



The Plume

FEBRUARY 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

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

With the 250th Anniversary of our country coming in just a few short months, let's take a quick look back at our nation's history. The founding of America (roughly 1776–1789) involved declaring independence from British rule, winning the Revolutionary War, and establishing a constitutional republic. And key milestones included adopting the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, signing the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, and creating the Bill of Rights to protect individual liberties. Important to remember here is that it all started and was birthed with a single idea—the quest for liberty and independence; and credit goes to the many dedicated people who worked and made all of this happen, especially the first President of the United States, George Washington.

A similar concept applies to our quilting. Each and every quilt that we make begins with an idea—followed by a myriad of decisions to make as well. Once a quilter births an idea to make a quilt, he or she ponders thoughts and decisions such as these:

Will the quilt be made from a purchased pattern or a personal design?

- Will the quilt incorporate patchwork, appliqué, or both?
- What style (and kind) of fabrics will be used to get the desired outcome or results?
- What colors will be used to get the desired outcome or results?
- Which techniques will be used to create the quilt, to get the desired results?
- Will additional resources be needed or required to complete the quilt, such as the services of a long arm quilter?

Looking ahead into our phenomenal 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season, it will be intriguing to study the stunning quilts on display and to imagine the idea or reason for the creation of each quilt—why the quilter made each particular quilt, what was the catalyst or impetus for each quilt, what spurred each quilter on or inspired and motivated the quilter to make the quilt he or she made? Probably one or all of the bulleted items listed above played a vital role in the maker's decision.

It is safe to say that we all have a list (to be honest—a long list) of quilts we would like to make one day. So going forward, as you

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February Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

Make a declaration of your quilting goals and aspirations, come with high hopes and expectations of a fun-filled time of appliqué, and then show some LOVE at our exciting February Guild Meeting! Celebrate your LOVE of country and each other as we focus on Presidents' Day, the contributions these leaders made to our great nation, and the highly anticipated 250th Anniversary of America! Let's take a look at our nation's history, as we celebrate applique!

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 "Red, White, and Blue Patriotic" 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*.
- *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, to register and pay to attend our 2026 Lake Yale Retreat.
- *Vice President/Workshop Chair*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, to register and pay to enroll in the upcoming workshop taught by *National Quilt Instructor*, **Carol Clanton**.

Also:

- At 9 a.m. during Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and

Wednesday, February 11, 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.
- Retreat Meeting begins at 10 a.m.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you stitch your stunning appliqué quilt projects.

- At 10 a.m., meet with our 2026 Lake Yale Retreat Chairs in the Springhill Suites Hotel Lobby, if you plan to attend this year's retreat.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business and committee reports.
- At 11:30 a.m., become inspired and learn from the informative program, coordinated by our gifted *Vice-President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, and presented by our talented members Princesses **Vici Miller** and **Becky Gammons**.
- During the lunch break:
 - Enjoy the delicious lunch you brought from home.
 - See Princesses **Dianna Shepard** and **Michelle Barry**, to register and pay to attend our 2026 Lake Yale Retreat.
 - See Princesses **Ritu Haldar** and **Michelle Barry**, to register and pay to enroll in the upcoming workshop taught by *National Quilt Instructor*, **Carol Clanton**.
- After lunch:
 - Become inspired as our gifted *Vice-President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, announces detailed information regarding *National Quilt Teacher*, **Carol Clanton**, and her upcoming visit to our guild.
 - Listen closely as our *President*, Princess **Dorothy Johnson**, makes major announcements regarding our monthly guild activities.
- During Show N Tell, enjoy the amazing and astonishing Show Offs, and be inspired with the very stunning appliquéed quilts and wallhangings made by our talented Princesses.

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

Princesses **Ritu, Michelle, Dianna**, and I LOVE YOU and we anxiously look forward to celebrating APPLIQUÉ with you at this wonderful meeting! So, be sure to come out, show some LOVE, and bring a special friend, too!

Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller



It has been said that the greatest healing therapy is friendship and love. This month we Feather Princesses send our sincere love to our precious members who are not feeling their best.

Sweet Ladies, remember that recuperation takes time, so do not rush yourselves. Rest as much as you need and feel better soon!

We love you, and we are here for you—every "stitch" of the way!

- Beverly Abenante
- Dee Anderson
- Michelle Barry
- Ritu Haldar
- Nancy Hale
- Cathy Kessler
- Betty Jo Lecaroz
- Joanne Rodriguez
- Linda Woytisek
- Pat Yucatonis

Princesses, WE ADORE YOU!

