



# Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

## Wa Shonaji Celebrates Black History Month

Headlined by *Soul Food* author Adrian Miller and shoebox lunches, Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild honored Black History Month at the February 4 meeting. Nearly 40 members and guests paid tribute to the struggles and the victories of African-Americans in this country.

The meeting room was surrounded by members' quilts, many of which were based on the Black History theme. A highlight of the meeting was a stirring essay written by member Gloria Montgomery on why we celebrate Black History Month. See page 4 for her text—it's worth reading and savoring.

Denver resident Adrian Miller described his journey through the three books he has written. *Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine*, *One Plate at a Time*, his first, won a 2014 James Beard Award. He wrote *The President's Kitchen Cabinet* in 2017 and *Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue* in 2021. In *Soul Food* each chapter focuses on the culinary and social history of one dish—such as fried chicken, chitlins, yams, greens, and red drinks.



[\[continued on page 2\]](#)

Have you recently finished a project, perhaps your totem pole? For Show n Share, please send a photo to Linda by Monday, Mar 6, for the March 11 meeting or by Mar 27 for the April 1 meeting.

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### Upcoming Programs

- March 11—Machine Maintenance Tips
- April 1—Open Sew
- May 6—Thread Painting

When Joette Bailey-Keown asked him how we could “pay” him for speaking with us, he said he’d like a soul food quilt! The quilt was made—quickly!—by Joette, Marta Barron, Camilla Edwards, Artie Johnson, Mary Lassiter, Cassandra Sewell, Marcia Walker, and Joanne Walton. It features some of the dishes mentioned in his book.



*Joette Bailey-Keown presents Wa Shonaji's Soul Food quilt to Adrian Miller.*



*Above, by Artie Johnson; below by Camilla Edwards; right Masks, Stephanie Hobson*





*Top left by Brenda Ames; top right: lunchboxes; bottom left: drummer by Camilla Edwards; bottom right: Di Nyce Brooks-Gough with pie and tablecloth by Mary Lassiter in top right corner*

## Why We Celebrate Black History Month

Guild member Gloria Montgomery delivered this stirring essay at Wa Shonaji's Black History celebration at our February meeting. You might enjoy reading and savoring her moving words.

Good Morning Everyone—

My name is Gloria Montgomery and I take great pride in sharing with you some reasons why we celebrate Black History Month.

**First** it is important to commemorate the past so we can look to the future.

Dr. Cornell West says, and I quote, “You can’t go forward until you look back.”

It is important to reflect, understand, learn, and know about the difficulties Black people faced in the past and still face today. That enables us to look to the future. Every day, history is being made and we are living through it and shaping it, which impacts future generations.

**Second** we celebrate Black History Month to recognize how far God has brought us. To appreciate, celebrate, and educate ourselves and others about the successes, the brilliant achievements, inventions and the many contributions Black people have made to this country and how the blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors have made America the greatest country in the world.



**Third** we celebrate Black History Month to **celebrate diversity** and inclusion and to create environments that have a clear commitment to diversity and inclusion for all—to level the playing field, to have important discussions about race, and to correct stereotypes, challenges, and misconceptions.

**Fourth** we celebrate Black History Month to provide truth and accuracy about Black history, which is more than slavery—but which brings forth the truth about Black kings and queens, nations, inventors, entrepreneurs, and much, much more.

**Fifth** we celebrate Black History Month to acknowledge the disparity, struggles, and discrimination Black people still face today because we continue to fight the same battles that our ancestors fought against years ago.

**Finally** we celebrate Black History Month to bring about unity by celebrating our culture (our rich heritage of our food, our music, our dance) and recognizing the things that make us both unique and alike. It helps us take joy in the successes and learn how we are all connected through our shared history and differences that bring us together rather than tear us apart and most of all to realize that Black History is American history.

I leave you with a quote by Maya Angelou from her poem “Still I Rise,” poets.org, Academy of American Poets:

*You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies.*

*You may trod me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I'll rise.*

## President's Message

Hi Members,

I don't know how the year 2022 went for you. For me, I'm glad it is over.

2023 has started very well.

- Karen's totem pole class was inspiring.
- Joette brought us Adrian Miller and his cookbooks. His talk was educational and entertaining—you can't beat that.
- Our exhibit at Red Rocks Community College was well received. If you missed Mary Lassiter's presentation at Red Rocks, we will count it as your first mistake of this year and move on.

