



The Plume

June 2026

THE FEATHER PRINCESSES NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

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

JUNE APPLIQUÉ QUILTS

While Summer hums a lazy tune,
We welcome in the warmth of June.
We put the heavy quilts away,
And pick up pieces for the day.

With tiny needles, sharp and fine,
We follow every sketched-in line.
Stitching with threads in every shade,
From which our appliqué quilts are made.

We slip away from indoor heat,
To find a shaded garden seat.
No heavy batting blocks the breeze,
Just scraps of fabric on our knees.

A watermelon sliced in pink,
A bowl of strawberries, we think,
An ice cream cone or summer rose,
Takes shape beneath our busy toes.

The needle turns the raw edge in,
Secured in place with one small pin.
We catch the Summer in our hands,
With cotton blocks and colorful strands.

So here's to June and sunny skies,
Where scrap by scrap, the magic flies.
We quilters know the sweetest view,
Is Summer stitched in every hue!



June Guild Meeting

by Dorothy Johnson

Our Summer days are long and warm, so come inside the comfortable air-conditioned meeting room and "let the sunshine in" at our inspirational and phenomenal June 10 Guild Meeting! Join us and embrace appliqué like never before, open your hearts and minds to new and valuable information, embrace positivity, and enthusiastically accept new ideas that we will share. Above all, learn something new, have fun with your appliqué playmates, and then leave the meeting with a renewed mindset to create even more eye-catching appliqué quilts, and to look toward a brighter, more gratifying, and successful future in your illustrious quilting experience!

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 the tasty "Summer 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 "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.
- *Special Block Volunteer*, Princess **Vici Miller**, to turn in your completed "Autumn Abundance" Special Block or to purchase a 2026 Autumn Special Block kit (\$2, cash only please).
- *Special Events Chair*, Princess **Maritza Chinchilla**, to share your fabulous ideas and suggestions for our upcoming FP 21st Anniversary Celebration.



Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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

- Doors Open at 9 a.m.
- Happy Hour begins at 9 a.m.
- Retreat Meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Guild Meeting starts at 11 a.m.

Also:

- At 9 a.m. during Happy Hour sit, stitch, learn, and have fun with your talented Feather Princesses friends, as you stitch your stunning appliqué quilt projects.
- At 10:30 a.m., join our *Retreat Chairs* in the Springhill Suites lobby for the Retreat meeting and to pay to attend the retreat (minimum \$50 – cash and checks only, please).
- 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 *Special Block Volunteer*, Princess **Vici Miller**, to turn in your completed "Autumn Abundance" Special Block or to purchase a 2026 Autumn Special Block kit.

During the informative program, our talented *Vice President*, Princess **Ritu Haldar**, will totally inspire us as she presents "Pixels and Vector Images." She will explain what they are, how they differ, and how we can use them in our appliqué quilt designs.

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.

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June Calendar

Wednesday, June 3

Scrap Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 10

Feather Princesses June Guild Meeting

Monday, June 15

Creative Appliqué Quilt Group Meeting

Tuesday, June 16

Sew Happy Sit & Stitch in Pasco Quilt Circle

Wednesday, June 17

Legacy Quilt Group Meeting

Thursday, June 25

Plum Creek Quilt Circle

Friday, June 26

Wooly Chicks Road Trip

On The Fence: Healing Heart Blocks

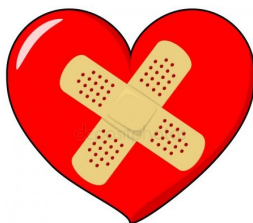
by Shirley Kasprzyk

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

At one time or another, we all have been "on the fence." Being "on the fence" is an English idiom that means being undecided, unsure, or unable to choose between two or more options. It comes from the visual image of physically sitting on the top of a fence, where you haven't dropped down on to either side.

When it comes to quilting, especially appliqué, let's face it—some of us "live" or "stay" on the fence. We are frequently undecided about the pattern or design we will use to create our next stunning quilt, we are unable to figure out the color palette we prefer to make the design pop, (and when faced with multiple options) we don't always immediately know which techniques we will use to create our quilts and make them come to life.