Catch All of the Action

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Forget about the end of year Holidays, if you are a sports fanatic, then the month of February is definitely your most favorite time of year! It's your time to celebrate sports and competitions!

For with the exciting Winter Olympics, Super Bowl LX, and upcoming NBA All-Star Game, there are more than enough sporting activities, energy, and competitions to fill your time for a while. So, be sure to tune in and watch each sporting event and catch all of the action in store, at each and every one of these!

The same is true for our phenomenal quilt circles! They emit more than enough excitement to keep us going all year long. And the circles convene each and every month, so we Princesses get to play, celebrate APPLIQUÉ, and have a grand old time on a regular basis, just like the sports fans do!

February Program

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Princesses!

It is such a joy to plan and coordinate the activities for our February 11 Guild Meeting! We have a busy few months ahead, so here we go! Arrive with a spring in your step and a passionate desire to learn, share, and support our fellow members.

For the month of February, some of our very talented members have stepped up, stepped out, and stepped into presenting a demonstration of some fun appliqué techniques.

- Princess **Vici Miller** will offer up her expertise!
- Princess **Becky Gammons** will also help us demo and answer any questions you may have regarding our "Winter Snowman" block. Boy, is it perfect for this time of year—or what!

She will help answer questions, provide tips and tricks about stitching bias tape, so please bring your block. Come figure it out with us! We can all learn together!

(NOTE: The "Winter Snowman" kit was distributed at our June 2025 Guild Meeting. If you were not present and did not receive a kit, we will provide one to you at our February Guild Meeting.)

So this month, be sure to watch for and read our weekly reminders, so you can stay abreast and informed about our quilt circles and catch the action in store, at these wonderful gatherings! They will present amazing opportunities for you to learn, share, and master appliqué techniques that you never tried before.

Stitch batiks, cottons, wools, and more—the fabrics you choose to appliqué is really up to you! Just come, embrace the amazing Feather Princesses camaraderie and fellowship, create your breathtaking appliqué quilts, and have amazing FUN!

We will see you in February our inspirational quilt circles listed below.

NOTE: The Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle will not meet in February.

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"Roses All Tied Up" Ruched Roses Appliqué Workshop Carol Clanton, National Quilt Instructor

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Dear Princesses! We are thrilled that National Quilt Instructor, Carol Clanton, will teach an inspirational workshop and have dinner with us on Tuesday, March 10, and then present an informative program on Wednesday, March 11! It is our pleasure to offer these:

Carol's Workshop

Our lovely Feather Princesses members chose the class, "Roses All Tied Up!" So, please consider signing up for this wonderful class and support our guild activities.

Please spread the word, bring a quilting neighbor or friend or both! We would love to host quilters from other guilds and meet new friends!

More info to come at our awesome February 11 Guild Meeting! If you haven't yet, please sign up for this class. Payment can be made at the meeting!

"Roses All Tied Up" Ruched Roses Applique Workshop

Taught by Carol Clanton, National Quilt Instructor
Springhill Suites by Marriott
Tampa Suncoast Parkway
16615 Crosspointe Run
Land O'Lakes, Florida 34638
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Workshop Costs

- Feather Princesses Members – \$115, plus a \$10 pattern fee
- Non-Members – \$125, plus a \$10 pattern fee

You may register and pay to attend this workshop at our February 11 Guild Meeting. Please see me, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, before the guild meeting starts and during the lunch break:

- We will accept cash, checks, and credit/debit cards.
- If you pay by check:
 - Please make the check payable to Feather Princesses, Inc.
 - Write "Carol Clanton Workshop" on the Memo line of the check.
- If you pay by credit/debit card, please see our *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, during the lunch break.

Prior to the date of the workshop, we will mail a Supply List to the students, to ensure they arrive well prepared.

Dinner with Carol

And Carol has graciously agreed to join us for a lovely dinner together after class. This invitation is open to our beautiful Feather Princesses members. If you would like to join Carol at dinner on Tuesday evening, March 10, please see me, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, at our February 11 Guild Meeting.

Carol's Trunk Show

Also, Carol will present an informative and inspirational Trunk Show, "Trunk Show of My Creations" at our Feather Princesses March 11 Guild Meeting. It will be so lovely to have you attend the meeting, bring a quilting friend and enjoy this wonderful presentation together.

Trunk Show Admission Fee

- Free to currently paid Feather Princesses members
- \$20 fee to non-Feather Princesses members— which may be applied toward FP Membership, if desired

We are anxiously looking forward to Carol's visit to our guild, hanging out with you, and enjoying her fabulous workshop, evening dinner, and trunk show together!

