



# Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

November 2024



## November, December Meetings Point Toward the Holidays



The next two monthly meetings of Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild are the year's most festive! Mark your calendar to join us!

**November 9**, we'll vote for 2025 officers and conduct our business meeting, then be treated to Round Robin demonstrations on decorations and gifts, such as rope bowls and bowl cozies. No supplies required; no member fee.

**December 7**, the Holiday Luncheon—at a new venue, with a new menu—will be held 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hilton Garden Inn, 14275 Lincoln Street, Thornton, CO. Exit I-25 at 144th Avenue.

Pay \$40 each by check or cash at the Nov 9 meeting or by mail with your menu selection to Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild, PO Box 370405, Denver CO 80237-0405 to Geneva Lottie by **November 15, 2024**. See the delicious menu below.

No refunds will be made after Nov 15; if you cannot come, try to find someone to take your place.

All dinner selections are served with freshly baked focaccia bread and family-style house salad. Iced tea and water will be provided. Alterations for food allergies or sensitivities must be requested in advance.

**Ricotta-Spinach Ravioli (Vegetarian)** Cheese filled raviolis in stone-ground mustard cream sauce with sautéed spinach and herb roasted seasonal vegetables. Contains egg and cheese.

**Steak and Shrimp Diane (GF)** 6 oz. filet topped with Dijon mustard and brandy sauce, served with three gulf shrimp and whipped cheesy potatoes.

**Cedar Planked Salmon (GF)** Salmon roasted on a cedar plank and glazed with apricot butter, served with seasonal vegetables.

**Chicken Piccata (GF)** 8 oz. chicken breast dredged in flour and sautéed in lemon, butter, white wine, capers, and red onion, served with seasonal vegetables and whipped cheesy potatoes.

**Steak Diavolo** 9 oz. top sirloin served with three jumbo shrimp, spicy tomato sauce and balsamic drizzle, served with broccolini and whipped cheesy potatoes

And for dessert—a Wa Shonaji Cake!

Don't miss this always fun celebration with your quilting friends! Mr. and Mrs. Wright will be there, for sure!

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### Upcoming Programs

- November 9—Holiday gift/ decoration demos
- December 7—Holiday Luncheon
- January 4—Dresden Plate Tote Bag (see page 4)
- February 1—Black History Month, "My Heritage/My Legacy," Cassandra Sewell
- March 8—Sew In for 2025 Birthday Comfort Quilts
- April 5—Censorship vs. Artistic Expression, Zoom speaker Allyson Allen

## President's Message

### *What's Next?*

Can you all believe we are closing in on the end of 2024? We've had a lot going on, including a garden party featuring quilts from our own Wa Shonaji members; a trunk show in Johnstown, CO; and participation in Lakewood, CO, Cider Days. We were awesome at all those events; thank you to everyone who organized and/or supported them.

In November, we will resume our regularly scheduled meetings. (At that meeting, we will vote on the slate of officers for 2025. If you would like to be considered for a Guild office or committee leader, please let Nanci Vaughn know [nacivaughn234@comcast.net] so she can advise the Nominating Committee.) We will also have

demonstrations on quilted Christmas gifts and decorations. The Beginner's Quilting class will also resume.

In December, we will have our Christmas Luncheon at the Hilton in Thornton, CO. With the holidays around the corner, now is the time to finish that Christmas quilt you've been working on.

Finally, we need your input/ideas on what you would like to see in the 2025 program year. This could include classes, travel, lectures, etc. Your ideas will allow the Board to potentially deliver a more enjoyable program to our membership. Thank you for your input in advance.

Have fun quilting!

—Joette Bailey-Keown, President

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## Wa Shonaji Members Join Modern Quilt Guild for Sew Day

The Denver Modern Quilt Guild (DMQG)\* graciously invited other quilters to their October 19 Sew Day, at the Whisper Creek Police Station in Arvada. Linda White and Chris Jacques enjoyed chatting with the six DMQG members and Eliu Hernandez, Wa Shonaji's June speaker, as we all worked on our own projects.

Half the group worked on finishing edges or hand quilting. Eliu and other members were racing to complete pieces in time for QuiltCon's entry deadline at the end of October.

Eliu was hand-sewing yellow strips to his foundational denim quilt, to represent fingerprints. Fingers crossed for him to finish by the QuiltCon entry deadline. Others were machine

piecing, including DMQG President Susan Goddard on her Featherweight.



At least two sewists were working on their own original designs. Linda and Chris especially admired an irregular inset circle in pastel colors with machine quilting drawn as a vector for scaling in Adobe Illustrator. The fractured foundation paper pieced cactus was also colorful, in a different palette.

About the venue: Police stations aren't usually thought of as clean, or bright, or spacious. The Whisper Creek Police Station is all that and at no charge to Arvada residents! Let's keep it in mind, when Wa Shonaji's board needs a quiet space for planning. We'll look forward to the next sew date with our modern friends!

—Chris Jacques and Linda White

\* You may recall that DMQG joined Wa Shonaji in the Denver International Airport exhibition.

## Committee Reports

### Membership

Membership renewal is expected by January 1. The dues will continue to be \$40.00 per year. The dues will include a pass to take a \$10 class during the 2025 membership year. Membership registration forms will be available online anytime; printed forms will be available at the Christmas luncheon. Please, even if you have been a member for 30 years, complete a registration form in order to verify that your personal information is correct. That information is vital to keeping you informed about the guild's activities and allows our leadership to know how you might like to serve. Our Wa Shonaji motto is "Each one teach one." In 2025 I'd like to add "Each one reach one" by inviting a friend to a meeting. Each of us helps make Wa Shonaji **awesome**.

—Deborah Sweatt

### Comfort Quilts

This quarter Wa Shonaji received two comfort quilts from member Chris Jacques. Way to go, Chris!

We also gifted one quilt this quarter, which brings the total of comfort quilts in our inventory to 22.

Keep sewing and growing members. ;-)

—Nanci Vaughn



No one has claimed this pillowcase! Could it be yours? Please contact Joette Bailey-Keown.

### Anniversary Crazy Quilt

The crazy quilt is almost finished. Our target date for completion is in time to be on display at the Christmas Luncheon. A special thanks to Julie, Stephanie, Joanne, Glenda, Deborah, Brenda, Kathy, Sandra, Gloria and Mary. They worked tirelessly the past month to tack on pearls to hold the sandwiched quilt together. It was no easy feat but we got it done. Joanne and Brenda will hand-stitch the binding onto the quilt. It speaks for itself—30 years of what we do best!

—Connie Turner



*Lots of talking and stitching goes into finishing a quilt! Clockwise from top: Mary Lassiter, Kathy Byers, Deborah Sweatt, and Connie Turner.*



*Some counting is also involved. From left: Glenda Trees, Sandra Coleman, Connie Turner, and Gloria Montgomery.*

## YOU Can Make this Great Tote Bag— Sign Up for Jan 4 Workshop



My name is Di Nyce Brooks-Gough, and I am a native New Yorker. I have been sewing since I was six years old.

In the past, I have sewn wardrobes for clients as well as drapes and furniture slipcovers.

