



Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild



Fellowship, Productivity Highlight 2019 Retreat

Her car was so full “not one pea would fit.”

She referred to her fellow quilters as “Q-tips”!

She danced to the music in her head from morning till night.

She had a little pie with her whipped cream!

But no names will be released, because what happens at Retreat stays at Retreat! What we will tell you is that Wa Shonaji’s 2019 Retreat was a resounding success!

Seventeen intrepid quilters climbed to the Highlands Presbyterian Retreat Center in Allenspark, at 8,477 feet. This on Thursday, October 31, despite the snow that had fallen on the state. Fortunately the roads were clear,



and the Retreat went on as planned.

Fifteen Wa Shonaji members and two guests immediately began to cut, piece, iron, design, consult, and quilt, not to mention chat, snack, and laugh.

Several quilters also made trips back down the mountain to



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- November—Panelling by Marcia Walker
- December 14—Holiday Luncheon

2019 Retreat (continued)

visit Lyons Quilt Shop. You can never have too much fabric!

Highlands staff told us the chef was kicking up his cooking a notch; for example, he added a hint of ginger to the cole slaw. He offered a variety of entrees and a nice salad bar—though the beets sure disappeared rapidly! And Wa Shonaji members supplied a mountain of tasty snacks. There was no excuse to be hungry!

No bears were sighted—though the Highlands host fully prepared us with survival techniques should one appear! But moose and mountain goats were seen. What fun!

In addition to the “trick or treat” game on Halloween night, Retreat coordinator Karen von Phul had teams of four assembling quilt blocks from patches of colored paper. You try to put together a crazy quilt block! And she had us count spools of thread in a jar. There were 57; Elorise Hawkins guessed 58—one too many. Brenda Ames had the closest guess *without going over* of 56 and was awarded a collapsible folding wagon. And rumors abound that a clandestine game of Left, Right,



Stephanie Hobson prepares to perform a “trick” in a Halloween-themed game from Retreat coordinator Karen von Phul.

Center kept numerous quilters up quite late Saturday night. The bounty? Mini Reese’s Peanut Butter cups! (Quilters need more than fabric to survive...)

There was also a lot of productivity. When a project was completed, Karen “rang her bell” (and



Camilla Edwards, Stephanie Hobson, and Edith Shelton consult on the borders for Stephanie’s panel.



Here's a tip we're happy to share! Marta Barron of Michigan, bought these small plastic bins at Dollar Store—3 for a dollar!—and sorted her patches. When it's useful, she writes a code on a small square of paper and tossed it in with the cut fabric. If you have to pack them up, just stack.

Time to go and all packed up...



sang appropriately). Nearly 20 projects were finished during the three full days of sewing: 1 quilt quilted; 6 tops completed; 6 tops ready for borders; 3 bags and 2 pillowcases done; 1 tessellated wreath pieced.

And on Sunday morning, while a few stalwarts were still at their machines, most were packing

and loading cars for the trip home and back to reality. There were lots of hugs, lots of well-deserved thanks to Karen, and knowledge that we have secrets to keep until the next time Wa Shonaji goes on retreat...



[visit washonaji.org](http://washonaji.org)
to see more photos!

Mount Meeker maintains its vigil over Highlands Retreat Center until Wa Shonaji quilters return next year...

President's Corner

Hello everyone!

I hope you are enjoying this fall season. And that you are keeping yourselves busy quilting as the snow has begun to fall fairly early this year!

We are looking forward to continuing to celebrate our 25th anniversary and encourage you to attend our Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 14.

Looking forward to a new year!

Milinda Walker



Bacardi Rum Cake: The Only Cake That Gets Better with Age

This tried-and-true recipe makes the moistest cake you'll ever eat. Simply put, a Bacardi Rum Bundt Cake is the perfect dessert choice for almost any occasion.

Total: 85 mins

Prep: 25 mins

Cook: 60 mins

Yield : 12 to 16 servings

Nutritional Guidelines (estimated per serving)

Calories: 423

Fat: 29 g

Carbs: 19g

Protein: 17g

For the Cake

1 cup pecans or walnuts (chopped and toasted)
1 (18 1/2-ounce) yellow cake mix
1 package instant vanilla pudding mix (3.4 ounces)
4 eggs
1/2 cup cold milk
1/2 cup vegetable oil

For the Glaze

1/2 cup Bacardi dark rum
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup water
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup rum

To Make the Cake

Gather the ingredients.

