



The Plume

MAY 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Gifted, accomplished, and award-winning Feather Princesses, just look at us now! To coin an old phrase, "We've come a long way baby!" We are quilting stars and we are winners, too! Reminiscing and looking back on our quilting journey during the early days of our guild, our knowledge, expertise, and skill level of appliqué was meager at best. But through a strong desire to learn, commitment, dedication, and perseverance, we have now risen to the occasion, "we have risen to the top," if you will.

The process of quiltmaking is most certainly a progression, and our quilting accomplishments are the perfect examples of that. Over the past years, we set goals, expanded our knowledge, mastered many quilting techniques, and enhanced our skill levels. Step-by-step, we moved forward and advanced—to the point that we are now creating masterpiece quilts. Our eye-catching appliqué quilts are a cut above the rest, they are being noticed and admired at various quilt competitions and contests, and they are winning!

This year, the quilt show season has been phenomenal, with one dynamic show after another. The recently held Florida Quilt Shows, Lakeland Sewing and Quilt EXPO, and AQS Quilt Weeks were outstanding! Quilters from every where were out in force at these grand shows, sporting their quilt attire—many of them wearing quilt themed caps, hats, jewelry, shirts, and similar outfits. And there were auto tags with all sorts of nifty "quilt" sayings, too. In addition, these wonderful shows boasted all types of activities and amenities—amazing quilt displays, stunning judged quilts, demos and lectures presented by accomplished quilters, classes taught by expert quilters and instructors, breathtaking Opportunity Quilts, gift baskets chock full of fantastic goodies, boutiques over-flowing with special gift items, and more. But the one common link among these shows were the breathtaking outstanding quilts made by our talented Feather Princesses.

So, we take this grand opportunity to salute our gifted Feather Princesses members whose quilts were recently displayed in various quilt shows and to applaud them for their success. We esteem and honor them for their creativity and talents, and for representing our guild in such a grand and noble fashion. But foremost, we encourage them to continue learning and mastering appliqué and quilting techniques, and then producing even more award-winning quilts. And in recognition of that, we dedicate this issue of *The Plume* to these talented Feather Princesses. So, as you read this issue, be

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May Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

Spring continues moving along and the month of May is jam-packed with a plethora of reasons to get together with our loving families and friends to celebrate! There are graduations (at all academic levels), high school proms, weddings, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, the official start of Summer, and more! But the very best reason for us Feather Princesses to get together is to celebrate appliqué and each other! DO NOT MISS this wonderful opportunity to enjoy the sensational Feather Princesses camaraderie and have a grand old time at our awesome May Guild Meeting! So come out to the meeting and spend the day with us!

When you arrive, please be sure to:

- See our *Membership Chair*, Princess **Betty Jo Lecaroz**, to sign in at our **Welcome Table** and to renew your annual Feather Princesses membership.
- See our *Community Service Project Chair*, Princess **Mary Moody**, to drop off your non-perishable food items for our **Community Service Project**.
- Place the quilting supplies that you no longer want on the **FREE** table, to share with other Princesses who might need or want them.
- Place the tasty "Spring Treats" on the Hospitality counter, that you brought to share.
- 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 "Patriotic Red, White, and Blue" fat quarters.
- *Guild Librarian*, Princess **Mary Ann Vathy**, to return, browse, and check out guild library books.
- *Guild Photographer*, Princess **Peggy Wattenbarger**, to sign in and photograph the quilts you will present during Show N Tell.
- *Healing Hearts Chair*, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, to turn in your Healing Heart blocks.
- *Newsletter Chair*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, to place an ad in our newsletter, *The Plume*.

Also:

At 9 a.m. during Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you stitch your stunning appliqué quilt projects.



Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Springhill Suites Marriott Tampa
Suncoast Parkway
16615 Crosspointe Run
Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

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

At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business and committee reports.

During the lunch break:

- Enjoy the tasty lunch you brought from home and the yummy treats and refreshments shared by our lovely Princesses.
- See our *Community Service Project Chair*, Princess **Mary Moody**, to contribute your cash donations to our **Community Service Project**.
- See our *Autumn Special Block Chair*, Princess **Winnie Miale**, to purchase a **2026 Autumn Special Block kit**.
- See our *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, to register and pay to attend our **2026 Lake Yale Retreat** (cards, cash, and checks only please).
- Have fun shopping at our exciting **Ways and Means Committee Sale**. Get some awesome bargains on fabrics, patterns, and other quilting goodies.

