



The Plume

October 2025

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson
(Excerpt taken from <https://halloween.fandom.com/wiki/Spider> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Miss_Muffet)

Many years ago as young kids growing up, we learned a plethora of nursery rhymes; and many we could instantaneously recite at a moment's notice. There were several, but a very special favorite was "Little Miss Muffet." It went something like this:

Little Miss Muffet
She sat on a tuffet,
Eating of curds and whey;
There came a little spider,
Who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.



Little Miss Muffet ran away because she feared the large spider that came towards her. *Arachnophobia*, the fear of spiders, is one of the most common of all phobias. According to a study, 18% of males and 55% of females in the Western world suffer from it.

The common fear of spiders has led to several horror movies being made in which monstrous spiders attack people. These movies include "Tarantula" (1955), "Kingdom of the Spiders" (1977), "Arachnophobia" (1990) and "Eight Legged Freaks" (2002). Spider webs were often heavily featured in haunted house-type settings in movies and television programs. Also, a gigantic talking spider named "Aragog" was featured in J.K. Rowling's 1998 novel "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," the second book in the Harry Potter series, and its 2002 movie adaptation.

Spiders are associated with Halloween due to folklore linking them to witches, as well as medieval beliefs that seeing a spider on Halloween was a spirit watching over you, and their connection to fate and the supernatural through their webs. Fake spider webs and spider-shaped decorations, made of paper, foil, wool, or rubber, are often seen at Halloween parties, and food in the shape of spiders and spider webs is often served at Halloween parties, too.

But on a positive note, spiders have the ability to produce something out of nothing, by spinning their webs; and this has led them to become symbols of creation in some cultures. As a result of the time that they take in producing their webs and waiting for their prey, many cultures have also adopted them as symbols of patience.

(continued on page 4)

October Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

Shh! Do you hear that sound? It's the sound of leaves rustling as they change colors and fall from the trees at Springhill Suites! So come, see Mother Nature at her finest work, and enjoy Autumn's spectacular explosion of color at our Feather Princesses October 8 Guild Meeting. Bring your appliqué quilt projects in progress to stitch and be sure to bring your stunning finished quilts and wallhangings for our annual **Autumn Splendor Quilt Challenge**.

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.
- See our *Community Service Project Chair*, Princess **Mary Moody**, to drop off your non-perishable food items for our **Community Service Project**.
- Place the quilting supplies that you no longer want on the FREE table, to share with other Princesses who might need or want them.
- Place the tasty "Fall Treats" you brought to share on the Hospitality counter.
- 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:

- *Vice President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to:
 - Turn in your challenge quilt and wallhanging entries.
 - Register and pay to attend **Kestrel Michaud's** workshop, convening on Thursday, November 13.
- *Fat Quarter Exchange Chair*, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, to turn in your "Autumn" fat quarters.
- *Guild Photographer*, Princess **Peggy Wattenbarger**, 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.
- *Librarian*, Princess **Mary Ann Vathy**, to browse, and return and check-out library books.
- *Newsletter Chair*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, to place an ad in our newsletter, *The Plume*.

Also:

- At 9 a.m. during Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses



Wednesday, October 8, 2025

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

- Doors Open at 9 a.m.
- Happy Hour begins at 9 a.m.
- Retreat meeting begins at 10 a.m.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

friends, as you stitch your stunning appliqué quilt projects.