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 12-cup Bundt pan.

Sprinkle nuts on the bottom of the pan.

Combine all cake ingredients. Beat for 2 minutes on high with electric mixer.

Pour into prepared pan.

Bake for 1 hour.

Cool in pan. Invert onto serving plate.

Prick top with a fork.

Make the glaze.

To Make the Glaze

Melt butter in a saucepan.

Stir in water and sugar.

Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and stir in rum. *Note:* The rum will cause steam. Be careful not to burn yourself.

Drizzle glaze over top of cake. Use brush or spoon to put extra drippings back on cake.

—Edith Shelton



Helen Kearney, founder of Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild, is honored on the occasion of the Guild's 25th anniversary.



Founder Helen Kearney Is Celebrated in Guild's 25th Year

Helen Kearney's vision of a guild to promote African-American quilting way back in 1994 was honored at the September Guild meeting.

In her remarks, Helen updated the status of the other charter members: Mary Brewer, Gwinn Downton, Betty Everette, and Josie McKissick.

To hold true to her original concept for the Guild, she noted she would like to see more members taking leadership roles and more members making African-American-themed quilts.

If possible, Helen is even more active in the quilting world, both locally and internationally.



Happy Birthday



November, December Birthdays

Valerie White, Nov 3	Stephanie Hobson, Dec 10
Nancy Vaughn, Dec 5	Edith Shelton, Dec 14
Julie Marsh, Dec 8	Artie Johnson, Dec 19



Sister Stitcher

Have you met Sister Stitcher? She is a mythical quilter whose quarter inch never wavers, whose

bobbin never runs out, and who finishes her projects on time. She lives in a house that never needs cleaning, with a spouse who cooks and holds up quilts as requested. Her studio space measures 100x100, with lots of natural light. Oddly enough, it never needs cleaning either.

Sister just returned from the social event of the season: Retreat.

Thursday morning: Retreat begins! From Thursday to Sunday, it's all sewing for Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild! No cleaning, no cooking. It's going to be rough.

Sister is up at zero-dark-thirty to join the great movement of Retreaters headed west. Wrangle machines into cars; load up projects and other useful items; bag the snacks, and oh yes, some clothes. Sister has got it going ON.

Pleasant surprises await Retreaters:

- Unseen powers put [quilted hearts](#) on pillows, for keeping or placing where a stranger can find it and feel some love. Quilters are kind people, and RMWSQG is no exception.
- New water bottles from the Retreat coordinator's generous Quilter Husband, recognizing RMWSQG's sense of community and service. Staying hydrated is a bonus at this altitude!

Thursday night: Sister lends her rotary cutter four times, borrows one task light, gives her opinion on two color matches, and has numerous conversations about machine versus hand applique. All Retreaters help solve the Case of the Missing Snacks, packed in a green Trader Joe's bag. They turn up in a brown PetSmart paper bag.

The Retreat coordinator celebrates Halloween with a Trick or Treat challenge. Trick questions: Who was the first president of Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild? What's a dance move from your high school days? Treat: chocolate,

what else! The real treat is watching Retreaters do the Pony with grace and style.

Whoever brought the music must know Sister well. Retreaters dance and sing to jazz, disco, funk, and Motown. "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" gets particularly enthusiastic love.

Friday early morning: From her machine, dawn is lighting up Mount Meeker as Sister finishes her first quilt. It only took three years and a retreat to get the binding on.

Some Retreaters mosey down to the local quilt shop "just to look." (Quilters are so funny.) \$66.23 later, Sister has the perfect batiks for the projects left at home. Sister didn't want those poor UFOs to feel left out, and the batiks were on sale. (Sister is so funny.)

Friday afternoon: Another project down! Retreaters help Sister see the error of her piecing ways. Now the Twisted Christmas Wreath quilt twists properly.

The design wall is covered with Adinkra blocks for a President's quilt, quilts for grandbabies, T-shirt quilts, a quilt bursting with Kaffe Fassett fabrics. Retreaters "ring the bell" many times to announce their finished projects, including two very cool project bags. They sew a thank-you heart for Quilter Husband's kind gift of water bottles, which are certainly handy at this altitude. RMWSQG has got it going ON.

