



# AAQDG Newsletter

2023, Issue 2

June, 2023

## AAQDG Officers

President  
Regina Abernathy  
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Brenda Jackson  
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Barbara Eady

## Contributors

Regina Abernathy  
Doessa Carlton  
Barbara Eady  
Geneva Sarratt  
Muriel Tillman  
Frances Tyus

## President's Message



*Regina Abernathy*

Spring has finally sprung and Summer is fast approaching. As we all know, time flies. Thus, we look back and note that our guild has been working, working, and working. It has been a pleasure to note that many of our members have completed quilts and entered them into juried exhibitions. Others have had their quilts place in art galleries and museums throughout the city and country. Now Juneteenth is fast approaching.

The African American Quilt and Doll Guild will be participating in two Juneteenth Quilt Exhibits. Our fiber artist will be participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth: The Freedom and Community Exhibition featuring the

African American Quilt and Doll Guild from June 17<sup>th</sup> until August 24, 2023. Opening Reception is Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit will be held at the Florence O'Donnell Wasmer Gallery at Ursuline College. Also, the guild will be displaying our quilts at the Cleveland Association of Black Storyteller's Sisterhood Luncheon. This will be held on June 10, 2023 at the Cleveland Marriot East Hotel.

The membership has also entered quilts in the American Quilter's Society (AQS) Quilt Show which takes place in September. Furthermore, members have entered the exhibition and are traveling to the Kindred Spirit Quilting Conference in Durham, NC. And, Of course, the AAQDG will be hosting a quilter's retreat in Eastlake, Ohio in the near future.

The dollmakers are busy also. Some of the dollmakers will be journeying to Michigan to join our sister dollmaking guild for a doll retreat in June. Other doll makers will be traveling to a workshop at the NIADA Dollmaking School retreat in Spencer, North Carolina.

Then, there are the members who are preparing for the ultimate. Many of our guild member are already preparing new original quilts, dolls, quilted garments, quilted handbags, etc. for our upcoming quilt show. It is a joy to witness the excellence exhibited by the members of the guild. They have no idea how often I mention their God given gifts.

Be Blessed,  
Regina Abernathy

# Spotlight On: Norma Dixon

*Submitted by Doressa Carlton*



## NORMA DIXON

Norma's family moved from Salem, Alabama to Stirrat, West Virginia when she and her twin brother were four weeks old. They lived in a small coal mining camp named Stirrat Hill Camp 13.

At eight years old, she learned to quilt while helping her grandmother to thread needles, and advancing the quilt on the quilt frame. She also learned quilting techniques from her grandmother. At eleven years old, her mother taught her how to sew, read patterns and cook her favorite dishes.

While in High School, Norma took Home Economic Classes. Her favorite part of the courses was anything that had to do with sewing. She learned how to dismantle and assemble sewing machines.

In 1958, after graduating from Aracoma High School, she moved to Cleveland, Ohio to live with an older sister. Norma has attended Dyke College and Cuyahoga Community College (CCC).

Norma has worked at a Coat Manufacturing Company making linings for coats, Lampel Manufacturing Company where she ran credit checks on companies; such as, May Company, Halle's and Sterling Linder Davis plus small businesses in and out of Cleveland.

At CCC, she took "Early Child Development" which enabled her to work as a Teacher's Assistant in the East Cleveland School District. At this District she also held many other positions: Library Clerk at Caldonia School, Attendance Clerk and Data Entrance Secretary. She retired in 2000.

Norma is married to Joe Dixon and they are the parents of two grown children, four grandchildren and four greatgrandchildren.

Norma pieces as well as quilts. Many of the Guild members have been the fortunate recipients of her talents. She has made Raffle Quilts for the Guild's Quilt Shows. Her quilt titled "Pieces of Art" was a part of an exhibit at the Cleveland Play House during the run of Gee's Bend which was a play based on the lives of quilters in rural Alabama.

She is one of the Charter Members of the Guild. Taking material and making beautiful quilts is exciting, rewarding and relaxing – helps to clear her mind from everyday problems and situations.