So when it comes to our Summer quilting, we astute Feather Princesses have pretty much decided what we will do and we lovingly encourage and inspire you to "come down off the top of the fence" and do the same. In addition to creating the Summer quilts of our dreams (appliqué picnic and beach scenes) made in the bright, bold, colors of the spectrum, let's add the adorable **Healing Heart Blocks** to our Summer appliqué "To Do



List." Let's select fabrics in the colors preferred by our beautiful **Healing Heart** recipients listed below, and then let's STITCH and make some gorgeous **Healing Heart** Blocks for them. Let's make the quality decision to "get off the fence" and make these beautiful 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 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 June 10 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.

Library Update

by Mary Ann Vathy

Hot hazy days are made for reading and quilting, and our quilt books are ready for you. At our upcoming June 10 Guild Meeting, we will have four boxes of books which we have not seen for over a year. They have been well cared for by one of our "foster book mothers."

At the meeting, we will have a wonderful selection of books including Baltimore Album Quilts, appliqué, hand and machine quilting, and flower appliqué. Great titles include:

- **Elly Sienkiewicz Teaches You Beginning Baltimore Appliqué and Teaches You Advanced Baltimore Appliqué** – Elly Sienkiewicz
- **Baltimore Basics: Album Quilts from Start to Finish** – Mimi Dietrich
- **Arts & Inspirations** – Michael James
- **Pieced Flowers** – Ruth McDowell

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Sunshine and Shadows

by Vici Miller

We really do genuinely care about our lovely Feather Princesses when they feel a bit "under the weather." So, here's hoping the warmth of the June days will bring much deserved healing to our lovely Feather Princesses who do not feel well:

- Beverly Abenante
- Dee Anderson
- Cathy Kessler
- Peggy Wattenbarger
- Pat Yucatonis



Ladies, we hope you will find strength and feel better in each new day and we wish you a super, duper, easy recovery, so that you can get back to "the table" and stitch with us soon! We anxiously look forward to your return to stitch the hours away with us at our delightful Feather Princesses monthly guild meetings and our highly celebrated appliqué quilt circles and specialty appliqué quilt group meetings.

June Birthdays

by Vici Miller

The month of June is Summer's "sweet spot." Memorial Day has come and gone and Independence Day is on its way. And the weeks in between serve as the perfect time to have parties and to celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, graduations, and weddings, too! June is widely celebrated as the gateway to Summer, representing endless possibilities for us to have fun and enjoy ourselves!

With that, lovely Feather Princesses, when it comes to quilting, whether your passion is working with those gorgeous quilters cottons or soft colorful wool fabrics, appliqué also represents those endless possibilities. So, we hope you beautiful Princesses who have a June birthday can steal away a little extra time this month for some quality moments to stitch and create some stunning appliqué quilts.

Dee Anderson 6/15

Meredith Wilmath 6/16

Ritu Haldar 6/16

Becky Gammons 6/25

We wish a Happy, Happy Birthday to our Feather Princesses celebrating a birthday this month!



Vice President's Report and June Program

by Ritu Haldar

Hello Princesses! Happy June!

Can you believe that we are half way through 2026! Time surely flies when the sun is out, flowers are blooming, and there is so much fun ahead with our appliqué quilt projects!

Are you like me? I love the fact that daylight extends well into the evening, and I can sew or at least work in a few more stitches.

Our June 10 Guild Meeting will be informative and chock full of fun. I am preparing a new inspirational program for you to keep in mind as you stitch. Deciphering words like pixels and vector images are a challenge. How does one define them and use them in our blocks and quilts? I will provide an example of each and we will think about them together! This is a fun thing to consider when designing your quilts.

We are also working on our Feather Princesses August "No Frills" Retreat. More details will follow in the *No Frills Retreat* article on page 8 of this newsletter!

A heads-up for you to keep an eye open for National Quilt Projects or Block challenges in celebration of America's 250th birthday! The "Homage to Baltimore Quilting Competition" and "A Call for Entries" by the Smithsonian are wonderful opportunities to explore! Please take a moment and check them out if you are interested in participating in these wonderful opportunities.

We are also busy preparing for our upcoming Feather Princesses 21st Anniversary celebrations. Please arrive ready at our June Guild Meeting, to make a suggestion or two so we can truly have a lovely day celebrating each other and our love of appliqué! All of you are an integral part of the guild and the reason for our efforts! We love hanging out with you! Come one! Come All!