We will see you then!

[Catch All of the Action - continued from page 3]

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, February 17, 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, February 26, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons

February Birthdays

by Vici Miller

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

Believe it or not, the month of January is over, it's history, and February is here! This second month of the year is filled with special occasions and it is especially known for:

- Being the shortest month with the unique "Leap Day" every four years
- Hosting major events like Valentine's Day and the Super Bowl
- Serving as Black History Month
- Featuring unique traditions such as Groundhog Day and Presidents' Day

February is also special because it is the "LOVE" month! Love is in the air this month—our Love of APPLIQUÉ, that is! We Feather Princesses love all types of appliqué and we also love sending best wishes to our Feather Princesses members who are celebrating a birthday during the month of February:

- **Jeanne Casiglia** - 2/1
- **Joie Wilson** - 2/2
- **Patti Cox** - 2/4
- **Elaine Randall** - 2/7
- **Nancy Hale** - 2/29



So, to our beautiful Feather Princesses who have a birthday during the month of February, we extend our LOVE and very best wishes for a happy, happy day!

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create each masterpiece quilt on your list, remember that each one is unique and each one starts with just a single idea that you birthed. Remember that it is your idea, to execute as you see fit—your design, fabrics, colors, and more! It is your quilt!

So, EMBRACE and ENJOY your exceptional quilting journey, as you make each quilt, starting with just a single idea!

Princesses **Ritu**, **Michelle**, **Dianna**, and I LOVE YOU and we look forward to celebrating APPLIQUÉ with you this coming Wednesday!

Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.google.com/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidents%27_Day)

Presidents' Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February to honor U.S. presidents, specifically George Washington's birthday; and this year it will be recognized on Monday, February 16. President's Day is often celebrated to honor all those who served as presidents of the United States. And since 1879, it has been the federal holiday honoring Founding Father George Washington, who led the Continental Army to victory in the American Revolutionary War, presided at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and served as the first U.S. president from 1789 to 1797.

Presidents' Day is an official state holiday in most states under various names. Depending upon the specific law, the state holiday may officially celebrate Washington alone, Washington and Abraham Lincoln, or some other combination of U.S. presidents (such as Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who was born in April).

As many states and cities followed suit, some states that had celebrated Lincoln's birthday on February 12 combined the two into Presidents' Day. Lincoln led the nation through the American Civil War, preserved the Union, abolished slavery, bolstered the federal government, and modernized the U.S. economy.

In commemoration of Presidents' Day, the *Fat Quarter Exchange* fabric selection for February is "**Red, White, and Blue Patriotic Fabrics.**" So, bring these fat quarters to our exciting February 11 Guild Meetings and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Participate in this exciting exchange, win, and then use these patriotic fabrics to create your stunning patriotic quilt to celebrate America's 250 Birthday and to participate in our Feather Princesses *Patriotic Quilt Challenge*, which will culminate at our July 8 Guild Meeting.

The *Guidelines for the Fat Quarter Exchange* are located on the [Members Only](#) section of our website.

We'll see you and your stunning "Red, White, and Blue Patriotic fat quarters" this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.



Bring America Together - One Stitch At A Time!

by Ritu Haldar

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/williamsburg-250/>)

Gifted Feather Princesses, listed below is a golden opportunity for you to express your patriotism, as America celebrates its 250th Anniversary! So, please read on.

Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America!

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, there is no destination more fitting to commemorate this milestone than Virginia's Historic Triangle—Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown. Known as the Birthplace of America and home to the world's largest living U.S. history museum, this is where the nation's story began. It is where the first permanent English settlement took root, the ideals of liberty were forged, and the fight for independence was won. Visitors can step into history by walking the streets where revolutionaries once debated, standing on the battlefield where victory was secured, and experiencing the journey from colony to country firsthand.

The Great American Birthday Quilt Logo!

Visit Williamsburg is bringing the nation together one stitch at a time by celebrating America250 and Virginia250 with the creation of "The Great American Birthday Quilt." The goal of this project is to engage people from all over our country to create a powerful tribute to America that can be admired by many generations to come. This collaborative project will be led by Steve Prince, Director of Engagement and Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at The College of William & Mary, in partnership with Visit Williamsburg. To participate:

- You are invited to make a quilt block that illustrates what you want to celebrate most about America.
- You may take inspiration from anywhere, such as inspiring people (past and present), places you love, iconic landmarks, famous quotes, and historic events.