During the informative program, our talented *Vice President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, will totally inspire us as she presents "How to Make Skinny Bias Tape." Ritu will focus on important points such as how to properly measure, cut, fold, and press fabrics to create the bias tape. She will also share tips on the different fabrics that can be used to make bias tape and to enhance the overall appearance of our appliqué quilt projects.

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 May Birthday and door prize drawings, as your name just might get drawn and you will be the winner.

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[President's Message - continued from page 1]

sure to see their names and the photos of their quilts on page 13. And the next time you see these ladies in person, be sure to take a few minutes to congratulate them as well.

Princesses **Ritu, Michelle, Dianna**, and I are now more excited and inspired about appliqué than ever before, as the opportunities and possibilities are endless! So, come and join us at our fun-filled May Guild Meeting, learn yet another appliqué technique, enhance your quilting skills, move forward and progress. Let inspiration freely flow and let's go to the next level.

Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller



May has many notable holidays and celebrations including May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Fun sporting events every May include the Indianapolis 500 and the Kentucky Derby, held on the first Saturday of May.

May is also the month of sunshine, blooming flowers and endless possibilities. Let's extend that May sunshine and lift the spirits of our lovely Feather Princesses who felt under the weather this past month:

- **Beverly Abenante**
- **Dee Anderson**
- **Nancy Hale**
- **Elaine Randall**
- **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.

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



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Vice President's Report - May Program

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Princesses! Happy May!

Guess what time it is? It is that time of year when the sun shines brighter, the days are longer, the colors are brighter, the water is warmer and our fingers are itching to work on our patriotic blocks, wall hangings, and quilts. In preparation for our upcoming **Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge**, just in case you run into skinny bias strips, I thought it would be wonderful to refresh our memory on how they are made and to share some tips and tricks to accomplish that task.

I look forward to seeing you at our May 13 Guild Meeting and talking about bias strips! Did you ever wonder what they would look like if they were made with polka dot, stripe, printed fabrics, or some other coordinating fabrics in your appliqué quilt project—instead of purchased bias tape pre-made from solid fabrics? I would love to talk about it and I invite you to share what you know about this topic with us as well! This is just one of many wonderful items on the agenda for our exciting guild meeting.

So, come one! Come All! I hope to see you at the meeting, bring a friend and enjoy the day with us!

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

May Birthdays

by Vici Miller

Hello May! You bring the sweet scent of flowers and the warmth of sunshine! Let's add to that beauty by continuing to stitch our blossoming appliqué quilt projects.

Let's also celebrate with our beautiful Feather Princesses members born during the merry month of May.

Winnie Miale - 5/2

Laura Brooker - 5/4

Mary Ann Vathy - 5/6

Vici Miller - 5/7 Becky

James - 5/9 Mary

Moody - 5/25 Fazie

Mohamed - 5/30



We extend good wishes that your special day will be Happy, and your year will be filled with APPLIQUÉ! Smell the sweet scent of the flowers and let your stitching bloom!

Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.google.com/search?and+https://www.nalc.org/community-service/food-drive#:~:text=Each%20year%2C%20letter%20carriers%20across,to%20benefit%20local%20food%20pantries.>)

By the time you read this issue, Saturday, May 9, 2026 would have come and gone. But, the 34th Annual "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive," the largest single-day food drive in the United States, took place on this day. And citizens participated by placing non-perishable food items in a sturdy bag next to their mailbox for pickup by postal carriers during regular mail delivery. Each year, letter carriers across our country head out on their routes on the second Saturday in May to collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Since launching in 1993, the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" has grown into the nation's largest one-day food drive, helping to fill the shelves of food banks in cities and towns throughout the United States.

