

May '14

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

QUILTING SISTAH NEWS

African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

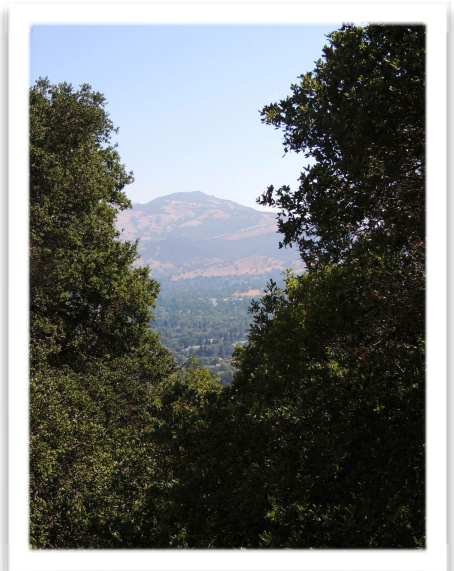
2014 AAQGO Annual Retreat - 2 spots left

Every year Ann Seals hosts a “party” at our annual AAQGO Retreat at the San Damiano Retreat in Danville, CA. This years retreat starts in the afternoon on Friday August 8th and ends after lunch on Sunday August 10th.

We play a few games, eat a lot, listen to music and laugh and laugh and laugh. You can bring your own projects to work on or do one or more of the mystery quilt projects. We also have a few short lessons where you can learn to make gift items. There is an optional field trip to the fabric store in Danville on Saturday.

San Damiano is a beautiful secluded place that looks out over Mt Diablo. The accommodations are basic, but the meals provided are excellent! The cost is \$283 per person which includes room, meals, insurance, and supplies.

If you want to go, there are 2 spots left plus a waiting list in case someone needs to cancel. To reserve your place, mail your \$100 deposit to the AAQGO P.O. Box. For additional questions, contact Ann Seals.



**African American Quilt
Guild of Oakland**
P.O. Box 31834
Oakland, CA 94604
www.aaqgo.org
email: aaqgo@comcast.net



**Our Guild
Meeting is the
4th Saturday
each Month**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After February activities, we turned our attention to the internal business of the Guild. At our March meeting, Guild members approved the revised By-Laws for the Guild. 2005 was the last time our By-Laws were revised. As chair of the By-Laws committee, Shyrrl Hancock kept the committee on task and focused. Dolores Presley, Rosita Thomas, Marilyn Handis, Katie Wishom and myself were the By-Laws committee members. For those of you who could not attend the March meeting, the revised By-Laws are available on our website <http://www.aaqgo.org>

At our April meeting, Angeline Gibbs from Dixon was our guest speaker. Her Trunk Show and Presentation were informative and entertaining. Mrs. Gibbs provided us with helpful techniques for designing our quilts for our next quilt show.

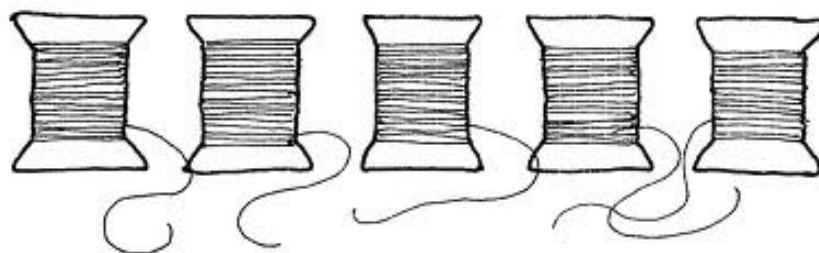
"Bringing Neighborhoods Together: Quilts Around Oakland" is the title of our next Quilt Show. Marion Coleman is the chair of our show. Stay tuned for more news about the mechanics of the show. This show is an ambitious project that needs the gifts, talents and skills of each of our members. We need all members to enter a quilt so start thinking about a design concept for your quilt.

Now that our By-Laws are complete, it is also time to look towards election of our new leadership of the Guild. As chair of the nomination committee, Katie Wishom and her committee are busy seeking members who are willing to be of service of the Guild. Please consider sharing your gifts and talent with the guild. Besides our elected officers, we need members to step up and consider chairing a committee or actively participating in developing guild activities. In our new By-Laws, each office and committee's duties are described. Look at the duties and see how you can be of service to the Guild.

