

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

March 2025

Looking Ahead to the April 2025 and May 2025 Meetings

Our next two meetings are on April 5th and May 3rd. Both meetings will be followed by a lecture and classes.

April 5th—Censorship vs. Artistic Expression, with speaker Allyson Allen (via Zoom)

Allyson Allen is an artist, author, instructor and culture bearer. Exhibiting and teaching for over thirty years, activist Allyson Allen uses traditional and unconventional materials to create unique dimensional textile art. Her work, in the genre of information art, often produces pieces specifically for storytelling, folklore and cultural preservation. Practicing learned and self-taught techniques of craft, research, original design, history and culture, in traditional and contemporary pieces, exemplifying a cross-disciplinary approach to quilting, doll making, and book art, Allyson's handmade quilts and quilted journals usually incorporate recycled materials, fabric, found objects, and stitched paper elements. Her work is issue focused and thought provoking.



"I intentionally strive to create an unexpected juxtaposition between harsh images or text and soft quilted textiles. Ultimately, I want each piece to be a teaching moment. My work is my way of addressing intolerance, hate, and abuse of animals, our planet, and each other."

In three decades, Allyson has received over forty visual arts grants to create and exhibit her work. She is a Special Exhibitor, lecturer, and instructor for Mancuso National Quilt Shows, and is recognized by the state of California as an award-winning Master African American textile artist and Culture Bearer.

Starting April 5th—Wa Shonaji Beginning Quilt Class in April (continued on page 2)

The 2025 Beginner's Quilting class is scheduled for April of this year. The class will meet each Saturday in April for 4 weeks. The classes will meet April 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 12 p.m. till 4 p.m. The focus will be on rotary cutting, piecing, and assembly techniques. At the class completion you will have a completed sampler. Some of the topics covered will include:

1. Overview of Quilting: supplies, machine, fabrics, and cutting methods
2. Strip piecing
3. Triangles and squares
4. Completing the quilt top

Inside:

- Looking Ahead.....1
- President's Message.....3
- Call for Entry4
- New Members.....5
- Black History Month.....6
- Gee's Bend.....13
- Civil Rights Quilts.....17
- 30th Anniversary Quilt....19
- Wa Shonaji on CBS News...20
- Show 'n Share21
- Blocks of the Month23
- Dresden Plate Tote Bags....24
- Comfort Quilt Sew In....25
- 2025 UFO Challenge.....26
- March & April Birthdays...29
- QuiltCon 202530
- Documenting Your Workspaces....31
- Murphy's Law of Quilting...32
- JoAnn Fabrics Closure....33
- Area Textile Events....34
- Acknowledgements....35
- Show 'n Share Forms...36

5. Quilting and Binding
6. Working with Quilt Patterns

Because of classroom constraints, the size will be restricted to 8 persons. To get a full overview of quilting you should make plans to attend all sessions. The class is open to members and non-members. The fee structure is:

- Members: \$40 flat fee for all four sessions
- Non-Members: \$100 flat fee for all four sessions

If you wish to attend the class but have questions about the costs please contact the guild treasurer.

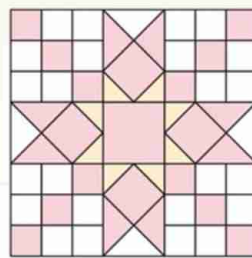
Note: If a person is interested in joining, the annual membership fee is \$40 per year and covers January thru December. The advantages of joining the guild extend beyond the beginner's class. It will provide you access to all activities that the guild sponsors. Class costs and membership fees should be paid to the guild treasurer. Membership form can be found on the Wa Shonaji website at:

<https://www.washonaji.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-MEMBERSHIP-FORM.pdf>

— Cassandra Sewell

May 5th—Arrowhead Quilt Workshop with Brenda Ames

There is a \$10 member fee. Contact Linda White to sign up.



Travel to the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, NE

Planning for the trip to the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, NE is well underway. Currently, the travel plans are as follows:

1. Leave for Lincoln, NE on Thursday, June 19, 2025 via Amtrak
2. Visit Quilt Museum the afternoon of Friday, June 20th
3. Visit Quilt Museum the morning of Saturday, June 21st
4. Visit quilt shop or shops, Saturday afternoon
5. Depart Saturday night for Denver,
6. Arrive Denver Sunday morning, June 22nd

If you want to go with Wa Shonaji, a \$50.00 deposit is due at the April 5th meeting. Currently, we are estimating the cost for this trip at about \$400.00 including travel, hotels, ground transportation, entry fees and meals. Karen von Phul and Priscilla Brown are working hard to ensure the trip is memorable. Join us if you can.

Other Upcoming Programs

- **April 5-** Censorship vs. Artistic Expression
- **April 5 -** Deposit (\$50) due for Lincoln, NE trip.
- **April 5, 12, 19, 26-** Beginner Quilting Class – Cassandra Sewell - \$40 Member Fee.
- **May 3 –** Arrowhead Quilt Workshop– Brenda Ames - \$10 Member Fee.
- **May 5 –** Trunk Show - LNCQ 1:30pm - Best Western Plus 5542 U.S. Hwy 34, Loveland, CO. Contact Joanne Walton.
- **June 7–** Kawandi Workshop – Lynette Johnson - \$10 Member Fee. Signup/pay for April, May, June at the March meeting.
- **June 19-22 –**Field Trip - to Lincoln, Nebraska International Quilt Museum.
- **November 1st–** Submission deadline for “My Jazz Has the Blues” quilts

The above information is also available on the website under Meetings and Calendar. Click on the class name to see details, e.g., Supply List or check your latest Newsletter.



President's Message

Hello Wa Shonaji Members! I'm hoping you all are well and keeping whatever quilting resolutions you made at the start of the new year. I'm also hoping that you all found various ways to celebrate Black History Month. We started the month with our annual BHM event on February 1st. Storyteller Cassandra conveyed stories of her family and how they were impacted by various racial challenges but managed to survive and even capitalize on those experiences.

On February 18th, about 25 Wa Shonaji members and their guests went to dinner then attended a production of Gee's Bend at the Aurora Fox Theater. Guild members Netta Toles, Lynette Johnson, Mary Lassiter, Di Nyce Brookes-Gough, Dr. Adrienne Bryant and Linda White offered advice on how to make the scenes more realistic. Wa Shonaji provided many of the quilts used in the production. The play focused on racial challenges of the Gee's Bend quilters and how they ultimately turned their struggle for equal rights and passion for quilting into a path to financial freedom.

Finally, the Wa Shonaji Civil rights quilts were completed and one has been delivered. Those quilts told the stories of several people who sacrificed/fought for our freedoms. We should always remember that many people, Black and White, well known and not known, fought to ensure our freedoms/civil rights. Let's keep telling our Black History stories so that we and those around us don't forget our history which is an important element of American history.

—President Joette Bailey-Keown

Wa Shonaji Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum Exhibit

Call for Entry

“My Jazz Has the Blues”

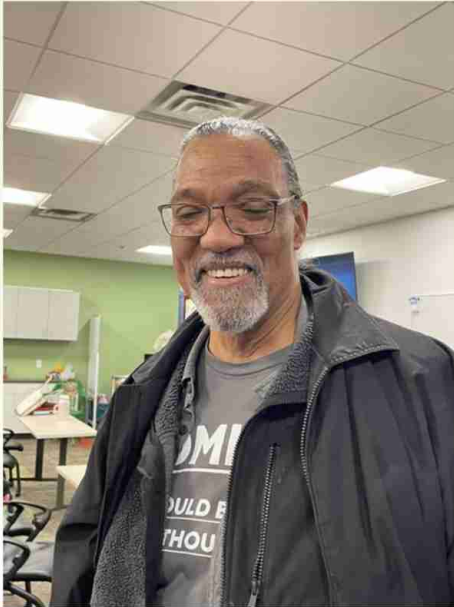
This challenge is open to all members of Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild. The challenge is to create a quilt with the color blue in it. You can do a traditional, modern, applique, or textile art or a music quilt, but it has to have the color blue in it somewhere. All entries must have been completed after January 1, 2024. Deadline for entry is November 1, 2025.

