



# Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild



## Wa Shonaji Polishes Off 25th Anniversary Year with Holiday Luncheon



About 40 partiers gathered at a holiday celebration Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Embassy Suites, to put an exclamation point on the 25th Anniversary Year of Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild.

Attendees sparkled in holiday attire, and the room was decked with Christmas quilts, mask quilts, and holiday trees.

VP Programs Mary Lassiter said, “The guild seized the opportunity for fellowship, to enjoy a delicious meal together, and to have fun.”

Joette Bailey-Keown presented a slide show of anniversary events. New board members were sworn in for 2020. A lovely buffet lunch was served, including prime rib and fried chicken followed by cheesecake.

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### Upcoming Programs

- January 4—Sew-In
- February 1—Martin Luther King Celebration, Sam Gary Library, Stapleton

## Holiday Luncheon (continued)



*Mary Lassiter presented appliqued fruit blocks (at right) to outgoing president Milinda Walker in thanks for her generous service to the guild.*



*Artie Johnson described the exploits of Mr. and Mrs. Wright as quilts passed gifts around the circle.*

Artie Johnson presented the Christmas 2020 Cookie Story of Mr. and Mrs. Wright as gifts worked their way right and left around the circle.

Mary presented outgoing President Milinda Walker with appliqued fruit blocks made by members. Mary called them “fruitful,” because “when I think of her leadership this past year, and her perseverance throughout, I saw her as one who was true to her word, fruitful in her deeds, and fruitful in her work for our guild.” She defines fruitful, as bearing fruit or producing good quality service to others.

Mary also extended thanks to all who assisted in hanging the quilts, to Stephanie Hobson for the beautiful programs, to Geneva Lottie and Milinda Walker for securing the venue. She said she was pleasantly surprised and happy that Nanci Vaughn created words to “We Are Family” for the installation of our 2020 officers. Nanci and Connie Turner did a “fantastic job” on this part of the program.



*Christmas quilt by Mary Lassiter was just one that decorated the luncheon room.*



*Block-of-the-Month Mask quilts adorned the walls.*

“Our Mr. and Mrs. Wright game was a hoot! Thank you, Artie Johnson, for leading the game, which has become a tradition,” Mary said.

And thank you, Mary, for the beautiful burgundy goodie bags that topped off a wonderful holiday affair!



*Guests converse as Mary Lassiter confirms placement of the gorgeous quilts that decorated the room.*



*Susan Morrison was dressed to the nines in holiday finery. It's a shame this photo doesn't show the candy canes on her leggings!*

## Former President's Corner

Hello RMWS,

This has been a wonderful year of celebrating our 25th Anniversary! I wish to thank all of those who helped put together our activities and programs this year especially our Anniversary Committee: Cassandra Sewell, Joette Bailey-Keown, Ann Worsencroft, and Robyn Bean. As we look forward to our next 25 years, I hope you all will continue to participate in the Guild and all of its wonderful activities. And please invite your friends to join in to enjoy our guild and our fantastic programs.

I wish to thank our 2019 officers: Mary Lasiter, Linda White, DeLois Powell, Geneva Lottie, Christine Jacques, Julie Marsh, Stephanie Hobson, Susan Morrison, and Joanne Walton; and our committee leaders: Brenda Ames, Connie Turner, Nanci Vaughn, Nannette Locke, Anne

Worsencroft, and Alan White for all of their hard work. I would especially like to thank Joanne Walton, our Past President, for stepping in and helping me this year. Without her help, I would not have made it! I also wish to thank Joanne for agreeing to step in as Past President once again this year to allow me to step aside and work on my health.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my condolences to Marcia Walker and her family in the loss of her husband, Winston. Winston was like a brother to all of us, coming alongside at many activities to take wonderful pictures to help us remember so many events and guiding us up the mountain for many years to our Retreats. Marcia, we are very sorry for your loss.

Keep Quilting,  
Milinda Walker

## New President's Corner

I would like to take this time to thank the Guild membership for their votes that made me the 2020 President of the Guild. Being the 2020 President is a great honor and I will need the support and assistance from the entire membership. With your help we can make 2020 a very creative and productive year. Please also welcome the new members of the Board and support them in their new positions.