I hope to see you at our June Guild Meeting this coming Wednesday. Bring a friend and enjoy the day with us!

See you then!

Our Fabulous 2026 Lake Yale Retreat

by Winnie Miale, Joanne Rodriguez, and
Dianna Shepard

Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, located in tranquil Leesburg, Florida, provides a warm and welcoming environment for our "Fabulous Feather Princesses Lake Yale Retreat." This retreat offers all of the amenities a beginning or expert quilter would need or want. The venue provides relaxing and comfortable lodging and a large sewing room with individual sewing tables and good lighting. Along with three delicious meals per day and enough uninterrupted time to sew and quilt as you like, this retreat is like heaven! So plan now to spend four carefree nights and five fun-filled days with us happy Feather Princesses—appliquing, quilting, and having the BEST time ever at this magnificent event!!

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 if you plan to attend, 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 are:

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

To make a retreat payment (minimum payment \$50) at our June 10 Guild Meeting, please see our *Retreat Chair*, Princess **Dianna Shepard**, at the Retreat Meeting, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Springhill Suites lobby.

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.

All of our lovely Feather Princesses and friends are welcome to attend this amazing retreat! The costs are the same for 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!



Fat Quarter Exchange

by Linda Woytisek

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

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 such as these:

- Warm Foods and Beverages – Pumpkin spice lattes, warm ciders, freshly baked apple pies, and dishes featuring cinnamon, nutmeg, and squash
- Cozy Home Elements – Hand made quilts, heavy knit throws, scented candles, and the gathering around backyard fire pits or indoor fireplaces
- Wardrobe Shift – Chunky sweaters, fleece-lined boots, and flannel apparel
- Outdoor Activities – Hiking, morning nature walks, and evening bike rides
- Fall Festivals – Corn mazes, apple orchards, haunted trails, and local harvest fairs

And then 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, 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!

The **Fat Quarter Exchange** fabric selection for June is "Small Autumn" prints—specifically Autumn fabrics with small designs that can be used to fill a cornucopia. So bring these fat quarters to our exciting June 10 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 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.

AQS 2028 Quilt Art Engagement Calendar

by Dorothy Johnson

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

Gifted Feather Princesses, the American Quilter's Society is presenting 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 are allowed per person.

For more detailed info, click [here](#).

June Community Service Project

by Mary Moody

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

Feeding the hungry and less fortunate people here in our area during the month June heavily focuses on combating childhood hunger, as children lose access to free school meals during the Summer. Here in Tampa Bay, the primary community initiative this month was the "Cereal for Summer" drive, which ran through Friday, June 5. Donors were encouraged to donate cereal, oatmeal, protein bars, and other breakfast items to help feed the hungry children in our communities.

And even though the collection day, June 5, has come and gone, we Feather Princesses still want to support this effort and make an impact by helping to feed the hungry children in our area. So we kindly ask you to donate the items listed above and other non-perishable food items along with your cash donation at our upcoming June 10 Guild Meeting. This month Princess **Dorothy Johnson** will

2026 Jacksonville QUILTFEST

by Dorothy Johnson

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

It's never too early to 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—in just three months as a matter of fact! So, chop, chop Feather Princesses! Take a quick break now and spend a few minutes reviewing the quilt show info and quilt entry guidelines for this phenomenal quilting event!

"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. The quilt entry deadline is Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Information is also available on Facebook at [@QuiltfestJax](#).

deliver our donations to:

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

A "Blessing Box" (food pantry) is located on the church grounds, where the church congregation stores food items for the needy people in the community. Church volunteers stock the "Blessing Box" three times per day;

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Summer Appliqué Quilt Adventure

by Becky Gammons and Shirley Kasprzyk

Now that most schools have closed for the year, the kids are jumping for joy, kicking-back, and enjoying Summer! And now that Summer is almost officially here, we Feather Princesses are ready to enjoy ourselves and have some FUN as well! We are ready for a "Summer Appliqué Quilt Adventure!" The time is here for us to get up, go out, and see what is new! We promise there won't be any final exams or tests to study for. And we will not get any report cards either! But rather, there will be lots of pretty quilts, fabrics, patterns, and other quilting supplies to see!

