



# The Plume

February 2024  
Volume 19, Issue 7

## THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.lovetoknow.com/celebrations/weddings/getting-engaged-valentines-day#:~:text=For%20some%20couples%2C%20getting%20engaged,more%20creative%2C%20personalized%20marriage%20proposals.>)

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, it's almost here. So, we pause to wish each and every one of you a fantastic day, filled with long-lasting love and happiness!

We all celebrate Valentine's Day in different ways—by giving flowers, chocolates, fine jewelry, gifts, and most of all by spending precious time with the special one(s) that we love. Some folks believe that Valentine's Day is the day for engagements, as it is a romantic and memorable time for couples to share their love and pledge to spend their lives together. Also for some couples, getting engaged on Valentine's Day is the most romantic possible way to take their relationship to the next level.

For us Princesses, this love season is the time for us to engage in our passion—the art form that we are so dearly smitten with—and to take it to the next level. It's time for us to dive and throw ourselves into our appliqué and seize every opportunity to enjoy, learn, and master even more. So, how can we do this? We can start by savoring the opportunities right here in our illustrious guild—attending an inspirational quilt circle or specialty appliqué quilt group meeting that you have never attended before, committing to regularly attending our phenomenal monthly guild meetings, volunteering to serve on and/or chair a committee, and sharing your invaluable expertise and knowledge by presenting an informative demo, workshop, or program.

Learning and seeing what other quilters are doing is another way to engage in appliqué and quilting, as the month of February offers a spectacular line-up of phenomenal quilt shows sponsored by distinguished quilt guilds throughout our state. The tremendous opportunity to take your appliqué experience to the next level is right at your fingertips by attending these shows, and being inspired and motivated by the work of other talented quilters in these guilds. So, in the coming days make it a top priority to hook up with your friends and then "go and see" the gorgeous masterpieces that quilters in these guilds are creating:

- **"The Artistry of Quilts,"** sponsored by the Seaside Piecemakers, Melbourne, Florida - February 16 - 17
- **"Pocketful of Sunshine,"** sponsored by the West Pasco Quilters' Guild, Inc., New Port Richey, Florida - February 16 - 18

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## February Guild Meeting

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

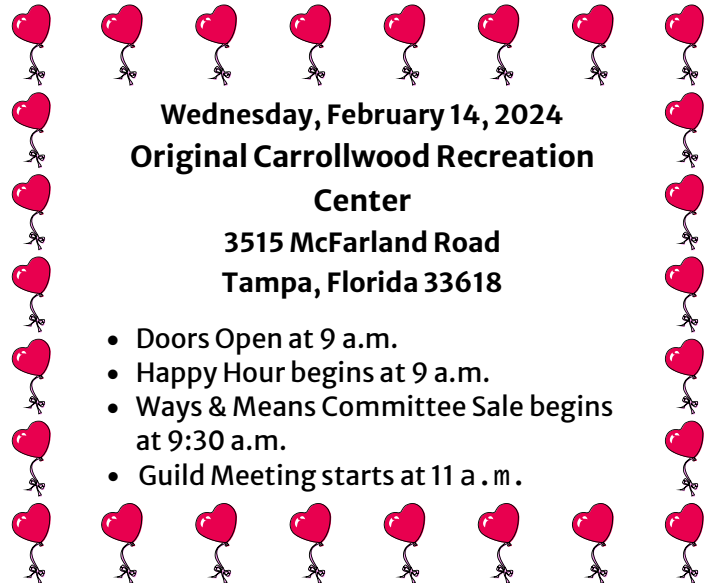
Let's get real, ladies! When was the last time you had a really hot date on Valentine's Day? Well, if it's been a while, then fret no more. Because an incredible Valentine's Day rendezvous awaits you at our astounding Feather Princesses February guild meeting. For a sizzling hot date on Valentine's Day, come and spend the time with us! There will be awesome appliqué, and the sweetest camaraderie will abound! Also, there will be delectable chocolates and the three fabulous "F's"—fantastic fellowship, out of this world gorgeous fabrics, and FUN, FUN, and more FUN! Oh, and one other thing, let's not forget the delicious Valentine's Day mouth-watering fare and utterly divine refreshments. It's going to be a fantastic "appliqué" party that you will absolutely love and not soon forget.

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**.
- Go to the Valentine's Day "Game Table" to sign-up for the fun-filled activities to participate in during the meeting.
- Enjoy a cup of delicious coffee or tea, and other refreshments so lovingly prepared by our lovely *Hospitality Chair*, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, and other beautiful Princesses.
- Mingle, greet our guests and visiting friends, and then introduce yourself to a Feather Princesses member you do not already know.

