



# Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

November 2025

## [Meeting, Workshop Nov 1!](#)

### Vote for 2026 Board; Make a Topsy Tree Quilt

Wa Shonaji's Nov 1 general meeting will be important as well as fun! Important includes selecting board members for 2026; fun focuses on finished UFOs (OFUs—see page 2) and a workshop to make the adorable Christmas tree quilt below.

Candidates for next year's officers are:

President: Joette Bailey-Keown

VP Programs: Volunteer needed—see page 5 for more info. Ask a friend to co-chair with you. A previous VP says you don't need experience!

VP Membership: Reniese Johnson

Newsletter Editor: Daryn Miller

Exhibits Coordinator: Joanne Walton

Treasurer: Connie Turner

\*Secretary: Priscilla Brown (with Assistant Deborah Sweatt)

\*Historian: Lynette Johnson (with Assistant Nonetta Pierre)

*\* A shared position is a change to the Board makeup.*

Nominations will be taken from the floor so please volunteer if you've decided to take or share a position.

Techniques for the **Tipsy Tree quilt** include improv and a Stack and Slash using six fabrics. As shown in the photo at right, the quilt includes 12 blocks with a 3.5" border and finishes at 35" wide by 32" long. It can be made with holiday fabrics, seasonal fabrics, stripes, checks, plaids, polka dots, and so on. Please contact Linda White (720-872-3251) if you would like to take this workshop. No member fee.



Also at this meeting, sign up and pay for the **Holiday Luncheon**, Dec 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Thornton. See page 4 for more details.

The **January meeting** will feature six members, each showing three of their quilts and discussing their journey.

**Correction:** The size of the Joy Banner taught by Mary Lassiter at the July meeting is 12" x 18.5" (not 12" x 24").

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## Upcoming Programs

- Nov 1—Tipsy Trees
- Dec 6—Holiday Luncheon
- Jan 2025—Member Mini Trunk Show
- Jan 10, 17, 24, 31—Beginner Quilt Class

## President's Message—New Year – New to Wa Shonaji

In the October Board and General meetings, we introduced several ideas we asked our membership to consider. These ideas included:

- Routinely donating quilts to foster children in Colorado. The quilts would be donated to an organization called “Raise for the Future.” A director in that organization requested that we provide 45 twin-size quilts, annually, to be given to children who have been in the foster care system for several years. We would also need to determine how to source quilt supplies, how to complete the quilting, and how to meet the annual commitment. I am excited that we now have a specific community focus.
- Issuing new members welcome kits consisting of a Wa Shonaji bag, a Wa Shonaji pin and pen and a name badge kit. (Reniese Johnson, VP of Membership, had already thought of this idea and delivered a kit at the October meeting.) The Board determined that providing the new membership kit would not create a new financial commitment for the Guild as we have supplies/donations necessary to make the kits.
- Shared Guild offices. In 2026, the VP Membership and Historian offices will be shared positions. This will spread responsibility for the offices and aid in succession planning,
- New Block of the Month (BOM) Team Effort – Guild members who participate in the BOM Team (ideally, we need 10 members) would make a new BOM using the monthly block pattern. Monthly, the names of Team members would be entered into a drawing for all the blocks. The winner would receive all the blocks made by the team and be asked to provide a finished quilt in six months. These quilts could either be donated to foster children and/or used as comfort quilts.

As routinely stated, we are always looking for ways to improve our Guild. If you have other ideas, please feel free to share them with any of our Board members.

**2026, HERE WE COME!**

—Joette Bailey-Keown, President

## 2025 UFO (Unfinished Object) to OFU (Objects Finished Up) Challenge



This year's **final UFO #4** on your list is scheduled to be shown at the Nov 1 meeting. Once again, **completed means** totally quilted, bound, decorated, labeled, and ready for use. Please complete the “UFO for Show and Share” form (found in the newsletter) and return the

form when you present your OFU at the meeting; only one copy is needed. Remember, each time you complete your UFO(s) on time your name goes into the kitty for the UFO challenge drawing.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Nonetta Pierre, Linda White, Karen von Phul, Lynette Johnson,

and Wendy Williams for completing their Oct UFOs on time or prior to the completion date.

**Kudos** also to Wendy Williams and Nonetta Pierre who completed their November UFOs early.

The remaining schedule is:

–Show UFO/OFU #4 tomorrow, at the **November 1 meeting**.

–UFO/OFU Challenge drawing at the November meeting.

—Reniese

*Quilting...cheaper than therapy...sometimes!*

## Celebrate the Season Dec 6 with Wa Shonaji

Mark your calendar for the Guild's most festive event of the year! Put your sparkles on for The Holiday Luncheon—10:30 a.m.–3p.m., Saturday, Dec 6, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 14275 Lincoln Street, Thornton, CO. This is the same venue as 2024. Exit off I-25 at 144th. You can see the hotel from I-25.

