

## QUILTING SISTAH NEWS



### *African American Quilt Guild of Oakland*

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Black History Month Greetings! When Carter G. Woodson, in 1926, proclaimed February “Negro History Month,” his mission was to preserve and celebrate the history of African Americans. “If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition. It becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated.” These words by Dr. Woodson are as relevant today as they were in 1926. As the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland prepares to celebrate our annual Black History Month Family Workshop on February 22nd, let us not forget the importance of remembering our historical roots and the reason why we celebrate Black History Month.

The history of quilting in the African American community goes beyond Harriet Powers, who is known as the “mother” of African American quilting. We know slaves not only quilted for their mistresses but also for their own families. The art of quilting is firmly rooted in the history of the African American community. From the early African American quilters of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas, the Carolinas, and Gees Bend to the present-day quilt guilds of Tutwiler, New Orleans, Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Ohio, the Great Lakes, North Carolina, San Diego, Sacramento, and Oakland - the art of quilting will continue to be preserved in the African American community. Beyond the aesthetics of African American quilts, the quilts contain a variety of messages, some are about family heritage, some are revolutionary, others contain social and political commentary, while others tell stories or are whimsical. All types of artistic mediums are used to make African American quilts from African fabrics to tee shirts, thread, yarn, and beading embellishments. The ancestors would be proud to see how the African American quilting tradition continues.

The African American Quilt Guild of Oakland’s membership embodies the very essence of African American quilting: creative, contemporary, traditional, diverse, revolutionary, socially aware, responding to the needs of the community while passing on the traditions of African American quilting to

the next generation. Our members are world renowned quilters as well as quilters who just love learning new skills to share with family and friends.

Under the skillful direction of our Black History Month Family Workshop chair, Ann Robinson, our celebration on February 22nd will carry out one of our Guild's mandates to educate the community about the art of quilting. I am grateful to Ann for her dedication, as well as, to her committee and all of our members who will educate the community and participate in the program.

During Black History Month, my hope is you learned one new fact about the history of African Americans or about African American quilting. Maybe you began a quilt project. I would like to leave you with a quote from Maya Angelou:

“Open Your Eyes to the  
Beauty around You,  
Open Your Mind to the  
Wonders of Life,  
Open Your Heart to  
Those who Love You,  
And Always be True  
to Yourself.”

Blessings,  
Marie dePorres Taylor

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

February 23, 2019—Black History Month. Ann Robinson will lead the meeting.

March 23, 2019—Susan Arrow will be giving a lecture on making Landscape Quilts. Patterns will be available for sale.

Kris Cisse from Vallejo Piecemakers Guild will present their Guild's Opportunity Quilt, "Floral Rhapsody," and sell tickets in advance of the drawing in August. It is a beautifully vibrant piece of art with hand applique and embroidery.

\*Please bring in your Fidget Quilt! Thanks!

## THE MANY BENEFITS OF GUILD MEMBERSHIP

- ♥ Fun, friendship, and fellowship
- ♥ Workshops eliminate the need to take a lot of quilting classes
- ♥ Someone always has an answer to any quilting-related problem
- ♥ The opportunity to show your work in a supportive and encouraging environment
- ♥ Interesting speakers both from the Guild and from outside
- ♥ Encouragement from other quilters to enter quilt shows, submit your work for publication
- ♥ Great snacks and a fun Holiday party
- ♥ All this, for a membership fee for a year that's equivalent to a night at the movies with popcorn and a drink!

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## THE POWER OF 12

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On Superbowl Sunday at Bay Quilts (Richmond CA), there was a mesmerizing collection of more than 180 pieces of artwork made by 32 creative women. **The Power of 12** exhibit is the culmination of work where women commit to making 12 works of art, for 12 months, each 12" x 12" in size. The works ranged from art quilts using a variety of fabrics, photography, surface designs and thread painting, mosaics, and much more. The show was curated by Jo Magaraci and Sue Fox who also host the monthly 12x12 groups in Berkeley at Textile Dream Studios in Berkeley. The monthly meetings focus on exploring and encouraging each person to find their artistic voice.