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

- *Fat Quarter Exchange Chair*, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, to turn in your "**RED**" 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 sign-up and pay to attend our fabulous **2024 Retreat**.



**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**  
**Original Carrollwood Recreation**  
**Center**

**3515 McFarland Road**  
**Tampa, Florida 33618**

- Doors Open at 9 a.m.
- Happy Hour begins at 9 a.m.
- Ways & Means Committee Sale begins at 9:30 a.m.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

- *Sunshine/Birthday Chair*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to sign-up for the February birthday drawing.

Also:

- During Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you appliqué your stunning appliqué quilt projects.
- At 9:30 a.m., our **Ways and Means Committee Sale** will begin inside the meeting room. Pull out your cards, cash, and checks and get ready to have the most fun ever as you shop for fabrics and patterns, with the proceeds benefitting our guild.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business, committee reports, and special presentations.
- Next, be inspired as our hot date continues with a quick review of "cut-away" appliqué. Let's be inspired as we review the steps involved in marking and cutting away fabric, and then stitching to reveal a gorgeous appliqué design.

During the lunch break:

- Enjoy the delicious lunch you brought from home and other delicious snacks provided by our generous Feather Princesses.
- Continue shopping at our exciting **Ways & Means Committee Sale**.
- Purchase a **Spring Special Block** kit.
- 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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(February Guild Meeting - continued from page 2)

- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting February birthday drawing and door prize drawings, as you just might be a winner.
- When the meeting ends, be sure to stay and continue shopping to get the quilting goodies you might have missed.

We Feather Princesses truly adore and love the awesome artform of appliqué; so do not miss this meeting. Get up, get dressed, come out, and savor every special moment with us, as the magnificent memories of this delightful date will last in our hearts forever!

We'll see you this coming Wednesday on Valentine's Day at our February 14 guild meeting.

## Sharing Our Art With Others - Library Quilt Display

by Sandi Snow

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

I'm required to submit pictures to the library by March, so I need your photos by the end of February. Please send your quilt pictures and dimensions to Princess Sandi Snow at: [sssnow@verizon.net](mailto:sssnow@verizon.net). The actual quilts will be collected at our Feather Princesses April meeting.

Currently, only one quilt photo has been submitted. If it is easier for you to bring your quilts to our February 14 guild meeting and have me photograph and keep them until the display, then please do so. The quilts need a 4" hanging sleeve, and the sleeve may be attached with temporary whip stitching.

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

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

Click on the links below to access the following information:

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

**NOTE:** The password for the Members Only section is located on the bottom of page 1 in the NEW 2023-24 FP Membership Directory.

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

- "Gathering of Quilts," sponsored by the Disconnected Piecers Quilt Guild, Inc., Punta Gorda, Florida - February 23 - 24

See page 10 of this newsletter for additional information related to the quilt shows listed above.

And if you really want to engage yourselves in total appliqué and quilting immersion, consider attending a national quilt show this month, see more breathtaking quilts and even enroll in an informative class, lecture, or workshop. So, go and experience maximum quilting enjoyment and fun by attending these:

- **AQS QuiltWeek - Daytona**, sponsored by the American Quilter's Society, Daytona Beach, Florida - February 21 - 24
- **QuiltCon**, sponsored by The Modern Quilt Guild, Raleigh, North Carolina - February 22 - 25
- **Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival**, sponsored by Mancuso Show Management, Hampton, Virginia - February 29 - March 3

Beautiful Feather Princesses, make every effort to get involved and engaged in appliqué and quilting this month, take it to the next level, and learn and master every tidbit that you can. Do not let these tremendous opportunities "to engage" in quilting pass you by!

Princesses Joanne, Ritu, Michelle, and I can hardly wait to "love on you" this coming Wednesday at our exciting February 14 guild meeting! We'll see you there!

## February Program: Cut-Away Appliqué

by Dorothy Johnson

Looking for love in all the wrong places? Well, look no more. Come to our February 14 guild meeting, be immersed in love, and participate in our inspirational program on "cut-away appliqué." Love will fill the air and we promise not to disappoint or hurt you, we will not tear out your heart. BUT, we will review one more way of doing reverse appliqué, by cutting away fabrics in the front, to reveal a beautiful heart design in the background. This appliqué method has been around for a long time. So for those of you who have already made blocks or quilts that incorporate this technique, please bring them to the meeting to share with us, and to show and tell.