- Entry must consist of at least 2 layers and held together by some form of stitching, whether by hand or machine.
- Quilt size limit: no smaller than 24” in width or any wider than 60” in width
- You may enter up to 3 quilts.
- RMQM exhibition quilts must have:
 - Four inch (4”) finished sleeve attached to the width of the top edge of the quilt minus 1” on the end to allow for our hanging system. Please DO NOT include any rods or slats. We have our own hanging system.
 - Please label all submissions with your quilt title, dimensions (width x length), name, and contact information.
 - Entry must be clean and free of pet hair, smoke, and odor. Please be sure to trim any loose threads and secure all seams.
 - RMQM is unable to accept any 3-dimensional quilts or irregular shaped quilts that require unusual hanging requirements.
 - Entries must be available for the duration of the exhibit.
 - Accepted quilts may be offered for sale. RMQM will retain a 40-percent commission on quilt sales. Sold quilts must remain on display for the duration of the exhibit.
 - Quilt maker agrees that the supplied quilt images may be used for exhibit promotion and publicity, in print and online.
 - Cloth identification label sewn securely to the lower right corner of the back, includes the quilt title and name of the entrant.
- Artist statement (Add any details you feel will give RMQM a full understanding of your work: past exhibit experience, press releases, etc.)
 - Resumes, biographies, and headshots
 - Include your techniques and materials used.
- Images
 - Two color digital images of each quilt- overall and detail at 300 dpi or greater, maximum size 6” (1800 pixels) on longest side.

All works are insured as soon as they are received by RMQM.



New Members to Wa Shonaji:



Louie Walker, a self-described techie, wants to learn to quilt so he can infuse technology into the process.



Gwendolyn Cobb-Grimes has a love for the past and enjoys looking at and hearing about quilts.



Wendy Williams was inspired to quilt by her great aunt. She enjoys creating.



Elaine Miller is a quilt "appreciator" who freely admits she may never make a stitch. But she's Daryn's mother and enjoys spending time with her daughter.

Wa Shonaji Celebrates Black History Month

Wa Shonaji aptly celebrated Black History Month during our meeting, which occurred on the first day of February. There were several Black History Month-themed quilts hanging around the room. President Joette Joette Bailey-Keown started us off. She said that if we don't know our history, then somebody will try to erase it for us. She also gave us some book recommendations for Black History Month. The titles included:

- *Black Theatre U.S.A. Plays by African Americans Revised and Expanded Edition: The Early Period 1847-1938* by James V. Hatch and Ted Shine
- *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature Second Edition* by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay
- *Black Food* by Bryant Terry
- *Black Firsts: Groundbreaking Events in African American History* by Jessie Carney Smith
- *African American Almanac: 400 Years of Triumph, Courage, and Excellence* by Lean'tin Bracks The Children by David Halberstam

After the introduction from Joette, Brenda Ames spoke about the ties that Denver has to the Tuskegee Airmen. She mentioned that ten Tuskegee airmen have lived in Denver. She also talked about how a clinic in the Aurora VA hospital is named after Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. John Mosley. John Mosley was born in Denver in 1921, and was also the first Black football player at Colorado State University. Additionally, John Mosley's wife Edna Wilson-Mosley was the first Black council woman in Aurora.

Following Brenda's presentation, Sandra Coleman led a prayer and spoke about the importance of loving one another. Sandra shared the Martin Luther King Jr. quote: "I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." Sandra also shared a poem about how we should not give up on people. The poem is as follows:

"When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries. When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries.

Some need AA...attention and affection; some need AAA...
attention, affection, and acceptance; some need
C....compassion; some need D...direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light." – Rachel Dansby Freeman



One of the quilts that was hanging in the classroom.



Photo of John Mosley



Edna Wilson-Mosley

The choir then sang “Lift Every Voice,” and afterward, we moved into the dining hall for lunch. During lunch, several guild members shared their stories about their shoebox lunches. There were also several shoebox Lunches on display, some of which were decorated.

What is a shoebox lunch? A shoebox lunch refers to the boxes that Black people packed their meals in whilst traveling during the Jim Crow era. African-Americans had to pack their own food when they traveled because they were often refused service at eateries, gas stations, and in the dining cars on trains.

Geneva Lottie shared how her uncle worked on the railroad and traveled around Oklahoma. When he was travelling, he always had fried chicken in his lunchbox. Joanne Walton showed us her decorated shoebox and talked about Elizabeth Hobbs Heckley, who was a seamstress. She was born into slavery, but later had a dress business and was a dressmaker for Mary Todd Lincoln. The shoebox that Joanne spoke about was decorated with a doll. It also displayed the 2025 Black History Month theme, which was African Americans and Labor. The theme is as follows:

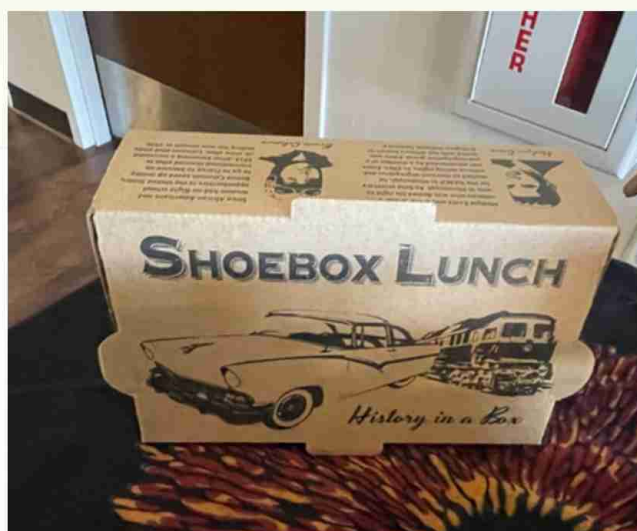
“African Americans and Labor focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds—free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary—intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.”

Connie Turner shared how her shoebox lunch would contain fried chicken, red beans and rice, collard greens, yams, and sweet potato muffins. Christine Jacques posed the question: what would an escaping slave try to take with them? An escaping slave would take things that were available to them. Their lunches might have been wrapped in fabric, and might have included hoe cakes, scavenged fruits and vegetables. Mary Lassiter showed us sweet grass baskets from Sierra Leone.

Finally, Sandra Coleman discussed how her father was in the military and travelled from Arkansas to Washington. She said that food boxes were prepared for her father when he was leaving Arkansas because “My father served the country, but the country would not serve him.” Sandra reminded us that we are having these conversations and presentations about shoebox lunches so we will never forget what has happened, and so we can pass these stories on to the young generations so they can honor and learn from the past.



Decorated shoeboxes. Photo by Daryn Miller.



Another example of a shoebox lunch. Photo by Daryn Miller.



Sweetgrass basket. Photo by Daryn Miller.

After the shoebox lunch presentation, Cassandra Sewell finished the Black History Month celebration with her presentation titled “My Heritage, My Legacy.” Cassandra started off by stating how her heritage is her history and her legacy is her future; both her heritage and her legacy are intertwined. When sharing her legacy, Cassandra told us the stories of her ancestors and family from the first person point of view.

Cassandra’s first story was about an ancestor she referred to as Mammy. Mammy was an enslaved woman who endured the traumas of slavery. This included her children being sold, her husband being killed, being a wet nurse, and feeling like a “motherless child.” Despite this, Mammy still had faith in Jesus, and was eventually freed. Cassandra explained how Mammy is an example of hope and perseverance.

Cassandra’s second story was about her mother Theola’s journey in receiving an education. In 1958, Theola became a nanny for a white woman named Mrs. Dorothy. Mrs. Dorothy was going to pay for Theola to attend college. Mrs. Dorothy and the other women at her church came together to collect enough money to send Theola to college. Theola went to college, received a master’s degree and had kids and grandkids who also received master’s degrees and PhDs. Theola and Mrs. Dorothy eventually reunited after 60 years, and Theola gifted Mrs. Dorothy a quilt. Because of Mrs. Dorothy, Cassandra was able to receive an education and other advanced degrees. Cassandra explained how valuable an education is, and how all it takes is one person, one act of love, or one act of compassion to affect the destiny of one person and their whole family.