Norma gets ideas from Quilting Magazines, Books, Quilt Workshops, Quilt Shows and looking at the work of other quilters. She can lose track of time while piecing and quilting.

One of her goals is to create that "Master Quilt" which she will enter into a quilting competition. Norma is her worst critic. She is very comfortable quilting for herself and others. She is now studying how to take traditional quilting techniques to create art quilts

## AAQDG Members Receive Honorable Mention Awards

*Submitted by  
Regina Abernathy*

Each year, members of the AAQDG enter the Black Creativity International Art Show which occurs in Chicago, Illinois. This is the longest running exhibition of African American art. The exhibit began in 1970. The Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition features paintings, drawings, fine art prints, sculpture, mixed-media, ceramics and photography by African American from ages 14 and up. The artists are both professional and amateur.

This year, the guild's own, Barbara Townsend, exhibited and won the Honorable Mention Award for her quilt, Selfie. The quilt is a self-portrait. As a Juried Exhibition, which

is housed in the Museum of Science and Industry, work is submitted in the fall, and a panel of jurors select the pieces for exhibition. It is a milestone to be recognized by such a prestigious organization. Congratulations Barbara.

Guild members Barbara Eady and Myrya Johnson entered the Art of Soul Art Show curated by the Afro American Museum and Historical Center in Wilberforce, OH. The exhibition closed in February with a brunch for exhibitors. Myrya entered a doll, "Cindy" and Barbara won an Honorable Mention Award for her quilt "Black Madonna and Child."



Selfie, Barbara Townsend



Cindy, Myrya Johnson



Black Madonna and Child, Barbara Eady

## Meet New Columnist Muriel Tillman



Muriel Tillman

*“... I'd like to invite those who may be interested, to join in a membership crafted swap....*

*Anyone who would like to join in on the fun can sign up at the next meeting of the Guild.*

*Once I gauge the interest in this project, I will firm up details and submit the deadline for the pin cushions to be completed. Sound like fun? I hope so!”*

Though I am a relatively new member of AAQDG, I have happily accepted the opportunity to be a contributor to our quarterly newsletter.

But first, let me introduce myself.

My name is Muriel Tillman. I live and quilt primarily in Akron, Ohio. I've been sewing, quilting, and dollmaking/puppetmaking since I was an elementary school aged child. My paternal grandmother began to teach me to sew when I reached 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. When my father saw how interested in sewing I was, he bought me my first sewing machine! I've been sewing garments and accessories, quilting, doll and puppetmaking, in one form or another ever since! Along with quilting and doll making, I enjoy shoemaking, jewelry making, glove making, millinery, knitting, crochet, cooking, baking, gardening, and a host of other old school maker crafts. I'm an avid reader and appreciate learning new things about a wide variety of subjects. I hope you'll be interested in some of the articles I have to contribute.

But, for now, I'd like to invite those who may be interested, to join in a membership crafted swap!

I've participated in various creative/artistic challenges, round robins and exchanges over the years, in different online communities. One of the most gratifying exchanges was hand made pin cushions!

Everyone interested, was free to choose a size, design, and shape of their pin cushion to be exchanged. We submitted our names, interests, favorite colors, and anything else that describes us, to the moderator, and received the name and info of the recipient of our creation. These names are to be kept secret, everyone, until the day of the reveal! The pin cushions were typically filled with crushed walnut shells incased in a muslin lining to prevent breakthroughs. Other than that, the sky's the limit to your creativity!

Anyone who would like to join in on the fun can sign up at the next meeting of the Guild. Once I gauge the interest in this project, I will firm up details and submit the deadline for the pin cushions to be completed. Sound like fun? I hope so! I enjoyed being in the pin cushion swap I was in a few years ago. I was recently reminded of the pin cushion I'd made for Sylvia@theravelout, when she posted a story on instagram. She showcased a recent dress she'd made and right there in her story was the pin cushion I'd made for her! She'd written me a letter telling me how much she loved that pin cushion and was so excited to get it! That made me so happy that she appreciated it! So, if you're ready to do something a little different on your quilting/art/doll making adventures, join me in this pin cushion swap. Let's create fun memories that we can share with others in our group! Until next time...

