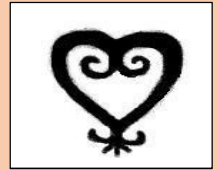


## QUILTING SISTAH NEWS



### *African American Quilt Guild of Oakland*

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the weather forecasters mentioned, we are entering into the “soft” beginning of summer. It is time for my spring/summer message. Over the past months, the African American Quilt Guild has experienced tremendous successes and the passing of a beloved member of our Guild, Marion Coleman.

Our Black History Month Family Day in February, under the guidance of Ann Robinson, was a tremendous success. Guests came from throughout Oakland and the Bay Area to participate in the in the day. Over 40 guests participated in creating individual nine patch quilt blocks. Visitors won prizes, shared their interest in quilting and learned about the history of quilting and the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland. By the end of the event, we had recruited new members to the Guild.

With the guidance of Evelyn Johnson, the Worthy Cause Sew day focused on making quilts for our Worthy cause projects. The day was a great success. Congratulations to all of the busy hands of the members present! Seven quilts were completed!

It has been almost 20 years since the founding of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland. An anniversary committee has been formed to plan our celebrations to commemorate our founding. The committee is under the skilled leadership of Rosita Thomas. The other members of the committee are: Dolores Vitero Presley, Evelyn Johnson, Amal Johnson and myself. In the coming months, you will hear of the anniversary celebration plans. Your help will be needed to make our 20th anniversary celebrations a success. Stay tuned for further details.

While on vacation in New Orleans, I had the opportunity to meet with members of our sister Guild, Crescent City Quilters. Their president, Irma White, had visited our meeting some months ago. Irma took me to one of her favorite quilt shops in New Orleans, Mes Amis. While at the store, I purchased many New Orleans' themed fabrics. Beside fabric everywhere, on one of the walls in the shop was a quote I would like to share with you today.

### Quilter's Rules

Be Creative

Share Ideas

Have Patience

Do Your Best

Start Somewhere

Gather with Friends

Make Mistakes

Teach Others

Live Life One Stitch At A Time

Blessings,  
Marie dePorres Taylor

## IN MEMORIAM – MARION COLEMAN



Sisters by Marion Coleman

On April 24th, we lost one of our beloved AAQGO members, Marion Coleman. After a courageous battle with cancer, Marion passed away surrounded by family. Marion was a past president of the Guild, the quilt show chair of our famous “Quilts Around Oakland; Neighborhoods Coming Together,” a quilt teacher, a world-renowned quilter and lecturer. Marion’s quilts have been exhibited throughout the world. Through Marion’s guidance and direction, the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland gained recognition in the pages of the New York Times. Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson awarded Marion a county commendation for her work with our quilt exhibition “Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland.”

In 2018, Marion received one of the most prestigious awards an artist can receive, the National Endowment for the Arts’ National Heritage Fellowship award. The NEA award acknowledged Marion’s artistic excellence and her contribution to our nation’s traditional arts heritage. Above all of Marion’s accomplishments, she was a true friend to all of us. Her smile and warmth would envelop you and prod you to greatness. Marion has left us like a shooting star! Marion you will be missed by all of us!

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARION

From Chris White via e-mail

I was sorry to hear of the death of Marion Coleman. I heard her speak both at our Diablo Valley Quilt guild meeting and at the Piecemakers guild meeting in Newark. I also took a workshop from her associated with DVQ guild meeting and am enjoying the wall hanging that I made as a result of that workshop. What a delightful woman and treasured member of your guild. She did much to spread the history of African American quilts in America. She will be missed.

Sincerely, Chris White

## CELEBRATING FRAN PORTER



### OUR CENTENARIAN MINUS 5 YEARS!

On May 5, our own Fran Porter celebrated 95 years of making this planet a better place. Fran has been a member of the Guild since 2004. She was introduced to quilting by member Joy Johnson who brought her quilting acumen to Fran's church in 2002. While interested, Fran still thought that she might take up quilting when she became an old lady. She told me with a laugh that she decided she was old enough for quilting in 2004. Since then, she has made many quilts and given many of them away.

She enjoys being a member of the Guild because of the loving fellowship and friendship. Additionally, when our Quilts Around Oakland were shown at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky, Fran flew out and was a hit at the show as she told people who were visiting about our quilts and our guild.