The programs, exhibits, and trunk shows we have scheduled for 2023 give us lots of possibilities to choose what to participate in.

- Who doesn't want to learn to thread paint?

- Smoky Hill Quilt Guild has invited us back for a second trunk show. Doesn't that say something good about us?
- We told Aurora we didn't want to put an exhibit in a hallway anymore. They found TWO places for us to exhibit. We get to choose which location or even both. Don't you feel a little pride in yourself?

I know all these things require work. I know some even think it is too much work. For me, working with quilts and fabric is what keeps this old heart pumping. It means I get to make at least one quilt a year, learn something new, and meet new people. That is exciting for me. I hope in all these possibilities, you find something exciting for you too.

—Marcia Walker



## Very Important Announcements!!!

**DIA Exhibit**—Bring your finished quilts or pictures thereof and artifacts to display at DIA to the March meeting, so the committee knows what will be available. The exhibit will run for six months beginning in September/October 2023 .

So far the committee has only about one-quarter of what is needed. **More quilts and artifacts are needed.** An artifact is whatever it takes to make a quilt, such as batting, quilting tools, etc. For instance, Joette Bailey-Keown has a 1930 Singer sewing machine for display.

In addition to Joette, the committee includes Linda White, Di Nyce Brooks-Gough, Stephanie Hobson, and Mary Lassiter.

**March Meeting**—Wa Shonaji will next meet on the **2nd Saturday, March 11!** Patrick from Thornton's Above & Beyond will present a 2-hour class on Sewing Machine Maintenance. A \$5 fee will be charged for this class. Bring your machine!

**August Exhibit**—The theme for the **2023 Side Wall (Large Quilts)** is "This is What We Do Best." This theme is broad enough that a member can create a quilt representing anything that they do best. The theme for the **2023 12.5" x 12.5" Quilts** is "Houses."

**Free admission** to Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum on March 18, National Quilting Day. Present your Wa Shonaji membership card.

March is Women's History Month ~ March 18 is National Quilting Day!!

## *Wa Shonaji Shows Off at Red Rocks Community College*

Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji quilts were displayed in February in the Library at Red Rocks Community College for Black History Month. The Opening Reception on February 10 was AWE-SOME. Mary Lassiter represented Wa Shonaji with remarks and some history on Black History Month and quilting while displaying and talking about some of her quilts.

The Black History Month 2023 theme, “Black Resistance,” explores how “African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings,” since the nation’s earliest days.

Wa Shonaji was well represented by 20 members at the Opening Reception and some on Zoom. Those of us in attendance, and with quilts in the exhibit, had an opportunity to speak about our quilts, and in some cases relate our personal experiences for why we created our quilt.

It was a pleasure to work/coordinate with Mika Matzen (he/him/his)



*Mary Lassiter with one of her quilts*



who is the Senior Coordinator of Student Life at the college.

*About 20 quilts were exhibited by—*Brenda Ames, Joette Bailey-Keown, Di Nyce Brooks-Gough, Camilla Edwards, Stephanie Hobson, Artie Johnson, Mary Lassiter, Geneva Lottie, Keri Mills, Edith Shelton, Karen von Phul, Marcia Walker, Linda White, Nanci Vaughn, and Joanne Walton.

Sewfully and with Gratitude,

The Exhibit Committee—Mary Lassiter, Marcia Walker, Joanne Walton, Linda White



*Mika Matzen with Marcia Walker, Stephanie Hobson, and Joanne Walton*

*January Show n Share*



*Above, Linda Hernandez*

*Right, Julie Marsh*

*Below, Linda White*



*Above, Mary Lassiter*

*Below, Priscilla Brown*



## Block of the Month 2023—UFO (Un-Finished Objects) Challenge

Are you working on UFO number 3? Remember the OFU (Object [completely] Finished Up) is due March 11. It is completed when totally quilted, bound, decorated, and ready for use.

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 over the 6 months. At the end of

the challenge, a name will be drawn and the lucky person gets the whole kitty.

A number will be drawn in 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.