The short hands-on demo will show how to implement this cut-away appliqué technique. And, so you can participate with us, please be sure to bring the following quilting supplies:

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## February Community Service Project

by Shirley Williams

Our **Community Service Project** experienced a banner year in 2023! Thanks to you all, Feather Princesses, we were extremely successful in our giving, donating cash and food to various food banks throughout our Tampa Bay area. And now that 2024 is here, we humbly expect and appreciate you doing the same. Except this year, let's exceed our expectations. Let's take our giving to the next level, by giving more and thus helping more hungry people in our area.

This month our donations will go to Village Presbyterian Church, located here in Carrollwood; and yours truly, Princess **Shirley Williams**, will deliver the donations to the church. So, please join us as we open our hearts and express our long-lasting love this Valentine's Day. Before you come to our February guild meeting, please go to your kitchen cupboards and take out some of the goodies there. Fill your bags with canned goods and other non-perishable food items and then bring them to the meeting. Oh, and please remember to bring your cash donations as well.

Our Feather Princesses *Executive Board* and I are very excited about our giving and sharing with others this year, the less fortunate people in our area. So, please let's all ban together to help others. Let's make 2024 another exceptional year in our giving.

I'll see you and your wonderful donations this coming Wednesday at our exciting February 14 guild meeting. We sincerely appreciate you for your valuable contributions, to ensure the success of our **Community Service Project**.

## A Romantic Love Triangle - February Hospitality

by Linda Woytisek

If you want something to chew on, here's a piece of juicy gossip! We Feather Princesses are deeply involved in a romantic love triangle! To some it might appear rather shameful; but we just cannot help ourselves. So mum's the word—and hush, hush please! We are hooked, we are so in love, and we just cannot seem to let go. Food, fun, and appliqué are our main squeeze and at the top of our lists! We are profoundly infatuated with our stitching, we always have fabulous fun when we're together, and we thoroughly enjoy our tasty snacks and other delicious treats at our meetings.

So, let's keep this good thing going! In a few days when we gather at our exciting Feather Princesses February 14 guild meeting, let's celebrate Valentine's Day in grand style! Bring your most gorgeous appliqué quilt projects

## February Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.hunterlab.com/blog/the-color-red/>)

For most folks, when they "see red," they suddenly become very angry, they lose their temper, and their blood literally boils. They become very upset, feel out of control, and become so angry and enraged that they feel like hitting something or someone. While red is the color most associated with love, it also the color most frequently associated with hatred, anger, aggression and war. The color red is significant in many cultures. It is associated with love in Western cultures, and it symbolizes good fortune and joy in Asian cultures. For this reason, it's a prominent color in Asian weddings to bring love, fertility, and good luck.

When we Feather Princesses "see red," we do not get angry or upset. When we see red, we are happy and we smile, most likely because we have a strong connection to red. It is a primary color that we use in a vast majority of our appliqué quilt projects—especially at Christmas, Valentine's Day, and on patriotic holidays. So, let's fill our stashes with love this month. Let's exchange beautiful "Red" fat quarters at our next guild meeting.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for February is **RED**. So what kind of appliqué quilt will you create, if you win a bundle of these stunning fabrics? Will you use the red fabrics to stitch a heart or a bouquet of flowers in a center medallion, or to appliqué a basket of fruits and vegetables—apples and tomatoes to name a few, or to appliqué those strawberry designs—all ready for picking and making yummy strawberry jam, shortcake, ice cream, and more? Oh, and what about using red fabrics to stitch an American flag? No matter the designs you appliqué, we know you will enjoy stitching various shades of red 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 **RED** fabrics this coming Wednesday at our February 14 guild meeting, at our fat quarter table.

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ever, come with big bright beautiful smiles—ready to have a great time, and bring your most delicious tasty treats to share!

Love letters, fine jewelry, and a night out on the town are so nice to receive! But here's a heads-up. This coming Valentine's Day, it will be all about the fabulous Feather Princesses. It will be about our food, fun, and appliqué!

## Healing Heart Blocks - Delicious Cookie Recipes

by Shirley Kasprzyk



If you have checked the internet lately, you've probably been inundated with delicious cookie recipes for Valentine's Day. Just like at Christmas time, there is a plethora of delightful recipes for Valentine's Day cookies of all sorts and in every flavor imaginable. And rest assured that the ingredients in each recipe have been properly tested to guarantee that the cookies will have the right texture and will taste just right!

The same is true for our **Healing Heart** blocks. We follow a very special recipe (specific instructions) with all of these necessary ingredients:

- stunning fabrics in just the right colors
- threads to match
- delightful heart patterns
- nifty sewing supplies
- a dash of sweet love

We start creating our blocks by selecting top quality fabrics in the specific colors requested by our **Healing Heart** recipients. And then we select only the loveliest heart patterns and designs. We use top quality matching thread to stitch and appliqué the heart shaped pieces, using our very best sewing supplies and quilting tools. And throughout this process, we sprinkle a dash of sweet love here and there, to ensure that the finished blocks (just like the cookies) will have the right texture and taste just right.