Sewfully yours,  
Muriel Tillman





# Spotlight On: Evelyn Dorell

Submitted by Doressa Carlton



## Evelyn Dorell

Evelyn was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She came from a family of seven girls and one brother. She was educated in the Brooklyn Public School System. Evelyn earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Baruch College in New York City (NYC).

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Education, Evelyn worked for three years in the Private Sector; however, they did not have a pension plan so she switched to the Public Sector in NYC. After working five years, she was required to earn a Master's Degree which she earned in Computer Science.

Evelyn taught Computer Technology, Computer Application and Career Development on the high school level. After twenty years, she retired in 2010. After six months of retirement, she became bored, and became a coordinator for The United Federation of Teachers Welfare Fund. She continues to work with them via ZOOM.

While teaching high school, she was asked to be the coordinator for an after- school beading group. Not knowing

anything about beading, she joined the NYC Beading Society to hone her beading skills. These skills have enabled her to become a successful Jewelry Vendor and Entrepreneur.

Evelyn makes jewelry out of semi-precious stones, wood and polymer clay. She is a member of the NYC Polymer Clay Guild, The International Polymer Clay Association and Sisters of Clay. She also serves as the parliamentarian for the Cleveland Drifters, a non-profit women's organization that serves the community.

In order to be close to her daughter, great-grand son, two grandsons, and son-in-law, Evelyn and her partner, relocated to Warrensville Heights, Ohio (WHO) in 2019.

After moving to WHO, Evelyn decided to seek socialization and kindred souls. She joined our Guild in November 2021. She is a quilter whose goal is to leave a legacy to her grandchildren via her quilts. In the future, Evelyn plans to attend doll workshops. Evelyn learned to quilt blocks by attending quilting classes. She plans to assemble the blocks in our Guild Classes.

Evelyn's other interests are: bowling (she belongs to the SBM #4 Bowling Team), making wreaths and selling her original jewelry at pop-ups and events that have vendors.

Evelyn's Personal Motto is: With the Power of Positive Thinking – I Can Do Anything

## Warrensville Library Invites AAQDG to Innovation Center Orientation

Submitted by  
Regina Abernathy

With an already built in Thursday audience, the Warrensville Heights Library staff was more than happy to invite the entire AAQDG family to participate in their first orientation class for the new Innovation Center. Because some of the AAQDG membership meets every Thursday at the library, it was a no brainer to understand that the guild would be more than happy to participate in this new endeavor.

The first class was held in March and the second class in April. If anyone wishes to use any of the equipment in the Innovation Center, they must first complete the orientation. Afterward, an

individual can use the variety of new equipment. If any member was not able to attend any of the orientation classes, you may email or phone the library to set up an appointment.

Following the orientation class, AAQDG Members were treated to the Embroidery Machine class. Approximately 25 people were present. Also, many guild members participated in the Long Arm Machine class. To everyone's surprise, both machines were not as difficult as anticipated. For those who were unable to attend either class, please contact the library and schedule either class.



# Burrito Pillowcase Project

Submitted by Geneva Sarratt

AAQDG  
begins new  
Pillowcase  
Charity Project

Every year the AAQDG has attempted to host a charity project for the community or for youth. The Burrito Pillowcase Project chaired by Geneva Sarratt, is our charity project for a youth program, "Because I Said I Would". The first sewing gathering for the project will be on our SIT AND SEW date, June 3rd at 10 am. The second will be at the Warrensville County Library on June 8th at 11:30 AM. The instructions below should be read prior to coming on Saturday. If you have any questions please email Geneva at rattnow@hotmail.com. You can also find easy tutorials on YouTube

## Pillowcase Pattern

- 1 pillowcase fabric 27 x 41
- 1 sleeve fabric 10 x 41
- 1 accent fabric 3 x 41
- 3 coordinated but different colored fabrics