Signup and \$40 payment by cash or check will be available at the Nov 1 meeting, or payment can be made via PayPal for this \$40 luncheon. Payment must reach treasurer Connie Turner no later than Nov 14, 2025. No refunds after Nov 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright will be there for our game. Please bring a **\$15 Gender Neutral gift if you want to play, and if a guest wants to play, they must also bring a gift.** Any questions contact Linda White.

9:30–10:30 Set up dining room, quilt exhibit

10:30–11:00 Social Time

11:00–12:00 Business

12:00–3:00 Lunch, Entertainment

3:00–3:30 Clear dining room and take down quilt exhibit (Please stay to help if you can.)

Please use the following link to respond **no later than Friday, Nov 14**, with menu choices listed below for you and any guests.

<https://forms.gle/sbkwmfApXRiw3FQ98>

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

### 1. 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

### 2. Steak and Shrimp Diane (GF) 6

oz. filet topped with Dijon mustard and brandy sauce, served with three gulf shrimp and whipped cheesy potatoes

### 3. Cedar Planked Salmon (GF)

Salmon roasted on a cedar plank and glazed with apricot butter, served

with seasonal vegetables

### 4. 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

### 5. Steak Diavolo 9 oz. top sirloin served with

three jumbo shrimp, spicy tomato sauce and balsamic drizzle, served with broccolini and whipped cheesy potatoes

We can't wait to celebrate the season with you! **Questions?** Contact: **Linda White**



And yet again this morning, no one was standing next to my bed saying, "Your Royal Highness, here is your coffee. Your sewing machine has a full bobbin and a new needle!"

## Sharpen Your Skills for Your RMQM Exhibit Quilt

Joanne Walton will present “I’m Fed by My Needle and Thread” Thursday, Nov 6, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. She’ll cover the use of needles and threads in quilting and which types and sizes will help you do your best work.

This presentation will assist members in making “museum quality” quilts for Wa Shonaji’s exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum in fall 2027. Several workshops will be held on various topics.

Based on the theme “My Jazz Has the Blues,” your quilt must include something blue, it must be a traditional layered quilt with a 4" finished sleeve, and it must be 24" to 60" wide. Entry deadline is March 6, 2027. See page 8 for more details.

To gauge interest please sign up at the Nov 1 meeting of the Guild. But don’t worry if you don’t attend or forget; Geneva Lottie will email the Zoom info to all members.

Topics will include:

- needle(s) to use for certain projects and fabrics
  - the anatomy of a needle
  - pairing thread with your needle

- variations in threads and how threads are used in quilting
  - hand sewing, machine sewing
  - how to remove thread from your machine
  - various weights of threads and how they are used

- scissors – various types and what they are used for

There will be time for questions and answers.

The presentation will last about an hour. You are encouraged to bring your own snack or glass of wine! ;-)



## Wa Shonaji Welcomes New Members



When **Amy Shaffer** visited Wa Shonaji, she enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and found that she could benefit from learning some traditional quilting techniques that would improve her modern quilting! Did someone say, “Each One, Teach One”?

**Ronne Pierce** is currently on the board of the Colorado Quilting Council as their photographer. She is very new to sewing/quilting and is in a deep learning phase with many orphan blocks and partial quilt tops. She enjoys attending workshops and supporting local guilds. Originally from New Orleans, she has been in Colorado since 2014. She met some Wa Shonaji members at a workshop who encouraged her to join. She looks forward to learning more from the guild.



## Are You Working on Your Quilt for the Museum Exhibit?

Entries for Wa Shonaji's exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum are due March 6, 2027. The exhibit is scheduled for October 18, 2027, through January 15, 2028. You have lots of time to develop an idea and make your quilt!

All members of Wa Shonaji are eligible to create a quilt using the color blue to be exhibited at the museum in Golden, Colorado. The theme is "My Jazz Has the Blues."

Your submission can be a traditional, modern, applique, or textile art quilt or a music quilt, but it has to have blue in it somewhere. All entries must have been completed after January 1, 2025.

- The entry must consist of at least two layers and be held together by some form of stitching, whether by hand or machine.
- The quilt must be no smaller than 24" in width and no wider than 60" in width.
- Each member may enter up to three (3) quilts.

Each quilt exhibited at RMQM must have:

- A four-inch (4") finished sleeve attached to the width of the top edge of the quilt minus 1" at each end to allow for the hanging system. Please DO NOT include any rods or slats. The museum has its own system.
- All submissions must be labeled with the quilt's title and dimensions (width X length) and the quiltmaker's name and contact information.
- The 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 three-dimensional quilts or irregularly 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.
- Quiltmaker agrees that the supplied quilt images may be used for exhibit promotion and publicity, in print and online.
- Cloth identification label must be sewn securely to the lower-right corner of the back and must include the quilt title and name of the quiltmaker.
- An Artist Statement including any details you feel will give RMQM a full understanding of your work, past exhibit experience, press releases etc., resume, biography, and headshots; also list your techniques and materials used.
- Two (2) color digital images of each quilt—(1) overall and (2) a detail at 300 dpi or greater, maximum size 6" (1800 pixels) on the longest side.
- All works are insured as soon as they are received by RMQM.