- At 10 a.m., attend the informative Retreat Meeting in the Springhill Suites Hotel lobby, to discuss plans for our upcoming **2025 Lake Yale Retreat**.
- And from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., take a look at the stunning **Autumn Splendor Quilt Challenge** quilts and wallhangings, and then vote for your favorites.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business, special presentations, and committee reports.
- At 12 Noon, during the lunch break:
 - Enjoy the lunch you brought from home and the yummy refreshments shared by our lovely Princesses.
 - See Princess **Maria Nunez** to purchase a **Special Christmas Block** kit.
 - See the *Membership Chairs* to pick-up your new 2025-26 FP Membership Card.
- During the informative program, our *Vice President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, will totally inspire us as she presents information on the topic of "The use of interfacing and stabilizers." We will discuss the difference between interfacing and stabilizers; and Ritu will tell us how to properly use them.
- We will announce the winners of our **2025 Autumn Splendor Quilt Challenge**, so please remain at the meeting to applaud and congratulate our very gifted members who won.
- 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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Library Update

by Mary Ann Vathy

The month of September is over and October is already here! And with Halloween just a few weeks away, needless to say, the "busy" time of year is upon us! So, be sure to check out the library books you want before our **Feather Princesses Retreat** convenes later this month and our guest Quilt Instructor, Kestrel Michaud, arrives next month. Don't get caught during the Holidays without the library books you need and want to reference and enjoy, as you put the final stitches into your stunning appliqué quilts and other Holiday quilted gift projects. So much is going on, and now is the perfect time to relax with a good quilt book or two to recharge your quilting curiosity.

Our database is in the works and it should be up and running soon. When it is complete, you will be able to look for a book by author, title, or type of quilt. We'll explain the procedure for accessing the database and share additional details when we resume meeting after the New Year.

Because we will host Kestrel Michaud at our November 12 Guild Meeting and celebrate Christmas at our December 10 Guild Meeting, our library will not be available at these times. But, we gladly welcome you to check out two books this month at our exciting October 8 Guild Meeting. If the book you want to borrow has a red/pink dot, it is an extra special book that requires a \$50 deposit (check), which we will return to you when you return the book.

We're still looking for "Book Box Mothers" who will adopt a box of books or two to store at their homes. Please let me know if you're interested. You may contact me, Princess **Mary Vathy**, via email at any time at mvathy@verizon.net.

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 2024-25 FP Membership Directory.

October Program

by Ritu Haldar

Happy Fall y'all! This year is particularly special as we continue celebrating 20 glorious years of being together doing what we love—APPLIQUÉ!

Our beloved appliqué family is so looking forward to welcoming world renowned Quilt Instructor, **Kestrel Michaud!** She is an award-winning quilter, Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) Board member, and author of some fabulous articles on the art and challenges of being a quilter in a digital age.

Kestrel will present the Lecture/Trunk Show, "Kestrel's Creations," at our November 12 Guild Meeting; and she will teach the class, "Improv Flower Arrangement," the next day on Thursday, November 13, 2025. So, as we prepare for her visit, we will dive in and focus on the topic of "the use of interfacing and stabilizers"—what they are, how to use them, and when to use them! This informative presentation will be very helpful in understanding how Kestrel works and how she achieves the results she intends when designing her pieces. And when she comes to our guild, we will definitely be more informed on this topic, thus appreciating her artistry on a deeper level!

We can't wait to get together to discuss this subject at our inspirational October 8 Guild Meeting. So when you get a moment, please check out her website at: www.KestrelMichaud.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting! Happy, Happy Appliqué!



Quilter Extraordinaire, Kestrel Michaud, Comes to the Feather Princesses

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Feather Princesses!

How excited are we to announce that Quilter Extraordinaire, **Kestrel Michaud**, is coming to the Feather Princesses! She will present a:

Lecture/Trunk Show - "Kestrel's Creations"

- Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 11 a.m.
- Springhill Suites Marriott Tampa Suncoast Parkway, 16615 Crosspointe Run, Land O'Lakes, FL 34638
- <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/tpask-springhill-suites-tampa-suncoast-parkway/overview/>
- **Admission:**
 - Admission is **free** to all current Feather Princesses members.
 - We invite you to bring your friends to enjoy what will be a fabulous experience.
 - The admission fee is \$20 for non-members, which may be applied toward their Feather Princesses membership, if they desire to join our guild.

October Guild Meeting - continued from page 2)

- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting door prize drawings, as your name just might get drawn and you will be the winner.

