



The Plume

July 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

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

Every year on December 31, as the time on the clock nears midnight, once again the eyes of the world turn to the dazzling lights and bustling energy of Time Square. Anticipation runs high and New Year's Eve at the symbolic center of New York City becomes more than just a celebration—it's a global tradition. The world holds its breath and cheers as the clock strikes twelve. As the famous New Year's Eve Ball descends atop Times Square, countless people there in Times Square, our nation, and throughout the world unite to bid a collective farewell to the departing year and express hope and joy in the year ahead.

The same is true here in the Feather Princesses, as we end another fabulous year of appliqué here in our amazing guild. After 21 years of stitching, our anticipation and our expectations continue running higher than ever before. For as we always say, "we have not even scratched the surface—there is still so much for us to learn, master, and create." So it's time for us to once again celebrate this artform that we so dearly love and embrace. It's time for us Princesses to cheer, as we bid farewell to this year and express our hope and joy in the year ahead! It's time for us to dive deeper into appliqué and make creating breathtaking appliqué quilts our top priority.

Sew, in the days and weeks to come before we start another amazing year of appliqué, let's reflect, reminisce, and take stock of the stunning quilts we created this past year, and then pat ourselves on the back for these stellar accomplishments. Next, let's take even more time to seriously ponder what appliqué really means to us and what we would like to learn, master, and create as we forge ahead into a new year. Let's earnestly think about how we can excel even more and take our appliqué to the next level.

There's no more electrifying place on the planet than Times Square on New Year's Eve. And in our local quilting community, when it comes to appliqué, there is no more electrifying and thrilling place to be than here in the Feather Princesses! Endless energy, enthusiasm, and inspiration abound, while our unlimited quilting gifts and talents overflow! So, we're ending another year of fabulous appliqué not only with a celebration, but with a renewed focus and commitment to make excellence in quiltmaking our lasting tradition! Infinite hope and joy are in our future.

We can't wait until our new year begins in August! But first, Princesses Michelle, Dianna, and I are ready to celebrate "appliqué" with you this coming Wednesday! We will see you there.

July Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

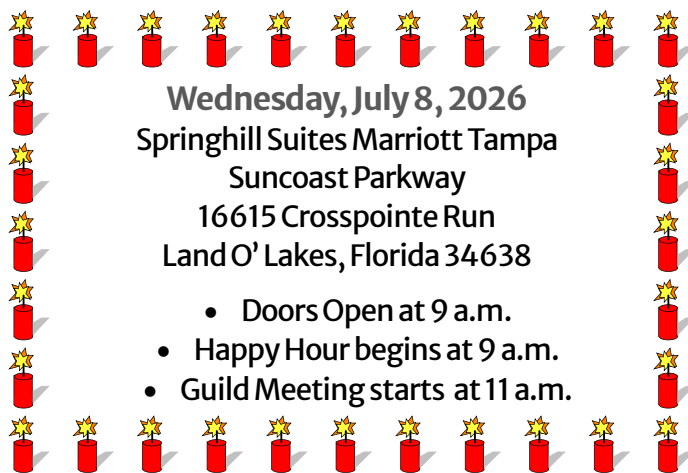
Americans all over our land are "fired up" celebrating the 250th Birthday of our great nation and the signing of the Declaration of Independence! And we Feather Princesses are "fired up" as well—extremely excited, enthusiastic, and highly motivated about this historic and monumental event, but also about appliqué! So, this coming Wednesday, make our Feather Princesses Guild Meeting your "go to" place, as sparks will fly like never before! With our long awaited **Patriotic Quilt Challenge**, **Red, White, and Blue Attire Competition**, and **Patriotic Red, White, and Blue Refreshments/Treat Contest**, there will be something for everyone. So come out, spend the day with us, and enjoy!

When you arrive, please be sure to:

- See our *Membership Chair*, Princesses **Betty Jo Lecaroz** and **B. J. Weber**, to sign in at our Welcome Table and to renew your annual Feather Princesses membership (cards, cash, and checks).
- 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 your tasty "Red, White, and Blue Treats" on the Hospitality counter, that you brought to compete and 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 "Small Autumn Print" 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 appliqué quilts you will present during Show N Tell.
- *Healing Hearts Chair*, Princess Shirley Kasprzyk, to turn in your completed Healing Heart blocks.
- *Newsletter Chair*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, to place an ad in our monthly newsletter, *The Plume*.
- *Special Block Volunteer*, Princess **Vici Miller**, to turn in your completed "Autumn Abundance" *Special Block* or



Wednesday, July 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.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

to purchase a 2026 *Autumn Special Block* kit (\$2, cash only please).

- *Special Events Volunteer*, Princess **Joie Wilson**, to pay for your lunch from the Columbia Restaurant, for our 21st Anniversary Luncheon, which will convene on Wednesday, August 12.