**Quilting:  
Because punching people  
is frowned upon.**



## Just How Much Time Does It Take to Be an Officer of the Guild?

Wa Shonaji's Board members are so good at their jobs, so thorough, that we often think they must spend full-time "working" for the guild. But that's an illusion! Many of the duties are set up to be efficient; and the duties are pretty well spread out among the officers and committee members, and of course you, the members. This reality check may encourage you to think about joining the board next year.

All Board members spend about 3 hours per month attending a board and a general meeting. Also a few—president, VP programs, exhibits—prepare info for the newsletter 6 times per year.

**President** Joette Bailey-Keown says she spends about 3 hours per month planning for meetings and 5–7 hours each month attending those meetings.

As **VP of membership**, Reniese Johnson spends maybe 5 hours per month, including the meetings. She updates the roster, sends welcome letters to new members, deals with email from board members, gets door prizes etc. together. January/February are a little busier because membership sign-ups are due.

Linda White spends maybe 8 to 16 hours per month as **VP programs**—closer to 16 at the beginning of the year when planning programs for the year, planning the Holiday Luncheon, and preparing the budget. During the rest of the year, she checks the To Do List before Board meetings and balances the sign-in sheet with the treasurer's report. She updates the website calendar and provides info for the newsletter—mostly, picture/bio and presentation description for the next two months of programs.

Connie Turner estimates that she spends about 5 hours per month as **treasurer**. "Within a week I get the deposit ready, about 1–2 hours depending on the meeting's activity. Another 30–45 minutes driving to the bank to make the deposit (fortunately the King Soopers close to me has US

Bank). It takes 5–10 minutes periodically to transfer PayPal payments to US Bank, again depending on the number of payments. It takes about an hour a week before the meeting to finalize the report to send out. This involves logging into our bank account to get current balances on all the accounts, seeing what checks that were issued have cleared, ensuring that my debits and credits agree with the bank's." She spends about 1 hour monthly driving to the post office box at South Yosemite & Hampden to pick up mail.

The **secretary** position takes Priscilla Brown about 5–7 hours monthly, plus attendance at general and board meetings.

As **exhibit coordinator** Joanne Walton says she can't begin to estimate how many hours go into preparing the Trunk Shows. So much work happens behind the scenes. But she adds that she has a cracker-jack committee of four or five people who provide a lot of help, plus the guild members who attend the shows to help with folding and holding quilts. Further, there are usually just two to three

Trunk Shows per year, so a lot of the work happens in a small space of time. When pressed, she estimated 80 hours for a trunk show because she rewrites the script to suit the audience. She also is in charge of other exhibits—Xmas luncheon, plays, Red Rocks. Those probably take about 40 hours each.

As **newsletter editor**, an issue takes Julie Marsh one week every other month. It could take less, but she's obsessive about making it perfect.

**Historian** Brenda Ames spends a couple hours per week for a total of 8 each month keeping track of Wa Shonaji's historical perspective—plus attendance at meetings.

Were you surprised? And there's still time left over to quilt! Consider shadowing a Board member sometime this year so you can take a position next year. There are so many benefits for the guild *and* for you!



## Fort Collins Trunk Show Wowed Modern Quilt Guild

Wa Shonaji is...AWESOME!!!

Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild shared our quilts, talents, and creativity. We told our stories and shared historical data/facts about our heritage and our quilting—all for the Ft. Collins Modern Quilt Guild on September 11, 2025, in Ft. Collins, CO.

The audience was very accepting of our presentation. These trunk shows and other exhibits give Wa Shonaji a platform to express who we are. Our “Protest Quilts” received a standing ovation, and many people approached us after the show to express their appreciation for allowing our quilts to be a voice.

As you know, this is the time to make a protest quilt, using your own voice, and fabric as your media outlet. Quilts have been used for a long time as a form of political activism. Women involved in the “Temperance Movement” created



*Quilts sit ready to be shown during a pep talk from Joanne.*

the Drunkard’s Path quilt pattern as a statement of their values, and quilts were a form of protest in support of enslaved mothers whose children were snatched away from them. The impoverished women of Gee’s Bend, Alabama, raised money through the “Freedom Quilting Bee” to raise money to boost their efforts to register and vote. Some of them faced evictions from their homes and loss of jobs as they tried to become eligible voters.

Wa Shonaji is AWESOME...I LOVE it when our “well-oiled” Trunk Shows move along so seamlessly, even though a lot of preparation goes on behind the scenes. Thanks to the Holders and



*Above, members of the Chorus tune up.*

*Below, Holders display smaller quilts.*



*Members of Ft. Collins guild chat while waiting for the Trunk Show to begin.*



## More Ft. Collins Trunk Show...



*Under the direction of Mary Lassiter, the Chorus entertains the Ft. Collins guild with songs like Wade in the Water and Lift Every Voice and Sing.*



*Quilts have been shown and folded up to be taken home.*

the Folders, the Chorus, Photographer, and on and on. Oh... and let's not forget VANNA, beautifully played by Sandra Coleman!!!

MY HEARTFELT thanks to all of you who

continue to give your time and service to the Guild to make...

