



The Plume

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 December Guild Meeting: "Holiday Elegance" Christmas Luncheon
- 3 December Program • Sunshine and Shadows • December/January Community Service Project
- 4 Christmas Quilt Circle Adventure • Fat Quarter Exchange • Classified Ad
- 5 December Birthdays • Let Your Light Shine: Healing Heart Blocks • "Holiday Elegance" Christmas Special Block
- 6 December Calendar • Library Update • Santa Stopped By Early This Year
- 7 Let's Hold On • "The Last Hoorah" - Christmas Quilt Circle/Group Meeting Luncheon
- 8 The Deadline Is Near: Upcoming National Quilt Challenges and Competitions
- 9 January Guild Meeting
- 10 January Program • January Calendar • "Super Stitchers" No Frills Appliqué Retreat • Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group
- 11 "The Great Quilt Mystery Tour" Northeast Florida Shop Hop • January Birthdays
- 12 There's More Than One Way: 2026 Florida Winter Quilt FUN!
- 13 Animal Appliqué Quilt Group • Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group • Combo Club Quilt Group
- 14 Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting • Legacy Quilt Group

President's Message

by Dorothy Johnson

Whew! We all can breath a sigh of relief now that November 30 has come and gone! That date signaled the official end of the 2025 Hurricane Season here in the state of Florida. And while we were spared and not impacted by a major hurricane this year, unfortunate memories of the 2024 season still linger in our thoughts and minds. As we all know, here in our area, the aftermath of the 2024 hurricanes was not pretty, in fact it was down right ugly! But we all learned a lot from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and one factor which made the 2025 season a bit more tolerable was the effectiveness of the hurricane forecasts and predictions. After the horrific season of 2024, we all gained a new appreciation and respect for the weather predictions. And while we were spared here in the Tampa Bay area this year, we all relied on and gave the hurricane predictions our undivided attention—to be better prepared and to not to repeat some of the same errors, mistakes, and calamities of the previous season.

Just like the 2025 Hurricane Season, here in the Feather Princesses we had a pretty good year, too. But we won't stop there. Our *Executive Board* has already made some rather impressive plans for 2026, and we predict that it will be a banner year here in our guild—a year of outstanding results and exceptional success! It will be a year that stands out as particular good, much like a banner stands out in a crowd.

So, gifted and talented Feather Princesses, roll up your sleeves, thread your needles, and get ready to increase your knowledge, enhance your skills, and stitch! Our brilliant *Vice President*, Princess Ritu, will soon announce specific plans she has in store for your quilting enrichment and edification! And our prolific *Quilt Circle Leaders* and *Specialty Appliqué Quilt Group Leaders* will do the same, as they too have planned new (and more advanced) appliqué quilt projects for the new year.

Feather Princesses, in 2026 prepare to learn all things new:

- Continue using your delightful purchased appliqué patterns (if you like), but try your hands at designing your own, too!
- Select or create patterns that incorporate different designs that you have never stitched before. Instead of appliquéing flowers, try stitching other design elements such as animals, etc.
- Learn a totally different style of appliqué. For example, if you like Traditional Appliqué, try making an Art or Landscape quilt.

(continued on page 6)

December Guild Meeting: "Holiday Elegance" Christmas Luncheon

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Sparkling with excitement and seasonal grandeur, come and embrace the joy, love, and magic of the Christmas Holiday Season at our jubilant December Guild Meeting/"Holiday Elegance" Christmas Luncheon! Enjoy the sparkle of glittering Baubles and other colorful Christmas ornaments and relish in the warmth, camaraderie, and fellowship of special quilting friends.

Do you know that Baubles are a type of spherical Christmas ornament, traditionally made of blown glass, that shine because the inside of the hollow glass is coated with a reflective silvering solution, creating a mirror-like finish? This silvering, combined with the reflective properties of the glass itself, allows the bauble to catch and reflect light, creating a festive sparkle. Baubles are decorative spheres, or balls, commonly used as Christmas ornaments. The word itself comes from the 14th-century word "baubel," meaning trinket or toy.

Join us at this very special occasion and revel in the festive sparkle of our Feather Princesses Christmas Celebration, delight in every miraculous moment of joy and peace, and savor the sweet aroma of love as it permeates our decorative meeting room.

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 delicious "Holiday Desserts and 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:

- *Fat Quarter Exchange Chair*, Princess **Linda Woytisek**, to turn in your "Red and Green Christmas" fat quarters.
- *Guild Photographer Volunteer*, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, to sign in and photograph the quilts you will present during Show N Tell.

Wednesday, December 10, 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.
- Christmas Festivities begins at 10 a.m.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

- *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*.
- *Special Block Chair*, Princess **Maria Nunez**, to turn in your completed Christmas Special Block, "Holiday Elegance."

