

QUILTING SISTAH NEWS.



African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Black History Month and Women's History Month Greetings!
Although our newsletter is debuting in April, I cannot forget Black History Month 2022. As I reflect on the significance of celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans in February, it's also a wonderful to celebrate the accomplishments of African American women in March!

In particular, I want to remember the gifts of our African American quilting mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, cousins and friends. I call the names of a few of our quilting heritage: Harriet Powers, the Gee's Bend quilters, the Mississippi quilters, the Louisiana quilters, Beverly Y. Smith, Bisa Butler, Mamie McKinstry, Jeanette Rivers, Faith Ringgold, Carolyn Mazloomi, and our own Esther Pancho and Marion Coleman. We call their names!

Because our Black History Month general meeting was on Zoom, we had the opportunity to have an African American quilting history virtual presentation by our members Loretta Henry and folklorist Patricia Turner. They provided an in-depth information on the contributions of African Americans in the quilting arts, as well as an in depth history of the Gee's Bend quilters.

Prior to the meeting, we were given a challenge to create a quilt block, postcard, or quilt in the quilting style of the Gee's Bend quilters. During the "show and tell", participating members showed off their amazing works. The meeting was a unique way for celebrating Black History Month and being informed about African American quilt history. I am grateful to Loretta Henry, Patricia Turner and Teresa Weyand for designing our Black History Month celebration!

As the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, we will have our first “in person” monthly general meeting on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at the West Oakland Library. After 2 years, it will be a delight to gather in person. We will also feature all of the Gee’s Bend challenge projects. As we get closer to the date, keep an eye out for an email with the details of our first in person meeting. I look forward to greeting each of you in person!

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the amazing surprise you gave me at the February meeting by awarding me “The Esther Pancho Sew Excellence Award.” I am truly humbled by this award. Thank you!

As I was looking through Facebook, I found a quote by SARK that spoke to me about the celebration of Women’s History Month and its relationship to the contributions of African American Women. For my closing quote, I would like to share the passage with you:

“The circles of women around us weave invisible nets
of love that carry us when we are weak and sing with
us when we are strong.”

Blessings, Marie

Marie De Porres Taylor– Recipient of 2nd Annual Esther Pancho Sew Excellence Award



Marie joined AAQGO in 2009 and immediately became active as the Guild's Librarian. She was elected to be our President beginning FY 2012 and has held that position for eight years.

During her tenure, we presented our Second Quilt Show at Allen Temple Baptist Church in 2013. The Guild's most notable exhibit was our city-wide Art Exhibit – Neighbors Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland. Under her leadership and guidance from the late Marion Coleman, Exhibit Chairperson, the Guild was recognized in many local papers and *The New York Times* and was asked to exhibit quilts at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky.

Additionally, Marie appointed a committee to update and revise the By- Laws, and most recently assisted with the AAQGO's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Congratulations, Marie! Thank you for your energy and direction. You are one of a kind!

CITY OF OAKLAND COMMENDATION

African American Quilt Guild is honored by Supervisor Keith Carson, Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Melissa Wilk and Arts Commission Director Rachel Osajima



Pictured from left to right: Rachel Osajima, Arts Commission Director; Melissa Wilk, Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder; Dolores Presley, African American Quilt Guild of Oakland Exhibition Co-Chairperson; Keith Carson, Alameda County Supervisor; Marie Taylor, African American Quilt Guild of Oakland President; Ora Clay, African American Quilt Guild of Oakland Exhibition Co-Chairperson.

In honor of Black History Month 2022, Keith Carson, Alameda County Supervisor, Melissa Wilk, Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder, and Rachel Osajima, Arts Commission Director, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland. At this gathering, Quilt Guild President Marie Taylor and Board Members Ora Clay and Dolores Presley received a commendation from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge the Quilt Guild's important contributions to the Alameda County community.

Supervisor Carson said, "I am proud to present this commendation to thank the African American Quilt Guild for celebrating Black art and artists, spreading joy and stories through art, and uplifting Alameda County during Black History Month and the whole year."

Melissa Wilk shared, "We are thrilled to present an exhibition honoring the 20th anniversary of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland in the Board of Supervisors Lobby Gallery. The quilts are such a wonderful example of the power of art as a vital part of Alameda County's resilient and thriving community."

