



Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

Holiday Luncheon Honors Quilts, Leaders

Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild partied on Saturday, Dec. 3, to celebrate the Holidays and the ability to be together in person. About 50 members and guests gathered at CrossPurpose for the annual event. Officers for 2023 were inducted, and past presidents were honored.

Beautiful Christmas quilts made by members decorated the space. A delicious catered lunch was a real hit. Members exchanged gifts under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Wright. See more photos on pages 4 and 5.



Past Presidents of Wa Shonaji who attended the Holiday Luncheon, from left to right: Marcia Walker, Geneva Lottie, Milinda Walker, Brenda Ames, and Joanne Walton.

Have you recently finished a project? Please send a photo by Monday, Jan 2, 2023, for Show n Share:
h2olou3000@gmail.com

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Upcoming Programs

- January 7—Karen von Phul will teach a Textile Totem Project. See supply list on page 16. Meeting 11 am
- February 4—Celebrate Black History Month with Adrian Miller's presentation on Soul Food. Wear an apron!

President's Corner

Hi Members,

I have been the President of the Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild for three years and it has been an honor. My goal was to assure that all members of the Guild have a voice and that we are all able to comfortably learn more about quilting and share our quilting skill with each other.

I want to thank the members of this guild for your support, encouragement, and the opportunity to help in the creation of the best quilt guild in the state. I look forward to serving you as the Treasurer of the guild in 2023.

I will see you all in January 2023.

—Geneva Lottie

Membership Update

Welcome new members for 2023!

Theadora Jackson

Jane Weaver, friend of DeLois Powell

Gloria Montgomery, friend of Joette Bailey-Keown

If you have not paid your dues for 2023, please send \$30 to the guild post office box.

—Linda White

2023 DIA Exhibit

Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild will mount an exhibit of quilts at Denver International Airport in September 2023 and continuing for four months. This is really special and quite a coup orchestrated by VP Programs Joette Bailey-Keown.

The theme will focus on air/aviation/airplanes, water (ie, lakes, rivers, fishing), land (ie, mountains), fire, and Denver itself. If you have a quilt that suits this theme, **bring it to the January 7 meeting** so the planning committee will know

what's available, as it's likely more will need to be made.

The committee is also considering using this theme for the 2023 Wa Shonaji annual guild exhibit and making a group quilt, such as Kings and Queens we made for our 25th anniversary.



December, January, February Birthdays

Nancy Vaughn, Dec 5

Julie Marsh, Dec 8

Stephanie Hobson, Dec 10

Edith Shelton, Dec 14

Artie Johnson, Dec 19

Barbara Berry-Bailey, Dec 25

Keri Mills, Jan 8

Marta Barron, Jan 14

Carolyn Somerville, Jan 24

Toni Reddick, Feb 2

Pat Moore, Feb 8

Barbara Cohen, Feb 11



Block of the Month 2023—Un-Finished Objects Challenge

From UFOs to OFUs (Objects Finished Up): No matter what your theory is about life on other planets, Earth is filled with UFOs—that’s right, quilters’ Un-Finished Objects. We all know these projects exist in the depths of our sewing rooms, packed away so we can forget them, ignore them, pretend we never started them. While we’d like to think that we can finish all of the projects we start, it just isn’t possible—or for a few, it is POSSIBLE. Either we don’t like the colors we chose, or we realize too late that we can’t master a concept (um, did I really think I could do curved piecing?!). Regardless of how many UFOs you have hiding in your sewing room and beyond, pull out three and let’s get started and finish them!

The rules are simple. A UFO is any piece of fabric, cut into for the purpose of making a quilt, wall hanging, or other object of art that is made of fabric, totally or partially quilted and not completed. It is completed when totally quilted, bound, decorated, and ready for use.

RULES:

~List 3 UFOs, pay \$3 for 6 months—give one of your lists to me [Artie] for the record.

~Two months allowed to finish a project. FINISHED means complete — NO “I just have to finish the binding.” It MUST be finished and useable.

~If you finish your UFO, you get \$1 back for that project.