Friday night: The annual Ugly Fabric Challenge brings out the worst in every Retreater's stash. Sister's contribution has some serious competition. The Peanut Gallery is *highly* amused watching newbies fumble and pass the tornado of textile chaos.

Saturday: Another devious game devised by the Retreat coordinator: Teams shuffle shapes into Ohio Star, Crazy, and Pinwheel blocks from baggies full of construction paper templates. If you like geometry, this is the game for you. Sister is luckily on the team with the math teacher.

Saturday night: Without a television or newspaper, retreaters forget about the latest world crisis.

Continued at right, page 7

Paneling Workshop This Saturday

For this class, you will need:

- a panel
- complimentary fabrics for the panel/border fabrics
- sewing machine
- cutting supplies: mat, rotary cutter, ruler
- pressing supplies — iron, ironing surface

The goal is to finish one panel. I hope to see all of you in class.

—Marcia Walker

Wa Shonaji Treats Heartfelt Quilters to a Trunk Show



Was Shonaji presented more than 50 quilts to Heartfelt Quilters at Missions Hills Church, Littleton, September 26.



Lunch featured a personalized cake!

Sister Stitcher continued...

Sister wonders why the United Nations doesn't do quilt retreats.

Sunday morning: Sister tries Quilt as You Go at 1 a.m. Perfect time to learn a new skill.

Sunday morning for real: Retreat ends today, at 10 a.m. Back to the real world of spouses, houses, and the state of the world. Sigh.

A Determined Retreater sews steadily on her

project. The last bell peals at 9:38, to great applause.

After **lots** of coffee, Retreaters wrangle machines into cars and load up their now-finished projects. Sister's load includes the quilted heart, her new water bottle, and a heart full of gratitude for this special time with her Sister Stitchers.

—Chris Jacques

October Show & Share



Edith Shelton



Cassandra Sewell



Camilla Edwards



Elorise Hawkins



Artie Johnson

Mask Quilts Begin to Be Completed



Edith Shelton



Brenda Ames

eQuilter Charity Quilts



Nannette Locke, Brenda Ames, DeLois Powell, and Julie Marsh

Getting to Know... Milinda Walker

Milinda Walker remembers sewing when she was very young—she would sit under her mom’s Singer near the big pedal. She started quilting when her youngest was born; she wanted to make a baby quilt. So far, her children are not interested in following in her footsteps.

She’s been quilting for more than 30 years and has decided that she prefers hand quilting. She owns a Baby Lock Sashiko quilting machine.

To start a new quilt she usually sees something that attracts her attention and off she goes! Generally she’s thinking of someone in particular when she starts a project.

Her quilting space is in transition from one room to another but, she chuckles, has stalled in the middle of two rooms. She tends to like it fairly well organized.

In addition to quilting, Milinda has a passion for cooking.

Her favorite quilting tip is to remember to iron or press as you go. She also recommends that quilters try to shop only for your current project



Milinda with her husband, Louie.

needs—if not you’ll end up with a lot of extra fabrics!

It’s important to Milinda to make something beautiful to make someone smile.

She belongs to Wa Shonaji to enjoy the fellowship, to share ideas, and to encourage her to “Keep Quilting.”

Viewing Alert!

Craft in America: Quilts premieres on PBS Friday, December 27, 2019, at 9 p.m. (check local listings).

From the PBS press release:

Announcing QUILTS, a new episode of *Craft in America*, the Peabody Award-winning documentary series discovering the beauty, significance and relevance of handmade objects and the artists who make them. For more than a decade, *Craft in America* has taken viewers on cultural journeys across this nation, honoring the multiplicity of traditions that have come to define our country.

Quilts hold history, share culture, and tell stories that would otherwise not be told. They are rich with memories, beauty, and emotion. Meet



contemporary masters of this surprising and powerful art form.

Watch a 2-minute preview at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDfDIMUi4Fs

—Thanks to Linda White for this tip!

Book Suggestion

The Farmer's Wife Sampler Quilt: Letters from 1920s Farm Wives and the 111 Blocks They Inspired
by Laurie Aaron Hird
(copyright 2009)

The premise of this book comes from a 1922 contest in which the editors of *Farmer's Wife Magazine* asked if parents would want their daughter to marry a farmer. The answers were intriguing.

