



Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

Washonaji Quilt guild

Table of Contents

Page 1- 2 Presidents Corner

Page 3 - 4th Quarter Events
Page 4 - 7 Memories from Our
Sister Adrienne Byrant.

Page - 8 2019 Officers

Page 9 - Denver Post Article

Page 10 - 4th Quarter Birthdays

Page 11 - Merry Christmas

Presidents Corner



My three words mantra: Clarity, Unity and Intention, have been the three words that have kept me focused and grounded in my personal life as well as while serving as president of Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild this year.

Clarity is the quality of being certain or definite. I have always searched for clarity in my decision making.

Unity is the state of being united or joined as a whole. When you are charged with leading a group or in other circumstances, it requires UNITY...unity of purpose, etc.

Intention is a thing intended; an aim or plan. I always ask myself, what was the intention of something I have done or said. If it has no redeeming value, then it should not be spoken or acted on. Some days that's a tough one to carry out.

I say all that to say, it has been a pleasure and honor for me to serve as president of Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild for the past three years. Our membership is strong, our Board is **AWESOME**, and that is so evident as we begin our celebration of being a Guild for 25 years. Yes, there has been lumps and bumps along the way, but we have remained diligent and focused on our mission. Congratulations to those who will serve as Board Members in 2019 and those who will take positions as Appointed Officers.

We've had an **AWESOME** year as a Guild and I will list a few of our accomplishments that clearly define our missions:

- Trunk shows at Front Range Contemporary Quilters, Colorado Fabrics, and Estes Valley Quilt Guild in Estes Park.

- Exhibits at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum and the Aurora Municipal Building, plus our annual exhibit at Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. **AWESOME**

- **AWESOME** programs and workshops throughout the year.
- Charity and Comfort quilt donations and quilts dispersed to members and other recipients. Baby Blankets to Denver Health Medical Center and Florence Crittenton Home.
- Participation in the Charity Quilt Sew Days at eQuilter in Boulder.
- Documentation of Quilts by the Colorado Quilting Council.
- Our Annual Retreat at the Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center.
- Website update in process.
- Review of current by-laws in process.
- New venue for the Christmas Luncheon this year, which from comments from those attending, was a success.
- Your last UFO is due in January.
- Plans are well underway for celebrating our 25th Anniversary in 2019.
 - This will include a Trip to the International Quilt Study Center and Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska, a High Tea, among other events scheduled throughout the year.
 - Our theme this year is "Wa Shonaji - 25 Years: Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future!"
Did I say Wa Shonaji is **AWESOME!!!**
- **Officers for 2019:**
 - President - Milinda Walker
 - VP Programs - Mary Lassiter
 - VP Membership - Linda White
 - Secretary - De Lois Powell
 - Treasurer - Geneva Lottie
 - Historian - Christine Jacques
 - Newsletter Editor - Julie Marsh
 - Librarian - Stephanie Hobson
 - Parliamentarian - Susan Morrison
 - Past President - Joanne Walton

As I complete my term as your president, I leave you with these words to the incoming Board, Appointed Officers and to the Membership of Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild:

Before you speak - **T.H.I.N.K.**

T - is it True? **H** - is it Helpful? **I** - is it inspiring? **N** - is it Necessary? **K** - is it Kind?

Sewfully,

Joanne C. Walton



- The 4th quarter, chaired by Camilla Edwards, included:
 - A Sew-in overseen by Brenda Ames who conduct a tutorial on binding.
 - November 10 – Fabric Collage, facilitated by Carolyn Morris who used the Laura Heine technique.
 - The year ended with 52 Guild members.
 - Progress continues working on getting the library books available on line so that members can check the books out.
 - November 10 - Election of Officers
 - December 8 - Installation of Officers
 - Hospitality and eQuilter – De Lois Powell continued to schedule sew ins at EQuilter. The October 27th session took place at their new facility and included a speaker from Nepal to thank the quilters for the quilts send to the country.
 - There was also a Charity Sew Day, October 27
 - The Comfort Quilts Program, overseen by Nanci Vaughn is still going strong - One of Our members, Laura Buchanan had a baby and Karen Blackmon donated a baby quilt to Laura.