This year, "World Hunger Day" will be observed on Thursday, May 28, 2026; and the day will focus on raising awareness about global hunger and encouraging action to end it, with an estimated 318 million people facing acute food insecurity in 2026. The 2026 campaign emphasizes that ending hunger is a community-driven effort, declaring, "The End of Hunger Is In Our Hands". Individuals, organizations, and governments will unite to celebrate the progress made and acknowledge challenges that remain in the fight against hunger. It will be an opportunity for all of us around the world to play our part in ending world hunger, for good.

Here in our local communities, as the less fortunate families gather this month with their families and friends, we Feather Princesses can make an impact and lend a hand by helping to feed them. Let's donate food items and cash to our **Feather Princesses Community Service** project. And as you prepare to come to our May 13 Guild Meeting, please bring canned goods and/or other packaged nonperishable food items to share with those in need. Let's ensure that these lovely families do not go hungry.

Our Feather Princesses *Executive Board* and I truly thank you for making the lives brighter of the less fortunate people in our local communities. And we are eternally grateful for your steadfast generosity and sincere expressions of love and support.

We look forward to seeing you and your food and cash donations this coming Wednesday at our exciting May 13 Guild Meeting.

Library Update

by Mary Vathy



Our guild quilt book library has been sleeping for the past two months, but the books are really eager to get out and be seen. At our May 13 Guild Meeting, we'll have three boxes of appliqué books we have not seen for a year. These books have been living in a dear Feather Princess's garage, and they are anxious to be browsed and checked out.

All three boxes contain appliqué books, with the following great titles (including patterns), such as:

- *Lollypop Trees* pattern by Kim McLean
- *Appliqué Takes Wing: Exquisite Designs for Birds, Butterflies and More* by Jane Townswick
- *Mastering Machine Appliqué* by Harriet Hagrave
- *Quilting to Soothe the Soul: Creating Memories for today, Tomorrow & Forever* by Linda Carlson
- *Art of Hand Appliqué* by Laura Lee Fritz
- *Precious Sunbonnet Quilts* by Betty Alderman

And many more appliqué classics and new books highlighting new techniques, modern designs, and artistic quilts will be available for your viewing pleasure, too.

You may check-out two books at a time if you've returned books you previously checked out. The pattern books and out-of-print special books require a check (for deposit,) which we will hold on to until you return the book. These special books can be easily identified with the red dots.

So bring a blank check, any books you checked out three months ago, and your curiosity.

Happy Browsing! We'll see you at our phenomenal May 13 Guild Meeting!



Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and Dianna Shepard

Spring is two-thirds gone and Summer is quickly approaching. (Have you felt the heat this week?) Anyway, Autumn is on its way, too; and only five months remain before our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat convenes. 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 May 13 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 May 13 Guild Meeting, please see our *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, during the lunch break.

Mark your calendars for our FABUOUS 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

Please note that we will **NOT** have a Retreat Meeting at our May 13 Guild Meeting, but please stay tuned, as we will have a Retreat Meeting next month at our exciting June 10 Guild Meeting, 10 a.m.

So, please plan to meet with us at that time and keep your wonderful ideas and suggestions coming.

Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.today.com/life/holidays/memorial-day-trivia-rcna141659>)

With America's 250th birthday coming up soon and Memorial Day just around the corner, let's take a close look at some basic American history, specifically Memorial Day, to see just how much we know about this holiday:

- Memorial Day was originally established to honor fallen soldiers of which war? **Answer:** The Civil War
- In honor of Confederate and Union soldiers lost in the Civil War, what year was the first Memorial Day observed? **Answer:** 1868
- What other name is Memorial Day known by? **Answer:** Decoration Day
- What high military honor is awarded to individuals who were wounded or lost their lives in service to their country? **Answer:** The Purple Heart
- Which esteemed medal for valor was first created during the Civil War? **Answer:** The Medal of Honor
- During a national commemoration held annually on Memorial Day, a wreath is placed on what significant memorial? **Answer:** The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Memorial Day is recognized on what day each year? **Answer:** The last Monday in May
- In what year did observing Memorial Day on the last Monday in May become law? **Answer:** 1971
- In 2000, Congress passed a law requiring Americans to pause on Memorial Day in honor of fallen servicemen and women. At what time should the remembrance occur? **Answer:** 3 p.m.
- What flower is worn in honor of Memorial Day? **Answer:** The poppy

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for May is "Patriotic **Red**, **White**, and **Blue**" cotton fabrics. So, bring these fat quarters to our exciting May 13 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 stunning patriotic quilt for our upcoming FP Patriotic Quilt Challenge.