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.

## Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



Lovely ladies, you mean the world to us. So, take the time to rest and feel better. We're thinking of you and wishing you a quick recovery; and we're wishing you our heartfelt love and support to get well.

Valentine's Day is almost here, so we're sending lots of hugs and love your way, too! Remember to take life one day at a time; and continue nurturing those positive thoughts. We love you so much and we hope that you will bounce back to your normal routine, soon, so you can come back and stitch with us again. Cheery thoughts and lots of sunshine are on the way, in hopes that each day will bring you big bright beautiful smiles and the strength you need to get back on your feet again.

Pamper yourselves, relax, rest, and be happy beautiful Feather Princesses:

- **Dee Anderson**
- **Trudy Flynn**
- **Becky Gammons**
- **Ritu Haldar**
- **Shirley Kasprzyk**
- **Janet Kiene**
- **Betty Jo Lecaroz**
- **Judy Loving**
- **Terry Montaldo**
- **Francie Nelson**
- **Pat Yucatonis**



You may mail your completed **Healing Heart** blocks directly to the recipients or bring them to our February 14 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.

Feather Princesses, let's express our ever-lasting love at Valentine's Day and always, by following the recipe above to create gorgeous blocks for our lovely **Healing Heart** recipients.

## Tool Time - 2024 January Recap and February Announcement

by Roni Hunt

To begin, let's recap the January 2024 Tool Time:



- **The Cupcake Project** – Princess Janet Slee and I were sad that we did not win the cupcake blocks at our Feather Princesses 18th Anniversary Celebration back in August 2023. However, we came up with an alternative plan! We decided to make our own blocks in 2024 and use them to create table runners. Our plan would work this way... both of us would kit up 12 cupcake blocks. Each kit would contain two sets of six identical blocks. Then Janet gifted me with one set of six of her blocks; and I gifted Janet with one set of my six blocks. We will both have the same 12 blocks to appliqué; and we plan to stitch one block a month during our Feather Princesses guild meetings. Then by December, we'll have completed our 12th block. At that time, we'll be able to make our very own table runners. And we'll have a completed project for 2024!
- We shared an online site I had not previously seen. It is [www.stitchesoflovequilting.com](http://www.stitchesoflovequilting.com). On this site I found several appliqué Block of the Month programs:
  - Boo Crew
  - Christmas Lane
  - Loads of Fun (pickup truck with themed items in the truck bed)
  - Hop to It (Spring Theme)/Garden Moments/ Gnomes.

Stitches of Love Quilting also has thread kits and notions for sale. You also can find them on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube in addition to their online site. Please enjoy perusing this wonderful site. I haven't purchased anything from this site, but it is fun and seems to have a lot of potential.

- During our January guild meeting, someone (I think it was Princess B.J. Weber) mentioned a site called [www.suzysstitch.com](http://www.suzysstitch.com). Of course, I had to look it up. It's another appliqué site filled with crafting projects and whimsical appliqué Block of the Month projects. Check it out and see what strikes your fancy. Suzy's blocks are free for one month. After that she charges a nominal fee for any blocks you missed.
- Princess Karen Benitez came up with a solution for cleaning her gummy needle, while stitching wool pieces fused with Wonder Under. She found an eye glass cleaning cloth and wiped the needle with it. Voila! Clean needle.

- Princess Annette Kocsis suggested cutting up one of the eye glass cleaning cloths and placing a piece of the cloth in each of our sewing kits!
- Another Princess mentioned using dryer sheets. And yet another lovely Princess suggested using alcohol to wipe the gummy needle clean.

All in all, we had a lively discussion once again with different thoughts. When we throw an idea out there for discussion, the Feather Princesses love to share their thoughts, ideas, and experiences. It makes a girl smile for sure.

Our February Tool Time will hold more sweet surprises. I will share a new "organization" idea that I discovered all by myself. I think you'll find it as interesting as I did... at least I hope so!!! I have always loved Valentine's Day! Ever since I was a little girl, I loved creating a Valentine's Mailbox and reading all of my Valentine's Day cards. May you all have a mailbox overflowing with special and loving messages!!!

## February Birthdays

by Ritu Haldar

February is the month for love and kindness. So, we're wishing Happy Valentine's Day wishes to all of our dear Feather Princesses friends!