WA SHONAJI...AWESOME!!!

— Joanne Walton

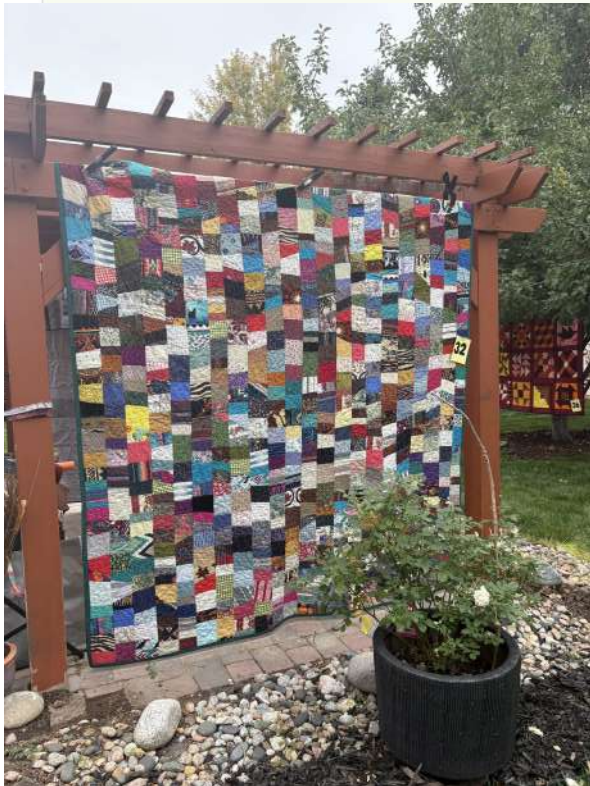


*Wa Shonaji presents painted fabric as the basis for art quilts.*



## September Garden Party Blooms with Quilts, Conversation

Nearly 50 Wa Shonaji members and guests enjoyed the sunshine, a potluck lunch, and Joette Bailey-Keown's beautiful garden in Thornton on Sept 6. Gorgeous, colorful, "Scrap Happy" quilts were displayed across the yard.





## More Garden Party...





## More Garden Party...





October Show 'n Share, UFOs



*Above and right, Karen von Phul  
Below, Nonetta Pierre*



*Below, Joanne Walton*





## More October Show 'n Share...



*Left and below, Deb Sweatt*



*Below, Julie Marsh*



*Below, Wendy Williams*





More October Show 'n Share...



*Above, below, and above right, Di Nyce Brooks-Gough*





## More October Show 'n Share...

*Below, Elayne Miller's big Kawandi; right, Elayne's little Kawandi*



*Joette Bailey-Keown (A neighbor made this for Joette, who brought the pattern to the guild meeting. Did you take her pattern? She needs it back! No questions asked!)*



## Block of the Month



Lynessa Laws



## Name Tag Winners



Left, Pat Allen won a prize just for wearing her name tag! Below, Deborah Sweatt looks over her prize fabric for wearing an ID. You can win a prize IF you remember your name tag!





## Well, Not Everything that Happened at Retreat Stays There...

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji's 2025 Fall Retreat is now a page in our memory books! Seventeen dedicated quilters spent three to four days sewing up a storm—though the weather was great! We saw an elk, we ate lots of snacks—but not all! We shopped in Estes Park and in Lyons.

The retreat was held Oct 9–12, at the Highlands Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO—a gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park.

*Aunt Edna Jones was the first to finish a project—a mat for her sewing machine. It's also the first project she has ever sewn!*



*Lots of collaborating going on. Here Joane Walton, Wendy Williams, Karen von Phul, and Lynette Johnson discuss Karen's painted fabric.*



*Sharing opinions makes for better quilts. Here, Linda White, Stephanie Hobson, and Deborah Sweatt consider borders for Deborah's quilt.*



*Wendy Williams showed Joanne Walton how to use the AccuQuilt she's had in her sewing room for over a year! Now it will be used!*



## More Wa Shonaji Retreat...



*Stephanie Hobson shows off her finished pillow, made from a panel she purchased in Lincoln, Nebraska, on our guild road trip last July.*



*Left: Deborah Sweatt completed her quilt, disappearing 4-patch made with African fabric from Nigeria. And she couldn't wait to wrap up in it.  
Right: Geneva Lottie was first to finish the retreat project—a fabric bowl or Catchall that took 5 minutes to make (not to take anything away from Geneva's accomplishment! But it's FAST).*





More Wa Shonaji Retreat...



*Joanne Walton finished a quilt that was started by Marcia Walker.*



*Karen von Phul displays her painted fabric that she quilted and will hang as an art quilt.*



*Edna Jones also finished a table runner!*



*Nonetta Pierre completed 14 Christmas stockings for the members of her family who will take a Hawaiian cruise this Christmas.*



## More Wa Shonaji Retreat...



*Above, Christine Jacque and Julie Marsh see who's taller!  
Right, Nanci Vaughn takes a moment for herself.*



### The Retreat Tally

2 placemats with napkins  
14 Christmas stockings  
Machine sewing mat  
Table runner  
Pillow cover  
2 quilt tops  
2 quilts completed  
14 Catchalls or little fabric  
box (group project)  
Assorted other sewing  
But no partridge in a pear  
tree...

