

Aug '15

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# QUILTING SISTAH NEWS

*African American Quilt Guild of Oakland*



## GLORIA GRANDY - JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

At our June meeting, we spent a fun, action packed afternoon, viewing, touching, listening to doll stories and making miniature dolls with Gloria Grandy, Doll Artist Extraordinaire.

Gloria is a passionate doll maker and has been designing, creating and selling her cloth dolls for about 20 years. She makes both art dolls and rag dolls. She designs and makes her own doll and clothing patterns. Her art dolls are 18 to 36 inches and have poseable wire armature bodies. Her rag dolls are recreations of antique, primitive and vintage Black dolls created in more positive images. She says "My work comes from the creative spirit within and is inspired by music, movies, theater, nature, poetry, and everyday people." Her business name is "Cre8tiv Glory."

Many AAQGO members signed up to receive information about future Doll Workshops.

Contact Gloria and view her work at the below sites:

ggrandy28@gmail.com, 916-410-9082

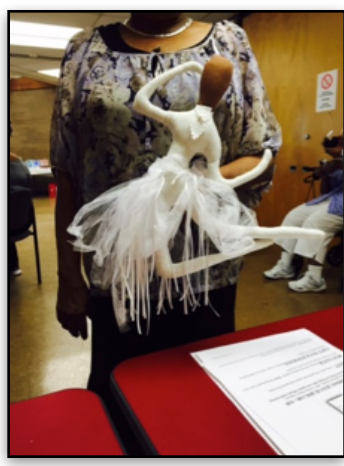
[www.cre8tivglory.com](http://www.cre8tivglory.com)

<http://www.pinterest.com/cre8tivglory/my-cloth-dolls-designs/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gloria.grandy.1>

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

**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)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having just returned from our annual Quilting Retreat at San Damiano Retreat Center, I have renewed quilting energy and enthusiasm. Kyla Laffoon will give a detailed report on the retreat in this newsletter.

It is very exciting to see new faces attending our meetings and signing up to become members of the AAQGO. When I became president, one of my goals was to help members improve or discover new quilting techniques. Over the last years, we have had speakers, sew days, and a flea market - all with the intention of giving members opportunities to hone their quilting skills.

The Guilds new year begins at our September 1st. Take a moment to reflect on what you would like to learn and do in the 2015-2016 year and share your thoughts with me or any Board member.

We will focus our attention on the immediate preparation for our quilt show, *Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland*. Currently Marion Coleman, our quilt show chairperson, is working intently with her committee to put the final touches on all of the details of our quilt show. Ann Seals has designed an opportunity quilt as a raffle for the show. Stay tuned to find out how to get your raffle tickets to sell.

In January 2016, we will begin to focus on electing a new AAQGO board with elections at the June 2016 meeting. Please take a moment and ask yourself are ready to lead the organization for the next two years.

As you continue to enjoy the "dog days" of summer, continue to cut, piece, quilt and bind.

Blessings,  
*Marie*



## A THANK YOU NOTE

Wow! Speechless! Blessed! Thankful! Just to name a few words to express how I felt, and how excited I was to see all of you. The love that you guys showed, left me speechless and I will always cherish that moment.

I would like to take this time to thank all of you as a group, and will personally get around to thanking each one of you individually.

I remember when Shyrrl told me that the Guild wanted to give me a Bridal Shower, and I said, "No", because I didn't want anyone to go out of there way, while also thinking that bridal showers are for young brides! Well, I was wrong! I felt like that young bride! I thank you for helping me see the light!

As I wish you all could be present at my upcoming nuptials, I know you will be there in spirit. Thank you again for all your blessings and support.

*Ann*



Ann with Mothers and Sisters



Sisters



Ann and Michiel, friend from Los Angeles



Ann with Nieces





## What happened at the 2015 AAQGO Quilt Retreat?

As always, our magnificent party planner, Ann Seals, did a fantastic job of creating a fun and productive event at our usual location, San Damiano in Danville, CA.

We started off on Friday with a wonderful welcome packet and homemade mesh satchel from Ann. In the welcome packet were the patterns for the optional mystery quilts and other goodies. Throughout the weekend we could work on the mystery quilts, our own projects, and the mini-projects that were taught during the 3 days. For the mini projects, we had chicken pin cushions, mini-bags, and the foot pedal stopper (also known as the hamster bed, ask Theodora!). We played our usual games, and Katie did not win the bag she is showing off in the photo below, lol! We enjoyed lots of snacks, wine, and the efficient accommodations and lodge style meals provided by the retreat center. It is a beautiful place to sew!

