



The Plume

April 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 April Guild Meeting
- 3 Sunshine and Shadows • April Program
- 4 Library Update • April Community Service Project • April Calendar
- 5 Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat • April Fat Quarter Exchange
- 6 "Hearts and Flowers" Healing Heart Blocks • Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge
- 7 April Birthdays
- 8 Legacy Quilt Group • Combo Club Quilt Group
- 9 Animal Appliqué Quilt Group • Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group
- 10 A Pressing Issue
- 11 Upcoming National Quilt Challenges
- 12 2026 Fall Florida Shop Hop
- 13 An Absolutely Splendid 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season • April Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting Cancelled

President's Message

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

There's one thing we all can agree on for sure. As we mature in life and become more seasoned quilters, time goes by fast—whether we're having fun or not. So, it is of utmost importance that we not waste a moment. It is crucial that we use every available minute to our advantage—learning and then creating breathtaking, eye-catching, award-winning appliqué quilts. It's paramount that we have fun as we try to make every quilt on our lists.

So after almost 21 years of our deliberate and purposeful focus on appliqué, we all have learned an enormous amount about this artform, and we've tucked away a substantial amount of knowledge and skill under our belts. But we're not done yet! The amazing thing about quilting (and especially appliqué) is that there is so much to learn. And we just never seem to "run out" of information to study and unfamiliar techniques to master!

Whenever our non-member quilting friends inquire about the kind of quilting we do, we're always proud to not only respond with "appliqué." But we take much more pride and pleasure sharing that not only have we perfected both hand and machine appliqué, but we have also mastered a genre of specific appliqué styles as well—Animal, Creative, Combo, Hawaiian, Scrap, Wool, Album, Civil War, Traditional, and more! And after our upcoming April 8 Guild Meeting, we will be able to add yet another appliqué type to this impressive list as well!

We are ecstatic and honored to welcome one of our very own talented members, Princess **Cathleene Tokish**, to come to our April Guild Meeting to present a dynamic and inspirational program on "Collage Quilts." **Cathleene** is a renowned, experienced quilter and she is an advanced instructor of the Laura Heine Collage Method. Laura's "Collage Quilts" showcase fused appliqué, cut flowers, and other design motifs, and an impressionistic way of using color and value to create one-of-a-kind quilts using fabric as her palette.

With **Cathleene's** wonderful presentation and guidance, we Feather Princesses will begin learning this gorgeous style of appliqué. And before long, we'll proudly boast and add "Collage Quilts" to our formidable repertoire. We will master the techniques needed to create stunning Collage quilts!

[continued page 3]

April Guild Meeting

By Dorothy Johnson

Spring is here and our spirits are brighter than ever! So, with opened minds and hearts ready to learn all there is (and more) about "Collage Quilts," come to our electrifying April guild meeting for a day of inspiration and fun! Spend some time with our talented member, friend, and program guest, Princess **Cathleene Tokish**, revel in the fabulous Feather Princesses fellowship, and enjoy this very special gathering of gifted members and quilting friends! Come, enjoy Spring, and "Collage Quilts!"

When you arrive, please be sure to:

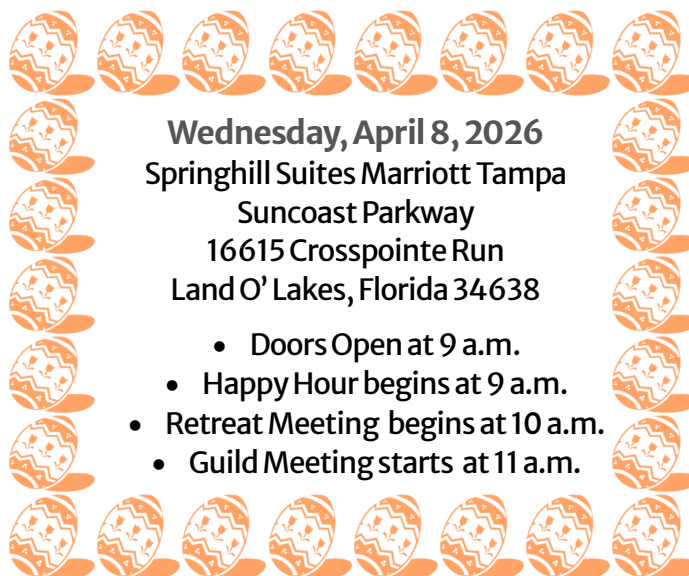
- See our *Membership Chairs*, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**, to sign in at our Welcome Table.
- See our *Community Service Project Chair*, Princess **Mary Moody**, to drop off your non-perishable food items for our **Community Service Project**.
- Place the quilting supplies that 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 "PASTEL FLORAL" 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 (cash and checks only, please).