So come, celebrate applique, and enjoy our exciting October Guild Meeting.

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

We quilters, especially appliquers certainly can relate to and identify with this character trait of the spiders. We, too, have the ability to produce something out of nothing by using the valuable fabrics and quilt supplies we already have on hand, and taking the time to plan and create our stunning masterpiece appliqué quilts. And just like the spiders, we are symbols of creation and patience.

So going forward, let's try to use the quilt resources that we have in our sewing rooms and not begrudge the time staking (but necessary) process of planning and making our striking appliqué award-winning quilts—let's not resent the time it takes to produce them. In fact, let's embrace every marvelous moment of it. As you make your next awesome appliqué creations, enjoy the process

Workshop - "Improv Flower Arrangement"

- Thursday, November 13, 2025, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Carrollwood Recreation Center, 3515 McFarland Road, Tampa, Florida 33618
- <https://www.originalcarrollwood.com/recreation-center/>
- Workshop Fees:
 - **Current Feather Princesses members** – \$125 with a separate one-time kit fee of \$45, to be paid directly to Kestrel Michaud.
 - **Non-Members** – \$130 and a kit fee of \$45, to be paid directly to Kestrel Michaud.
- Registration for non-members opens on October 8, 2025.

Also, I encourage you to:

- **Sign up as soon as you can**, if you would like to enroll, as only 24 seats are available in the workshop.
- Check out Kestrel's website for the class description, instructions for class preparation, and photos of her amazing creations.
- <https://kestrelmichaud.com/classes/improv-flower-arrangement/>

Thanks so much, Feather Princesses! I'm really excited and I can't wait to see you at our October Guild Meeting!



of designing or selecting the pattern, studying the pattern and understanding what you need to do, deciding the colors, auditioning the fabrics, and learning the techniques needed to create them.

Lovely Feather Princesses, during this radiant Autumn season when our lives become extremely busy and time goes by fast, let's be symbols of patience as we create our breathtaking appliqué quilts.

Princesses Ritu, Michelle, Dianna, and I are patiently planning our next appliqué quilt projects, and we hope you will do the same.

We look forward to seeing you this coming Wednesday at our exciting October Guild Meeting.

October Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

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

Autumn, the most cherished season of the year is here! Filled with more comfortable days and cooler nights, it is a seasonal paradise for all. So what is it about Autumn that turns you on? What makes you "Fall for Fall?" Is it the cooler temperatures, the vibrant colors of changing leaves, cozy fashions like jumpers and scarves, and seasonal scents and foods such as pumpkin spice, cinnamon, and hearty stews? No matter what excites you this time of year, be sure to enjoy each and every day of it. Do not waste a precious moment of it!

And while you celebrate this sensational season, remember to take some time to appliqué and create stunning quilts! Remember to allocate time to engage in the art form and craft that you so dearly love.

Refurbish your fabric stash to ensure that glorious Fall colors are there. And check your Autumn designs and patterns, too—leaves, pumpkins, owls, scarecrows, turkeys, and more want to play! Be certain that you have all of the necessary quilting supplies and tools, to create stunning appliqué Autumn quilts!

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for October is "Autumn" fabrics. So, bring Autumn themed fat quarters in all colors and textures to our fabulous October 8 Guild Meeting and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Participate in this exciting exchange, win, and then start your new Autumn appliqué quilt projects, using the colorful and dazzling fabrics from our exciting **October Fat Quarter Exchange**.

The *Fat Quarter Exchange Guidelines* are located on the Members Only section of our website.

Thanks so much and we'll see you and your gorgeous "Autumn" fat quarters this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.



Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

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. At many of the food pantries in our area, the contributions and donations are down, while the number of those in need is up. So, please consider making a donation to our **Community Service Project** this month.

This Autumn season, let's step up and give to the less fortunate and needy people in our local communities. Let's ensure that no one goes hungry as the holidays come. Let's share food from our cupboards and cash from our pockets, to ensure that the less fortunate people have food to eat.