This year we had a special underground surprise project happening right under Ann's nose. With some pre-made kits and a little planning, the retreat participants appliquéd 4 dishtowels, 8 placemats and 8 napkins with African fabric as a special wedding gift for Ann. We celebrated with a champagne and cake party Saturday night and presented her with her gifts!

You can be part of the fun at the August 2016 Retreat. The total cost for *Retreat 2016* will be \$291, and right now you only need an \$100 deposit to hold your spot! The cost covers your accommodations and meals and insurance for Friday dinner through Sunday at lunch! There are only 18 spots available per year.

If you have any questions, just ask Ann or Marie or any retreat go-er! - *Kyla*



# Guild Member BUZZ!



Welcome  
New and returning  
members!



Theodora Adkins  
Alice Beasley  
Alla Blanca

## Birthdays!

### AUGUST

Pat Bailey  
Evelyn Johnson  
Niambi Kee  
Nell Mays  
Karla Robinson



### SEPTEMBER

Flo Davis-Warner  
Sally Dickson  
Zondra Kilpatrick Martin  
Ernestine Tril  
La Quita Tummings

### OCTOBER

Blanche Brown  
Ora Clay  
Marion Coleman  
Marilyn Handis  
Nickcolyer Hills  
Louise Jackson  
Kyla Laffoon  
Heidi Patrick



## SUNSHINE AND SHADOWS



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

Our condolences to the family of **Lillian LeBlanc**.

Our condolences to the family of **Jeanette Robinson** on the loss of her brother and to **Teri Green** on the loss of her uncle.

Congrats to **Sally Dickson** on her recent retirement.

Congratulations to **Niambi Kee, LaQuita Tummings** and **Carolyn Pope** for their art exhibit

*Trinity: Divergent Expressions of Color, Design and Life* at the EBMUD Oakland Administration Building Gallery.

Congratulations to the **Quilt Show Committee - Marion Coleman, Marsha Carter, Marie de Porres Taylor and Dolores Vitero Presley** - for securing an Alameda County Arts grant for our upcoming event.

Congratulations to **Ora Clay** who won three ribbons at the Alameda County Fair.

Congratulations to **Barbara Fuston** who won two ribbons at the Solano County Fair.

## Local Events

### June 26 - August 13

*Trinity: Divergent Expressions of Color, Design and Life*  
Niambi Kee, LaQuita Tummings, Carolyn Pope  
EBMUD Oakland Administration Building  
[www.ebmud.com/art](http://www.ebmud.com/art)

### July 10 - August 18

*Color - Part I*  
*A premier exhibition of works by Coleen Patterson, Bisa Butler, Calvin Coleman*  
Thelma Harris Art Gallery  
Oakland, CA  
[www.thelmaharrisartgallery.com](http://www.thelmaharrisartgallery.com)

### September 18 - 20

*Quilt and Threads Show*  
Sonora Quilt Show presented by Sierra Quilt Guild, Sierra Needle Artists & Mother Lode Weavers and Spinners

### October 3 - 4

QUILT SHOW  
Delta Quilters Guild  
Brentwood Community Center  
Brentwood, CA  
[www.deltaquilters.org](http://www.deltaquilters.org)

### October 15 - 18

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

### November 27-29

Celebration of Craftswomen  
Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA  
[www.celebrationofwomen.com](http://www.celebrationofwomen.com)

### December 4 - 6

The Artifactory Holiday Fair  
Palo Alta, CA  
<http://artifactory2004.weebly.com/>

### December 19 - 20

KPFA Holiday Fair  
Craneway Pavilion  
Richmond, CA

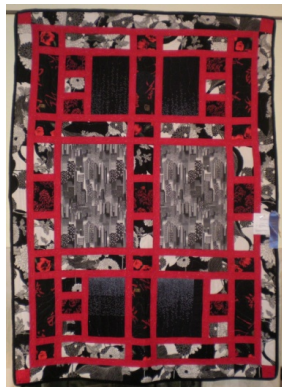
## SOLANO COUNTY FAIR

### FIRST PLACE FOR ADULT QUILTING HAND AND MACHINE QUILTED/PIECED

and the ribbon goes to . . .

