



The Plume

MARCH 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

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

Just a few weeks ago during the harsh Winter months, many of us were nesting and retreating into our homes (particularly into our sewing rooms), turning them into warm, comfortable, and secure sanctuaries against the cold. We added comfort items such as candles and blankets, we wore fuzzy clothing to ward off the brisk temperatures, and we sipped tasty hot cocoa and tea to soothe our palettes and to stay warm.

Fast forward a few weeks and now Spring is here—TA DA! HELLO! The temperatures are already warmer and the days are longer. And it's time to enjoy this season of growth and renewal again. It's time to get up, get out, and savor every moment of this new phase.

Because some of us were cooped-up inside for a while, let's start this transition by going outside. The sun is shining brightly, so let's enjoy the outdoors this Spring, let's embrace the warmer weather by gardening, walking, or having picnics in local parks. Also let's engage in active hobbies like birdwatching or photography, or utilize activities such as spring cleaning and yard work to stay active as well.

And let's keep our appliqué and quilting at the forefront of the new season, too. With March being National Quilting Month, an abundance of fun and festive activities are available to us. So, be sure to see page 9 of this newsletter, listing the plethora of magnificent quilting activities and events convening here in our state this month. With the EXPO, all of the quilt shows, exhibits, and festivals there is surely something for each and every quilter to enjoy!

National Quilting Day is on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Celebrate by hanging a quilt inside your home for your pleasure or outdoors to inspire your neighbors, attend a quilting event, or host a sew-in and invite your quilting buddies over to stitch. No matter what you do, just have FUN and CELEBRATE quilting! Enjoy quilting as Spring evolves during the month of March!

Princesses, Ritu, Michelle, Dianna, and I have a lot of FUN in store for you, too, at our March 11 Guild Meeting! So, be sure to come out and join us! Renowned National Appliqué Quilt Instructor, Carol Clanton, will be there and she promises to unveil a grand presentation. Her inspirational lecture/trunk show will sweep us off of our feet!

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

March Guild Meeting

By Dorothy Johnson

"Hello, Feather Princesses! Spring is almost here and we've been waiting for you! It is the time for growth and renewal—a time to let our appliqué dreams blossom and come true! So, let's get together this coming Wednesday at our phenomenal March Guild Meeting to learn, grow, and enjoy each other! Love will permeate the room and good times will be front and center as we welcome Renowned National Appliqué Quilt Instructor, **Carol Clanton**. With that let's sit back, relax, and soak up every ounce of information that we can. Let's broaden our appliqué knowledge and enhance our quilting skills like never before!

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 "Spring 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 "GREEN" 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.
- *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, to register and pay to attend our 2026 Lake Yale Retreat.

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., 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 welcome to our members and visiting friends, and the introduction of **Carol Clanton**.
- Shortly after that, **Carol** will present her inspirational Lecture/Trunk Show, "A Trunk Show of My Creations" and share valuable tidbits from her Quilting Journey.
- During the lunch break:
 - Enjoy the tasty lunch you brought from home and the yummy treats and refreshments shared by our lovely Feather Princesses.
 - See Princess **Mary Moody** to contribute your cash donations to our *Community Service Project*.
 - See our *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, to pay to attend our 2026 Lake Yale Retreat (cash and checks only, please).
- After lunch, we will have a short presentation of business, including a few committee reports.
- 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 March Birthday and door prize drawings, as your name just might get drawn and you will be the winner.

This March Guild Meeting will be chock-full of excitement and inspiration, as seeing quilts made by talented quilters always brightens our horizons and encourages us to try something new!

So come, join us, and have a fun-filled and enriching day! Princesses **Ritu**, **Michelle**, **Dianna**, and I certainly look forward to spending time with you!

Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller



Sometimes we just never know what life will bring; and the month of March is the perfect example of that. Take for instance the weather. March weather can be unpredictable to say the least. Hot today, cold tomorrow or dry and sunny today, damp or cloudy the next. But, here's hoping for a warm and sunny month and a speedy recovery for our delightful Feathers Princesses who are "under the weather," as they say.

- Beverly Abenante
- Betty Jo Lecaroz
- Dee Anderson
- Elaine Randall
- Michelle Barry
- Joanne Rodriguez
- Ritu Halder
- Peggy Wattenbarger
- Nancy Hale
- Linda Woytisek
- Cathy Kessler

We wish you well and we anxiously look forward to having you all join us once again, to stitch the day away at our marvelous quilt circles, specialty appliqué group meetings, and monthly guild meetings.

