

May '15

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# QUILTING SISTAH NEWS

*African American Quilt Guild of Oakland*



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH FAMILY WORKSHOP

First of all I would like to thank all of those who participated in this year's Black History Month Family Workshop. Without all of you, it would not have been such a success. Everyone who was in attendance had a great time. We had fifteen children participating.

I would like to thank the photographer, those who assembled the gift bags, and those that donated fabrics and gifts for the door prizes. Also, a big thanks to all of the members who participated in making this event happen.

It was a pleasure to see all of the smiling faces of the children that were working on their 9-patch blocks, and seeing how happy they were when they accomplished their goal. And it was great to see people coming together to meet old and new friends and having a good old-fashioned time.

I also would like to give a big shout-out to Ann Seals for making all the backpacks for the children, the kids love them.

I look forward to making next year's event even bigger and better.

*Deborah Salmon*, Education Chairperson



### African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

P.O. Box 31834  
Oakland, CA 94604

[www.aaqgo.org](http://www.aaqgo.org)

email:

[aaqgoakland@gmail.com](mailto:aaqgoakland@gmail.com)

### Meeting Reminders

- \* Be on-time \* Sign-in and pick-up new info at the table
- \* Wear your name tag
- \* Turn in your BOM
- \* Turn in a worthy cause quilt or pillowcase
- \* Bring your 2 minute show and tell
- \* Bring Library donations or buy something good!
- \* No Perfumes or scented lotion
- \* Please help put the chairs away and restore the room to the way we found it.

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the days get longer, it is the perfect time to start a new quilting project. In fact, you can start at sunrise and work until night fall. If you need ideas, check with our education chairperson, Deborah Salmon. Review information on the "Our Projects" section on our website including the latest block of the month. You can complete your own worthy cause quilt. We will have a new challenge quilt to prepare for the Oakland Public Library display in September. Finally, if you have not completed your quilt for our quilt show, *Neighborhoods Coming Together, Quilts Around Oakland*, take advantage of the daylight and complete your quilt show project and make our quilt show chair, Marion Coleman, very happy.

Our meetings are focusing on skill building. We have had informative speakers as well as worthy cause and new project sew days. At each guild meeting, we are welcoming new members to the Guild and sharing quilting techniques with them. .

As summer approaches and you begin vacationing do not forget to check out every quilt store you see on your travels. As you travel by air plane, train, car, bus or ship, do not forget to bring a quilting project with you.

Happy Summer!

Blessings,  
*Marie*



## JOY ELAINE JOHNSON

1941 ~ 2015



It is with deep sorrow that I share with you news of the passing of our AAQGO member Joy E. Johnson. Joy was a significant part of AAQGO history. She was a long time member and served as the second president of AAQGO. Joy became the official educator of AAQGO. Many of our members have learned to quilt, improved their quilting skills, and participated in community outreach programs that Joy organized. As members learned of Joy's passing, many have mentioned to me that all they know about quilting they learned from Joy. On a personal note, I learned the finer skills of quilting from Joy. Under her tutelage, I made my first Adinkra symbols quilt.

In 2014, the Guild honored Joy by making her the second honorary member of AAQGO. The first honorary member is our founder Esther Poncho. Joy was always generous with her time, skills, supplies and talents. As her health declined, she continued to stay in contact with the Guild. Joy, you will be missed by all the members of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland!

## *Marie de Porres Taylor*



# Guild Member BUZZ!



Welcome  
New and returning  
members!



Kenneth Conner  
Alicia Decatur  
Francie A Gross  
Evelyn Johnson  
Zondra Kilpatrick Martin

## Birthdays!

### MAY

Ellen Blakey  
Kenneth Conner  
Madlyn Jones  
Neferetiti Littlejohn  
Teloca McLinn  
Frances Porter  
Deborah Salmon  
Ann Seals  
Marjorie Smith  
Marie dePorres Taylor  
Suzanne Taylor



### JUNE

Kim Connor  
Jamie Gladney-Presley  
Ora Knowell  
Lillian LeBlanc  
Esther Pancho  
Jeanette Robinson  
Pat Turner

### JULY

Jackie Clemons-Dorsey  
Rev Francione  
Midge Robinson

June 5 - 6, 2015  
**Contemporary Crafts  
Market**  
Pasadena Convention  
Center  
Pasadena, CA  
For free pass:  
[http://  
www.craftsource.org/](http://www.craftsource.org/)

## SUNSHINE AND SHADOWS



Our condolences to the family of **Joy Johnson**. Under Joy's direction as the second president of AAQGO, the Guild began the process of obtaining its non-profit status. Joy was a leader, teacher, story teller, and an inspiration to all.

Our positive thoughts and prayers to all members and their families facing health challenges. Glad to see **Shyrrl Spann-Hancock** up and about.