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.
- 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. – See Princess **Melissa Labella**, to:
 - Get a ballot to vote (during the lunch break) for your favorite Patriotic Quilt.
 - Turn in your *Patriotic Quilt Challenge* entry.
- At 11 a.m., our guild meeting will begin with a brief presentation of business and committee reports, including an inspirational *Tool Time* presentation by Princesses **Peggy Wattenbarger** and **Linda Woytisek**.
- During the lunch break:
 - Enjoy the tasty lunch you brought from home and the yummy Patriotic Red, White, and Blue 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 *Special Block Volunteer*, Princess **Vici Miller**, to turn in your completed "Autumn Abundance" *Special Block* or to purchase a 2026 Autumn Special Block kit.
 - From 12 Noon – 12:30 p.m., see all of the *Patriotic Quilt Challenge* entries and then vote for your favorite one.
- After the votes are tabulated, we will announce the winner of the:

(continued on page 3)

(July Guild Meeting - continued from page 2)

- Patriotic Quilt Challenge
- Red, White, and Blue Attire Competition
- Patriotic Red, White, and Blue Refreshment/Treat Contest

During the meeting, yours truly will present an informative program about using fabric "pre-cuts" to appliqué. We will discuss the various dimensions of pre-cuts and how we can cut and stitch them to form appliqué designs.

During Show N Tell, enjoy the amazing Show-Offs, and be inspired with the stunning appliquéd quilts and wallhangings made by our talented Princesses.

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

More exciting than fireworks on the 4th of July, this July Guild Meeting will be EXPLOSIVE—it will be "HOT!" So, come, party with us, celebrate our freedom and love of country, and celebrate appliqué!

Summertime Quilting Healing Heart Blocks

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



This Summer, consider adding extra texture to your *Healing Heart* quilt blocks by mixing checks, dots, plaids, and other coordinating prints with the requested colored fabrics. These added textures can make each block even more unique while honoring the color preferences of our recipients.

We Feather Princesses create *Healing Heart* blocks to express love, support, and encouragement to our guild members facing serious illness or the loss of a spouse or child.

The current recipients and their color preferences:

- **Barbara Belcher** – red, white, and blue
- **Jeanne Casiglia** – pastels
- **Bobbi LeMay** – Christmas fabrics
- **Mary Moody** – blue and red
- **Laura O'Connor** – burgundy

If you have completed *Healing Heart* blocks that have not yet been turned in, please bring them to the July 8 Guild Meeting and turn them in to yours truly, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, and I will give them to the recipients.

Thank you, Feather Princesses, for your continued generosity and the heartfelt care you share through every *Healing Heart* block.

Pre-Cuts and Appliqué: July Program

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.accuquilt.com/blog/all-about-precuts?>)

Fat quarters, jelly rolls, honey buns, layer cakes, and more! They all are pre-cut pieces of fabrics we use in our appliqué quilt projects! But what sizes are they, how, and when do we know to use them?

Pre-cuts are a selection of fabrics designed to work together ready to go into a project and they are an easy starting place for quilters, when they are beginning new quilt projects. They are also a great way to have a little bit of every print in a fabric line that you fall in love with. For quilters who want a "scrappy" look for their project, pre-cuts are a great starting place as well. Appliqué fans can use pre-cuts to make sure they have a wide variety of fabric to create their designs as well.

At our July Program, we will discuss different types of pre-cut fabrics and when and how to incorporate them into our appliqué. So, if you have concerns regarding specific pre-cuts, then please jot down your questions and bring them to our July 8 Guild Meeting, so we can discuss them and come up with the appropriate answer and/or techniques.

Also, if you have an entire pre-cut that you plan to use in a future appliqué quilt project OR if you still have the remnants of a pre-cut that you previously used when you created an appliqué project, then please bring the quilt and pre-cut pieces as well, and tell us how you used them.

During the presentation, we will look at different sized precuts, with different textures, and we'll discuss techniques to use them to create our gorgeous appliqué quilts!

Come and have fun with us as we learn more about pre-cut fabrics!



Wooly Chicks Road Trip - "Summer Applique Quilt Adventure,"
Friday, June 26, 2026

Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller

As we enjoy Summer with our families and friends, and celebrate the birth of our nation, let's also remember our beautiful Feather Princesses who need a kind word or maybe a helping hand. So, we're wishing you all of the love and support you need to feel better soon.

Lovely ladies, we also wish you a comfortable and speedy recover! And we hope you will regain your energy and strength and spend some time with us again very soon—to sit together, stitch, and enjoy each other's company.

- Beverly Abenante
- Dee Anderson
- Michelle Barry
- Nancy Hale
- Cathy Kessler
- Maria Nunez
- Dianna Shepard
- Sandi Snow
- Peggy Wattenbarger
- Pat Yucatonis



We adore you and we're sending sunny skies and healing vibes to you! Get well soon so we can soak up the rest of the Summer together!