The deadline to submit a quilt block entry is Saturday, February 28, 2026. To access the *Submission Guidelines*, go to: <https://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/williamsburg-250/american-birthday-quilt/>

The finished quilt will be unveiled in Williamsburg in 2026 and put on display at the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center.

Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and Dianna Shepard

Our FABULOUS Feather Princesses 2026 Lake Yale Retreat is just around the corner—a mere eight (8) months away, and we can hardly wait! So mark your calendars now and get ready to attend this very special event with us! We gladly welcome ALL of our beautiful Feather Princesses members and friends to come and spend five fun-filled days and four nights at this rustic retreat center!

Location: Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

Address: 39034 County Road 452, Leesburg, FL 34788

Costs:

- Double Room - \$490 per person
- Single Room - \$590 per person

Date: Thursday, October 22 - Monday, October 26, 2026

This exciting retreat will feature a creative and inspirational "Four Seasons" theme. Participants will explore Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter through appliqué, color, and design. As part of the experience, we will decorate our tables together, celebrating each season while sharing ideas, creativity, and fellowship.

Nestled along the peaceful shores of Lake Yale, this retreat will provide the perfect setting for focused quilting time, learning from one another, and enjoying a relaxing getaway with fellow appliqué enthusiasts. You will be FREE to do whatever you like—FREE TO:

- Sew until all hours of the day and night.
- Enjoy special time with your amazing friends.
- Play games and participate in other exciting retreat activities.
- Share with others and learn something new from them, too.

Registration is now open, so if you plan to attend this Retreat, please be sure to sign up early to secure your spot:

- Access the *Retreat Registration Form*, located on our Feather Princesses website.
- Print the form, fill it out, bring it to our FP Guild Meeting, and turn it in when you make your first payment.

We will begin accepting payments at our February 11 Guild Meeting and we will accept cash, checks, and credit/debit cards. If you pay by check, please remember to:

- Make your check payable to the Feather Princesses, Inc.
- Write "2026 Lake Yale Retreat" on the Memo line of your check.

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American Heart Month Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk
(Excerpt taken from <https://www.google.com/search?q> and <https://www.redcross.org/>)



February is recognized for awareness and several worthwhile causes—one being American Heart Month, focusing on cardiovascular health. American Heart Month is a nationwide observance that spotlights cardiovascular disease and the need for more lifesavers. First proclaimed in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, American Heart Month began as a national call to take charge of your heart health—a mission that continues today.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is a leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. They also offer tips on action items you can take to prevent heart disease:

- **Know your risk.** Knowing your risk can help you make lifestyle changes.
- **Eat a healthy diet.** Start making healthy choices that include daily vegetables and fewer processed foods.
- **Be physically active.** Move more—it's one of the best ways to stay healthy, prevent disease, and age well.
- **Watch your weight.** Stay at a healthy weight for you.
- **Check your blood pressure and cholesterol.** These are two main risk factors that could lead to heart disease.

Raising awareness is essential not only in the month of February, but all year long. Also during the month of February, it is necessary for us to continue expressing our love and creating the stunning *Healing Heart* blocks for our dear Feather Princesses. So, this month let's set aside some time to stitch these blocks. Let's warm the hearts of our precious Feather Princesses that we so dearly love, by creating some of the most beautiful blocks ever!

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 February 11 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.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

During these challenging times, the need to feed the hungry and less fortunate people in our communities is growing day by day. So, please know that every single cash and/or food donation that you make is truly appreciated and goes directly to feed those in need. Your consistent contributions to the various food banks in our Tampa Bay communities really make a difference; and we are genuinely grateful to you for your unwavering generosity, love, and support.

As we express our LOVE this month, at our upcoming February 11 Guild Meeting, we will collect cash and food donations. And to assist and feed the needy people in our community during this season of love, our member, Princess **Dorothy Johnson**, will deliver our donations to:

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
14549 – 8th Street
Dade City, Florida 33523

Feeding hungry people is a top priority here in the Tampa Bay area and throughout our nation. So, we are extremely grateful to you for your support of our Feather Princesses *Community Service Project*. And 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 then donating these items to help feed the less fortunate people in our area this month.

Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

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

With America's 250th Birthday quickly approaching, there is no better time than now to explore, study, and stitch legacy quilts! Also sometimes referred to as traditional quilts, these quilts fall under the genre of Baltimore Album, Civil War, and other stunning quilts made during the early era of our nation's history. Traditional quilts are historically rooted, functional, and decorative, often passed down through generations.