Cassandra’s final story was about her father, Horace. Like Theola, Horace also graduated college. After he built his family’s house, Horace went to put up a mailbox. This infuriated Mr. Harrison, who was a racist white man. Mr. Harrison hated the fact that Horace went to college and was an educated Black man. As a result, Mr. Harrison pointed a shotgun at Horace’s head and threatened to shoot him unless he removed his mailbox.

At first, Horace refused to pull up his mailbox. However, his young daughter Cassandra witnessed the event and asked Mr. Harrison to not kill her father. After seeing his daughter, Horace decided to remove the mail box because he wanted to be alive for his wife and kids. Later on, a young Cassandra told her grandmother that she hated white people if they were all like Mr. Harrison. Cassandra’s grandmother told her that she should not hate anybody, and instead should love and pray for them. Horace would eventually raise three educated Black men, and an educated daughter. Horace would also go on to purchase Mr. Harrison’s land after his death.



Cassandra Sewell giving her presentation. Photo by Linda White

Through all of this, Cassandra talked about how her grandmother taught her to love people no matter what, and how her father taught her to stand her ground. Cassandra also spoke about how we can never return hate with hate; we must raise our children to become educated people because hate can not survive when we fight it with education and love.

To conclude her presentation, Cassandra said that she has been able to overcome adversity because she has a Mammy, Mrs. Dorothy, and her grandmother in her legacy. She expressed that she wants to pave the way for her family so life is not as hard for them as it was for her father, grandmother and Mammy. Additionally, Cassandra stated that you need to know your history in order to know where you want to go in the future.

After she was finished telling the stories, Cassandra showed us a blue Sunbonnet Sue quilt, and some quilt blocks that her grandmother made.

Cassandra’s presentation was powerful and engaging. It served as a reminder that the determination and resilience of our African-American ancestors has shaped who we are today, and will continue to shape our futures.



Quilt blocks made by Cassandra’s grandmother.



Blue Sunbonnet Sue quilt made by Cassandra's grandmother. Photo by Daryn Miller

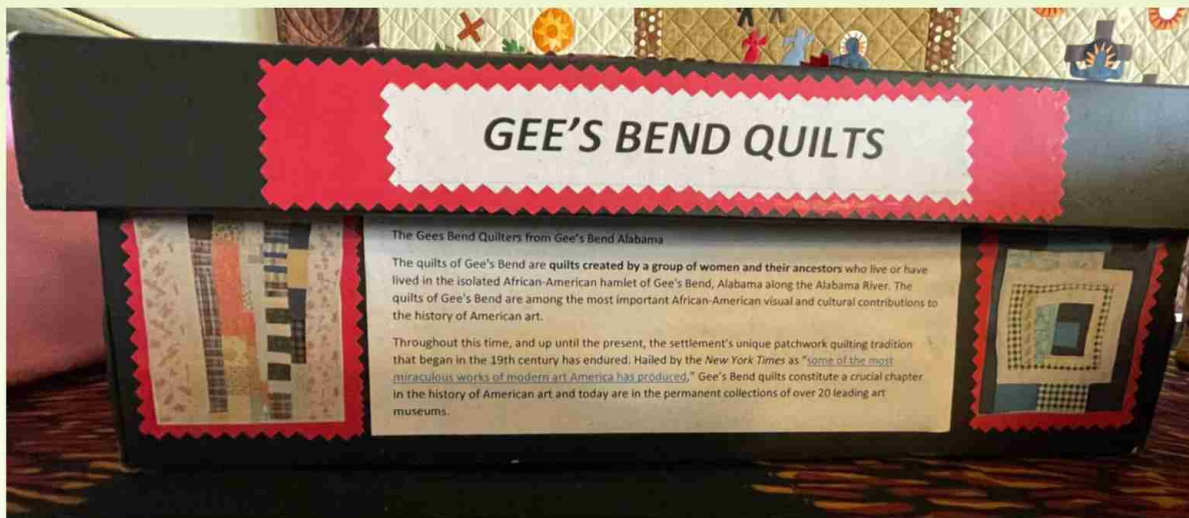
More Photos Pictures from Black History Month



Sweetgrass baskets. Photos by Daryn Miller.



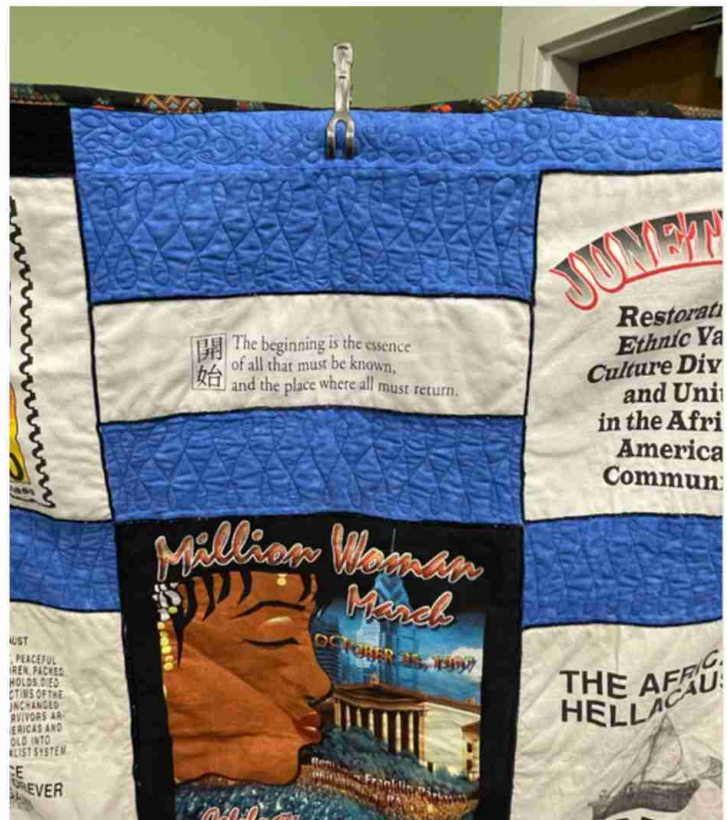
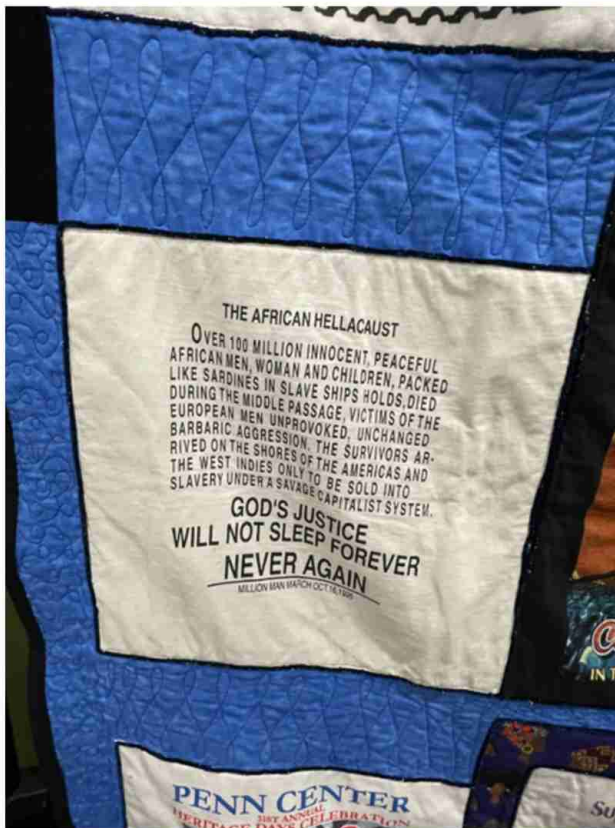
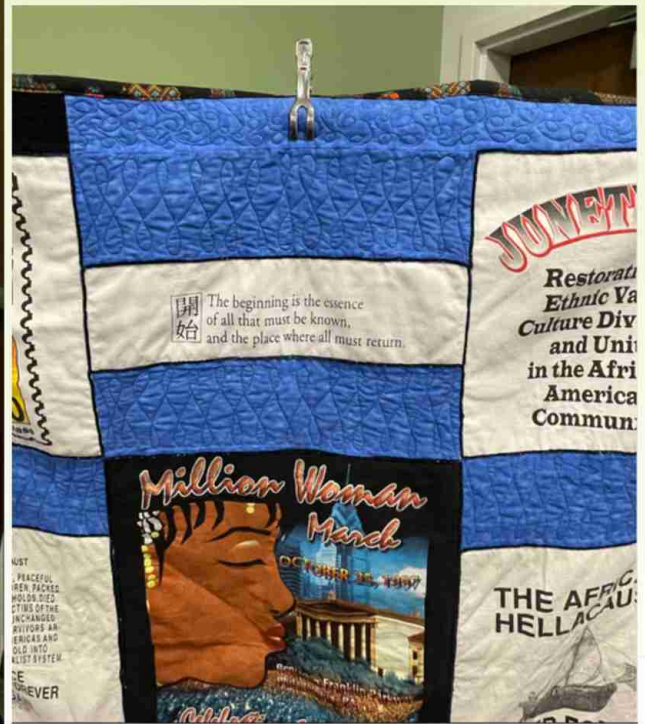
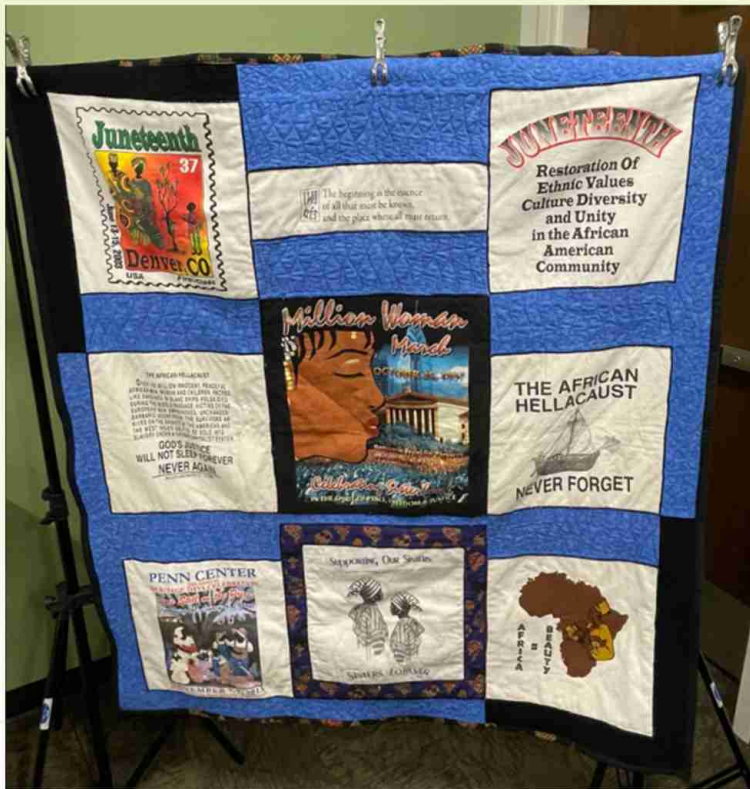
Gee's Bend themed shoebox.