I would also like to thank Milinda Walker and the 2019 Board members for continuing the theme of "Each One, Teach One" that has made this Guild the best quilt guild in the state.

Geneva Lottie  
2020 President





## 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.*

*Sister Stitcher is talking about New Year's resolutions.*

*Sister Stitcher,*

*I am turning over a new leaf in 2020! I'm going to finish UFOs! I'm going to sew for at least 20 minutes every day! I'm going to keep my sewing room neat!*

*How am I going to do all that, Sister?*

*Big Talker*

Dear Talker,

Sister doesn't know how you'll do it. Sister can tell you about three tasks that she does:

Sister works on her UFOs every day. Every. Day. That takes care of two birds with one stone: first, she sews for 20 minutes, and second, she moves those pesky projects forward, slowly but surely, till they're finished. Mr. Stitcher almost fainted when Sister had holiday quilts ready to mail in November. He thought that Sister would be binding them while he drove to their family's

home. Sister surprised him but good. Sewing those UFOs every day, that's the ticket.

These first two tasks really depend on Sister accomplishing the third: keeping her sewing room neat. Sister hates to admit it, but Mom Stitcher is right. If you don't like cleaning up messes, don't make one in the first place. Put the rotary cutter in the same place each time. Refold the fabric you pulled out. With a clear sewing table, Sister can make the most of her limited time. She can also truthfully send Mom pictures of her tidy sewing room.

Yeah, yeah, the Magic of Tidying Up, a discipline that makes us all Big Talkers. Sister must confess to carefully avoiding some fresh stash on her ironing board. **News flash:** tidying up is work! and Sister doesn't \*enjoy\* it any more than you do. However, we all enjoy the magic of clear floor space. To keep herself motivated, Sister posted a reminder on her design wall:

Stop praying  
for things  
you don't  
have the  
discipline to  
work for

We'll see if Sister stays true to her Big Talk. Check in about two months.

Happy 2020!

## 25th Anniversary Remembrance with Historical Quilt Blocks

Ready! Set! Go!

At October's meeting, the proposal for Block of the Month for 2020 was presented and accepted and sign-ups began. Twelve quilters signed up to share their blocks with the group so names did not have to be drawn. Quilt blocks will be presented in the order of sign-up.

The first block will be presented at January's meeting and that block will be due at February's meeting, and so on, until we have finished block twelve. One can still sign up to join the BOM. There are eighteen quilters signed up so far.

For block presenters, there are several ways to present your block to the BOM participants:

—Ask Ann Worsencraft to announce your information on the website in advance of your due month.

—Ask Julie Marsh to include your information, if possible, in the newsletter or her informal news

leaflets in advance of the due month.

—Put your information on the internet in advance of due month.

—Hand out paper copies of your information to each individual prior to month due, making sure there are enough copies for all participants.

Any question or comments, please contact Artie Johnson

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

*Today, Tread softly,  
Breathe peacefully,  
Laugh hysterically.*

—Nelson Mandela

### The First Block, Due February 1



#### **"DOUBLE T" Quilt Block**

**12" X 12"**

*This block has many names: Capital T, Mixed T, Big T, Tea For Four, Imperial T, Dakota Farmer, T is for Temperance, T Block #3, Big T, and perhaps more names that remain unknown. First known to be published by Farm & Home, October 15, 1890, it was also published simultaneously in American Agriculture, New England Homestead, and Orange Judd Farmer in 1896. Before that time, the block was passed around from person to person.*

*The Women's Christian Temperance Union was founded in 1874 and it appears that more Double T quilts were made for this cause than any other. Blue and white became the union's colors; white for purity and blue for water, the purest beverages. Many quilts were made with these colors.*

## New Board Sworn In, Starts Work



The new Board for 2020 —our 26th year!— was sworn in at the Holiday Luncheon Dec. 14. From the left: President Geneva Lottie, VP Programs Mary Lassiter, VP Membership Linda White, Secretary Stephanie Hobson, Past President Joanne Walton, Historian Brenda Ames, Librarian

Carolyn Borwick, Newsletter Editor Julie Marsh, Parliamentarian Susan Morrison (not pictured Treasurer Nannette Locke). Appointed officers will be selected by Geneva as President and approved by the Board.