#### BARBARA FUSTON

for



*Cityscape*

72"L x 55"W

Machine pieced  
Hand Quilted

" I saw the city at night fabric and couldn't wait to incorporate it into a quilt. I also had just been to a quilt show and picked up a lot of reds, blacks and whites. Silver thread seemed just the thing to hand quilt to finish off the quilt."

### SECOND PLACE FOR ADULT QUILTING HAND AND MACHINE QUILTED/PIECED

and the ribbon goes to . . .

#### BARBARA FUSTON

for



*Squeeze It*

65"L x 65"W

Machine pieced  
Hand Quilted

"I'm always on the lookout for 3-D illusion patterns. I came across a book that had a lot of Op-Art quilt patterns. I picked an easy pattern and grabbed some fabric. Of course, no planning ahead and I ran out of white fabric so used an orangey batik. Came out okay. One of these days I'm going to make this pattern in just black and white."

Congratulations, Barbara, for a job very well done.



## ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR EXPERIENCE

For the last six months I have worked as an apprentice to Marion Coleman in a program funded by Alliance for California Traditional Arts ( ACTA). One of my goals was to learn to do a quilt that I thought was suitable and large enough to exhibit in a public space.

Before being accepted for the ACTA award, I had not completed any quilt larger than 12" x 12", the exception was when I used panels. My first project in the program was a 47" x 56" quilt in a log cabin pattern that commemorated the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. The next quilt was even larger, 63" x 59" from a photo of a walk in the forest. I then did a 12" x 12" quilt for a folk tale exhibition, but unfortunately, it was not accepted for the competition.

I submitted all three quilts to the Alameda County Fair. *Brown vs. Board of Education* was awarded a first place ribbon and *Walk in the Forest* was awarded a second place ribbon. The folktale quilt of *Brer Rabbit and the Briar Patch* was awarded a Judges Favorite ribbon.

It was thrilling to walk in and to see the quilts hanging for the public to see as it was rewarding to hear strangers make positive comments about my quilts as I walked around incognito.

### *Ora Clay*



# NEIGHBORHOODS COMING TOGETHER: QUILTS AROUND OAKLAND UPDATE

Neighborhoods Coming Together Quilt Exhibit and Community Workshops are moving forward with a rapid pace. We tentatively have five venues to be announced in fall. Our exhibition dates should **start the first week of March 2016**, just in time for Women's History Month. All members are encouraged to participate and the committee will **accept quilts for photography until the end of October**. We would like as many quilts as possible. More than one quilt per member is allowed. In you have new colorful quilts that are within the size range of no less than 30" x 30" to a maximum of 72" x 72" the committee will review them. Larger quilts are harder to exhibit because of space constraints so mid-range are better. We are proud to have received support for this project from Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Clorox Foundation and Alameda County Art Commission. A special thanks to all quilters who have submitted their quilts and all of the workshop volunteers who have been working diligently and are making interesting quilts all around the city.

*Marion Coleman*  
Chairperson



## ST. LEO'S SCHOOL

Spring was a very active period for many volunteers in the *Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland* project. This spring Guild members collaborated with Arts Facet, an Alameda Contra Costa County Links program, to make mini art quilts about various aspects of life in Oakland. Volunteers worked with enthusiastic and very artistic fourth grade students in Ms. Jessica McDonald's class at St. Leo's School. The volunteers will likely return to help with other fourth grade students in the coming school year. Please let Marion know if you would like to join us.



Volunteers Jackie Houston, Fran Porter, Constance James, Amal Johnson, Marion Coleman, Debra Huston.  
Debra is the LINKS coordinator. Constance James also provided additional supplies