July Birthdays

by Vici Miller

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation, it seems like a good time to ponder the words from the Declaration of Independence "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Our phenomenal Feather Princesses guild meetings, quilt circles, and specialty appliqué quilt group meetings provide us with so very many opportunities to pursue that happiness.

And, we are so very honored and thrilled to extend Happy Birthday wishes to the following lovely Feather Princesses:

Virginia Tooker - 7/4

Chris Sudberry - 7/18

We're wishing you a birthday overflowing with good times, joy, and sunshine! And we hope your special day is as bright and cheerful as the Summer sun!"



July Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

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

Summer is one of the most challenging times for food banks. When school is out, many children lose access to dependable meals, and families face increased grocery expenses. Donations of non-perishable foods such as canned fruits and vegetables, protein items, pasta, and rice help meet this growing need.

Thank you, Feather Princesses, for your continued support of our *Community Service Project*. Your monthly food and cash donations are greatly appreciated by local food banks, churches, and community organizations that help feed families in need.

This month's donations will be delivered by Princess Cathy Kessler to:

Wesley United Methodist Church
6100 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 3615

Your generosity helps ensure that families, especially children during the summer months, have access to the food they need. Thank you for making a difference in our communities.

Hail To The Red, White, and Blue

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Hail to the Red, White, and Blue, Feather Princesses!

"Hail to the Red, White, and Blue" is a patriotic salute honoring our nation and the American flag. The flag's colors symbolize:

- Valor and bravery (red),
- Purity and innocence (white), and
- Vigilance, perseverance, and justice (blue).

Celebrate with us by:

1. **Wearing red, white, and/or blue** to the meeting. Each attendee will vote for their favorite patriotic outfit, and the Princess who receives the most votes will win a prize.
2. **Bringing a red, white, and/or blue edible treat** to share at the hospitality table. Each attendee will vote for their favorite treat, and the Princess who brought the treat that receives the most votes, will win a prize.



Join us for these fun activities as we honor our nation and the flag.

Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and
Dianna Shepard

We are sew looking forward to our upcoming Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat! With five days of uninterrupted sewing and quilting, three delicious meals per day, and the most fantastic fellowship and camaraderie ever, it will be a "Quilter's Paradise – a Quilter's Dream Come True!" So, if you have already registered to attend this spectacular event, KUDOs to you! But if you have not already registered, then now is the time to do it. With this fabulous retreat convening in just three months, now is the time to sign up and start getting ready! Do not procrastinate or put it off any longer.

The retreat will convene Thursday, October 22 – Monday, October 26, 2026, at:

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

Registration is still open, so to sign up, please:

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

Costs are:

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

To make a retreat payment (minimum payment \$50) at our July 8 Guild Meeting, please see our *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**, during the lunch break.

We will accept cash and checks. If you pay by check, please remember to:

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

We welcome all of our lovely Feather Princesses and friends to attend this amazing retreat! The costs are the same for everyone, so come one, come all!

The payments must be paid in full by our Feather Princesses August 12 Guild Meeting, and no changes can be made after this date!



July Calendar

Wednesday, July 1
Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, July 8
Feather Princesses July Guild Meeting

Wednesday, July 15
Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, July 16
Combo Club Quilt Circle

Monday, July 20
Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Tuesday, July 21
**Sew Happy Sit & Stitch
in Pasco Quilt Circle**

Thursday, July 23
Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, July 24
Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

Library Update

by Mary Ann Vathy

The Summer heat is here, making it a perfect time to stay cool indoors with a good quilt book and fresh inspiration!



At our **July 8 Guild Meeting**, we'll feature a variety of quilt books showcasing different styles, techniques, authors, and appliqué ideas. Relax in the air conditioning, browse our collection, and discover something new to spark your creativity.

Please remember to:

- Return any library books you've checked out.
- Bring a blank check if you'd like to check out a red dot book.

Important: July 8 is your **last opportunity to check out library books until September**. The library will be closed at our August Guild Meeting during our Feather Princesses birthday celebration, so no book checkout will be available.

Stay cool, Feather Princesses, and keep your creativity growing all Summer long!

Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson

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

At our upcoming Feather Princesses July 8 Guild Meeting, we will commemorate the Semi-Quincentennial Celebration of America! We will celebrate our nation's 250th birthday! And in recognition of this grand and historic event, we will have a **Patriotic Quilt Challenge**!

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.

Quilts and/or wallhangings that do not comply with the *Quilt Entry Guidelines* listed below will not be accepted.