Fran was shy and introverted as a child, often skipping school so that she could stay with her aunt. However, that changed with time and Fran now considers herself a life-long learner. Fran was reared in Houston. An exceptional student, Fran graduated 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 252 students from high school (she would have been 1<sup>st</sup> save the “D” in cooking class!). Fran attended Dillard University, a private, historically black, liberal arts college in New Orleans, Louisiana. While in college, she worked as a nanny at the college President’s home. Due to segregation, visiting dignitaries to New Orleans would stay at the President’s home and Fran met Marian Anderson, Countee Cullen, Paul Robeson and Mary McLeod Bethune. She relocated to Oakland after her sister moved here in 1945.

Fran attended the University of California – Berkeley and received a B.A. in Dramatic Arts and a M.A. in Social Work. She was recently honored by her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, as a Diamond (75 year) Soror. Fran retired from social work in 1978 and on 9/11/19, she will celebrate 70 years of marriage.

When asked the secret of her longevity, Fran noted that she has a strong relationship with God, is an advocate for her own health, and has excellent doctors. However, her attitude also plays a part in her life as she stressed that she doesn’t get stressed and tries to be as loving and kind as possible. She is willing to forgive and be forgiven and added that she is blessed and honored to be a part of our Guild. We are honored to have her as a member!

By Teresa Weyand

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- June 15– September 7 –AAQGO “READ” Exhibit at Elmhurst Library
- June 22 Meeting - Summer Solstice UFO's and Jump Start on Holiday Projects
- July 27 Meeting– Mini-Workshops – paper piecing, photo transfer, applique, etc.
- Now through 8/23 – Dolores Vitero Presley exhibit at Alameda County Tax Office
- Now through 6/30 - Dolores Vitero Presley and Julia Vitero exhibit at Berkeley Main Library
- August 24 Meeting – Back to school projects; President’s Challenge due

## APRIL MEETING

We welcomed Kris Cisse from the Vallejo Piecemakers who shared their opportunity quilt, Floral Rhapsody.





We also enjoyed a lecture and trunk show by Susan Arrow, who started sewing when she was 10 in Southern California. She attended San Jose State and received a BFA. She was taught to sew at the Jewish Synagogue and fondly remembered a Jackie Kennedy suit she made in pink and white plaid that she made for herself. She spent many years working as a project manager in Information Technology after trying to earn a living as a potter.

Susan found traditional quilts too structured and found her joy in creating landscape quilts. She buys fabric that inspires her and finds a place for them in her landscape quilts. Susan also teaches classes and sells patterns at [marciararrow@yahoo.com](mailto:marciararrow@yahoo.com).

Some tips and take-aways from her lecture are as follows:

1. Inspired by Ruth McDowell, Joan Colvin, Joen Wolfram for color sense
2. Uses white muslin as a background and creates a cartoon on Grafix Plastic Overlay
3. Keeps a journal of what sparks inspiration
4. Keeps a small swatch of each fabric she will use in a landscape quilt
5. She takes photos of landscapes, enlarges it and creates a pattern from that
6. Things do not need to be realistic – go ahead and use that bright fabric as part of the sky or a mountain

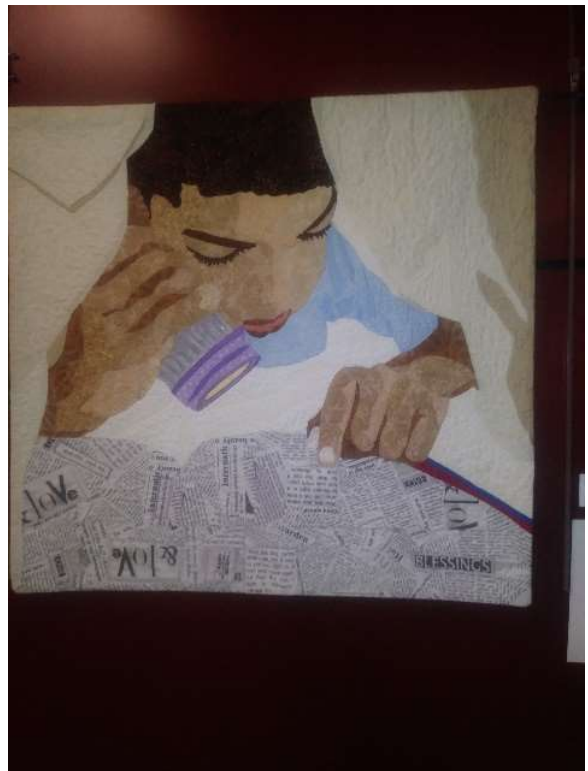
## On The Road Again . . .