—Artie Johnson

### 2023 BOM Schedule

**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! A name will be drawn as the winner of the kitty!

## 6 Steps to OFUs (Objects Finished Up)

**Decide you really want to finish the UFO.**  
The challenge has already helped with this.

**Set manageable goals.**  
Don't try to confront the whole mountain at once.

**Work 15 minutes at a time.**  
You'd be surprised how much you can accomplish.

**Say NO to new projects.**  
If you just can't, for each new one, complete a UFO.

**Get support from other quilters.**  
Help is there for the asking.

**CELEBRATE every quilt you complete.**

—Artie Johnson



QuiltvilleBlogSpot.com

*Joanne Walton has offered the form on the opposite page to help you finish more than the three UFOs Artie Johnson has asked for. Joanne said, "I'm going to write mine down, and probably will need a page two to list them all!!!!" How many pages will you need? 😊*





# UFO List

Choose what you'd like to work on next  
and track your progress towards a fantastic finish!

Project Name	Cut	Pieced	Assembled	Backing	Quilted	Binding	Label	Date Finished
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

## My UFO Challenge, a Poem by Carolyn Somerville

A quilter sometimes starts a quilt but doesn't get it done.  
Our reasons may be varied, missing thread, boredom, no fun?  
We have our own excuses why unfinished quilts mount up.  
Loss of interest, ugly pattern, just don't like it very much!  
The truth is I have far too many quilting UFOs,  
So I'll join with Wa Shonaji, the "people who DO sew!"  
Reviewing now my UFOs, I'll start with the first three,  
Prioritize and motivate the quilter within me.  
Cut up or make it over, let it go, throw it away!  
Decide to finish what I start, and work at it each day.  
Won't you pull out your UFOs and come join in the fun?  
This coming year, I challenge you to try and get some done!

~ Carolyn Somerville



## Labeling Certainly Does Not Have to Be Complicated

### Quilt Labels, What About Me?

You are FINALLY finished with that wonderful quilt! It has been painstakingly pieced, quilted, and bound. It has a hanging sleeve proudly attached to the top. All set. *Not. So. Fast.*

Quilts, like paintings or other art forms, tell a story. They are love-offerings, dimensional forms of artistic expression that have told countless tales of friendship, political activism, and even loss. Quilt historians can offer information about the area in which a quilt has been created based on the textiles used. Still, what historian, what every descendant who discovers a wonderful quilt in an attic trunk, even the bidder on an eBay auction, wishes for is a LABEL on the quilt with important information.

Quilt labels add value to every single quilt. They can tell a story that adds so much to the artistry of the piece. Labels can offer as little as the maker's name, date of completion, and the city where the quilt was constructed. They can offer other information about the occasion for which the quilt was created: wedding, birth, anniversary, and more. Every piece of information the quilt artist includes adds meaning to not only the original recipient but everyone who encounters the quilt in the future.

Making labels is as simple as writing directly on the quilt back with a permanent textile marker or pen, to a more elaborate printed label that has been stitched on the back.

—Artie Johnson



Fourteen members of the Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild and a guest met on the morning of February 24 to tour Wings Over the Rockies. Joette Bailey-Keown organized the outing in the hopes that it would provide inspiration for the upcoming DIA exhibit. Joette is the lead of a committee collecting aviation items, aviation-related quilts,

as well as Colorado-themed quilts for this exhibit. Everyone enjoyed the guide's informative talk as they toured the building.

Some of the group is pictured above with the guide. Others had already left for lunch at Lowry Beer Garden.

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**The 20/20 Rule of Quilting**  
If your quilt looks good  
from **20** feet away...  
As you drive by  
at **20** miles  
an hour...  
*It's perfect!*

NewQuilters.com  
Quilt photo by Jan\_231, Flickr



## 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 hearing some misery this month.*

*Sister, I'm a new stitcher, just about two months into this wonderful pastime. And I'm going to be OUT \$2000 in fabric, thread, sewing machine, and sanity if this doesn't improve SOON! No matter how I try, my star points won't match. NOTHING is working the way my Beginner Quilting book said it would.*

*Help me before I throw this Janome out my 8th floor window.*

—Frustrated

*Good morning, Sister. It's not a good morning for me. My granddaughter Annie doesn't like the Falling Leaf quilt I made for her to take when she goes off to study botany at Cornell. Oh, she was polite enough when I gave it to her; I raised her mama right. But later, I overheard Annie telling her friend, "Oh, that? It's just something my Maw-Maw sewed for me. Honestly, don't I have enough of her rags? I wanted a new iPhone!"*

