

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Feather Princesses, Inc. General Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 11:05 by President Dorothy Johnson, with a reminder to silence cell phones.
- A prayer was spoken over the group by Dorothy, followed by the presentation of a gift (an orchid) to Dorothy by Vice-President Princess Ritu Haldar.
- Committee reports were as follows:
 - Special Events: Princess Maritza Chinchilla welcomed all to the 21st Birthday Celebration of the guild.
 - Membership: Princesses Betty Jo Lecaroz and BJ Weber announced 28 members and 2 new members were in attendance.
 - Secretary and Treasurer's reports: deferred due to the installation of new board members.
 - At this time, Dorothy J. introduced new board members. Princess Melissa Labella replaced Princess Dianna Shepard as Secretary; Princess Mary Ann Vathy replaced Princess Michelle Barry as Treasurer. Mary Ann will continue as Librarian as well. Michelle will continue as Chair of Ways and Means, Newsletter and our FP website. Ritu H. addressed the guild and encouraged members to consider participating as a board or committee member in the future, stating that members are welcome to rotate off annually as time permits.
 - **Community Service:** Princess Mary Moody announced our charity of the month is Metropolitan Ministries and that Princess Sandi Snow will deliver the donations. Mary also collected cash donations from the princesses. (\$120 was collected).
 - **Fat Quarter Exchange:** Dorothy announced that Princess Linda Woytisek is stepping down as the Chair, and Patti Cox will serve as the new Chair. Moving forward, the Fat Quarter Exchange will occur quarterly and will resume in January 2027. Dorothy encouraged members to share ideas directly with Patti for future exchanges.
 - **Healing Hearts Blocks:** This is an ongoing project to honor our members who lose a spouse or child. Princess Shirley Kasprzyk presented one block to Princess

Jeannie Casiglia. The instructions for Healing Hearts Blocks have been removed from the monthly newsletter and are now located on our FP website.

- **Library:** Princess Mary Ann Vathy announced that the library will be closed during our September 9 guild meeting due to a program guest speaker, and the library will resume at the October 14 guild meeting. Mary Ann thanked Princess Maria Nunez for housing a majority of the library at her home.
- **Newsletter:** Michelle Barry announced that the deadline to submit articles for the September issue of *The Plume* is Friday, August 28. Please send articles to Dorothy. The newsletter will be shorter moving forward due to many repetitive items being moved to the website. (Resources including upcoming local, state, and national shows, challenges, Healing Hearts Block directions and recipients, etc.). Members were reminded that the password can be found in the member directory, which was sent out electronically this year.
- **Ways and Means:** Princess Michelle Barry announced that the next scheduled craft show is being held at Lake Magdelene United Methodist Church on November 14, 2026. Donations of handcrafted items are welcome. Income from craft shows over the past year was approximately \$1,000.
- **Special Autumn Block:** Princess Winnie Miale announced that kits are \$2, if you would like to participate, let her know and she will prepare more blocks. The drawing will be held at our November 11 Guild Meeting.
- **21st Anniversary No Frills Applique Retreat:** Ritu H announced the dates (August 21 and August 22, 9am-11pm both days). The retreat is being held at the Hampton Inn on Hwy 54 and Trinity Blvd. This is a members-only retreat, so if interested, be sure your membership is current. Please bring extra heavy-duty extension cords, as the power outlets are limited. There will be stations set up for pressing, cutting, SNACKS, etc. Approximately 20 Princesses are signed up so far, there is space for more.
- **Lake Yale Retreat:** Princess Dianna Shepard announced that today (August 12) is the last day to sign up/pay in full for the retreat being held in October. Arrival time is 10 a.m. Discussion was held about having the annual retreat at a different location. The concern is that the date and contract for the following year are signed at the current retreat, making it difficult to make a location change later. Dorothy encouraged members to bring any ideas for new locations to the Retreat Committee, including specifics (i.e., costs, dates available, number of participants, food availability, etc.). These suggestions must be brought to the Retreat Committee in September, so a decision can be made before the Lake Yale Retreat in October.

- **2027 Spring Quilt Display:** Dianna Shepard announced that the Spring Quilt Display previously scheduled to be held at the Jimmie B. Keel Library has been cancelled due to the decision of the Hillsborough County Library system. A short discussion was held. Again, members were asked to bring any ideas (for a display) to the board for consideration that would give the Feather Princesses Guild exposure in the community.

Anniversary Luncheon: A delicious meal catered by The Columbia Restaurant was enjoyed by those who purchased it. A birthday cake was also provided by the guild for members' enjoyment.

- After lunch, Membership door prizes were awarded to Maritza Chinchilla, Mary Ann Vathy, and Ritu Haldar.
- Several games were played throughout the meeting with prizes being awarded to the winners.
- Dorothy thanked Joie Wilson, Maritza Chinchilla, and Patti Cox for Chairing the 21st birthday celebration.
- Open discussion was held regarding the renaming of the Hawaiian Quilts Specialty Applique Group, led by Ritu Haldar. A motion was made by Princess Vici Miller to rename the group to the Contemporary Quilts group. Seconded by Princess Melissa Labella. The vote was unanimous among the membership. The motion passed. This group will continue to meet quarterly.
- Dorothy announced that the Legacy Quilt Group will no longer meet, but that the Princesses may work on their Legacy Quilts at our quilt circles and at home, and that the Combo Club Quilt Group will no longer meet on the third Thursday of the month.
- Ritu announced that Paula Paradis of Porky Pine Quilting will be the program guest at our September 9 Guild Meeting.
- Show and Tell was held with Princess Becky Gammons taking photos.

Dorothy adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

/s/ _____
Respectfully submitted by
Princess Melissa Labella, Secretary.