So, plan to join us on this spectacular adventure! Even if you do not need, plan, or want to make any purchases (ha! ha!), come along any way and have a wonderful time with the Feather Princesses! Savor the warm fellowship and be inspired with the new lines of gorgeous fabrics in the shops and other quilting goodies they have to offer!

Filled with excitement beyond measure every second of the day, this adventure will convene on Friday, June 26, and we welcome every beautiful Feather Princesses member to come and participate, especially our regular quilt circle attendees—and our precious friends, too!

As with all of our Feather Princesses road trips, this Summer Appliqué Quilt Adventure will be extra special! So get ready for a fun-filled experience and a delicious lunch to welcome the season!

Hook-up with your Princess Pals and prepare to have a quilt shopping experience like no other at these awesome quilt shops:

Quilter's Anonymous
9225 Pine Island Road
Clermont, Florida 34711
352-241-6768

Black Dog Quilt Shop
642 W. Broome Street
Clermont, Florida 34711
352-932-3226

At the Black Dog Quilt Shop, we will receive:

- A 10% quilt guild discount on all of our purchases
- A free fat quarter of fabric with purchases of \$20 or more

Details regarding the start time, car pool/travel arrangements, and luncheon will be announced at our June 10th Guild Meeting.

Combo Club Quilt Group

by Melissa Labella

In May we learned about foundation paper piecing (FPP) and made adorable bird blocks. The FPP adventure continues this month with the creation of adorable flower blocks. With these blocks we are learning the use of color placement, as well as basic FPP techniques.

Please note, the **Combo Club** will not meet during the month of June. So, enjoy the break and continue working on your Row by Row quilt at home.

Upcoming Quilt Entry Deadlines For 2026 International Quilt Fest and Early 2027 AQS QuiltWeeks

by Dorothy Johnson

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.quiltsjudgedshow.com/page.php?ID=2> and <https://www.americanquilter.com/>)

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

So in addition to the upcoming deadlines for the current National Quilt Challenges (listed on page 9 of this newsletter), the 2026 Asheville Quilt Show (listed on page 14 of this newsletter), and the 2026 Jacksonville Quilt Fest (listed on page 6 of this newsletter), listed below are the upcoming deadlines for the 2026 International Quilt Fest (Houston, Texas) and 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, get busy, finish your quilts, and enter them by the deadlines.

QUILT SHOW	QUILT ENTRY DEADLINE	QUILT SHOW DATE
2026 International Quilt Fest - Houston, TX	Friday, June 26, 2026	November 12-15, 2026
Daytona Beach, FL	Thursday, October 1, 2026	February 10-13, 2027
Paducah, KY	Thursday, November 19, 2026	April 21-24, 2027
Waco, TX	Thursday, January 7, 2027	May 26-29, 2027

"Autumn Abundance" Autumn Special Block

by Winnie Miale

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

A cornucopia, often called the "horn of plenty," is a decorative, horn-shaped container overflowing with produce, flowers, leaves, nuts, etc. Symbolizing abundance and endless nourishment, it is used figuratively to describe a great, overflowing supply of something valuable. The cornucopia is traditionally used for Thanksgiving and it is a universal symbol of the Autumn harvest, abundance, and prosperity.

Here in our Feather Princesses Appliqué Guild, our containers are overflowing with the traditional items listed above, as well as an abundance of warm friendships, joy, love, peace, happiness, and yards of fabrics and quilting supplies, too! So let your creative juices flow and think "outside of the box" as you fill your cornucopia and appliqué the items that represent the abundant Blessings in your life.

Appliquing this block will provide tremendous opportunities for you to work with different cotton fabrics and enhance your appliqué designs with embroidery and/or tiny bias tape. In addition, this Autumn Special Block radiates with opportunities for you to express your unique creativity and artistry, to make your block truly special.

If you already purchased a kit, we hope you are learning and having fun as you stitch this stunning block. Please be sure to follow the easy instructions included in the kit and please use the gold fabric for the background and the brown fabric for the cornucopia provided in the kit as well—plus quality quilter's cotton fabrics from your stashes, to fill the cornucopia.

At our exciting June 10 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 21st Anniversary "No Frills" Retreat

by Ritu Haldar

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!

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 June, 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 June 10 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!