This month, yours truly, Princess **Mary Moody**, will deliver our donations to:

The Salvation Army Corps & Community Center
7745 Ridge Road
Port Richey, Florida 34668

We thank you for expressing your love and support, and for bringing your donations to our October 8 Guild Meeting. We are so grateful to you for caring and for sharing, especially as the festive Holiday season approaches! Feather Princesses, let's do what we do best! Let's make a difference, step it up a notch, and give like we've never given before!

Sunshine and Shadows

by Ritu Haldar



Happy October Princesses!

This beautiful month of October ushers in delightful temperatures, beautiful mums growing in our yards, amazing Fall colors (those rust, orange, and cranberry colors get me every time!) Fall is my favorite time of year! It just lowers the gear and makes me want to enjoy my surroundings. Nature steps up and reminds us to take a deep breath, remember our friends and family, and adjust to returning to our roots, friends, family and home. Take a few moments to do so and perhaps even Fall in love with a new appliqué quilt pattern, your favorite fabrics, and some slow stitching quilt projects. Returning to our cozy place with our favorite things is also a way to love and care for each other!

Here's to kindness, thoughtfulness and appliqué! Lovely Feather Princesses, rest, relax, feel better, and Fall head over heels in love with this radiant season!

- Beverly Abenante
- Dee Anderson
- Maritza Chinchilla
- Nancy Hale
- Cathy Kessler
- Betty Jo Lecaroz
- Winnie Miale
- Mary Moody
- Maria Nunez
- Laura O'Connor
- Joanne Rodriguez
- Chris Sudberry
- Pat Yucatonis

Hip, Hip Hooray!

by Dorothy Johnson

Hip, Hip Hooray! We CONGRATULATE our gifted member, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, on her recent achievement! **Shirley's** "Princess Feather" wallhanging was selected to travel throughout the United States in 2026 and be displayed at all of the Sewing and Quilt EXPO Shows. And it will be included in the quilt exhibit at the Lakeland Sewing and Quilt EXPO, which will convene March 19-21, 2026. We sincerely admire **Shirley's** amazing needlework, and we wish her many more successes in the future!

Also, we CONGRATULATE our tremendously accomplished and talented Feather Princesses members whose quilts were displayed at the recently held 2025 Quilt Fest of Jacksonville. We are extremely happy and proud of them—and we truly appreciate them representing our guild. So we send accolades to the following Princesses and we will never, ever stop congratulating them for their demonstration of excellence in appliqué and quilting: *(continued on page 9)*

October Calendar

Wednesday, October 1
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 8
Feather Princesses October Guild Meeting

Wednesday, October 15
Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, October 16 -
Monday, October 20
Feather Princesses
2025 Lake Yale Retreat

Thursday, October 23
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, October 24
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Tuesday, October 28
Sew Happy Sit & Stitch in
Pasco Quilt Circle



"Princess Feather," quilt by Princess Shirley Kasprzyk

Interesting Columbus Day Info: Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.google.com/> and <https://www.almanac.com/content/columbus-day>)

As we continue our review of American history, this month we will focus on Columbus Day and create striking appliqué patriotic quilts for our upcoming quilt display, celebrating America's 250th birthday in 2026.

Interesting Columbus Day info:

- Columbus Day is a federal U.S. holiday commemorating the voyage and landing of Italian explorer Christopher Columbus in the "New World" on October 12, 1492.
- Columbus Day, also known as Indigenous Peoples' Day, will be observed on the second Monday, October 13, 2025.
- The observance of Columbus Day is not without controversy. Although Columbus's landing in the New World marked the start of a new age of exploration and development for the world, the reality of European colonization is that it brought disease, enslavement, and genocide to the indigenous people of the Americas. This part of colonial history has largely been overlooked in Columbus Day celebrations. However, this has been changing in recent decades, with more and more cities and states choosing to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day instead.