Also, we're calling all of you who love the month of February, as the temperatures are a bit cool this year and a touch nippy, favoring a bowl of chili and a cozy, comfy sweater. As this month unfolds, our lovely February birthday Princesses will embrace the chill of February with a heart warmed by birthday joy and the company of those who cherish them! So, it is our wish that your birthday be wrapped in happiness, tied with love, and sprinkled with surprises!

This month our beautiful Princesses with February birthdays are in for a special treat because we will celebrate them at our phenomenal guild meeting, which will actually convene on Valentine's Day! So, that signals fabulous fellowship, delicious food, and fantastic fun! Happy Birthday to our February stars! May your day sparkle with joy, laughter, and love!

We're sending you heartfelt wishes for a February birthday that's as special as you are! Happy Birthday wishes to our beloved members:

*Jeanne Casiglia - 2/1*

*Joie Wilson - 2/2*

*Flaine Randall - 2/7*

*Nancy Hale - 2/29*



## February Calendar

**Wednesday, February 7**  
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

**Wednesday, February 14**  
Feather Princesses February Guild Meeting/  
Ways & Means Committee Fabric/Pattern Sale

**Tuesday, February 20**  
Wild Wool and Cotton Appliqués  
Quilt Group Meeting

**Wednesday, February 21**  
Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group Meeting

**Thursday, February 22**  
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

**Friday, February 23**  
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

**Tuesday, February 27**  
Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

## Small Change With Constant Contact Emails

by Michelle Barry

Constant Contact has instituted a small change to their emails. The FROM email address will not come from my email—mbarry@tampabay.rr.com.

They have changed this so that more emails get to the inboxes of recipients and not go to SPAM or not be delivered at all. So the From email address will be : Feather Princesses <michelle@featherprincesses.ccsend.com>

What this means is that you will not be able to REPLY to that email if you want to make any comments; it will not be automatically sent to me.

If you want to reply to any of our Constant Contact emails, click on FORWARD, then add my email address [mbarry@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mbarry@tampabay.rr.com) or add Princess Dorothy Johnson's email address: [djohns47@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:djohns47@tampabay.rr.com).

## Our Feather Princesses Lending Library

by Mary Vathy

Are you looking for a good read, some new motivation, a new pattern or twenty? Then, our **Lending Library** is coming back to our monthly guild meetings in the next few months (if all goes as planned) just for you. Princesses **Maria Nunez, Joanne Rodriguez, Dorothy Johnson**, and I sorted the books into categories (thanks **Maria, Joanne, and Dorothy**); and we had so much fun looking at the appliqué designs, beautiful patterns, and great projects, too. And we found quite a variety of different titles as well, including wool, Asian, art, scrap, mini quilts, patchwork, history, landscape, appliqué, Baltimore Album, Civil War, and holiday quilt books.

Now we could use your help in returning our Feather Princesses library books that are still outstanding. We would like to have all of our books back in our guild library, so all of our wonderful members will have access to them. So, if you still have some of our guild's library books (whether as a library volunteer who stored them for us or if you checked out books and did not get the opportunity to return them), then PLEASE return them at our February 14 guild meeting, when we meet at the Original Carrollwood Recreation Center. If you can't attend our February guild meeting, you may return them next month at our March 13 guild meeting, when we meet at Springhill Suites.

The Feather Princesses library books have a stamp with our guild's name inside the front cover. Please check there if you're not sure if the book(s) you have is your book or if it belongs to our Feather Princesses **Lending Library**. We'd love your help gathering all our books back in one place.

## Ways and Means Fabric/Pattern Sale

by Michelle Barry

The Ways and Means Committee has gone back into our vaults and will bring some fabric and patterns to sell at our Feather Princesses February 14 guild meeting.

Sales start at 9:30 a.m., continues during the lunch break, and after the meeting ends.

The prices are right, and the patterns and fabric you may not have not seen before.

So bring your cash, checks, and credit cards just in case you find a pattern or piece of fabric you don't currently have.

## Our Fabulous 2024 Feather Princesses Retreat

by Karen Benitez

Hear ye, hear ye! Read all about it—Our Fabulous 2024 Feather Princesses Retreat!

Lovely ladies, the time is finally here again to start registering for our fabulous **2024 Feather Princesses Retreat!**

Here are the specifics about our retreat:

**Date:** Thursday, October 17 – Monday, October 21, 2024

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

**Cost:** Single Room: \$575

**Double Room:** \$475 per person

We have already started coordinating and organizing this year's retreat and we plan to have a lot of our tried and true activities, as well as inspirational new demos and projects for those who wish to participate. If you have a demo or project that you'd like to share, please reach out to me! I'm thrilled to say we already have a couple of commitments from some of our very astute and eager Princesses who are anxious to share.