# November Show & Share



Brenda Ames



Brenda Ames



Artie Johnson



Geneva Lottie



Di Nyce Brooks-Gough



Di Nyce Brooks-Gough



Di Nyce Brooks-Gough



# November Show & Share



*Carolyn Borwick*



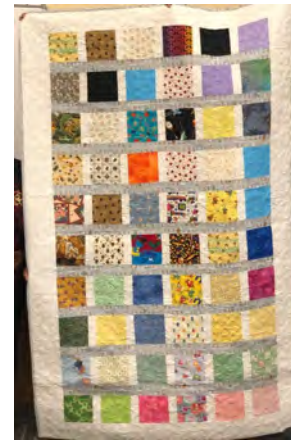
*Artie Johnson , eQuilter charity quilts*



*Artie Johnson , embroidered center block*



*Artie Johnson, split panel*



*Artie Johnson , eQuilter charity quilt*



*DeLois Powell, eQuilter charity quilt*

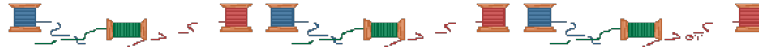


*DeLois Powell*

**2020 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM**  
**ROCKY MOUNTAIN WA SHONAJI QUILT GUILD**  
<http://washonaji.org>

January 1 – December 31 – 2020      **Annual Dues:** \$30.00      \_\_\_\_\_ **New Member**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal**

*"My soul is fed by needle and thread"*



**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alternate Phone (Cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday** Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Since (Year):** \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership dues are \$30.00

Dues will be prorated after June 30 to \$15.00. Make your check or money order payable to Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild and mail check with this completed form to:

**Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild**  
**Attn: Vice President of Membership**  
**P.O. Box 370405**  
**Denver, CO 80237-0405**

Members will not sell or give away the membership roster.

Membership in this guild is not transferable or assignable to another.

As a condition of membership, each member agrees to release and waive any claim he/she has or may have against the RMWS Quilt Guild, its officers or committee members.

*Please indicate agreement to having my picture taken and published for guild business or on the website. I also agree that personal contact information may be distributed to other members and may appear in a password protected area of the website with access granted to other guild members.* **YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Profile Information**

The Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild is a statewide organization, representing the interests in quilt-making and fiber arts from an African-American perspective. We work to promote the work and accomplishments of our members and to preserve the tradition, culture and history of quilting. The members, though predominately of African-American ancestry, celebrate ethnic diversity in membership. The guild offers speakers, workshops, quilt shows, and a newsletter. It takes many members chairing or serving on the committees to keep this guild growing and serving the community. We encourage you to share your talents.

**Please indicate the areas you would like to serve.**

1. **I am willing to serve as:** \_\_\_ Committee Chairperson      \_\_\_ Committee Member

**Which committee/groups are you interested in joining?**

\_\_\_ Exhibits      \_\_\_ Sunshine and Shadows      \_\_\_ Hospitality      \_\_\_ Comfort Quilts      \_\_\_ Publicity  
 \_\_\_ Choir

**Check the area(s) below where you would be willing to volunteer your time:**

\_\_\_ Gifts and Grants      \_\_\_ Guild History      \_\_\_ Membership      \_\_\_ Programs      \_\_\_ Website Maintenance  
 \_\_\_ Newsletter/Advertising      \_\_\_ Reporting/Writing      \_\_\_ Photography      \_\_\_ Fund Raising  
 \_\_\_ Accounting/Bookkeeping      \_\_\_ Public Relations      \_\_\_ Parliamentary Procedure      \_\_\_ Guild Retreat

2. **I am interested in:** \_\_\_\_\_ Presenting a program      \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching a workshop

3. **Suggestions for programs, lectures or workshops:** *(Use back of page please)*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Round Robin

Helen Kearney has announced the 2020 Round Robin activity for Wa Shonaji. As an example, she displayed a Medallion Quilt, the result of a previous Round Robin.

She explained how it will work:

- A participant makes the center block (specific guidelines will be provided).
- At least 5 participants are needed.
- The center block is passed around the group as each participant adds a round.
- Blocks should be passed on in a timely manner. Count on about 4–6 weeks for the block exchanges to occur.
- The final quilt will be revealed in December at the Holiday Luncheon meeting.