I made my first quilt before my first son was born. I am also a knitter.

I am looking forward to facilitating the first workshop of 2025.

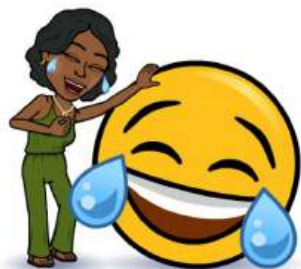
Sign up/pay at the Nov 9 meeting. Contact is Linda White.



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## Advice from a 1949 Singer Sewing Machine Manual

**Physically.** When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Go through a beauty ritual of orderliness. Have on a clean dress. Be sure your hands are clean, finger nails smooth—a nail file and pumice will help. Always avoid hang-nails. Keep a little bag full of French chalk near your sewing machine where you can pick it up and dust your fingers at intervals. This not only absorbs the moisture on your fingers, but helps to keep your work clean. Hae your hair inn order, powder and lipstick put on with care. Looking attractive is a very important part of sewing, because if you are making something for yourself, you will try it on at intervals in front of your mirror, and you can hope for better results when you look your best.



Again, sewing must be approached with the idea that you are going to enjoy it, and if you are constantly fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband come home and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing as you should. Therefore, “spruce up” at the beginning so that you are free to enjoy every part of any sewing you do.

## Wa Shonaji Concludes Summer with Quilter's Garden Party

The Quilter's Garden Party took place September 14, in the backyard of Ann and Victor Worsencroft in Lakewood. It was a nice, sunny, breezy, and hot day. Quilts by guild members were on display. There were quilts of assorted sizes, styles, colors, themes, and techniques. Overall, 31 members and 11 guests attended the party, and 39 quilts were displayed.

Those who arrived early began the day by hanging and displaying the quilts that members had brought. As more members arrived, the garden party kicked off, and we socialized and admired all of the different quilts. Then, we ate lunch. It was a huge potluck with a large selection of items and a myriad of desserts.

After lunch, Brenda Ames, Joanne Walton, and Stephanie Hobson conducted a bed-turning that commemorated Marcia Walker and Artie Johnson. Joanne and Stephanie held the quilts, while Brenda talked about each.

For those who may not know, a bed-turning is a way of displaying a quilt and recounting its tale. The Ozark Piecemaker's Quilt Guild describes a bed-turning as "...a way to display quilts while telling their story. Bed turnings originated long



*Second from left by Chris Jacques; the rest by Camilla Edwards.*



*Joanne Walton and Stephanie Hobson show off Artie's quilt, while Brenda describes it.*



*Nancy Adamchuk and De Lois Powell chat over lunch.*

ago as a social event. A married woman might hold a Bed Turning. Her quilts would be piled on top of each other on a bed. The hostess would then turn back each quilt, one by one, as she talked about each quilt."

Three of Marcia's quilts were shown during the bed-turning: "Delectable Mountains," "Time Marches On," and "Blues." Three of Artie's quilts were also shown. They are as follows (with the descriptions of them by Artie):

**"Women of Influence: Leaders of the Suffrage Movement"**

*Women weren't allowed to vote until 1919,*

## More Garden Party...

with the passage of the 19th Amendment. However, they could always make quilts. Some were signature quilts, used as fundraisers. This quilt celebrates the lives of 12 historic women who dared to question why women weren't afforded the right to vote. Each block tells the story of a woman who stood up against the conventions of the day, and whose life's work led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, thus allowing women to vote. This quilt was a RMWSG block of the month.

### “Where Poppies Grow”

This is a quilt honoring those who served in World War I. Red poppies and blue forget-me-nots remind us of the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our country. Since 1922, members of the VFW have sold red poppies on Veterans Day. The proceeds provide support for veteran services and welfare. The Disabled American Veterans of the World War officially organized on September 25, 1921, and had their first Forget-Me-Not Day in 1926.

### “Threads of Memory”

This quilt is a Civil War quilt pattern and block of the month sampler from 2014 by Barbara Brackman. It contains 12 original 12-inch pieced star designs. It has an Underground Railroad theme, each named for an important place where the UGRR assisted slaves on the road to freedom. Each block symbolizes a true story about slavery, escape, emancipation, and freedom. The blocks are named after locations important in the history of American slavery. The Underground Railroad is an American adventure story that continues to fascinate us 200 years and more after the nation was created half-slave and half-free.

The Quilter's Garden Party was lovely. It was a day filled with friends, love, and beautiful quilts. Many thanks to Ann and Victor Worsencroft for hosting, Netta Toll for organizing the food/drink contributions, Joanne Walton for organizing the quilt contributions, and to those who helped set up the quilt displays.

—by Daryn Miller



Quilt by Di Nyce Brooks-Gough



Louie Walker photo-bombs Joette Bailey-Keown.



Threads of Memory by Barbara Brackman, in the collection of Artie Johnson.

More Garden Party...



Above left, Julie Marsh (this is Julie's #2 UFO—finished!); above right, Mary Pilling and Lynesha Laws; at left, Reniese Johnson, Camilla Edwards, Barbara Robinson, and Glenda Trees; below left, quilts by Joanne Walton, Daryn Miller, Karen Von Phul; below right, Di Nyce Brooks-Gough, Cassandra Sewell, and Chris Jacques clean their plates.



More Garden Party...



Quilters enjoy lunch and good company.



Di Nyce Brooks-Gough carried her big orange bag (See page 4 to make your own bag!) and promoted Crafters for Kamala.



At left, Joanne Walton; below, the quilts of Joette Bailey-Keown (left) and Camilla Edwards (right) celebrate African dancers.





## Wa Shonaji Shares Craft at Lakewood Cider Days

Lakewood celebrated its 48th annual **Cider Days Festival** at Belmar Park Oct 5 and 6. An invitation to participate was extended to Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild and accepted.

Cider Days is a family tradition that celebrates the agricultural harvest season with apple-themed foods and drinks and farm activities. Other family oriented activities included square dancing, magic show, live radio broadcast, Colorado's largest tractor pull, wagon and train rides, burro rides, animal petting zoo, a straw-bale maze, and face painting. For adults, a beer garden, hard cider and wine tasting. Many vendors were selling their personal creations of jewelry, home décor, clothes, and foods.

The Belmar Park grounds have vintage 1940s replica buildings including gas station, Ethel's Beauty Shop and Variety Store, an old farm house, and a one-room schoolhouse with pot belly stove. This is where crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, and yarn spinning were demonstrated.

The schoolhouse is also where the Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild was introduced, displayed, and demonstrated quilts and quilting techniques. Parents and children participated in a guild-sponsored Make-n-Take pin cushion project with instruction by guild members. Children (and their parents) were taught how to do a running stitch around a



*Sandra Coleman demonstrates a technique to children at Cider Days.*

circle of fabric, stuff the project with poly-fill, and complete the process.

Participating guild members included Priscilla Brown, Joanne Walton, Linda White, Chris Jacques, Kathy Byers, Connie Turner, Geneva Lottie, Deborah Sweatt, Sandra Coleman, Netta Toll, and Susan Morrison. De Lois Powell and Adrienne Bryant and their friends stopped by. Thanks to Susan for recommending us to the Heritage Festival Committee.

