



Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild



To Shop or...

...not to shop. That is not the question! There is only one part of this statement that is true: “To Shop”!!

As part of our 25th year celebration, we did a “North Shop Hop.” Seventeen Wa Shonaji members took a chartered bus for a day of shopping, lunch, more shopping, and enjoying the company of quilting friends. We stopped at shops in Lyons, Fort Collins, and Erie.

Our day started at 8:45. To make the ride interesting, we did “quilt-quarter” bingo and some quilt trivia. Brenda Ames started a “Do’s and Don’ts of the Shop Hop” conversation. Some of her tips, with help from the rest of us, were:

- If you *think* you want the fabric, buy ½ yard; if you like it, get 1 yard; and if you love it, buy the bolt!
- Remember, you don’t have to buy everything at the first stop; there are two more to go!

Then there was discussion on how to “sneak” the fabric into your home, but we’ll go into that in more detail later.

(continued on page 6)



Iris Hawkins, Stephanie Hobson, Paula Clifton, and Linda Hernandez are eager to begin shopping!



Karen von Phul tries a new technique at The Quilt Corner in Erie.

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Upcoming Programs

- July—Christmas in July—3-Project Workshop
- August 10—25th Anniversary Exhibit Reception
- September—Jelly Roll Race

Wa Shonaji Presents Powers' "The Lord's Supper" to CrossPurpose

Wa Shonaji's version of Harriet Powers' pictorial quilt "The Last Supper" is now hanging in the CrossPurpose/ Providence Church facility. It was presented to Jason Janz, CEO of CrossPurpose, June 9.

Janz reached out to Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild in December 2018 to ask if we could make a Harriet Powers quilt for CrossPurpose's new space at 2030 Richard Allen Court, Denver. Initially he had been looking for a particular person of color he had heard about to make the quilt. Unable to find her, he contacted Terry Nelson, Blair-Caldwell Library's senior special collection and community resource manager, for help. While he was there, our exhibit *Botanical Expressions* was on display and Terry directed him to our exhibit and told him about Wa Shonaji. He was a bit hesitant about contacting us, thinking we would be a group from Westminster or someplace who would not have a clue about Harriet Powers or the vision he had for his quilt. Via our website, we were in contact with each other, and I convinced him that Wa Shonaji *could* make a quilt in the manner he was seeking. Four guild members—Marcia Walker, Mary Lassiter, Stephanie Hobson, and myself—met with Janz to discuss the possibilities of making a Harriet Powers quilt.

We soon learned, after much studying and research, that copyright restrictions would prevent us from making either of the two remaining quilts of Mrs. Powers: *The Bible Quilt* at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC and the



Jason Janz of CrossPurpose accepts Wa Shonaji's version of Harriett Powers' "The Lord's Supper."



The Wa Shonaji Chorus sings at the CrossPurpose presentation: Sandra Coleman, Connie Turner, Nannette Locke, Pennie Hernandez, Milinda Walker, Stephanie Hobson, and leader Mary Lassiter.

The Guild held quilt exhibits at Denver's Koelbel Library, Boulder Public Library, and Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum in Golden in the late 1990s.



Pictured Wa Shonaji members made the Powers' quilt: Stephanie Hobson, Linda, White, Geneva Lottie, Milinda Walker, Marcia Walker, Joanne Walton, and Julie Marsh. Not able to attend: Artie Johnson, Camilla Edwards, Karen von Phul.

Pictorial Quilt at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

So on to page two. Kyra Hicks's book *The Lord's Supper Pattern Book* imagining Harriet Powers' "Lost Bible Story Quilt" put us on a different path. We knew we could make the quilt in her book without any copyright restrictions. At this point, other members of the Guild had joined the four of us on this journey: Artie Johnson, Camilla Edwards, Geneva Lottie, Karen von Phul, Milinda Walker, Linda White, and Julie Marsh. We estimate, with our research, fabric selecting, printing of pattern, construction of the quilt from start to finish, including the binding, label and having it documented by CQC, has well over 500 hours of labor. Crystal Zagnoli of the Quilted Cricket quilted the quilt for us.