More images of the decorated Gee's Bend shoebox.



Quilts that were hanging up in the classroom. Photos by Daryn Miller.



More images of a another quilt that was hanging up in the classroom. Photos by Daryn Miller.

Wa Shonaji's Involvement in the Production of *Gee's Bend*

The play *Gee's Bend* showed at the Aurora Fox Arts Center from Jan. 31- Feb. 23, 2025. On Saturday, January 11, 2025, members from Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild met with the cast of the upcoming play "*Gee's Bend*" at the Aurora Fox Arts Center to share and collaborate with them by sharing some quilting tips and to demonstrate some of the techniques and tricks of the trade of quilting.

Those in attendance were Joette Bailey-Keown, Adrienne Bryant, Lynette Johnson, Netta Toll, Di Nyce Brooks-Gough, Karen von Phul, Linda White and Mary Lassiter. Members of the cast who were a part of this demonstration were three of the female members of the cast, along with donnie betts and two staff members.

The actors were very receptive to all of the knowledge and information that was imparted to them by members of the Guild, whether it was a demonstration of a technique or verbal information. As reported in an article in *Westwoods* magazine, Sheryl McCallum (who played Alice and Asia in the play) said:

"I found the quilting sessions equally eye-opening.

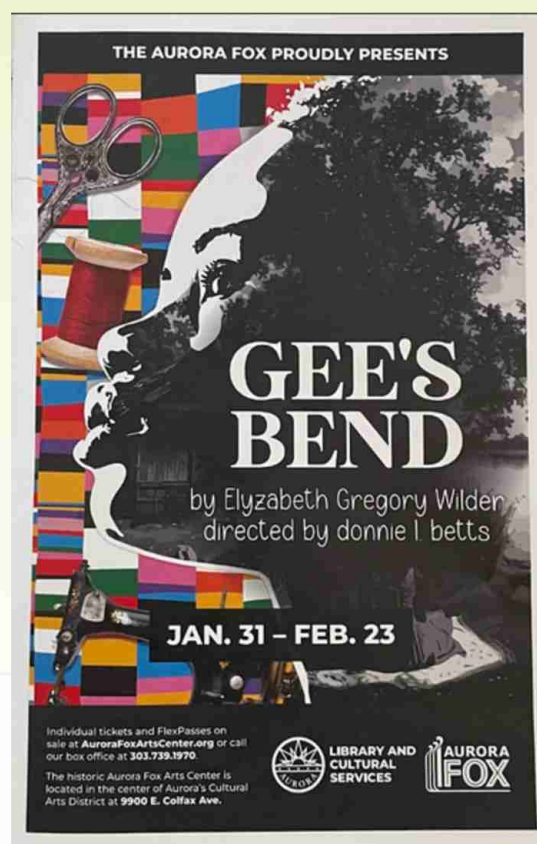
"The quilters were women of different ages and ethnicities," she says. "I was expecting a bunch of little Black women to come in there, but the types of people ran the gamut and their different styles of quilting were really wonderful."

Linda White said:

"Because people use quilting for piecing, there was a learning curve to understand and that they really needed instructions on the process of piecing fabrics together. Those present were pleased and excited to be able to sew two pieces of fabric together and to understand the process."

Our Guild members, who were present, stayed to see the cast run through some of the scenes of the play and the cast thanked those present profusely for their time and knowledge of quilting. Adrienne and Netta actually were present for a run through of the play two nights before the play opened to the public.

donnie betts reviewed the large number of quilts we submitted to them for possible usage in the play. He selected those that he thought would be appropriate for the scenes in the play and also for exhibiting several quilts in the entryway to the theatre. Those submitting quilts included Joette Bailey-Keown, Adrienne Bryant, Brenda Ames, Wendy Williams, Di Nyce Brooks-Gough, Artie Johnson, Stephanie Hobson and Joanne Walton.



The play program cover. Photo by Daryn Miller

On the night that we went to see the play as a group, exhibited in the lobby were quilts by Artie and Stephanie. In the actual play that night, there were quilts made by Joette and Brenda, plus the first scene included a blue quilt made by Adrienne. Joette and Brenda's quilts were replications of quilts made by the ladies of *Gee's Bend*. It is our understanding they changed out the quilts for different nights during the duration of the play. So, if your quilt was not seen on the night we were there, perhaps it was shown at another time. Thanks to all who participated in any way.

Wa Shonaji is AWESOME!!!

—Joanne Walton

On February 8th, 2025, several members of Wa Shonaji went to see Gee's Bend. A few of us met up for dinner at the Italian restaurant Cucina Bella. After dinner, we all met at the Fox Theatre in Aurora for a 7:30 showing of the play.

Gee's Bend is a play about the life of Sadie Pettway, as well as her sister, her mother, and her husband. The play follows Sadie's life through family struggles, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. Throughout their lives, the quilts that the Pettway women make help them survive the challenges and hardships that they experience. In the end, these quilts become valued pieces of art. Overall, the Gee's Bend play explores the themes of resilience, resistance and family, and the Gee's Bend quilts are symbols of these themes. The director donnie l. betts provides more insight in his director's note:

"Gee's Bend is about family. I see my family in this play. I hope you see a bit of yourselves in this production as well. How far can humanity and love take us? What's your answer?"