This exhibition is presented by the Alameda County Arts Commission, which is a division of the Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency. All of the Arts Commission's activities are based on the belief that the arts and creativity are an essential part of every successful and thriving community.

The goal of the exhibition program is to provide a positive and uplifting experience through the creativity and imagination of local artists. For more information, please visit the [African American Quilt Guild of Oakland online exhibition](#) and the [Arts Commission website](#).

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Members: The Oakland Public Library has indicated we may be able to hold our first in-person meeting MAY 2022. We will continue ZOOM meetings from time to time when we have a speaker so that members can attend in ease.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - Elaine Yau, AAQGO member and Berkeley Museum of Art and Pacific Film Archive curator is requesting volunteer speakers for a Fall 2024 exhibit. The museum acquired several thousand quilts from Eli Leon, Rosa Lee Thompson and others. The task is to tell the stories, histories, and biographies of the quilts and the quilters. Quilts are dated from 1928-1984, and some quilters migrated to Oakland. Tasks include: work with museum staff, view and discuss the quilts, write and review quilt labels, speak with quilters, and consider other topics and ideas. An honoraria is available. Elaine Yau's contact information is listed in the Guild roster.

IN SEARCH OF AFRICAN FABRIC - Marie Bishop-Weidner from Brown Sugar Quilters discovered that Hancock's Fabrics carries the e-bond Free Spirit Glyphs line created and named after African American women writers. The fabrics are called by the women's first names: Alice, Toni, Lucille, Zora, Audre, Lorraine, Maya, Dorothy, Octavia, several others. Here is a link to the Hancock's collection:

<https://www.hancocks-paducah.com/SHOP-BY-BRAND/Free-Spirit-Fabrics/Glyphs?page=1>

FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILT GUILD

Here is a letter from the co-founder:

Dear Quilt Family,

In recent weeks, we've been in touch about the formation of the National African American Quilt Guild (NAAQG) and the goals of the organization to aid in the uplift of African American quilting and quilters. I thank you for the support and encouragement you have shown thus far.

Well, the time is upon us for our launch! I've attached the NAAQG Inaugural Events package that includes: the schedule highlights of the in-person and virtual broadcast of the Inaugural (Inspirational and and Business) Meeting, information on the 5-week quilt exhibition: A Celebration of African American Quilts and Fiber Arts to be held at the Dorchester Center for the Arts and the Arts in the Community (processed benefitting the Harriet Tubman Museum of Cambridge MD).

NAAQG organizational information is also included and more will be forthcoming.

I ask for your help in spreading the word to our quilt community. As African American quilting leaders among us, your support is invaluable. As I have stated, one of the goals of our organization is to highlight and promote you and others like you. We are proud of what you have achieved and of your beautiful creative cultural quilt works. NAAQG will strive to celebrate and support you. Yes, we can.

If you are enthusiastic about what we are doing with the formation of the NAAQG and feel comfortable expressing it publicly, please do so. If you want to get more deeply involved, we welcome you. If you decide to register for the Inaugural Meeting or become a Charter member, your supportive voice will help drive our success. Please consider joining and encouraging others in your quilting circles to do so as well.

We are a new organization and in the formation stages. We are small but mighty at this point but are ready to grow the national vision for African American quilting and quilters.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me (512.689.5574) if you have questions or feedback. It's welcome and appreciated.

Thank you and kindest regards,

Rhonda Masters

AASQ, NAAQG - Co Founder

THANK YOU

Hello!

I would like to sincerely thank AAQGO for the scholarship membership this year. It is truly an honor to not only be introduced to your wonderful guild through the beautiful exhibition at the Elmhurst Library, but to now be welcomed to participate and learn with AAQGO. What a unique privilege; I am so grateful! ♥

I also wanted to share that I have advocated for more secure installation solutions for the current exhibition at the Elmhurst Branch Library. Thanks to the Library's Friends Group and Manager, they have approved my proposal for more secure installation on any of the quilts that may have fallen due to the strong winds that blow through our windows. I just finished re-installing the last two that had fallen, so the entire exhibition is now up again for all to view.