Contact Helen if you'd like to participate.



## Committee Reports

### Programs

♪ **The more we quilt together, the happier we'll be!** ♪  
January 14—Sew-In provides 4 hours to sew on anything your heart desires. Plus a demo on free motion quilting!

### Exhibits

#### Columbine Quilt Guild

January 13, 2020—Trunk Show for Columbine Quilt Guild, 6:30 pm, Arvada United Methodist Church, 6750 Carr Street, Arvada, CO 80004

For the most part, the script will reflect the quilts you, the members, provide the committee. Notify Joann Walton if you have a quilt to display but haven't told her yet. Please **bring those quilts to the January 4 meeting** or make arrangements to get them to Joann. We will meet at the Church at 5:30 to get organized for the Trunk Show.

Thanks for your support of this Guild activity.

### Membership

It's time to **renew** your Wa Shonaji membership for 2020! Still a bargain at \$30 (print the Membership Form opposite and see opinions on page 12).

*Or* on the RMWSQG website, washonaji.com, click on the Members' Area and log in. In the dropdown menu, click on Forms to print the 2020 Membership Form. Bring your completed Membership Form with a check or cash to Treasurer Nannette Locke at the January 4 meeting or mail it to her.

Failure to pay dues by the February meeting will result in the loss of access to the newsletter and to the password-protected portions of the website. Further, after attending one meeting as a guest, a \$5 fee will be charged for every meeting you attend as a nonmember.

## Is Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild a Good Value for Your Dues?

If Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild could operate on quilty love, the guild is set for the long run. With a small sampling of about 20 percent of the membership responding, the results should not be considered conclusive. But what these few responses lack in quantity, they make up in enthusiasm.

Is the Guild a Good Value for your \$30 Annual Dues?

Members responded with a unanimous YES, calling the dues “well spent,” a “good value,” “one of the greatest deals ever,” “a 10!” Camaraderie and the opportunity to learn are the two primary benefits derived.

“The camaraderie found among our sister and brother quilters, who share the same interest in quilting and the art of quilting as I do,” is a fulfilling part of participation in the guild. Members cited kindness and hugs as part of the trademark Wa Shonaji friendship.

That friendship stretches into and shapes the learning arena, where Wa Shonaji lives its motto “Each One, Teach One” by providing a comfortable and safe place to learn. Members cite the value of helpful critiques and suggestions for improvements and/or alternatives where one’s works are not judged. This atmosphere serves to improve everyone’s work.

Workshops, demonstrations, and participation in trunk shows and exhibits also extend our quilt

knowledge. And the high quality of Wa Shonaji quilts challenges each member to improve his/her own skills. No standing still here!

More insights and comments:

Show and Share alone is worth every penny of the dues, according to several members. I hold my head high when the name Wa Shonaji is mentioned in the quilting community. Members not only enjoy but learn from each opportunity to see the amazing quilts of our talented membership.

But of course, there are different points of view: the guild’s strength was credited to a Board that keeps the train on the tracks, and the engine well oiled. But cracks might be starting due to “a disorganized Board” that’s like “herding cats,” causing frustration.

One member said, “I consider the membership fee to be a donation to the common good.” Like others, she recognizes the basics that the dues provide:

a nice room to meet in, snacks, and project supplies. Workshops are also supported by our dues. It was suggested that we spend more of our assets to bring more and different talent (outside teachers) to teach classes.

And a final guild value mentioned is the value of diversity. “Wa Shonaji challenges my assumptions about race.” While the guild promotes all quilting, particularly African American quilting, it also teaches us about more than quilting; our similarities and our differences also help us learn about life.

Worth its weight in gold!



## Pennie Finds Links to the Past, Future Challenges in Quilting

*Pennie Estrada submitted the following memories as part of her assessment of Wa Shonaji's value to her. I thought it was so special that it needed to be shared. She agreed to this and to let you know who wrote it.*

I thought I was a quilter before I joined Wa Shonaji because I watched my grandmother make all of her quilts by hand. The quilts Grandma made were for us to use during the cold winters of Colorado. I grew up with wood burning stoves to heat the house so, needless to say, we needed heavy quilts. The quilts Grandma made were never for display. They consisted of denim, wool, and corduroy blocks.