At our July 8 Guild Meeting:

- When you arrive, please see Princess **Melissa Labella**, to turn in your quilt entry. You will receive a tag for your quilt entry and a ballot.
- All patriotic quilt challenge entries must be turned in between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. No quilt entries will be accepted after 11 a.m.
- Your patriotic challenge quilts and/or wallhangings must be displayed during the guild meeting.
- Voting will take place from 12 Noon – 12:30 p.m. All Feather Princesses members and guests will vote for their favorite **Patriotic Quilt Challenge** entry at this time.
- We will tabulate the votes from 12:30 p.m. – 1 p.m.
- We will announce the name of the winner later during the **Patriotic Quilt Challenge** presentation.
- We will award the \$250 cash prize and ribbon to the winner (the maker of the quilt entry that received the most votes).

Basic Guidelines:

- This **Patriotic Quilt Challenge** is open to current Feather Princesses members only.
- Each Feather Princesses member may enter as many patriotic quilts (that meet the *Quilt Entry Guidelines* below) as desired.

- Each attendee (Feather Princesses members and guests) present at our July 8 Guild Meeting will receive a ballot and vote for their favorite patriotic quilt entry on display at the meeting.
- The ballots will be tabulated and the maker of the quilt that received the most votes will win a cash prize of \$250.

Quilt Entry Guidelines – Each quilt:

- May be stitched incorporating any appliqué technique (needle turn, back-basting, machine appliqué, freezer paper, raw edge – edges must be sewn down, etc.)
- May be made in any style (art, traditional, album, combo, modern, etc.)
- Must consist of 60% appliqué.
- Must consist of three layers – top, batting, and backing.
- Must be quilted, edges bound, with a quilt label on the back.
- Must include one or more patriotic symbols (flag, stars, stripes, eagle, drum, bell, etc.)
- May be made in any color. Your patriotic quilt does not have to be red, white, and/or blue.
- Must be a minimum size of 12" x 12".
- May be as large as desired.
- Must be displayed at our July 8, 2026 Guild Meeting.

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!

Information Now Located on:
www.featherprincesses.org

Click on the links below to access the following information:

- [Previous Month's Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Healing Heart Blocks Guidelines](#)
- [Fat Quarter Exchange Guidelines](#)
- **National Quilt Challenges (coming soon)**
- **AQS Quilt Show Information (coming soon)**

NOTE: The password for the Members Only section is located on the bottom of page 1 in the 2025–26 FP Membership Directory.

Traditional American Treats

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Hot dogs and apple pie are deeply ingrained as the ultimate symbols of American cuisine. Made famous by a nostalgic 1970s Chevrolet commercial celebrating "Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and Chevrolet," these items represent classic comfort food usually enjoyed at backyard barbecues, Summer fairs, and baseball games.

And these tasty treats are always very popular during the Summer months as we celebrate the American patriotic holidays—Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. So no matter the particular foods and mouth-watering snacks and treats you devour during the America 250 Celebration, the important thing is to savor and enjoy every morsel and have fun eating, as you celebrate our nation's freedom and independence with your families, friends, and other special people in your lives.

The same is true with creating gorgeous appliqué quilts and attending our phenomenal quilt circles. No matter the type of appliqué quilts you like to make, the important thing is to attend our circles, enjoy the fabulous fellowship and camaraderie, become better acquainted with other Princesses, and learn, learn, learn! And because our inspirational quilt circles offer the perfect opportunity for you to get the assistance, encouragement, and support you need to not only complete your personal appliqué projects, but also your guild projects as well, the circles are the perfect setting to stitch your *Healing Heart* blocks, *Special Blocks*, *Challenge Quilts*, and more!

So this month, fill your tummies with delightful traditional American treats, and then join us at our fun-filled quilt circles and continue the American tradition of making stunning appliqué quilts!

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, July 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, July 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, July 24, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

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

FALL is for FUN! Colorful swirling leaves, plump gourds and pumpkins, playful squirrels chasing falling acorns, and more—YEAH! And let's not forget the paper mache pumpkins already lining the shelves of our favorite craft and home dec stores! Summer is definitely here, but Fall is on its way! And after a hot and humid Summer, Autumn is the perfect season for everyone to wind down, relax, have some fun, and recharge! It's a time to "chill" and enjoy seasonal comforts and activities.

And when the month of November arrives, our energy and focus turn to Thanksgiving and Christmas preparations. "Black Friday" shopping along with the traditional "Thanksgiving Day Dinner" are high on the list for all! And to complement the dinner, there is the cornucopia! During the Autumn season here in the United States, the cornucopia has become an iconic focal point on Thanksgiving tables, spilling over with gourds, apples, squash, and Autumn leaves, and flowers. And it primarily serves as a symbol of harvest, prosperity, and Thanksgiving.