Smiles warmed the old schoolhouse as everyone displayed their beautiful pin cushions. It was a weekend well spent. Share the fun and join us next year.

—Sandra Coleman



*Joanne Walton provides supplies for Make-n-Take pin cushions.*

More Cider Days...



*Above, Linda White and Stephanie Hobson welcome Cider Days attendees to learn about quilting.*

*At right, Joanne Walton and Kathy Byers share enthusiasm about quilting.*



*Chris Jacques demonstrates ....*



*Stephanie Hobson and Priscilla Brown talk quilting with Cider Days attendees.*

## Civil Rights Quilts?... Almost Done!

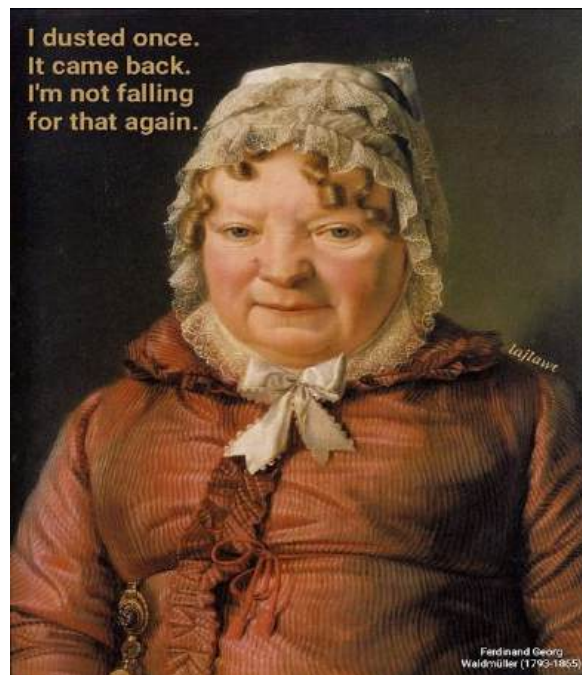


When a quilter says a quilt is “almost done,” it could mean a wide range of things but... in this case, it means that the two quilt tops are actually finished. As you can see, a lot of artistry went into the construction of each block. The individual artistry is actually what makes these quilts so spectacular. Our thanks to Nanci Vaughn, Mary Lassiter, Deborah Sweatt, Geneva Lottie, Julie Marsh, Joanne Walton, Karen Von Phul, Stephanie Hobson, and Monica Lynn. Artie Johnson, who made the Rosa Parks block, was the first person to complete her blocks.

Joanne Walton has volunteered to complete the backing. It will then be sent to a quilter. Brenda Ames has been asked to do the binding. The goal is still to complete these quilts by the end of October so that they can be presented and sent by the end of 2024.

Finally, because most of the blocks contain text about the civil rights leaders, I’m recommending that we create a book or poster to accompany the quilts so that people viewing the quilts can read the text in each block. That task is still to be assigned!

—Joette Bailey-Keown



## Quilting Vocabulary for Beginners (and Old Hands Too)

**Acid-free materials.** Paper products, including tissue paper, cardboard tubes and boxes made especially for the storage of textiles. They do not contain the chemicals, normally found in wood and paper products, that can weaken and destroy fabric over time.

**Applique.** A cut fabric shape stitched to another piece of fabric.

**Backing.** Fabric used for the bottom layer of a quilt.

**Batting.** The middle layer of a quilt, which provides loft and warmth.

**Bias.** The diagonal of a piece of fabric. A true bias is at a 45-degree angle to both the lengthwise and crosswise grainlines of the fabric. The greatest amount of stretch in a woven fabric is on the true bias.

**Binding.** The strip of fabric used to enclose the edges of the three layers of a quilt.

**Block.** A square unit, usually made up of pieces of fabric sewn together in a design. Blocks are combined to make a quilt top.

**Borders.** Strips of fabric forming a frame around the quilt top. Borders may be plain or pieced.

**Chainstitching.** Sewing seams of several fabric pieces without breaking the stitching between the pieces. Also called chaining.

**Fat quarter.** A half-yard (0.5 m) of fabric, cut down the middle to measure 18" x 22" (46 x 56 cm). This is the equivalent of a quarter-yard (0.25 m) of fabric.



Detail of Karen von Phul's *Fantastic Stitching* quilt...

**Free motion quilting.** See freehand quilting.

**Freehand quilting.** Guiding the quilt through the sewing machine by using your hands, rather than pressure from the feed dogs and presser foot. Also called free motion quilting.

**Lattice.** See sashing.

**Loft.** The thickness and springiness of the batting.

**Machine-guided quilting.** Guiding the quilt through the sewing machine using pressure from the feed dogs and presser foot.

**Medallion quilt.** Quilt top with a central motif, usually framed by multiple borders.

**Miter.** To join corners at a 45-degree angle.

**Piecing.** Stitching together pieces of fabric to create a larger unit.

**Quilt.** A bedcover or wall hanging made by stitching together a top fabric, batting, and backing fabric.

**Quilting.** Stitching through a top fabric, a batting layer, and a backing fabric in a design to add texture and to hold layers together.

**Sampler quilt.** A pieced quilt made up of many different block designs, rather than a single, repeated block design.

**Sashing.** Strips of fabric, plain or pieced, that divide the blocks in a quilt. Also called lattice.

**Set.** The way blocks are positioned in a quilt. They may be arranged in straight or diagonal rows.

**Strip-piecing.** Creating pieced designs from long strips of fabric by stitching the strips together, cutting them crosswise, and then stitching the pieces together to form a design.

**Template.** A pattern made of plastic or cardboard, used to trace cutting or stitching lines onto fabric.

**Template-free.** A method for cutting pieces using a ruler, instead of a template, as a guide.

**Tied quilt.** A quilt that is held together with ribbon or yarn rather than with quilting stitches.

—Quilting Basics from *The Quilting Bible*

**SHOW AND SHARE Completed Quilt**

Please PRINT LEGIBLY—2 forms per quilt

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ width X \_\_\_\_\_ length

Quilt Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dominant Color \_\_\_\_\_

Maker Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Quilter (if artist did not quilt): \_\_\_\_\_

Pattern Source or Original Design? Inspiration? No more than 3 sentences.

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**SHOW AND SHARE Completed Quilt**

Please PRINT LEGIBLY—2 forms per quilt

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ width X \_\_\_\_\_ length

Quilt Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dominant Color \_\_\_\_\_

Maker Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Quilter (if artist did not quilt): \_\_\_\_\_

Pattern Source or Original Design? Inspiration? No more than 3 sentences.

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**UFO for SHOW AND SHARE Completed Quilt**

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ width X \_\_\_\_\_ length

Quilt Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dominant Color \_\_\_\_\_

Maker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Quilt \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Quilter (if artist did not quilt): \_\_\_\_\_

Pattern Source or Original Design? What was the inspiration? No more than 3 sentences.