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

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

Spring Cleaning and Healing Heart Blocks

by Shirley Kasprzyk

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



We're already knee-deep into Spring. And with only one month to go before Summer officially kicks in, some folks have already finished their annual Spring cleaning, while others have barely started. Spring cleaning is the practice of thoroughly cleaning a house in the springtime. It's purpose is to remove accumulated Winter dust, grime, and clutter. It goes beyond daily cleaning, focusing on often-neglected areas like cleaning behind appliances, washing windows, washing drapes, and deep-cleaning carpets.

And believe it or not, Google has categorized the different Spring cleaning tasks:

- **Deep Cleaning:** Scrubbing floors, cleaning out the refrigerator, washing windows/blinds, and shampooing rugs.
- **Decluttering:** Sorting through closets, drawers, and storage areas to reorganize or discard unused items.
- **Home Reset:** Cleaning ceiling fans, vents, and dusting high corners to improve air quality.
- **Exterior Maintenance:** Cleaning outdoor furniture, sweeping porches, and washing exterior windows.

Not only during the Spring, but all year through, we quilters do a lot of decluttering—sorting through our fabrics and other quilting supplies tucked away in our closets, drawers, and storage areas. And when we come across items we no longer need or want, we usually toss them, share them with friends, or even sometimes store them away (again) to pick up and repurpose in the future.

So, lovely Princesses, no matter the season, as you declutter your sewing area, be mindful of any "Heart" patterns and/or **Healing Heart** blocks that you uncover—any patterns you used in the past or incomplete blocks that you might have started stitching way back when. Don't just put them back for another day. Instead, keep them out in view, to use in the immediate future.

- Keep your "Heart" patterns handy to make blocks for the recipients on our current **Healing Hearts** list.
- Take out your needles and threads and finish stitching any incomplete "Heart" blocks.

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

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Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson

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

With just two more months to go before the big party, America's 250th birthday is just around the corner! And in recognition of this grand and historic event, we will have a **Patriotic Quilt Challenge**, culminating at our Feather Princesses July 8, 2026 Guild Meeting. We will commemorate the Semi-Quincentennial Celebration of America!

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.

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Why Do We Quilt? FP Annual Membership Renewal

by Dorothy Johnson

Lovely Feather Princesses, why do we quilt, particularly why do we appliqué? What motivates us to spend hours upon hours perfecting our skills and creating stunningly beautiful eye-catching quilts? What excites us and gets our creative juices flowing? What is our reason or incentive for being committed, loyal, and dedicated enthusiasts and proponents of this artform that we so dearly love?

Is it the:

- vast amount of knowledge, skill, expertise we attain along the way?
- opportunity to express our unique artistry and creativity by making one of a kind eye-catching quilts?
- other marvelous and talented quilters we meet and form lasting friendships with?
- opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise with others?
- assurance that we will never grow stale with this craft, as there will always be something new to learn about quilting?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then our Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild is the place for you to be—because our guild provides the:

- inspiration, platform, and perfect arena for you to learn and perfect your appliqué skills via our phenomenal guild meeting programs, quilt circles, specialty appliqué quilt group meetings, and retreats.
- place for you to display your quilted artwork via our guild meeting Show N Tell, guild challenges, public library exhibits, and quilt shows.
- activities (such as guild meetings, retreats, road trips, quilt luncheons, quilt circles, and specialty appliqué quilt group meetings) for you to meet and interact with other needle artists who share the same ideals, goals, and passion.
- arena for our members to gather (at our guild meetings, quilt circles, and specialty appliqué quilt group meetings) to present demos, lectures, programs, trunk shows, etc. to others.
- educational activities (trunk shows, lectures, classes, and workshops taught by national appliqué instructors and other renowned and knowledgeable quilting experts) highlighting new and refined trends in the quilting world.