The publishers received more than 7,000 responses from their subscribers. The book includes the best answers, plus historical bits and pieces, and the traditional quilt blocks the answers inspired.

The first part of the book tells the story for 111 blocks with cutting and piecing directions. The last part of the book presents instructions and pattern layouts for making a sampler quilt.

—Stephanie Hobson

Note: This book is not currently in our library, but maybe it should be?

Committee Reports

Exhibits

Future Trunk Show

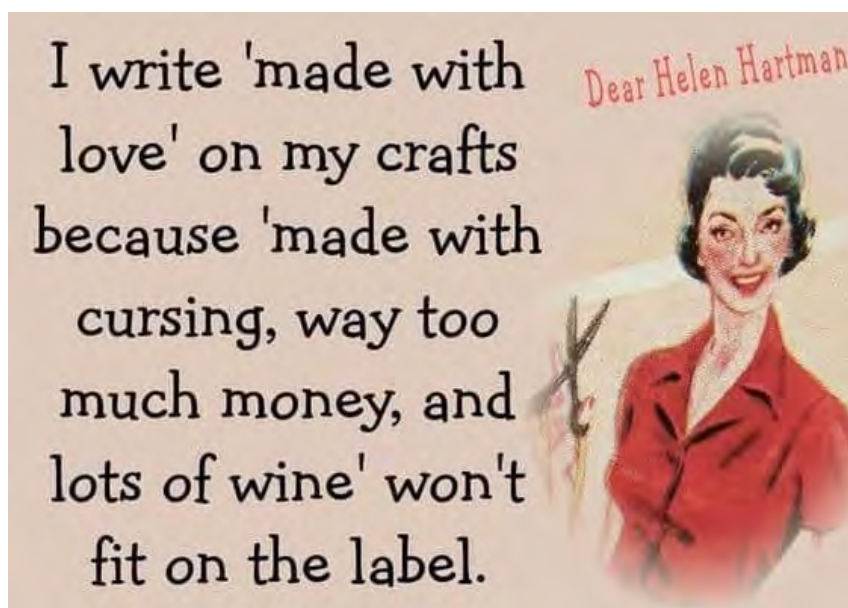
January 13, 2020—Columbine Quilt Guild, Arvada.
Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Membership

It's time to **renew** your Wa Shonaji membership for 2020! Still a bargain at \$30.

On the RMWQG website, washonaji.com, click on the Members' Area and log in. In the dropdown menu, click on Forms to print the 2020 Membership Form.

Bring the completed Form with a check or cash to Treasurer Geneva Lottie at the **November meeting**.



25th Anniversary Remembrance with Historical Blocks of the Month

Ready! Set! Go!

The 2020 Block of the Month will begin in January and sign-ups have begun. Twelve quilters will share their 12x12 blocks from the 2019 Blair-Caldwell exhibit with the group. Quilt blocks will be presented in the order of sign-up according to the list below.

BLOCK DUE	NAME OF BLOCK	BLOCK PRESENTER
JANUARY	Double T	Artie Johnson
FEBRUARY	Shoo Fly	Brenda Ames
MARCH	Windmill	DeLois Powell
APRIL	Job's Troubles	Camilla Edwards
MAY	Birthday Cake	Susan Morrison
JUNE	Sister's Choice	Pennie Estrada
JULY	Railroad Crossing	Ann Worsencroft
AUGUST	Church Dash	Joette Bailey-Keown
	Missouri Star	Geneva Lottie
SEPTEMBER	Rose of Sharon	Barbara Robinson
OCTOBER	Dresden Fan	Edith Shelton
NOVEMBER	Lost Ship	Stephanie Hobson

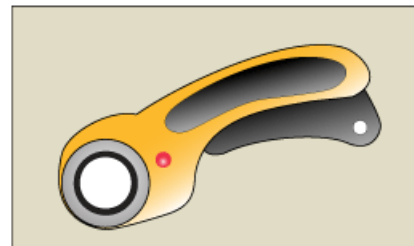
The first block will be presented at January's meeting; that block will be due at February's meeting and so on until we have finished block twelve. There's still time to sign up to join the BOM. Fifteen quilters are currently participating.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Artie Johnson.