So, come and join us as we continue our magnificent journey, learning more about these quilts, the fabrics used to make them, and the quilting techniques required to create them!

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Also at this meeting, we will continue looking at various Civil War appliqué patterns and designs, and then plan 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 this time. 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 at the meeting. And if you would like to bring other Legacy quilts such as your Baltimore Album and other Traditional appliqué quilts, please feel free to bring them to this meeting to stitch as well!

We welcome ALL of our talented Feather Princesses to join us at our this exciting Legacy Quilt Group Meeting on Wednesday, February 18!



Combo Club Quilt Group

by Melissa Labella

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

Join us on the third Thursday of each month at Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library in Tampa, 10 a.m., for our inspirational **Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting**. We are currently working on our new "row quilt" project for the year and we are having a lot of fun, piecing and appliquéing row by row! So, come and join us this month and let the good times roll as we stitch!

Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Thursday, February 19, 2026
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact: Princess Melissa Labella

For our current "Combo" quilt project, we are referencing the informative book, "Quilting Row by Row," by the authors Jeannette White and Erin Hamilton. It is an older book (published in 2017) and it is available online.

After a roaring start in January, focusing on the piecing tips and techniques required to stitch Row 1, this month we will work on the piecing techniques required to create Row 2, and we will focus and learn about:

- Using the 45° line on our rulers
- Stitching a diagonal seam
- Understanding "dog ears"
- Keeping points intact

When you come to the meeting, you may bring your:

- Sewing/quilting supplies for this project, if you would like assistance and tips for cutting and sewing Row 2, etc.
- Sewing machine, if you like
- Other hand appliqué quilt projects already in progress (to work on them as well)
- Lunch and a jacket or sweater

We will have a marvelous time at this meeting, mastering and perfecting our machine piecing skills, row by row. So, come out and join us!

If you have questions, please contact me (**Melissa Labella**) at any time.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, February 19.

February Is Here! 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season!

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.google.com/> and *The Florida Register*, January - February, 2026)

Stop right now, call your favorite quilty friends, and then make plans to attend the following exciting quilt shows this month here in Florida! YES, the month of February is here and the 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season is in full gear!

This month, dynamic quilt shows will convene all over our state—from the Panhandle to Central Florida, to Southwest Florida, and along the Florida East Coast, too! So, take some time to go, see, and have some FUN! You'll be amazed and inspired with the eye-catching quilts on display, stunning opportunity quilts, beautiful baskets chock full of quilting goodies, special quilt displays, and more! And when you go and support the talented quilters affiliated with guilds sponsoring these shows, their hearts will certainly glow!

So don't delay! Let's get moving, Feather Princesses! Let's go and have some FUN at the following quilt shows this month!

"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>



"Quilts From the Heart" Quilt Show St. Andrew Bay Quilter's Guild

Central Panhandle Fairgrounds
2230 15th Street
Panama City, Florida 32405

Friday, February 13 - Saturday, February 14, 2026
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days

Quilt Displays, Judged Competition with Ribbons Presented to the Winners of Each Category, Silent Auction, Quilter's Boutique, Vendors, Opportunity Quilt, Special Awards (Judge's Choice, Viewer's Choice, Hand Quilting Award, Machine Quilting Award, and Bobbi Clemens Award for Handwork), and More!

Contact: www.sabqg.org

"America's Garden of Quilts" Sew Many Quilts 2026

West Pasco Quilters' Guild, Inc.
New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center
6630 Van Buren Street

New Port Richey, Florida 34653

Friday, February 13 - Saturday, February 14, 2026
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 15, 2026 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Over 300 Quilts on Display, Vendors, Demos, Lectures, Basket Walk, Silent Auction, Antique Quilt Display by West Pasco Historical Society, Quilts of Valor, Trunk Shows, and More!

Contact: WestPascoQuilters.org



"A Gathering of Quilts" Disconnected Piecers Quilt Guild

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
75 Taylor Street

Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Friday, February 13, 2026 • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 14, 2026 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Quilt Display, Judged Quilt Entries, Classes by Bobbie Bergquist, Book Signing & Demos by Carla Klopp, Scissor & Knife Sharpening, Basket Raffle, Quilts of Valor Presentation, Boutique, Sew A Pillow Case for Ryan's Case for Smiles, and More!

Contact: www.DPQGinc.com



AQS Daytona Beach Quilt Week The American Quilter's Society

Ocean Center

101 North Atlantic Avenue

Daytona Beach, Florida 32118

Wednesday, February 18 - Friday, February 20, 2026
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 21, 2026 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Quilt Displays, Judged Quilt Entries, Vendors, Workshops, and More!