Mensie Lee Pettway said 'A lot of people make quilts for your bed, or to keep you warm. But a quilt is more. It represents safekeeping, it represents beauty, and you could say it represents family history.'

Enjoy this family's history of love and resilience."

To conclude, Gee's Bend was a wonderful play. It was funny, heartbreaking, and inspiring all at the same time. It was also really cool to see the quilts from the guild being used in the play and to experience Wa Shonaji's involvement in the production.

—Daryn Miller



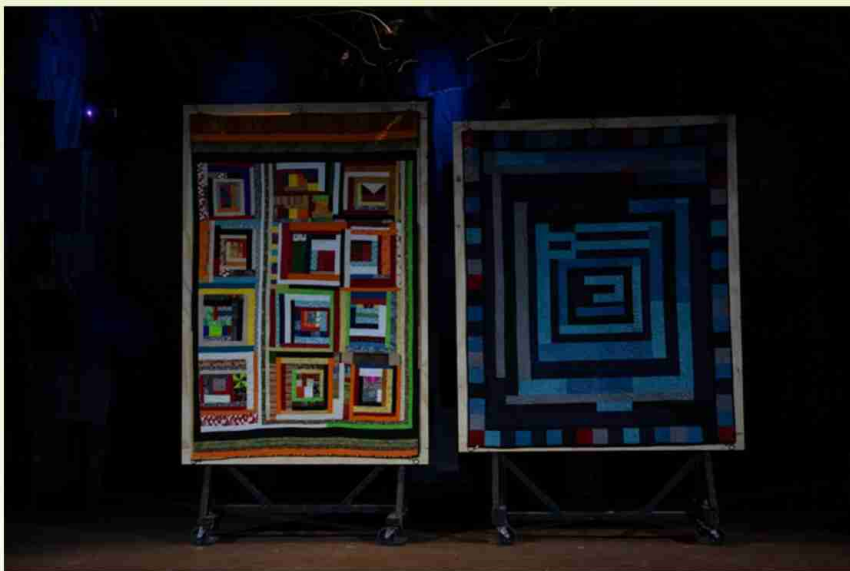
The stage set-up before the play began. Photo by Daryn Miller.



Character Sadie Pettway holding a quilt. Photo by Rachel D Graham, RDGPhotography.



Characters Sadie, her sister and their mother piecing a quilt. Photo by Rachel D Graham, RDGPhotography.



Photos by Rachel D Graham,
RDGPhotography.



The director and cast of *Gee's Bend*. Photo by Rachel D Graham,
RDG Photography



Quilts from Wa Shonaji members that were displayed in the lobby of the Fox Theatre.

"Blue Ridge Beauty" Designed by Artie Johnson, Quilted by Mary Bohn 7/19/2014 (top left)

"Harriet" Quilted and pieced by Dr. Adrienne N. Bryant 01/2025 (top right).

"Sister Stitches" Designed and quilted by Stephanie Hobson (bottom left).

Photos by Daryn Miller

Civil Rights-Themed Quilts Presented to Bynum and CrossPurpose

Wa Shonaji members made two Civil Rights-themed quilts: one for last year's Black History Month speaker Bill Bynum, who described the importance of home ownership in increasing the wealth of African Americans and other minorities; and the second for CrossPurpose, the organization in whose building we meet.

Makers and their blocks include: Nanci Vaughn (Ella Josephine Baker), Mary Lassiter (Amelia Isadora Platts Boynton Robinson), Deborah Sweatt (Thurgood Marshall), Joette Bailey-Keown (Medger Wiley Evers), Geneva Lottie (John Robert Lewis), Julie Marsh (Nina Simone), Artie Johnson (Rosa Parks), Joanne Walton (Martin Luther King Jr.), Joette Bailey-Keown (Freedom Riders), Stephanie Hobson (Malcolm X), Monica Lynn (Edmund Pettus Bridge).

The quilt was pieced by Joette Bailey-Keown and quilted by Carolina Monsalve. The binding and sleeve were attached by Pat Moore.

Bill Bynum received his quilt in mid-February and plans to hang it in his business office.



Civil Rights Quilt.

Ella Josephine Baker
Block Maker - Nanci Vaughn
 Ella Josephine Baker (December 13, 1903 – December 13, 1986) was a civil rights and human rights activist. She was the secretary for the NAACP and SNCC leader. She was an influential force in the Civil Movement. Her career spanned over 5 decades.

Amelia Isadora Platts Boynton Robinson
Block Maker - Mary Lassiter
 Amelia Isadora Platts Boynton Robinson (August 18, 1911 – August 16, 2015) was an American activist and a leader of the American Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama. She was a key figure in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Marches. In 1984, she became the founding vice-president of the Schiller Institute, and was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Medal in 1990.

Thurgood Marshall
Block Maker - Deborah Sweatt
 Thurgood Marshall (July 2, 1908 – January 24, 1993) was an American civil rights lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1967 until 1991. He was the Supreme Court's first African-American justice. Prior to his judicial service, he was an attorney who fought for civil rights, leading the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He was a prominent figure in the movement to end racial segregation in American

Medger Wiley Evers
Block Maker - Joette Bailey-Keown
 Medger Wiley Evers (July 2, 1925 – June 12, 1963) was a civil rights activist and soldier and was the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi. He became active in the civil rights movement in the 1950s. He was engaged in efforts to overturn racial segregation at the University of Mississippi, end the segregation of public facilities and expand opportunities for African-Americans including the enforcement of voting rights. He was assassinated at his home in Jackson, Mississippi in 1963 by Byron De la Beckwith. That same year he was awarded the NAACP's Springarn Medal.

John Robert Lewis
Block Maker - Geneva Lottie
 John Robert Lewis (February 21, 1940 – July 17, 2020) was a civil rights activist and politician who served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district. He was one of the *Big Six* leaders who organized the 1963 March on Washington. In 1965 he led the first of three Selma to Montgomery marches across the Edmund Pettus bridge, where in an incident that became known as Bloody Sunday, state troopers and police attacked Lewis and other marchers. As a member of the Democratic Party, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986, and served 17 terms. Lewis received many honorary degrees and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

Nina Simone
Block Maker - Julie Marsh
 Nina Simone born Eunice Kathleen Waymon (February 21, 1933–April 2003) was a singer, songwriter, pianist, composer, arranger and civil rights activist. Nina was 12 years old when she gave her first classical concert. During that performance, her parents who had taken seats in the front row, were forced to move to the back of the

Rosa Parks Block
Block Maker - Artie Johnson
 Rosa Louise McCauley Parks (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) was an activist in the civil rights movement and best known for her role in the Montgomery bus boycott. On December 1, 1955 Parks rejected a bus driver's order to vacate a row of four seats in the "colored" section of the bus in favor of a white female passenger who had complained to the driver. Her

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Block Maker - Joanne Walton
 Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929–April 4, 1968) was a Baptist minister, activist and was one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. He advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of nonviolent resistance and nonviolent civil disobedience against Jim Crow Laws and other forms

Freedom Riders
Block Maker - Joette Bailey-Keown
 The Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated south in 1961 and subsequent years to challenge the non-enforcement of the United States Supreme Court decisions *Morgan v. Virginia* (1946) and *Boynton v. Virginia* 1960, which ruled that segregated public buses were unconstitutional. The southern states ignored the rulings and the federal government did nothing to enforce them. The first Freedom Ride began on May 4, 1961. The Freedom Riders' tactics were to have at least one interracial pair sitting in

Edmund Pettus Bridge
Block Maker - Monica Lynn
 The Edmund Pettus Bridge is U.S. Route 80 Business, across the Alabama River in Selma, Alabama. The bridge was built in 1940 and was named after Edmund Pettus, a former Confederate brigadier general, and state-level leader of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan. The Edmund Pettus Bridge was the site of the conflict Blood Sunday on March 7, 1965, when police attacked Civil Rights Movement demonstrators with horses, billy clubs, and tear gas as they attempted to march to the state capital in Montgomery, AL. The bridge was declared a National Historic landmark on February 27, 2013. After the death of civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis, there were calls to rename the bridge after him. John Lewis opposed the renaming stating: "Keeping the name of the bridge is not an endorsement of the man who bears its name but rather an acknowledgement that the name of the Bridge today is synonymous with the Voting Rights Movement which changed the face of this nation and the world."