I'd never heard of quilting bees and the like. What I saw was Grandma sitting with her needle and thread while we visited. We even had to thread her needles for her because of her poor eyesight. I'm now my Grandma. She'd sit in a rocking chair with heavy nylons up to her knees, held up by a thick black rubber band and her black ankle top heels.

I remember being fascinated as I watched her sew every single stitch perfectly by hand. In my adult life, I asked what the stitches were called because I wanted to look it up. Grandma had 16 kids and not a single one had a name for the stitch. My mother explained they never really



knew the names for Grandma's stitch, but she called it a chicken stitch because that's what it reminded her of. I'm still working on that stitch but have a long way to go.

What I've received from Wa Shonaji is tough to put into words. I knew how to embroider but never knew to put a design into my quilt. I never knew to appliqué art into my quilt. I never knew what quilting was. I "thought" quilting was something you did to bind the sandwich (top, batting, and bottom) every inch or so. That process consisted of tying a bow through the 3 layers. Even at that, I liked the way Grandma quilted.

I love the show and share part of the program but had convinced myself I wasn't that talented. I didn't know how to measure a triangle, block etc. I'd daydream of myself doing what other Wa Shonaji members are doing. I didn't even know about all the books and patterns available.

I've been blessed to learn of this whole new world of quilting. The stash giveaways are a real treat to me. When I shop for fabric, I could not find the beautiful material the members are using. I learned from our meetings the different kinds of fabric and fabric makers.

Venturing out into different quilt shows opened my eyes to the limitless opportunities. I attended the men's exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum and saw a quilt a man had made that looked so much like my grandma and grandpa. I was stunned.

Wa Shonaji is one of the greatest gifts I've received because the learning is never ending. Out of necessity and ease comes the beautiful art and the desire to learn.

## 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](http://www.washonaji.org) or email [washonaji@gmail.com](mailto:washonaji@gmail.com)

## Textile Doin's in the Area

### Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum [www.rmqm.org](http://www.rmqm.org)

Sunday at the Museum, 2–4 p.m., January 12, 2020, Jennifer Rapacki, Creativity Unleashed: Modern Technology for the Quilter

Current exhibit—In the British Fashion: English Paper Pieced Quilts & English Paper Pieced Quilts from the Museum Collection, through Jan 18, 2020

Hexie Ladies, English Paper Piecing Group, no cost, first Tuesday of each month, 1–3 pm

Upcoming Exhibit—The Boys Are Back In Town: RMQM's Biennial Exhibit of Quilts Made by Men (including Wa Shonaji's Steve Bowley!) & David Taylor's One Man Show, Jan 20, 2020, to April 25, 2020; opening reception 6 pm, Fri., Jan 24

### Columbine Quilt Guild

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

Monday, Jan 13, 6:45 p.m., Trunk Show by Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild (Whoo hoo!)

Monday, Feb 10, 6:45 p.m., Sweetheart Sew-In

### Arapahoe County Quilt Guild [www.acqcolorado.org](http://www.acqcolorado.org)

Thursday, Jan 9, 6:20 pm, Demo Night

Thursday, Feb 13, 6:20 pm, Making Faces with Lea McComas

Friday, Feb 13, & Saturday, Feb 14, Applique Portrait Quilts (2-day workshop), Holly's Quilt Cabin

### Front Range Contemporary Quilters [www.artquilters.org](http://www.artquilters.org)

FRQG meets at the Westminster Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Blvd. from 7 to 9 pm every third Monday, Jan–Nov

Jan 20, Victoria Eubanks

Feb 17, Jan Carson

### Denver Metro Modern Quilt Guild

[denvermetromodernquiltguild.org](http://denvermetromodernquiltguild.org)

The guild meets at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. See the guild's Facebook page for more info.

Thank you to Sandra Coleman for additional photos of the Holiday Luncheon. And to DeLois Powell for proofreading this newsletter!

Editor Julie Marsh, [juliemarsh11@comcast.net](mailto:juliemarsh11@comcast.net)