Also:

- At 9 a.m. during Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you stitch your stunning appliqué quilt projects.
- At 10 a.m., embrace the very glorious moments of our Christmas Celebration, as the festivities begin.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business and committee reports.
- During the lunch break, enjoy the delicious boxed lunch provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill or the tasty lunch you brought from home.

And be sure to taste the yummy "Holiday Desserts and Treats" shared by our lovely Princesses.

- After lunch, the glorious Christmas Celebration will continue with all of us creating a small Holiday ornament project, presented by our talented *Vice President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**.
- 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.
- And sit on the edge of your seats, as the drawing for the Hawaiian Group quilt top is held. Let's CONGRATULATE the winner and wish her well!

(continued page 3)

(December Guild Meeting - continued from page 2)

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

Princesses **Ritu, Michelle, Dianna**, and I look forward to celebrating the Holidays with you! So, be sure to come out and join us this coming Wednesday at our "Holiday Elegance" Christmas Luncheon!

December Program

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Princesses! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Can you believe that the year is almost over! The Holidays are upon us! It is that wonderful time of year to invite you to our guild Christmas Luncheon! Since we will be in house, let's bring on the festivities and our party moves. Bring your Holiday spirit to the meeting, and let's relax and share some Holiday cheer together!

A hint—warm up your vocal cords! You will be needing them! Perhaps some of us will burst into a special rendition of "Jingle Bells" and spread some good cheer! I am also looking forward to the special announcements and all of us working together, creating an adorable Holiday project.

Our December program and activity will involve appliquéing a gorgeous, easy peasy ornament. The pattern and kit will be provided to you, but please bring your basic sewing supplies. We can't wait to create this elegant ornament and celebrate this joyous season with you!

From **Dorothy, Ritu, Dianna** and **Michelle**, we wish you the BEST in 2026! We'll see you at the meeting and into the new year! Cheers!

Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller

While this season is joyful for so many, it's also a difficult time for others, especially for our lovely Feather Princesses who are not feeling well. We truly hope you all will feel better very soon and that you will be able to join us once again in the excitement and fun at our Feather Princesses gatherings.



So, this month we wish you the best and we also send hugs, warm thoughts, and get well wishes to the following Feather Princesses:

- Beverly Abenante
- Dee Anderson
- Ritu Haldar
- Nancy Hale
- Cathy Kessler
- Betty Jo Lecaroz
- Joanne Rodriguez
- Peggy Wattenbarger
- Pat Yucatonis

December/January Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

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

Gorgeous Feather Princesses, you are absolutely wonderful! Because of your very generous and substantial cash and food donations each month, our Community Service Project was very successful this year. So, we sincerely thank you all for your continued support of this very effective and worthwhile project. You consistently made very generous donations to the various food banks in our Tampa Bay communities; and we are genuinely grateful to you for your unwavering generosity, love, and support.

In the spirit of giving at Christmas, at our upcoming December 10 Guild Meeting we will collect cash and food donations. And to help feed the needy people in our community during this season of joy, love, and peace, our beautiful member, Princess **Joie Wilson**, will deliver our donations to:

Palma Ceia Methodist Church

3723 W. Bay to Bay Blvd.

Tampa, Florida 33629

Looking ahead, we are already planning our Feather Princesses **2026 Community Service Project** donation schedule; and we look forward to receiving your cash and food donations at each of our awesome monthly guild meetings. At our January 14 Guild Meeting, yours truly, Princess **Mary Moody**, will deliver our cash and food donations to the:

Port Richey Salvation Army Corps & Community Center

7745 Ridge Road

Port Richey, Florida 34668

We truly express our sincere appreciation to you in advance for filling your bags with non-perishable food items and bringing them, along with your cash, and donating these items to help feed the less fortunate people in our area during the glorious Holiday Season.

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



Christmas Quilt Circle Adventure

by Winnie Miale and Dianna Shepard

Our plans are complete and we are ready to go on 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 attendees!

As with all of our Feather Princesses road trips, this Christmas Adventure will be extra special! So get ready for a fun-filled road trip and a delicious lunch to celebrate Christmas!

Hook up with your Princess Pals and friends, confirm your travel arrangements, and prepare to enjoy the sweet camaraderie, savor the fabulous fellowship, and have a quilt shopping experience like no other at these awesome quilt shops.

Here's the itinerary:

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Quilter's Anonymous
9225 Pine Island Road
Clermont, Florida 34711
352-241-6768

Then 32 miles, about a 52 minute drive to:

11 a.m. – 12 Noon

Piece by Piece Quilt Shop
6917 Round Lake Road
Mt. Dora, Florida 32757
321-398-2814

Then 8.8 miles, about a 20 minute drive to Lunch:

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch at Sonny's BBQ
15800 U.S. Highway 441
Eustis, Florida 32726
352-589-6888

Then 1.6 miles, about a 10 minute drive to:

2 p.m. – ? Shop closes at 4 p.m.