Here in our Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild this year, the cornucopia is the focal point of our 2026 *Autumn Special Block*. And as we create these stunning blocks, we will stitch and fill them with all sorts of items that represent the abundant Blessings in our lives. So, whatever makes you smile, whatever brings you joy, whatever Blesses you during this season of the year, be sure to stitch it in your stunning cornucopia!

(continued page 11)

FP 21st Anniversary "No Frills" Retreat

by Ritu Haldar

There are all sorts of ways to celebrate an anniversary. But here in the Feather Princesses, our all-time favorite way of "merrymaking" and enjoying ourselves is getting together with other lovely talented Princesses, sitting and stitching, and creating breathtaking appliqué quilts! So, plan to attend our upcoming "No Frills" Retreat and join us as we celebrate our amazing Feather Princesses 21st Anniversary of Appliqué! COME, be HAPPY, have FUN, STITCH, and CREATE!

Feather Princesses 21st Anniversary

"No Frills" Retreat

Hampton Inn Odessa Trinity

11780 State Road Highway 54

Odessa, FL 33556

Friday, August 21 and Saturday, August 22, 2026

9 a.m. – 11 p.m. each day

813-749-6826

Free to paid Feather Princesses Members Only

At this fun-filled retreat, we will usher in our 21st year of appliqué in a grand style, as we stitch, celebrate, and party! So, mark your calendars now, and then come and be a part of this spectacular event!

Also, please:

- Note that **the retreat is for paid Feather Princesses members only**. So remember to renew your annual membership as soon as possible. Feel free to make your payment at our July or August Guild Meeting or mail it to our lovely *Treasurer*, Princess **Michelle Barry**.
- Be sure to turn in your completed *Retreat Registration and Emergency Form* to yours truly, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, by our Feather Princesses August 12 Guild Meeting!
- And if you plan to stay overnight at the hotel, the link to the hotel reservations is listed [here](#).

If you have questions, please see me, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, for additional details!

I am so anxious for us to celebrate our 21st Anniversary with YOU and I can't wait for us to sit and sew together!

Gorgeous and talented Feather Princesses, it is time for our "No Frills" Retreat! So start gathering your appliqué quilt projects now, so YOU will be ready to come and join us!

"Autumn Abundance" Autumn Special Block

by Winnie Miale

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



If you love Autumn, this special block is for you! It features a beautiful **cornucopia**—the traditional symbol of harvest, abundance, and Thanksgiving—overflowing with the gifts of the season.

In our Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild, our cornucopias can also overflow with friendship, joy, love, peace, and the many blessings in our lives. Let your creativity shine as you fill yours with appliquéd items that are meaningful to you.

This block offers wonderful opportunities to explore a variety of cotton fabrics while enhancing your design with embroidery, tiny bias tape, and other creative embellishments. Make your "Autumn Abundance" block uniquely yours!

At our exciting July 8 Guild Meeting, you may:

- Turn in your completed "Autumn Abundance" Special Block to our lovely member, Princess **Vici Miller**, if you have already finished creating it.
- Purchase a kit at the bargain price of \$2 (cash only, please). If you want a kit, please see Princess **Vici** before the guild meeting begins or during the lunch break.
- Ask any questions you have regarding the contents of the kit or how to appliqué/create the block.

Above all, remember to turn in your completed block by our Feather Princesses November 11, 2026 Guild Meeting, when the drawing will be held.

If you have any questions, you may contact me, Princess **Winnie Miale**, at wtquilter1@verizon.net or 727-457-4727. Thanks so much and Happy Thanksgiving to you one and all!

FP Festive 21st Anniversary Luncheon

by Joie Wilson

(Excerpts taken from <https://www.columbiarestaurant.com/ybor-city-tampa>)

Lovely Feather Princesses, on Wednesday, August 12, join us at our festive 21st Anniversary Luncheon in the meeting room at Springhill Suites. The delicious "1905 Salad" and "Cuban Sandwiches" will be prepared by the world famous Columbian Restaurant staff, and then picked up and delivered by yours truly, Princess Joie Wilson.

COLUMBIA'S ORIGINAL "1905" SALAD®

Columbia's Original "1905" Salad® consists of tomato, olives, grated Romano cheese, Lea & Perrins® Worcestershire sauce and their famous garlic dressing.

The award-winning salad won honors from USA Today as "One of 10 Great Places to Make a Meal Out of a Salad." The signature salad, named for the year the restaurant was founded in Tampa's Latin district of Ybor City, was inspired by immigrants to the Cigar City:

- Romano cheese from the Sicilians and the
- Famous garlic dressing used by Cubans to marinate fresh roast pork,
- Plus Florida tomatoes, iceberg lettuce*, julienne of baked ham and Swiss cheese.

The Columbia's legendary salad is tossed and made up of crisp iceberg lettuce, baked ham, and Swiss cheese.

Cost: ~\$18 (plus tax and gratuity)

THE ORIGINAL CUBAN SANDWICH IS A TAMPA TREASURE!