*Wendy Williams, Joanne Walton,  
and Nonetta Pierre, demonstrate  
the AccuQuilt.*



## Priscilla—Truly in My Happy Place

Traveling for a family reunion for the first time, I visited Virginia Beach, Virginia, for the Currie Chapman reunion. My family of 4 generations stayed in a large Airbnb. The 4 generations are Myself, My hubby John, son John, daughter Tina, granddaughter Tiarra, great granddaughter Nielle from Winston Salem, North Caroline.

It's been a tradition of our parents and our family to always try to get to know our families all over the country. So traveling to family reunions is a blast! One thing I tell my children is no matter where you are; you have family there. If you need them, you can call on them.

Well during this magnificent trip I had the honor of going to the Portsmouth , Virginia, Cultural

Museum and Farmers Market. My children dropped off my hubby and me, and they went to the beach on a Saturday morning. In this museum I found an All Purple Quilt Display throughout the entire museum. The local guild members used the movie *The Color Purple* for their theme. Now anybody that knows me knows that I truly do love purple. I was in Hog Heaven (as Adrienne Bryant said when I called her and sent her the pictures). ALL of the quilts were PURPLE!

Please enjoy the photos I took and let the purple drip all over you as it did me while I was there. I have committed to put a little purple in every quilt I make. You know Purple stands for Royalty.

Enjoy from Queen Purple Priscilla



More Priscilla's Travels...





## If You're Feeling It, Quilt It!

Many people these days are moved to express themselves. One way we can make ourselves heard is to infuse our quilts with a message, even a protest. There are many ways to do this effectively.

Reveal your personal history, meaning, or message intentionally through your fabric choices, design decisions, and technique. As you choose fabrics and colors, consider the emotions and stories you want to convey. Use an original design or tweak a traditional pattern to make it your own and embrace personal expression.

You don't have to go looking for your voice—look to your quilts for your voice, your story. What colors do you choose? Wild or subdued? Bright or somber? What patterns do you use? These are all indications of your voice. Do you “hear” it?

Give yourself permission to experiment with improvisational designs and don't be afraid to break the rules.

Your design choices, from the quilting motifs to the color palette, can be a statement of your personal aesthetic and can emphasize your message. One quilter noted, “If words feel hard... let your stitches do the talking.” Every stitch, fabric choice, and press of the iron can reflect your thoughts and emotions, embedding a deeper meaning in the quilt.



*Don't Shoot by Allison Allen, who spoke to Wa Shonaji in April 2025 (see the May 2025 newsletter for her take on how to express yourself).*



*Joette Bailey-Keown felt the need to say something. This is her protest quilt.*

Choose your message. Keep it simple and direct. Go for maximum impact. If you choose to use words, be sure they're legible. They can be big, eye-catching or small to draw in the viewer. They should contrast with the background so they're easier to see. Or express your message in art—just be sure it's clear what your “picture” is.

Sketch out your design; plan the layout. What design will best convey your message? What techniques are you comfortable with and which ones will help you get across your message?

Embrace imperfection. Don't let self-doubt stop you from sharing your work, your message. Your unique style and the story in your stitches are valuable, regardless of whether your seams are perfect.

Quilting is deeply important work for documenting your experiences, your stories, your feelings through the times we live in. Remember that the world's largest collective art project is the AIDS memorial quilt.

Teri Walker, PhD, provides five questions to help evaluate how your quilt is doing:

1. How do I feel when I see this quilt? i.e., What is my immediate reaction?
2. Is the message overt or subtle?
3. What is the message of this quilt?
4. Do the color, words, pattern, quilting affect the delivery of the message? Is so, how?
5. Will this quilt entice me to think differently or take action? If so, how?



## "What Do You Do with All Those Quilts?"

*[Reprinted with permission from Debbie Jeske, entry from her blog [aquilterstable.glogspot.com](http://aquilterstable.glogspot.com), Tuesday, August 22, 2017]*

I get asked fairly often what I do with all the quilts I make—do you? In fact, I got asked twice this last weekend. There's really a very simple answer.

I USE THEM—In my home, they hang on walls, cover beds, stack on dressers, lay over couches, pile in closets and dresser drawers. I keep one in my car. I have several at my office.

I GIFT THEM—Parents, kids, grandgirl, sibs, nieces, nephews. They all have them. Some have several. Sometimes they go to friends too.



I DONATE THEM—I belong to a charity bee and work with my local guild specifically to make quilts to give away. These result in group-made quilts of course, but I also occasionally give my own quilts to local charities that I like to support.



I SHOW THEM—I have a collection that have been in quilt shows, or I intend to enter in shows.

I SHARE THEM—Whether in classes, lectures, or trunk shows, depending on the topic, I need samples. So quilts that may be used in that way, again, I hang on to.