Sew Mini Things
3820 County Road 19-A
Mt. Dora, Florida 32757
352-483-0082

Additional parking is located behind the shop.

Enter the left side of the building.

Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

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

During the Holiday Season, especially during the month of December, we all love the traditional Christmas colors of red and green. Red and green became Christmas colors due to ancient traditions of using evergreen plants and holly in Winter celebrations, their Christian symbolism for the life and sacrifice of Jesus, and their popularization through Coca-Cola's Santa Claus advertisements in the 1930s.

Green: Represents eternal life and hope, often symbolized by the evergreen trees that stay green throughout the Winter.

Red: Represents the blood of Jesus Christ. Holly's red berries are also seen as a symbol of the crown of thorns, and the blood shed on the cross.

The *Fat Quarter Exchange* fabric selection for **December** is "Red and Green Christmas" fabrics.

Moving along to the month of January, here in the USA, "Sports" are king. American sports are dominated by the playoffs for Football (NFL) and the peak of the Winter Sports season (NHL, NCAA Basketball, Skiing, Skating), alongside the start of the Tennis Australian Open, with the College Football National Championship often kicking off the month, while NBA action heats up as seasons progress and MLB begins its offseason activities like signing periods.

The *Fat Quarter Exchange* fabric selection for **January** is "Sports" themed fabrics.

So, bring these fat quarters to our fabulous December 10 and January 14 Guild Meetings respectively and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Participate in these exciting exchanges, win, and then start your new "Christmas" and "Sports" themed appliqué quilt projects, using the colorful and dazzling fabrics from our exciting December and January *Fat Quarter Exchanges*.

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

CLASSIFIED AD

FOR SALE: 1952 Singer Featherweight 221. Case with tray included. Sews great. \$400

**Contact Betty Jo Lecaroz at:
(813) 935-6225**

December Birthdays

by Vici Miller

During this season of gift giving, it's not the colorful wrapped packages with the fancy bows that we most cherish, but it's the gathering of friends and family to celebrate. Here at our fun-filled Feather Princesses gatherings we not only celebrate, but we also give gifts of compliments and encouragement to our fellow appliqué sisters. And we don't wait for the Holidays to come along to do it, either. We express our admiration and love each and every day and we keep that kind of gift giving going all through the year, as we have done for so long.

This month we celebrate the birthdays of the following beautiful Feather Princesses:

Joanne Rodriguez - 12/7

Nikki Hinton - 12/23

Maria Nunez - 12/24

Cathy Kessler - 12/25

Michelle Barry - 12/27



Happy, Happy Birthday to each of you lovely ladies!

Let Your Light Shine: Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk

The Holiday Season really is the most wonderful time of the year! And just as shiny baubles and ornaments hang on the Christmas tree to catch and reflect light creating a festive sparkle, we Feather Princesses "let our light shine" through our creativity as prolific quilters. We live openly and honestly, and we appliqué to express our love to others. We warm the hearts of the people we love, as we do good deeds and make luscious gifts for them, to show that we care, so that our talents are enjoyed by all. And this certainly applies to our **Healing Heart Blocks**.

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:



"Holiday Elegance" Christmas Special Block

by Maria Nunez

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

Our splendid 2025 *Christmas Special Block*, "Holiday Elegance," is oozing and sparkling with elegance and delight! Glittering baubles and ornaments hanging from a tree add sparkle and festive colors to any Holiday decor, just perfect for getting us into a magical mood and the Christmas Spirit! Not only when hung on the tree, but these shimmering trinkets and what-nots can also enhance other areas such as mantels, wreaths, and centerpieces, too.

We hope you are learning and having fun as you stitch this stunning block. Please be sure to follow the easy instructions included in the kit and please use the green background fabric, gold and silver bias tape and rick rack for the hangers, the fabrics

provided in the kit, and the fabrics you selected for the ornaments—plus quality quilter's cotton fabrics from your stashes, to complete the block.

At our upcoming December 10 Guild Meeting, please turn in your completed "Holiday Elegance" Christmas Special Block to yours truly, Princess Maria Nunez, 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.



- **Barbara Belcher** likes red, white, and blue
- **Bobbi LeMay** likes Christmas fabrics
- **Jeanne Casiglia** likes pastels
- **Mary Moody** likes blue and red

If you recently completed **Healing Heart** blocks that you have not turned in, please bring them to our December 10 and/or January 14 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. Merry, Merry Christmas!

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

- Master totally different quilting techniques to accommodate the different styles of appliqué that you are learning.
- Gather the appropriate quilting supplies and tools needed to create the different styles of appliqué quilts that you make.
- Enhance the overall appearance of your quilts by adding finishing touches such as beading and embroidery.
- Intricately appliqué the borders of your quilts and take them to the next level as well.

And then as we operate in excellence, and incorporate, practice, and learn these new quilting techniques, let's enter some quilt competitions and challenges! Let's compete against other talented quilters and win!