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**UFO for SHOW AND SHARE Completed Quilt**

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ width X \_\_\_\_\_ length

Quilt Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dominant Color \_\_\_\_\_

Maker Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Quilt \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Quilter (if artist did not quilt): \_\_\_\_\_

Pattern Source or Original Design? What was the inspiration? No more than 3 sentences.

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## November Birthdays

3rd – Valerie White  
4th – Vicki Tomlin  
8th – Nonetta Pierre  
14th – Breanna Tomlin  
25th – Luana Rubin  
25th – Teri Washington  
29th – Gwendolyn Cobb-Grimes



Image from Microsoft word

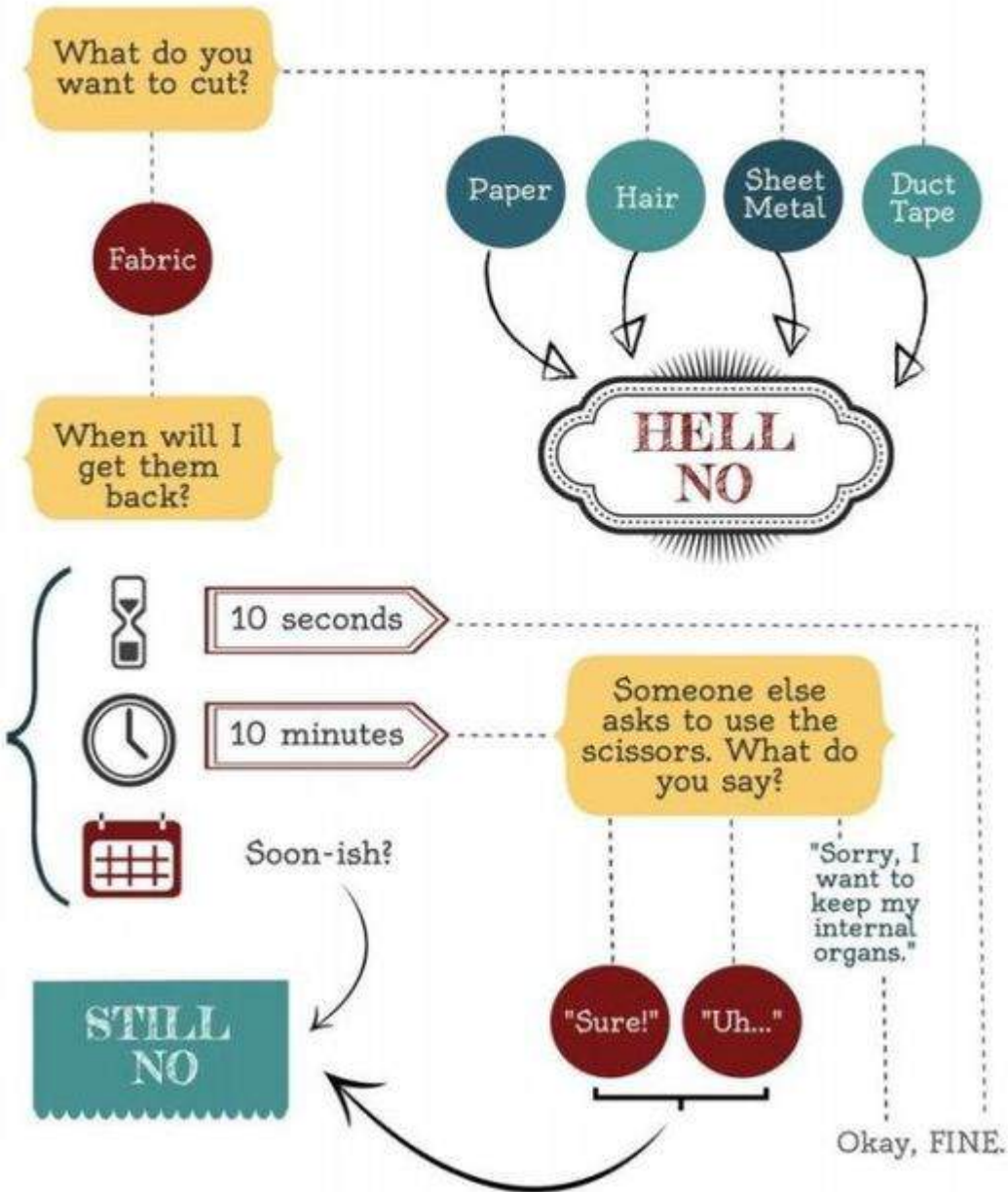
## December Birthdays

5th – Glenda Trees  
5th – Nanci Vaughn  
8th – Julie Marsh  
10th – Stephanie Hobson  
10th – Al White  
12th – Alfreda Kemper  
14th – Edith Shelton  
15th – Kathy Byers

# ✂ Can I Borrow Your ✂

## FABRIC SCISSORS?

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## 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.*

*Quilting Emergency! Sister answers a desperate call for help.*

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a sewing machine was whirring. Sister Stitcher had truly finished all her projects in time for the holiday! Better, they were all wrapped and under the tree. The ones for far-flung family and friends had gone to the post office three weeks ago. The house was clean, the turkey was thawed. Sister had nothing to do but relax.

And relax she did, with a cup of Darjeeling tea, in front of her television. Mr. Stitcher was in his workshop, so the remote was all hers. What to watch? Sister clicked to "This Christmas," which seemed to be on a loop. She put her feet up and snuggled under a Star of Bethlehem quilt.

"Sister?"

Hmm? No one there. Sister settled back down.

And there that soft voice was again.

"Sister?"

Now who on earth was calling for her at 9 o'clock on Christmas Eve?

"Sister, I need your help."

That chubby girl standing by the tree must be talking to her. How'd she get into the house?

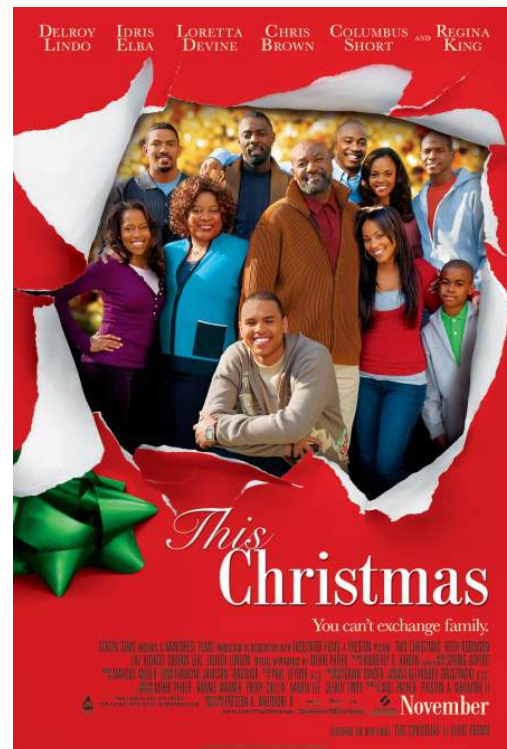
"Hi. I'm Mrs. Claus. I'm sorry to barge in on you; the side door was open. Your husband's doing some sort of work in the garage.