This year I was honored to participate and had a total of eight pieces on display. My focus for the year was on faces. Four of the pieces were my first attempt at collage artwork and featured two African women I met on a trip to Ghana, a self-portrait, and one of me and my hubby. I also created four pieces that expressed my personal frustration with social and political injustices that we continue to face today – **Your Right to Bear Arms** (or lack of Gun Control), **911 What's Your Emergency** (non-emergency calls about black people), **Black Lives and All Lives Matter** (why Kaepernick is really taking a knee) and **Fake News** (coming out of the White House). **Attending the reception were AAQGO members Evelyn Johnson, Dolores Presley, Julia Vitero, Norma Mason, Teloca McLinn, and guests Nefertiti Elebuibon and Mamie Lai.**



Article submitted by Teri Green

what happens when:  
dozens of women commit to creating  
12 works of art in  
12 months, each piece measuring  
12x12?"

**the power of 12**  
A 12x12 Year from Multiple Perspectives  
Curated by Jo Magaraci and Sue Fox

see the results!  
**FEBRUARY 1 - 27, 2019**  
at **BAY QUILTS**  
5327 Jacuzzi St., #3-C, Richmond, CA

Are You Interested in Taking the 12x12 Challenge?  
12x12 groups meet monthly at Textile Dream Studios in Berkeley • For more information, contact 12x12.lds@gmail.com



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## Developed, Enhanced, Expanded: An exhibit of quilts by the members of the Sew n Sews

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The Sew n Sews is a mini group of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland. Our current group consists of eight women, six who have been meeting for more than ten years. Our mission is to develop, enhance, and expand our artistic expression by supporting individual artistic journeys and sharing information.

Our current exhibit at the EBMUD Oakland Administration Building features works that were created around different themes throughout the years. Bold designs and color, as well as intricate stitching, are on display with these quilts. The viewer will see hand-dyed fabrics, beading, experimental techniques, and each artists' perception of the meaning of the theme. The styles vary from member to member as we develop new techniques, enhance old and new quilting and artistic methods, and expand upon the ideas represented in the selected themes.

The themes exhibited are: Book Titles, Circles, Color My Initials, Flowers, Jeans Challenge, Phrases, Red-White-Blue, and Self Portraits.

The exhibit is open to the public February 8 -March 22, Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. We will host a reception on Friday, March 1st at noon. Please come and enjoy the show and we welcome your comments.



## Quilts by the members of the Sew n Sews



Patricia Bass Bailey



Blanche Vitero Brown



Marilyn Handis



Norma Mason



Carolyn Pope



Dolores Vitero Presley



Ann Robinson



Julia Vitero

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## Quilts at Laney College Library- February-March 2019

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Quilt members continue to answer the call for quilts from the community. Here are quilts from Laney College Library show, which is being curated by Laquita Tummings. Kudos to all the talented women!

### FEBRUARY~MARCH 2019



**Norma Mason**  
**READ**



**Ernestine Tril**  
**LIBRARY BOOKS**



**Katie Wishom**  
**FANCY FOX**



**Julia Vitero**  
**AMERICA READS**





**Nell Mays**  
**I KNOW WHY**  
**THE CAGED BIRD SINGS**



**Suzi Taylor**  
**BIRDS IN FLIGHT**



**Teresa Weyand**  
**WELCOM TO JINGLETOWN**



**Suzi Taylor**  
**UGLY FABRIC CHALLENGE**





**Loretta Henry**  
**WHEN YOU OPEN A BOOK**



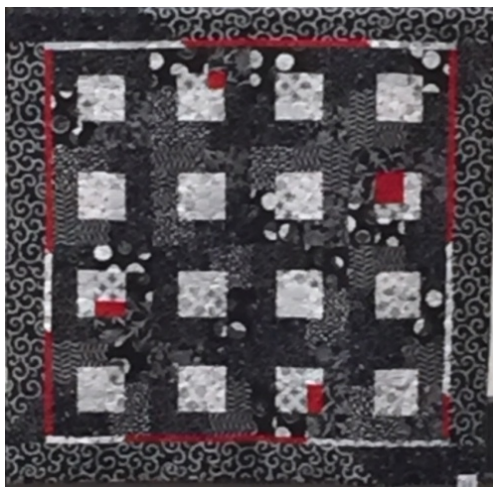
**Ora Clay**  
**READING UNDER THE COVERS**



