

AUG '18

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

QUILTING SISTAH NEWS

African American Quilt Guild of Oakland



Photo by Nyls Jongewaard

Marion Coleman

African-American Quilter
2018 NEA National Heritage Fellow
Castro Valley, CA

The NEA National Heritage Fellowships

The National Heritage Fellowships—the nation’s highest honor in the folk and traditional arts—recognize the recipients' artistic excellence and support their continuing contributions to our nation's traditional arts heritage.

The **NEA National Heritage Fellowships Awards Ceremony** will take place at the Library of Congress’s Thomas Jefferson Building at 10 First Street SE in Washington, DC on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

<https://www.arts.gov/honors/heritage/fellows/marion-coleman>

Marion's association with AAQGO dates back to 2002 when she first visited and joined the Guild. Her role as a leader was evident and she became the president for 2006 - 2008 fiscal year. As President she encouraged members to enter and display quilts in county and state fairs and local, national and international exhibits. During her presidency the Guild increased their presence in the Bay Area by continuing to support the community with donations of group made quilts to the Black Fire Fighters Association, the Black Police Office Association, the University of California Black student organization, and many local schools for their fund raising events.

In 2013 Marion became our Quilt Show Chairperson with the idea of displaying our quilts in public venues instead of having a one-two day show. She was able to obtain grants and secure free public space. Through her efforts the Guild became nationally known after an article regarding our citywide exhibits was published in The New York Times. The African American Quilt Guild of Oakland thanks **Marion Coleman** for her dedication and leadership in expanding the knowledge of quilting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some say “summer is a state of mind.” Well, I hope you are in a summer time state of mind! With this edition of Quilting Sistahs News, two of our faithful newsletter committee members will be transitioning off of the committee. AAQGO is grateful for the dedication and commitment of **Dolores Vitero Presley** and **Kyla Laffoon** to our newsletter Quilting Sistahs News. Dolores currently serves as chairperson of the newsletter committee. Kyla currently serves as our newsletter computer and layout designer. Under their guidance, our newsletter has received praise from readers worldwide. They have created new formats, encouraged members to write articles, and kept everyone on task with meeting deadlines. They leave the newsletter committee with a high standard of excellence to maintain. We welcome **Teresa Weyand** as our new newsletter chairperson. Teresa will join our committee members: **Teri Green, Catherine Mukai** and **Loretta Henry**.

Julia Vitero, the Guild's Exhibit chairperson and West Oakland Library Liaison, will be transitioning off the Board. Words cannot say how appreciative AAQGO is for the tremendous gifts and talents Julia has shared with the Guild. Without Julia's dedication, determination and commitment to have Guild members exhibit their work, the Guild members quilts would not be known nationally and internationally. Some of Julia's most successful exhibits were show at the San Leandro Public Library, Laney College Library, Lakeside Branch and West Oakland Branch Libraries and the Alameda County Supervisor's Gallery. Since the founding of the Guild, Julia has been a faithful and committed member. Now it is time for her to focus on herself and not persuading us to turn our quilts in for the

next upcoming exhibit. She is leaving the Exhibit Committee in the hands of **LaQuita Tummings**. LaQuita is excited to become chair of this committee. Julia, thank you for your dedication to the vision and goals of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland.

Suzi Taylor will be transitioning off the Board as chair of the Membership Committee. During Suzi's tenure, she brought organization, order and clarity to the committee. When members and visitors register for the meetings, each person feels welcomed. Suzi will leave the chair in the hands of three membership co-chairs, **Loretta Henry, Jerry Hickey** and **Catherine Mukai**. Suzi, AAQGO is grateful for your leadership, gifts and commitment to the vision and goals of the Guild.