Civil Rights Quilt Label Created by Al White.

30th Anniversary Quilt Debuts at Holiday Luncheon



The guild's 30th Anniversary Crazy Quilt is finished! Blocks were made and embellished by members who wished to participate. It was quilted by hand with pearls on the back per a traditional method. Members who helped pull it all together include: Joanne Walton, Deborah Sweatt, Julie Marsh, Connie Turner, Mary Lassiter, Sandra Coleman, Brenda Ames, Kathy Byers, Stephanie Hobson, Gloria Montgomery, Glenda Trees. The quilt will be stored securely with all of our other guild quilts and will be a part of our trunk shows and other occasions when appropriate to display it. Photo by Daryn Miller.

Wa Shonaji Quilts on CBS News Sunday Morning



The modified image of our 2022 Virtual Exhibit postcard was displayed at the end of “Building a Humane World for Animals” on CBS News Sunday Morning Show– Your Sun Tomorrow. There are bits of quilts from Karen von Phul, Monica Lynn, and others. Thank you to Alan White, who designed the postcard and submitted it to the CBS Sunday Morning program. Below is an email that Jessica Frank (the Associate Director of CBS Sunday Morning) sent to Alan regarding the postcard being featured on the show:

Good afternoon, Alan --

Two and a half years ago, you submitted a magnificent sun to us.

I've always loved that Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild exhibit postcard sun, and have been waiting for the right place to use it on our Sunday Morning broadcast.

Tomorrow is the day — but with a disclaimer, that I need to run by you. I was saving it for the possibility of us someday doing a piece on banned books. That hasn't happened yet.

Then this week's planning meeting came about and it turns out that we are doing a piece on the United States Humane Society, now renamed "Humane World for Animals." The organization is a huge wildlife sanctuary for all types of animals.

We would never alter anybody's artwork without cause. Because the piece is so much about animals though and not books, we took the panel of bison from one side and duplicated it on the other. I am attaching it for you to see, and hope it's okay. It works so perfectly at the end of the piece that we're doing.

Special thanks for your patience. Two and a half years is a long time to wait!

Have a great Sunday.

Jessica Frank
Associated Director/Sun Coordinator
CBS Sunday Morning

Follow this link to see the segment of the show. The postcard is featured near the end.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/building-a-humane-world-for-animals/#x>

March 2025 *20

Show Us Your Quilts!



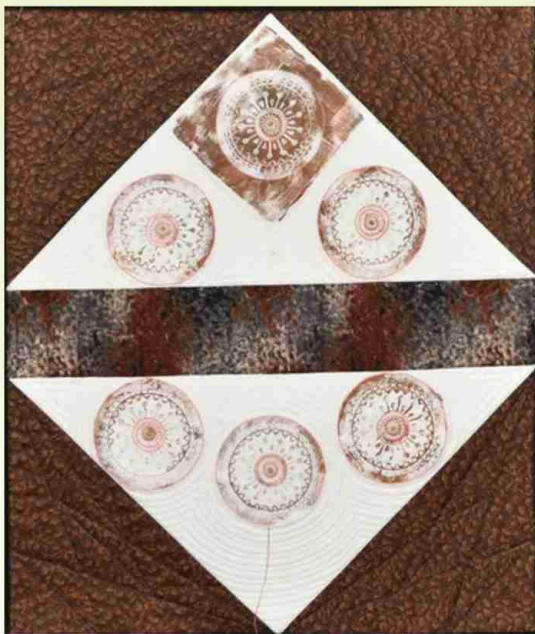
Show n' Share—Joette Bailey-Keown (left) and Karen von Phul (right) show off their completed chairs from the “Sitting in Power” workshop conducted by the Colorado Black Arts Movement (see Wa Shonaji’s Nov 2024 Newsletter). They hope the workshop will be given again, so start looking for your power chair.



Show 'n Share—Cassandra Sewell’s Sunbonnet Sue at left and Flying Geese at right.



Linda White’s Show ‘n Share. The quilting in Rust and Lime followed by the “panel” design into the border. Rust and lime yarns were twisted together and zig zag couched with Monopoly in the ditch.



Linda White: Rollin' and Wagon Wheel were Gelli plate prints from a long-ago class in Colorado Springs. Both were embellished with hand embroidery. I tried an Orange peel quilting design on the squares of Rollin', and Wagon Wheels has echo quilting around the circles.



Karen von Phul made this (non-quilted) plaque for her friend.



Show 'n Share by Mary Lassiter



Joette Bailey-Keown with the embellished photo of her granddaughter.



Dr. Adrienne Bryant and her sampler quilt.



Comfort Quilt—Chris Jacques started this quilt in Mary Lassiter's Jelly Roll Race Class.



March Sew 'n Share—Karen von Phul's Dresden plate tote bag (left); Deborah Sweatt's Cosmic Poppies (right).

Blocks of the Month



Left: Kathy Byers, Jewel Box,
Right: Lynette Johnson,
Mosaic 11

Left Lynesha Laws,
Washington Sidewalk; Right
Gloria Montgomery, Mosaic
16



Brooks-Gough Changes Dresden Plates Into Tote Bags

The following images are from the Dresden plate tote bag workshop that Di Nyce Brooks-Gough facilitated in January 2025.



Workshop members display their Dresden plate blocks that are destined to be incorporated into tote bags. Facilitator Di Nyce Brooks-Gough is in the front; back from left, Kathy, Byers, Joanne Walton, Deborah Sweatt, Daryn Miller, Karen von Phul, and Joette Bailey-Keown.



Di Nyce demonstrates different stages of the Dresden plate tote bag.



The sample of the Dresden plate tote bag that Di Nyce brought to the class.

Linda White Hosts Comfort Quilt Sew-In

After the general meeting on 3/1/25, Linda White hosted a comfort quilt workshop. The goal of the workshop was to complete a top for your 2025 Birthday Comfort Quilt that you can quilt or finish quilting at home. Members were free to work on their own designs or to make a top from the workshop.

The Workshop quilt was a 9-block scrappy top. There were 5 pieced 12" finished potato chip-like blocks with 4 alternating blocks in a complementary print or solid fabric. The top had 2" borders.



The sample workshop quilt that Linda White made.



Participants who worked on the class project or a personal project. Left to right - Daryn Miller, Chris Jacques, Karen von Phul, Joanne Walton, Kathy Byers, De Lois Powell, Deb Sweatt.