The "Mixto," as it was known in the beginning, was created in the 1890s for the cigar workers, as they walked to and from work. The sandwiches underwent changes as immigrants from different countries came to Ybor City. The City of Tampa was like the sandwich, a mixture of cultures and food.

- The Spanish brought the fine ham.
- The Sicilians brought the Genoa salami.
- The Cubans brought the mojo-marinated roast pork.
- The Germans and Jews brought the Swiss cheese, pickle and mustard.

Put it all together between sliced, freshly baked Tampa Cuban bread from La Segunda Central Bakery and life is great. Today the original 1915 recipe of Casimiro Hernandez, Sr. is used, with the same proportions of meat and each ingredient layered atop the other, placed on

Cuban bread brushed with butter on top and pressed to a crispy finish.

Cost: ~\$15 (plus tax and gratuity)

Please remember:

- See me, Princess Joie Wilson, at our July 8 Guild Meeting to make your menu selection, sign up, and pay (cash and checks only, please).
- If you want to participate in this festive luncheon but you are unable to attend our July 8 Guild Meeting, you may mail your payment (check only, please – payable to the Feather Princesses) to our lovely Treasurer, Princess Michelle Barry.
- The deadline to pay to participate in this festive luncheon is Friday, July 31.
- Participation is optional. If you desire, you may bring your own lunch to our 21st Anniversary Celebration.

This luncheon will be festive, indeed, and we look forward to celebrating with YOU!

Who's the Baby?

by Patti Cox

You've got the cutest little baby face..... So, at our upcoming Feather Princesses 21st Anniversary, let's have some FUN and play "Who's The Baby?"

Feather Princesses, please:

- Select one baby (young) photo of yourselves.
- Bring your photo in a ziplock bag and we'll safely pin it to a board. (Bags will be available if you don't have one.)
- The photos will be displayed all together on a tri-fold board for the duration of the meeting.
- Each participant will receive a sheet of paper to match the photo number to the person.
- The Princess who matches the most photo numbers to the actual person will win a special prize.

Take some time during the next month to retrieve your adorable baby picture from your family album, and then bring it to our August 12 Guild Meeting for us to smile and enjoy.

And of course, we will return your photos at the end of the August Guild Meeting/Celebration.

Thanks so much for participating and having FUN with us, as we celebrate 21 years of awesome appliqué!

We've Said It Before

by Dorothy Johnson

We've said it before and we'll say it again. No matter the day or season of the year, we Feather Princesses absolutely love to get together and appliqué! Appliqué is in our blood, it's in our genes; and our lives would be boring without it! What would happen if we could not stitch and create breathtaking quilts? What would we do without our needles and threads? And don't forget our magnificent sewing machines, too! (Aren't they just wonderful!) Lastly, what would we do without each other? Most of us would not be fulfilled—we would not be happy!

But fast forward to the future! We've had a magnificent time of appliqué this year AND we're already excited and looking forward to the next! INSPIRATION awaits us (August 2026 – July 2027) with:

- Motivational guild meeting programs filled with delightful demos, lectures, and other important info
- Inspirational and encouraging quilt circles
- Instructional and focused specialty appliqué quilt group meetings
- Creative classes and workshops
- Fun-filled road trips, quilt outings, and more
- Not to mention some of the most precious, priceless, and long-lasting bonds, friendships, and relationships ever

So, if you would like to jump on this bandwagon and become excited with us, 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 at our July 8 Guild Meeting. 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 attend our *No Frills Appliqué Retreat* and to be included in our new Feather Princesses 2026 – 2027 *Membership Directory*.

2026 Jacksonville QUILTFEST

by Dorothy Johnson

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

In about three weeks, the quilt entry deadline (Saturday, July 25) will be here for QUILTFEST 2026. So chop, chop Feather Princesses! Take a quick break now and spend a few minutes to review the quilt show info and quilt entry guidelines for this phenomenal quilting event! And then enter your eye-catching appliqué quilts into this outstanding quilt show!

Start planning and making arrangements to attend the exciting annual Jacksonville QUILTFEST! It's a dynamic and fun quilt show and it is coming soon!

"Give Piece A Chance" QUILTFEST 2026

Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center
1000 Water Street
Jacksonville, Florida

Thursday, September 17 – Friday, September 18,
2026: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, September 19, 2026: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Attend this marvelous quilt show and enjoy the following wonderful amenities and features:

- Hundreds of Quilts on Display
- Vendor Mall
- Quilter's Walk
- Boutique
- Quilt Sale Table
- Guild Opportunity Quilts
- Quilt Appraisals
- Community Service Events:
 - Silent Auction benefitting a local charity
 - Kids Corner
 - Me Dolls

Quilts for display will be accepted from non-members. So, if you would like to enter your breathtaking quilt(s), access the Quiltfest registration information at: <https://quiltfestjax.com/enter-your-quilt/>.