"Santa's got a supply chain problem, Sister. You know how bad things have been in this world, especially for children. Santa got it in his head that we could deliver a quilt to every child this Christmas Eve. I've been sewing nonstop since December 26 of last year! I'm close to done, but I need to finish binding and labeling the last quilts. The Magi thought you might step up. Can you help me?"

Sister could see that the chubby girl was actually white-haired. She wore a red dress, a white apron, and had a shawl draped around her shoulders.

"Uh, hello. You must be...Mrs. Claus?"

"Yes. I wanted to hyphenate, but Santa thought Hernandez-Claus was too much for children to pronounce."



"Pleased to meet you. Let me get this straight: you spent all of 2024 sewing quilts for each and every child on this earth?"

"Well, I took a weekend for retreat."

"Well, yeah. But you did this because your no-account HUSBAND made a promise that he expected YOU to keep for him?"

"Like you say, Sister, well, yeah." Mrs. Claus shrugged. "He wasn't thinking of anything but the children. He sees so much, being the globetrotter he is. This year has been a bad one, Sister, especially for children. Did you know that 40 percent of the casualties in Gaza were children? The Ukraine war is going on three years. Sudan is about as bad as Gaza. Remember Hurricane Helene, and Milton, and how families lost everything? Refugee families crossing the

## More Sister Stitcher..

Darien Gap didn't have anything to start with. And Sister, we haven't even talked about the more run-of-the-mill tragedies: house fires, or parents out of work."

Mrs. Claus sighed. "Santa got a little carried away, and I can't blame him." Sister nodded. Mr. Stitcher was a soft touch too.



"So this year I've been sewing up a storm. My shoulder started to hurt just as I got to Venezuela. But when I think of those little faces lighting up, it's all good. I just need to bind and label these last few."

"A few doesn't sound bad. How many quilts?"

"Ten thousand." Mrs. Claus looked at Sister with hope in her eyes. Sister kept her face calm. Inwardly, she screamed.

Ten thousand? What dream world did this girl live in? And didn't she know it was Christmas Eve?

Of course Mrs. Claus knew that better than anyone else on earth.

"I hate asking, but I'm really in a bind, Sister."

Sister couldn't turn down the pleading face of another quilter, especially one who could make a pun under stress.

"Well, I can't say no if the Magi thought I could help. Where are we laying out all these quilts?"

Mrs. Claus clapped her hands. "Thank you, Sister! Let's go back to my sewing room. We should have this done in no time." Sister grabbed her sweater, and off they went.



The small cabin looked inviting, glowing in the snow. Sister and Mrs. Claus stood in the large but crowded sewing room next to ten piles of quilts, all squared and ready to go. Sister gaped at the textile towers. "Did you do all this yourself?"

"Really, it was nothing. I just kept cutting and sewing. I have binding already made up, on these rolls here. Pins are here, and my turning tool is here."

Sister thought for a moment. Now that she looked at the task, 10,000 was more than even her guild could manage. "Mrs. Claus, did the elves help you at all?"

Mrs. Claus laughed. "They were much too busy with their own work this year. Right now, they're all down at the Elf Shelf, celebrating the end of another toymaking season."

"If we have any hope of getting these quilts done in time for Santa, I'd say we need their help too. Could we get them up here?"

"Some of them wouldn't know a sewing machine from a tractor." Mrs. Claus's face brightened. "But the elves who sew teddy bears at least know how to stitch a seam. The others could write the labels and hand-sew them on."

"No harm in asking."

To the Shelf they went. To say the pub was full of elves was an understatement. If Sister heard one more jingle bell, it would be too soon.

Mrs. Claus threaded their way to the tallest one. Only 5 feet tall, but George the Foreman was a commanding presence. And tonight, he was a veritable Casanova, brandy snifter in hand, surrounded by a



## More Sister Stitcher..

bevy of wide-eyed elf maidens. As Mrs. Claus explained their mission, his face went from Kindly Elf to Stubborn Elf.

“Oh, no, Mrs. C. We have worked our little elf fingers to the bone, and we’re ready to bust loose! Can’t you hear the band tuning up? It’s time for the Jingle Shmingle! Now, if you’ll excuse me, ma’am?” He winked, tipped his elf cap, and turned back to his bodacious babes.

Mrs. Claus’s shoulders slumped under her shawl. Dejectedly, she turned away, tears in her eyes.

Sister stepped up and put a hand on his shoulder. “Hello, Mr. Foreman, I’m Sister Stitcher. I know this is a lot to ask, after you’ve worked so hard. I know it’s been a long season for you all. Believe me, I know how it feels when you think you’re done, and then not so much!



“But Mrs. Claus wouldn’t ask if she weren’t in a bad spot. She came all the way to my house to round me up! And I said yes, even though it’s Christmas Eve and I had ‘This Christmas’ teed up.

“I said yes, Mr. Foreman, because it’s been a bad year, especially for children. Forty percent of the casualties in Gaza were children. Forty percent! Ukraine and Sudan aren’t far behind. You were probably hunkered down putting toys together when Hurricanes Helene and Milton



wrecked, and I mean wrecked, the southern US. Families lost everything. And Mr. Foreman, we haven’t even talked about the usual tragedies. There are still house fires, and parents out of work. These children need some love. These children are why we work so hard.

“If you talented and generous elves could just give us a little bit of your time, we could get 10,000 quilts bound, labeled, wrapped, and loaded by hitching time. Every child in the world will feel some love. Repeat: that’s why we work so hard.

“What do you say, Mr. Foreman? Can’t you see those little faces lighting up?”

Stubborn Elf was now Marshmallow Elf. He motioned to the Toyland Band, and the room fell silent. He began, “Membership of North Pole Union Shop, Local 80403, can I talk to you for a minute?” While George Foreman rallied the troops, Mrs. Claus and Sister had a quick convo.

“You stole my line!”

Sister grinned. “It worked the first time, so why not a second? Stick with the winners, Mrs. C.”

“Call me Consuelo. It’s just us.”

It seemed to be a winning strategy. Elf voices were piping up: “I could carve a block, and then you could stamp the labels.” “I’ll help write the names.” “Come on, Plush Team! Straight seams are easier than teddy bears!” Soon the membership of North Pole Union Shop, Local 80403, was sorting itself into its teams, with George the Foreman’s guidance.

Back at the workshop, Sister and Mrs. Claus divided up the work and quickly set up an assembly line for each part of the process. Mr. Foreman and Mrs. Claus set up teams of runners, to shuttle quilts between binding, labeling, and packing. Sister and Natalie, the chief Plush Sewist, organized the binders into the Pin Team and the Sew Team. Gremlo, from Woodworkers, got his crew carving blocks for stamping in multiple languages, and writing labels under Natalie’s tutelage. She was a calligrapher in her spare time.

In his spare time Sheldon from Shipping (“I was named for my grandfather,” he said) did leatherwork. He proved to be wonderful at hand sewing the labels, but he was only one elf. Sheldon stepped out for a mo-

## More Sister Stitcher...

ment, and Sister heard a whistle. Suddenly there were more Cub Scouts than Sister had ever seen, crossed-legged on the floor and whipstitching labels. “I promised them a merit badge for this,” Sheldon grinned.