Be sure to join us at this informative and inspirational meeting:

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting
Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

At this meeting, we will continue focusing on various patriotic designs and symbols and also Americana appliqué quilt patterns. So:

- Please bring the pattern for the quilt you plan to make and/or patterns you would like to share with the group.
- And, bring any fabrics you think will work for these quilts, that you would like to use as well.

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Tasty Treats - Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk



Scrumptious tasty treats are the perfect pairing to just about any Fall time seasonal setting. Chewy apple cinnamon cookies at lunch, a delicious pumpkin spice latte pick me up in the afternoon, or a savory slice of apple, cranberry, or pecan pie with evening dinner all make the grade. These delicious Autumn goodies sooth our souls (and satisfy our palates) like nothing else can, especially during the month of October. Most folks simply go crazy for these delectable and delicious delights all month long.

The same is true for us Feather Princesses. We, too, employ tasty treats, but not only during the Autumn season, but all year long. When one of us hits a bump in the road in life, we all are impacted and we all are saddened. So, again as a pick me up, we send each other cards expressing our love, we write heartfelt notes conveying our inner-most thoughts, and we send emails and call each other to chat and say "hello." But above all of these delicious delights, our most favorite one of all is making beautiful **Healing Heart** blocks for the Feather Princesses we dearly love, because the gorgeous **Healing Heart** blocks are the perfect pairing to just about any life-changing or shattering situation.

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 convey our endearing love through our appliqué.

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

- **Barbara Belcher** likes red, white, and blue
- **Bobbi LeMay** likes Christmas fabrics
- **Jeanne Casiglia** likes pastels
- **Mary Moody** likes blue and red
- **Laura O'Connor** likes burgundy

If you recently completed **Healing Heart** blocks that you have not turned in, please bring them to our October 8 Guild Meeting and turn them in to me, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**; and I will give them to the recipients.

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.

2025 Autumn Splendor Quilt Challenge

by Ritu Haldar

It is that time of year again—for our awesome **Autumn Splendor Quilt Challenge** to convene!

So, **Autumn Splendor Challenge** participants, we cannot wait to see your beautiful creations! As a gentle reminder, there will be three categories for this challenge: **Quilt, Wallhanging,** and a fun category especially for **Pumpkins!**

- **Quilt Category** – Each quilt entered must measure 60" x 60" or larger in size.
- **Wallhanging Category** – Each wallhanging entered must measure any size smaller than 60" x 60".
- **Pumpkin Category** – If your quilt or wallhanging has an appliquéd "pumpkin" motif, you will be eligible to place it in the Pumpkin Category as well!

The maker of each quilt will determine the category her piece will be entered in.

Also:

- When you arrive at our exciting October 8 Guild Meeting, please see me, *Vice President, Princess Ritu Haldar*, to turn in your entry. You will receive a tag number and a ballot.
- The challenge quilts and wallhangings must be displayed during the meeting.
- Voting will take place at this meeting from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. All Feather Princesses members and guests will receive a ballot to vote for their favorite challenge entry in the quilt, wallhanging, and pumpkin categories.
- We will tabulate the votes during the lunch break.
- We will announce the winners later during the meeting after the lunch break.
- We will award the following prizes:
 - \$50 to the maker of the quilt that receives the most votes.
 - \$25 to the maker of the wallhanging that receives the most votes.
 - \$15 to the maker of the piece with an appliquéd pumpkin that receives the most votes.



Sample of Autumn Vibes Appliqué Pattern
by Angie Padilla Quilt Designs

We extend our very best wishes to each Feather Princesses member who completes an entry for the challenge! We'll see you and your awesome Autumn Splendor quilts at our October 8 Guild Meeting!



(Interesting Columbus Day Info - continued from page 7)

We will have a remarkable adventure, as we continue delving into our nation's history, select appropriate fabrics and patterns for appliquéd patriotic quilts, and then actually begin stitching them!

And if you would like to bring other Legacy quilts—your Baltimore Album, Civil War, and Traditional appliquéd quilts, please feel free to bring them to stitch!