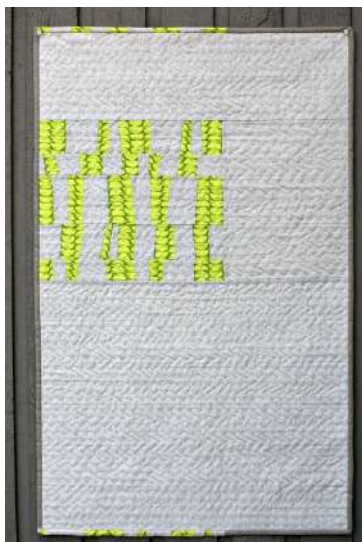
## More What to Do with Quilts...

I STORE THEM—There are a few that just don't find themselves in the above categories, so they wait until the right time or the right person. Or I just can't bear to give them away but they don't have an active purpose right now. Or I like to use them during specific seasons.

I SELL THEM - OK, this just happened once.

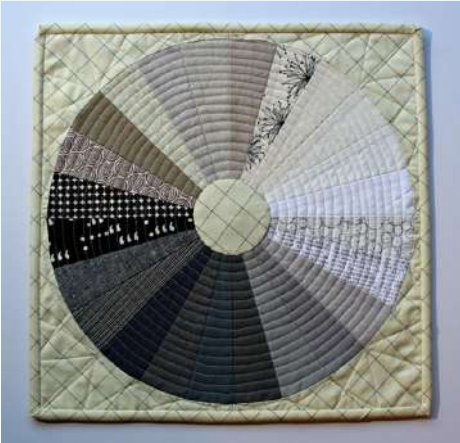
I'm sure, to non-quilters, it's hard to understand how I can just keep making. But as YOU all know, makers gotta make! I'm not always thinking of the end result or the destination when I start a new project. I really do try to use them well and share them generously. But sometimes, often, I just need to make one more.

*Debbie made the quilts shown with this article; she includes them in her blog. And I just like to look at quilts! jm*





## More What to Do with Quilts...





## Valerie C. White Presents to Wa Shonaji

Following the October 4 general meeting, esteemed textile artist and Wa Shonaji honorary member Valerie C. White gave a lecture to our guild. In her presentation, Valerie discussed her background, her influences, and the materials and techniques she uses in her art. Valerie also discussed her current struggles and spoke about one of her upcoming projects.



*First Sunday. Valerie stated that this piece is "about my people going to church and having to travel to get there."*

### Valerie's Background and Influences

Valerie described how she started as a traditional quilter. However, she also had an art background and eventually decided to combine quilting and fine art. Valerie was an art major at Howard University. While at Howard, she became familiar with African American artist Jeff Donaldson, whose work was a major influence in the Black Arts Movement. She also became familiar with AfriCOBRA, an African American artists' collective co-founded by Donaldson. White said she wants to be



known as an artist who expresses herself with cloth; she wants her work to be in art museums and art galleries, not necessarily in quilt shows. She explained how quilts have been devalued. They have historically been considered a craft rather than an art. This is because they have been—and still are—perceived as “women’s work.”

The bulk of White’s work involves research and spiritual exploration. She supports her art with written narratives in order to answer the question: “What am I really trying to say with my work?” Valerie spoke a bit about her series *Roots and Refuge*. She voiced that roots are the basis of her work. She uses roots as a metaphor for people: they are interchanging and intertangled. Below is a more detailed explanation of *Roots and Refuge* from Valerie’s website:



*The birds and eggs are Evolon appliqués.*



## More on Valerie White...

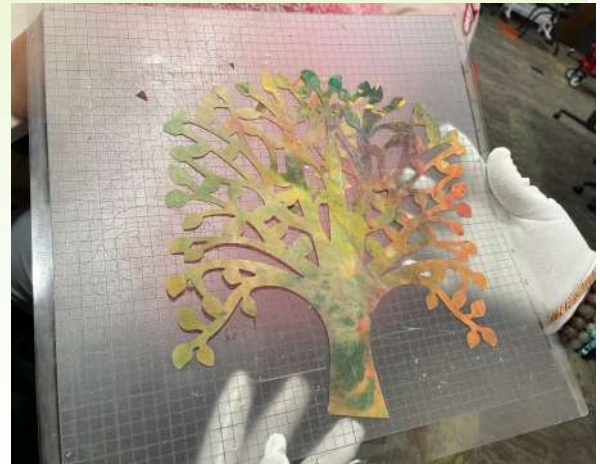


*The men and leaves in this piece were made with Evolon.*

“The Roots and Refuge series began with two very simple questions: ‘Why do big plants have small roots systems and how is it that small plants have immense root balls? What is the relationship between these two phenomena?’ Early on I was more fascinated by their size, shape and texture. As I continued to dig deeper, I realized that my reverence and respect for the strength of roots structures had more to do with how I see the world community than the physical structures of roots themselves. Could it be that people who appeared strong and self-assured really had fragile roots or



*These trees/vines were made with a Thermofax machine.*



*A tree made out of Evolon and cut on a Silhouette machine.*

was it possible that quiet, uncomplicated people were sustained with deep strong roots? Roots remain my muse...”