In the coming months our meetings will focus on preparing for our Show, elections and skill development. We are always looking for new ideas, topics and speakers that you would like to see at our meetings. Send the Board your suggestions.

Remember the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland is your Guild and we are all a part of the success of the Guild.

Blessings, Marie



TRASH, TREASURE OR TRASHY TREASURE . . .

What do you do with your fabric and batting scraps? Maybe you stuff them in a corner only to be re-discovered when you're moving or your relative has the unfortunate task of disposing of your belongings. Maybe you create all kinds of whimsical crafts and toys. Maybe you make beautiful scrap quilts that only you and your grandmother remember how to, or care to make. Maybe you just don't have a clue and they're cluttering your mind and your space, or maybe you just immediately trash them.

My Google search for "fabric scrap uses" un-earthed many helpful hints, images and uses. A recent survey revealed that many of our AAQGO members have some really cool and creative ways to organize, store and use those scraps that some of us trash and others treasure with our last breath. If you've seen any of my "show and tell", you know I hoard almost all scraps and I think I've created some interesting pieces though some haven't been so successful.

I'm sure many of you can add to the list but first let's see what other members had to say and then I'll share a few challenges. Forgive me, I didn't use your survey names after all but here are the results:

Storage: some of us keep small scraps in bundles, bags or boxes by size, fabric type and use them for appliqué, baby quilts, crazy quilt blocks, fabric postcards, mini travel sew kits, pin cushions, dryer sheet foundation piecing and the list goes on. A few people separate their 2" to 6" squares or strips in bins and by size.

Projects: baby quilts, scrappy quilts, pillowcase tops, quilt backs, potholders and wall hangings. Somebody keeps yellow and

other bright colors to give dull quilts "pop". There's always the batting scraps for toys and crafts but did you know one member will take your fabric scraps to make and stuff doggie beds?

Sharing: some give to favorite charities, child or adult daycare programs for art projects, others share with friends or ask "who wants", and some just toss.

Challenges: One member organized a "potluck lunch scrap swap" and provided several quilt pattern options where each person was asked to contribute 270 six inch pre-cut squares. Several different and beautiful quilts came out of that challenge. Maybe you're involved in a project where you need small African or Asian scraps or you'd like to challenge members to swap 1-2 inch red, white and black strips to form a "mini, create however you like" quilt.

With all these ideas, what now - it's your option: trash, treasure or trashy treasure?

The Scrap Hoarder,
Nell Mays



Guild Member BUZZ!



SUNSHINE AND SHADOWS



Our positive thoughts and prayers to all members and their families facing health challenges.

Congratulations to the Sew n Sews - **Pat Bailey, Blanche Brown, Marsha Carter, Marilyn Handis, Debbie Mason, Norma Mason, Carolyn Pope, Dolores Presley, Ann Seals, and Julia Vitero.**

They are having their first show at the Foothill Gallery in Hayward starting mid June through early August.

New and Returning Members

Patricia Benjamin
Kim Conner
Ernestine Tril

QUILTER'S TIP OF THE DAY:

Make your sleeve in two pieces, leaving a 1" opening on the center seam. Insert your slat. The 1" opening will accommodate a nail for hanging. This works well for small or large pieces!

Birthdays!

MAY

Ellen Blakey
Teloca McLinn
Frances Porter
Deborah Salmon
Ann Seals
Marjorie Smith
Marie dePorres Taylor
Suzanne Taylor

JUNE

Patricia Benjamin
Kim Conner
Ora Knowell
Esther Pancho
Patricia Turner
Marie Watson

JULY

Sandi Adgar
Jackie Clemons-Dorsey
Rev. FranCione
Alix Jennings
Judith O'Neal
Midge Robinson
Leola Williams