## LOCAL EVENTS

March 25 - August 2

### **Stitching Russell City Stories**

Fabric art by **Marion Coleman**  
Hayward Area Historical Society  
Hayward, CA  
[http://  
www.haywardareahistory.org](http://www.haywardareahistory.org)

May 1 - June 7

### **34th Annual Quilt Show**

Berkeley Public Libraries  
Berkeley Main Branch  
Berkeley, CA  
510.981.6236

May 1 - June 27

### **LOSS:Public/Private**

Textile art by Alice Beasley  
Joyce Gordon Gallery  
Oakland, CA  
[www.joycegordongallery.com](http://www.joycegordongallery.com)

May 17 - 18

### **Making Memories One Stitch at a Time**

Flying Needles Quilters' Guild  
Yolo County Fairgrounds  
Woodland, CA  
[www.flyingneedlesyoloco.org](http://www.flyingneedlesyoloco.org)

May 30

**A.R.T. Inc. presents**  
**MARION COLEMAN, Textile  
Artist**

Adobe Art Center  
Castro Valley, CA  
[www.artinc.com](http://www.artinc.com)

June 20

### **Quilting Bee**

**Sew n Sews, a mini group of  
AAQGO**

Hayward Area Historical  
Society  
Hayward, CA  
[www.haywardareahistory.org](http://www.haywardareahistory.org)

June 17 - 21

### **Shop Hop By The Bay**

Shops include: Always Quilting,  
Back Porch Fabrics, Eddie's  
Quilting Bee, Family Threads,  
Golden State Sewing &  
Quilting, The Granary, The  
Intrepid Thread, Judy's Sewing  
Center Capitola, Laurel Leaf,  
The Nimble Thimble, Quilts  
and Things, Scruffy Quilts, Sew  
Bee It Quilting  
[http://  
www.shophopbythebay.com](http://www.shophopbythebay.com)

June 20-21

### **KPFA Summer Fair**

Craneway Pavilion  
Richmond, CA

June 27-28

### **2015 Quilt Show**

**Ocean Wave Quilters of Fort  
Bragg**  
Dana Gray Elementary School  
Fort Bragg, CA  
[http://www.quiltguilds.com/  
california.htm](http://www.quiltguilds.com/california.htm)

October 15 - 18

### **Pacific International Quilt Festival**

Santa Clara Convention Center  
Santa Clara, CA

**GUEST SPEAKER  
SUE MARY FOX**

Sue Mary Fox was our speaker on March 28. Sue Fox, the youngest of three daughters, learned to sew at any early age and has always earned her living with a sewing machine. In high school she made prom dresses for other girls and ready to wear clothing. In the 1980's and 1990's, costume design was her chosen métier. In 2000, she bought a long arm quilting machine and opened Textile Design Studio where all things fabric can be explored, designed and made during workshops at a community crafting studio. Please see [TextileDreamStudio. Com](http://TextileDreamStudio.Com) for more information.

We were shown a dazzling array of quilts, photographic, psychedelic, small pieced quilts, art quilts and large quilts. Sue Fox demonstrated a series of quilts that had the same fabrics but were arranged in different ways. She pointed out the joys of serendipity with a large monochromatic quilt that she embellished with left over yo-yo's that a friend gave her. She often works with fabric she is given and does not necessarily use cotton. She uses silk, wool and other fabrics as well. We were advised that when sewing with silk to use ½ inch seams and be consistent. If you are having trouble with ¼ seams, use blue tape on your machine to mark ¼ inch. Keep a clean work area because that will make you more eager to be in the space.

In a question and answer format about what causes frustration we were given the following take always:

Q: What do you do if you don't have the skills or experience?

A: Take classes, read books and do the exercises with scraps, look at you tube videos, attend community sewing days and practice, practice, practice!

Q: What do you do when you ideas for a quilt and don't know what to do?

A: Do some rough sketches, pull some fabric from your stash and start putting it on a design wall. Cut out some shapes and glue them down with Wonderunder and begin playing with the fabric.

Q: What if you have bad instructions on a pattern?

A: Change the pattern or (in the opinion of this writer – I throw the pattern away and just make it up as I go along)

Q: What if 12 inch blocks are challenging?

A: Supersize them. Choose a focus fabric and select fabrics that are in harmony.

Q: Stash busting?

A: Look at you fabric once a year and use it or lose it. Use big blocks as they use more fabric.

Q: Color challenges?

A: Use the color wheel or take class or take photos of colors that inspire you.

A big thank you to Sue Fox for the trunk show and the engaging, humorous discussion about the creative process.

*Teresa Weyand*



## **QUILTS, QUILTS COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE - A STORY BY NELL MAYS**

Remember when you put your heart into what you thought would be the most loved, most viewed quilt around - then to have it seen only by your BFF? Maybe you garnered two minutes at a guild "show and tell" or your favorite charity needed something to raffle. Somehow your quilt masterpiece ended up in a black hole in the back of your closet never to be seen again until you moved or there was a major renovation of your home. Well, centers, galleries, libraries and numerous organizations lined up to request loans of AAQGO members' quilts during February-April 2015.

Here's the line-up as this reporter remembers it. Beware memory is the first thing to go so member names will not be quoted except for the community quilt and there might still be slight errors. All other exhibits included works by at least a dozen members, several of them in multiple shows and some of those members are also members of the Hayward Arts Council. A number of shows included receptions featuring food, tours and lively conversation.

