaddy Quilt Show of Them All, the AQS Paducah Quilt Week, will convene in just six months from now. So, it's time to enter your striking quilts into this show, as the deadline is coming up soon, on Thursday, November 9.

The quilt show info is:

2024 AQS Paducah Quilt Week
Schroeder Expo Center
415 Park Street
Paducah, Kentucky

Wednesday, April 24 – Saturday, April 27, 2024

So chop-chop, Ladies! Make the final stitches on your quilts and enter them today! As always, it will be a fabulous show, so make sure that your award-winning quilt is displayed in it. And enjoy the semi-finalist and award-winning quilts, special quilt exhibits from around the world, workshops and lectures with the best instructors, and a huge vendor Merchant Mall, too.

To see the *Quilt Show Contest Rules*, complete guidelines, and other quilt show info, go to: <https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests/>.



October Calendar

Wednesday, October 4

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 11

Feather Princesses October Guild Meeting
Autumn Splendor Challenge

Tuesday, October 17

Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 18

Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, October 19

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, October 20

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Monday, October 23

Volunteer Fabric Pricing Day

Tuesday, October 24

Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Thursday, October 26 thru

Monday, October 30

FP 2023 Retreat

Friday, October 27

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle



Fabric Pricing Volunteers Needed for Donated Fabric

Submitted by Michelle Barry

With all the fabric that was generously donated after our February quilt show, the *Ways and Means Committee* needs some volunteers to help us measure and price that fabric so we can get ready for our public sale. The job includes measuring the fabric pieces and attaching a price tag. There will be a pricing list to follow, based on the measurement.

We do have a good amount of fabric that needs pricing—from cottons to batiks, homespun, felt, fleece, and flannel; and here's the info:

Volunteer Fabric Pricing Day
Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bears Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Monday, October 23, 2023
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Joanne Rodriguez
and Michelle Barry

Please bring a measuring tape and stapler. We will supply the pricing tags. We hope to see some familiar faces helping the guild with this project.

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

by Maria Nunez (Excerpt taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus%27s_reindeer#:~:text=In%20traditional%20festive%20legend%20and,to%20children%20on%20Christmas%20Eve.)

In traditional festive legend and popular culture, Santa Claus's reindeer are said to pull a sleigh through the night sky to help Santa Claus deliver gifts to children on Christmas Eve.



The number of reindeer characters, and the names given to them vary in different versions, but those frequently cited in the United States and Canada are the eight listed in Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," the work that is largely responsible for the reindeer becoming popularly known.

In the original poem, the names of the reindeer are given as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. The popularity of Robert L. May's 1939 storybook, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and Gene Autry's 1949 Christmas song, "Rudolph the Red" resulted in Rudolph often being included as the ninth character. Many other variations in reindeer names and number have appeared in fiction, music, film and TV.

Throughout the year, the 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 Special Christmas Block kit, "Light the Way," consists of an adorable reindeer adorned with seasonal holiday flowers and more, cheerfully and energetically moving about in the fields, in preparation for Christmas Eve. As this enchanting figure prances about, consider appliquéing him on a lovely teal background of flora, and using luscious cotton fabrics from your stashes. The kits are available for \$2 each (cash only please); and you may see me to purchase a kit at our exciting October 11 guild meeting.

We hope you will have fun as you follow the easy instructions included in the kit, and stitch this stunning block. To make the block, please use the background fabric provided, plus 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!

"Light the Way" - Our December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon

by Dorothy Johnson

What cherished memories we make when we spend special times with our lovely families and friends at Christmas? They are precious moments indeed that we esteem, treasure, and hold on to. They are wonderful times that we hold dear to our hearts and remember forever. Well, get ready to experience these times at our upcoming December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon, "Light the Way." Come and bask in the magnificent joy and love of Christmas, and the exceptional warmth and happiness of the Feather Princesses. Come and have the best time ever, as you savor the marvelous spirit of Christmas. The info for this gala event is:



Feather Princesses 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.

I think we all agree that "the clock" is ticking faster than ever before. The days really are flying by. Lately it seems we've spent the bulk of our time turning the pages on our calendars. But amid the busyness, let's slow down and take some time to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year—let's "Light the Way" and celebrate Christmas!

Help us round out what has been one of our busiest years ever here in the Feather Princesses. Let's give our needles (and our fingers) a break and have some marvelous fun. So, gather with us at our exciting December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon to celebrate! The atmosphere will be electrically charged, our spirits will be high, and special fun, gifts, goodies, and prizes will be in store.

It will be fabulous and it will be fun and memorable, too! Merry Christmas to you all!