Willie Nelson made the song famous but this time it was one of my quilts that journeyed to the 13th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition in North Charleston, South Carolina. Artists from across the nation were invited to participate in the show curated by award winning quilter, Torreah "Cookie" Washington.

It was my third year entering and this time my quilt had AAQGO traveling mates, Ora Clay, Evelyn Johnson and La Quita Tummings. This year's theme, Black Gold, was taken from the song of the same name by Esperanza Spalding which portrays empowerment and is meant to be inspiration for the next generation. I couldn't make it to the 2019 event but I understand from social media that over 80 quilts were included and the pictures I saw suggest some marvelous workmanship and a good time had by all.



Hold your Head Up - Ora Clay



Reading Under the Covers - Ora Clay

From my experience two years ago and the photos I saw this time it was a great chance to meet a lot of very talented and creative quilt makers. I was blown away by the life-sized runway ready doll made by male artist, Tony Williams. You, too can become a member of the "club". Stay tuned for emails and other mailings about next year's show, the entry process isn't difficult and the experience is rewarding.

Take a look at how we "showed up and showed out". Quilt titles included "Hold Your Head Up High" and "Reading Under the Covers" by Ora Knowell, "I Am Somebody" by Evelyn Johnson, and "Sharing Wisdom" by LaQuita Tummings. Bringing up the rear was "And The Beat Goes On" featuring empowering Gospel and R & B song titles by Nell Mays.

Stitches, Nell Mays



I am Somebody - Evelyn Johnson



Sharing Wisdom - LaQuita Tummings



## And The Beat Goes On - Nell Mays

## 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
- ♥ The opportunity to share your talent and make quilts for Worthy Causes
- ♥ Great snacks and a fun Holiday party
- ♥ All this, for a membership fee for a year, equivalent to a night at the movies with popcorn and a drink!



Don't forget  
to feed our  
***Kitty.***

She helps to keep the cost down on disposable products used with our snacks  
that we bring to guild meetings.

## I AM AAQGO – Clausen House Edition



Tamika, Jackie and Stacy at Stone Soul Concert

Name	Tamika Jenkins
Age(ish)	36
Occupation	Activity
Where I was born	San Pablo
Where I currently live	Oakland
How long I have lived in Oakland	20+ years
Favorite Place to Take friends when they come to visit	San Francisco and Berkeley
The people who mean the most to me	Family
A Key Event in my life and the impact it had on me	Working with special needs adults – motivating me to be patient
Hobbies	Taking road trips in California
Favorite Sports Team	The Warriors
Pet(s)	Dog
Sports I Enjoy	Basketball
Favorite Food/dessert	Chocolate Cake
One thing I want to accomplish	Travel to Africa
I “give back” by volunteering with	My job at Clausen House
Favorite vacation destination	Monterey, CA
What I like most about quilting	Learning How to Quilt
One thing I want to accomplish in quilting	Make a quilt for my bed
How AAQGO has made me a better quilter	I am hoping it will



## I AM AAQGO: Dedra Hunt

Name	Dedra Hunt
Age(ish)	50
Occupation	Instructional Support Staff
Where I was born	Oakland
Where I currently live	Richmond
How long I have lived in Richmond	19 years
The people who mean the most to me	My family and friends
A Key Event in my life and the impact it had on me	Going to a plantation in Louisiana. It made me realize how fortunate I am and how important it is to educate youth
Hobbies	Reading and writing stories
Favorite Food/dessert	German chocolate cake
One thing I want to accomplish	Go to Africa and touch the ground
I “give back” by volunteering with	Serving food to people
Favorite vacation destination	Jamaica
What I like most about quilting	Craftsmanship
One thing I want to accomplish in quilting	I want to make a quilt with my grandmother’s old fabric
How AAQGO has made me a better quilter	Helped me to understand

## “Connect ~ Create ~ Contribute.”

Four AAQGO members—Nell Mays, Julia Vitero, Dolores Vitero Presley, and Ernie Tril—displayed quilts in May at 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, part of the Oakland City Hall complex. The monthlong show celebrates Older Americans Month, with the theme “Connect ~ Create ~ Contribute.”

Julia Vitero had been the liaison between the City of Oakland Human Services Department since they started asking AAQGO to contribute quilts, about five years ago. This year, Dolores Vitero Presley took on the coordination with the City. The exhibit is always in May, which is Older Americans Month.