Local Events

June 20 - 22, 2014

Contemporary Crafts Market

Pasadena Convention Center,
Pasadena, CA,

June 12 - August 7

Odyssey: Journeys of new challenges, adventure and discovery

**Sew n Sews ~ a mini group of AAQGO
Foothill Gallery
22394 Foothill**

Boulevard

Hayward, CA

**www.haywardarts.org
510.538.2787**

June 28 - 29, 2014

Seven Sisters Quilt Fair,
Madonna Inn Expo Center,
San Luis Obispo, CA

July 12 - 13

Legacies of Love
Piecemakers Quilt Guild
Ohlone Community College
Newark, CA

October 16 - 19

Pacific International Quilt Festival
San Clara Convention Center
San Clara, CA

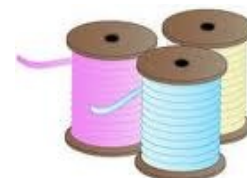
Local Events

May 1 - June 1

*Berkeley Central Library
Annual Quilt Show*
Berkeley Central Library
Berkeley, CA
510.981.6236

June 7 - 8

*Wine Country Quilts
Moonlight Quilters of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building*
San Rosa, CA
www.mqsc.org





I AM AAQGO



Name: Nickcolyer A. Hills

Age(ish): October 22nd

Occupation: Semi-Retired

Where I was born: Gurdon, Arkansas

Town in which I currently live: Richmond

How long I've lived in (town, state): 20+ years

What I like most about (town, state): My neighbors are friendly and helpful. Everyone looks out for the other. The people in Richmond also allow you to be “your own person and I like that because I have never been a follower “just for the sake of following.” Of course, if you have something “to say of substance”, I will listen.

Favorite place to take friends when they come to visit: San Francisco

The people who mean the most to me: My family: Brother, Doyle; sister-in-law, Lynn; stepfather, Dobie, who now that my father has passed, is just like a father to me; and my sister, Peggy. Friends – K'ren, who has allowed me to be a part of her business; and Linda, who I met years ago at work. Linda has not only been a friend but has allowed me to become a friend of her family.

A Key event in my life and the impact it had on me: My father's passing – he was such a smart and knowledgeable man. He was such a strong advocate for education, morals, ethics and integrity. He taught me to always stand up for myself and what I believe in, to be a lady; take pride in my accomplishments and just “be the best person I can be”. Even though he was not formally educated, he was the smartest person I knew.

Hobbies: Movies, Reading, Walking, Sewing and learning new things.

Favorite Sports Team: Pittsburg Steelers

Sports I enjoy: Football, Basketball, Archery, Badminton

Pet(s): My favorite pets are cats, all kinds (domestic and wild)

Favorite Food/dessert: Fruit, vegetables, meat and ice cream

One thing I want to accomplish while I am able: I would like to travel (domestic and foreign). I want to learn another foreign language, French. I would also like to resume learning to play the piano. I want to take dance lessons (tap).

I “give back” by volunteering with: I intend to become a “mentor” to young people. I really believe I have something to contribute.

Favorite vacation destination: Europe (Germany, Scotland, England and Russia). The United States (some states in the south and all of the eastern states).

Other information you would like to share: I would just like to say that the people in the AAQGO are so genuine and friendly and I look forward to being in your company for years to come.

GLOBAL BAG LADIES

Imagine your daughter, niece or younger sister missing several months a year of school or work because they didn't have the necessary hygiene products and sometimes resorted to using unhealthy and often harmful objects from nature.

After a few personal requests and a group e-mail, I received donations of yards, bags, bins and bundles of fabric. Several ladies also devoted hours of sewing skills to make and contribute 35 cloth bags. From my stash and some of the donated fabric I made several more. Now thanks to the "AAQGO Bag Ladies and Friends" at least 100 girls and young women will have less to worry about. These bags will be filled with personal hygiene items by the Young Women's Missionary Department of my church, Bethel AME, San Francisco, then donated to DaysforGirls, Intl. and distributed globally to undeveloped countries.

AAQGO can claim a new meaning for "bag lady" - you rock and I thank you. Please know that you will receive a formal thank you in the near future. My contributors were Amal Johnson, Ann Seals, Carolyn Pope, Deborah Salmon, Dolores Presley, Dorothy Wilkins, Ellen Blakey, Julia Vitero, Katie Wishom, Loretta Cohen, Mary Wimbly, Patricia Montgomery, Rosita Thomas, Sally Dickson, Shyrll Hancock, and my friend Freda Pleasants, and promises for additional bags/fabric.