~Should you not complete the project, you lose a dollar. The dollar lost goes in the kitty.

~Your name goes into the kitty one time for every finished project for the 6 months. At the end of the 6 months, a name will be drawn and the lucky person gets the whole kitty.

~A number will be drawn in January, March, and May that corresponds to the number of the next project on your list that you MUST complete.

This challenge is fun, fun, fun, and you get to cheer for yourself. If you have questions, please get in touch with me at 303-736-8257.

—Artie Johnson

2023 BOM Schedule

January—Pay \$3; list 3 UFOs; first number drawn to designate which project to work on

March—Show off OFU—get \$1; admit it’s still a UFO—lose \$1; number drawn for next project

May—Show off OFU, etc.

July—Show off final OFU! Winner’s name will be drawn.

It’s all fun and games until you realize you’ve been quilting without a bobbin.

Smiling Faces Attest to Fun at Holiday Luncheon



Geneva Lottie “passes the presidential gavel” to Marcia Walker for 2023.

Monica Lynn shares a laugh with her friend Carol Kissinger at the Holiday Luncheon.



Raffle winners display their Christmas towels, made by Marcia Walker, Joette Bailey-Keown, and Joanne Walton, who also made the table decorations. .



Mary Lassiter, Sandra Coleman, and Skip Lassiter enjoy the Holiday luncheon.



Linda White presents a Certificate of Outstanding Leadership to Milinda Walker, who has been a Wa Shonaji member since 1995 and who has served seven years as president (over several terms).

Trunk Shows Past and Future

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, the fearless six (Camilla Edwards, Marcia Walker, Barbara Robinson, Karen von Phul, Joette Bailey-Keown, and Joanne Walton) traveled to Buena Vista, CO for a Trunk Show to the Monarch Quilt Guild. Karen made arrangements for us to stay in a lovely Bed and Breakfast in Buena Vista, and on Monday morning we arose early to drive down to Salida, which is about a 30 minute drive, to where their meeting was held at the Poncha Springs Town Hall.

On Sunday evening, we were invited to the lovely home of one of their members, who coincidentally lives right across the road from our B and B. What an enjoyable time we had visiting her studio and seeing all of her projects! The view from their deck was breathtaking; the dinner she and her husband served was delicious!!! She even shared

with us the pattern for the Chenille Potholder Class Karen taught to members of Wa Shonaji at our November meeting, and the idea for the Totem Pole class Karen will be teaching in January was from their Show and Share.

We shared with their guild members approximately 30 quilts, four of the tote bags that were part of the class taught by Varna Nolan in June 2022, and the 12" x 12" quilts from our WORDS exhibit. They were in awe of our work. We received a standing ovation, something one of the members said never happens at their meetings. Did I say Wa Shonaji is Awesome!!!

Did I also mention that we did some retail/fabric shopping while we were there? That probably goes without saying...

—Joanne Walton



So many beautiful quilts were shown to the Monarch Quilt Guild last September.



The fearless six ventured to Salida to present a Trunk Show: Camilla Edwards, Marcia Walker, Barbara Robinson, Karen von Phul, Joette Bailey-Keown, and Joanne Walton..

More Trunk Shows in 2023...

May 18, 2023 - **Quaking Aspen Quilt Guild**,
Boulder, CO. This is a daytime Trunk Show.
www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org

June 15, 2023 - **Smokey Hill Quilt Club**, Auro-
ra, CO. 6:30 pm
[https://smoky hill quilt club](https://smokyhillquiltclub.com)

June 24, 2023 - **Penrose Library**, Colorado
Springs, CO. 1:30pm
[Penrose Library \(PE\) | Pikes Peak Library District
\(ppld.org\)](http://PenroseLibrary(PE)|PikesPeakLibraryDistrict(ppld.org))

We are HOPEFUL that the Chorus will be
available to perform at these Trunk Shows.

The Exhibit Committee will contact members
to ask for quilts beginning in early 2023.