Janz was well pleased with the results of our labors as were those in attendance at the unveiling of the quilt at the Providence Church service. The chorus was in harmony that day, as always,

with their gift of voice and song. I gave a brief history of the quilt and the life of Harriet Powers. Artie Johnson compiled a book on Mrs. Powers, which was also presented.

It's interesting that Janz delivered a powerful sermon that day on Judgment and judging people. He alluded to the fact that his judgment about us being a group of people from Westminster, who would not know anything about his concepts for a Harriet Powers quilt, was far from truth. At the end of my talk about Harriet and those who worked on the quilt, I made sure to name the places those of us who worked on the quilt were from. What a surprise... Westminster, Highlands Ranch, Arvada, Denver, Greenwood Village, Thornton, and Aurora. Yes, we celebrate diversity in our Guild and in our quilting styles. And our motto, "Each One Teach One," is always in the foreground for Wa Shonaji.

Did I Say Wa Shonaji is AWESOME?

—Joanne Walton

Harriet Powers (1837–1910)—Slave, Folk Artist, Quilt Maker



[Ashley Callahan](#), Georgia Museum of Art, 04/06/2005 Last edited by NGE Staff on 10/01/2018

Harriet Powers is one of the best-known southern African American quilt makers, even though only two of her quilts, both of which she made after the Civil War (1861–65), survive today. One is part of the National Museum of American History collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The second quilt is in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts.

The cotton quilts consist of numerous pictorial squares depicting biblical scenes and celestial phenomena. They were constructed through ap-

plique and piecework and were hand and machine stitched.

Powers was born into slavery near Athens, Georgia, on October 29, 1837, and lived more than half her life in Clarke County, mainly in Sandy Creek and Buck Branch.

The first of the Powers quilts was displayed in 1886 at a cotton fair in Athens, where Jennie Smith, an artist and art teacher at the Lucy Cobb Institute, a school for elite white females in Athens, saw it. She asked to purchase it from Powers, but Powers declined to sell it. Smith remained in

touch with Powers, however, and five years later Powers, having financial difficulties, agreed to sell the quilt for five dollars. At the time of the sale Powers explained the imagery in the squares, and Smith recorded the descriptions along with additional comments of her own.

The history of the second quilt is less clear. One account indicates that the wives of Atlanta University (later Clark Atlanta University) faculty members saw the first quilt in the Cotton States Exhibition in Atlanta in 1895 and decided to commission a second quilt by Powers. Another account suggests that the second quilt was purchased by the same faculty wives who may have seen it at the Nashville, Tennessee, Exposition in 1898. Regardless, the faculty wives presented the quilt to the Reverend Charles Cuthbert Hall of New York in 1898, while he was serving as the chairman of the board of trustees at Atlanta University. Subsequently, the folk art collector Maxim Karolik acquired it from Hall's heirs and donated it to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Powers' quilts are remarkable for their bold use of applique for storytelling and for their extensive documentation. Her use of technique and design demonstrates African and African American influences. The use of applied designs to tell stories is closely related to artistic practices in the republic of Benin, West Africa. The uneven squares suggest the syncopation found in African American music.

Only one image of Powers herself survives. The photograph (at right), made about 1897, depicts her wearing a special apron with appliqued images of a moon, cross, and sun or shooting star. Such celestial bodies appear repeatedly in her quilts and are often carefully stitched in complex ways, indicating their importance to her. These images may have related to a fraternal organization or had religious significance to her. Powers' interpretations of both quilts have survived, though they are likely influenced by their recorders. Powers herself probably was illiterate and may have used the quilts as visual teaching tools for telling biblical stories.

In January 2005 Cat Holmes, a doctoral student in history at the University of Georgia, dis-

covered the grave of Harriet Powers, as well as that of Powers' husband and daughter. The headstone, which was uncovered at the historic Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery in Athens, reveals that Powers died January 1, 1910.

She was inducted into Georgia Women of Achievement in 2009.

Callahan, Ashley. "Harriet Powers (1837-1910)." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. 01 October 2018. Web. 16 March 2019.



Shop Hop continued...

Our first stop was the Lyons Quilt Shop in Lyons. For some this is a staple in our fabric shopping as it's on the way to the Highlands Retreat Center; for others this was their first time visiting the shop. With three rooms full of fabric and of course the "sale" section, we were off to a good start! There was fun for all of us as we ooh'd and ah'd at all our fabric selections. Everyone left with a bag in hand.