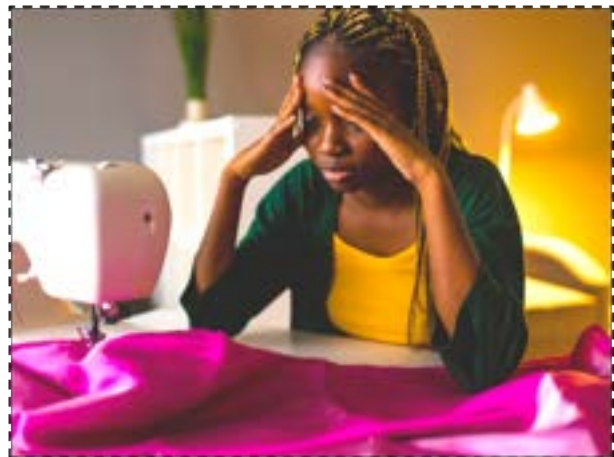
*Rags? My heart sank.*

—Broken Hearted



Oh, Frustrated and Broken Hearted! I am so sorry you have trouble. Why don't we make ourselves some tea?

Frustrated, you are in a bad spot, and I don't mean the 8th floor. Are you doing this all on your own? That is a BAD IDEA.



When you're starting this wonderful pastime, it helps so much to have other stitchers around. You probably know that many quilters belong to guilds or clubs. There or in a class, someone like Maw-Maw can clue you in to all the things that aren't clear in your Beginning Quilter book. Like fabric grain and that star patterns aren't for beginners. They can tell you that it's normal to hate your colors at some point and help you find new ones.

They can see your progress too. Sure, another stitcher will see your mistakes, but also the accurate ¼-inch seam you maintained. Frustrated, you may be too hard on your beginner self at this moment and in your stage of learning.

Sister's own guild focuses on enjoying one another's work rather than grading it. We share machine tips, we fix poorly written patterns (and books), we lend one another our tools. Some of us

are professional-grade quilters, some of us don't match points. But we're all stitchers. We lift one another up. In Sister's opinion, helping you find some quilty friends is how you'll keep that Janome from going out the window.

MawMaw, I am so sorry. Remember, Annie was talking to her friend. (Sister isn't scolding you for overhearing.) She's a young thing and doesn't have the perspective she needs to appreciate your gift. Annie probably thinks that's what all MawMaws do: make quilts for their grands. News flash: Sister's own Nanny didn't make her a quilt! Lots of grandmothers don't even sew! (Pity those poor grandmas.)

Annie is likely to face this reality at Cornell, where her roommate will have a store-bought bed-cover—just like the one on the bed in the next room. If Annie likes that look, fine. Sister suspects that Annie will realize she's lucky to have that piece of your love in this new world. College is such an eye-opener, MawMaw. You learn that your crazy family is not unique; you find that other people are better traveled than you. So much to discover. It's likely to rock Annie a little. Your quilt will be a comfort to her as she navigates Cornell.



May Sister suggest you two, Frustrated and MawMaw, get together sometime? Frustrated can learn a thing or two from MawMaw, and MawMaw can preen as Frustrated admires her point matching. To quote Humphrey Bogart, it could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Keep the teakettle ready, quilty friends!



*Isn't this a great photo?  
Of two great women?  
With two great smiles?*

*LOVE IT!*

*The photo was taken by  
Linda White at Joette  
Bailey-Keown's birthday  
party at her home in  
September.*

## What Happens at Retreat *Stays* at Retreat....

But you can take home the warm feelings of fellowship and accomplishment!

The Wa Shonaji Retreat will take place Thursday through Sunday, Oct 12–15, at the Highlands Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center, Allenspark CO, at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains. Choose to arrive morning or afternoon on Thursday or Friday, depending on your schedule.

The price is determined by your arrival—loosely based on how many meals you will eat. Deposit of \$75 is due April 1; final payment due Sept 2. There will be no refunds after Sept 2 unless someone takes your place.

Attendees sew, laugh, talk, eat, learn new techniques, laugh, help others, sew, eat, and get to know each other better. Did I say you'll laugh?