Sister stood in awe of this potentially illegal but definitely creative use of child labor. “Right, but Sheldon, what are Cub Scouts doing at the North Pole?”

“There are only five countries in the world that do not have Scouting—China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Andorra. I couldn’t let the North Pole be number 6.”

Sister agreed. The North Pole showed up for its own kids too.

Mrs. Claus, aka Consuelo, and Sister made more binding. Finished quilts, each with a label that Artie Johnson would have been proud to see, piled higher and higher. Before Sister knew it, all 10,000 of the quilts were bound, labeled, and wrapped. The Loading Dock Elves heaved all 10,000 onto the waiting sleigh.



George the Foreman called out, “Quitting Time, and I mean it this time!” He sauntered back to the Elf Shelf, a comely maiden on each arm and the membership of Local 80403 close behind. Sister and Mrs. Claus stepped into the clear Christmas Eve air.

Santa Claus was just checking Rudolph’s nose. “Hello there! You must be Sister Stitcher. Balthazar says hello. Thank you for helping with this project.”

“Pleased to meet you, Santa. Really, it was no trouble. The elves took charge; all Consuelo and I had to do was keep that binding coming. Your Cub Scouts were the best. Say, how many years have you been on this job, Santa?”

“More than I can count. I’ve seen some bad years, but 2024 was a doozy. I guess I over-promised when I said every child would have a quilt. But when I thought of those little faces lighting up, I couldn’t take it back. Mrs. Claus is a quilter, and quilters al-

ways rise to the occasion. Tell them what you need, and it’s done. You certainly did!



Santa grinned. “And I’m surprising her, Sister. We’re going to the Caymans for Valentine’s Day!”

“So are we, Santa! Do you think Mr. Stitcher and I could meet you and Consuelo there?”

“That would be wonderful! We rented a little house close to Seven Mile Beach.”

“We’re at the Grand Cayman Marriott. Mr. Stitcher went to college with the General Manager.” The conspirators fell silent as Mrs. Claus approached them, thermos in hand. She wrapped a scarf around Santa’s neck and gave him a fond kiss.

“Try to make it look like you nibbled the cookies the children leave out for you.”

“Let’s hope their parents leave out the Scotch! Thanks for making this happen. I knew I could count on you, Mrs. C.”

She blushed. “Just make smaller promises, Santa. Tell the Magi that Sister Stitcher and I say hello, will you?”

“Of course. And, Sister, thanks again for all your help. The world will be a little happier tomorrow because of what you did.”

Sister wiped her eyes. The Claus spirit was contagious.

Santa climbed up, flicked the reins, and the sleigh was off. Sister and Mrs. Claus watched it go, then turned back to the workshop. Some elves were just tidying up. “Would you stay for a dance, Sister?” Sheldon asked. “The Toyland Band does a nice version of ‘Moonlight in Vermont.’” Tempting, but it

## More Sister Stitcher...

looked to Sister like the pretty Natalie was lingering just a bit at the other end of the workshop, glancing at Sheldon's fine shoulders.

"I'm flattered, Sheldon. I've got to be on my way back to Mr. Stitcher, but I bet you can waltz Miss Natalie around the ballroom."



His face turned pink. "I'm sweet on her for sure."

"From the looks of it, the feeling is mutual. Faint heart never won the fair maiden, Sheldon."



Just then, Mrs. Claus came in, and they left the courting couple to their own devices.

In her own kitchen, Mrs. Claus handed Sister a cup of Darjeeling and a star-shaped sugar cookie. "Sister, I can't thank you enough for doing this. It was a superhuman effort."

"That's why we called in the elves, Consuelo!"

"Good one, Sister! I hope I can return the favor sometime, but I can't imagine how."

Sister remembered a challenging UFO that would just fit in her suitcase for February. "Oh, we'll think of something. Right now it's time for me to get back to Mr. Stitcher, before we go to Christmas brunch at my niece's house. It really has been a pleasure getting to know you, Consuelo."

"Same here! Promise me you won't tell anyone what my name is."

"A girl's got to have some mystery. Promise me you'll keep me and Mr. Stitcher on The Nice List."



"You're on permanently. Enjoy your Christmas!"

"You too, Consuelo." They hugged, and Sister headed.....

...Where? How? Suddenly she was in front of her television, with This Christmas teed up. For some reason, there was a set of Allen wrenches next to her still-hot tea. The star-shaped sugar cookie in her hand was the only proof that the last hours had actually happened.

Mr. Stitcher came in, looking harried. "Do you know where my Allen wrenches are?"

"Here you go."

He sighed loudly. "Thank you! The Lovato kid was "helping" me put together an exercise bike for his mom and two tricycles for the twins. I've been looking for them since 4 o'clock. And the instructions were in English, but not in any English I learned at school! Where is my WD-40?"

"I swear, the next time I impersonate Santa Claus, remind me that I don't have any elves." He yawned. "Good thing you're so organized. I bet they're still writing gift labels at that North Pole operation. You could teach them a thing or two!"

Now, that was Sister's best Christmas gift ever.



## Individual Thoughts on a Retreat Enjoyed in Togetherness

### **Brenda Ames**

Brrrr. Crisp mountain air, lots of snacks and a great time had by all. Read the pattern, cut and sew. Unsew. Ask for help and repeat the process.

Joanne will be calling for quilts for next year and the creations done at retreat will be right on target. New and Refreshing.

Former sewers now quilters merged the two and magic happened. Edith worked on a curved piece and relied on sewing skills to make it happen. Can't wait to see the finished product.



*Brenda Ames talks with Priscilla Brown while Kathy Byers and Deborah Sweatt focus on their projects.*

Additional information will be forthcoming in the newsletter. Pictures are stunning.

### **Kathy Byers**

Thank you for the opportunity to give my perspective on my first retreat. I LOVED IT! After the first day I was wondering if we could do that twice a year. What a wonderful time I had with my sista



*Large tables enable quilters to lay out designs, cut out fabric, pin a sandwich. Front, a Halloween quilt by Kathy Byers. Back, Netta Toll and Mary Lassiter have a quiet conversation.*



*The Snack Table, fully stocked, is integral to the success of the event and its products.*



*Stephanie Hobson's king-size bargello quilt*

## More Retreat...

stitchers. So much experience, knowledge, and talent available, all I had to do was ask and ask I did. Loved the camaraderie and the variety of things planned for each day. Loved the games and the prizes especially since I won! I would have liked to have an organized outside hike—not much maybe an hour or so.

On the other hand if we are to do retreat there again I think it should be emphasized that we bring a task lamp because as the night fell it got harder to see with their ceiling lights.

I also have to admit that I enjoyed not having to think about what was I going to eat because all our meals were ready and on time and snacks were plentiful.

I also came home feeling very accomplished and proud of the projects that I had worked on and completed.

What a beautiful time in a beautiful place!