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 9:30 a.m., see our *Program Guest*, Princess **Cathleene Tokish**, and enjoy shopping for nifty Collage Quilting supplies (including patterns, Steam-A-Seam, and crystals) at her table (cash, checks, and cards only, please).



Wednesday, April 8, 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.

- 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 our program guest, Princess **Cathleene Tokish**.
- Shortly after that, **Cathleen** will present her inspirational Lecture/Trunk Show, "Collage Quilts" and share valuable nuggets about this amazing style of appliqué quilts and the techniques used to create them.

During the lunch break:

- Enjoy the tasty lunch you brought from home and the yummy treats and refreshments shared by our lovely Princesses.
- See **Cathleene** and continue having fun and shopping for Collage Quilting supplies at her table (cash, checks, and cards only, please).
- 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).
- See our *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, to pay to attend our 2026 Lake Yale Retreat (credit/debit cards only, please).
- After lunch, we will have a short presentation of business, including a few committee reports.

[continued page 7]

President's Message - continued from page 1]

We all previously admired "Collage Quilts" and now it's time to begin learning to make them. So, do not let this phenomenal opportunity pass you by. Come to our exciting April Guild Meeting, be sure to bring a friend, too, and begin your journey learning to create "Collage Quilts!"

Princesses Ritu, Michelle, Dianna, and I will see you there!

Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller

The phrase "April showers bring May flowers" is a very popular saying used during the month of April. It is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things in April can bring about very enjoyable things indeed—even an abundance of flowers in May.



But we Feather Princesses will not wait until May for good times to come. Here's hoping that even amid the showers, the month of April will also bring warmth and healing to our precious members who are not feeling their best. And we extend our very best wishes that their energy will be renewed and strengthened, and they will experience good health again.

- Beverly Abenante
- Dee Anderson
- Michelle Barry
- Nancy Hale
- Betty Jo Lecaroz
- Elaine Randall
- Peggy Wattenbarger
- Pat Yucatonis

Lovely ladies, 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.

April Program

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Princesses! Happy April!

Winter is done and my favorite time of year is upon us! Spring brings big joy to my heart! Flowers, sunshine, and more sunshine! My fingers get itchy to appliqué! And I hope you feel the same! More light is in direct proportion to my enthusiasm to select a new quilt pattern and stitch!

Thank you so much to our amazing Princesses who so enjoyed Carol Clinton's visit and artistry last month. Thank you for supporting the guild by taking a class and adding a new dimension to your appliqué repertoire. It truly has been a feast of creativity and inspiration over the Winter and we are not done yet!

Let's offer a big welcome to our Feather Princesses member and owner of Sweet Darling Quilts, Princess **Cathleene Tokish!** Cathleene will share her fabulous, award winning creations using patterns by renowned quilt designer, Laura Heine. Her collage creations will be in sight to study and learn all about the Collage quiltmaking technique! **Cathleene** will also bring items to sell, so get ready to shop and have more fun selecting quilting goodies that you absolutely cannot live without!

I cannot wait to enjoy a wonderful day with all of you, so be inspired by one of our own.

I also hope you have been having fun making blocks following the vision and artistry of designer Clare Youngs! Please bring them to our upcoming April 8 Guild Meeting for **Show and Tell!** We will have a fun time together! Bring a friend or two!