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2026 Asheville Quilt Show

by Becky James

Lovely Feather Princesses, now that the 2026 Florida Winter Quilt Show season has come to an end, let's spread our wings and consider entering our gorgeous appliqué quilts in shows convening in other regions this Summer, so that even more quilters and enthusiasts can see and enjoy our beautiful quilted creations. With that, I highly recommend the following dynamic quilt show:

2026 Asheville Quilt Show

Western North Carolina Ag Center

Davis Event Center

765 Boylston Highway

Fletcher, North Carolina 28732

Thursday, August 13 - Friday, August 14, 2026:

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 15, 2026: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This amazing quilt show will feature:

- Over 300 quilts on display
- Quilts for Sale
- Cash Awards/Prize Money
- 2026 Opportunity Quilt
- 25+ Vendors
- Demonstrations by Expert Quilters
- Gift Shop
- Special Exhibits
- Silent Auction
- Sewing Station for Kids

The entry process for this impressive show has already begun and the *Entry Form* is available on the website at: https://www.ashevillequiltguild.org/quilt_show.

Also:

- The awards for the top three prizes (*Best of Show*, *Outstanding Hand Work*, and *Outstanding Machine Work*) has increased.
- There are 19 Judged Categories - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards in each category. If you don't want your quilt to be judged, you can enter your quilt in the *Display Only* category.
- There are separate categories for *Appliqué Quilts* and *Hand-Quilted Quilts*.
- There are also categories for *Modern*, *Art*, and *Special Technique Quilts*.

As in the past, this 2026 Asheville Quilt Show will be very well supported, with 3,000 guests predicted to attend. So, enter your breathtaking quilts so others may see and experience your artistry, creativity, and talents!

Thanks so much. I'll see you at this show in August!

May Calendar

by Vici Miller

Wednesday, May 6
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, May 13
Feather Princesses May Guild Meeting

Monday, May 18
Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 19
Sew Happy Sit & Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle

Wednesday, May 20
Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, May 21
Combo Club Quilt Group Meeting

Friday, May 22
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Thursday, May 28
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

[May Guild Meeting - continued from page 2]

This May Guild Meeting will be phenomenal! So come, join us, and have a fun-filled and enriching experience! Princesses **Ritu, Michelle, Dianna**, and I are chomping at the bit to learn more about "How to Make Skinny Bias Tape" and we hope you are too!

[Healing Heart Blocks - continued from page 6]

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
- **Jeanne Casiglia** likes pastels
- **Bobbi LeMay** likes Christmas fabrics
- **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 May 13 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.

[Why Do We Quilt? - continued from page 7]

So, if you would like to be the recipient of the many amenities listed above, be sure to renew your Feather Princesses 2026–2027 membership, now through August 12, at the same bargain price of \$50 for the new year. (And of course, we are honored to offer free membership to our precious Lifetime members—90 years and older.) Our lovely *Membership Chairs*, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B.J. Weber**, will gladly accept your membership dues payments beginning at our May 13 Guild Meeting. And be sure to bring your debit/credit cards, cash, and/or checks (made payable to the Feather Princesses); and if you write a check, please write "Membership Dues" on the Memo line of the check.

Another exciting year of fabulous appliqué awaits us at our illustrious Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild! Get ready, come, and be inspired with total appliqué education, excitement, friendship, and fun! And remember that you must renew your membership dues by our August 12 guild meeting, to be included in our new *Feather Princesses 2026 - 2027 Membership Directory*.

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

- 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 size 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 for America's 250th birthday!

Best wishes to you all! Be sure to learn more about appliqué, quilting, and our amazing country as you create your stunning patriotic quilts!

Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

Hail to the red, white, and blue! America's 250th birthday is coming fast, and we're quickly coming down the home stretch to our FP Patriotic Quilt Challenge, culminating at our July 8 Guild Meeting. So there is no better time than now to add the finishing touches to your unique, one of a kind patriotic quilt entry.

And that is where our **Legacy Quilt Group** comes into play. We gladly welcome you to come and join us on Wednesday, May 20, to stitch and make progress on your patriotic quilts for our spectacular challenge. And if you need assistance with your patriotic quilt entry, be sure to come and let us help you.