We predict that you will have a banner year in 2026, filled with outstanding results and exceptional success!

Princesses Ritu, Michelle, Dianna, and I wish you "the very best" in your appliqué, now and always! We'll see you this coming Wednesday at our December Guild Meeting/"Holiday Elegance" Christmas Luncheon!

December Calendar



Library Update

by Mary Ann Vathy

Merry Christmas, Feather Princesses! For the past few months, our library quilt books have been on a Holiday—eating turkey, visiting their friends, and reading each other. And because we will celebrate Christmas at our December 10 Guild Meeting/"Holiday Elegance" Christmas Lunch, the library books will continue enjoying their well deserved break.

With that said, our guild Library will not open at our upcoming guild meeting and there will be no check-out for our books this month either. But the good news is that our guild library will resume its normal operations at our exciting January 14 Guild Meeting.

So, please hold on to the library books you currently have checked out and return them in January. Enjoy reading them and trying something new, learn a new quilting or appliqué technique, but most of all have some FUN!

Santa Stopped By Early This Year

by Betty Jo Lecaroz and B. J. Weber

We tell you what, Santa is such a good guy—he remembers everyone! And he certainly remembered us and already made an early stop this Holiday Season to our Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild! He came by on November 12 and brought two very precious ladies with him—our beautiful new member, Princess Virginia Tooker, and our lovely returning member, Princess Cathleene Tokish!

Both Virginia and Cathleene are truly talented quilters, as they have years of quilting experience under their belts. So, we are ecstatic that they are here in our guild; and we look forward to sitting and stitching with them at our future inspirational quilt circles and specialty appliqué quilt group meetings. And we're anxious to play and create some amazing appliqué quilts with them, too!

Thanksgiving has come and gone; but we're still beaming from ear to ear and expressing our sincere gratitude for Virginia and Cathleene! And when you see them again, be sure to let them know how glad you are that they are here with us, too!

In the mean time, do not fret or worry about what Santa will bring to you this year. He received your letter, he is still making his rounds, and he'll surely stop by your house on December 25 to drop off some much needed and wanted fabrics, sewing machines, quilt books, patterns, and more! So stand by and most of all, continue being GOOD! He won't forget you, as Santa remembers everyone!

Let's Hold On

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Spring cleaning is the tradition of deep cleaning and organizing a home during the Spring. It involves tackling tasks that are not part of regular, weekly cleaning, such as washing windows, cleaning behind appliances, decluttering closets, and deep-cleaning carpets. The practice serves to refresh a living space and symbolizes a fresh start after the Winter season ends.

Speaking of decluttering closets, most folks repeat this process after the annual Holiday Season ends and before the new year kicks in. Many people take the time to throw out items that they no longer need or want.

And to stay organized and to have a comfortable environment to sew and stitch in, many quilters clean and organize their sewing rooms as well—getting rid of older projects and supplies they no longer need or want—and making room for the new.

So, as you declutter your sewing room and prepare it for sewing fun and excitement in the next year, be sure to hold on to those appliqué quilt projects and other UFOs you started this year, but did not finish. Take a moment or two to think about how you can bring those projects back to life, instead of tossing them. And then bring them to any of our awesome quilt circles; and let us help you come up with a plan to complete them. Let's hold on to those appliqué projects. Bring them to our inspirational quilt circles and finish them.

NOTE: *The Sew Happy Sit and Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle, Plum Creek Quilt Circle, and the Woolly Chicks Quilt Circle will not meet in December.*

But they will meet in January on their regularly scheduled days (3rd Tuesday – January 20, 4th Thursday – January 22, and 4th Friday – January 23, respectively).

We will see you in January at these inspirational quilt circles:

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, January 20, 2026

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Thursday, January 22, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

Woolly Chicks Quilt Circle

Land O' Lakes Branch Library

2818 Collier Parkway

Land O' Lakes, Florida 34639

(813) 929-1214 (library)

Friday, January 23, 2026

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Fazie Mohamed

"The Last Hoorah" - Christmas Quilt Circle/Group Meeting Luncheon

by Melissa Labella and Dorothy Johnson

Welcome to the Holiday Season! Take a break from whatever is pulling at you this month and join us on Thursday, December 18, for some relaxing stitching and fun camaraderie. All of our phenomenal quilt circles and specialty appliqué quilt groups will gather to play and celebrate Christmas, so you will get an enormous dose of inspiration and good will when you come!

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us at our last phenomenal quilt circle/specialty group meeting of this year:

"The Last Hoorah"

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Thursday, December 18, 2025

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Melissa Labella
and Dorothy Johnson

We welcome ALL Feather Princesses to attend this gala affair:

- We will feature a pot-luck lunch, so please bring your favorite Holiday treat to share.
- Also bring an appliqué quilt project to stitch, as you sit and embrace the warmth of the Holiday season with our gifted Feather Princesses!
- And, if you would like to participate in a fun game, bring a fat quarter to share.