February 7<sup>th</sup> Fairyland Oakland unveiled its story-time quilt - collaboration by Marsha Carter, Ora Clay, Marion Coleman, Carolyn Pope, Dolores Vitero Presley, Nell Mays, Marie de Porres Taylor, and Julia Vitero

February 7<sup>th</sup> Poetry Slam, West Oakland Branch Library.

February 26- April 11<sup>th</sup>, Foothill Gallery, Hayward - Members Fabric Creations

March 1-28<sup>th</sup>, Fiber Art Masters, Sacramento. Musical Threads: Quilts, Dolls and Wearable Art Show saluting Women's History Month with food and presentations each Saturday. Extended to May 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gallery request.

March 1-15<sup>th</sup> Beverly's Crafts & Fabric, Alameda - Show, Contest and Prizes

**Hint: They are having a Holiday show and contest starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, check store ad for details**

March 11- April 7<sup>th</sup> Hayward Senior Center - Sew-N-Sews and Art Council Members Quilt Show

March 16 - April, Laney College Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Exhibit

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 x 12 Small Quilts Group with Sue Fox -Textile Dream Studio

March 25 - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Stitching Russell City Stories by Marion Coleman, at The Hayward Area Historical Society. **Full story under another heading.**

**Moral: Just keep creating those beautiful quilted works of art - someday soon someone will ask you to exhibit them!**



Fairyland Quilt



Poetry Slam  
Teri Green



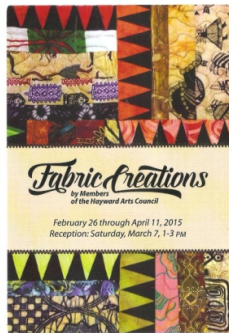
Fiber Art Masters  
Nell Mays



Poetry Slam  
Barbara Fuston



12 x 12  
Marilyn Handis



Fabric Creations  
Foothill Gallery, Hayward



12 x 12  
Carolyn Pope



**REUNION WE SHALL  
ALWAYS REMEMBER . . .**

It's the title of one of ten quilted creations by AAQGO member Marion Coleman which tells the story in fiber of the people of Russell City, CA- a town lost to urban renewal but a city not forgotten.

Let me try to paint a picture. You are in one of several special rooms in the gallery of The Hayward Historical Society. There is period furniture and a grand table set with an heirloom cloth and dinnerware embellished with dates and anecdotal reminders of the townspeople. All around you among the buzz of several dozen museum goers are hung a ten quilt exhibition of very telling stories. One dramatic whole quilt is of a house on fire, depicted in another are the clubs and hotspots of the era, and then, there is a very touching quilt of a Spanish worship service complete with a life-size choir uniform. There is more that you will have to see for yourself, but the quilt *-Reunion We Shall Always Remember-* brings up the rear and is of a reunion picnic. Not to be missed is the continuously streaming video and the two "touchable" quilt displays.

In a separate room the gallery hosted an opening reception on March 27<sup>th</sup> complete with a wide variety of refreshments, several beverage choices and live music. The exhibit runs through August 2<sup>nd</sup> and features five workshops and presentations. You still have time to check out one or more. The gallery is located at 22380 Foothill Blvd, Hayward, CA open Wed - Sun., 10-4p.m. \$5 fee or \$3 for seniors.

Of the billion dollar annual fabric, quilting and fiber business stories are being told, legacies are being preserved and hopefully people of all ages and nationalities are reminded that life is a precious and valuable resource.

*Neil Mays*





## Who is who? and what is what?

<b>2014 - 2016 Officers and Board Members</b>	
<b>President</b>	Marie dePorres Taylor
<b>Vice President</b>	Ann Seals
<b>Secretary</b>	Rosita Thomas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dolores Vitero Presley
<b>Historian</b>	Donald Foreman
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Marilyn Handis
<b>Founder</b>	Esther Pancho
<b>Education</b>	Deborah Salmon
<b>Exhibits</b>	Julia Vitero
<b>Library</b>	Shyrrl Spann-Hancock
<b>Membership</b>	Nickcolyer Hills
<b>Newsletter</b>	Dolores Vitero Presley
<b>NCQC Liaison</b>	Katie Wishom
<b>Opportunity Quilt</b>	Teri Green
<b>Publicity</b>	Vacant
<b>Quilt Show</b>	Marion Coleman
<b>Sunshine</b>	Nell Mays
<b>Website</b>	Ann Seals
<b>Worthy Causes</b>	Jackie Clemons-Dorsey



It is easy to spot a quilter in a crowd.



### **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

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## Quilting Sistah News

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**QUILTING SISTAH NEWS**  
*African American Quilt Guild of Oakland*

P.O. Box 31834  
Oakland, CA 94604

**Next Meeting**  
Saturday, June 27, 2015. 1-3 p.m.  
West Oakland Library  
1801 Adeline Street  
Oakland CA 94607

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