Feather Princesses, WE LOVE YOU and we want to have FUN with you again!

March Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

Spring is almost officially here and Spring break is already upon us. This means kids and teens will be at home from school; and unfortunately this break can cause hardships for families struggling with food insecurity. School meals provide a constant and reliable source of nutrition for children, but breaks can disrupt this routine and leave families struggling to bridge the gap. Here in the Feather Princesses, our mission is to assist families and help them bridge this gap with our food and cash donations this Spring.

As we express our generosity and love this month, at our upcoming March 11 Guild Meeting, we will collect cash and food donations. And to assist and feed the needy people (especially the children) in our community during this season, yours truly, Princess **Mary Moody**, will deliver our donations to:

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

==>

March Program

by Ritu Halder

Hello Princesses!

Happy March! Dare I say our wintery days are done?

This month we Feather Princesses are in for not one, not two, but three very special treats with Renowned National Applique Quilt Instructor, **Carol Clanton**:

- An amazing workshop, "Roses All Tied Up," will convene on Tuesday, March 10, at Springhill Suites.
- A delightful dinner with Carol will convene after the workshop ends on Tuesday evening, at the restaurant of Carol's choice.
- An inspirational program, "A Trunk Show of My Creations" will be presented at our March 11 Guild Meeting, also convening at Springhill Suites.

Our March 11 Guild Meeting will certainly be one to remember. So, please come, arrive with a spring in your step, and get ready to learn! Let's offer **Carol Clanton** our warmest hospitality and creativity! It will be a wonderful way to continue celebrating our 20 glorious years appliquéing together! During the program, **Carol** will share her "Quilting Journey" through the years and impart some helpful hints along the way. She will bring an impressive selection of her own quilt creations to show us. And she will tell us about her very first quilt and how she fell in love with appliqué. It will be exciting and intriguing for sure!

Please spread the word, and bring a quilting neighbor or friend or both! We would love to meet new friends and enjoy our delightful Feather Princesses guild members as well.

We will see you there!

This time of year feeding the hungry and less fortunate people in our communities is critical because of school closures, reduced donations after the holidays, and the overall rising costs of food in general. So, we truly express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to you in advance for filling your bags with non-perishable food items and bringing them, along with your cash, and donating these items at our March 11 Guild Meeting, to help feed the less fortunate people in our area this Spring.

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

by Ritu Haldar

Dear Princesses, it's almost here!

It is our pleasure to host Renowned National Applique Quilt Instructor, **Carol Clanton**, and offer the wonderful workshop, "Roses All Tied Up!" Quilters of all levels will learn about Ruched Roses and gain confidence executing appliqué needleturn techniques.

"Roses All Tied Up" Ruched Roses Appliqué Workshop

Taught by Carol Clanton,
Renowned National Appliqué 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

A few open seats remain in the class. So:

- If you would like to attend it and learn the inspirational techniques of creating elegant ruched roses, please contact me, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, ASAP at ritu.haldar67@gmail.com, and I will send the workshop supply list to you via email.
- When you arrive at Springhill Suites for the workshop on Tuesday, March 10, please see me to pay the class fee at that time. Cash and checks will be accepted.

Also, Carol has graciously agreed to join us for a lovely dinner together on Tuesday evening following the workshop. This lovely invitation is open to our beautiful Feather Princesses members only. What a marvelous opportunity this will be to spend more time with Carol! Please let me know if you would like to go to the restaurant of her choice and around the corner from our meeting space! I would love for her to get to know all of us! If you would like to attend, please contact me and I will add your name to the restaurant headcount.

Beautiful Feather Princesses, I look forward to seeing you at:

- Carol's enriching and informative workshop, "Roses All Tied Up," this coming Tuesday
- Fun-filled dinner with Carol on Tuesday evening
- Carol's inspirational presentation, "A Trunk Show of My Creations," at our exciting March 11 Guild Meeting

Thank you so much for joining us and ensuring Carol's visit to our guild is an overwhelming success!