Next stop was lunch at everyone's favorite, Olive Garden in Fort Collins. We spent almost an hour eating, laughing, talking about our families, and anticipating the next stop. Then on to The Fig Leaf in Fort Collins. Can you say "Amazing Sale"!!! Of course, we found the table with 75 percent off! A \$12 yard of fabric for \$3! When the price is that good, you definitely fall in love and buy the entire bolt! The selection of fabrics was amazing!! Then there were quilt patterns on sale, and a large selection of panel fabrics on sale for \$4.99.

Our final stop was a relatively new shop, A Quilt Corner in Erie. It's only been open for about three years, but has recently doubled in size! When we arrived, the owner and her father (81 years young!) were happily awaiting our arrival. The place was stocked floor to ceiling with Kaffe Fassett, batiks, and modern fabrics, among others, and the employees were super helpful.



Mary Lassiter, Paula Clifton, and Linda Hernandez are giddy about the good buys at The Fig Leaf.



Erna Sanderson inspects each bolt of fabric at Lyons Quilt Shop.

Oops, I forgot to mention the snacks, coffee, tea, water, and chocolates awaiting us at the entrance. (I don't know if they do this for all their customers, but it sure made us feel special!!!)

Then finally back to Denver! The shopping was great; but just being able to fellowship with other quilters was well worth the trip. Everyone agreed that we need to do this again. It was great to just sit back and let someone else do the driving!

Oh yes, before I forget, we discussed how we were going to get this fabric into the house past our loved ones. Here are some suggestions:

- Put the fabric in the bottom of your laundry basket and top with clean clothes. No one will be the wiser as to what's in the basket.
- Leave the fabric in your car, and then at 2 a.m., go out to your car and bring it in while everyone is asleep.
- Never take your fabric into the house in the original shopping bags. This way you can use "plausible deniability," act like it's always been there.
- Finally, if all else fails, stack your new fabrics against an outside wall of the house, and tell them it makes great insulation!!!

Happy 25th Anniversary!!!!

—Cassandra Sewell

Documentation Runs Smoothly, Again

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild's annual Quilt Documentation took place May 11 at CrossPurpose. Colorado Quilting Council members documented 49 quilts, including Wa Shonaji's version of Harriet Powers' "The Lord's Supper." Made by Stephanie Hobson, Linda White, Geneva Lottie, Milinda Walker, Marcia Walker, Joanne Walton, Julie Marsh, Artie Johnson, Camilla Edwards, and Karen von Phul, this quilt was commissioned by CrossPurpose for their foyer. RMWSQG has much to be proud of!

Special thanks to everyone who helped with this event. Thanks for the fabulous meals we

served to CQC, and for above and beyond help with checking in, photographing, scribing, and getting documented quilts back to their owners. When we need one another for the good of the guild, Wa Shonaji steps up.

More than anything else, thanks for staying upbeat and on task. You show me how to do it. Next year, when I'm co-chairing Documentation for CQC, it will be more bad jokes to groan at, and I hope more CQC hands on deck.

Same time, next year! Thanks again, and bless you all.

—Your Historian, Chris Jacques

July, August, September Birthdays

Tonia Schneider, July 9

Brenda Ames, July 13

Mary Davis, July 14

Christine Jacques, July 18

Paula Clifton, Aug 1

Connie Turner, Aug 16

Crystal Zagnoli, Aug 19

Moira Jackson, Aug 20

Ann Worsencroft, Sept 5

Joette Bailey-Keown, Sept 6

Sandra Coleman, Sept 19

Elorise Hawkins, Sept 22



Happy, Happy Birthday, Iris!

Iris Hawkins turned 90 years young on May 21, 2019. Wa Shonaji members celebrated at the May meeting with a cake and singing—but she couldn't attend the meeting! (Iris, both were delicious!) Iris has been a members of our Guild since 1999. Here's to many more!

Wa Shonaji's first raffle quilt, a red and white Irish chain, was made in the early 2000s.

Christmas in July—3 Workshops at July 13 Meeting

Three in one! Three members will teach three projects at the July 13 workshop. Participants will rotate among them, spending about 45 minutes with each so they can make all three.