(June Community Service Project - continued from page 6)

and it is widely used every day, many times left empty after the evening meal. And now that school is out for the Summer, the need for donations is even greater. So we express our gratitude to you even more for bringing extra food items. In addition to the breakfast items listed above, yummy peanut butter and jelly also top the list!

Feather Princesses, we thank you again for helping to ensure that the less fortunate in our communities do not go hungry.

Current National Quilt Challenges - Yet Another Opportunity to Compete and WIN

by Dorothy Johnson

Since we distributed our last newsletter back in early May, yet 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 "2027 AQS Wool Creativity Challenge: Circles of Yesterday, Stitched for Today."

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

- AQS "Wool Creativity Challenge: Circles of Yesterday, Stitched for Today" has gotten a great start.
- Mancuso Show Management "Celebrating Women Challenge" is up and running fast.
- 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!

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.

Open for Submissions May 4 through October 28, 2026.

For more detailed information, click [here](#).

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/>.

(continued on page 10)

(Current National Quilt Challenges - continued from page 9)

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/>.



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>.

Feather Princesses Patriotic Quilt Challenge

by Dorothy Johnson

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

America is rich in history and tradition, and during the month of June there are several important holidays to commemorate, including:

- **Flag Day** is an annual observance in the United States, celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the American flag, which took place on this day in 1777 by a resolution of the Second Continental Congress. It is celebrated to honor the history, heritage, and symbolic meaning of the "Stars and Stripes" as the representation of the country's unity and freedom.
- **Race Amity Day** (also known as **Race Unity Day**) is an annual observance celebrated on the second Sunday in June. It highlights cross-racial and cross-cultural friendships, celebrating our shared humanity and recognizing collaborative efforts to advance racial equity and social justice. The word amity comes from the Latin word amicus, meaning "friend". The day emphasizes that deep, genuine friendships across racial lines are foundational for a just society; and this year it will be celebrated on Sunday, June 14.
- **Juneteenth** (also called Freedom Day) is an American holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Its name is a portmanteau of "June" and "nineteenth," marking the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the freedom of enslaved people. It is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; and this year it will be celebrated on Friday, June 19.

And after celebrating these historical events in June, Americans from all corners will celebrate our nation's 250th birthday! 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 patriot quilt or

wallhanging that complies with the *Quilt Entry Guidelines* below.

Basic Guidelines:

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

Quilt Entry Guidelines – Each quilt:

- May be stitched incorporating any 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.

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!

Looking Forward to the Future

by Dorothy Johnson

It goes without saying, 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—and 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 (in August 2026 – July 2027) with:

- Motivational guild meeting programs filled with delightful demos, lectures, and other important info
- Encouraging and helpful 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 June 10 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 *Feather Princesses 2026–2027 Membership Directory*.

Legacy Quilt Group

by Dorothy Johnson

In our life time, many celebrations and major opportunities will come and they will go. But for this moment in time, the upcoming 250th Birthday of America will happen only once and it will never occur again.

It will be a "Once in a lifetime" event for us all! It will be an amazing experience and an opportunity that is unique, and it will never be repeated again! "America 250" will never be replicated. So, it's now or never!

With that said, as very gifted and prolific quilters, let's get involved and play our part, by creating some outstanding appliqué quilts to celebrate and represent this momentous occasion in our nation's history. 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, June 17, to stitch, make progress, and hopefully even finish 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, June 17, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact: Princess Dorothy Johnson

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 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**! But more than that, our hearts will well up with pride and deep satisfaction when we see your unique patriotic quilt entries at our once in a life time **Patriotic Quilt Challenge**, celebrating America's 250th birthday!

Our Phenomenal Quilt Circles - One of Life's Greatest Treasures

by Dorothy Johnson

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



No matter the flavor, delicious cold ice cream is a favorite among all, as people all over the world devour tons of it every year, especially during the hot Summer months. So, lovely Feather Princesses, here is a bit of trivia for you. Did you know that ice cream cones were popularized at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair when an ice cream vendor ran out of dishes? He teamed up with a neighboring waffle vendor who rolled his warm waffles into cone shapes to hold the scoops, instantly creating a portable, trash-free American classic.