2026 All Florida Shop Hop

by Dorothy Johnson

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

March is here, the exciting 2026 All Florida Shop Hop has already begun, and it will run for the months of March and April, ending on Thursday, April 30. This year's "Hop" promises to be more fun and exciting than ever before! So set aside some time now to start planning your Shop Hop adventure! Be sure to visit each and every one of the participating shops, enjoy yourselves, become inspired, learn something new, and get every single quilt item on your "Wish List."

For a complete list of the participating shops and more detailed information regarding the 2026 All Florida Shop Hop (including the gifts, prizes, and more), be sure to access <https://allfloridashophop.com>.

Behind the Scenes at Our Phenomenal Quilt Circles

by Dorothy Johnson

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

WOW! What an impressive array of exciting events for quilters and the general public to see breathtaking appliqué quilts this time of year and especially during National Quilting month! For with dynamic quilt shows, quilt exhibits at county and state fairs, quilt festivals, airing of the quilts, and quilt museum displays, gorgeous quilts are just about every where—which is great! It is outstanding and quite noteworthy that the general public gets a "birds-eye" view of the quilt masterpieces that quilt artists have created!

But have you ever thought about how the quilts got to the point of being ready for display—how they were created and made ready for the public view? As seasoned quilters, we all have given much thought and consideration to the vast amount of energy, time, love, and patience (not to mention the costs) that goes into quilting. But have you ever thought of that one other common variable that makes these all possible? It's quilters coming together on common grounds and working collectively to produce masterpiece quilts. It's quilters getting together at our phenomenal quilt circles, of course!!

As very astute appliqué rs and quilters, we know that a ton of work goes on "behind the scenes" when quilters create show-ready quilts. "Behind the scenes" is defined as being or working out of public view or in secret; and this description fits our impressive Feather Princesses quilt circles to a "T." While our purpose and vision is no secret, our quilt circles are a solution that exactly match and meet our needs—a place to gather with other talented members to learn, exchange valuable info, and produce breathtaking quilts to share with the public. Behind the scenes at our quilt circles, and with the assistance of our fellow Princesses we select quilt patterns, audition fabrics and colors, execute various quilting techniques to get the desired results, share valuable hints and tips, and more. This is where it all happens, not to mention the beautiful life-long friendships and relations that develop along the way.

So, the next time you attend a quilt display or exhibit of any kind, take a few moments to think about how and where the quilts were created. Yes, some of them might have been made by gifted quilters stitching at home. But we bet you that many of them were created and produced at quilt circles or other quilt gatherings where quilters collaborated "behind the scenes."

We look forward to seeing you this month "behind the scenes" at these amazing 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, March 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, March 26, 2026

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, March 27, 2026

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson



Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and Dianna Shepard

Mark your calendars for our FABULOUS 2026 Lake Yale Retreat, convening Thursday, October 22 – Monday, October 26, 2026.

Location:

Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
39034 County Rd 452
Leesburg, FL 34788

This year's retreat theme is "The Four Seasons." And here's where the fun really begins!

At the retreat, participants will create seasonal quilt blocks that will come together into one beautiful finished quilt. The name of each attendee who completed a quilt block will be entered into a special drawing and one lucky Princess will win all of the adorable finished blocks! The quilt pattern has already been chosen, and it's so cute! The retreat attendees who have already registered have selected the blocks they want to make, chosen the fabrics, and even have begun stitching.

Costs:

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

Registration is 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 any FP Guild Meeting, and turn it in when you make your first payment.

We will continue accepting payments at our phenomenal March 11 Guild Meeting, and we will accept cash and checks. 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.

To make a retreat payment (minimal payment \$50) at our March 11 Guild Meeting, please see our *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, prior to the start of the guild meeting and during the lunch break.

Also at our March 11 Guild Meeting, we will have a Retreat Meeting starting at 10 a.m. in the Springhill Suites Hotel Lobby. So, please come and share your wonderful ideas.

October will be here before we know it, so plan to join us at this fabulous retreat for a few days of appliqué, creativity, and quilting fun! We'd love to have you be a part of it!