**Rosita Thomas**  
**JUNGLE BOOK**



**Catherine Mukai**  
**READ**



**Julia Vitero**  
**BLACK AND WHITE SPLASH**



**Pat Bass Bailey**  
**SAMPLE QUILT**



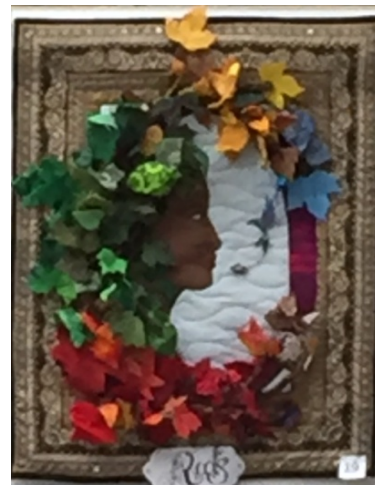
**Jackie Clemons-Dorsey  
ENTWINED**



**Dolores Vitero Presley  
OPTICAL ILLUSION**



**LaQuita Tummings  
FISH BOWL**



**LaQuita Tummings  
ROOTS**



**LaQuita Tummings  
CORAZON**



**LaQuita Tummings  
HUMAN PIECES**





**LaQuita Tummings  
BUTTERFLIES**



**LaQuita Tummings  
FETISH FOOTWEAR**



**LaQuita Tummings  
HERSTORY**



**LaQuita Tummings  
BUGS**



## A Mirthful Moment in Honor of April 1

We are serious about our quilting but sometimes mistakes happen. Here are a few mishaps and how the problem was fixed. Nells Mays shared that she cut fabric for her binding and then misplaced it for two months. When she couldn't find the binding, she chose a totally unflattering fabric and added it the quilt. Hated the look of it but refused to remove it. Stowed the quilt and then found the original binding strip choice. SOLUTION: Always keep project ideas labeled and in a designated bin.

Nell also reported that she made a quilt of small squares and didn't realize one square was sewn seam side up until in the middle of quilting it. SOLUTION: Treated it like an applique adornment and went on her way.

Ernie Tril remarked that she once made a quilt with the backing wrong side out. SOLUTION: Removed the stitching. Thank goodness it was a small quilt.

A mistake made more than once by Teresa Weyand is sewing binding to her pajamas while stitching and watching TV. SOLUTION: Now she puts a clipboard on her lap and lays the quilt flat on it while stitching! All time worst mistake ever—Teresa pulled the bobbin case from the long arm machine while kneeling under the machine and stuck her finger in the empty bobbin case to pull out lint, reached overhead and pulled machine forward, and effectively sewed through her finger. SOLUTION: Turn off all machinery before attempting repairs!

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## I Am AAQGO – Veronica Lofton

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Name	Veronica Lofton
Age(ish)	80
Occupation	Retired
Where I was born	Spanish Town, Jamaica
Town in which I currently live	Berkeley
How long I've lived in Berkeley	9 years
What I like most	Sewing
Favorite place to take friends when they come to visit	San Francisco
The people who mean the most to me	Grandchildren

A Key event in my life and the impact it had on me	Nursing
Hobbies	Dance 
Favorite Sports Team	Cowboys
Sports I enjoy	Bicycling 
Pet(s)	Cats 
Favorite Food/dessert	Ambrosias
One thing I want to accomplish while I am able	Travel more
I "give back" by volunteering with	Seniors
Favorite vacation destination	I would like to go to Iceland
What I like most about quilting	Things you can make to give others
One thing I want to accomplish in quilting	Be a better quilter
How AAQGO has made me a better quilter	See what others do and get to know people
Other information you would like to share	Some more time



# A THANK YOU FROM CALICO



524 Estudillo Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577 tel: 510-895-0702 fax: 510-895-0706  
email: info@calico-center.org web: www.calico-center.org

Child Abuse Listening,  
Interviewing &  
Coordination Center

## Board of Directors

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Erin Harper

**District Attorney Liaison**  
Maya Ynostroza

December 17, 2018

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

Dear Felecia and the Members of the AAQG of Oakland:

Thank you for your generous donation of 34 pillowcases, 17 colorful handmade quilts that were brought to our office. By supporting CALICO, you have stood up for the most vulnerable children in our community. You have joined us in working to bring justice and healing to abused children, and we appreciate your commitment to children in our community.