Please go to our Feather Princesses website, login with the password located at the bottom of the first page of our *2023-2024 Membership Directory* and click on Members Only > Retreat and print the *2024 Registration Form*. Upon registering, a minimum \$50 deposit will be required. Future payments will also need to be a minimum of \$50. I can accept cash, check, or credit/debit card.

If you want to attend our fabulous 2024 retreat but you are unable to attend our guild meeting(s), you may mail your *Registration Form* and payments to me:

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

Any questions? Don't hesitate to text or call me at **925-895-8129**.

I'm so looking forward to this year's retreat! It's such a breath of fresh air to spend five wonderful days of fun, fellowship and, oh yeah, sewing with such a lovely group of ladies. I hope you all will be able to join us this year and get away from it all!



## Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group

by Roni Hunt

Hello, beautiful ladies!

We had the most amazing **Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group** meeting this past January! One of our very own gifted and super-talented Princesses led us in a most intriguing quilt block method! Princess **Vici Miller** demonstrated how to make borders to frame and stitch around our gorgeous appliqué blocks. We all learned her method using freezer paper; and we practiced this method using our individual focus blocks for our 2024 Baltimore Album quilt project. **Vici** also showed us that we could use the freezer paper method on large quilts as well. This would even work well for designing your very own original border for any quilt, but especially for the Baltimore Album quilts.

Thank you so much, **Vici!!!**

Feather Princesses, stay tuned for our next blurb in March. We will let you know what our March **Team Legacy - Baltimore Album Quilt Group** meeting will encompass. I hope you all are enjoying the couple of cooler days we've been experiencing. The heat is right around the corner!

## 2024 All Florida Shop Hop

by Dorothy Johnson

Lovely Feather Princesses, now that the Christmas Holidays are over and Valentine's Day will soon be gone, consider going out with your precious Princess Pals and having some springtime FUN! And if you are hankering for some real excitement, then this next quilting adventure is just for you! Get ready to travel the roads of Florida and experience the sensational **2024 All Florida Shop Hop**, March 1 – April 30! Thoroughly enjoy yourselves with your special friends, and then meet new ones, as well as the welcoming quilt shop owners and their very capable staffs.

There will be free gifts at each shop, as well as prizes galore! So, be sure to start planning your trip(s) now to all of these amazing quilt shops in each region of our state! With two fun-filled months to explore them, you and your quilting friends will have a ball!

**All Florida Shop Hop, March 1 – April 30, 2024**

- 75 Stores
- 100s of Prizes
- Free Gift at Every Store

For more info, go to: [www.AllFloridaShopHop.com](http://www.AllFloridaShopHop.com) or join the Facebook Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/allfloridashophop](http://www.facebook.com/groups/allfloridashophop).



## Team Legacy - Civil War Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.calendarpedia.com/when-is/presidents-day.html>)

Our nation will celebrate Presidents' Day on Monday, February 19, 2024, just a couple of days before our exciting **Civil War Quilt Group** meeting convenes. So it is only fitting that during our meeting we pause to honor the current and past leaders of our great nation. We will focus on and turn our attention to appliqué quilts that incorporate the "Presidents" theme.

Presidents' Day is the popular and commonly used name for the United States federal holiday officially called Washington's Birthday. It is celebrated annually on the third Monday of February and celebrates the life and achievements of George Washington, (2/22/1732—12/14/1799), the first President of the United States (1789–1797). The day is used to honor and remember all of the past U.S. Presidents, in particular George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this informative meeting with us:

### 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

We welcome you to come and stitch with us as we continue working on our stunning Dear Jane and Dear Hannah Quilts, and put the final stitches in our beautiful blocks for our impressive group project, the Circuit Rider Quilt. And at the end of the meeting when all of the completed blocks have been turned in, 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 21, then your name will be entered in the drawing twice.) And after the drawing, we will award the gorgeous appliqué blocks to one very lucky winner.

We are looking forward to a very inspirational meeting on Wednesday, February 21, as we explore Presidential themed appliqué quilts. And then a couple of months down the road, when we convene in April, we will resume focusing and learning about quilts from American conflicts and wars, particularly World War II.

As we mentioned a few months ago, Civil War Quilts will always be the premise for our group; and we will continue studying and focusing on them. However to add more interest to our journey, going forward, we will delve into and examine all types of patriotic quilts as well—quilts that commemorate our patriotic holidays—Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Veteran's Day! So stay tuned to our channel, attend our Civil War Group meetings, and learn what these patriotic quilts look like and what they're all about.