There were also various other topics that Valerie touched on. She emphasized that she is a stickler for good craftsmanship. She does not tolerate sloppy work. Furthermore, she also recommends that quilters and artists hire a professional photographer to take pictures of the work that they



*Unchanging Grace*

## More on Valerie White...

intend to submit to shows, exhibits, etc. White told a story of how one of her quilts was rejected from an exhibit because the pictures she took were poor quality, and thus the judges were unable to clearly see the colors and details of the quilt. Valerie talked a bit about her mentor, who is a mixed media artist named Jane Dunnewold. Valerie has also studied in Ohio with renowned quilter Nancy Crow.



*A current work-in-progress*

### Materials and Techniques

White uses a variety of unique materials and techniques to make her art quilts. She works in layers. For the appliqués, Valerie uses Evolon, a cross between polyester, paper, and fabric. It takes paint better than fabric and the edges don't fray. Other materials that she uses include: Wonder Tape, Mistyfuse, a thermofax machine, a Cricut/Silhouette machine, Gelli plates with acrylic paints, and Aurifil thread. She uses a Cricut/Silhouette machine to cut out the Evolon appliqués. She puts her Silhouette machine on the heavy cardboard setting. She then paints the cut-outs and adheres them to a quilt with Mistyfuse. She sometimes stitches them on as well.

Valerie planned on giving Wa Shonaji a demonstration on Gelli plate printing with acrylic paint. However she was unable to find her paints and told us that she would come back to do a demonstration. In the meantime, here is an expla-



*Gelli plate supplies and prints. These images are courtesy of doodlecraftblog.com and a colorfuljourney.com*

nation of Gelli plate printing according to *The Quilt Show's* "Quiltipedia:"

"Gelli Plate Printing uses a gelatin plate to press to fabric or paper. The process is easy, as the paint is put on the gelli surface, spread out with a brayer, then a variety of stencils and other textured objects are placed on the gelli plate, removed, and then placed on the fabric. The stencil leaves a texture or pattern on the gelli plate that is transferred to what you are printing on. The Gelli Plate is a reusable printing surface made of a non-perishable gel."

### Valerie's Current Work and Experiences

White told us that she considers her work to be mixed media. She highlighted the importance of attending critique groups; their brutal honesty has helped her grow as an artist. She also declared that she doesn't give up; if she's told no, she tries again. Recently, Valerie was contacted by the Smithsonian to exhibit her work, but she withdrew due to the current political climate.

Karen von Phul's husband asked Valerie what continues to motivate her. Valerie was honest about her current struggle to stay motivated. She said that she has hit a wall, as she lost six family members in six months. She has been doing a bit of knitting, however, Jane Dunnewold has strongly encouraged her to get up and make more art. Over-

[Continued on page 30](#)



## Comfort Quilts Donated by Members

We currently have **40 comfort quilts** in our inventory as of October 2025. Thank you, members, Nonette Pierre, Deborah Sweatt, and Joette Bailey-Keown for your donations.

As a reminder to our newer members about Comfort Quilts: each year on or near your birthday month, you as a member are encouraged to donate to the Guild a quilt that you have made that year. It not only gives you practice in sharpening your design and quilting skills, but it makes sure that when there is a bereavement or serious

illness of one of our members, we have something to give that is hopefully a "comfort."

You might check out magazines, YouTube, or Pinterest for ideas, or sign up for one of our upcoming classes. If you need more information about our comfort quilts or inventory, please feel free to ask me. :-)

—Your Comfort Quilt Chairperson,  
Nanci Vaughn

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## More on Valerie White...

all, Valerie is currently trying to pull herself up from a very dark hole. She did mention that she is going to do some work that centers on the Second Great Migration (the migration of over five million Black people from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and Western United States from 1940 to 1970).

### Conclusion

To conclude her presentation, Valerie stated two very important sentiments. The first was "Impatience is not good." The second was origi-

nally in response to Carolyn Mazloomi saying she does not care for White's *Roots* series; she said she doesn't think it's Afrocentric enough. But Valerie says, "It's important to express yourself with what's in your spirit."

Many thanks to Valerie C. White for sharing her artistic wisdom and knowledge with Wa Shonaji. For more information about Valerie and her work, you can visit her website at [valeriecwhite.com](http://valeriecwhite.com).

—Daryn Miller



Posted by Abbi Mays  
Fabric Shop

Oops! DeLois Powell and Annie Howard had birthdays October 25, but we forgot to include them last month. We loudly and sincerely wish them a happy birthday and wonderful year!