Deborah Salmon will be transitioning off the Board as chair of the Education Committee. Under Deborah's tutelage, Guild members have learned new quilting skills. Her selection of challenging block-of-the-month blocks expanded Guild members quilting knowledge. Members worked through the entire Underground Railroad Quilt blocks and displayed their quilts at the Laney College Library exhibit. Under Deborah's direction, our Black History Month Family Workshop programs brought new people to appreciate the quilting arts. Deborah will leave the chair in the talented hands of **Ernestine Tril**. Deborah, AAQGO is grateful for your leadership and for sharing knowledge of quilting to further the education of the AAQGO membership. Because of your talent and gifts, AAQGO membership has a deeper understanding of the quilting arts.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge **Ann Robinson** for her many years of serving as our Vice President. Under her leadership our

programs were informative, educational, fun, and always expanding our quilting knowledge. Her quilting techniques meeting have furthered our knowledge of quilting basics. Hopefully, “Ann’s quilting tips” will continue in some form or fashion. Ann will continue on the Board as our Website and Black History Month chairperson.

At the July 28th meeting, we elected our new officers for the 2018 to 2020 term of office. They are:

Marie de Porres Taylor-President
Teresa Weyand- Vice President
Rosita Thomas- Secretary
Dolores Vitero Presley- Treasurer
Donald L. Foreman-Historian

Included in our newsletter is a list of the entire board of the 2018 - 2020 term. I am also grateful for the generosity of our members who volunteer to chair the Guild’s various committees. Without their dedication and leadership, we could not function as a Guild. The 2018 - 2020 AAQGO Board will take office in September which is the beginning of the Guild’s new year.

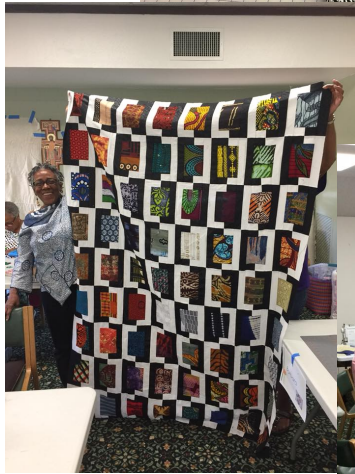
As summer continues, I hope you are continuing to be in a summer frame of mind. As I return from my vacation and fabric buying, I leave you with this thought: *In my dream world, fabric is free and quilting makes you thin!*

Blessings,
Marie dePorres Taylor



SASSY QUILTERS 2018 RETREAT

Games, Gifts, Projects, Food and so much FUN!





WRITING THE BOOK
DOLORES VITERO PRESLEY



Dolores Vitero Presley started a crib quilt for her granddaughter and never stopped. Once it was crib sized, she kept on adding until it was queen sized! Just like that, Dolores started as a founding member of AAQGO, has been the Treasurer for ten years, and is the original editor of the *Quilting Sistah News* newsletter.

Let's give Dolores a round of applause as she passes the newsletter baton. The newsletter is where we come for news, encouragement, tips, birthdays, cartoons, consolation and our history. As Dolores said, "If you suggest it, you own it." The newsletter has been her brainchild and gift to the Guild for 16 years now.

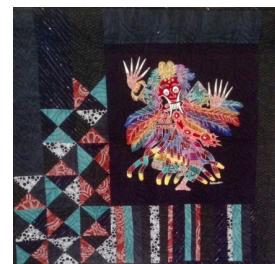
Dolores will not be casting about for things to do now that the newsletter is in Teresa's hands. In addition to daily walks, she is committed to daily studio time, turning inspiration from her travels and fabric stash into beautiful quilts using hand and machine techniques. You may have seen her quilts around town in the Sew n Sews

small-group shows, or as donations to charities as far away as Alaska.

Quilts have been a way for Dolores to share her gifts with the world and also a way to explore the world, as she drops in at quilt stores in every city she visits. All of the quilting stems from a class Dolores took upon retiring, with her sister Julia Vitero at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center. Julia was already a quilter. With Esther Pancho's vision, Dolores, Julia, and their mother were three of the seven founding members of AAQGO.