## Wild Wool and Cotton Appliqués Quilt Group - Our Love Letter to You

by Barbara Belcher and Winnie Miale

Happy Valentine's Day, Feather Princesses! We're sending this "love letter" to express our genuine feelings to you—to let you know just how much we care and love you; and to say that we truly love and embrace wool appliqué, too! It is our passion and we are totally enthralled with it and captivated by its warmth and charm. So, if you share this same emotion or feeling, then be sure to attend our next exciting **Wild Wool and Cotton Appliqués Quilt Group** meeting.

We propose that you come and spend the afternoon with us—doing what you love AND loving what you do! Join us to work on your stunning wool appliqué projects at the Hudson Library. All appliqué patterns and colors of wool will be delightful! And remember to throw in your dazzling perle cotton threads, too! They make our wool appliqué quilt projects sing, come to life, and say "I Love You!"

### Wild Wool and Cotton Appliqués Quilt Group Meeting

Hudson Library

8012 Library Road

Hudson, Florida 34667

(727) 861-3040

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Contact: Princesses Barbara Belcher and Winnie Miale

Our fabulous fascination of appliqué will fill the library meeting room, and romance and charisma will permeate, with enough space to lay out your quilts to sandwich and baste.

As we close, remember that you are loved and we welcome you to attend! Bring your lunch if you like or eat before you come.

## February Florida Fun

by Dorothy Johnson

"YES," so far our Florida Winter has been a bit chilly and crisp. Alright, to be honest, we've had a couple of days that were down right cold. But with that cold weather came the wonderful opportunity for us quilters to stay at home, get comfortable and cozy, and then sit and stitch. What FUN! And looking ahead, the cold weather will also allow us the opportunity to put on a jacket, get with friends, and go out to see stunning quilts and needlework created by other talented quilters. It will give us a chance to go to amazing quilt shows and fun-filled fairs!

So Feather Princesses, do not let this February Florida Fun pass you by. Go out, enjoy yourselves, and have a great time! And after you see the quilts at the fairs, do not leave without enjoying the rides, seeing the many attractions, and tasting a gooey treat or two! Tasty corn dogs and sweet cotton candy are waiting for you!

### FLORIDA FEBRUARY QUILT SHOWS:

#### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:dpqginc@gmail.com)  
[www.dpqginc.com](http://www.dpqginc.com)

### FLORIDA FEBRUARY FAIRS:

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sumterfair.net)

## Unlike A Box of Chocolates

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.google.com/> and <https://www.quora.com/What-did-Tom-Hanks-mean-in-Forest-Gump-when-he-said-Life-is-like-a-box-of-chocolates-You-never-know-what-youre-going-to-get>)

Chocolates are a great Valentine's Day gift! For many years, chocolate has been a staple on Valentine's Day as the perfect gift, to send as a reminder of how much one person cares about another. Chocolate is a great gift, as it has been proven that chocolate not only makes you happy, but it also relaxes you as well.

So, what did the actor, Tom Hanks, mean in the popular flick, "Forrest Gump" when he said, "Life is like a box of chocolates." You never know what you're going to get?" Most likely he was implying that life is unpredictable and you never know what life will bring you. When you open a box of chocolates, there is a variety of flavors inside. But because each piece of candy is covered in chocolate, you can't really tell what each piece will taste like, until you bite into it and taste it. So, the lesson is that you take what life gives you and you learn to deal with it, because as the saying goes, "That's life."

But unlike the unpredictability of a box of chocolates, here in the Feather Princesses, our amazing quilt circles are "spot on." They are totally expected, absolutely foreseeable, and rather predictable.

There's no guessing around or figuring out what to do or what will happen—because we already know exactly what will happen—because our circles operate in excellence and in a way that is organized and structured. When it comes to our phenomenal quilt circles, we always know what we will do, and we are assured that our gifted members will always:

- Be encouraged and inspired to learn the appliqué and quilting techniques necessary to create their stunning appliqué quilts.
- Get the help and assistance needed to move forward and complete appliqué quilt projects that might have previously stumped them.
- Make friends and preserve lasting relationships with other quilters who share the same passion of appliqué.
- Be a source of encouragement and inspiration to other quilters who need help.
- Have FUN!

So, when you receive that box of chocolates on Valentine's Day, be sure to enjoy each and every bite, no matter the flavors inside—milk chocolate, nuts, cremes, or what. Then pack your sewing bags with fun-time

appliqué quilt projects; and come and have a great time with us!

### NOTES:

#1 - The **Plum Creek Quilt Circle** will convene on the 4th Thursday, February 22 (not on the 3rd Thursday as regularly scheduled).

#2 - The **Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle** will convene at the Citrus Park Joanne Fabric and Crafts Store, on Tuesday, February 27, 10 a.m.