Our sewing room “belongs” to us 24 hours a day—we can sew anytime we want. Karen plans get-acquainted activities and games that range from groans to great fun!

Meals through Sunday morning, lodging, linens, hair dryers, and hiking trails are provided. Bring comfy clothes, toiletries, snacks to share (or not) for the sewing room, and supplies for several projects. Bring more than you think you will need—you don't want to run out of things to do!

In that vein, Lyons Quilting quilt shop is conveniently located on the road to the center. Do yourself a favor and visit! It's a treat! Mention Wa Shonaji retreat and get a 15 percent discount!

The form, lots of info, and a checklist of things to bring were emailed to you Feb 2 by chair Karen von Phul. If you have questions, contact her.



### March, April Birthdays

Mar 5—Joanne Walton	Mar 25—Susan Morrison
Mar 12—Linda Hernandez	Mar 28—Mary Lassiter
Mar 13—Priscilla Brown	
Mar 14—Milinda Walker	Apr 10—Cassandra Sewell
Mar 18—Linda White	Apr 17—Monica Lynn
Mar 20—Barbara Robinson	Apr 20—Marcia Walker
Mar 21—Pennie Estrada	

### Fun Birthday Facts and Trivia

Today (and every day), at least 15 million people celebrate their birthday.

More people have their birthdays in August than any other month (about 9 percent), followed by July and September.

The day of the week with the fewest birthdays is Sunday.

More people are born on Tuesday than any other day.

Thank you to Reniese Johnson!

—[www.photo-party-favors.com](http://www.photo-party-favors.com)



## So, You Think You Know Quilting...

**1. What is the generally accepted “lifespan” of cotton fabric (in years)?**

- a) 70
- b) 80
- c) 90
- d) 100

**2. What quilt pattern commemorates the founding of New Orleans in 1718?**

- a) Dresden Plate
- b) Cathedral Window
- c) LeMoyne Star
- d) Drunkards Path

**3. What is sometimes referred to as the “Perfect Portable”?**

- a) Janome SEW MINI
- b) The Singer Featherweight
- c) Brother Project Runway CS5055PRW
- d) Singer 5400 Sew Mate

**4. Flour and feed sacks featuring geometric or floral designs did not appear in America until what decade?**

- a) 1920s
- b) 1930s
- c) 1940s
- d) 1950s

**5. What was the first electric household appliance? (It was introduced at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893.)**

- a) Flatiron
- b) Electric scissors
- c) Toaster
- d) Blow-dryer

**6. This slave woman made two “Bible Story” quilts—one is in the Smithsonian, the other in the Boston Fine Arts Museum.**

- a) Harriet Tubman
- b) Harriet Powers
- c) Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley
- d) Gladys Ferner

**7. What is the purpose of the “groove” on a needle?**

- a) Prevents poor/inconsistent thread tension
- b) Reduces the chance of the needle breaking
- c) Glides easily through fabric, minimizing the puncture size
- d) Allows thread to lie close to the needle as it passes through the eye of the needle

**8. The first cotton prints in America were made by John Hewson between 1778 and 1780—what**

**were they called?**

- a) Solids
- b) Prints
- c) Calicoes
- d) Rotaries

**9. True or False: It is better to machine quilt on the bias first and then with the grain last?**

- a) True
- b) False

**10. The thimble is thought to have originated in what European country?**

- a) Holland
- b) Spain
- c) France
- d) Ireland

**11. Selvage runs parallel to what grain in fabric?**

- a) Warp (lengthwise)
- b) Weft (crosswise)

**12. Susan B. Anthony did what at a church quilting get-together in Cleveland?**

- a) Designed a coin with a quilt on it
- b) Wrote the lyrics to a well-known quilting song
- c) Declared quilting a national pastime
- d) Gave her first speech about women’s suffrage

**13. Does bobbin tension vary with the type of thread used?**

- a) Absolutely
- b) Definitely not

**14. Superstition: You should not quilt at all on what day of the week?**

- a) Monday
- b) Friday
- c) Saturday
- d) Sunday

**15. What is finger pressing?**

- a) Technique used in creating half-square triangles
- b) Part of a sewing machine’s presser foot
- c) Using your finger to press a seam quickly without an iron
- d) Traditional stitch used in hand sewing