Fabric Bead



Stephanie Hobson will teach us how to make a fabulous fabric bead! She used beads for the centers of these gorgeous applique flowers.

Bring your scissors (applique scissors preferred for cutting small pieces).

Other materials will be provided.

Hexagon Christmas Ornament

Marcia Walker will show us how to stuff a hexagon-shaped Christmas ornament.

Supplies and equipment:

Sewing machine

Standard sewing/quilting supplies

Ruler with 60 degrees marked on it

Christmas fabric: enough for 6 repeats of the motif. Select a fabric with a small repeat, no more than 6" to 8"; you'll cut six 3¾" strips

Ribbon to match your fabric to hang the ornament; thin is best

7" square of backing

7" square of batting

Fabric Spirals



Julie Marsh will demonstrate how to make fabric spirals for a necklace or quilt embellishments.

Bring 5 or 7 fabric strips, 1½" x 6½", in contrasting but coordinating fabrics

Other supplies will be provided. Bring these tools ONLY if you have them: tube turner; needle-nose pliers (be sure they're clean if you raid the toolbox); scissors



This is a set of tube turners; it can cost \$49.99. While it's a great tool to have, DON'T BUY a set unless you really want one. We'll use one turner that's 3/8"

in diameter. You can buy one or two turners (as opposed to a set) at Joann Fabrics or Nancy's Notions, if you want. But we'll be sharing at this workshop.

Karen von Phul Takes Jean Wells Workshop

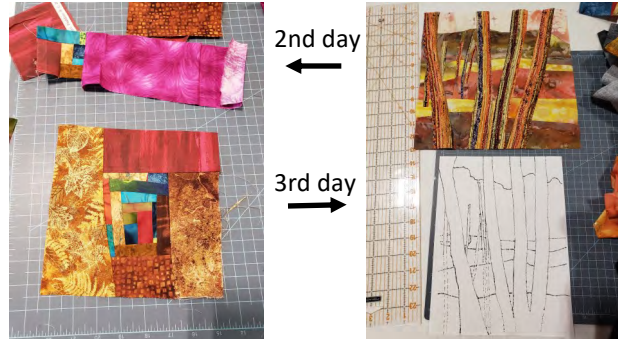
“To think outside the box” is the reason I gave Jean Wells for taking her class. For three days, I learned techniques Jean uses to create her quilts. Jean is from Oregon and has owned a quilt shop since the 70s. She is very knowledgeable about color but often ignores the color wheel. She loves taking nature walks from which she gets most of her inspiration.



The first day of class covered choosing colors from our fabric stash, snipping a sample, and arranging them on a piece of canvas any way you wanted. We stitched them down, and when we turned the canvas, we discovered interesting shapes or “landscape” designs.

On the second day we learned how to choose a photograph to manipulate into a quilt or quilt block. Jean showed us her work and how she used photographs as her inspiration.

She also showed us how to take a copy of a portrait to make a pattern for a quilt. It was a rev-

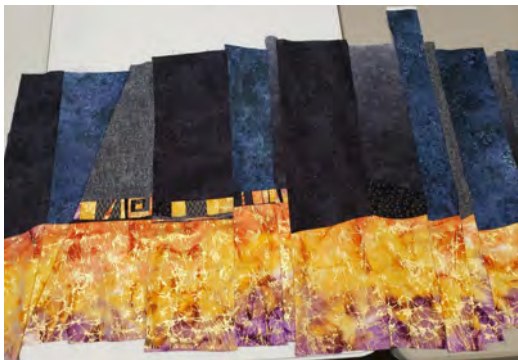


elation for me because I always wanted to interpret portraits into quilts. As you can say a “light bulb” came on.

As we worked on our projects, Jean gave suggestions or just her insight on what she saw in our work.

By the third day it was great to see everyone’s quilt or quilt block and where their inspiration came from!

It was a great class! I learned a lot and was able to take away a newfound way of making quilts, “outside the box.”



Karen’s final quilt is a representation of the Paradise, Calif., fire of 2018.



The Jean Wells-inspired quilt of another workshop participant, Kara Butterworth, a member of the Front Range Contemporary Quilters.

Five quilts were exhibited at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts as part of a fund raiser for the play Gee’s Bend.