Linda White took this photo in October while traveling the back roads from Munich to Prien am Chiemsee, Germany. In a small village, we saw the design on the house and found a place to park. I ran down the street to snap this shot. I really wanted to knock on the door to ask if a quilter lived there. This takes Barn Quilts to a new level!



2022 Retreat—Another Quilty Success!

The retreat, held October 13–16 at Highlands Presbyterian Retreat Center in Allenspark, went off without a hitch. Everyone dove in to finish many UFOs. There was a lot of collaboration amongst the Sister Stitchers. “Each one, teach one” was definitely the theme. We all had a hand in helping someone with their quilt or project.

The staff at the retreat center was great. The food was awesome except for breakfast. Because they were short staffed, they served continental

breakfast. But on the last day, we were served a full menu breakfast.

My liaison Sue Spencer left two weeks before the retreat to take another job, but I was able to thank her for her hospitality and wish her well in her next endeavors. She is a Pastor and will be servicing a church in Nebraska.

Next year's retreat is October 12–15, 2023. See you there, Sister Stitchers!

—Karen von Phul

*In the crazy quilt of life, I'm
glad you're in my block of
friends.*



History Colorado Exhibits “The Centennial State in 100 Objects”

Number 43 Is a Quilt Made by an African-American Woman

Zoom In, presented by Colorado State University, offers 100 unique objects that have shaped Colorado. The items summarize our state’s history from Paleoindians of 13,000 years ago to Cross shoes from Boulder.

Number 43, a wonderful example of a crazy quilt, was created by former slave Florence Bell, who spent three years creating this masterpiece. She was born in Jackson County, Missouri. After

she died in 1893, her husband John moved to Colorado, taking the quilt with him.

This quilt was one of Colorado’s entries at the World’s Fair in 1904 in St. Louis.

To see the quilt, visit the History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver 80203. *Zoom In* is included in the price of admission (\$14 adult online) and is just one of the many fascinating exhibits at the Center.

I rescue fabric trapped in the
quilt shop. I'm not a hoarder!
I'm a hero!



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 is thinking about all the sewing she wants to do before Christmas...

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a quilter was sleeping, sad to announce. Sister Stitcher was binding the last quilt of the three she'd made since Thanksgiving, this one for Niece Stitcher. Despite Sister's skills in time management, something seemed to get between her and her trusty Bernina. Mr. Stitcher couldn't find wrapping paper. Mother-in-Law Stitcher needed to see a doctor two hours away. This put Sister in her sewing room, close to midnight, on a snowy Christmas Eve, when she should have been snuggled next to Mr. Stitcher. But she couldn't disappoint her niece on Christmas Day. Sister soldiered on, her eyes burning. Just a few more inches to the next corner...just a few...inches...Sister's head went down.



It was so cold. Sister shivered, looking around. Where was she? The town seemed to be in deep and dreamless sleep, while silent clouds went by. Sister didn't recognize any of the houses. They weren't tricked out for the holiday. Where was the Lovatos' megawatt Christmas display, complete with recorded carols? There was some sort of rickety cart where the Clarks' jacked-up truck usually sat. And for that matter, the street didn't seem to be paved. What *was* this place?

Just as Sister was looking for her phone, three camels, bearing three riders in some amazing threads, approached her, slowly and majestically. *This is definitely not my neighborhood*, Sister thought. They stopped, and the first rider spoke from high atop his mount.

"Good evening, ma'am. You must be Sister Stitcher. Balthazar here; right behind me we have Caspar and then Melchior. We heard there was a



new baby in these parts, and we thought we'd bring some gifts. Would you care to join us?" Gifts? A new baby?

It dawned on Sister: She was in Bethlehem, Anno Domini Zero. The Before Christ era was ending, on O Holy Night. And Sister had just been invited to a baby shower and birthing, by none other than the Three Wise Men. How could she miss a chance to represent Wise Women?

"Pleased to meet you, Balthazar; I'd love to come along. You must be the Wise Men?"