2025 UFO (Unfinished Object) to OFU (Object Finished Up)

2025 UFO (Unfinished Object) to OFU (Object Finished Up)

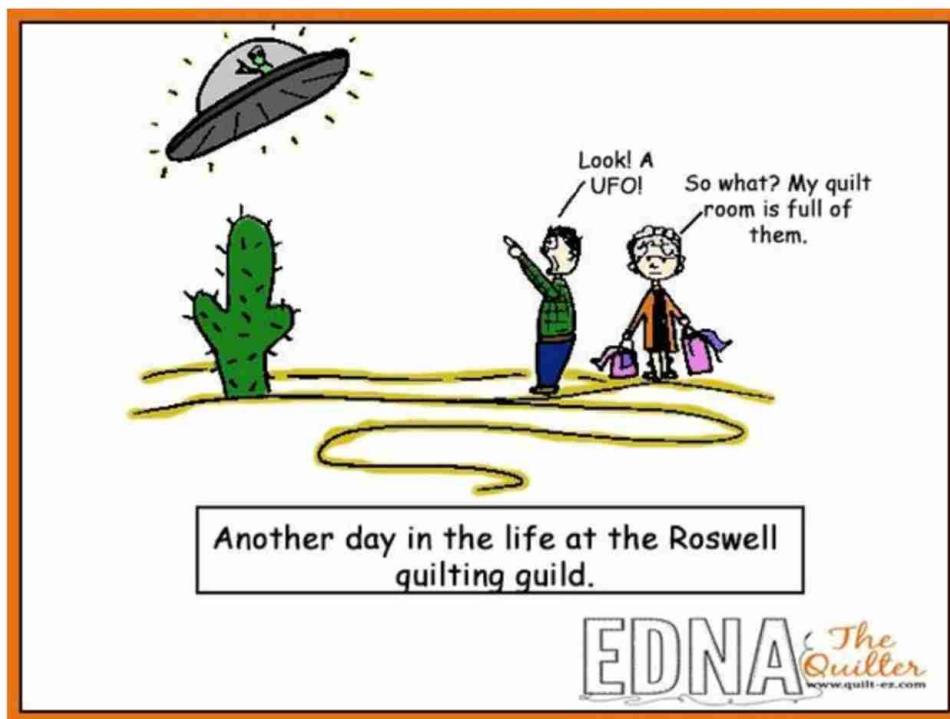
Sandra Coleman said, "We will continue this challenge," only there's a new sheriff in town. The 2025 UFO Challenge will begin in March. Start looking for those hidden, stashed quilt projects that you'd love to finish. Can you finish "4" quilts of your choosing this year? Same rules as before. A dollar in the kitty for each quilt. Two months to finish a project that's just begging to get out of that corner or container. If you finish the project on time, your \$1 is returned. If not, no return on funds and one of your challengers will be blessed with additional income at the end of the challenge. Here's the schedule:

- Mar/April – Show off first OFU at May meeting, or to me prior to the meeting.
- May/June – Show off second OFU at July meeting, or to me prior to the meeting.
- July/August – Show off third OFU at September meeting, or to me prior to the meeting.
- Sept/Oct – Show off fourth OFU at November meeting, or to me prior to the meeting.
- Nov – Name drawn and kitty dispersed to winner.

Even if we don't physically meet or meet through Zoom, you are still required to show me your finished project by the completion date. Completed means totally quilted, bound, decorated, labeled and ready for use.

Next, we need to record your progress. On the next page is a form to complete so I know what you plan to work on and your progress. Please make one for yourself and give me a copy with your \$4 at the March meeting. **READY, SET, LET'S FINISH THOSE UFOs!**

—Reniese Johnson



Are You UFO–Challenged?

Are you ready to complete 4 of your unfinished projects this year?

Are you willing to put up \$1 for each project as a promise to complete?

Name_____ Date_____

To participate, list below the unfinished projects that you would most like to complete (up to 4 only please).

Every 2 months a dice will be rolled and that number will correspond with a number you have assigned to a project. Ex: If the #3 is rolled in March, you will have until the meeting in May to complete the project you have listed in the #3 spot on your list. We'll roll the dice again in May, July, and September where you will have 2 months to finish each project.

Should you complete the project, you get your \$1 back, should you NOT complete the project on time, you will lose your \$1. The dollar lost will go into a kitty and at the last meeting of the Challenge (October 2025), a name will be drawn and that quilter will win the pot. A completed project is totally quilted, bound, decorated, labeled, and ready for use. For every project completed on time, your name will be submitted for the drawing—you can have as many as **four** entries for year 2025.

Description

Yr Started

Inspiration/Reason for Project

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.

UFO for SHOW AND SHARE Completed Quilt

Please PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: _____ Dimensions _____ width X
_____ length

Quilt Name: _____ Dominant Color

Maker Name: _____ Age of
Quilt _____

March Birthdays

5th – Joanne Walton
12th – Linda Hernandez
13th – Priscilla Brown
14th – Milinda Walker
18th – Linda White
20th – Barbara Robinson
21st – Pennie Estrada
25th – Susan Morrison
28th – Mary Lassiter



Machine pieced and quilted by Artie Johnson



Machine pieced and quilted by Artie Johnson

April Birthdays

8th – Adam Eberl
10th – Cassandra Sewell
17th – Monica Lynn
26th – Edna Jones

Linda White Reports Back from QuiltCon



Phoenix, AZ, 20-23 Feb 2025

QuiltCon is hosted by the Modern Quilt Guild which was founded in Los Angeles in October of 2009 and now has 18,000 members worldwide. It is the world's largest modern quilting event.

QuiltCon Attendance by Year

- 2024 in Raleigh: 25,370
- 2023 in Atlanta: 17,400
- 2022 in Phoenix: 6,600
- 2021 (virtual): 7,120
- 2020 in Austin: 8,930
- 2019 in Nashville: 9,540
- 2018 in Pasadena: 7,100
- 2017 in Savannah: 7,950
- 2016 in Pasadena: 5,100
- 2015 in Austin: 7,000
- There was no QuiltCon in 2014
- 2013 in Austin: 1,350

Category breakdown – with entries from around the world.

- Small Quilts
- Minimalist Design
- Piecing
- Improvisation
- Modern Traditionalism
- Use of Negative Space
- Appliqué
- Group or Bee
- Handwork
- Youth (Group)
- Youth (Individual)
- Plus Challenges

I was ready for my first QuiltCon when I learned it was in Phoenix. In July 2024 class registration resulted in a Catastrophic Computer Crash. Hand-sorting the data took a couple of weeks. I tried to register for one class and was waitlisted. This was not a problem because there were plenty of vendors to visit and 400+ quilts to see. Long-time friend and fellow quilter, Jeanne, joined me for 2 days. I was impressed by the very efficient check-in to print my 4-day pass. There was quite an army of volunteers to assist. .

And it was easy to buy last minute tickets at the door for a lecture we decided to attend – Wear That Quilt! Integrating Pieced Textiles into Garments - by Bianca Springer. For those who cringe when someone cuts up a quilt, she stated that if it is not MLK's baby quilt or a Gee's Bend quilt, and it is out in the world, then it is available for use in other creations. Coming from a dressmaking background, Bianca uses primarily tops or blocks she finds, over-dyeing as needed. She had many slides to show how she added patchwork textiles, old and new, into garments. Sometimes it was an accent – an insert in a skirt (gusset-like). Sometimes it was a complete dress, top, skirt, duster, or coat. She wore a lovely floor length dress of yo-yos changing the peek-a-boo color of the slip to fit her mood.

Many vendors had a Make and Take table, and other vendors had games to win bags, fabric, etc. We were hungry at 10:30, so we went to the cashless Food Hall. Fortified, we made our way to the exhibits. Over the next three hours, we viewed a good portion of the 400+ quilts.

On day two, we arrived at the Convention Center for the 9:00 opening. The lines were long to enter the hall, but the efficient volunteers scanned the passes quickly. We went directly to the Riley Blake booth for a free bag and charm. On day one, they gave out 500 bags in 45 minutes!

We went to specific vendors to see if there was anything seen the previous day that we couldn't live without. Jeanne bought the Cherrywood fabric required for the next challenge - Abyss - Creatures from the Deep. Their dyed fabrics are wonderful. Pink Door had a large booth but forgot to bring their sign. On the way to the quilt exhibit, we saw a former member, Mary Davis and had a good chat with her and her sister.

Winning quilts - <https://quiltcon.com/quiltcon-2025-winners/>

QuiltCon 2026 will be held Thursday-Sunday, February 19-22, 2026, in Raleigh, NC.

– Linda White

March 2025 *30

Start a Documentation Habit: Workspaces

Take a "spin" around your studio with your video camera every 6-12 months. Go slowly and be sure to record items on tables, on walls and shelves, in cabinets, and on the floor.

Take and record measurements of the height of tables and chairs that work just right for you. Take still photos from each corner to document the layout of the room. If you have to move or recreate your workspace in the future, you'll be ready.