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

As your patriotic challenge quilts take shape, now is the time to add that special star or stripe, and strategically stitch it in place. Or if you're stitching an eagle gliding through the clouds, be sure that its wings are spread out and stitched just right. And make sure that Uncle Sam's top hat is tilted just right on his head before you stitch it!

Also, feel free to bring the Legacy (Baltimore Album, Civil War, Traditional) quilts of your choice, to appliqué as well. They are fun to create and they, too, have their own special place in our nation's history—and in our hearts, too!

And lastly, as always, remember to bring your lunch and a jacket or sweater. The temperature really drops in the library meeting rooms during the afternoon hours.

We anxiously look forward to stitching with you at this awesome **Legacy Quilt Group Meeting!**

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, May 21, 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 discuss Rows 5 and 6, "Birds and Flowers." The main techniques we will cover are foundation paper piecing and color placement. We will learn an alternate method for paper piecing other than what is shown in the book. This method definitely lends itself to machine piecing because of the very small pieces.

You should bring:

- Any completed rows for Show N Tell.
- Your quilting supplies for this project, if you would like help and tips for cutting, sewing, etc.
- Sewing Machines – We welcome you to bring yours, if you like.
- Your lunch or a snack.
- A sweater or a jacket.

Also, you may bring the hand appliqué quilt projects of your choice as well.

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, Princess **Melissa Labella**, at any time.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, May 21.

Preparation Is Key

by Dorothy Johnson

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

It seems no matter the task we perform in life, it is essential for us to spend time before hand getting ready. It is vitally important that we are prepared. And no matter what we do, preparation is key. We have to prepare for everything. And because everything seems to take longer (especially as we get older), the sooner we begin preparations, the better the results are. And to be honest, the better our lives are, too.

So, let's talk about our appliqué and quilting. With Memorial Day being the official start of Summer, the kick-off for this season is almost here. So, if we want to appliqué some Summer themed quilts, then it's time to start planning our Summer appliqué quilt projects. So, what kind of seasonal designs spark your fancy and peek your interests this time of year? Will you favor sunny beach designs or patterns depicting picnics in the park? Will you stitch a tall refreshing glass of lemonade or a sweet frosty ice cream cone? The possibilities are endless!

So no matter your preference for Summer appliqué quilts, let's take some time now to prepare. Let's design or pull out our Summer patterns, select some gorgeous fabrics in bold Summer hues, especially in red, white, and blue.

Let's not get caught off guard this month. Let's prepare and get ready in May, to stitch our stunning Summer appliqué projects in the months that follow. Because "preparation" really is key.

A Special Surprise for You: 2026 Autumn Special Block

by Dorothy Johnson

It doesn't matter our age—young or old or child, or our gender—man or woman, we all like surprises, don't we? Surprises are unexpected and they make feel us happy! So Feather Princesses, get ready for a sweet surprise at our fun-filled May Guild Meeting!

Our very gifted member, Princess Winnie Miale, will present our new **2026 Autumn Special Block**, and the surprise involves the stunning "Fall" design that Winnie so diligently created for us. It is a very festive design that as a group, we have never stitched before. And just as with our previous Special Blocks, it will provide the tremendous opportunities for us to work with different cotton fabrics and to focus on and learn an appliqué technique for the first time (or for some to revisit). In addition, this **Autumn Special Block** is oozing with

We can hardly wait to see you in May 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, May 19, 2026
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Contacts: Princesses Barbara Belcher,
Winnie Miale, and Dianna Shepard

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Friday, May 22, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Thursday, May 28, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

opportunities for you to express your creativity and artistry, to make your block unique and truly special.

Princess Winnie will present this **Autumn Special Block** during the business portion of our May Guild Meeting, when the Committee Reports are presented. And a little later during the lunch break, she will be available to share the kits with you. The **Autumn Special Block** kits will be available at the bargain price of \$2 each (cash only, please) during the lunch break, and we gently encourage you to get yours before they're all gone!