(continued on page 14)

The Deadline Is Near: Upcoming National Quilt Challenges and Competitions

by Dorothy Johnson

The deadline is near for submitting your stunning quilt entries in the exciting AQS Creativity Challenge - "50 States in Stitches"! So, do not miss it! Put the finishing touches on your unique wool appliqué quilt today and enter it by the deadline of Monday, December 15, 2025!

Talented Feather Princesses, if you want to experience the excitement and thrill of competing against other gifted quilters, then now is the time to "get your feet wet" and grasp this golden opportunity.

The American Quilter's Society Challenge is nearing its end and the 2026 Cherrywood Challenge is currently underway. And the Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival "Quilt" and "Wearable Art Competitions" and the Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition have already started and are actively moving forward as well!

So, let's put on our thinking caps (uh, tiaras), think of some creative ideas and designs, select some gorgeous fabrics, and let the stitching begin! Enter the following national quilt challenges and competitions today!

AQS Creativity Challenge - "50 States in Stitches"

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

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.

2026 Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.quiltfest.com/register/mid-atlantic-quilt-festival-2026/maqf-quilt-competition/>)

MAQF Quilt Competition

IMPORTANT: Before starting your competition entry, please log in to access your QuiltFest account or create a QuiltFest account.

- Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival 2026 Quilt Competitions
 - Innovative & Traditional Full-Size Quilts
 - Mid-Century Mod Modern Quilts
 - Wall Quilts

Quilts may be entered in the full-size Innovative/Traditional Quilt Competition, the Mid-Century Mod Modern Quilt Competition, or the Wall Quilt Competition.

Postmark Deadline for Quilt Entries is January 20, 2026.

MAQF Wearable Art Competition

IMPORTANT: Before starting your competition entry, please log in to your QuiltFest account or create a QuiltFest account.

A Juried & Judged Prize Money Competition!

Entries for the Wearable Art Competition may be entered into one of two categories, Full Ensemble or Vest/Jacket/Coat. See the Wearable Art Competition entry form for more details.

Postmark deadline for **Wearable Art Entries** is January 20, 2026.

2026 Cherrywood Challenge

(Excerpts taken from https://cherrywoodfabrics.com/pages/the-cherrywood-challenge?srltid=AfmBOorWefZiIPvXNBYgLade8HHTYc8YAqwoj_VQ-izq9uLF81s5m_Lz and <https://thequiltsow.com/blog/contests/announcing-the-2026-cherrywood-challenge>)

Every year, Cherrywood chooses a theme and color palette and presents a challenge to quilters from all over the world. The challenge is to see what they can create using a very limited number of colors, and show off the beautiful suede look of their hand-dyed fabric.

The Cherrywood Challenge 2026 theme is "Storytime," and it inspires you to stitch your story—stories you read as a child woven into the fabric. Capture the vintage palette of some of your favorite books to help you stitch your own story."

This Annual Cherrywood Challenge started July 1, 2025 and the quilts are due February 15, 2026.

Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition

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

Quilters and fiber artists of all backgrounds are invited to submit original quilt works inspired by the spirit of Baltimore—past, present, and/or future. This is an opportunity to reflect on the city of Baltimore through fabric, whether your piece is abstract or literal, historical or cultural.

The deadline to submit Baltimore Quilt entries is April 1, 2026.

January Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

Happy New Year, talented Feather Princesses! We have never been more energized and excited as we are right now, to start a new spectacular year of APPLIQUÉ! Mounds of opportunities await us to learn and share more quilting information, master techniques, create breathtaking appliqué quilts, compete against other talented quilters, and then WIN! So, as we always say—"Let the FUN BEGIN!" Come out and join us at our first phenomenal guild meeting of the year! Come with high hopes and expectations of a fun-filled year of quiltmaking! Spend time with us and rest assured that your appliqué dreams and goals will come true and you will have a successful year of APPLIQUÉ, too!

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.
- 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 "Sports" themed fat quarters.
- *Guild Librarian*, Princess **Mary Ann Vathy**, to browse and return guild library books.
- *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.
- *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 friends, as you stitch your stunning appliqué quilt projects.



Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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

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

- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business and committee reports.
- During the lunch break, enjoy the delicious lunch you brought from home.
- After lunch, become inspired and learn from the informative program presented by our gifted *Vice-President*, Princess Ritu Halder. The program will feature the work of collage artist, author and illustrator Clare Youngs.
- During Show N Tell, enjoy the amazing and astonishing Show Offs, and be inspired with the very stunning appliqué quilts and wallhangings made by our talented Princesses.
- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting January Birthday and door prize drawings, as your name just might get drawn and you will be the winner.

Princesses **Ritu, Michelle, Dianna**, and I anxiously look forward to starting the new year, appliquéing with you! So, be sure to come out and join us at our first phenomenal guild meeting of 2026, and bring a special friend, too!