The Autumn Florida Quilt Show Season

by Dorothy Johnson

The Autumn Florida Quilt Show Season is here; and WOW, does it boasts a spectacular list of amazing quilt shows in our state or what? From all points here in Central Florida, outstanding quilt shows will convene in October and November. So, get ready to have some fantastic fun! Get ready to feast your eyes on some of the most gorgeous quilts ever, created in all styles of quilting, and incorporating all types of quilting techniques. Attending these remarkable shows and seeing the stellar quilted artistry of other gifted and talented quilters is an awesome opportunity for us Feather Princesses to become more enlightened and inspired with our own quiltmaking!

So Feather Princesses, let's enjoy the spectacular explosion of color this Autumn season, not only with the leaves falling from the trees, but with the surge of brilliant and striking quilts made by our accomplished quilting sisters in other admired and illustrious quilt guilds. Let's attend the following quilt shows and support them. Let's have the most fun ever in Clearwater, Spring Hill, Ocala, and Leesburg! Let's go, meet other quilters, and make new quilting friends!

"Quilting Under the Palms Quilt Show"

Quilters Crossing Quilt Guild

Countryside Recreation Center

2640 Sabal Springs Drive

Clearwater, Florida

Friday, October 20, 2023, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

"Quilt Exhibit & Craft Show 2023"

Hernando Quilters' Guild

St. Joan of Arc Church – Parish Hall

13485 Spring Hill Drive

Spring Hill, Florida 34609

Friday, November 3, 2023, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

www.hernandoquiltersguild.com

"2023 Quilt Show"

Country Road Quilters of Ocala"

Circle Square Cultural Center

8305 S.W. 80th Street

Ocala, Florida 34481

Friday, November 3 – Saturday, November 4, 2023

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days

"40th Annual FANtastic Quilt Show"

Lake County Quilters Guild of Florida

The Venetian Center

1 Dozier Circle

Leesburg, Florida 34748

Friday, November 10 – Saturday, November 11, 2023

lakequiltguild.com

Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

by Cheryl Haynes

You name it, and we're stitching it here in our terrific Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle. We're appliquéing and having more fun than is allowed, on the fourth Tuesday of each month; and we sincerely welcome you to come and join us. We're appliquéing our own individual quilt projects, Healing Heart blocks, Special blocks, group quilt blocks, and more—in cotton and wool fabrics, too. There is something for every single Feather Princess to discover, learn, and stitch here in our amazing group. So come and join us at our next sensational circle.

NOTE: Our next Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle will convene at Barnes & Noble Carrollwood, on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Barnes & Noble Carrollwood

11802 North Dale Mabry Highway

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 962-6446 (store)

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Cheryl Haynes

The cooler, shorter Autumn days are just perfect for stitching, exchanging quilt info and ideas, sharing techniques, and having FUN with friends. It's the perfect ticket for a perfect day! Come and stitch with us on October 24 and enjoy this special treat of appliqué and friendship. We guarantee, it will be sweet—there will not be any tricks!

Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group

by Barbara Belcher and Winnie Miale

Welcome, Feather Princesses to our exciting **Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group**! We are thrilled to serve as the leaders of this dynamic group and we are anxiously looking forward to stitching with you. So, let's not waste a minute. Let's get on the bandwagon and start stitching! Our next inspirational group meeting will be held:

Crazy Wool Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Starkey Ranch Theatre Library Cultural Center

12118 Lake Blanche Drive
Odessa, Florida 33556
(727) 815-7126 (library)
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Barbara Belcher
and Winnie Miale

At this fun-filled meeting, we will pick up where we left off a few months ago, when we last met. So, bring your wool and/or cotton appliqué quilt projects to stitch. And with Autumn being here, don't forget your delightful Fall-themed quilt projects as well—acorns, leaves, pumpkins, and more. We will have a delightful time of appliqué and fellowship, stitching these wonderful seasonal treats!

Also, we'll take some time to discuss the future direction of our diverse group. We'll talk about the kinds of appliqué projects we want to focus on and stitch in the future, and the unfamiliar techniques we still want to learn. We'll also figure out how often we want our group to meet and where, beginning in the new year. And we'll put our heads together to decide how we will celebrate Christmas—a luncheon, ornament or gift exchange, or whatever.

So, mark your calendars now, and then join us on Tuesday, October 17. We already know we will have a swell time stitching with you!



Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

We are busy little “soldiers” here in our **Civil War Quilt Group**. Some of our talented Princesses are working on their stunning Dear Jane and Dear Hannah Quilts, while others are making beautiful blocks for our impressive group project, the Circuit Rider Quilt. And the best part is that we're learning and having fun all along the way; and we welcome you to come and join us. The info for our next 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 (library)

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Of course, you may commence stitching the blocks for your Dear Jane and Dear Hannah quilts at any time that you like and stitch at your own pace, too—there is no deadline. And you may attend our next Civil War Group meeting convening on October 18, to get the fabrics to make a block or two for the Circuit Rider Quilt, if you like. The completed blocks are due at our February 18, 2024 **Civil War Quilt Group** meeting, where the drawing will be held. Each Princess's name will be entered in the drawing for each block they complete and turn in. (For example, if you completely appliqué two blocks and turn them in by February 18, then your name will be entered in the drawing twice.) And after the drawing, we will award the gorgeous appliquéd blocks to one very lucky winner.

Civil War Quilts will always be the premise for our prolific group; and we will continue studying and focusing on them. However to add more interest to our journey, going forward, we will delve into the history and examine other types of patriotic quilts as well—quilts from other wars, such as World War I and World War II, and quilts that commemorate our patriotic holidays—Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day! So stay tuned to our channel, attend our Civil War Group meetings, and learn what these other patriotic quilts look like and what they're all about. In fact, let's make some of these!

Thanks so much. We'll see you on Wednesday, October 18!

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group

by Ritu Haldar

Aloha friends!

It's almost time for our quarterly **Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting. WOO HOO! It will convene:

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Friday, October 20, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Ritu Haldar

Please bring the following items to this meeting:

- Your red-on-white Hawaiian appliqué block you are working on
- Any ideas for layout and borders
- One red and one white 6" x width of fabric, washed and prepared for borders (We can begin envisioning the layout.)

PLEASE NOTE: *batiks or cotton fabrics will be accepted*

- Portable Appliqué Sewing Kit
 - needles
 - threads
 - scissors for cutting fabric
 - scissors for cutting paper
 - basting thread or glue
 - Your favorite Hawaiian appliqué pattern, any size
 - Lunch
 - Sweater

I am so looking forward to meeting again, as we will be ready to have tons of fun stitching, not to mention designing our beautiful quilt together!

We'll see you at this marvelous meeting on Friday, October 20!

And if you have questions, do not hesitate to let me know. You may contact me at any time; and I will be happy to assist you!



Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group

by Betty Jo Lecaroz and Jackie Tarr

Oh, what a grand time we have at our remarkable **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** meetings, as there is not a month that goes by that our ingenious Feather Princesses don't find just the perfect scrap pieces of fabric they need and have been looking for. It is utterly amazing how that happens! (Seek and ye shall find, right?) So as we meet each month, we continue collecting and exchanging fabrics, and creating our lovely scrap quilts.

So, make plans now to attend our next exciting **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting. Have a BLAST passing out candy to the cute little Trick or Treaters on Halloween, and then have a tremendous start to November by appliquéing with us on the first day of the month!

November Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Betty Jo Lecaroz and Jackie Tarr

At our November 1 meeting, we will:

- Continue exchanging beautiful scraps of radiant Autumn fabrics. So, if you have Fall fabric scraps to share, please be sure to bring them.
- Start exchanging gorgeous Holiday fabrics. With Christmas just around the corner (two months away), it's time to gather scrap fabrics for those gorgeous scrap Christmas quilts and gifts.
- Look at Autumn and Christmas-themed appliqué patterns that lend themselves to scrap fabric quilt designs. So, if you have some of these patterns, please bring them as well.
- Study and become inspired with ready made Fall and Christmas scrap appliqué quilts. Please bring any that you have for Show N Tell.

Stitching Autumn and Christmas-themed scrap quilts is absolutely fantastic; and we can't think of anything that we would rather do. So ENJOY Halloween and then come, play, and have fun with us on Wednesday, November 1, at our phenomenal **Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group** meeting. And remember to bring your lunch and a sweater or jacket, too!

What to Do With Ugly Fabrics

submitted by Dorothy Johnson

(This entire article is from a Quilting Daily email ("Even Ugly Fabric Has Its Use") received on Monday, September 11, 2023.)

MONDAY MUSINGS: BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Do you have fabric in your stash that makes you question your past choices? Well, don't worry — there's no need to toss out those less-than-lovely fabrics — discover 11 creative ways to make the most of them! From binding or backing to testing new free-motion designs, there's tons of ways you can put your questionable pieces of fabric to good use.

WHAT TO DO WITH UGLY FABRIC: 11 WAYS TO EMBRACE THE QUIRK BY EILEEN FOWLER

We've all done it. Among our colorful stash of fabrics, we've managed to collect some less-than-lovely prints that make us scratch our heads and wonder, "What was I thinking?" And now you're sitting there wondering what to do with ugly fabric other than throw it out. But fear not, fellow quilting enthusiasts—those unsightly prints can still be useful! So let's dive headfirst into the world of ugly quilting fabrics with 11 ingenious ways to use them.