Dear Quilting Sisters,
 How are you doing? How is the family? I miss you so much. We had such great times together. Thoughts of our great fun will always be in my heart. All of the great quilting classes, the wonderful quilting trips, the amazing quilt projects, and the many quilt presentations we made together over the years make up my memories of you. It is so nice to know that you're only a phone call away (hint, hint). I want you to know I am doing well and I will bring you up to date on my life. First, I just want to jot down some words about some of our shared quilting memories that are stitched in my soul. Do you remember when we all worked on the Round Robin quilts spearheaded by our fearless class leader, **Artie Johnson**. The precision with which Artie organized our groups to exchange our pieced work with each other was

priceless. That was in June of 2011! Can you believe it? We were still meeting at the Red Shield Community Center on 29th and High Street. The Round Robin quilts were one of my favorite projects. Thank you Artie for that memory.



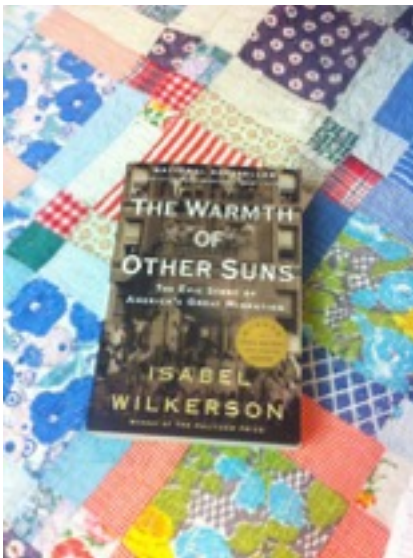
Irna Jeanette Saunderson will remember teaching our lovely class on the Pillow sleeping quilts. This project was quick and easy. We were able to make this gift idea for family during one



Saturday class.



Hey, we did so many classes together, but do you remember when we joined with African



American Quilters and Collectors Guild to invited **Lola Jenkins** to teach several art classes on Portraits Quilts? Lola Jenkins shared her remarkable story and taught us her technique for art quilts. What a treat? I am sure she remembers us as much as we remember her. The highlight of that class, as I look back, was knowing that I shared an art quilt experience with **Mother Brown** (97 years young) and **Sister Geneva Chapman** (12/6/1933 -3/25/2015). Reflecting on that time together makes me miss you more than ever.

Then, there was the trip to Lincoln Hills to visit the Historical Winks Lodge, a black resort community in Gilpin County. Opened in 1928 by Denver businessman Obrey Wendell Hamlet. It was reopened just for us to go back in time and discover our past. Do you remember the caravan of cars up the mountain on a beautiful July day? We carried our



red, white and blue stars in remembrance of Independence Day. **Ann Worsencroft** laid out our blocks in wonderful designs. **Brenda Ames** took the lead in putting the stars into quilts. Those stars still hang in the lodge. You are all stars. You are the stars in my quilt of life.



You know I have always liked that intersection of quilting and history. **Brenda** will remember how we met in 2005. We both were volunteering to be docents for the **Gees Bend Quilt Exhibit** at the **Denver Art Museum**. Those quilts are filled with history. Likewise, **Melinda Walker** will remember the exhibits at the **Grace Stiles African American Center** and the **Justina Ford/Black American West Museum** where we never missed an opportunity to hang our quilts. We would suck in the stories of our past. But it was in 2011, at **Manual High School** where **Ms. Wilkerson** was speaking, that interest in my heritage was awakened. **Joanne Walton** was hanging my favorite quilt. Her **Underground Railroad** quilt (along with other historic quilts including a family reunion quilt) I got a

Little did I know that my quilting journey down history lane with you would lead me to a new path. Could my new path have begun when we presented our quilts at the book signing for **Isabel Wilkerson**? I immediately started reading her book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, a nonfiction narrative of the 1915-1970 exodus of black Americans from the oppressive South.

historical pinch when I saw all the quilts there together in the back drop of so many people interested in a book on our shared history. Each quilt holds a history and is a place holder in our shared history.