- Presenter will supply pattern to group in month prior to due date
- No substitution of Blocks; only Blocks that were made for Exhibit
- Blocks will be 12 1/2" square, 12" finished
- Fabric and setting of blocks will be quilter's choice
- SHOW & SHARE when project is completed
- Two blocks will be presented in August
- **RELAX AND HAVE FUN**
- Direct questions to Artie Johnson
- **THANK YOU TO ALL PRESENTERS FOR SHARING!**

History of the OLFA Rotary Cutter

In 1979 Mr. Yoshio Okada, founder of OLFA, introduced the rotary cutter to the marketplace. The Japan-based company had been making snap-off blades for other uses (the name OLFA comes from two Japanese words that mean "break the blade") when Mr. Okada had the idea to develop a rolling cutter. His invention revolutionized quilting, and by the early 1980s, rotary cutters were being adopted by quilters everywhere.



Fast forward to today, when quilters around the world agree: you need a sewing machine, a rotary cutter, and a rotary-cutting mat and ruler to begin.

—Mary Lassiter

Survey Questions

To get a full picture of the membership's opinions about Wa Shonaji, more responses are needed to these two questions:

1 What do you get from Wa Shonaji for your \$30 membership dues? Do you get \$30 worth? (This is not a veiled attempt to raise or lower dues, but an appraisal of guild value to you.)

2 What are Wa Shonaji Guild's communities, and how does the Guild affect them? For instance, one could say that people interested in quilting is one of our communities, and we impact such people by mounting our annual exhibit at Blair-Caldwell so they can see, enjoy, and appreciate quilts; see the trends in quilting; maybe decide to try quilting themselves. But there are many other communities—can you name a couple more?—and we probably impact those interested in quilting in many more ways.

If you've responded—and six of you have!—I have those thoughts. I hope more of you will send me your opinions as well. I remove all names when I file the info—totally anonymous.

**Don't leave this page blank!
Bring it on!**

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

Wa Shonaji provides a warm, nurturing atmosphere to promote an interest in quilt making and other fiber arts primarily from an African-American perspective.

We both educate ourselves and share our knowledge with others, based on the motto "Each One, Teach One." We seek to encourage the work and accomplishments of our members and to preserve the tradition, culture, and history of quilting. Rather than judge each other's work, we learn from it and revel in it.

All quilters, regardless of their interest or skill levels, are welcome.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

10:30 a.m., first Saturday of each month (unless it's a holiday) at the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, 2401 Welton Street, Denver

For more information, visit www.washonaji.org or email washonaji@gmail.com

Textile Doin's in the Area

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum www.rmqm.org

Sunday at the Museum, 2–4 p.m., Nov 17, The Magic of Mosaics by Lorie Stubbs

Current exhibit—In the British Fashion: English Paper Pieced Quilts & English Paper Pieced Quilts from the Museum Collection, through Jan 18, 2020

English Paper Piecing Group, no cost, first Tuesday of each month, 1–3 p.m.

Columbine Quilt Guild

<https://sites.google.com/view/columbinequiltguild>

Monday, Nov 11, 6:45 p.m., Give It A Try: sale of technique workshops; tours of shops, studios; experiences; retreats. And Tying Community Quilts

Monday, Dec 9, 6:45 p.m., Challenge Quilt Show and Holiday Party

Arapahoe County Quilt Guild www.acqcolorado.org

Thursday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Bound to Be Quilting by Pat Syta and Mimi Hollenbaugh and Book Sale

Thursday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m., Potluck and Silent Auction

Front Range Contemporary Quilters www.artquilters.org

FRQG meets at the Westminster Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Blvd. from 7 to 9 p.m. every third Monday, Jan–Nov

Denver Metro Modern Quilt Guild

denvermetroquiltguild.org

Wed., Nov 13, 7 p.m., at Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum

Wed., Dec 11, 7p.m., holiday social

During the holiday season, dozens of **crafts shows and activities** are taking place in the Denver/Colorado Springs metro area. Visit this link to see a list: <https://www.fairsandfestivals.net/states/CO/>

Thank you to Stephanie Hobson for October's Show and Share photos.

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