We Had to Clean Our Plates - YIKES! March Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

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

Most of us Feather Princesses grew up during an era when we were required to clean our plates at dinner time—YIKES! As we sat at the table with our precious family members, our loving parents reminded us to eat all of the food that was served to us on our plates, particularly our vegetables—especially our green vegetables, because they were good for us, right? These green vegetables contained valuable nutrients that made our bodies healthy and strong. Common green vegetables parents often forced children to eat included spinach, broccoli, kale, green beans, asparagus, and collard, mustard, and turnip greens. And there were others such as brussel sprouts, green peas, and cabbage, too. All of these staples were encouraged for their high nutritional value, providing iron, calcium, fiber, and vitamins (A, C, K) essential for growth.

Fast forward to today and we quilters are still messing around with greens. But now we are playing with other greens—green quilting fabrics that is—not green vegetables. And WOW, is it FUN! It is no longer a struggle to chew and swallow the greens put before us. Today, it is a JOY and PLEASURE to play with the striking green batik, cotton, and wool quilt fabrics, mark them, cut them out, and stitch them to gorgeous background fabrics! Now adays we are HAPPY to assemble quilt blocks (containing lovely green fabrics) into a quilt! And it downright THRILLS us to quilt a green top and then finish it!

So, the color green really is good in the right context. The color green culturally signifies nature, growth, renewal, and harmony, stemming from its prevalence in the natural world, symbolizing life, fertility, and freshness. It also represents prosperity, luck, health, and safety (like a green light), so it is a good thing. But it can also mean envy, jealousy, or even infidelity in some contexts; but for now, we won't go there.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for March is "**GREEN**" cotton and batik fabrics. So, bring these fat quarters to our exciting March 11 Guild Meeting and take a chance to win a bundle of these. Participate in this exciting exchange, win, and then use these beautiful fabrics to create your next stunning St. Patrick's Day or Spring quilt.

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

We'll see you and your striking "**GREEN**" cotton and/or batik fat quarters this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.

Let's Hold On to Our Hearts - Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk

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

Valentine's Day has come and gone, and what a sweet day it was! It was (and continues to be) a very special time for us to focus on "hearts" and to express our sincere affection and love to those we truly care about! Fast forward just a few weeks to Spring and we are now looking at other seasonal symbols. Popular Spring symbols include blooming flowers (tulips, daffodils, crocuses), baby animals (bunnies, chicks), birds with nests, butterflies, watering cans, and colorful umbrellas. These designs often feature bright colors, green foliage, and cheerful motifs suitable for quilts.



But in the coming days of Spring, let's hold on to our hearts—our **Healing Heart** blocks, that is. As we get a break of free time here and there from our busy schedules, let's continue stitching the gorgeous Healing Heart blocks for the precious Princesses whose names currently appear on our **Healing Hearts** list. 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 March 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.

Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson

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

As we previously announced, in recognition of the Semi-Quincentennial Celebration of America's 250th Birthday, we will have a Patriotic Quilt Challenge, culminating at our Feather Princesses July 8, 2026 Guild Meeting.

A patriotic quilt is a quilt, typically featuring red, white, and blue fabrics and star or stripe motifs, that expresses love and pride for one's country. These quilts are often made to honor veterans, celebrate national holidays such as the Fourth of July, or simply to convey a love of Americana.

We welcome each and every Feather Princesses member to enter this challenge by making a patriotic quilt or wallhanging that complies with the Quilt Entry Guidelines below.

Basic guidelines:

- This Patriotic Quilt Challenge is open to current Feather Princesses members only.
- Each Feather Princesses member may enter as many patriotic quilts (that meet the *Quilt Entry Guidelines* below) as desired.
- Each attendee (Feather Princesses members and guests) present at our July 8 Guild Meeting will receive a ballot and vote for their favorite patriotic quilt entry on display at the meeting.
- The ballots will be tabulated and the maker of the quilt that received the most votes will win a cash prize of \$250.

Quilt Entry Guidelines - Each quilt:

- May be stitched incorporating any appliqué technique (needle turn, back basting, machine appliqué, freezer paper, raw edge – edges must be sewn down, etc.)
- May be made in any style (art, traditional, album, combo, modern, etc.)
- Must consist of 60% appliqué.
- Must consist of three layers – top, batting, and backing.
- Must be quilted, edges bound, with a quilt label on the back.
- Must include one or more patriotic symbols (flag, stars, stripes, eagle, drum, bell, etc.)
- May be made in any color. Your patriotic quilt does not have to be red, white, and/or blue.
- Must be a minimum of 12" x 12".