President's Corner

A highlight of our year is quickly approaching—our annual exhibit at Blair-Caldwell Library!

This year the exhibit will celebrate our 25th anniversary with the theme “Wa Shonaji—25 years: Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future!” In fact the 12x12 challenge quilts are blocks made in a traditional or modern representation. Haven't the block histories been fascinating?

Larger quilts will be shown on the side walls. Don't forget to bring yours to the July 13 meeting. For more info, see Linda White's Exhibit Committee Report on page 15.

The exhibit will be on display at Blair-Caldwell August 1 through September 28. Our opening reception will be Saturday, August 10. Our quilts will be spectacular, and our table will be so pretty with your cakes on sparkly glass plates. Bring friends and family to share our notable milestone!

Keep quilting,
Milinda Walker
President



When There Are No Words, May This Quilt... The Story of Our Comfort Quilts

I joined Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild in 2009, right after retirement. Giving comfort quilts to members was already established by the time I joined the guild. However, I did notice on occasion, members being gifted with quilts for various reasons. In 2012 one of my brothers passed away and I was gifted with a quilt. (It makes me tear up a little thinking about it. But it really meant a lot.) And now I am honored to be the chairperson of collecting and maintaining the supply of comfort quilts.

So what is a “comfort quilt” and what is its purpose? The name says it all. At those times in our life when we may go through hardships and loss, friends and family need comfort, but at the time, words are often not enough. A quilt is our way of reminding that person that we also care.

Wa Shonaji maintains a supply of quilts for just such occasions. To sustain a good supply, the guild decided that on each member's birthday, each year, that member is to make and donate a quilt to our guild. About half our members are diligent and so proud to show and present their yearly quilt. And I am so happy to receive them.

Giving quilts didn't begin with members, but as an outreach to our community at large. In the earlier years of Wa Shonaji, I understand that, when they found a person, family, or organization with a need, the guild members made quilts to gift. Also the guild might donate a quilt to a non-profit agency to help with its fundraising.

Our current comfort quilts are mainly given for losses, surgeries, and perhaps a new grandbaby that our members experience. We currently have 20 quilts on hand. We have several sizes of comfort quilts:

- lap and baby quilts, 30x48
- throws, approx. 36x52
- a variety of quilts from approx. 56x72 and a little larger.

So thank you all! Please continue to give and continue to share your gift of quilting with others in need of comfort, when there are no words.

—Nanci Vaughn, Your Comfort Quilt
Chairperson

Sister Stitcher



Have you met Sister Stitcher? She is a mythical quilter whose quarter inch never wavers, whose bobbin never runs out, and who finishes her projects on time. She lives in a house that never needs cleaning, with a spouse who cooks and holds up quilts as requested. Her studio space measures 100x100, with lots of natural light. Oddly enough, it never needs cleaning either.

This month, Sister Stitcher is thinking about vacation...

Sister Stitcher, the more I sew, the happier I am! Quilting time really is my Happy Hour. But after about two hours, I feel a crick in my neck, and my back stiffening. Can you suggest any stretches?

Sister is right there with you. She sat down one night to put just a few strips together ... and then the grandfather clock struck midnight. Pumpkin time indeed.

If you get overly focused on your quarter-inch seam, set yourself an alarm for about 90 minutes after you sit down, on your phone or on a timer. When that sucker goes bong, here's what Sister does:

Stand up, and slowly reeeaaaaaacccch for the sky. Straighten your back, and roll your shoulders gently. You've been hunched over your machine, and your spine is saying "Please release me, let me go." Let it go, but sloooooowly. No need to rush.

Now put an arm straight out in front of you, and just feel that stretch for a count of about 10.

Gently bend your hand back toward you for another count of 10, and repeat if you like. Then repeat with your other arm and hand.

Now Sister often bends down to touch her toes and then backwards before heading to her kitchen for a glass of water. Like you, Sister forgets to keep herself hydrated when she's on a quilting roll. This Stretch Break is a good opportunity to swig some H₂O and see some people you've been missing. Like your family.

Sister leaves you with some other suggestions:

[American Quilters Society Ten Exercises for Quiltmakers](#): Our AQS friends know about getting lost in your quilting, and the need for a break.