Eating ice cream cones during the Summer is a beloved ritual, offering an instant, mouth-cooling sensation and a quick energy boost. It is one of life's greatest treasures, with the biggest problem for many folks often being deciding which flavor to devour! It can be a hard choice and a difficult decision to make at times! But here goes! Globally and across the United States, vanilla is the most popular ice cream flavor. It serves as a universal favorite because it is versatile, acts as the base for various sundaes and desserts, and remains a top-selling choice for nearly every brand.

According to the International Dairy Foods Association and consumer polling, the top five ice cream flavors in the United States are:

- #1 - Vanilla: The consistent, reliable, and timeless favorite
- #2 - Chocolate: A rich crowd-pleaser that often vies closely with vanilla for the top spot
- #3 - Strawberry: A light, fruity, and classic option
- #4 - Butter Pecan: Particularly popular among older demographics and in the American South
- #5 - Cookies and Cream / Oreo: A massive hit among younger crowds and families

Just like delicious mouth-watering ice cream, our dynamic quilt circles are a favorite among all of our Feather Princesses members—all year long! The amazing circles offer us joy, peace, happiness, and a wonderful sense of accomplishment and success, as we create our stunning eye-catching award winning quilts. Our quilt circles are a beloved ritual, too and they are enjoyed by all of our astute and gifted members. No need to select or pick a favorite one, as all three circles offer tremendous

opportunities for us to come together, stitch, learn from each other, share with each other, enhance our knowledge, enrich our skills, and create some of the most gorgeous breathtaking appliqué quilts ever!

So during the month of June, don't stress trying to decide which one quilt circle to attend. Make a quality decision right now to attend all three—because just like ice cream, our phenomenal quilt circles are our greatest treasures and they bring us joy! We'll see you this month at these exciting quilt circles! And remember that our **Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle** will go on a road trip, "Summer Appliqué Quilt Adventure!" See page 7 of this newsletter for the exciting details.

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, June 16, 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, June 25, 2026

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk

Wooly Chicks Quilt Circle

"Summer Appliqué Quilt Adventure"

Road Trip to Quilt Shops - Quilters Anonymous
and The Black Dog Quilt Shop, both located in
Clermont, Florida

Friday, June 26, 2026

Time will be announced

Contacts: Princesses Becky Gammons
and Shirley Kasprzyk



2026 Asheville Quilt Show

by Becky James

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.ashevillequiltguild.org/entry-form>)

The momentum is building and we're becoming more anxious and excited about our upcoming 2026 Asheville Quilt Show! And as a friendly gesture and a gentle reminder, we'd like to share the following important information with you.

- The deadline for entering your quilt is Friday, June 19, 2026.
- The quilts in this show are not juried and are accepted on a first come, first served basis and are limited to the first 375 quilts submitted by June 19, 2026, with an additional limit of 350 judged quilts.
- The submission date for online entries is the date of input as determined by the computer system and the submission date for manual entries is the date RECEIVED.
- For the 2026 Rules and Categories, please see <https://www.ashevillequiltguild.org/entry-form> to get the timeline, rules of entry, and category descriptions. PLEASE review this document BEFORE you complete your entry form!

Lovely Feather Princesses, let's spread our wings and consider entering our gorgeous appliqué quilts in this dynamic quilt show, so that even more quilters and enthusiasts can see and enjoy our beautiful quilted creations.

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 really look forward to seeing you and your stunning appliqué quilts at this spectacular quilt show in August!

(June Guild Meeting - continued from page 2)

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

This June Guild Meeting will be chock full of valuable information and fun facts for you to store in your appliqué tool boxes and then use when you need to. So be sure to join us, soak up some useful and invaluable quilting tidbits, enhance your appliqué and quilting repertoire, and then be ready to apply what you learned when the time is right!

Princesses **Ritu**, **Michelle**, **Dianna** and I look forward to seeing you this coming Wednesday!

(Library Update - continued from page 3)

- Appliqué Masterpiece: Affairs of the Heart – Aie Rossmann

And we will have many, many more volumes, including other quilt classics and new art quilts as well.

Please remember to return any books you already checked out, so you can check out two more new books. Red dot books are books with pull-out pattern sections or out-of-print books. So you will need to bring a blank check (deposit) to check out these and we will hold the check until you return the books. Even if the heat is melting your brain, bring your old books, a blank check and your curiosity. You'll love this selection of appliqué and quilting books, so get ready to be "wowed" with new ideas this coming Wednesday.