Thanks so much! We look forward to seeing you and your stunning appliquéd quilts at this meeting!

Fall Florida FUN

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.google.com/> and *The Florida Register*, September - October, 2025)

Sometimes we quilters travel a substantial distance to attend exciting quilt shows and to see stunning masterpiece quilts. But this month, the good news is we will not have to travel far to see some stunning breathtaking quilts—because the next two marvelous Florida quilt shows, "Treasure Trove of Quilts" and "Quilting Under the Palms" will convene right here in our backyard during the month of October.

So to see a plethora of masterpiece award winning quilts, win delightful prizes, shop the jam packed vendor booths, and more, plan to attend both of these dynamic quilt shows. Call a friend, fill up the tank, and put the pedal to the metal, Feather Princesses!

And before you roast that bird in November, plan to attend the "42nd Annual Fantastic" Quilt Show, convening in Leesburg. It will be fabulous and fun, indeed!

Take a break from your needles, attend the following shows to support other quilt guilds, have a sensational time, and promote the art of quilt making—but most of all to have Fall Florida FUN!

Treasure Trove of Quilts – Quilt Show 2025 Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Brandon

The Regent
6437 Watson Road

Riverview, Florida 33578

Friday, October 10 – Saturday, October 11, 2025

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days

Info@brandonpiecemakers.org

Judged Quilts, Boutique, Gift and Basket Drawings,
Books and Magazines, Silent Auctions, Vendors
and More!



"Quilting Under the Palms" – 2025 Quilt Show Quilter's Crossing Quilt Guild

Countryside Recreation Center

2640 Sabal Springs Drive

Clearwater, Florida

Friday, October 24, 2025, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 25, 2025 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

See www.quilterscrossingguild.org for more information.

Find us on Facebook at [Quilter's Crossing, Inc.](https://www.facebook.com/Quilter's-Crossing-Inc)

Over 200 Quilts, Door Prizes, Group Quilt, Gift Baskets, Feather Weight Sewing Machine, Free Parking, and More!



"42nd Annual Fantastic" Quilt Show Lake County Quilters Guild

Venetian Center

1 Dozier Circle

Leesburg, Florida 34748

Friday, November 14 – Saturday, November 15, 2025

See www.lakequiltguild.com for more information.

Follow us on Facebook at [@Lake County Quilters Guild of Florida](https://www.facebook.com/Lake-County-Quilters-Guild-of-Florida)

Quilts, Vendors, Boutique, Quilt Sales, and More!

(Hip, Hip, Hooray! - continued from page 6)

Quilt Fest of Jacksonville, which convened September 18–20, 2025, in Jacksonville, Florida:

- **Joanne Rodriguez:** "Growing Wild," *Honorable Mention*
- **Peggy Wattenbarger:** "Saint Paulde Vence"
- **Linda Woytisek:**
 - ~ "Bold Creations of Color"
 - ~ "Lucy Verse Two"

Princesses, your work is astounding! Continue embracing appliqué, entering competitions, and making those award-winning quilts.

Congratulations on your amazing achievement! You earned this!

"Growing Wild," Honorable Mention, by Princess Joanne Rodriguez

2025 Fabulous Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and Dianna Shepard

Gorgeous Feather Princesses, the time is getting closer for our fabulous **2025 Retreat**, convening at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Thursday, October 16 - Monday, October 20. Less than two weeks remain before the Retreat begins, and we can hardly wait! We are so excited and our hearts are filled with JOY, JOY, and more JOY!



We will have a Retreat Meeting at 10 a.m. in the Springhill Suites Hotel lobby, prior to the start of our October 8 Guild Meeting. If you are registered to attend the Retreat, then please attend this meeting. We will discuss the final details related to the Retreat.

Also:

- If you plan to contribute to the goodie bags, please be sure to have enough items for the 13 goodie bags.
- If you plan to contribute a door prize, we certainly would appreciate that, too!
- If you bring a door prize, please either wrap it or place in a gift bag.