Nell Mays had two quilts in the show, both about 20” by 20”. Nell noted that she likes to start with scraps and then pick the surrounding fabrics based on color, until they meld. Dolores had two quilts as well, one of three women with verve and one multimedia piece.



Ernie Tril “Tribute to Marion”



Dolores Vitero Presley - “Sisters”

Julia's quilt, Jade, features hand beading. Ernie submitted a vibrant patchwork quilt in tribute to Marion Coleman.

In addition to the quilts the show also featured paintings and sketches from the Oakland ART Association, Stepping Stones, and Lake Merritt Senior Residence.



Julia Vitero  
"Jade"



Nell Mays  
"BeBe-Born of the Blues"



Nell Mays  
Twilight's Surprise



Dolores Vitero Presley  
"1+1+1+1=5"

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

**WELCOME!!!!**

**Dedra Hunt**

**Tamika Jenkins**

**Lucille Barengo**

**Clausen House Members – Tess Miller, Jackie Riley, Ethel Fleming & Cindy Fass**



## ***SUNSHINE AND SHADOW***

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

Amal Johnson retired in April! Congratulations!

Sandra Murray-Issacs moved to Georgia! We miss you!

Teresa Weyand's family welcomes Henry Alexander Weyand – born May 10 in Louisville, KY! He is joyfully embraced by big brother, Benjamin (2 ½) and parents Matt and Allison Weyand!

## **Congratulations, Carolyn!**

Carolyn Pope graduated in May with a degree in Apparel Design and Merchandising from College of Alameda. A dream of hers since high school, this represents a lot of hard work from Carolyn over the past two years. As any of us who have coveted her reversible bomber jacket or any number of her outfits can attest, it was worth it.

For two years in a row, Carolyn created capsule collections for the school's fashion show. On May 18, many AAQGO members (Norma Mason, Betty Ubiles, Marion Thomas, Marilyn Handis, Dolores Vitero Presley, Pat Bailey) cheered Carolyn on as she collected her school's Design Award for the year.

Carolyn is not the only AAQGO member to have taken classes at Alameda College. Betty Ubiles has, as well. The degree covers pattern drafting, draping, construction, and portfolio development.

Here is some of the fabric Carolyn designed at College of Alameda.



**IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?**  
*CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW DOCTORS*  
*AND THEIR FAMILIES*



**Kristen Bailey, M.D.**



**Adrianna Handis, D.V.M.**

**Kristen Bailey**, daughter of **Patricia Bass Bailey**, is an aspiring Family Medicine Physician, an Ensign in the United States Navy, and Howard School of Medicine class president for three years. During her tenure at Howard University College of Medicine, Kristen has maintained a passion for excellence in both academics and leadership. She has held a multitude of positions including Associate Regional Director of Region VI of the Student National Medical Association, and Co-Chair of the Alumni Affairs Committee on the National Board of the Student National Medical Association. Kristen graduated May 11, 2019.

**Adrianna Handis**, granddaughter of AAQGO past president **Marilyn Handis**, earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine on May 4, 2019. Adrianna, who grew up in the Sacramento area, earned her degree from Tuskegee University in Alabama. After four years of intense study, Adrianna will soon begin her professional career as a veterinarian in Elk Grove, CA.

## *BIRTHDAYS!*



<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>
<i>5/1 - Jackie Riley</i> <i>5/5 - Fran Porter</i> <i>5/6 - Feleicia Germany</i> <i>5/7 - Teloca McLinn</i> <i>5/9 - Cassandra Knight</i> <i>5/14 - Deborah Salmon</i> <i>5/15 - Jerry Hickey</i> <i>5/17 - Marjorie Smith</i> <i>5/17 - Dedra Hunt</i> <i>5/19 - Suzanne Taylor</i> <i>5/21 - Ann Robinson</i> <i>5/26 - Loretta Henry</i> <i>5/26 - Madlyn Jones</i> <i>5/27 - Marie de</i> <i>Porres Taylor</i>	<i>6/1 - Dianne Gates-</i> <i>Anderson</i> <i>6/2 - Ora Knowell</i> <i>6/4 - Esther Pancho</i> <i>6/12 - Kim Connor</i> <i>6/21 - Sandra Murray-</i> <i>Isaacs</i> <i>6/23 - Jeanette</i> <i>Robinson</i>	<i>7/4 - Jackqueline</i> <i>Clemons-Dorsey</i> <i>7/4 - Midge Robinson</i> <i>7/7 - Lucille Barengo</i> <i>7/14 - Christina Hope</i> <i>Tatman</i>