"None other! Our hood name is The Magi. We have seen His star in the East, and we don't miss a party! Our gifts are already wrapped. So hop up behind me, and we'll go see the new arrival." Sister quickly reached back into her sewing room, grabbed a quilt that she'd had ready for the next surprise baby shower, and they were off.



It was easy to find the place: Follow the angel voices to the manger under a star even brighter than the Lovatos', and the camels were there. Bal-

thazar, Caspar, and Melchior parked next to some shepherds who had been keeping their flocks by night. They found the new mother lying on the straw, looking a little tired but glowing, the new father beaming, and the new baby asleep. One by one, Balthazar, Caspar, and Melchior fell to their knees. They presented each gift with a flourish:

“I bring you GOLD.”

“I bring you FRANKINCENSE.”

“I bring you MYRRH.”

The new parents, Mary and Joseph, politely oohed and ahed over the treasures. “Yeah, very nice, but what about a diaper service? Onesies? These Wise Men aren’t wise to the ways of babies,” Sister thought. She stepped forward with her gift, and Mary’s face brightened.



“A QUILT! Oh, this is great! I haven’t been able to get anything for Him, apart from these swaddling clothes. He’ll be able to sleep under it, and carry it around for a blankie. And look at those gender-neutral colors! Thank you, Sister!”

“One hundred percent cotton! I washed the fabrics before piecing, so it won’t shrink or run in the laundry. You can wash it on a regular cycle,” Sister said.

“That’s fantastic, Sister. It’s going to be hard

enough beating His diapers against the rocks. Gentle Cycle is a joke at River Jordan Laundromat.”

The two women were laughing like old friends. Sister thanked her lucky stars for her habit of labelling quilts right after binding. She excused herself to the corner, where she hurriedly wrote the new baby’s name and the date on the label, as her Aunt Artie had taught her to do. Then she tucked the quilt around the Little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The Magi were looking a little put out by Mary’s obvious joy in the humble quilt. “Every family should have frankincense and myrrh, right next to the Band-Aids,” sniffed Caspar. “And, gold will be good for his college fund,” sputtered Balthazar. “Actually, I was hoping He’d take over the business,” the new father said. “I’m a carpenter; ‘Joseph and Son’ has a nice ring to it.”

“Well, Joseph,” said Balthazar, “if you’re going to go beyond just the local market, a few business courses will give Him a leg up. Expansion: That’s the way to go. ‘Joseph and Son’ could have galleries in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem...Jesus can write His own ticket with an MBA!” The carpenter seemed pleased by the idea. “What do you suppose the return on investment is for sponsoring a community softball team?” he mused. “Joseph, you have to spend money to make money. Team t-shirts with ‘Joseph and Son’ is great marketing!” said Melchior. “Now, when I sponsored the camel races...” The new father and the Wise Men got into a long debate about stretching a business’s advertising dollar. Mary and Sister exchanged glances. College was a great idea, but first the baby had to survive a cold night, to say nothing of King Herod and his heavies. Protectively, Mary kissed the sleeping infant.

Pastorius, one of the shepherds, poked his head in at the door. “When my missus had our first, the neighbors fed us for a week, bless them. If I bring some lamb, could you make some casseroles, Sister?” he said shyly.

“Great idea, Pastorius! Say, could you rock the baby for a bit?” While Sister cooked and changed

Sister Stitcher continued

sheets, and Mary made up diapers, the shepherd crooned to the new arrival:

*Come down to the manger, see the little stranger
Wrapped in swaddling clothes, the prince of peace
Wheels start turning, torches start burning
And the old wise men journey from the East*

*How a little baby boy bring the people so much joy
Son of a carpenter, Mary carried the light
This must be Christmas, must be tonight.*

*A shepherd on a hillside, while over my flock I bide
On a cold winter night a band of angels sing. In
a dream I heard a voice saying "Fear not, come
rejoice,
It's the end of the beginning, praise the newborn
king."*

*How a little baby boy bring the people so much joy
Son of a carpenter, Mary carried the light
This must be Christmas, must be tonight.*

*I saw it with my own eyes, written up in the skies
But why a simple herdsman such as I?
And then it came to pass, he was born at last
Right below the star that shines on high*

*How a little baby boy bring the people so much joy
Son of a carpenter, Mary carried the light
This must be Christmas, must be tonight.*



The angels had come to the end of their playlist. It was time to go. Sister and the Magi said their farewells to the new family and departed the manger.