### **November Birthdays**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Valerie White (Honorary)

4<sup>th</sup> – Vicki Tomlin

8<sup>th</sup> – Nonetta Pierre

25<sup>th</sup> – Luana Rubin (Honorary)

25<sup>th</sup> – Teri Washington

29<sup>th</sup> – Gwendolyn Cobb-Grimes



*Machine pieced and quilted by Artie Johnson*



*Machine pieced and quilted by Artie Johnson*

### **December Birthdays**

1<sup>st</sup> – Pat Allen

5<sup>th</sup> – Nanci Vaughn

8<sup>th</sup> – Julie Marsh

10<sup>th</sup> – Stephanie Hobson

10<sup>th</sup> – Al White

12<sup>th</sup> – Alfreda Kemper

14<sup>th</sup> – Edith Shelton

15<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Byers



## 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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## 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 January 17, **Exhibits**, Bonnie Murphy “Quilts Inspired from Down Under” and Linda Anderson “The Grandeur of the Moment”

Nov 9, **Sunday at the Museum**, 1–3 p.m. Treasures, Hand Cranks & Motors—Oh My! Pre-registration required! Call the gift shop 303-277-0377 Members free, others \$15

No **Sunday at the Museum** in December.  
More info at [www.rmqm.org](http://www.rmqm.org)

### Quaking Aspen Quilt Guild

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

Nov 20, **Meeting**, Bill Wright “Basic Maintenance and Troubleshooting Your Machine, and When to Call Bill” and Scissor Sharpening

Dec 11, **Meeting**, Holiday Party

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)

Nov 12, **Meeting**, Pop-Up Swap

Dec 10, **Meeting**, Social Meeting + Raffle Drawing

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

### Columbine Quilt Guild

Second Monday at Denver Church of Christ, 625 Carr St., Arvada, at 6:30 p.m. In-person and Zoom. Guest fee \$5.

Nov 10, **Meeting**, Bill Wright “TLC for Your Sewing Machine”

Dec 8, **Meeting**, Holiday 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 13, **Meeting**, Diana S. Fox “From Traditional to Contemporary Art Quilts”

Dec 11, **Meeting**, Holiday Celebration  
Register for meetings at [acqcolorado.org](http://acqcolorado.org). For information [www.acqcolorado.org](http://www.acqcolorado.org)

### Colorado Quilting Council (CQC)

Meetings are held at 10 a.m. via Zoom and in person at St. Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 Kendall Blvd, Littleton. In-person guest fee \$10. Workshops for members only.

Dec 6, **Meeting**, Margaret Brewster Willingham “Reverse Applique: Revealing Beauty”

Dec 7, **Workshop** (for members only) 9 a.m.–4 p.m. “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Stars! Mini-Star of Wonder Ornaments” The Presser Foot, Longmont

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

People who quilt often are happier,  
better looking, and live longer than  
those who don't, according to a  
study I just made up.

**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.

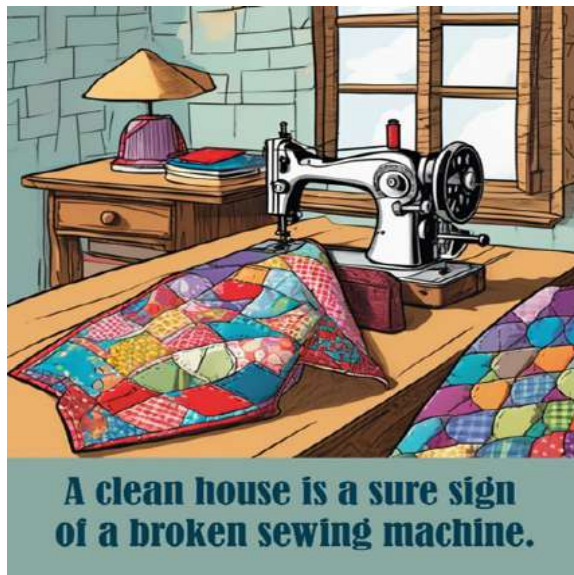
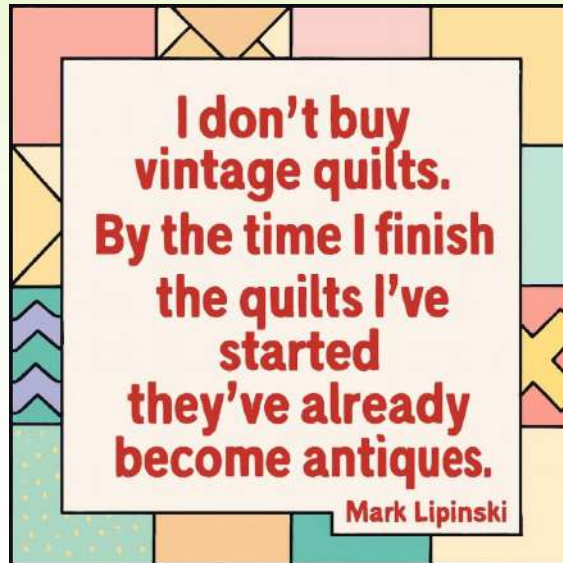
We educate ourselves and share our knowledge with others, based on the motto "Each One Teach One." We seek to encourage the work and accomplishments of our members and to preserve the tradition, culture, and history of quilting. Rather than judge each other's work, we learn from it and revel in it.

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)



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

I love creating this newsletter for you. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to do it. Daryn Miller will be the editor starting in January. She'll do a terrific job!

—Editor Julie Marsh