**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 2025-26 FP Membership Directory.

January Program

by Ritu Haldar

Happy New Year Princesses! Welcome to 2026 and a wonderful year ahead of fellowship, stitching, and an exciting new year ahead in appliqué! I so look forward to programming fun and innovative ideas. Member contributions are an essential part of our guild and I so look forward to working with you and incorporating your talents! Step forward and share your wonderful ideas with us!

Our January program will feature the work of collage artist, author and illustrator **Clare Youngs**. I encourage you to take a moment to look at her work and check out her style. More to come at the meeting in January!

I eagerly look forward to letting our creative juices flow and getting our needles humming, working with our favorite fabrics. Happy, Happy New Year!

January Calendar

Wednesday, January 7
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 14
Feather Princesses January Guild Meeting

Thursday, January 15
Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

Monday, January 19
Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 20
Sew Happy Sit & Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle

Wednesday, January 21
Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, January 22
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, January 23
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Monday, January 26
Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 28
Animal Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Friday, January 30 - Saturday, January 31
Super Stitchers No Frills Applique Retreat

"Super Stitchers" No Frills Appliqué Retreat

by Ritu Haldar

Dear Feather Princesses, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our Feather Princesses Executive Board has an awesome New Year's treat for you! We will start 2026 by hosting a "Super Stitchers" No Frills Appliqué Retreat, exclusively for our Feather Princesses members.

When: Friday, January 30, 2026 and Saturday, January 31, 2026

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

Time: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. each day

Cost: Free to Feather Princesses Members Only

26 seats are available.

I will bring copies of the *Retreat Registration* and *Emergency Forms* to our December 10 and January 14 Guild Meetings. Please fill out and return these forms to yours truly, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, by our Feather Princesses January 14 Guild Meeting.

Please note that we have a limited amount of space for sewing machines, so please let me know if you plan to bring your machine, as space will be provided on a "first come first served" basis.

At this fun-filled retreat, we will usher in the new year in "true appliqué style!" And in observance of the upcoming 2026 Super Bowl (convening on Sunday, February 8, in San Francisco), we will appliqué, celebrate, and party as "Super Stitchers." So, mark your calendars now, and then come and be a part of this spectacular event!

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group

by Betty Jo Lecaroz

A new year of appliquéing with our colorful fabric scraps is almost here! And what an exciting time it will be! Creating designs from our gorgeous scraps of fabric and then assembling them into quilts is what we plan to do!

Mark your calendars now, so you can join us at this exciting adventure on the first Wednesday of the new year:

(continued page 12)

"The Great Quilt Mystery Tour" Northeast Florida Shop Hop

submitted by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpts taken from "The Florida Register," November - December 2025)

Beautiful Feather Princesses, may you have a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Blessed New Year! Enjoy every magical moment of the Holiday Season; and when the festivities are over and the new year begins, fill the tank with gas and your car with special quilting friends, and hit the roads of Northeast Florida! Have a ball with eight (8) wonderful days of quilt shopping, fun, and mystery-solving! Travel to nine (9) amazing quilt shops across Northeast Florida, collect exclusive quilt block patterns at each shop, and then piece together a one-of-a-kind mystery quilt.

"The Great Quilt Mystery Tour"

Saturday, January 17 - Saturday, January 24, 2026

The participating quilt shops are:

- **Cinnamon's Quilt Shoppe** - 8358 Point Meadows Drive, Suite 4, Jacksonville (Bay Meadows), (904) 519-7705, info@cinnamonsquilts.com
- **Cinnamon's Quilt Shoppe** - 4220 Hood Road, Jacksonville (Mandarin), (904) 374-0532, info@cinnamonsquilts.com
- **Cut Up and Sew** - 160 Cypress Point Parkway, Suite D116, Palm Coast, (386) 447-1103, info@cutupandsew.com
- **Cut Up and Sew** - 1975 Old Moultrie Road, St. Augustine, (904) 826-4007, info@cutupandsew.com
- **Miss D's Quilt Shop** - 305 St. Johns Avenue, Palatka, (386) 385-5678, missd@missdsquilts.com
- **Oceans of Thread** - 1250 S. State Road 15A, Suite 4, Deland, (386) 337-5528, oceansofthread@gmail.com
- **St. Aug Sew** - 2491 U.S. Highway 1 South, St. Augustine, (904) 837-6336, hello@staugsew.com
- **The Sew 'N Quilt Company** - 1585 N. Nova Road, Holly Hill, (386) 310-7070, hello@thesewnquiltco.com
- **The Tilted Quilters** - 11043 Crystal Springs Road, Suite 10, Jacksonville, (904) 677-4160, info@tiltedquilters.com

The passports are available at any participating shop:

- Passports cost \$5 each now through December 31, 2025.
- Passports cost \$7 each beginning January 1, 2026.