The completed blocks will be due at our exciting November 11 Guild Meeting. So, we will have six months to finish them. But, let's not wait until the last minute, as we all know how busy we get during the holidays. Let's not rush, but rather let's enjoy the ease and comfort of creating our **Autumn Special Block** during the long days of Summer! And when we finish making our Special Blocks, let's bring them to our guild meetings to inspire other Princesses who are still stitching theirs.

Current National Quilt Challenges - Another Opportunity to Compete and WIN

by Dorothy Johnson

Another National Quilt Challenge has been added to the exceptional list of current competitions! So this means we now have another tremendous opportunity to enter our phenomenal quilts, compete against other gifted quilters, and most of all to WIN! So be sure to see all of the info below, especially the **AQS Call For Quilts: "New York Beauty" - An American Icon Reinterpreted - Tradition Takes a New Spin.**

Let's enter the following challenges, and pursue these golden opportunities. The:

- 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.
- AQS Call For Quilts: "New York Beauty" has taken off like wild fire.
- Hoffman "Coffee Shoppe" Batik Collection has been shipped to the quilts shops and is ready for the "37th Annual Hoffman Challenge!"

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/>.

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[Current National Quilt Challenges - continued from page 11]



AQS Call For Quilts: "New York Beauty" - An American Icon Reinterpreted - Tradition Takes a New Spin

Sponsored by SewShare

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.americanquilter.com/call-for-quilts-new-york-beauty/>)

For the **2027 Call For Quilts**, AQS is seeking exceptional New York Beauty quilts created between January 2021 and August 30, 2026. From traditional interpretations to contemporary explorations, from subtle sophistications to fearless color play, AQS welcomes quilts that showcase the remarkable range and expressive potential of this enduring design.

A distinguished panel of jurors will select quilts to form a curated special exhibit, traveling to every 2027 AQS QuiltWeek show. This exclusive collection will highlight the innovation, craftsmanship, and creative vision shaping the New York Beauty block today.

The deadline to submit New York Beauty quilt entries is May 4 through August 30, 2026.

For more detailed information, go to: <https://www.americanquilter.com/call-for-quilts-new-york-beauty/>.



"37th Annual Hoffman Challenge"

2026 - 2027 Hoffman Challenge
"Coffee Shoppe" Batik Collection

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

There's no better way to display your exceptional skills and talents than by participating in 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 will go on tour for a year and will be 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>.

CONGRATULATIONS, Feather Princesses

by Dorothy Johnson and Ritu Haldar

We quilters have all sorts of FUN when we go to quilt shows. We absolutely love seeing the gorgeous quilts on display, shopping at the vendor booths, admiring the stunning gift baskets chock full of quilting stuff, shopping at the boutiques filled with tons of quilting goodies, and of course meeting new quilting friends and hooking up with friends from the past! Quilt shows are "A BLAST" and each is a special treat with its own personality and style. Each show is a genuine reflection of the quilters who have created the magnificent works of art, and who have put their hearts and souls into sharing and presenting their quilts to the general public and to other quilting friends and enthusiasts.

For us Feather Princesses, we get a kick out of seeing the quilts as well. And when we see breathtaking quilts (made by our members) displayed at other shows and exhibits, we are ecstatic and beside ourselves! We become excited, happy, and joyful—overwhelmed with delight! And when our members' quilts are honored in some way or win awards and/or prizes, then that is the frosting on the cake.

So, we take this opportunity now to congratulate our members whose outstanding quilts were recently displayed at quilt shows and exhibits. We are so very proud of our talented members and we applaud them for their SUCCESS: *[continued on page 13]*

[Congratulations, Feather Princesses - continued from page 12]

2026 West Pasco Quilters' Guild Quilt Show - New Port Richey, FL - "America's Garden of Quilts" February 13-15, 2026

- Appliqué Large—Hand Quilted
Vici Miller, "Pots and Pots of Flowers, Oh My!" - 3rd Place
- Appliqué Wall—Movable Quilting Machine
Vici Miller, "Where Eagles Soar" - 1st Place
- Group—Movable Quilting Machine
Vici Miller, "Fisherman Freddie" - 2nd Place

2026 American Quilter's Society Daytona Beach QuiltWeek - February 18-21, 2026

- Stars, Stripes, and Stitches Special Exhibit
Joanne Rodriguez, "American Quilters' Stitch Along"