I am so looking forward to seeing you and enjoying a fabulous meeting together!



Library Update

by Mary Vathy

Happy Spring, Feather Princesses!

We are so fortunate to have such a spectacular selection of quilt books 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 April 8 Guild Meeting, our library will not be open, and we will not check out books because renowned collage instructor, Princess **Cathleene Tokish**, 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 May 13 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 learn all of the information and techniques that **Cathleene** presents to us.

At our May Guild Meeting, we will have a new 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.

April Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

Spring is in full gear and everyone needs nutritious food to survive and thrive. But unfortunately, many people who work hard to provide for themselves and their families still rely on food assistance from charities and other worthwhile organizations who donate. It is very disturbing and rather unsettling that there are so many hungry people living in our local communities.

So, generous Feather Princesses, let's do our part to help "stamp out" food insecurity here in Tampa Bay. We can successfully achieve this goal one step at a time, by continuing to donate cash and food to various food banks throughout our area. Let's take our giving to the next level, give more, and help feed more hungry people.

This month our lovely member, Princess **B.J. Weber**, will deliver our donations to:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1214 Broad Street
Masaryktown, Florida 34604

Please join us as we give and help feed the less fortunate men, women, and children in our local communities.

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April Calendar

Wednesday, April 1

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 8

Feather Princesses April Guild Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, April 16

Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

Tuesday, April 21

Sew Happy Sit & Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle

Wednesday, April 22

Animal Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, April 23

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, April 24

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Wednesday, April 29

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Before you come to our April 8 Guild Meeting, please go to your kitchen cupboards and take out some of the groceries there. Fill your bags with canned goods and other non-perishable food items and then bring them to the meeting. Oh, and please remember to bring your cash donations as well.

Let's all ban together to help others. I'll see you and your wonderful donations this coming Wednesday at our exciting April 8 Guild Meeting. We sincerely appreciate you for your valuable contributions, to feed the hungry people in our communities and to ensure the success of our *Community Service Project*.

Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and Dianna Shepard

This fabulous retreat will be our BEST ONE yet, so plan to join us for a few days of appliqué, creativity, and quilting fun! We'd love to have you be a part of it!

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.

Costs:

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

We will continue accepting payments at our phenomenal April 8 Guild Meeting, and we will accept cash, checks, and 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.

To make a retreat payment (minimum payment \$50) at our April 8 Guild Meeting, please see our:

- *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, prior to the start of the guild meeting and during the lunch break—to pay by check or cash.
- *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, during the lunch break—to pay by card.

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." 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 completes 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.

Also at our April 8 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. We look forward to seeing you there!

April Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

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

With Spring in full force, a trip to the backyard quilting garden is here! So, which pastel florals will you pick this year? In your garden (fabric stash), we're sure you will find a plethora of pastel florals such as these:

- **Light blue flowers** – Include popular varieties such as Hydrangea and Forget-me-nots. These delicate, soft-colored blooms are excellent for adding a calm, dreamy, or cooling effect to gardens and floral arrangements.
- **Soft pink flowers** – Bring a romantic, gentle aesthetic to gardens and bouquets, with popular examples including Peonies and fragrant varieties like Sweet Peas and Roses, as well as perennials such as Dahlias and Bleeding Hearts.
- **Soft lavender flowers** – Often feature pale, pastel, or silvery-purple hues, creating a delicate appearance in gardens. Top examples include the light-colored *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Melissa Lilac', the pale-bracted *L. stoechas* 'Silver Anouk', and the soft-pink *L. angustifolia* 'Hidcote Pink'.

Cotton pastel floral print fabrics are soft and they feature delicate flower patterns in pale, muted colors such as soft pink, light blue, lavender, or mint green—often on light backgrounds. Known for their airy, romantic aesthetic, these fabrics are perfect for appliqué.

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for April is "Pastel Floral" print cotton fabrics. So, bring these fat quarters in a variety of colors and soft shades to our exciting April 8 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 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 "pastel floral" print cotton fat quarters this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.