Please do not bring these items to our October Guild Meeting. We will collect them upon check-in at Lake Yale.

If you have any questions prior to our Retreat meeting, please feel free to contact us by email, phone, or text.

Thanks so much. We'll see you this coming Wednesday!

Retreat Feather Princesses, let's get packing!!

AQS "First-Time Entrant" Category

submitted by Dorothy Johnson

(Email received from AQS Friday, September 12, 2025)

This is YOUR moment!

Enter the AQS special "First-Time Entrant" category, exclusively for quilters who haven't yet displayed their work in an AQS contest. Unleash your creativity with any technique and quilting method, as long as your masterpiece falls within the size range of 30" to 84" in both width and length. Don't miss this chance to share your talent—Enter your first AQS quilt today!

- **AQS** is looking for a stunning quilt that fits the following specifications: Size: Width 30" to 84"; Length 30" to 84"
- **Techniques:** Any technique is welcome!
- **Quilting:** May be quilted by hand, machine, or both.
- **Eligibility:** The quilt entrant must not have displayed any quilt in a prior AQS Quilt Contest and must follow all General Contest Rules.

This category was created to celebrate new voices in quilting. If you've never entered an AQS contest before, your first quilt entry belongs here!

Learn more by going to:

https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests/?utm_campaign=14246449-QuiltWeek%20%E2%80%932026&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9CpmwchwCLzB4qa56Zz52lgA8EQEVqOivSBmaBgbZczjX75riPvy0dFX6CuMmFf8El6GEIk1ajaruxKg9xvdsLOm r9ZQ&hsmi=380177094&utm_content=380177094&utm_source=hs_email

AQS Upcoming Quilt Show Contests and Challenge

submitted by Dorothy Johnson

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

The AQS 2026 Daytona Beach Quilt Show will convene February 18–21, and the contest deadline to enter quilts (September 18, 2025) has already come and gone. But there is still time this year to enter the 2026 New England and Paducah Quilt Shows. The contest deadlines are November 6 and November 20, 2025 respectively.

So, if you would like to showcase your breathtaking masterpiece appliqué quilts and compete against other talented quilters, then be sure to check out the rules and guidelines for these marvelous shows. You never know, your quilt entry just might be a WINNER!

• American Quilter's Society 2026 Quilt Shows:

QUILT SHOWS	DEADLINES	SHOW DATES
Daytona Beach 2026	9/18/25	2/18–21/26
New England 2026	11/6/25	4/8–11/26
Paducah 2026	11/20/25	4/22–25/26
Grand Rapids 2026	4/30/26	8/19–22/26
Lancaster 2026	5/21/26	9/16–19/26

(continued on page 11)

Your Fall Foliage Fix

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.bhg.com/best-spots-for-fall-foliage>)

Peak leaf-peeping season is almost here. And while there's plenty of joy in watching your own garden change with the season, sometimes you want to experience Fall on a more epic scale. So, listed below are five of the best spots in the country for your foliage fix. To time your visit just right, check each area's local foliage report, which tracks the progress of the leaves over the season.

- Stowe, Vermont
- Great Smokey Mountains
- Columbia River Gorge, Oregon and Washington
- White Mountains, New Hampshire
- Hudson Valley, New York

So, head to one of these areas to enjoy unforgettable Fall scenery. But, if travel is not in your plans right now, that's okay. There are other places and spots right here in our back yard, for you to savor and enjoy! For instance, our Feather Princesses spectacular quilt circles come to mind. Gather your radiantly colored Autumn quilt fabrics in cotton and wool, select some gorgeous leaf or other Autumn designs, grab some matching threads; and voila, let the FUN begin!

Attend each of our amazing quilt circles this month and let your creativity soar to new heights, as you appliqué breathtaking Fall foliage and more—leaves, acorns, trees, squirrels—the list goes on and on!