See the *Quilt Registration Form* and get instructions for entering your quilt, the registration fee, different quilt categories, rules, judging, prizes, and more. And remember, the quilt entry deadline is **Saturday, July 25, 2026**.

Information is also available on Facebook at **@QuiltfestJax**.

Combo Club Quilt Group

by Melissa Labella

Join us on Thursday, July 16 (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, July 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 7, "Dancing Squares." We will discuss constructing on-point squares, marking and stitching fabrics cut on the diagonal, and managing bias raw edges.

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 are welcome to work on whatever hand project you have in progress 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, July 16.

Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

By the time you read this article, July 4, 2026 would have come and gone, and America 250 will be over. BUT, because of our love for country and the true spirit of America, the role that quilting continues playing in our nation's history will live in our hearts and souls forever! With that, we will continue appliquéing our Legacy Quilts, including our stunning patriotic quilts, even after the big celebration is over, as there are more patriotic holidays on the calendar to commemorate. So, come and stitch with us on Wednesday, July 15, and continue creating these breathtaking masterpieces.

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 273-3652 (library)
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

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!**

(Fat Quarter Exchange - continued from page 7)

The *Fat Quarter Exchange* fabric selection for July is "Small Autumn Print" cotton fabrics—specifically Autumn fabrics with small designs that can be used to fill a cornucopia. So bring these fat quarters to our exciting July 8 Guild Meeting and take a chance to win a bundle of these to fill your cornucopia as you stitch and create your stunning 2026 *Autumn Special Block*, "Autumn Abundance."

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

We'll see you and your "Small Autumn Print" cotton fat quarters this coming Wednesday at our fat quarter table.

Current National Quilt Challenges - Another Opportunity to Compete and WIN

by Dorothy Johnson

There are several national quilt challenges currently open for competition, so this means we have several tremendous opportunities to enter our phenomenal appliqué quilts, compete against other gifted quilters, and most of all to WIN! So be sure to see all of the info below and then enter your quilts by the deadlines!

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

- 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!"
- AQS Wool Creativity Challenge: Circles of Yesterday, Stitched for Today has gotten a great start.

So create your unique designs, select some gorgeous fabrics, and make your award winning quilts! Enter the following national quilt challenges today!



2027 AQS Creativity Challenge: "Petals of Connection" Sponsored by Quilters Select (Excerpt taken from: <https://www.americanquilter.com/creativity-challenge-petals-of-connection/>)

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

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

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

The American Quilter's Society is looking for quilts that reimagine the Dresden Plate as a symbol of friendship, family, and community. Create your own "Community Circle" using color, prints, fabrics, or personal stories that represent the people who make your world brighter. Traditional or modern. Hand-pieced or machine-

stitched. Bold or subtle. If it features a Dresden Plate, or a creative interpretation of one, it meets the criteria and qualifies as a valid quilt entry.

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

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

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



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 – 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

(continued on page 13)

(Current National Quilt Challenges - continued from page 12)

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>.



2027 AQS Wool Creativity Challenge: Circles of Yesterday, Stitched for Today

Sponsored by WonderFil Specialty Threads

(Excerpt taken from: <https://www.americanquilter.com/creativity-challenge-circles-of-yesterday/#:~:text=2027%20AQS%20Wool%20Creativity%20Challenge,joyful%2C%20and%20full%20of%20personality>)

Long before rotary cutters and digital patterns, quilters stitched beauty from the simplest of shapes, circles cut from wool scraps and layered with care. Penny quilts were humble, joyful, and full of personality.

This year's AQS Creativity Challenge invites you to celebrate that tradition—and reimagine it.

Start with circles. Start with wool. Then let your creativity lead the way. Will your pennies be perfectly traditional? Boldly modern? Sculptural? Layered? Textured? Storytelling?

However you interpret them, each circle becomes part of something larger, a gathering, a rhythm, a design that is uniquely yours.

There's something timeless about a circle. In the 19th century, wool penny quilts transformed simple scraps into striking compositions of layered circles. Now, AQS invites you to explore that heritage through your own lens.

Using wool appliqué and the iconic penny circle as your starting point, create a piece that honors the past while expressing your unique artistic voice.

From classic arrangements to contemporary abstraction, this is your opportunity to celebrate tradition—one circle at a time.

Upcoming AQS Quilt Entry Deadlines for Early 2027 QuiltWeeks

by Dorothy Johnson
(Excerpt taken from <https://www.americanquilter.com/>)

There is nothing more exciting than attending outstanding quilt shows and seeing strikingly beautiful appliqué quilts made by our own talented Feather Princesses. A genuine sense of pride swells within our hearts when we see quilts displayed that our gifted members created.