January Birthdays

by Vici Miller

January is a time for reNEWal. And for some, it is a special time for making NEW year's resolutions. We here at the Feather Princesses are looking forward to a NEW year of fun and learning, maybe adding a NEW technique to our appliqué repertoire. And we're looking forward to applauding and complimenting each other, too!

So, to our beautiful Feather Princesses who have birthdays the first month of the NEW year, we extend our happiest and very best wishes!

Barbara Belcher - 1/1

Trudy Flynn - 1/5

Amanda Astin - 1/12

Cathleene Tokish - 1/20

Birthday ladies, have a spectacular year of APPLIQUÉ!



- The shop hop guidelines are:
 - Collect all 9 free mystery block patterns and receive a finishing layout pattern when you turn in your passport.
 - Block kits are available at \$4 each.
 - Each shop will give away a \$100 gift basket to a lucky passport holder.
- Prizes:
 - Grand Prize - A Bernina sewing machine, tote, and extras - valued at more than \$2,000
 - 1st Prize - \$100 gift card from each participating shop
 - 2nd Prize - \$50 gift card from each participating shop
 - 3rd Prize - \$25 gift card from each participating shop

Lovely ladies, make a list of the quilting fabrics, goodies, and supplies you need to begin (or complete) your smashing appliqué quilt projects for the new year! And then mosey on up to the Northeast corner of our state and have the best time ever at The Great Quilt Mystery Tour! It will be Fabulous, it will be Fun, it will be "Elementary, my dear Watson."

There's More Than One Way: 2026 Florida Winter Quilt FUN!

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Yes, there is more than one way to skin a cat! And there's more than one way to have fun during the Winter months here in Florida! We all enjoy the pristine beaches and the exciting theme parks! But there's another way for us quilters to enjoy ourselves during the Winter—we can go to some pretty dynamic and impressive quilt shows! We can appreciate and embrace the artistry of stunning quilts, shop the amazing vendor booths, take chances on baskets overflowing with fun quilt related stuff, win some amazing door prizes, and so much more!

So, when 2026 rolls around, be ready to hit the highway and enjoy some Florida Winter Quilt FUN! Plan your schedules, fill in your calendars now for the month of January, and be sure to make of a note of the exciting exhibits and quilt shows listed below.

15th Anniversary Modern Quilt Exhibit

Orlando Modern Quilt Guild

Orlando Public Library
101 E. Central Blvd.
Orlando, Florida

Now – Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Contact: <https://www.orlandomqg.org/>

"Under the Cover of Knowledge: Betty Ford–Smith's Pinecone Quilts"

College of Central Florida
Appleton Museum of Art
Edith–Marie Gallery (first floor)
4333 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, Florida 34470

Now – Sunday, February 22, 2026

Contact: <https://www.appletonmuseum.org/exhibitions/under-the-cover-of-knowledge/#more-5441>

(Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group - continued from page 10)

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Betty Jo Lecaroz

Market Place 2026 Quilting Guild of The Villages

Rohan Recreation Center
850 Kristine Way

The Villages, Florida 32163

Friday, January 23, 2026, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More than 30 vendors specializing in all things related to sewing, quilting, stitching, and more!

Scissors Sharpening, Basketmania, Door Prizes, and so much more.

Contact: qgotvmarketplace@gmail.com

"Orange You a Swan Lover"

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

First Presbyterian Church
175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Friday, January 23 – Saturday, January 24, 2026

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days

200 + Quilt Display, Boutique, Charity Quilt Display, Opportunity Quilt, Treasure Baskets, Vendors, Food Concession, and more!

Contact: ladiesofthelakes.org

"Treasured Quilts" Quilt Show Sponsored by Local Quilt Guilds

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Weston
580 Indian Trace

Weston, Florida 33326

Saturday, January 31, 2026, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: <https://quiltguilds.com/event/treasured-quilts-show-in-weston-fl/>

We have lots of fabric scraps to play with; and at this inspirational meeting, we will continue working on circles and strip piecing. So come with ideas and maybe bring your sewing machine to stitch these strips. I will bring an iron and pressing mat. Join us for some fun and creativity!

And in addition to your fabrics and other supplies, remember to bring your lunch and a jacket. We will see you there!

Animal Appliqué Quilt Group

by Lois Bretzlaff

Lions, Tigers, and Bears, oh my!! We're gearing up for our exciting **Animal Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting**, and we hope you will come out and join us! We gladly welcome ALL of our lovely Feather Princesses to attend! Come and stitch some animals with us!

Animal Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Lois Bretzlaff

Bring your patterns and fabrics to start your delightful animal appliqué project. We will stitch and discuss many possibilities of this genre. There are so many options to select and have FUN stitching!

You can also bring the tools needed to do your favorite method of appliqué. Most of all, bring your imagination, as stitching the critters is so much fun!