**16. Polyester batting was first marketed in the United States in 1955 by what company?**

- a) Stearns & Foster (Mountain Mist)
- b) Warm
- c) Hobbs
- d) Quilters Dream





**17. When she wrote the book *How to Make an American Quilt*, how many years had Whitney Otto been a quilter?**

- a) 0
- b) 2
- c) 8
- d) 24

**18. In reference to quilting, what is meant by the term “loft?”**

- a) Batting “puffiness”
- b) Puckering of fabric when quilting
- c) Thread count in quilters’ cotton
- d) Another term for “quilt guild”

**19. “Gunboat quilts” refer to what?**

- a) Old-time gangster themed quilts
- b) Quilts made quickly (under a week)
- c) Quilts made by southern women during the Civil War to raise funds to buy gunboats
- d) A style of quilt made exclusively by men during WWII

**20. Name a stitch typically found on a Victorian crazy quilt.**

- a) Feather stitch
- b) Satin stitch
- c) Outline or running stitch
- d) All of the above

## Answers

1. d) 100 years

2. c) LeMoyne Star (named after the LeMoyne brothers who founded New Orleans)

3. b) The Singer Featherweight

4. b) 1930s

5. a) Flatiron

6. b) Harriet Powers (born a slave in Athens, Georgia, in 1837)

7. d) Allows thread to lie close to the needle as it passes through the eye of the needle

8. c) Calicoes (originally “calico” derived from Calcutta, India, where hand-woven printed fabrics were made)

9. b) False (quilt with the grain first to stabilize the quilt, then on the bias last, as it will stretch more)

10. a) Holland (the Dutch are thought to have invented a bell-shaped thumb shield used by tailors and sailors)

11. a) Warp (the lengthwise grain)

12. d) Gave her first speech about women’s suffrage

13. a) Absolutely (each time you use a different type of thread, check the tension—keep a record for the future)

14. d) Sunday

15. c) Using your finger to press a seam quickly without an iron

16. a) Stearns & Foster (Mountain Mist)

17. a) 0 (zero—she is a novelist, not a quilter)

18. a) Batting “puffiness”

19. c) Quilts made by southern women during the Civil War to raise funds to buy gunboats

20. d) All of the above

With appreciation to Reniese Johnson and quilting daily.com

## Connie Recommends *The Freedom Quilting Bee*

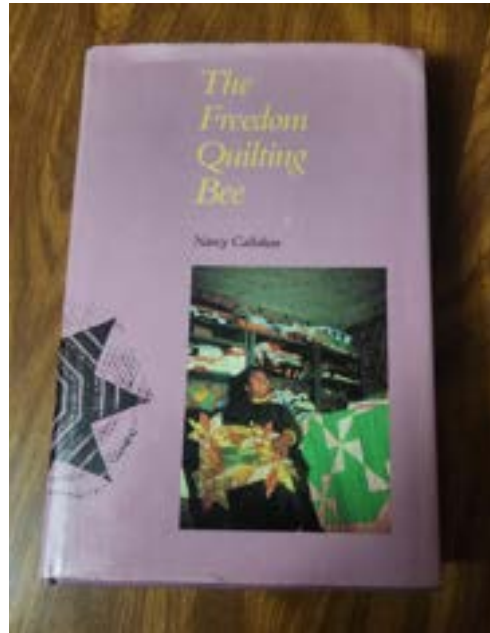
*Note: From time to time, a member will review a quilting book that is particularly interesting or helpful. If you would like to recommend a book, send your review to Julie Marsh.*

In February Wa Shonaji celebrated Black History Month. As a “people who sew (Wa Shonaji)” member, I wanted to delve into a bit of history that ties these two together. While sorting through the Guild library, I came across *The Freedom Quilting Bee*. As I was skimming through it, my mind started racing. Quilting Bee—is this akin to our modern-day guilds? The internet definition reads:

*A Quilting Bee is foremost a group of like-minded people to share the love of quilting with.*

I would say that bees and guilds are the same. The women who formed the Freedom Quilt Bee Cooperative in 1966 did so to share the love of quilting and as a means to earn money. They were very much involved in the local civil/voting rights movement in the town they resided in, Boykin, which is in Wilcox County (46 miles outside of Selma) Alabama. They had heard Martin Luther King Jr. preach and chose to organize among themselves. They spent time in jail for standing up for civil rights and took part in the Selma-to-Montgomery march that Dr. King led. The author of this book, Nancy Callahan, in Chapter One wrote:

*This is the story of that Bee, a celebration of two decades of the economic independence of black women in one of the poorest and most isolated counties in America. It is not a typical story one might associate with a labor coalition, the women’s movement, or a folk-art industry because the Freedom Quilting Bee is not typical. If anything, it is improbable. And, given a set of circumstances different from the ones that cushioned its beginning, it never would have come into being.*



The Freedom Quilting Bee is often confused with the more renowned Gee’s Bend Quilters Collective. This group of women resided close by in Boykin (also in Wilcox County), Alabama (formerly Gee’s Bend). Some of the women belonged to both groups.

Several years ago, the Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy was formed to preserve the history of these amazing women. <https://fqblegacy.org/>

My internet source, <https://kickassquilts.org/quilting-public-library/quilting/quilting-bee>,

*A quilting bee has always been a place where quilters help each other... In the olden days by finishing a quilt together, and in modern days by learning techniques and giving each other feedback and inspiration. And mostly a quilting bee is a place for friendship and support.*

Thank you, Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild, for the many years of inspiration!

—Connie Turner

## Area Textile Events

### Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum

200 Violet St., Golden, Mon–Sat 10–4; Sunday 11–4. \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; free for members.

**Main Gallery: *Nature, Flora, Fauna, Earth***—Quilts that celebrate nature from RMQM’s Collection through April 15.

**Northeast Gallery: *Art Quilters with Altitude / Elevated Threads***—Art quilters ponder how their art helped redirect their focus and elevated their sense of joy during the pandemic.

**Sunday at the Museum**, March 12, 2 pm. Elevated Threads artists talk about their work. Free for members.

More info at [www.rmqm.org](http://www.rmqm.org)

### Colorado Quilting Council (CQC)

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

**Pam Hadfield** March 25—Pam will present a trunk show of her pictorial quilts and new pattern designs. **Workshop** Whimsey Wedges, March 26, 9–4 on Zoom. \$65.

**Catherine Redford** April 22—Folk art stitches. **Workshop** Folk Art Stitches, April 23, 9–4 pm, 4444 Morrison Rd, Denver. \$65.

For more information, visit [www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com](http://www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com). Or contact Pam Ballard [CQC.VP.Programs@gmail.com](mailto:CQC.VP.Programs@gmail.com). She can also give you Zoom info.

### Columbine Quilt Guild

Second Monday at Denver Church of Christ, 6925 Carr St., Arvada, at 6:30 p.m. Guest fee \$5.

**March 13**, Karen Combs, Quilts of Illusion.

**April 10**, Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, Log Cabin quilt exhibit.

**May 8**, Paula Pahl, “What Were They Thinking?” Trunk Show.

For more information [columbineqg@gmail.com](mailto:columbineqg@gmail.com) or [www.columbinequiltguild.org](http://www.columbinequiltguild.org)

### Arapahoe County Quilters

Second Thursday at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 S Colorado Blvd, Englewood. Meeting guest fee \$8.

**Approaching Quilting as a Graphic Designer** with Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill, March 9, 6:30. **Workshop** Piece Curves with Confidence, March 11, 9–4 on Zoom. \$60 nonmembers.

**Red and White Quilts**, Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, April 13, 6:30 pm.

For information [www.acqcolorado.org](http://www.acqcolorado.org)

### Quaking Aspen Quilt Guild

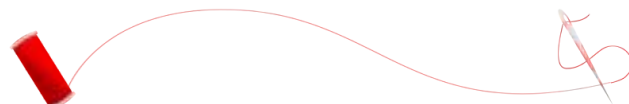
Boulder Valley Christian Church, 7100 S. Boulder Road, Boulder or Zoom. Third Thursday.

**Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum presents “Red and White Quilts”** March 16, noon–3 pm.

**Annual Business Meeting** April 20, noon–3 pm. Reveal Challenge quilts, elect 2024 officers and other business.

Contact [vp-programs@quakingaspenquiltguild.org](mailto:vp-programs@quakingaspenquiltguild.org) or visit the website at [www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org](http://www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org) for more information.