[Stretching for Quilters](#): Don't forget the hip flexors! Randall Cook is serious all right, but he knows what he's talking about.

—Chris Jacques

RMWS Trunk Show Wows Longmont Quilters

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild presented a wonderful trunk show to members and friends of the Longmont Quilt Guild June 11. More than 125 quilters were in attendance.

The trunk show described phases of needle art expressions, research, facts, and histories, thus opening the eyes of audience members. Quilts with embellishments, beads, buttons, yarns, crystals, and—don't forget—threads of many colors provided many new ideas to add to the audience's bag of tricks—as well as enjoying

the creativity and talents of Wa Shonaji quilt makers.

Over 60 quilts were presented in the one-hour trunk show. The Choir sang like it was another Sunday morning. Our membership was given a standing ovation.

Special thanks to the exhibit committee, guild members, and show participants for another successful trunk show.

—Brenda Ames

April Show & Share



Artie Johnson



Joanne Walton, Collage Elephant



Joanne Walton, Scrappy Charity quilt



Mary Lassiter, Block Exchange



Mary Lassiter, Ugly Fabric Quilt



DeLois Powell, charity quilts for eQuilter

April Show & Share



Helen Kearney, It Takes a Village



Helen Kearney, Mile High Pi



*Joette Bailey-McKeown,
African Shirts*



Edith Shelton, Reach for the Stars

April Show & Share



Linda White, Mystery Quilt



Stephanie Hobson, Mariner's Compass in African fabric, front and back



Brenda Ames and Karen von Phul, "bag" ladies

Workshops



Linda White showed us how to add a sleeve to our quilts.



Artie Johnson demonstrated how to make, decorate, and label a quilt bag.



Karen von Phul helped us make a mat/ruler carrier that she designed.

May Show & Share



*DeLois Powell's Charity
Quilts for eQuilter*



Camilla Edwards



Nanci Vaughn, bag

Wa Shonaji designed two quilts for events held at the Blair-Caldwell Library in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention held in Denver in 2008.

Show Us Your Block-of-the-Month Masks!



2019 Retreat

The Guild's retreat this year will be held Thursday, October 31, through Sunday, November 3, at the Highlands Presbyterian Camp/Retreat Center, Allenspark, Colorado. (Note that All Hallow's Eve will not go by unnoticed....)

Start thinking about projects you would like to put together uninterrupted—no cooking, no housework.

It's just you and the machine... and of course, what happens at the retreat, happens during our 25th Anniversary!

— Karen von Phul

Committee Reports



Exhibits

August/September—Our Guild's 2019 Exhibit—"Wa Shonaji - 25 years: Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future!"—will be on display at Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library August 1 through September 28.

Larger quilts for the side walls are due at the July 13 meeting with a completed 2019 Submission Form as found on the website under Members' Area/Submission 2019.

Discuss any other arrangements with Marcia Walker; all Submission Forms must be sub-

mitted to Marcia so she has time to prepare the wall signage and a plan for hanging.

—Linda White

Hospitality

Saturday, August 10, 2019 – 25th Anniversary Exhibit Opening Reception at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library; service to include Light Refreshments. Members are asked to contribute a cake or cookies on a glass plate. Details to follow.

Members of the committee are Elorise Hawkins, Iris Hawkins, Geneva Lottie, Moira Jackson, De Lois Powell, Joanne Walton, and Helen Kearney.

Thanks to the Members who bring refreshments to our membership meetings.

—Nannette O. Locke

Mary Lassiter's Quilt on Display at Anschutz

Mary Lassiter's quilt "Peace" has been chosen for publication in the *Human Touch* magazine, the twelfth annual anthology of poetry, prose, photography, and graphic art from the Anschutz Medical Campus community at the University of Colorado. You may view the magazine online at www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/centers/BioethicsHumanities/ArtsHumanities/Documents/HumanTouch_2019.pdf. (You'll have to copy and paste or re-

type—I can't get the hyperlink to work.)

Her quilt is hanging in the Fulginiti Pavilion along with other artists' work, until July 5, 2019. Stop in to visit the gallery at 13080 E. 19th Avenue, Aurora 80045.

In the early 2000s Wa Shonaji created an after-school program at the Red Shield Community Center to teach basic quilting techniques to children.