"Hearts and Flowers" Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk

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

The combination of a heart and a flower symbolizes love, passion, beauty, and the growth or nurturing of emotions. Often used in jewelry, tattoos, and gifts, this pairing bridges deep sentiment with natural beauty. It can represent tender affection (often described as "hearts-and-flowers") or the emotional, flourishing nature of a deep connection.



So, did you know that:

- "Hearts and Flowers" is a song composed by Theodore Moses-Tobani and published in 1893 by Carl Fischer Music.
- "Hearts and Flowers" is a 1930 stop-motion silent short film directed by Howard Moss, featuring animated doll characters Dolly Daisy and two male suitors competing for her affection.
- "Hearts and Flowers" was an American, Los Angeles-based folk rock club band, perhaps most significant as one of the groups that launched the career of the Eagles' founding member and guitarist-songwriter, Bernie Leadon.
- "Hearts and Flowers" is a bright green succulent type foliage with bright apple red flowers, blooming during the Spring season through Fall.

As you select stunning heart block patterns to stitch, we suggest pairing them with beautiful Spring flowers to create some of the most elegant and striking **Healing Heart** blocks ever! A simple rose appliquéd to the heart's center, a beautiful iris stitched at the heart's base, or a lovely tulip appliquéd from the heart's inside point all make for an eye-catching **Healing Heart** block design. So this month, as you stitch your gorgeous **Healing Heart** blocks, enhance your heart designs, take your stitching to the next level, and add a Spring flower or two.

Here in the Feather Princesses, we lift the spirits of our lovely Princesses, as they face challenging and difficult times. We appliquéd 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 appliquéd.

[continued page 7]

Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson

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

As we continue commemorating America's upcoming 250th Birthday, we'd like to share a couple of historical tidbits with you. Did you know that:

- The first shots of the American Revolution started April 19, 1775.
- The Civil War, Spanish War, and World War II all started in April.

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 patriot 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 appliquéd technique (needle turn, back basting, machine appliquéd, freezer paper, raw edge – edges must be sewn down, etc.)
- May be made in any style (art, traditional, album, combo, modern, etc.)

[continued on page 7]

April Birthdays

by Vici Miller

April is the month of renewal, growth, and hope—making it the perfect time for motivation and positive change. And it is widely known for Spring, characterized by warmer weather, blooming flowers, and "April showers" (in some areas).

Here in the Feather Princesses, April is also the perfect time to pull out our beautiful pastel fabrics and stitch our most stunning Spring quilts, all the while wishing the lovely Princesses born during the month of April a very happy birthday!

ROSIE TRUBAJIC - 4/13

LINDA WOYTISEK - 4/14

JACKIE MORSE - 4/20

DIANNA SHEPARD - 4/21



April Birthday Princesses, may your special day be Happy, and your year be filled with APPLIQUÉ! Stuff your birthday baskets with striking pastel floral prints and watch your stitching bloom!

[Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge - continued from page 6]

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

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

We look forward to you participating in this once in a life time project and having FUN, as we create stunning patriotic quilts!

[April Guild Meeting - continued from page 2]

- During Show N Tell, enjoy the amazing and astonishing **Show Offs**, and be inspired with the very stunning appliquéd quilts and wallhangings made by our talented Princesses.
- Then be sure to enjoy the exciting April Birthday and door prize drawings, as your name just might get drawn as the winner.

This April Guild Meeting will be phenomenal! So come, join us, and have a fun-filled and enriching day! Princesses **Ritu, Michelle, Dianna, and I** are chomping at the bit to learn about "Collage Quilts" and we hope you are too!

[Healing Heart Blocks - continued from page 6]

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 April 8 Guild Meeting and turn them in to me, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**; and I will give them to the recipients.

Feather Princesses you have always been and continue to be so generous in making the **Healing Heart** blocks; and each one is greatly received and appreciated. Your outpouring of love is phenomenal; and we sincerely thank you.



Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

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

When it comes to the date, April 15, here in the United States most of us associate it as National Tax Day, the federal deadline for individuals to file their income tax returns. But this date is also a day of historical significance, including:

- Jackie Robinson Day, marking his 1947 Major League Baseball debut
- The 1912 sinking of the Titanic

This year, April 15 is also the date of our phenomenal **Legacy Quilt Group Meeting**. At this meeting we will also focus on historical significance, as we concentrate and "zero in" on appliquéing quilts from the past—Baltimore Album, Civil War, other traditional quilts, and voila—patriotic quilts!

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

So, if you have not already filed your income taxes, get them done now, so you will be free to join us on April 15. We eagerly welcome ALL of our beautiful Feather Princesses to attend.

At the meeting, in particular we will:

- Continue looking at various Civil War appliqué patterns and designs, and then plan our next Civil War group quilt. And if you have a pattern to consider using for the group quilt, please bring it along for us to see.
- Take a closer look at and stitch our vintage traditional appliqué quilt designs
- Focus on the patriotic quilts we are creating for our upcoming "America 250" Quilt Challenge, culminating in July. So, if you need assistance with your patriotic quilt entry, be sure to come and let us help you.

We will have a remarkable adventure at this meeting. So, please feel free to bring the Legacy quilts of your choice and have a grand old time with us!

We welcome ALL of our talented Feather Princesses to join us at this exciting **Legacy Quilt Group Meeting** on Wednesday, April 15! We will have FUN!

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 appliqueing 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, April 16, 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.

This month we will focus on Row 4, "Pinwheels." The technique covered in the book is a dimensional version. Other techniques used to create this adorable row include:

- Fabric folding
- Dealing with and managing fabric bulk

When you come to the meeting, you may bring:

- Rows 1-3 for Show N Tell, if you have already completed them.
- Sewing/quilting supplies for this project, if you would like assistance and tips for sewing Row 4, etc.
- 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 techniques and perfecting our machine piecing skills, row-by-row. So come out and join us!

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

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, April 16.

Animal Appliqué Quilt Group

by Lois Bretzlaff

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

The animal kingdom is full of bizarre wonders! Did you know that:

- Butterflies taste with their feet
- Octopuses have three blue hearts
- Cows can produce roughly 400 liters of methane a day
- Penguins lose all their feathers at once in a "catastrophic molt?"

These incredible creatures are so very fascinating to study and even more FUN to stitch!

So, come out and join us at our next exciting **Animal Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting!** We gladly welcome ALL of our lovely Feather Princesses to attend! Come, explore the animal kingdom, and appliqué with us!

Bring a picture of your favorite animal and then create an appliqué masterpiece.

Animal Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 22618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, April 22, 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, April 22, 10 am. Spend the day with us and CREATE!

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group

by Ritu Halдар

Hello Hawaiian Appliqué Enthusiasts!

We're sew excited that it is time for us to enjoy being together again, working on an Hawaiian Appliqué quilt project! Previously, we have been so adventurous in our pursuit of creativity. Our Red and White quilt was a stunner! Our circle/wreath blocks were fun and your creations were outstanding!

Now we are especially excited, as it is time to honor one of the greats! At this next inspirational meeting, each attendee will create a stunning block of her choice, referenced from the book "Papercuts and Plenty" by internationally renowned album quilt expert, Elly Sienkiewicz.

We will eagerly revisit this book. So, if you own a copy, please take a moment to browse it and select one of the Hawaiian appliqué blocks of your choice. Elly's patterns are so versatile and the book is exquisite! With that said, I gladly encourage you to come and give our **Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group** a try! You might fall in love with what we do!

Hawaiian Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Contact: Princess Ritu Halдар

We welcome ALL of our lovely Feather Princesses to join us. And so that you can participate in this fun-filled meeting, please bring the following supplies:

- 1 black-on-black fat quarter
- 1 white-on-white fat quarter

These fat quarters may be prints and/or batiks, reading solids only. (Prints that are not big prints, but subtle and read like a solid.)

I will bring the colored fabrics.

Also, bring your lunch, a sweater, and your sewing machine and supplies if you wish!