We are so anxious to see YOU at Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library on Wednesday, January 28, 10 am. Spend the day with us and CREATE!

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group

by Ritu Haldar

Mele Kalikimaka, Dear Friends!

As we wrap up another beautiful year of stitches, stories and shared creativity, our hearts are full of gratitude. Hawaiian Appliqué has a way of bringing us together—one fold, one stitch-at-a-time—and this year has been no exception. At our upcoming December 10 Guild Meeting, we will conduct the drawing for our stunning group quilt top and look forward to presenting it to the winner.

May this Christmas season surround you with joy, peace and the Aloha Spirit. May your quilts be vibrant and bright! Happy New Year!

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Monday, January 26, 2026

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Ritu Haldar

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Combo Club Quilt Group

by Melissa Labella

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

We look forward to beginning a new Combo “Row Quilt” project in January and we will reference the book, Quilting Row by Row, by Jeanette White and Erin Hamilton. The book was published in 2017 and it is available on Amazon in Kindle format or as a physical book; and here is a description from the website:

“Starting with the simplest patchwork squares and working your way up to more challenging appliqué and paper piecing, you'll sew through a cheery, 11-row sampler quilt and two bonus projects. Build 25 specific quilting skills, such as:

- Getting an accurate ¼" seam
- Constructing on-point squares
- Using the 45° angle on a ruler.

Straightforward how-to photos and full-size patterns are included. Gain confidence and learn new tips along the way, whether you're just a beginner or a more experienced quilter.”

The meeting info is:

Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Thursday, January 15, 2026

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Melissa Labella

This new “Row Quilt” project will be exceptionally FUN and we can hardly wait for you to join us!

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at any time; and I will be happy to assist you.

Thanks so much and we'll see you on Thursday, January 15!



Bring your lunch, a sweater, your sewing machine, and supplies, if you wish! A project kit will be provided to each attendee! All are welcome to come, learn, and stitch!

Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

by Peggy Wattenbarger, Linda Woytisek, and Krystal Woytisek

Talented Feather Princesses, we welcome you to come and join us at our next inspirational **Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting**! Our new group quilt is well under way, we're having so much fun creating it, and we promise you will enjoy this meeting, learn new techniques, and have fun, too! So, mark your calendars now and make plans to join us.

Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Peggy Wattenbarger's Home

Monday, January 19, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Peggy Wattenbarger

The third Monday in January is a holiday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and the local libraries will close. So our exciting **Creative Appliqué Quilt Group** will meet at Princess **Peggy Wattenbarger's** home. This will be the first exciting **Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting** of the new year, so we look forward to seeing you all there.

Peggy's address is listed in the online Feather Princesses 2025-2026 *Membership Directory*; and we will distribute written driving directions to **Peggy's** home at our Feather Princesses January 14 Guild Meeting.

Our group quilt background is starting to look awesome. However, we still need more medium and light blue fabrics to complete the background. Also, the flower blocks that we have seen so far are looking great as well. If you are creating a flower block that is not quite finished, please bring it to this meeting. And if you need additional help, please let us know.

So, please bring the following items to the meeting:

- Your flower block
- Tiny/mini irons
- Parchment paper

We will provide Fusible Wonder Under, paint brushes, and liquid starch. And remember to bring your lunch as usual. We will provide refreshing beverages.

We, **Princesses Peggy, Linda, and Krystal**, anxiously look forward to seeing you all in the new year! Come and have some FUN with us!



Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.google.com/search?> and <https://www.almanac.com/veterans-day>)

We welcome ALL of our talented Feather Princesses to join us at our next exciting **Legacy Quilt Group Meeting** on Wednesday, January 21! What FUN we will have, as we start 2026 with a renewed focus on the stunning quilts made during the Civil War era of our nation's history, 1861 - 1865! Specifically, we will study the array of colors of fabrics used in quilting at that time—cheddar, pinks, reds, blue, brown, muted but with pop, and then with shirtings thrown in for backgrounds! It will be interesting for sure!

So, come and join us at this informative and inspirational meeting, to learn more about appliquéd Civil War quilts and the fabric colors used to make them:

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bears Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Also at this meeting, we will look at various Civil War appliqué patterns and designs, and then start planning our next Civil War group quilt. It has been a while since we made the last one. So, come and share your thoughts with us about the kind of quilt you would like to make in the new year. And if you have a pattern to consider using for the group quilt, please bring it along for us to see.

We will have a remarkable adventure, as we plan this group quilt. And if you would like to bring other Legacy quilts such as your Baltimore Album and Traditional appliqué quilts, please feel free to bring them to this meeting to stitch as well!

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting and spending some time with you, too!

Happy stitching to you in the new year!

(“The Last Hoorah” - continued from page 7)

The fat quarter should be a quality quilting fabric, in any color or print.

“The Last Hoorah” will be spectacular, so do not miss it! We look forward to celebrating the end of our phenomenal year of appliqué with YOU!