We have shared so much over the years. There are those special pieces of fabric and blocks that I have received from you that have triggered my creative juices. **Chris Jacques**, do you remember the words of Harriet Tubman printed on fabric you gave me? I plan to combine it with blocks received from **Cynthia Martin**. (You remember Cynthia Martin who guided us through the **9/11 Freedom Quilt Project**). Those incredible pieces of fabric will make an amazing quilt honoring Harriet Tubman someday. **Mary Lassiter**, thank you so much for the gift of fabric and blocks to commemorate my retirement from Denver Public Schools. One day in the near future, I will make a quilt in tribute to those years of learning from my students. This year, I received the one quilt that I never wanted to be a recipient of. You all gave me a 'comfort quilt' for the loss of my mother. Thank you and thank you for the thoughtful cards. They will become a part of a quilt tribute to my mom. You know as much about our shared quilting and non-quilting experiences as I do. You have blessed me with experiences, fabric and blocks that I will never forget. (Or if I do you, will you remind me?) I realized quickly and happily that this letter could go on and on because "We got it like that."

But, what I want you to know that as of September 12, 2015, because of you ladies that invited me to the Freeman's Presentation at the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library, (and you know who you are), I am now on a journey to document my family story. I was only ever a beginning quilter. LOL! But now I am also a novice genealogist. What can I say? At the last quilt meeting I attended, we were on the second floor at the library. You were meeting while I was in the stacks searching for books on genealogy. The change in me after 30 years of quilting is remarkable. I never thought my stash would be relegated to the garage, but I had to make room for binders and bins filled with documents on my ancestors. I have said it! It is true! I love you all and I love that you love to quilt. But tracing my family history is something I am compelled to do at this time in my life.

Thank you for all you do to reinvigorate the textile arts. I appreciate you, your talent, your patience and your perseverance. You know I won't be far because quilting intersects history and quilting is part of my legacy.

Peace and Courage, Adrienne.

Our Past President, Brenda Ames, installed the 2019 Officers.

Meet our 2019 Rocky Mountain Washonaji Quilt Guild Board



The 2018 Holiday Luncheon venue changed this year and what a nice change in venue it was. The Embassy Suites at 4444 N Havana St in Denver on December 8, 2018 was opened by Milinda Walker, Past and 2019 Incoming President, Our current president for 2018, Joanne Walton was out of the country.

The guild continues as in the past, to display the beautiful table in remembrance of Our Angels who are no longer with us but were a huge part of the guilds success.

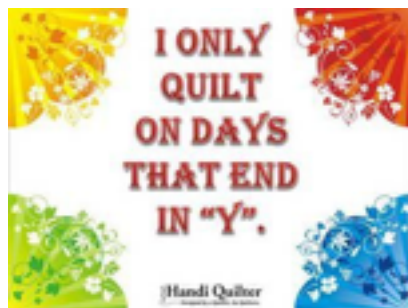
Our Choir director, Mary Lassiter led us in song which is always a hit.

Camilla Edwards led the group in the infamous Mr and Mrs Wright Gift Exchange which included the "Fat Quarter Shuffle". We never get tired of the game and the confusion caused due to our lack of listening habits and following directions.



CHRISTMAS QUOTE May you never be to grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.

Some sisters could not join us at the Holiday Luncheon because they were assisting in other worthy causes such as supporting victims of the California fires as addressed in the Denver Post on December 8, 2018. Meet one such sister, Chris Jacques.



4 QUARTER BIRTHDAYS

ROBIN BEAN	2 OCT
NANNETTE LOCKE	21 OCT
DELOIS POWELL	25 OCT
KAREN BLACKMON	27 OCT

SHERRY SONGHURST	3 NOV
VALERIE WHITE	3 NOV

NANCI VAUGH	5 DEC
JULIE MARSH	8 DEC
STEPHANNIE HOBSON	10 DEC
EDITH SHELTON	14 DEC
ARTIE JOHSON	19 DEC



***MERRY CHRISTMAS ROCKY MOUNTAIN WASHONAJI QUILT
GUILD AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR***