1. **Cut into Tiny Patches:** As many successful designers know, if your fabric patch is ugly, you just haven't cut it small enough. Petite patchwork, teeny appliqué bits, or tiny paper foundation-pieced sections are perfect hiding places. Or why not apply fusible web to those prints and cut them into small fragments you can fuse to a background for confetti blocks?

These Four-Patches use 1½" squares of funky fabric swatches from the 90s. In my Picking Up the Pieces quilt, the ugly vanishes.

2. **Piece a Scrappy Utility Quilt:** You might not want to take your quilted masterpiece outside for a picnic or concert. But a utility quilt constructed from ugly prints and leftover scraps may be just the ticket. Cutting uniform patch sizes will make it quicker and easier to stitch everything together into a useful throw.

Ugly fabrics and scraps can play together for an awesome quilt made especially for the great outdoors.

3. **Make Leaders and Enders:** While stitching up other projects, save thread and protect your patchwork from getting chewed up in your machine by starting and ending your stitching with ugly fabric leaders and enders. Keep ugly patches next to your machine for leaders and enders.

4. **Explore Crazy Quilting:** Embrace the chaos by combining mismatched fabrics, odd shapes, and decorative stitches for a wonderfully eclectic and textured quilt or colorful crumb blocks.

Less-than-lovely prints are barely noticeable in my crumb blocks.

5. **Fussy-Cut Appliqué or Patches:** Fussy cut those prints to create a whimsical scene. Cut out showy floral motifs for a fancy collage. Or add kooky novelty patches to an "I-Spy" quilt.

What could be more fun than fussy-cutting your collection of crazy novelty prints for a whimsical "I-Spy" quilt?

6. **Hide in the Background:** Can you hide the ugly? That stand-alone fabric might make an ideal background if you can cover the more unsightly parts with appliqué or embellishments.

A fat quarter bundle might come with a print or two you won't like. To make one batik less distracting, I appliquéd geckos over the worse parts.

7. **Use for Binding, Backing, or Hanging Sleeve:** Use an unsightly print to add a surprising element to a binding or in an otherwise hidden part.

Another unfavorite fabric made it into the backing of my gecko quilt. The leftover background batik was perfect for a hanging sleeve.

8. **Create Modern/Abstract Designs:** Embrace the unconventional by cutting ugly colors or prints into bold lines, geometric shapes, or unexpected accents for a modern or abstract art quilt.

Since I'm not a big fan of orange, I rarely add it to my stash. But this design wasn't nearly as dynamic before I added narrow strips of a fiery orange.

9. **Practice Free Motion Quilting:** Turn that garish print into a quilt sandwich to practice your free motion quilting. Quilting around printed motifs will help build your free motion skills.

The color combination in this print hurts my eyes—but it was the perfect print to play with free-motion quilting.

10. **Testing a New Technique:** New to joining pieces with curves? Unsure of patch sizes for foundation piecing? Practice and test your skills with your ugly fabric stash.

(continued page 14)

(What to Do With Ugly Fabrics - continued from page 13)

I could see more curved piecing practice was necessary before proceeding with my New York Beauty design.

- Organize an Ugly Fabric Swap:** An ugly fabric swap can be a fun and creative way to spend time with friends while repurposing what might otherwise go to waste. Make the event even more exciting by holding an Ugly Fabric Contest and encouraging everyone to vote for their favorite ugly fabric.

And the winner is?

GO GET TO QUILTING

Now you know exactly what to do with ugly fabric! So, the next time you find yourself face-to-face with a less-than-appealing print in your fabric stash, remember this: Beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder, and creativity knows no bounds. Don't shy away from unconventional prints or odd-colored fabrics; instead, put them to good use or harness their potential to add character and depth to your projects. Even the ugliest can be transformed into something extraordinary in the hands of a determined and imaginative quilter. Explore all the possibilities.

(Amid the Busyness - continued from page 7)

NOTE: The Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle will convene at Barnes & Noble Carrollwood on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 10 a.m.

We'll see you this month at the following quilt circles:

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
 2902 W. Bearss Avenue
 Tampa, Florida 33618
 (813) 273-3652 (library)
 Thursday, October 19, 2023
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Contact: Princesses Becky Gammons
 and Shirley Kasprzyk

Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Barnes & Noble Carrollwood
 11802 N. Dale Mabry Highway
 Tampa, Florida 33618
 (813) 962-6446 (store)
 Tuesday, October 24, 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, October 27, 2023
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter
 and Cathleene Tokish