[continued on page 8]

March Birthdays

by Vici Miller

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" is a quote from Thomas Fuller's 1732 compendium describing the month of March. Whether the weather is cold and rainy or warm and sunny, we quilt appliqué artists are always stitching our works of art and creating the most stunning quilts ever!

To all of our beautiful Feather Princesses born during the month of March, we wish you sunny, warm weather and a very happy birthday! And this month may you have tons of fun creating, stitching, shopping (for quilt fabrics, of course), attending dynamic quilt shows, and more. And if time allows, maybe even share your love of appliqué and quilting with a friend or family member who desires to learn it.

Dorothy Johnson - 3/2

Bobbie LeMay - 3/7

Lois Bretzlaff - 3/25

May your special day be Happy, and your year be filled with APPLIQUÉ!



Library Update

by Mary Ann Vathy

Happy Spring, Feather Princesses!

What a treasure trove of books we have in our guild library! Just about every aspect of appliqué and quilting is covered in the volumes there; and we truly enjoy browsing these books every month and we hope you do too!

At our upcoming March 11 Guild Meeting, our library will not be open and we will not check out books because Renowned National Appliqué Quilt Instructor, **Carol Clanton**, will be our special guest and she will present a very inspirational program. So, please hold on to the library books you currently have checked out until our April 8 Guild Meeting. Keep track of them and continue reading and enjoying these books for one more month. And this coming Wednesday, let's focus, relax, and "soak up" and learn all of the information and techniques that Carol presents to us.

At our April Guild Meeting, we will have a news selection of appliqué and quilt books for your browsing pleasure and enjoyment. So do not miss it! Come early, browse, and enjoy the magnificent selection of quilt books we have to offer.

[Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge - continued from page 7]

- May be as large as desired.
- Must be displayed in at our July 8, 2026 Guild Meeting.

Also, we welcome you to join us at our upcoming **Team Legacy Quilt Group** Meetings, where we will focus on appliqué patriotic designs and the fabrics used to make these remarkable quilts.

We encourage and welcome you to participate in this once in a life time opportunity/event; and we hope you will have FUN creating your stunning patriotic quilts! Best wishes to you all!



Did Someone Say Quilts? 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season Gently Flows into Spring

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Did someone say "Quilts?" "YES," we did! And we are more excited about quilts now than ever before! And we're itching at the bit to see more of them, too! So, as the Florida Winter Quilt Show Season gently flows into Spring, let's plan now to attend exciting quilt shows this month here in the state of Florida! Let's kick off the Spring season by embracing the art form that we so dearly love, attend quilt shows throughout our state, and support other talented quilters and quilt guilds!

Lovely Feather Princesses, fill up your gas tanks, call your best quilting buds, and let the fun begin! Become inspired and have a fantastic time, too!

Quilt Show
The Oaks Quilters
Red Oaks RV Resort – Boots Hall
Off of Highway 48
5551 S. W. 18th Terrace
Bushnell, Florida
Saturday, March 14, 2026
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Admission – Non-perishable food items or
monetary donation (to local charity)

Quilts, Vendors, Boutique, Silent Auctions, Beautiful Club
Made Quilt Raffle (closes at 1 p.m.), Food Available for
Purchase, and More!



Sun, Sand, Sea & Quilts Quilt Show
Venice Area Quilters Guild
Venice Community Center
326 S. Nokomis Avenue
Venice, Florida 34285
Saturday, March 14 – Sunday, March 15, 2026

Quilts, Boutique, Vendors, Auction, Cafe, and More!
Please see: www.VAQG.org for more information.



ORIGINAL Sewing & Quilt EXPO
RP Funding Center
701 West Lime Street
Lakeland, Florida 33815
Thursday, March 19 – Friday, March 20, 2026
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 21, 2026 – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
rpfundingcenter.com
(863) 834-8100

Presentations and Trunk Shows, Display Gallery,
Sewing's Next Generation, Make-It Take-It Projects,
Super Prize Drawing, Sewing for a Cause, Fashion Friday,
and More!



"Star Spangled Coast" Quilt Show
Lanark Village Wandering Star Quilters
Chillas Hall
156-A Heffernan Drive
Lanark Village, FL 32323
Saturday, March 21, 2026
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Quilts, Baskets, Boutique, and More!