"Hey, there's an all-night diner on the other side of town, Bethlehem B-fast. Let's get some coffee for the road," said Caspar. "Coming, Sister?"

"Thanks, Caspar, but I have to get home and finish that quilt. It's been a wonderful trip, guys. Thank you for inviting me!" She waved goodbye as they departed, each to their own country another way, and Sister turned to...where? She hadn't thought of how she was to go from AD Zero to the Twenty-First Century. She stretched and yawned...and that was the last thing she remembered.



Sister woke up with a start, a bobbin stuck to her cheek. The sun was lighting up a beautiful snowy Christmas morning. "Oh, my Lord, what time is it? How could I have fallen asleep?! Niece Stitcher will be here any minute!" Sister fumbled for the quilt she'd been binding, intent on stitching down the last few inches, even if it meant postponing her coffee.

But what was this? Niece Stitcher's quilt was bound, with perfect, even stitches. And the label was in place too. Had Sister done all that in her sleep?

"Don't look a gift camel in the mouth," whispered a voice. Softly. But. Firmly.

Sister wisely decided to take this celestial advice. She folded Niece Stitcher's beautifully finished quilt into its waiting gift bag and gratefully headed down to her own kitchen. Mr. Stitcher was warming up the quiche for Christmas brunch. "Merry Christmas, sleepy! Did you have good dreams?" he said as he set down her Christmas coffee.

Sister just nodded and smiled.

Area Textile Events

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum

Main Gallery: *Front Range Contemporary Quilters—Complements to the Chef* through January 14, 2023

And yes, that's how they want it spelled (emphasis on complementary colors!). FRCQ artists were invited to explore complementary colors as related to food and people.

The Anne Olsen Collection—From new acquisitions and RMQM's permanent collection.

Northeast Gallery: *The Denise Labadie Solo Exhibit | Stone Portraits and Stonescapes*

Denise makes contemporary art quilt portraits of very noncontemporary structures: megalithic Celtic stones and monoliths, and more recent (but still centuries old) monastic ruins. These stone-scapes embody timelessness and physical presence while evoking emotional memories of human pasts.

Colorado Quilting Council

The council welcomes 2023 with a full year of quilting that includes international speakers providing wonderful workshops. If you are still sheltering in place—or just don't want to drive, the first 3 months are also Zoom presentations.

Meetings are held via Zoom and in person at Waterstone Community Church, 5890 S. Alkire St., Littleton 80127. In-person guest fee \$10.

Elizabeth DeCroos January 28—Elizabeth takes us on a Zoom journey from Korea to Canada while we learn about the ancient technique of Pojagi, single layer panels. www.epidastudio.com/ **January 29 Zoom workshop**—learn tips and tricks on how to construct these gossamer panels. You must be a CQC member to take a class. \$30 to join and all classes are \$65.

Vicki Conley February 25—Join Vicki on Zoom to hear how her travel of American National Parks inspired her award-winning quilts. www.vicki-conley.com/ **February 26 Zoom**

workshop – Vicki will teach her turned edge applique technique using her own pattern of 3-character donkeys.

For more information, visit www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com. Or contact Pam Ballard QQC.VP.Programs@gmail.com.

Columbine Quilt Guild

January 9, 2023, Dr. Eliu Hernandez. Reclamation Alchemy: Potential and Beauty in Used Materials. Trunk Show. In-person meetings held at Denver Church of Christ, 6925 Carr St., Arvada.

February 13, 2023, Sweetheart Sew In to make charity quilts. Via Zoom—sew in your own home.

Quaking Aspen Quilt Guild

Boulder Valley Christian Church, 7100 S. Boulder Road or Zoom from your home.