Any person or group wishing to donate to this very necessary cause can contact DaysforGirls, Intl. directly. More detailed information is available on their website, www.daysforgirls.org.

Much Love. *Nell Mays*



100 Bags for Girls

Fabrics for additional bags

AND A THANK YOU LETTER

It's something we really don't think about. What young ladies and women in developing countries do for their feminine hygiene needs. I know I hadn't until I read an article in this year's January issue of 'O Magazine.' It was surprising -- the use of corn husks, leaves, rocks or otherwise, sitting at home on cardboard, missing school or work for a week.

The international nonprofit Days for Girls (DaysForGirls.org) through donations and volunteers helps to provide feminine kits and education to these young ladies. These kits empower and gives them dignity. When you stay in school to receive education you are empowered. When you work you are empowered. When you are no longer relegated to the sidelines for a simple yet important biological function, you have dignity.

I felt it a worthy cause, something the Young Adult Missionaries at church could get behind. (Also helping in this endeavor is our Sarah Tanner Missionary Society and Young People's Department.) Once our church members found out about this mission they began to donate needed tangible items. Nell Mays graciously offered to help using the talents of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland. I would like to thank the Guild for their time, efforts, open hearts and generous donation of 100 bags and fabric. This will help the Days for Girls project in so many ways.

With deepest gratitude,

Dana Davis
Director, Young Adult Missionaries
Bethel AME Church, San Francisco



ANGELINE GIBBS



Angeline Gibbs of Dixon, CA was our speaker at the May meeting. Angeline and her Mother arrived at our meeting with a car full of originally designed quilts and pillows, and fabrics for purchase.

Angeline, a self taught quilter, explained how she conceived and executed her designs using fabrics scavenged from her Mother's upholstery shop.

Thank you, Angeline, for all of your helpful tips.

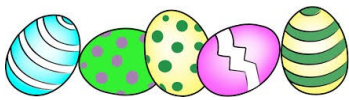


REMINDER

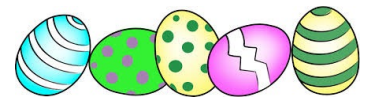
Our annual Lakeview Library display will be in September this year.

We will show the UGLY FABRIC CHALLENGE quilts.

All quilts will be collected at the AAQGO August meeting.



WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL



Imagine my surprise when an email popped up that said "Congratulations! You have been selected to attend the 2014 White House Easter Egg Roll. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, April 21st for the 2014 White House Easter Egg Roll, a tradition that dates back to 1878.

I was on a conference call and jumped up and down rejoicing quietly. When I opened the email and read it again I thought it was a hoax... I had only been trying for 5 years to get tickets. Is it true, no it can't be true. So I did as the email directed me to do and went to a link that was for a "concert promoter". Oh no, someone really is playing a (sick) joke on me. I called my hubby disappointed. He called the company handling the tickets and they discovered that they sent the "wrong link" to everyone. Resent and now it worked. It's official - I'm going to the White House - maybe I will meet the Obamas!

I really had been trying for the last five years to get tickets which are given away free through a lottery system to families (2 adults and up to 4 children). The Easter Egg roll tradition dates back to 1814 when then First Lady Dolly Madison began the event and invited hundreds of children who brought decorated eggs to the Capitol. But in 1877, a new lawn was planted and the gardeners cancelled the event. It was President Hayes' wife who brought the event to the White House lawns in 1878. But, it was Mamie Eisenhower who opened the event for the first time to African American children in 1954. In 2009, the Obamas hosted their first egg roll and invited same sex couples and their children to attend. It was also the first time that

free tickets to the event were distributed via the internet through a lottery system. This change allows visitors from around the country to attend, like me and my family.

We had tickets for 2:30 to 4:30 but got in line at 12 noon and were about the 20th persons in line. 1 1/2 hours later - we were finally moving to the security check point. Get water, get program, get a tattoos and on to stand in line for another hour until about 2:15 when they finally let us start walking over. From our vantage point - we can see a little bit of the south lawn but as you approach you come upon a the most familiar house in American - a white building surrounded by a lawn that is about one city block big... (that's just the back yard).