So in addition to the upcoming deadlines for the current National Quilt Challenges (listed on page 12 of this newsletter) and the 2026 Jacksonville Quilt Fest (listed on page 9 of this newsletter), listed below are the upcoming deadlines for the American Quilter's Society QuiltWeeks (Daytona Beach, Paducah, and Waco) that will convene in early 2027.

Princesses, if you plan to enter your breathtaking quilt(s) in one or more of the following shows, please make note of the quilt entry deadlines. And most of all get busy, finish your quilts, and enter them.

2027 AQS QUILT WEEK	QUILT ENTRY DEADLINE	QUILT SHOW DATE
Daytona Beach, Florida	Thursday, October 1, 2026	February 10-13, 2027
Paducah, Kentucky	Thursday, November 19, 2026	April 21-24, 2027
Waco, Texas	Thursday, January 7, 2027	May 26-29, 2027

For more detailed information, go to: <https://www.americanquilter.com/aqs-quilt-contests/>.

AQS 2028 Quilt Art Engagement Calendar

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Gifted Feather Princesses, only a few weeks remain before the deadline (Friday, July 31, 2026) to submit your quilt entries for consideration to be included in the **American Quilter's Society 2028 Quilt Art Engagement Calendar**. So do not delay, submit your entries today!

AQS has presented another stellar opportunity for talented quilters like you to showcase your spectacular quilts—this time in the AQS Quilt Art Engagement Calendar! This weekly calendar is a vibrant collection that highlights a stunning quilt each week throughout the year, and it celebrates the creativity, skill, and personal stories behind stunning quilts, and your quilt could be one of them!

The submission period is now open for the 2028 Quilt Art Engagement Calendar; and AQS is looking for the following:

- **All quilting styles are welcome** – traditional, contemporary, art quilts, appliqué, and more.
- **Locally recognized quilts** – please include Quilt Guild, State Fair, or other quilt show award details in your submission.
- **Display-ready condition** – selected quilts must be available for professional photography before September 2026.

There's no entry fee, and the makers of the selected quilts receive a complimentary copy of the 2028 Quilt Art Engagement Calendar and are invited to be a part of the book signing event at AQS Quiltweek – Paducah.

Submit your quilt by July 31, 2026, to be considered for the 2028 edition. Two entries allowed per person.

For more detailed info, go to: <https://contest.americanquilter.com/page/VrIDzEqZ>

"Call For Quilts" Original Sewing & Quilt EXPO

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://sewingexpo.com/Quilt-Contest>)

Last year our very gifted member, Princess **Shirley Kasprzyk**, entered her stunning "Princess Feather" quilt in the 2025 Original Sewing & Quilt EXPO Quilt Contest, it was selected as a finalist in the Artisan Small Appliqué Quilt Category, and this year it is traveling and being exhibited at all of the 2026 Original Sewing & Quilt EXPOs. Back in March of this year, it was so touching and

our hearts were filled with pride to see **Shirley's** quilt displayed at the EXPO when it convened in Lakeland, Florida. And we look forward to seeing more stunning quilts created by our Feather Princesses to win, travel, and be displayed in the future!

And now, the Original Sewing & Quilt EXPO is sponsoring another quilt contest, "Call For Quilts," and talented Feather Princesses, this is a chance for you to showcase your breathtaking quilts as well! This juried and judged contest is open to quilters of all skill levels—from Artisans to Masters and it offers the opportunity for quilters to show off their best work and to compete to win cash prizes and ribbon awards at the Original Sewing & Quilt EXPO's 2026 Quilt Contest!

- The quilt entry deadline is Monday, August 10, 2026.
- Entry photos will be juried by the EXPO team, and up to 75 finalists will be chosen to compete for ribbons and prize money.

- Finalists will be announced at SewingExpo.com/QuiltContest on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

If your entry is selected as a finalist, you will be notified by email with further instructions.

- If your entry is selected as a finalist for in-person judging, it can be shipped or dropped off.

Ship to or drop-off in Westlake, Ohio, before Friday, September 11, OR drop off at the Farm Bureau Expo Center in Lebanon, Tennessee on Tuesday, September 29.

- Kathryn Zimmerman, NACQJ certified quilt judge, will select the award-winning quilts at the EXPO in Nashville-Lebanon, Tennessee, on Thursday, October 1, 2026.
- Winners will be announced on Thursday, October 1, 2026, 12 Noon CT, at the EXPO and on the website, SewingExpo.com/QuiltContest.

For the 2026 Quilt Rules and Instructions, go to: <https://sewingexpo.com/Portals/0/PDFs/2026QuiltContestRules.pdf>.

For the 2026 Quilt Contest Entry Form, go to: <https://sewingexpo.com/Quilt-Contest-Entry-2026>.