Since its founding, the *Quilting Sistah News* mailing list has only grown, as have the activities of the Guild. One of Dolores' favorite annual projects has been quilting with the children at the Glenview School over the years. But best of all perhaps is the joy in making and growing friendships through quilting: "My philosophy is if I give someone a quilt and it makes them smile, it's an excellent quilt."

Catherine Mukai



Medicine Man
 (c) 2010



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MEALS ON WHEELS

Accolades to **NELL MAYS** for donating two of her scrap quilts to the Meals on Wheels Fund Raiser. In a note to Nell the Executive Director stated "... *work is truly masterful and we are proud and humbled that you share it with us.*" This is Nell's third year of contributing quilts to Meals on Wheels.



CALICO



Worthy Causes chair Felecia Germany made a second delivery of quilts and pillow cases from Guild's March Sew Day.

FREE STUFF



If interested, contact careyeileen@hotmail.com





SEWLANO FIBER ARTIST NETWORK

Two things happened that sparked my interest in creating a new quilting group. I retired one year ago and wanted to spend more time quilting and learning new things. I also wanted to spend time with other quilters during the day time since my weekends and evenings were full. Secondly, I was at an art gallery and asked the owner about having a show featuring art quilts and his response was “quilts are not art”. And yes of course I politely told him how wrong he was. I guess he’s never seen some of the incredible work completed by AAQGO members and other fiber artist.

As a traditional quilter for the past 17 years, my new interests were in learning “art and portrait quilt” techniques. I’m thankful to **Marion Coleman**, an AAQGO member Marion Coleman and National Endowment for the Arts Honoree, for coordinating the AAQGO Neighborhoods Coming Together exhibit which was my first time ever doing an art quilt. Marion was very encouraging about starting a quilt group and shared information with me. AAQGO member **Dolores Presley** said just reach out to folks and see who else is interested. I found that other “traditional” quilters living in Solano County (Fairfield, Vacaville and Vallejo) were also interested in making art quilts... thus the “**Sewlano Fiber Artist Network**” was born.

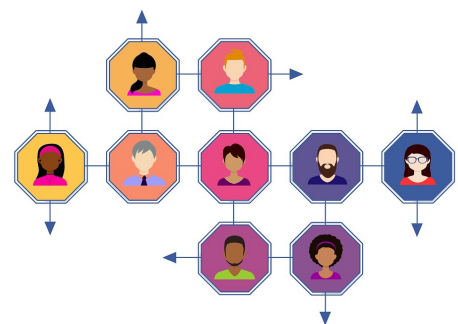
Our goal has been to explore and learn art quilt design techniques, encourage each other, share information, create a body of work, and exhibit quilts at various shows and galleries. We meet on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month from 11-3 at the Fairfield Adult Recreation

Center. Sew-days are open to anyone interested in the group. No fee unless there is a workshop.

Besides Sew-days, we had a trunk show by the incredibly talented fiber artist and former AAQGO member **Jackie Houston**. Later she conducted a workshop “From Image to Fiber Art”. Jackie’s goal was to have us understand how to use contrast and values (light to dark) to create an image. Each of us learned by creating an “apple” using fabrics with various contrasting colors. AAQGO member **Barbara Fuston** conducted a step-by-step workshop and shared how to “Convert an Image for a Portrait Art Quilt” using a free software program called GIMP©. We also learned how to enlarge the image to any size and print on your home computer using PosterRazor©, another free software. Barbara shared two of her projects – a self-portrait and a family project (still in progress) using the techniques she taught. Finally, on September 12th there will be a “Layered Landscape Collage” workshop with award winning artist **Meri Henriques Vahl**.

We’re having “sew-much-fun” learning art quilt techniques. Folks have come to Fairfield from as far away as Oakland, San Francisco and Sacramento. I can’t wait until Sewlano Fiber Artist has its first “art quilt” show. To get on the mailing list for upcoming workshops, please send an email to Sewlano@aol.com. I’m also looking for other talented artist who are willing to share their art quilting techniques with the group.