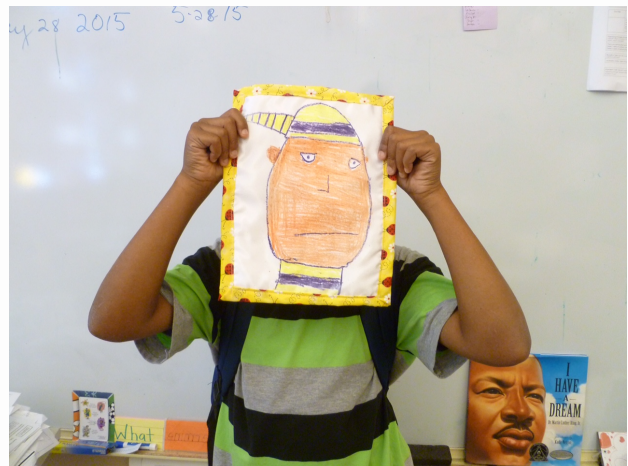
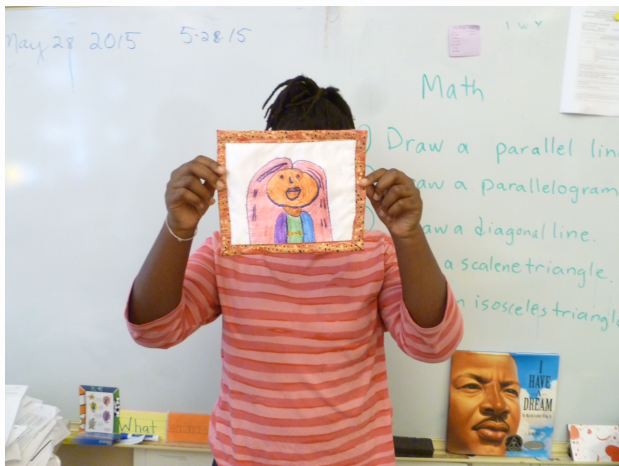




## HORACE MANN SCHOOL

Fourth grade students in Ms. Winifred Day's class at Horace Mann Elementary School gave new meaning to the term *selfie* as they made individual quilt blocks that became part of a larger class quilt project. Each student made a smaller quilt for themselves and they shared them with their classmates at the end of the school term. The class quilt will exhibit next year at Horace Mann and will become part of the school's art collection.

*Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland* has senior and youth projects all around the city and workshops will continue through next spring.





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## DOWNTOWN OAKLAND SENIOR CENTER

When I saw the announcement for the AAQGO workshop I was curiously excited. I didn't know what to expect. I'd learned of the Guild from AAQGO member Marjorie Smith, who extended an invitation to attend/join. But, I dragged my feet and procrastinated.

Now here was the opportunity to satisfy my curiosity. I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the announcement: I didn't need to bring anything, I didn't need to pay anything, and I didn't even need to know how to sew to participate. Hmm, interesting!

When I arrived, I met four Guild members over the course of the four week workshop; each quilter taught me a new skill (I'd been sewing since I was 9 years old, and quilting about 10 years.) Thank you Marsha Carter, Dolores Vitero Presley, Julia Vitero and Marjorie Smith.

I was curious to see how our individual projects would come together to make quilts for the *Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland* project.

I finished two projects; a quilt square representative of me and my life that will be tied and displayed together with fellow workshop participants quilt squares, and a 9-patch block that would be pieced and quilted together with other participant's 9-patch blocks. Both projects will be hung in a public building in Alameda County in 2016.

I enjoyed the quilting workshop community so much that I attended a Guild meeting and subsequently joined.

I can't wait to see my work, and other Guild projects hanging on the walls of public buildings throughout the county next year.

*Zondra Martin*





## NORTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER

AAQGO member Marsha Carter and Mary Norton, Director of the North Oakland Senior Center (NOSC) collaborated a partnership for the 2016 AAQGO exhibition *Neighborhoods Together: Quilts Around Oakland*.

AAQGO member Nell Mays spearheaded the project with NOSC Laverne Hayes, Quilting Circle Coordinator, to create a story quilt featuring digital photos telling the NOSC history *Promoting Active Seniors since 1998*.



Community Quilt - *NOSC SENIORS MOVING & SHAKING*



Eleanor Compton, Nell Mays, Mary Renter, Laverne Hayes, Betty Ubiles, Mason, missing from photo Phyllis Hayes, Shirley Smith,



## WELCOME TO ME!

Well, here we are again with another productive year behind us!

When I first undertook this journey as your new Membership Chairperson, I really had no idea of what was expected of me, or for that matter, how you would take to me. I was a new member of your Guild and had very little experience with quilting. My experience really came from Guild member and friend K'ren Martin. However, with the assistance of our President and the other members who have stuck by me, I feel like a true member. Everyone always makes me feel welcome as I endeavor to make our entire new membership feel the warmth extended to me.