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Pressing Issue

by Dorothy Johnson

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

At some point in our lives, we all face a "pressing issue" that needs to be resolved. According to Google, a "pressing issue" is a critical, high-priority problem that demands immediate attention and action to prevent negative consequences. It is a time-sensitive matter often accompanied by a sense of urgency, requiring swift resolution rather than delayed consideration. It's an opportunity to make things better and improve situations.

When we appliqué, pressing our quilting fabric pattern pieces is a valid concern—and it provides an opportunity for us to improve the overall appearance of our blocks and entire quilts. Recently at our quilt circles, "pressing our fabric pieces" was an interesting topic of discussion. As quilters, we realized that pressing is an important part of the quiltmaking process, to press our fabrics as our quilts progress and take shape. And we agreed that it is also vital to remember the following important tips, as well:

- Ensure that the surface of the iron is clean
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions to clean an iron
- Use the heat setting recommended for your fabric type (most quilters prefer 100% cotton)
- Press the fabric pieces
- Press each individual quilt block
- Press the entire quilt top

Our phenomenal quilt circles offer the golden opportunity for us to attend, learn, share, make stunning award-winning applique quilts, and help each other thrive. So, let's continue benefitting from our quilt circles and make them better and better. Let's step up and:

- Regularly come out and attend our fun-filled quilt circles
- Become inspired and tackle more intricate appliqué quilt designs of complexity
- Quickly master appliqué techniques and implement these techniques as we create new breathtaking quilts
- Share our appliqué knowledge and expertise with other aspiring Princesses
- Create award-winning quilts
- Showcase our appliqué quilts and compete against other gifted quilters

Lovely Feather Princesses, adhere to these valuable tips and we assure you that there will be no "pressing issues" at our wonderful quilt circles. We can hardly wait to see you in April.

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, April 21, 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, April 23, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

2902 W. Bearss Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 273-3652 (library)

Friday, April 24, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson



Upcoming National Quilt Challenges

by Dorothy Johnson

Our needles and threads are ready to rock! So, let the stitching begin! 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," enter the following challenges, and pursue these golden opportunities:

- **Mancuso Show Management "Celebrating Women Challenge"** has already started and is up and running.
- **AQS "Petals of Connection Quilt Challenge"** is underway and moving forward.
- **Hoffman "Coffee Shoppe" Batik Collection** has been shipped to the quilt shops and is ready for the "37th Annual Hoffman Challenge" to begin.

So, get busy, create your unique design, select some gorgeous fabrics, and make that award-winning quilt! Enter the following national quilt challenges today!



CELEBRATING WOMEN CHALLENGE

"Celebrating Women: A Quilter's Perspective"
A Special Exhibition Challenge Sponsored
by Mancuso Show Management

(Excerpt taken from: <https://www.quiltfest.com/register/celebrating-women-challenge/>)

From trailblazing women in history to inspiring quilters, mentors, and cherished figures in your own family, this challenge invites participants to create a quilt that honors the women who have made a meaningful impact on their lives. This does not need to be a pictorial quilt—creativity in interpretation is encouraged.

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

Exhibit Calendar:

- Entry Deadline: July 7, 2026
- Notification of Jurors: July 10, 2026
- Ship Quilt to Arrive: July 20 – August 3, 2026
- Quilt Return: Mid-March 2027

This challenge is the Mancuso Show Management's second juried quilt exhibit premiering at the:

- Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza, September 17–20, 2026, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pennsylvania
- Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival, March 4–7, 2027, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia

For more detailed information, go to: <https://www.quiltfest.com/register/celebrating-women-challenge/>.



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 quilting—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 through August 30, 2026.