Getting to Know... Barbara Robinson

Barbara Robinson started sewing her own clothes in high school, then went on to sew for her children. “My granny taught me to quilt,” as for so many of us.

At 50 I made a nine-patch quilt—I called it “3 – 6 – 9”—for my kids. I looked for a club to join that would teach me to quilt. Wanda Casanova taught me and encouraged me to join Wa Shonaji in 2009. “I joined, retired from work, and I’m still here.” Barbara worked for Kaiser Permanente for many years. “I wanted to learn how to applique... It took two years for me to make a quilt!” I did learn how to applique, but I don’t like it!

I start with a pattern, and I always include purple in my quilts—I like African fabrics and purple. Mostly I make pieced quilts, as opposed to art quilts or applique. I like trying new patterns. It makes you learn new things. I took classes from Jessica Vaughn and I’m getting better all the time!



My quilting is inspired by other people, especially my grandchildren and other people. It’s also inspired by design and colors—especially purple.

I quilt in my extra bedroom. I have a wardrobe, shelves, three machines (including a long-arm), and very little space to walk! “My little world—people know to leave me alone when I’m in my space.”

I have a couple other passions. First is my garden where I grow both flowers and vegetables. I can jellies at Christmastime that I give away. I like to cook for my son and myself and the rest of my family. I have 23 grand- and great-grandchildren. I always have too much squash and tomatoes, so I give those to my friends. And my dog, a Cairn terrier I call LD for Little Dog. He thinks he’s a “great big watch dog.”

I sell some of my canned goods and, of course, give it to my grandchildren. Three of my granddaughters want to learn to can, but you need patience to can. They’re learning...

Wa Shonaji is a wonderful place for a person my age to be. It keeps me socialized and I don’t get old. I don’t need TV. I love quilting. I knew I’d do it, and once I started, I’m still at it.

Getting to Know... Brenda Ames

My quilt journey began long ago. Both of my grandmothers were quilters. My job for my paternal grandmother was to thread the needles and serve coffee and cake—all for five cents. My job ended when I fell into the quilting frame! You know, the old frame that was pulled down from the ceiling. My mother also made six quilts for me and my siblings. Since then, she hasn't planted one needle into anything!

Upon moving to Denver in 1994, I met with coworkers to decide what to do while living in Denver. I had to work six years to retire at the end of a thirty-year career in telecommunications.

One member of the group decided that we should learn to quilt. I did own two sewing machines at that time. Some had machines in boxes or cabinets, or had never sewn. I've been sewing and doing crafts since I was six years old.

Our first teacher was Linda Goslin who taught us basic quilting—1/4-inch seams, how to press, to buy quality fabrics, but most of all, how to put all the pieces together.

Boy, what a journey!

I was shopping at the Denver Fabric location on Belleview (many years ago) when I met Helen Kearney. I was purchasing fabric for a dress and she asked me if I quilt and also invited me to RMWS Quilt Guild. The guild was readying for a weekend retreat at Denver's Women's College. I went to their next meeting, joined, and have been a member over twenty years. And have held many offices in the Guild.

My quilting space is where the dining area *should* sit. How easy it is to reach three steps to the kitchen when a cup of coffee is calling. My space is small and continues to evolve.

My other passions are reading, family genealogy, and teaching. I have taught 18 people basic quilting, and I read at least two books per week. The library is one of my best friends. With the aid of our member and noted genealogist, Iris Hawkins, I've traced the paternal side of my family to 1826. This was no easy task.

Quilting is important to me. It is a craft that should be handed down to the next generation. So many craftsmen and artisans are passing on, but

these arts and crafts are worth holding on to. Quilting provides a low-tech solution while living in this high-tech environment.

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild continues to grow and provide a great hands-on



teaching environment for those who want to learn the art of quilting. We need to continue to focus on our motto "Each one, teach one" in the coming years.

Let your quilts tell your quilting stories and we will continue to bring others into the guild.

A Sample of 12x12s for Annual Exhibit

The 12-inch challenge quilts at Wa Shonaji's August/September exhibit exemplify the theme of our 25th anniversary, "Wa Shonaji—25 years: Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future!" The exhibit takes place at Blair-Caldwell Library; the opening reception is Saturday, August 10.