Teri Green





Barbara Self Portrait - Black and White image converted



Self Portrait Art Quilt



Barbara Edwards in the Forties posterized image



Edwards in the Forties Art Quilt in progress



Jackie Trunk Show



Mother



Trunk Show participants



HOW MY QUILT BECAME A BOOK COVER

It was just over a year ago that I got an inquiry about my quilt, *Black, White, and Mellow*.

Psychotherapist, Ruth Fallenbaum, wanted to use an image of my quilt for a book she was writing called *AFRICAN AMERICAN PATIENTS IN PSYCHOTHERAPY - Understanding the Psychological Effects of Racism and Oppression*. I was intrigued and wanted to hear more.

Ruth stated that she was doing a book about African Americans which includes our history in Oakland. The fact that many of her patients are from Oakland makes it more meaningful to her to highlight AAQGO. She loved my quilt, and stated there was a very specific purpose for it - to be used as the cover of her book.

I am a very much a proponent of therapy and feel that in our black community this form of health care is often shunned, regardless of the therapist being Black or White. Even more so, if the psychologist is White, because only a Black person knows that experience. (Shout out to Anne Hathaway about "White" privilege.)

I wouldn't want to do anything to bring a negative light to the Guild. Once I read some of the highlights and felt that Ruth had really dug deep in trying to understand the Black experience, I agreed for her to use my image.

Ruth explores how the historical aspects of racism affects our everyday lives and how our current political environments continue to enter into our psyche.

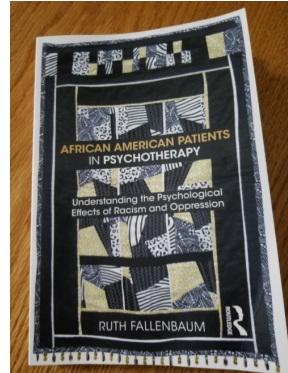
It is never-ending. Black men get killed by the police on a regular basis. Blacks are followed around in high-end stores or asked to leave, and a young women was recently killed for no reason. Police are called on Blacks for being in their own homes or businesses. We need to have that "talk" with our children so they will be prepared if ever stopped by the police. While pursuing his MBA at Emory, my son was stopped while driving at least three times in Atlanta and asked to show proof of insurance. You can be in a church, praying to God and be killed just because you are Black. No wonder we are CRAZY. Well, let me speak for myself.

In the book she delves into the subject of racism and oppression, how our history of slavery affects and effects the African American community then and now. Ruth highlights six of her African American patients in case studies. Not to give it all away, it is quite an interesting read using historical facts as the back drop. You can purchase this insightful book at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



I would like to thank Ruth Fallenbaum for giving me this opportunity to show my quilt in a very meaningful way. I would also like to thank African American Quilt Guild of Oakland for their presence in the community and their importance in my life.

Black, White, and Mellow was an experiment using the whack and stack method. I used only



three colors and tried to incorporate some different techniques. I added beads to the bottom. It was first displayed in AAQGO Quilt Show 2011 at Allen Temple Church. Ruth saw it on our website.

Carolyn Pope

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our membership grew in 2017-2018 year with 76 renewals and 10 new members for a grand total (drum roll) of 86 enthusiastic quilters. It is hoped that not only will our numbers increase, but that members will take an active role during the meetings and take part in group sponsored shows.

The membership year is from September 1st through August 31st. Members are encouraged to renew their memberships at the August and September meetings. One change has been made to the membership registration form. There is a portion asking if you want a membership card. Several dozen members never picked up their cards this year. So, if you would like a card and can come to a meeting to pick it up, check the appropriate box. If not, feel free to check the *no card* box. It will make the committee members lives a little easier.

The membership registration form is included in this newsletter. Please complete it and bring to our meeting on August 25th along with your yearly dues, which are \$30 a year. If you are not able to attend, please send it to AAQGO, PO Box 31834, Oakland, CA 94604.

Please welcome our incoming membership co-chairs, **Catherine Mukai** and **Loretta Henry**, who will be assuming their duties at the September meeting.