Once in - there were so many festivities - including taking pictures, art and crafts, music and dancing everywhere, even hula hooping. My daughter did participate in the egg roll using a wooden spoon to push the egg to the finish line. There were two short concerts starring American Idol winner, Candice Glover and another one with teen pop star Ariana Grande (who sounds like Mariah Carey). Over 30,000 people attended the event in five times slots. At the end of our time, we left with the traditional wooden egg signed by the Obamas - a collector's item.

While standing in line, we learned another important bit of black history. There is second roll that is a Black Easter tradition in DC. In 1891 the Smithsonian National Zoo introduced another Easter egg roll that became popular as an alternative to those who could not attend the White House event. With over 55,000 African American

families in attendance in 1919, its been a tradition every since. Its now more a multi-cultural event with entertainment, games and arts all for free on the Monday after Easter.

Even though we didn't get to meet the Obamas, it was well worth the experience of being one of the few people who can say "I've been to the White House", even if only the South Lawn.

Teri Green



Teri Green



Official Logo - Easter Roll



President Obama



Madison Green with American Idol winner Candice Glover

Summary of our next 3 AAQGO Workshop meetings! (You could have your Quilts done!)

Workshop 1 (AAQGO Meeting May 24th)--Every Quilt Tells A Story: Designing a Theme Quilt-----Learn to develop and design a theme quilt

Workshop 2 (AAQGO Meeting June 28th)--Stretch and Grow: Improving Color, Composition and Value----- Explore color theory, value, contemporary design methods and materials.

Workshop 3 (AAQGO Meeting July 26th)--Fine Tuning: Beads, Buttons and Bindings-----Adding dimension with embellishments, borders and binding. May include quilting embellishments such as seed stitching, embroidery, etc.



TOOL TIPS BY Donald

Need a sewing stiletto?

The next time you elect to try Chinese "take out" for dinner, save the chopsticks that came with your meal.

Take a clean chopstick and sharpen it in an electric or with a manual pencil sharpener.

Once the point is made, lightly sand.

Need a method for safe disposal of old or broken sharps?

Keep an empty clear medicine bottle next to your sewing machine.

Put a hole in the plastic top with an ice pick or nail and tape securely to the bottle.

Dispose bent or broken pins and needles in bottle through the hole in cap.

Eliminates the danger of you and your garbage man sticking your fingers.

Who is who? and what is what?

2012 - 2014 Officers and Board Members	
President	Marie dePorres Taylor
Vice President	Marsha Carter
Secretary	Rosita Thomas
Treasurer	Dolores Vitero Presley
Historian	Donald Foreman
Parliamentarian	Katie Wishom
Founder	Esther Pancho
Education	Vacant
Exhibits	Julia Vitero
Library	Shyrrl Spann-Hancock
Membership	Pat Bailey
Newsletter	Dolores Vitero Presley
NCQC Liaison	Katie Wishom
Opportunity Quilt	Teri Green
Publicity	Vacant
Program	Ann Seals
Quilt Show	Marion Coleman
Sunshine	Nell Mays
Website	Kyla Laffoon
Worthy Causes	Jackie Clemons-Dorsey



Officers and Board Members
can be reached at:
aaggo@comcast.net
or
www.aaggo.org
or
PO Box 31834
Oakland, CA 94604

MEMBERSHIP:
Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the purpose and objectives of this Guild, and payment of annual dues. No discrimination shall be made with regard to race, color, creed, or national origin.

**African American Quilt
Guild of Oakland**
P.O. Box 31834
Oakland, CA 94604

www.aaqgo.org
aaqgo@comcast.net

Quilting Sistah News



QUILTING SISTAH NEWS
African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

P.O. Box 31834
Oakland, CA 94604

Next Meeting
Saturday, May 24th, 2014. 1-4 p.m.
Quilt Show Workshop I
West Oakland Library
1801 Adeline Street
Oakland CA 94607

Visit our website:
<http://www.aaqgo.org>