*Much of this info is provided by Barb Gardner, Gardners Delights.*



## A Night at the Museum

I love museums! Some of my favorites are the Smithsonian museums in Washington DC. I truly believe that the Smithsonian museums along with our National Parks are our country's greatest treasure. This month's Smithsonian newsletter features—yep, you guessed it—QUILTS! The National Quilt Collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History was founded over a century ago and contains more than 500 quilts.

Did you know that the Smithsonian used to license some of its rarest quilts for reproduction in China? They sold the poorly made reproductions at low prices. Many American quilters felt betrayed, believing that commissioning quilts for reproduction in China showed a lack of understanding of the iconic status of the quilts in the Smithsonian collection. Two women who have been influential in growing the quilting industry (think Houston Quilt Show and the International Quilt Association) were having none of that. Karey Bresenhan and Nancy Puentes were mortified that the Smithsonian Institution did not even consider that there was an American quilting industry and in the 1980s became the first people to testify in Congress against the Smithsonian budget. The practice ended and

now the high quality reproductions in the Smithsonian gift shops are made in the United States.

While nothing compares to seeing the quilts in person, these links from the newsletter will give you a sense of the quilts curated by the Smithsonian (Ctrl click to follow link):

[National Quilt Collection](#)

[A behind-the-scenes tour of the National Quilt Collection](#)

[History of quilting among Native Americans of the Northern Plains](#)

[Quilts of African American artisans in the Anacostia Community Museum](#)

[Unifying threads bringing together African American and American Indian quilting traditions](#)

[A video introducing "This Present Moment: Crafting a Better World," an exhibit at the Renwick Gallery showcasing exceptional examples of textile art](#)

[A close look at the details of artist Chawne Kimber's 2019 piece, "still not"](#)

[A video tour of Bisa Butler's monumental quilt "The Harlem Hellfighters"](#)

[A lecture by Bisa Butler describing her inventive portraiture technique](#)

—Monica Lynn



## Hurray, Mary!

*Wa Shonaji member Mary Lassiter is celebrated with this 12-inch block by member Karen von Puhl in a Heart Month exhibit "If Only the Patchwork Could Talk." The collection of blocks highlights the stories of 20 African American women who have encountered or been impacted by a heart attack, a stroke, or heart disease. The show is coordinated by Marvel Michael.*

*The quilt blocks will be on exhibit through March 25 at the Black Art In America/BAIA Gallery in southeast Atlanta.*



## Tips and Tricks

In a color rut? Feeling like you steer toward the same colors with every quilt? Try a new color palette to jump-start your color creativity. Try new color combinations from your stash, pilfer from a sister quilter's stash, or use this tip as an opportunity to head to your local quilt store!

Use retired kitchen items to help embellish your quilts. Mashers, mallets, cookie cutters, and more make great stampers or stencils. For more embellishment inspiration, dig through your tool box. Screen repair kits, nuts, washers, wire, rods, and sandpaper can also be used as stamps and stencils.

Make fun "buttons" with washers. Stamp a washer with alcohol inks, sprinkle with ultra-thick embossing enamel powder, and heat with a heat gun.

Don't throw away extra dye or paint after a surface-design session! Not only is it wasteful but it can also be toxic to the environment. Try using it to dye white socks. Just use the socks to mop up the extra liquid. Or mop up the extra liquid with cheesecloth to use in another art project or with fabric to use for quilt labels.

—Monica Lynn



## 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](http://www.washonaji.org) or email [washonaji@gmail.com](mailto:washonaji@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Trunk Shows ...

May 18, 2023—**Quaking Aspen Quilt Guild, Boulder**. This is a daytime Trunk show, noon–3 pm. [www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org](http://www.quakingaspenquiltguild.org)

June 15—**Smoky Hill Quilt Club**, Aurora. 6:30 pm. <https://sites.google.com/site/shqcquilters/>

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

Wa Shonaji members are welcome to attend to help and/or to watch. For more info, contact Mary Lassiter, Marcia Walker, Joanne Walton, or Linda White.

**Dinosaurs didn't quilt and  
now they're extinct.  
Coincidence? You tell me!**

Thank you to Christine Jacques, Artie Johnson, Monica Lynn, Connie Turner, Linda White, and “associate editor” Joanne Walton for their contributions to this newsletter.

Editor Julie Marsh