2026 Original Sewing and Quilt EXPO - Atlanta, Georgia - March 12-14, 2026

- Original Sewing and Quilt EXPO Traveling Quilt Exhibit
Shirley Kasprzyk, "Princess Feather"

2026 Original Sewing and Quilt EXPO - Lakeland, Florida - March 19-21, 2026

- Tampa Modern Quilt Guild Exhibit:
 - Maritza Chinchilla, "Emerald Fish Eye" - Peoples Choice #16
 - Maritza Chinchilla, "Zephyr Fish Eye" - Peoples Choice #17
 - Ritu Haldar, "Parrots"
 - Deborah Jaffe, "Rain or Shine"
 - Fazie Mohamed, "Majestic" and "Fish Eye"
 - Linda Woytisek, "New York Beauty"
- Original Sewing and Quilt EXPO Traveling Quilt Exhibit
Shirley Kasprzyk, "Princess Feather"

2026 American Quilter's Society New England QuiltWeek - Hartford, Connecticut - April 8-11, 2026

- Stars, Stripes, and Stitches Special Exhibit
Joanne Rodriguez, "American Quilters' Stitch Along"

2026 American Quilter's Society Paducah QuiltWeek - April 22-25, 2026

- Stars, Stripes, and Stitches Special Exhibit
Joanne Rodriguez, "American Quilters' Stitch Along"

Ways and Means Fabric and Pattern Sale

By Michelle Barry

Ladies, get those dollar bills and all your change ready for another Ways and Means Sale at our May 13 Guild Meeting.

From 12 noon to 1 p.m., have fun shopping at our guild sale of fabrics and patterns. We will have several tubs of fabric just waiting to be selected by you.

When you have grabbed the items you like, then see me, your lovely *Treasurer Princess Michelle Barry*, to pay and support our guild (and help get rid of FP bins in my garage!) Cash, credit/debit, and checks will be accepted.

Thanks and we'll see you shopping away on May 13.



"Pots and Pots of Flowers" by Vici Miller



"Where Eagles Soar" by Vici Miller

[Congratulations, Feather Princesses - continued from page 12]

- **WALL QUILTS:** Stationary Machine Quilted
Sandi Snow, "AI, Infringement or Inspiration" -
Honorable Mention
- **LARGE QUILTS:** 1st Entry in an AQS Paducah Contest
Lize Blignaut, "My Love Entwined" - 1st Place

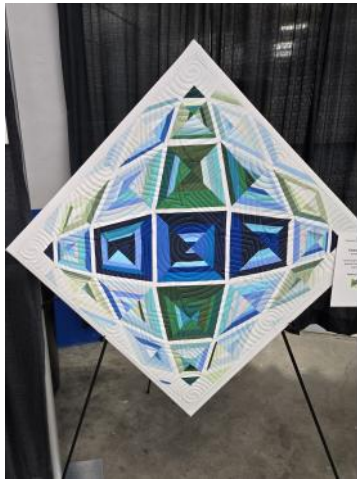
**2026 Original Sewing and Quilt EXPO - Cleveland,
Ohio - April 23-25, 2026**

- Sewing and Quilt EXPO Traveling Quilt Exhibit
Shirley Kasprzyk, "Princess Feather"

All of these works of art truly embody the spirit and tradition of quilting, and we salute the makers for their execution of excellence in their needlework!



"Rain or Shine" by Deborah Jaffe



"Emerald Fish Eye" by Maritza Chinchilla



"New York Beauty" by Linda Woytisek



"Princess Feather" by Shirley Kasprzyk



"Fish Eye" by Fazie Mohamed



"American Quilters' Stitch Along" by Joanne Rodriguez



"AI, Infringement or Inspiration" by Sandi Snow



"Fisherman Freddie" by Vici Miller



"Zephyr Fish Eye" by Maritza Chinchilla



"Parrots" by Ritu Haldar



Lize Blignaut next to her quilt, "My Love Entwined." Standing next to Lize is Best of Show winner, Karen Kay Buckley.



(L-R) Sandi Snow, Lize Blignaut, and Dorothy Johnson celebrate Lize's First Place win.