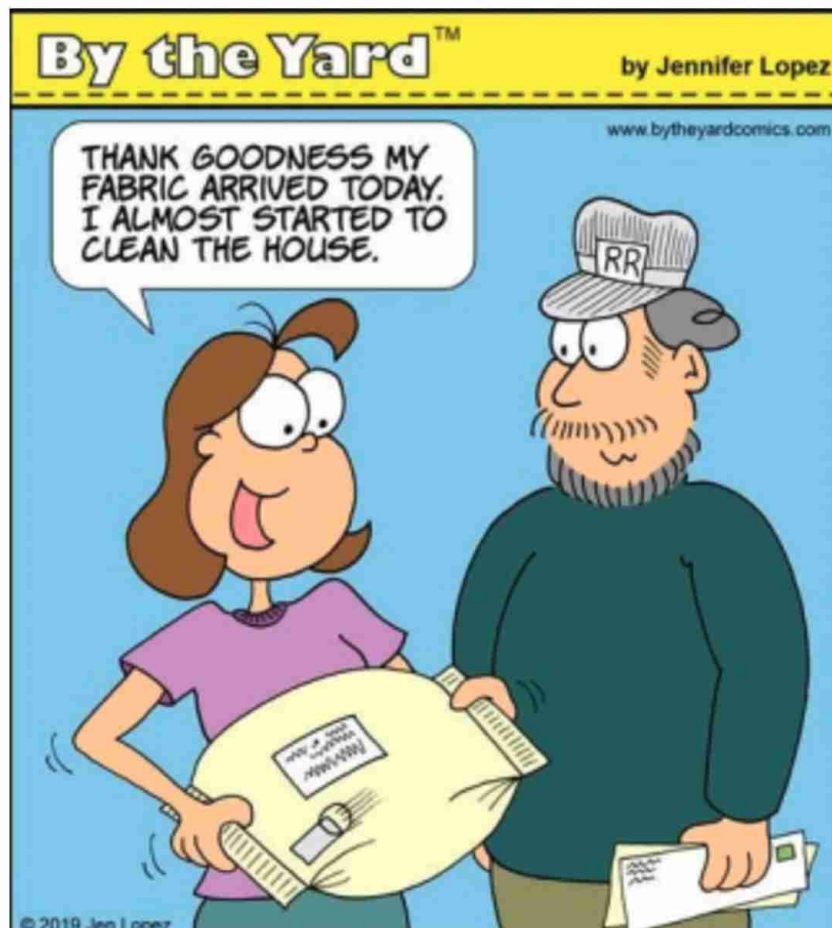
Take regular photos or videos of works in progress on tables and design walls. Also, document research and inspirational content you have pinned up in your space.

Make a recording of the books in your library. A slow pan of the spines of books in your collection once a year will give you an important video record if you ever need to replace items. Consider doing the same thing for equipment and supplies in your workspace, and use that footage to create an inventory list for insurance purposes.

If your workspace is outside of your home, take a video of the entrance and exterior of your studio. If you use chalkboards or dry-erase boards to record information, be sure to take regular photos for your permanent archives.

Consider recording a self-guided tour of your workspace as a video journal entry. Enlist a friend to operate the camera or use a tripod. Documenting each space you work in will allow you to revisit different seasons of your creative life in the future.

—Erin Jones



Murphy's Law of Quilting

Murphy's Laws of Quilting Fons & Porters Love of Quilting Karen Buck

1. No matter how much of a particular fabric you have for the quilt you want to make, you will always be half a yard short.
2. Even if you own 200 shades of blue thread, you will not have the one that matches the project you are starting.
3. If you have a piece of fabric 10" wide and need five 2" wide strips, you will cut one of these strips 2 ½" wide and be short one strip.
4. You will always run out of bobbin thread 1" before the end of the last border seam.
5. The scissors and pincushion, even if you have six of each, are always on the other side of the room. You will not discover this until you sit down.
6. The only beverage you will never spill on your project is water.
7. When you measure twice and cut once, the piece is still too short.
8. Your computer will crash just before you can save the design you have worked on for two hours.
9. If a pin goes astray on the floor, you will step on it.
10. You will break your last sewing machine needle at midnight...the night before your quilt is to be turned in for the guild quilt show.

Love USA Quilters December 2024 Facebook

Is there a Murphy's Law that pops its head up in your sewing studio when you least need it? Let us know so all of us can be prepared!

Joann Fabrics is Closing. What Are Quilters TO DO?

You may or may not have heard that Joann Fabrics will be closing all of their stores by the end of May 2025. I shop for fabric at Joann, but I mostly rely on them for tools, thread, batting and other products to support my quilting. Although these products can likely be found at other smaller quilting stores, they usually don't carry the variety of "supplemental" quilting products carried by Joann and, of course, the prices are usually higher.

So... What are we to do? Well, my truth is that I likely have enough fabric and tools to satisfy my short and long term requirements. New quilters, however, may need to find other quilting suppliers. Michaels and Walmart sell fabric but not in the volume carried by Joanne. Buying from a small quilt shop is another option. If you've been a member of Wa Shonaji for at least two years, you could have attended one or more of our "shop hops." In our shop hops, we've visited Fabric Play in Aurora and Treelotta in Denver. Supporting local quilt shops greatly benefits those businesses. The Denver area has a number of small quilt shops. Also, many quilters have found it easier to shop online for fabric (e.g., at eQuilter.com). The one issue I've had with online shopping is that I can't tell the quality of the fabric. Once you find a supplier with good quality fabrics, that may be the best option for you.

—Joette Bailey-Keown

Local Quilt Shops along the Front Range and online include (but are not limited to):

- Fabric Play in Aurora
- Treelotta in Englewood
- Holly's Quilt Cabin in Centennial
- The Creative Needle in Littleton
- Sew-Ciety in Castle Rock
- The Quilt Store in Broomfield
- Ruth's Stitchery in Colorado Springs
- eQuilter (online)
- Fat Quarter Shop (online)



Area Textile Events

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum

- 200 Violet St., Golden, Mon–Sat 10–4; Sunday 11–4. \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; members free.
- **Jan 20–Apr 19, Exhibits**, “Stars Over the Rockies: Judy Martin Explores Star Quilts” and “19th Century Blues: It’s More Than Indigo”
- **Sunday at the Museum, Mar 9, 2 p.m.** “A Bed Turning with Jeananne Wright”
- **Apr 13, 2 p.m.**, “RMQM Blue & White Trunk Show.” Pre-registration required! Call the gift shop 303-277-0377; members free, non-members \$15
- **May 17**, Fabric & Friends annual auction-type fundraiser
- More info at www.rmqm.org

Colorado Quilting Council (CQC)

- Meetings are held via Zoom and in person at St Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 Kendall Blvd, Littleton 80128. In-person guest fee \$10. Workshops for members only.
- **Mar 22, Meeting, 10 a.m.** “Captivating Compositions” by Deborah Boschert
- **Mar 23, Workshop**, “Graphic Landscape Collage” with Deborah Boschert via Zoom
- **Apr 26, Meeting, 10 a.m.** “Design Process” by Tara Faughnan
- **Apr 27, Workshop**, “Mod Log Cabin” with Tara Faughnan via Zoom
- For more info, visit 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.
- **Mar 20, Meeting**, “Blue and White Quilts” trunk show by Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum
- **Apr 17, Meeting**, Annual Business Meeting
- Contact vp-programs@quakingaspenquiltguild.org or visit the website at 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@denvermetro mqg.org
- **Mar 12, Meeting**, “Adventures in Quilting (AIQ)”
- **Apr 9, Meeting**, 10th Anniversary
- For more information, visit www.denvermetro modernquiltguild.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.
- **Mar 10, Meeting**, Marci Baker from Fort Collins
- **Apr 14, Meeting**, Jane Haworth, Maine, “Fabric Collage—What It’s All About?”
- For more information columbineqq@gmail.com or 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.
- **Mar 13, Meeting**, “Building Community”
- **Mar 15, Workshops**, morning (9 a.m.), “Keep the Craft Going: Hand Quilting” with Jerry Dunbar; afternoon (1:30 p.m.), “Kawandi Stitching” with Jennifer Strauser
- **Apr 10, Meeting**, “Driving in the Dark: My Journey in Fiber Art” with Lea McComas
- **Apr 12, Workshop**, “Intro to Thread Painting” with Lea McComas
- **June 6–7, Festival of Quilts XVII** “World of Color,” Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church
- Register at acqcolorado.org. For information www.acqcolorado.org

Acknowledgements

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 or email washonaji@gmail.com



Thank you to all contributors as noted plus Linda White, Reniese Johnson, "associate editor" Joanne Walton, and guest editor Daryn Miller for their wonderful additions to this newsletter.

Editor Julie Marsh

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.

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 sentence