*Nanci Vaughn encouraged the quilters to take a break and move!*



*Above, Priscilla Brown shows off her table runner!*



*At left, Mary Lassiter works on a second quilt in front of Julie Marsh's Twisted Wreath, Kathy Byers' table runner, Linda White's log cabins, and Karen von Phul's Fantastic Stitching quilt.*

More Retreat...



*Wa Shonaji Retreaters, from left: Netta Toll, Brenda Ames, Joette Bailey-Keown, Nanci Vaughn, Stephanie Hobson, Kathy Byers, Camille Gary, Karen von Phul, Priscilla Brown, Julie Marsh, Mary Lassiter, Edith Shelton (all the way from Arizona!), and Linda White. Joanne Walton and Deborah Sweatt had to leave early.*



*Outside our sewing room window, the familiar Mount Meeker watches over the quilters and provides inspiration.*



*After polishing off her bargello, Stephanie Hobson finished her Mariner's compass.*



## The Benefits of Hand Quilting

Imagine spending your afternoons surrounded by colorful fabrics, the gentle hum of a sewing needle gliding through soft layers, and the thrill of bringing your unique vision to life.

Hand quilting isn't just about creating beautiful quilts—it's a delightful adventure filled with numerous benefits. Whether you're looking to unwind, express your artistic flair, or connect with fellow quilters on the go at new and exciting locations, this timeless craft has something special to offer everyone. So, let's ditch our sewing machines—temporarily, of course; and unravel the many perks of hand quilting!



### Artistic Expression

Hand quilting provides an excellent outlet to personalize works with unique stitches and patterns. In addition, there is also an opportunity to embellish your quilt with unique objects ranging from beads to smaller works of art!

### Customization

In addition to using hand quilting as an opportunity to add more unique objects to your project, don't forget to customize! Hand quilting allows for easier customization of designs and patterns, enabling you to adapt your work to fit specific needs or preferences. In addition, hand quilting often results in a higher quality finish compared to machine quilting. The control over the stitches can lead to more precise and detailed work. Once your pattern of choice has been identified, put on your favorite podcast, or show, and engage in the meditative state of mindfulness and relaxation.



### Physical Engagement

While hand quilting engages the hands and provides gentle exercise, which can be great for improving dexterity and fine motor skills, it's important to call attention to one of the greatest benefits of hand quilting—mobility. There are so many places to engage in hand quilting. While sewing on the go is an option, meeting at a friend's house, or sewing in a new location such as a park is a wonderful way to enjoy a new space and be inspired. No matter where you decide to engage in hand quilting, it will provide opportunities to share techniques, ideas, and most important, the opportunity to finish projects with others.

For more ways to enjoy hand quilting, please find more resources below.

### Hand Quilting Resources:

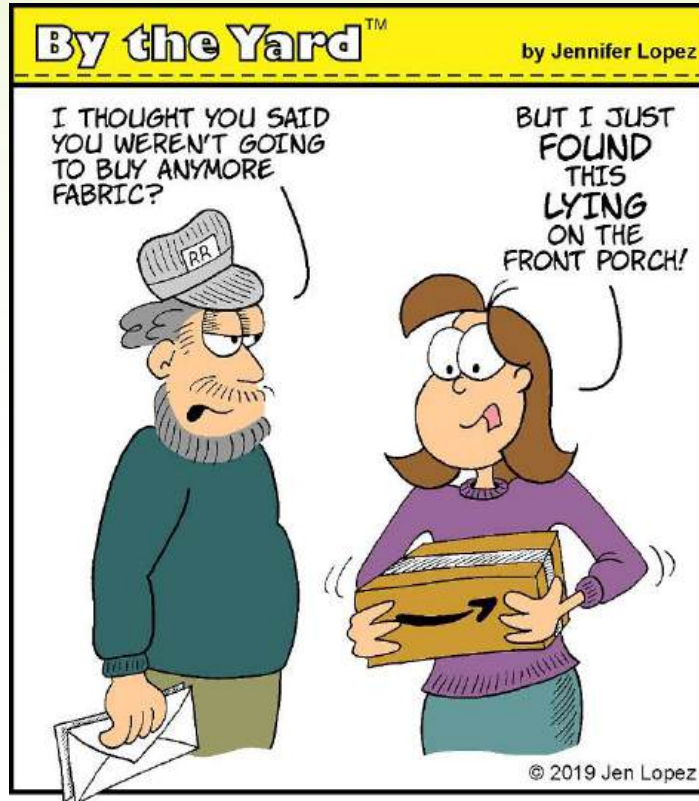
Alderwood Studio: [Hand Quilting](#)

Joz Makes Quilts: [Quilting 101, Lesson 7a- Quilting \(the hand quilting edition\)](#)

Quilting Digest: [6 Ways to Get Creative with Hand Quilting](#)

Patchwork & Poodles: [Hand Quilting Tips & Tricks](#)

—by Erin Jones



**PICKLES:** By Brian Crane



From the Denver Post, end of October 2024.

## The Chair Project—“Sitting in Power”

Shirley Chisholm’s vision of shifting power serves as the inspiration for this project. Referring to sitting at the tables where “powerful” folks made decisions on behalf of under-represented communities, she said, “If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a chair.”

In that spirit, on October 26 participants in the Sitting in Power arts workshop, facilitated by Master Artist Donald Calloway, created their own “power chairs.”

Wa Shonaji members Joette Bailey-Keown and Karen von Phul participated. A few other members may be working on their chairs as well.

Each piece turned out to be a beautiful stand-alone piece of art and a personal power statement.

The workshop was sponsored by Colorado Black Arts Movement where guild members assisted members of the Montbello community to make “No Sew” quilts this past fall.



*Joette Bailey-Keown’s chair.*



*A chair by Karen von Phul.*

## Do You Love Quilt Shows? Me Too!

By Beth Cooper, Nancy's Notions, October 11, 2023

Don't you just love a good quilt show? The inspiration! The colors! The patterns! I recently attended a small quilt show near my hometown and let's just say big quilt shows ain't got nothin' on these small town shows! There are definitely some hidden gems in these shows.

### Big Shows vs. Small Shows

I love all quilt shows, don't get me wrong. My favorite quilt show to attend each year is the American Quilter's Society's Spring show in Paducah, Kentucky. It's a huge juried show and there are hundreds of quilts on display and each and every one of them are masterpieces. They are amazing works of art that leave me in complete awe. The only problem (and not sure that it should be even be called a "problem") is that as just a regular quilter, it's hard to relate to these masterpieces. I stand in front of these beautiful quilts and soak in the artists' messages, but at the same time I am slightly downcast that I am not in that caliber of quilting. (Just being real here!) I doubt I could even come close to completing something like what I am viewing. Having said all that, I still love the big quilt shows! I love the creativity and the artistry of these quilters, and I will always cheer them on and be a fan of those with enormous quilting talent.

Now, let's talk about the small shows. I'm talking about your local quilt shows—the ones that might have 30 quilts, 50 quilts, or even a couple hundred quilts. These shows aren't international shows, usually just simply a show from the local quilt guild. And they are fantastic! These shows are inspirational and the projects are usually within reach of the average quilter. Just because it's a small show, doesn't mean that it's not full of creativity and skill. These quilters will blow you away as well!