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



37TH ANNUAL HOFFMAN CHALLENGE

2026 – 2027 Hoffman Challenge
"Coffee Shoppe" Batik Collection

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.thehoffmanchallenge.com/2026-2027-information-and-guidelines>)

[continued page 12]

[Upcoming National Quilt Challenges - continued from page 11]

There's no better way to celebrate than joining in on the 37th Annual Hoffman Challenge. The "Coffee Shoppe" batik collection makes up the 2026-2027 Hoffman Challenge Collection. Hoffman Challenge participants are required to use a minimum of 5 out of 18 of these batik challenge fabrics in the body of the quilt top or garment in recognizable, but not necessarily equal amounts. Also, participants are encouraged to use fabrics from any manufacturer in addition to the required challenge fabrics.

Participant registration, submissions, and initial jurying all take place online, with a panel of certified judges considering all entries. If it is determined that your artwork qualifies for in-person judging, you will be asked to mail it to Hoffman Fabrics.

The completion of your online registration, including photos of your artwork (one overall and one close-up) must be submitted by September 15, 2026. You may submit up to three different pieces of artwork with the \$30 entry fee (paid online).

Finalists' and award winners' artwork go on tour for a year and are displayed in the Hoffman Virtual Showroom. And the exhibitors may include quilt shows and festivals, museums and libraries, cultural centers, guilds, and even some Hoffman retailers.

For more detailed information, go to: <https://www.thehoffmanchallenge.com/2026-2027-information-and-guidelines>.

2026 All Florida Shop Hop

by Dorothy Johnson

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

April is here and that means that the exciting 2026 All Florida Shop Hop is half over! During the month of March, quilters scurried all over the state of Florida, shopping and having the very best time ever at the 67 participating quilt shops. And now that the month of April is here, only a few weeks remain, as the "hop" ends on Thursday, April 30.

Hopefully you have enjoyed visiting each unique shop, meeting the owners, and making new quilting friends! But, if not, there is still time for you to hit the road and have some FUN! Be sure to visit each and every one of the participating shops, enjoy yourselves, become inspired, learn something new, and get every single item on your "Wish List."

And, as you travel to the various shops, remember to:

- Make sure your Passport is filled out before you visit the shops, as they are not allowed to stamp your passport and give you a giveaway until your passport is filled out.
- Access the Shop Hop website before heading out each day, to check for any magazine updates, store hour changes, or important announcements.
- Check the *Shop Hop Magazine* to see the list of participating shops and the hours they will be open before you head out. To give quilters an extra day to Hop, each region has its own Shop Hop Sunday; however, the shops are not required to be open on their region's Sunday.
- Share your quilt projects made from your Shop Hop finds and purchases. Post your progress and finished projects in the Facebook Group, so all can be inspired.
- Mail your Passport. Completed passports must be postmarked by May 4, 2026, to be eligible for prize drawings. When you are done Hopping, mail your passport to:

All Florida Shop Hop
373 Collins Rd NE, Ste 107
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

For a 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/>!

An Absolutely Splendid 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season

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

There is no doubt about it, we quilters have had an absolutely splendid 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show Season! With dynamic quilt shows spanning from the Florida Panhandle, Central Florida, the Florida East and West Coasts, and South Florida, quilting was front and center this year! And no matter the kind of quilters, there was something for each and every one.

Now that the season is dwindling and about to come to an end, there is one more exciting show to attend. So, mark your calendars now, call your very best quilting friends, and plan to have a great day enjoying quilts in Ocala! Travel to the center of our state, become inspired, and have a fantastic time, too!

"RUBY Jubilee of 2026" Quilt Show

Country Road Quilters of Ocala

Circle Square Cultural Center

8395 S.W. 80th Street

Ocala, Florida 34481

Friday, April 17 – Saturday, April 18, 2026

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days

Opportunity Quilt, Over 200 Quilts on Display,
Vendors, Boutique, Raffle Baskets, Door Prizes, and
so much more!

For additional information, see: www.crq-ocala.org.

April Creative Applique Quilt Group Meeting Cancelled

by Peggy Wattenbarger, Linda Woytisek, and Krystal Woytisek

The Creative Applique Quilt Group Meeting is **cancelled** and will not meet on Monday, April 20, as initially scheduled.

The next Creative Applique Quilt Group Meeting will convene on Monday, May 18, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks so much!