Contact: <https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/show/daytona-beach-2026/>

[continued on page 10]

[February Is Here! 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season - continued from page 9]

"Everything Old is New Again"
2026 Quilt Show: Celebrating 50 Years

Chautauqua Quilters Guild
 DeFuniak Springs Community Center
 361 N. 10th Street
 DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435
 Friday, February 20 – Saturday, February 21, 2026
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days

Follow on Facebook: Chautauqua Quilters Guild



"Every Quilt Has A Story"
Southwest Florida Quilters Guild

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
 75 Taylor Street
 Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
 Friday, February 27 – Saturday, February 28, 2026
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days

Over 250 Quilts on Display, Vendors, Quilts for Purchase, Opportunity Quilt, Merchant Mall, Quilters Boutique, Handmade Goods, Raffle Baskets, and More!

Contact: <https://swfqg.com/wordpress/index.php/2026-quilt-show/>



"The Artistry of Quilts"
Seaside Piecemakers Quilt Show 2026

Melbourne Auditorium
 625 Hibiscus Avenue
 Melbourne, Florida 32901
 Friday, February 27, 2026 • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Saturday, February 28, 2026 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Hundreds of Quilts, Special Artist Exhibit – National Award Winning Quilter Kestrel Michaud, Boutique, Vendors, Silent Auction, and More!

Contact: www.seasidepiecemakers.com/quilt-show



[Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat - continued from page 6]

To make a retreat payment (minimal payment \$50) at our February 11 Guild Meeting:

- Cash and/or Check – Please see our *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, prior to the start of the guild meeting and during the lunch break.
- Credit/Debit Card – Please see our *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, during the lunch break.

If you will not be able to pay at our upcoming monthly guild meetings, you may mail your retreat payments to our lovely *Retreat Chair*:

Dianna Shepard
 8535 Honeybee Lane
 Port Richey, Florida 34668

Also at our February 11 Guild Meeting, we will have our first 2026 Retreat Meeting. So, please join us in the Springhill Suites Hotel Lobby at 10 a.m., to help us start planning our Fabulous Retreat!

Lastly, prior to the Retreat, we will stitch seasonal appliqué quilt blocks:

- When you register and make your first retreat payment, you may select the seasonal block (month) you want to make. So, if you have a preference or a favorite season to sew, be sure to sign up early. First come – first served.
- The name of each participant who completes a seasonal block will be entered into a drawing.
- The drawing for all of the seasonal blocks will be held at the Retreat.
- The winner will assemble the blocks into a stunning quilt (at her discretion).

Let the fun begin, Feather Princesses! We look forward to stitching, decorating, and celebrating the seasons with you!

The deadline to fully pay to attend this Retreat is Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

Experience the Excitement and Thrill! Upcoming National Quilt Competition

by Dorothy Johnson

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 Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition is underway and moving forward fast!

So get busy, create your unique quilt designs, select some gorgeous fabrics, and let the stitching begin! Enter the following national quilt competition today!

Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.homagetobaltimorequiltingcompetition.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.



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February Calendar

Wednesday, February 4

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 11

Feather Princesses February Guild Meeting

Monday, February 16

Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Tuesday, February 17

Sew Happy Sit & Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle

Wednesday, February 18

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, February 19

Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, February 26

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Library Update

by Mary Ann Vathy

Happy Valentine's Day, Feather Princesses!

We truly love our quilt books and more of them are coming! So, at our awesome February 11 Guild Meeting, be sure to stop by our guild library to browse and read the classics, the newbies, and everything in between! We'll have a great selection of books available for your reading pleasure. Let's face it, it's too cold to exercise, to go out to the store, or to garden. So snuggle up in a warm armchair with a nice cup of cocoa and then read a good quilt book or two!

At our upcoming February Guild Meeting, we will feature "Appliqué Books," as the theme this month. So come browse, check out an appliqué book unfamiliar to you, and then learn something new!

Remember to return the library books (to our February 11 Guild Meeting) you already have checked-out, so you may check out new books. Red dot books require a deposit (check in the amount \$50); and when you return the books, you will get your check back.

This coming Wednesday, be sure to stop by our guild library and check out the books you want, as the library will be closed next month. At our March 11 Guild Meeting, we will not have book check-out because we will welcome National Quilt Instructor, Carol Clanton, who will present an inspirational Trunk Show.

So, enjoy our library this month and check out the books that you want.