I look forward to attending my first AAQGO meeting via Zoom this Saturday.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to join and share any resources and support I have as a new member! 😊

Thanks again from the bottom of my quilt-loving heart, **Brianna Meli** Children's Librarian I
Elmhurst Branch

EXHIBITS, EXHIBITS AND MORE EXHIBITS – TERI GREEN

The quilt world is opening up again and we're starting to see more in-person quilt shows and events. Indeed virtual events were a great way to expose us to events, instructors, and classes that were outside of our local area. However, there's nothing like seeing, touching, and admiring quilts in person. Most of us were busy during the COVID shutdown finishing up UFOs (Unfinished Objects) or learning new techniques. Now is the time to look for opportunities to show your work and here are a few ways:

- **AAQGO and other Quilt Guilds** – most guilds have a show that provides an opportunity for members to share their work. AAQGO sends out information regularly about these opportunities.
- **County and State Fair** – don't overlook the fairs in your local area that provide a great opportunity for local residents to share their work. There is usually a nominal fee and blue ribbons are awarded.
- **Facebook and Instagram Groups** – many of the groups have calls for quilts and other fiber art for various events. Black Quilters Create & Educate and the National African American Quilt Guild (NAAQG) on Facebook issue regular calls.

- **Pacific International Quilt Festival (PIQF)** – comes to the Santa Clara in October 2022. There is always a call for quilts in the competitive category. Check out their website.
- **New Quilts of Northern California (NQNC)** – issues a call for submission and hosts an exhibit at the PIQF. Only requirement is to live in northern California. Information is available on the PIQF website.
- **Other Calls for Entry** – just google it to see others opportunities that are available. Also, reach out to your local library, senior center or church.

Participating in an exhibit will require that you bring it “in person” or trust “mailing” your precious quilt to the sponsor. Think twice about sending something that is irreplaceable or a family heirloom. Do read information about insurance and who is responsible for the quilt during transit and return. Some quilts are just too precious to share unless it is at an in-person show and tell.

With that said - Don't be shy – show your work!








OUR 20x20 QUILTS AT VOICES IN CLOTH EXHIBIT











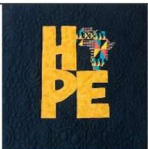

Here are just a few of the 20x20 quilts we made in celebration of our 20th Anniversary as a Guild. Our own Loretta Henry graciously served as a docent. She noted that we received a wonderful response from the general audience, many questions and impressed reactions to the display of talent.






Loretta helped with the set up and presented two tours of the exhibit with 20 to 30 people following her. She presented a brief history of our Guild, followed by the reason for the 20x20 challenge. Several of the quilts have Sankofa in them and the audience was glad to learn about the symbols meant and all the historical significance of some of the quilt themes. Photos of the event were taken by a professional photographer who worked for EBHQ. He took photos of our exhibit and these will be posted on the EBHQ website at ebhq.org. But, you may enjoy them here as well. SEE BELOW

EBHQ
SPECIAL EXHIBIT
MARCH 26-27, 2022

	Amal Johnson <i>Hack & Wack</i> ©11/2020
	Ann Robinson <i>All Hands on Deck</i> ©2022
	Ann Robinson <i>A Network of Quilters</i> ©2022
	Carolyn Pope 2 <i>Pearls of Wisdom</i> © 2020
	Cynthia Coats 2 <i>People Power</i> ©7/2021
	Danielle Forrestier <i>Enough</i> ©2019
	Danielle Forrestier <i>Little Bit Crazy</i> ©2022

	Dolores Vitero Presley <i>Help Me Hands</i> ©2022
	Ernestine Tril 1 <i>Circle of Friends</i> © 2019
	Ernestine Tril 2 <i>Stars Joining Together</i> ©2019
	Ernestine Tril 4 <i>Steps Joining Together</i> ©2019
	Ernestine Tril 5 <i>Reaching Higher in Our</i> ©2019
	Evelyn Johnson 2 <i>My Nappy Hair Is My Glory</i> ©2019
	Evelyn Johnson 5 <i>Reach and Teach Others</i> ©1/2019
	Evelyn Johnson 6 <i>Circle of Friends</i> ©2019

	Ora Clay 3 <i>Private Dancer</i> ©1/2020
	Patricia Bass Bailey 1 <i>Not My Grandma's Quilt</i> ©2/2020
	Patricia Bass Bailey 2 <i>Hope</i> ©5/2021
	Patricia Bass Bailey 3 <i>Africa</i> ©5/2021
	Rosita Thomas <i>Elegance</i> ©2021
	Zondra Kilpatriack Martin <i>Love Is All We Need</i> ©2/2021