Enjoy the cooler temperatures and drier days, as you get your Fall "fix," stitching and appliquéing at our awesome quilt circles! Your orange, gold, brown, and burgundy fabrics will be the stars at each and every one!

NOTE: Our inspirational *Sew Happy Sit and Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle* will convene on the fourth Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (instead of the third Tuesday as usual.)

We will see you in October at these exceptional quilt circles:

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Thursday, October 23, 2025
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Land O' Lakes Branch Library
2818 Collier Parkway
Land O' Lakes, Florida 34639
(813) 929-1214 (library)
Friday, October 24, 2025
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Sew Happy Sit and Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle

Regency Park Branch Library
9701 Little Road
New Port Richey, Florida 34654
(727) 861-3049 (library)
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Barbara Belcher, Winnie Miale,
and Dianna Shepard



(AQS Upcoming Quilt Show Contests and Challenge - continued from page 10)

• AQS Creativity Challenge - "50 States in Stitches"

Celebrate the sights, stories, and spirit of your chosen state in this fun and imaginative wool appliqué challenge! You can pick your current home state, a state you once lived in, or one you've always loved from afar. You get to decide the state you stitch!

Create a one-of-a-kind 8"x10" quilted wool appliqué quilt inspired by any U.S. state using a kit curated by WonderFil Specialty Threads. Go bold, go whimsical, go scenic or symbolic, it's all up to you!

The submission period is now open and all entries must be submitted by December 15, 2025.

If selected, your quilt will be displayed in a special exhibit at the 2026 AQS QuiltWeek shows.

Christmas Is Coming

by Dorothy Johnson

The "ber" months are already here, and the holidays are approaching really fast! We all adore and love the Christmas Season! It is such a Blessed time of year when we spend cherished times with the special people in our lives and give gifts to the ones that we love—and sometimes to those that we don't even know. It's a time for us to celebrate the birth of Christ, express our love, and enjoy each other.

So, as Christmas comes to the Feather Princesses this year, let's be ready! Let's be prepared to savor each and every festivity along the way! At our October 8 Guild Meeting, we will make announcements regarding our upcoming Christmas activities listed below. And here, we will gladly share the following info with you as a heads-up, so you can start thinking about these and marking your calendars now:



• Christmas Special Block

Princesses **Maria Nunez** and **Michelle Barry** will happily present our **2025 Christmas Special Block**, "Holiday Elegance." Filled with color, glitter, and sparkle, this special block is oozing with opportunities for creativity and gaiety, and it is one you will certainly enjoy making!

Kits will be available at the cost of \$2 each (*cash only, please*) during the lunch break, and we gently encourage you to get yours before they're all gone!

The completed blocks will be due at our glorious December 10 Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon.

• Christmas Holiday Luncheon

Princess **Maritza Chinchilla** will joyfully present plans for our festive **2025 December Guild Meeting/Christmas Luncheon**, which will convene on Wednesday, December 10.

Maritza will lead us in a discussion regarding the possible venues/restaurants for our meeting/

luncheon, and she will gladly welcome and solicit your ideas and suggestions as well.

So, if you have thoughts about the activities you would like to have to celebrate Christmas with the Feather Princesses, be sure to tell **Maritza** and share them with us.

• Christmas Quilt Circle Adventure

Princesses **Winnie Miale** and **Dianna Shepard** are already busy, coordinating the plans for our exciting **Christmas Quilt Circle Adventure!**

Filled with wondrous excitement and merriment every second of the day, this adventure will convene on Tuesday, December 16, and we welcome every beautiful Feather Princesses member to come and participate, especially our regular quilt circle and specialty quilt group attendees!

Winnie and **Dianna** will announce every step of this glorious adventure and share the itinerary for the day! So get ready for a fun-filled road trip and a delicious lunch at a popular restaurant to celebrate Christmas! It will be **FABULOUS** and it will be **FUN!**

• Surprise Event

Mum's the word for now. But we will announce a very special 2026 New Year's event coming up in late January or early February.

We're sure you will like it, so stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