## THE SEWING MACHINE PROJECT



The Sewing Machine Project is a non-profit organization based in Madison, WI that sends sewing machines to other non-profits so that they can forward their goals of making sewing accessible to people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to sew. We receive used machines in good working condition from people no longer using them, as well as some new machines that have been given through the generosity of corporate donors. Organizations seeking machines fill out an extensive application form and when their request is approved, we ship the machines to them, asking only that they pay for the shipping, and that they “pay their gift forward” by using the machines to provide some form of community service to others. We passionately believe in the possibility a sewing machine embodies. We believe that everyone has the power to make the world a better place, so we share sewing machines – creating partnerships, strengthening community and nurturing the creative spirit.

The Sewing Machine Project has recently donated a sewing machine and a serger to Regina’s Door, an organization in Oakland that uses sewing as one of many avenues to help survivors of sex trafficking. To learn more about the healing work Regina’s Door is doing, go to [reginasdoor.com](http://reginasdoor.com). Regina’s Door is a powerful force for good...and The Sewing Machine Project believes that everyone has that power, so their donors share sewing machines – creating partnerships, strengthening community and nurturing the creative spirit. For information on the Sewing Machine Project or to make a donation, go to [TheSewingMachineProject.org](http://TheSewingMachineProject.org) and check out our “Forget-Me-Nots.”

Thank you for considering our request to share this good news with your readership.

Chris Thomas - Board member - The Sewing Machine Project

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<p><u>June 8</u></p> <p><b>Conversation and Reception</b>  <b>Contemporary African Wax Print Design</b>  Presented by: MoAD - Museum of African Diaspora and Zuri San Francisco  2-4 PM - Free Event  San Francisco, CA  <a href="https://www.moadsf.org/event/conversation-reception-contemporary-african-wax-print-design/">https://www.moadsf.org/event/conversation-reception-contemporary-african-wax-print-design/</a></p>	
<p><u>May 1 - June 21, 2019</u></p> <p><i>Black Gold</i>  <b>13th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition</b>  North Charleston City Hall  North Charleston, SC  843.740.5854  culturalarts@northcharleston.org</p>	<p><u>April 21 - July 14, 2019</u></p> <p><i>H20h!</i>  <b>The Marbaum Collection: Variations in Techniques</b>  <b>San Jose Museum of Quilts &amp; Textiles</b>  San Jose, CA  <a href="http://www.sjqUILTmuseum.org">www.sjqUILTmuseum.org</a></p>
<p><u>July 22-25</u></p> <p><b>NOVA Conference</b>  Sheraton Grand Hotel, Phoenix, AZ  Phoenix, Arizona</p> <p>Ora Knowell will be displaying her quilts</p>	<p><u>October 16 – October 20</u></p> <p><b>Pacific International Quilt Festival</b>  Santa Clara Convention Center  5001 Great America Parkway  Santa Clara, CA</p>
<p>The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Artistry in Fashion event, hosted by the Cañada College Fashion Department, returns on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10am to 4pm at Cañada College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10AM-4PM: Outdoor shopping extravaganza with local designers selling clothes, jewelry, and accessories</li> <li>• 11AM: Designer Showcase/Fashion Show in the outdoor amphitheater</li> <li>• Noon-3PM: Fashion Department Open House displaying student projects</li> <li>• 12:30PM and 2PM Guest Speaker Sarah Veblen (author, lecturer, fit expert and sewing professional) will speak in the Fashion Department Bldg. 3 Room 255.</li> </ul> <p>A \$10 donation is requested for entry. All proceeds benefit the fashion student scholarship fund. Cañada College is located at 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard in Redwood City, CA.</p>	

## ***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

### **OFFICERS**

President	Marie dePorres Taylor
Vice President	Teresa Weyand
Secretary	Rosita Thomas
Treasurer	Dolores Vitero Presley
Historian	Donald Foreman

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Black History Month	Ann Robinson
Family Workshop	
Education	Ernestine Tril
Exhibits	LaQuita Tummings
Membership	Loretta Henry, Catherine Mukai
Newsletter	Teresa Weyand
Sunshine	Evelyn Johnson
Website	Ann Robinson
Worthy Causes	Felecia Germany

### **SUSPENDED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2018-2020**

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