Suzi Taylor, Catherine Mukai, and Loretta Henry
Membership Committee

AAQGO MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION 2018-19

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 _____
- Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
- Email address _____ Birth Date (M/D) _____

Would you like a membership card (to be picked up at meeting)? Yes No

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: Other _____
- General Meeting Membership Hanging Quilt Exhibits Programs Newsletter
 - Worthy Causes Education Community Outreach Publicity Teaching a skill or technique

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 8-2017 v3

Guild Member BUZZ!



Sunshine and Shadows



Sending healing thoughts and praying that you are surrounded with love.

Our sincere condolences to Marion Thomas and family on the loss of her mother.

Our sincere condolences to Marion Coleman and family on the loss of her husband Nyls who devoted many hours to AAQGO while helping us to prepare for many exhibits and displays.

Our positive thoughts and prayers to Deborah Brown, Marilyn Handis, Nell Mays and all other members who are facing medical challenges.

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- Cheryl Buckley-Porter - 6
- Pat Bailey - 16
- Nell Mays - 19
- Niambi Kee - 26
- Evelyn Johnson - 28
- Karla Robinson - 29

SEPTEMBER

- Donald Foreman - 4
- Rosita Thomas - 7
- Flo Davis - 9
- Zondra Martin - 9
- Sally Dickson - 11
- LaQuita Tummings - 24

OCTOBER

- Kyla Laffoon - 3
- Ora Clay - 6
- Blanche Brown - 10
- Louise Jackson - 10
- Nancy Williams - 11
- Heidi Patrick - 12
- Marilyn Handis - 19
- Marion Coleman - 22
- Deborah Butler - 24

LOCAL EVENTS

August 18 - 19
 Harvest on the Delta
 Delta Quilters
 Brentwood Community Center
 Brentwood, CA
www.deltaquilters.com

September 8
 Quilts by the Sea
 Piecemakers by the Sea
 LDS Church Cultural Hall
 Moss Beach, CA



September 8 - October 31
 Library Quilts
 AAQGO President's Challenge
 Lakeview Branch Library
 Oakland, CA

October 11 - 14
 Pacific International Quilt Festival - PIQF
 Santa Clara Convention Center
 San Clara, CA

October 26 - 28
 20th Annual Sacramento Arts Festival
 Sacramento Convention Center
 Sacramento, CA



December 7 - 9
 Artifactory Holiday Fair
 1190 Hopkins Avenue
 Palo Alto, Ca
www.artifactoryholidayfair.com

December 15 - 16
 Craneway/KPFA Holiday Fair
 Craneway Pavillion
 Richmond, CA

Quick Quilting Tip

Different quilting techniques call for different sewing machine feet. You can use a quarter inch foot for sewing small seams and piecing together your quilt. However, using a walking foot for your binding and heavier quilting will better feed the fabric through the machine.



2018 - 2020 Officers and Board Members

Officers	
President	Marie dePorres Taylor
Vice President	Teresa Weyand
Secretary	Rosita Thomas
Treasurer	Dolores Vitero Presley
Historian	Donald Foreman
Sunshine	Evelyn Johnson
Committee Chairpersons	
Black History Month Family Workshop	Ann Robinson
Education	Ernestine Tril
Exhibits	LaQuita Tummings
Membership	Loretta Henry, Catherine Mukai
Newsletter	Teresa Weyand
Website	Ann Robinson
Worthy Causes	Felecia Germany
Suspended Officers and Committees	
Opportunity Quilt	
Parliamentarian	
Publicity	
Quilt Show	
Retreat	



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

Quilting Sistah News

www.aaqgo.org
aaqgoakland@gmail.com

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African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

P.O. Box 31834
Oakland, CA 94604

Next Meeting
Saturday, Aug 25, 2018
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Black History Month Workshop
West Oakland Library
1801 Adeline Street
Oakland CA 94607
Visit our website:
<http://www.aaqgo.org>