	Evelyn Johnson 8 <i>Black Lives Matter</i> ©2020
	Faith Darling <i>Kwanzaa</i> ©2022
	Jacqueline Carter <i>Untitled</i> ©2021
	Julia Vitero <i>Sankofa</i> ©2022
	Katie Wishom 2 <i>AAQGO 20 Years</i> ©2020
	LaQuita Tummings 2 <i>Untitled</i> ©2021
	Madlyn Jones 1 <i>All My Quilting Friends</i> ©2021
	Madlyn Jones 2 <i>The 15th Amendment</i> ©11/2021

	Marie dePorres Taylor <i>Each One Teach One</i> ©2022
	Marilyn Handis <i>Our First Quilt Show</i> ©2020
	Nell Mays 1 <i>Herstory</i> ©2020
	Nell Mays 12 <i>Mr. President</i> ©3/2020
	Nell Mays 13 <i>A Season of Joy</i> © 3/2020
	Nell Mays 14 <i>Remembering Shyrrl</i>
	Niambi Clay <i>20 Years Strong</i> ©12/2020
	Ora Clay 2 <i>Happy Birthday to Ya</i> ©9/2019

ELMHURST LIBRARY EXHIBIT

BLACK & WHITE CHALLENGE

ELMHURST LIBRARY
BLACK AND WHITE + ONE
JANUARY ~ MARCH 2022



Evelyn Johnson © 2022



Amal Johnson © 2022



Nell Mays © 2021



Carolyn Pope © 2021



Madlyn Jones © 2021



Ora Clay © 2021



Madlyn Jones © 2021



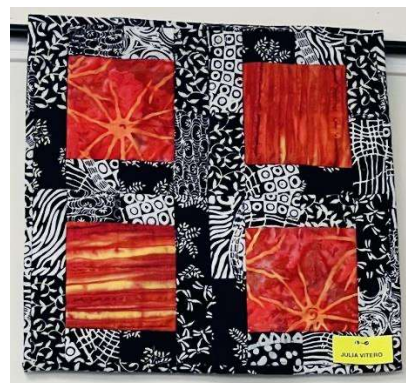
Cynthia Coats © 2021



Faith Darling © 2021



Anita Carse © 2019



Julia Vitero © 2019



Ernie Tril © 2021



Dolores Vitero Presley © 2020



Katie Wishom © 2021



Loretta Henry © 2021



Carolyn Pope © 2019



Ann Robinson © 2019

And one that didn't make it into the exhibit....

"I Can't Follow Directions" by Teresa Weyand © 2021



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, equivalent to a night at the movies with popcorn and a drink!

A Little Levity

7 good reasons to keep buying fabric

- 1) The person with the most fabric will live forever
- 2) You don't need to feed it, talk to it, change its diapers, walk it, or cook it
- 3) Fabric shopping is less expensive than therapy and if you join our Guild you will never need therapy
- 4) It provides instant home décor in bright bundles



everywhere

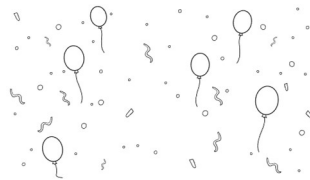
- 5) It supports small business owners
- 6) In the event of a disaster, you could make quilts for everyone in a surrounding six block radius
- 7) You are a changing, evolving human being and your taste in clothes, fabric and everything else change over time and should be reflected in your art

Guild Members:

We give coasters to guests who come to our meetings. If anyone has time and a few 5x5" scraps, please consider making coasters for our guests! Or Sunshine Committee giveaways.

Sunshine and Shadows
Sending love and healing wishes to Frances Porter!

Happy Birthday to our friends!



APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Dolores Vitero Presley, 5 Benita Jones, 10 Amal Johnson, 11 Katie Wishom, 17 Anita Carse, 17 Faith Darling, 20 Sandra Sweeting-Hall, 20 Susie Faye Patrick, 22 Loretta Cohen, 28	Frances Porter, 5 Felecia Germany, 6 Teloca McLinn, 7 Sandi Knight, 9 Deborah Reed-Salmon, 14 Jerry Hickey, 15 Ann Robinson, 21 Loretta Henry, 26 Madlyn Jones, 26 Marie dePorres Taylor, 27	Esther Pancho, 2

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

September 1, 2020- August 31, 2022

Officers and committee chairpersons can be reached at aaqgoakland@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 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
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