Our spectacular February quilt circles are:

#### Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
2902 W. Bearss Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33618  
(813) 273-3652 (library)  
Thursday, February 22, 2024  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact: Princesses Becky Gammons  
and Shirley Kasprzyk

#### Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Sweet Darling Quilts  
26240 Wesley Chapel Boulevard  
Lutz, Florida 33559  
(813) 994-2994 (shop)  
Friday, February 23, 2024  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Karen Conter  
and Cathleene Tokish

#### Tuesday Sit & Stitch Quilt Circle

Citrus Park Joann Fabric and Crafts  
12635 Citrus Plaza Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33625  
(813) 792-2287 (store)  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Cheryl Haynes



## Our Future Education and Teachers - A Note From Our Vice President

by Joanne Rodriguez

Our distinguished Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild brings diversity and variety to our quilting community. In the phenomenal quilt circles, specialty appliqué quilt group meetings, guild meeting programs, and workshops taught by our gifted members and accomplished national teachers that we offer, we strive to inspire our talented members to learn, share, and to master old and new appliqué and quilting techniques.

To this end, we are very interested to know more about the seasoned appliqué teachers you would like to come to our guild; and we really want your valuable input. So, at our February 14 guild meeting, we will distribute a blank index card to each of you to provide your thoughts and suggestions regarding national teachers for us to consider hosting at our guild in the future.

When you receive the index card, please write the following information:

- Your name
- The teacher you want to recommend
- Reason(s) you would like to have this particular teacher come to our guild to present two (2) full-day workshops and a trunk show presented at our monthly guild meeting.

After you provide your input and the cards are complete (even if they are blank), we will collect them, review them in the coming weeks, and follow-up with you and provide a summary of the findings at an upcoming guild meeting.

We sincerely thank you for taking the time to think about the teacher you would like to come to our guild, and then listing that information on the index card we will provide.

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*(February Program: Cut-Away Appliqué - continued from page 3)*

- Two 8-inch square coordinating pieces of fabric, in the colors of your choice
- Threads to match
- Marking pen or pencil
- Appliqué needle
- Pins
- Small scissors used for trimming

We will start by marking a heart design onto one of the 8" squares of fabric and then basting the two squares of fabric together. Next the fun will begin and the heart design will take shape, as we carefully cut-away, one by one, the different sections of the heart, and then turn under the seam allowances and hand stitch them down. We will continue this process until we cut-away the entire design and VOILA, the heart will be revealed! ==>

## Spring Special Block

by Dorothy Johnson

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

This Winter has been cool and totally fun; but Spring is prodding and quickly nudging at our doors. And in about five weeks, Spring will actually make its grand appearance, bringing chirping birds, swarming bees, budding and blooming flowers, and of course—showers, to be more exact April Showers, depending on where you live. And here in the United States, "April Showers Day" will fall this year on Monday, April 22.

Here in Florida, Spring is typically our dry season; and we don't always get much rain. But in other areas, rain is quite abundant during the months of Spring. In parts of the Northern Hemisphere, an April shower is rain during the month of April. One of the major causes of the often heavy downpours is the position of the jet stream. In early Spring, the jet stream starts to move northwards, allowing large depressions to bring strong winds and rain in from the Atlantic. The saying "April Showers" is traced back to England from the 1500's poet, Thomas Tusser. Back then, he wrote "Sweet April showers do bring Spring May Flowers." In England, the month of April brings huge weather swings with the jet stream lifting northward at the start of Spring.

So, because we don't typically get many rain showers during the month of April here in sunny Florida, we Feather Princesses will just have to appliqué our own interpretation or version—with colorful umbrellas, rain boots, flowers, and more. What FUN that will be! So, be sure to pick up your "April Showers" **Spring Special Block** kit (at the bargain price of \$2 each) at our exciting February 14 guild meeting during our lunch break.

Our Executive Board is really thrilled to present this **Spring Special Block** to you, as we welcome Spring. So have fun stitching it, and then be sure to return your completed block at our June 12 guild meeting, when the drawing will be held—just in time for our 2024 Hurricane Season!

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This easy and simple cut-away appliqué technique yields such beautiful and elegant results, especially with heart designs. But you may implement this technique with just about any shape that you desire. When you finish cutting away and stitching your fabric heart this coming Wednesday, you may use it as a block in a wallhanging, quilt, placemat, or table runner. Or you may use it to make a pillow, or on the front of a bag or purse. The possibilities are endless!

So, come and celebrate Valentine's Day, and find love with us at our February 14 guild meeting program, as we review this reverse appliqué technique and cut-away our hearts.