Timna Tarr on Zoom. January 19, 2023, 12 pm–3 pm. **Flying Colors Lecture and Trunk Show**. Timna Tarr's award-winning quilts are in private and corporate collections and have been seen in exhibits, publications, and on The Quilt Show and Quilting Arts TV. www.timnatarr.com

Lea McComas In-Person Lecture and Trunk Show, February 16, 12 pm–3 pm. **Color Theory for Quilters**. Lea is a local quilter who teaches nationally and has written a book. This in-person lecture will address key concepts for quilters related to color in quilting: color wheel, color schemes, value, and why light vs. dark is actually more important than color and color temperature. **Zoom workshop**—A Play Date with Color and Composition, with Lea McComas, Friday, February 17, 9–4. \$65 for nonmembers. Join Lea to explore color and composition while creating 4" x 6" fiber artworks. Contact vp-programs@quakingaspenquiltguild.org or visit the website at www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org for more information.

Much of this info is provided by Barb Gardner, GardnersDelights.com

Joette Celebrates her Birthday with Quilters

Quilters gathered once again at the home of Joette Bailey-Keown in lieu of the September meeting. Joette has graciously opened her home to exhibit wonderful quilts and serve a delicious lunch to Wa Shonaji members and friends.

“I wanted to celebrate my birthday in this way. Once I did it, I wanted to do it again!” she ex-

plained. This is the third such event in the past four years—the pandemic cancelled one and this year it rained, so quilts that would have been hung in the backyard decorated two full floors of Joette’s lovely home.

Helpers included Sandra Coleman, Joanne Walton, Linda White, and Marcia Walker.



Hostess Joette Bailey-Keown explains the finer points of having a birthday but looking younger to Di Nyce Brooks-Gough (left) and Brenda Ames (right).



A perfect day? Talking with friends after a lunch someone else made among glorious quilts!



So many quilts!



So much food!

Textile Totem Supply List for Jan 7 Workshop

Below is the supply list for the totem quilt class scheduled for Saturday, January 7, after the general meeting. This class will be taught by Karen von Phul. For the 24-inch totem:

Basic sewing supplies, i.e.,

- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paper
- Mat
- Rotary cutter
- Ruler
- Thread (for sewing)
- Thread (for decorative stitching, embellishing)
- Scrap fabrics or coordinating fabrics (at least five or six different fabrics). You can choose to work in a single-color family. A layer cake would work well because they all coordinate. You can use a variety of prints and textures. Scraps need to measure at least 1" x 9" long. Feel free to work with a theme, such as southwestern, modern, monochromatic, floral, etc.)
- 9" x 24" piece of cotton or cotton blend batting
- Elmer's Glue Spray Adhesive (optional)

Karen will supply:

•2" x 4" wood pieces of various lengths. Bring your own or purchase from Karen for additional \$2 or from Home Depot, which has pre-cut pieces of wood in 2', 3', and 4' lengths. It will likely be in the wood cutting area of the store.

- Felt
- Miscellaneous trinkets, trim, and beads
- Sawtooth picture hanger
- Staple gun

Note that class size is somewhat limited. If you have not already signed up, please do so ASAP by contacting Joette Bailey-Keown, Geneva Lottie, or Karen von Phul.

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 interests or skill levels, are welcome.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

11 am, first Saturday of each month (unless it's a holiday) at CrossPurpose, 3050 Richard Allen Court, Denver 80205

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

Celebrate Black History Month with Wa Shonaji, Feb 04

There's lots going on when we return in 2023. Following our normal business meeting 11 am, February 4, guest speaker Adrian Miller, the author of *Soul Food* and *Black Smoke*, will speak on Soul Food. Members are encouraged to wear an apron.

All members should bring their lunch in decorated boxes reminiscent of how Black people packaged their food for travel during the more turbulent civil rights period.



Thank you to Geneva Lottie, Christine Jacques, Artie Johnson, Linda White, and especially "associate editor" Joanne Walton for their contributions to this newsletter.

Editor Julie Marsh,
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