### The Olney Quilt Guild Celebrates 20 Years

I recently attended the 20th Anniversary Show of the Olney Quilt Guild in Olney, Illinois. What a great show! The Olney show always has beautiful quilts, great vendors, a bed turning, and so much more. They also offer demonstrations of quilting

techniques, a boutique full of homemade items from the guild members, raffles, a Quilts of Valor room and the list goes on. Here's a peek into the show that I attended...



This first quilt is made by Laura Williams. Each day for an entire year (all 365 days!), she embroidered a small hexi with what her family did



## More Quilt Shows....

that day. Then she sewed a week's worth of hexies into a block of seven. Eventually she attached all of her weekly blocks together and voila! She has this amazing quilt documenting their lives for a year. I took some close-ups so you could see all of the fun things they did last year!



As you can see, it was a lovely quilt show. I hope you enjoyed the pictures and I hope you will attend the next quilt show in your area. Better yet, get involved and enter your own quilt! We all inspire each other, no matter what skill level you are.



*Best of Show winner Jean Attebery with her gorgeous Splendid Sampler. Quilted by Lisa Helderman.*



*This gorgeous wool creation is spectacular!*

If you're ready to start a new quilt and are looking for just the right pattern to enter into a quilt show, check out our pattern page at our sister-site, Missouri Star! Happy quilting!

'Til next time,  
Beth

## Wa Shonaji Trunk Show Earns Rave Reviews at Johnstown

Thanks to all who participated in the Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild Trunk Show on Saturday, September 23, 2024, at the YMCA in Johnstown, CO.

The trunk show was part of the Johnstown Historical Society and the Persian Pickle Piecers quilt group's "Stitches in Time Quilt & Craft Fair." Thanks to Nanette Fornof of the Persian Pickle Piecers who suggested we participate in this event.

The title of our Trunk Show was "A Historic Narrative of Quilting from an African American Perspective." The Trunk Show featured a collection of *awesome* quilts made by our members. We also shared details of the quilts, which included a historic narrative about quilting and quilt history. The Chorus was, as always, a hit as they rendered their voices in song. Yes, Mary Lassiter brought harmony and melody to the chorus with the use of our new keyboard.

We showed 45 quilts and we had participation from 25 of our Guild members. A portion of the

Trunk Show was dedicated to two of our members, Artie Johnson and Jeanette Sanderson, who passed away in 2024.

As you can imagine, the Trunk Show was a huge success and was well received by our audience. The mayor of Johnstown, Michael Duncan, had kind words for us at the end of our question and answer session.

Billie DeLancey, who is director of the Johnstown Historical Society and Historic Parish House and Museum, conducted a phone interview with Guild member Brenda Ames prior to our Trunk Show. They discussed the 30-year history of the Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild. That article, along with a group picture of our members, appeared in *The Johnstown Breeze Newspaper*. Our president, Joette Bailey-Keown, has copies of the newsletter article, and will share it with members.

—by Joanne Walton



Wa Shonaji members are ready for their Trunk Show! From left, Karen von Phul, Reniese Johnson, Netta Toll, Stephanie Hobson (front), Joette Bailey-Keown (back), Gloria Montgomery, Sandra Coleman, Linda White, Priscilla Brown, Deborah Sweatt, Chris Jacques, and Brenda Ames.

## Area Textile Events

### Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum

200 Violet St., Golden, Mon–Sat 10–4; Sunday 11–4. \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; members free.

Till Jan 13, **Exhibits**, “English Paper Piecing” and “WILD! SAQA Regional Exhibition”

Nov 10, **Sunday at the Museum**, 2 p.m. SAQA Wild! Artists on inspiration and how they develop their styles. Pre-registration required! Call the gift shop 303-277-0377 Members free, others \$15

More info at [www.rmqm.org](http://www.rmqm.org)

### Colorado Quilting Council (CQC)

Meetings are held via Zoom and in person at Waterstone Community Church, 5890 S. Alkire St., Littleton 80127. In-person guest fee \$10. Workshops for members only.

Dec 7, **Meeting**, 9:30 a.m. *My Best Tips & Tricks for Precision Piecing*

Dec 8, **Workshop**, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Zoom only. *Wonky Piecing and Easy Applique*

For more info, visit [www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com](http://www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com). Or contact Pam Ballard CQC.VP.Programs@gmail.com. She can give you Zoom info.

### Quaking Aspen Quilt Guild

Third Thursday, noon. Boulder Valley Christian Church, 7100 S. Boulder Road, Boulder, or Zoom.

Nov 21, **Meeting**, Small Group Showcase  
Contact [vp-programs@quakingaspenquiltguild.org](mailto:vp-programs@quakingaspenquiltguild.org) or visit the website at [www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org](http://www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org)

### Denver Metro Modern Quilt Guild

Second Wednesday at Table Public House, 2190 S Platte River Dr, Denver 80223. 7 p.m. In-person and Zoom. First meeting free; then \$5 fee. To attend as a guest, email [president@denvermetromqg.org](mailto:president@denvermetromqg.org)

For more information, visit [www.denvermetromodernquiltguild.org](http://www.denvermetromodernquiltguild.org)

### Columbine Quilt Guild

Second Monday at Denver Church of Christ, 6925 Carr St., Arvada, at 6:30 p.m. In-person and Zoom. Guest fee \$5.

Nov 11, **Meeting**, Give It a Try sign-ups

Dec 9, **Meeting**, Holiday Party and Potluck

For more information [columbineqg@gmail.com](mailto:columbineqg@gmail.com) or [www.columbinequiltguild.org](http://www.columbinequiltguild.org)

### Arapahoe County Quilters


Second Thursday at Our Father Lutheran Church, 6335 S Holly St, Centennial 80121. 6:30 pm. In-person and Zoom. Guest fee \$8.

Nov 14, **Meeting**, “Not Just Your Grandma’s Flower Garden! An Exploration of English Paper Piecing” with Teresa Walker. Zoom only

Nov 16, **Workshop**, “Introduction to English Paper Piecing: Tips, Tricks, and Troubleshooting” with Teresa Walker. Zoom only

Dec 12, **Meeting**, Holiday Celebration

Register at [acqcolorado.org](http://acqcolorado.org). For information [www.acqcolorado.org](http://www.acqcolorado.org)



I think the proper term  
for “senior” women should be:  
**Queen-agers.**

That is all. Carry on.

[Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

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## 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 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 interests or skill levels, are welcome.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

11 am, first Saturday of each month (unless it's a holiday) at CrossPurpose, 3050 Richard Allen Court, Denver 80205

For more information, visit [www.washonaji.org](http://www.washonaji.org) or email [washonaji@gmail.com](mailto:washonaji@gmail.com)



*Suggested blocks for March 8, 2025, Sew In for Birthday Comfort Quilts. Come sew with us!*

Thank you to all contributors as noted plus Brenda Ames, Sandra Coleman, Linda White, Reniese Johnson, and "associate editor" Joanne Walton for their wonderful additions to this newsletter. And special appreciation to "contributing editors" Erin Jones and Daryn Miller.

Editor Julie Marsh