I want to once again extend a warm and exorbitant welcome to our new members:



Alla Blanca  
Kenneth A. Connor  
Alicia Decatur  
Francis A. Gross  
Evelyn Johnson  
Elizabeth King-Kano  
Natalie Lindsey  
Zondra Kilpatrick Martin

May I say welcome back to all of you who renewed your membership FY 2014-15 and I look forward to seeing you in our next fiscal year. And a special shout-out to our Sisters Quilting Collective from Sacramento for renewing their membership FY 2014-2015.

Membership Registrations are available for downloading from our website [www.aaggo.org](http://www.aaggo.org). or you can print the attachment to this article. Also, please feel free to take a registration form as you enter our meetings, as they are always available. Great to pass one on to a friend!

You may return your application and \$30 dues payment to: AAQGO, P.O. Box 31834, Oakland, CA 94606. You may also bring your completed application and dues to the next meeting.

See you at the coming New Year,

*Nick Colyer Hills*  
Membership Chairperson



# AAQGO MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

P.O. Box 31834 ~ Oakland, CA 94604  
www.aaqgo.org ~ aaqgoakland@gmail.com

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

The membership year is from September 1 to August 31. All persons must complete an application annually and pay \$30 annual dues for adult members and \$15 annual dues for youth members (17 years and under).

**AAQGO PRIVACY INFORMATION:** We publish a directory and make it available to Guild members only. Our by-laws state that the directory information may not be sold or used by anyone else.

Please check the box next to your demographic information that you **approve** being published.

- Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Address \_\_\_\_\_
- City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_
- Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEERING:** AAQGO is an all volunteer organization. Our events and activities are made possible by members who volunteer their time and expertise. These are opportunities for everyone - even those with limited time. Let us know your skills and the activity in which you can help.

I do: Traditional Piecing \_\_\_ Art Quilts \_\_\_ Hand Quilting \_\_\_ Machine Quilting \_\_\_ Applique \_\_\_  
Dyeing \_\_\_ Beading \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in helping with: General Meeting \_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_ Hanging Quilts Exhibits \_\_\_  
Programs \_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_ Community Outreach \_\_\_ Education \_\_\_ Worthy Causes \_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_  
Teaching a skill or technique \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

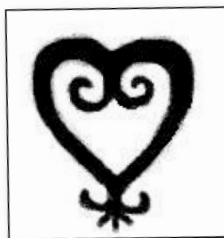
I would like the Guild to present the following activities or demonstrations

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXPECTATIONS** of Guild membership are as follows:

- Know and understand the organization's by-laws
- Participate in Community service projects and donate a minimum of one quilt annually to Quilts for Worthy Causes
- Participate in Opportunity Quilt fundraising by selling a minimum of \$20 in ticket sales

Internal use only: Date received via mail/meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised 2014.12 v3



## TRINITY: DIVERGENT EXPRESSIONS OF COLOR, DESIGN, AND LIFE

Niambi Kee, Carolyn Pope, LaQuita Tummings  
East Bay MUD Gallery, 375 11<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland  
through August 13th.



The works here provide a broad spectrum of textile art including traditional, abstract and mixed media. Each artist brings her unique interpretation to this form.

Niambi's narratives chronicle the interconnectedness she feels exists between human, animal, and spirit worlds. Her many travel experiences validate these observations. Extensive use of self-dyed fabrics infuses her pieces with vibrancy and energy.

Carolyn is inspired by nature embracing texture and dimension and seeing potential in discarded items. She has successfully merged her vision by combining techniques of other mediums in her work.

LaQuita's portraits explore the reflections of images of beauty from another lens of experience, that is, what the "other" definitions of beauty would feel like through the use of textiles and textures integrating unexpected details and bold use of color to exemplify divergent ideas of self.

This exhibit has been extended to August 13.





## 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>	Vacant
<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



### **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](http://www.aaqgo.org)  
[aaqgoakland@gmail.com](mailto:aaqgoakland@gmail.com)

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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, Sept 26, 2015. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
West Oakland Library  
1801 Adeline Street  
Oakland CA 94607

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