With support like yours, CALICO has been able to provide **over 700 children** in the last year alone with forensic interviews, collaborative investigations and family support. Let me share with you some of the feedback from children and families we have aided:

- "I really liked the lady I talked to. Can she come to my birthday party?" – 6-year-old girl.
- "Thank you so much. I can sleep now. I don't feel as angry. I'm happy my son came here. Thank you." – Mother of a 12-year-old boy.
- "CALICO helped me feel better." – 8-year-old girl.
- "We like the service that is provided and the atmosphere around here. People are really nice and experienced. Thank you for your support." – Caregiver of a 15-year-old girl.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to ensure every child who has been hurt has the opportunity to be heard, be safe and be placed on the path to a healthy adulthood. We hope you stay connected to us by visiting [www.calico-center.org](http://www.calico-center.org) and [www.facebook.com/calicoforkids](https://www.facebook.com/calicoforkids).

Sincerely,

Erin Harper  
Executive Director



CALICO – Federal I.D. No. 94-3256781 – is a 501(c)(3) agency under IRS code.  
No goods or services were given in exchange for this donation.

*Thank you so much - they are beautiful!  
Wishing all of you very happy holidays!*

## ***NEW MEMBERS AND RETURNING MEMBERS***

**WELCOME!!!!**

**Marcell Johnson**

**Veronica Lofton**

## ***SUNSHINE AND SHADOW***

Our positive thoughts and prayers to Marion Coleman and Felecia Germany and all other members who are facing medical challenges.

## ***BIRTHDAYS!***

<b><i>February</i></b>	<b><i>March</i></b>	<b><i>April</i></b>
Theodora Adkins – 17 Catherine Mukai – 20	Cynthia Coats – 6 Betty Ubiles – 14 Carolyn Walker - 14 Helen Anderson - 26	Dolores Vitero Presley – 5 Benita Jones – 10 Amal Johnson – 11 Anita Carse – 17 Katie Wishom – 17 Sandra Sweeting-Hall – 20 Susie Faye Patrick – 22 Marcell Johnson – 26 Loretta Cohen - 28

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26 - March 31

*Members Show*

Hayward Arts Council  
Hayward Area Historical Society  
Museum of History and Culture  
Hayward, CA

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

**February 8 - March 22**

***Develop, Enhance, Expand***

***Quilts by the Sew N Sew's -***

***a mini group of AAQGO***

***EBMUD Oakland Administration***

***Building, 2nd Floor Lobby***

***Oakland, CA***

***Reception March 1st at noon.***

February 8 - 10, 2019

Folsom Quilt Show

Folsom, CA

February 22 -24, 2019

*2019 Stitches West*

Santa Clara Convention Center  
Santa Clara, CA

March 22 -23, 2019

San Francisco Quilt Guild Show

St Mary's Cathedral

San Francisco, CA

[sfquiltersguild.org](http://sfquiltersguild.org)

April 5 - 6, 2019

*Reflections*

Foothill Quilters Guild

Auburn, CA

[gail\\_reinke@hotmail.com](mailto:gail_reinke@hotmail.com)

April 21 - July 14, 2019

*H20h!*

The Marbaum Collection: Variations in  
Techniques

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

San Jose, CA

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

May 1 - June 21, 2019

*Black Gold*

13th Annual African American Fiber  
Art Exhibition

North Charleston City Hall

North Charleston, SC

843.740.5854

[culturalarts@northcharleston.org](mailto:culturalarts@northcharleston.org)

May 18 - 19

Carquinez Strait Stitches Quilt Show

Historic Clock Tower

Benicia, CA

May

*3xth Annual Show*

Berkeley Main Library

Berkeley, CA

October

PIQF

Santa Clara Convention Center

Santa Clara, CA



# ***OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS***

September 1, 2018- August 31, 2020

Officers and committee chairpersons can be reached at [aaqgo@gmail.com](mailto:aaqgo@gmail.com) or

PO Box 31834, Oakland, CA 94604

<b>OFFICERS</b>	
President	Marie dePorres Taylor
Vice President	Teresa Weyand
Secretary	Rosita Thomas
Treasurer	Dolores Vitero Presley
Historian	Donald Foreman
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>	
Black History Month Family Workshop	Ann Robinson
Education	Ernestine Tril
Exhibits	LaQuita Tummings
Membership	Loretta Henry, Catherine Mukai
Newsletter	Teresa Weyand
Sunshine	Evelyn Johnson
Website	Ann Robinson
Worthy Causes	Felecia Germany
<b>SUSPENDED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2018-2020</b>	
Parliamentarian	
Library	
Opportunity Quilt	
Publicity	
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.

A Publicly supported organization – 509 (a) (3) – Federal ID No. 91-2100443