For more information, contact
rondalove@hotmail.com



Suwannee Valley Quilt Festival
Gilchrist County Chamber of Commerce
Historic Train Depot
N. W. 4th Avenue
Trenton, Florida 326933
Saturday, March 28, 2026
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Quilts, Car Show, Live Demos, Antiques, Handmade
Crafts, Vendors, Food trucks, and More!



"Quilts by the River"
Miss D's Quilt Shop
305 St. John's Avenue
Palatka, Florida 32177
Saturday, March 28 – Sunday, March 29, 2026
missd@missdsquilts.com
(386) 385-5678

Beautiful Quilts, Vendors, and More!

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

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Monday, March 16, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Peggy Wattenbarger, Linda Woytisek, and Krystal Woytisek

As we previously announced, we're working on a stunning group quilt and we could not be more proud! Slowly but surely, the quilt background is coming together and it looks AWESOME! It is taking us quite a while! But, like all of us Feather Princesses, we are committed and determined to do a great job and finish it.

We are so anxious to see you at this group meeting on March 16. As you prepare to attend this meeting, please remember:

- We will continue working on our group quilt, so we still need more medium and light blue fabrics (solids and small prints) to complete the background. So, if you have some of these fabrics not previously shared, please bring them and let us use a piece or two.
- 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.
 - If you finished creating your "Flower" block, then please bring it to this meeting and return the color photo of the flower to Princess **Peggy**.
- Some of the "Bird" appliqué blocks are still incomplete, that we previously worked on prior to the start of our group quilt. So, if you finished your "Flower" block (mentioned above), please bring your "Bird" block and color photo to this meeting and continue stitching it.

In addition, please bring these following items to the meeting as well:

- Tiny/mini iron
- Cutting mat
- Parchment paper
- Fusible Wonder Under

We will provide paint brushes and liquid starch. And remember to bring your lunch as usual.

We (**Peggy, Linda and Krystal**) anxiously look forward to seeing you all on Monday, March 16! Come and have some FUN with us!

And as always, if you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to let us know. Feel free to contact us at any time!

Combo Club Quilt Group

by Melissa Labella

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 enjoy stitching with us!

Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

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

Previously at our January and February **Combo Club Quilt Group Meetings**, we covered the piecing tips and techniques required to stitch Rows 1 and 2, respectively.

This month we will focus on Row 3, the "Dresden." The techniques required to create this row include:

- Using different methods to make a Dresden
- Creating points
- Exploring different appliqué options
- Creating appliqué circles

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

- Sewing/quilting supplies for this project, if you would like assistance and tips for sewing Row 3, etc.

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Upcoming National Quilt Competition and Challenge

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 encounter this golden opportunity.

The **Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition** is underway and moving forward and the **2027 AQS Creativity Challenge: Petals of Connection** was recently announced!

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

Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition

(Excerpt 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.

2027 AQS Creativity Challenge: Petals of Connection

Sponsored by Quilters Select
(Excerpt taken from <https://www.americanquilter.com/creativity-challenge-petals-of-connection/>)

Every petal has a place. Every stitch has a story.

AQS invites quilters of all skill levels to take part in the 2027 Creativity Challenge: Petals of Connection, inspired by one of the most beloved blocks in American quiltmaking—the Dresden Plate.

For generations, the Dresden Plate has brought people together. From its elegant Victorian inspiration to its rise as a Depression-era scrap-buster, this iconic design has always been about making something beautiful from many individual pieces. Petal by petal. Friend by friend. Scrap by scrap.

The American Quilter's Society is looking for quilts that reimagine the Dresden Plate as a symbol of friendship, family, and community. Create your own "Community Circle" using color, prints, fabrics, or personal stories that represent the people who make your world brighter. Traditional or modern. Hand-pieced or machine-stitched. Bold or subtle. If it features a Dresden Plate, or a creative interpretation of one, it meets the criteria and qualifies as a valid quilt entry.

Selected quilts will travel as a Special Exhibit to all 2027 AQS QuiltWeek shows, celebrating the timeless power of connection through quilting.

The deadline to submit Dresden Plate Quilt entries is May 4 – August 30, 2026.

For more detailed information, go to: <https://www.americanquilter.com/creativity-challenge-petals-of-connection/>.

[Combo Club Quilt Group - continued from page 10]

- Sewing machine, if you like (we welcome you to bring your machine.)
- 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, March 19.