Brenda Ames, Shoo Fly



Camilla Edwards, Job's Troubles



Milinda Walker, Bear Claw



Geneva Lottie, Missouri Star



Sandra Coleman, Jacob's Ladder



Nanci Vaughn, Turkey Tracks



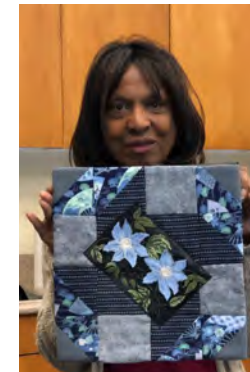
Christine Jacques, Basket of Scraps



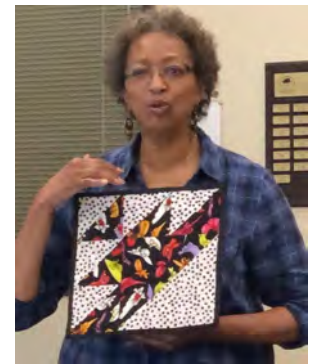
Nannette Locke, Broken Dishes



Mary Lassiter, Alabama Pine Burr



Carolyn Borwick, Bachelor's Puzzle



Stephanie Hobson, The Lost Ship



Linda White, Doves in the Window



Elorise Hawkins, 30s Pattern



Linda Hernandez, Postage Stamp

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

Wa Shonaji provides a warm, nurturing atmosphere to promote an interest in quilt making and other fiber arts primarily from an African-American perspective.

We both educate ourselves and share our knowledge with others, based on the motto "Each One, Teach One." We seek to encourage the work and accomplishments of our members and to preserve the tradition, culture, and history of quilting. Rather than judge each other's work, we learn from it and revel in it.

All quilters, regardless of their interest or skill levels, are welcome.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

10:30 a.m., first Saturday of each month (unless it's a holiday) at the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, 2401 Welton Street, Denver

For more information, visit www.washonaji.org or email washonaji@gmail.com

Textile Doin's in the Area

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum www.rmqm.org

Current exhibits—Hawaiian Quilts from the Hite Collection and Amish and Mennonite Quilts from the museum collection. Through July 20.

Sunday at the Museum, July 14, presents Hawaiian quilt expert Elizabeth Akana. August 11—Barbara Warden: Golden in the 19th Century; September 8—Michael Gold: Threads of My Life

Upcoming exhibit—Evolutions Juried Challenge & Miniature Quilts by Tina M. Gravatt, July 22 through October 19

RMQM Treasures Garage Sale, Sat., August 17, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

English Paper Piecing Group, no cost, first Tuesday of each month, 1–3 p.m.

Denver Metro Modern Quilt Guild will meet at the museum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, and in September.

Columbine Quilt Guild

<https://sites.google.com/view/columbinequiltguild>

Monday, July 8, 6 p.m., Garage Sale, Bake Sale, AND Ice Cream Social, Arvada Methodist Church, 6750 Carr St., Arvada

Monday, Aug. 12, 6:45 p.m., 5x5 Members' Trunk Show

Monday, Sept. 9, 6:45 p.m., Scott Flanagan: Male Quilter

Arapahoe County Quilt Guild www.acqcolorado.org

Thursday, July 11, Sherri McConnell from "A Quilting Life" blog

Thursday, Aug. 8, Joanna Figueroa, Fig Tree Quilts

Thursday, Sept. 12, Charlotte Angotti, Quiltmakers Studio

Front Range Contemporary Quilters www.artquilters.org

Monday, July 15, Desserts and Demos

Monday, Aug. 19, Deborah Boschert

Monday, Sept. 16, Cas Holmes

And note this: our own Valerie White, October 21!

FRQG meets at the Westminster Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Blvd. from 7 to 9 p.m.

Higher Ground Fair www.highergroundfair.org

The Best of Rocky Mountain Tradition and Innovation in One Extraordinary Weekend, Sept. 21 & 22, Laramie, Wyoming. "A wonderful, low-budget way to showcase your quilting." Quilt entry forms are due August 5.

Many, many thanks to Mary Lassiter, who contributed wonderful bits and pieces to this issue.

Editor Julie Marsh, juliemarsh11@comcast.net