## Directions

1. Press accent strip in half wrong sides together, matching long edges
2. Place 10 inch border right side up on an ironing board
3. Place folded accent strip on top of the border strip - match upper edge of the border strip and the cut edge of the accent strip, folded edge toward bottom. Press in place.
4. Place pillowcase body (main) right side down on top of the border and accent strip. Press.
5. Roll the body of the pillowcase up to within two inches of the cut edge.
6. Fold the bottom the the 10 inch border up to the top cut edge of the pillowcase. The pillowcase body and the strip will be enclosed in a fabric tube. Carefully pin the edges together matching edges.
7. Now all the cut edges are lined up for sewing.
8. Stitch a quarter inch seam along the cut edges.
9. Turn so all the pieces are right side out, Press so pillowcase seams are smooth.
10. Trip all edges so they are even.
11. Finish the edges with a French seam.
  - Fold pillowcase in half. Starting at the top half (border strip) sew wrong sides together with at 1/8 scant seam along side and bottom the the pillowcase.
  - Turn the pillowcase right sides together. Stitch seam again, enclosing previous seam.
  - Turn pillowcase right sides out. Enjoy!



## AAQDG Members Exhibit in LakeFarm Park Quilt Show

Submitted by  
Regina Abernathy

Barbara Eady, Barbara Huff, and Geneva Sarratt were among 175 artisan quilters whose quilts were displayed at the 31st Annual Lake Metroparks Farm Park Quilt Show in March. The 2023 show included a judged show of quilts by artists from Northeast Ohio and neighboring states.

Barbara Huff's quilt sold at the show. Each year winners include the Best Of Show, Best Hand Quilting, Best Machine Quilting, Judges Choice I, and Judges Choice 2. The LakeFarm Park Quilt Show ran from March 31, 2023 until April 30, 2023.



Royal Adinkra  
Barbara Eady



Welcome Home  
Barbara Huff



Baby Glo Block  
Geneva Sarratt

## AAQDG Members Exhibit at the Artist Archives

Submitted by  
Regina Abernathy

Two AAQDG fiber artist exhibited at the 2023 Annual Members Exhibition of the Artist Archives of the Western Reserve. Both a dollmaker and a quilt artist exhibited their work. Myrya Johnson exhibited a doll, Sonia, and Regina Abernathy exhibited her quilt, Trane.

This exhibition was also a way not only to showcase the

nearly one hundred artists and their work, it was also designed to sell work as well. Regina Abernathy's quilt, Trane, a shorten version of the musician's name, Coltrane, sold.

The exhibited opened on March 23, 2023 and closed on May 5, 2023.



Sonia  
Myrya Johnson



Trane  
Regina Abernathy



Bird  
Regina Abernathy

## AAQDG Member Exhibits in National Art Program

Submitted by  
Regina Abernathy

Every year the National Arts Program partners with more than 90 venues in 30+ states to create exhibitions where artistic expressions of individuals, city employees, and their families are recognized. This year, one member of the guild decided to participate by exhibiting in the City of Cleveland NAP event.

Regina Abernathy exhibited her quilt, Bird. The quilt was a tribute to musician Charlie Parker who was affectionately known as Bird. The exhibit was held at the Cudell Fine Arts Gallery on Detroit Avenue in Cleveland. The 22nd Annual Exhibition began on March 24, 2023 and was completed on April 14, 2023. Awards for this exhibition totaled \$3,450.



# So What Did The Judges Think of Your Entry?

Submitted by  
Barbara Eady

What criteria are the judges going to use to judge your entry? Sometimes you know, sometimes you don't. Sometimes you get feedback, sometimes you don't. Wouldn't it be nice to have information before the show? Lake Farmpark is one show that gives written comments from the judges after the show, and on the back is the list of the elements to be judged. Now you have it before you make the quilt.

## Quilt Technical Attributes for Judging

### Design & Use of Color

- Originality/creativity
- Colors, values and contrasts effective
- Colors and design have rhythm and balance

### Piecing & Appliqué Accuracy

- Thread compatible in color; no loose threads on top
- All seams smooth and flat; no puckers or tension issues
- Straight lines straight
- Curved lines curved
- Corners and points match exactly and precisely; points are sharp; not cut off
- Based on design/intent, applique stitches consistent, smooth, precise, and/or invisible
- Secure stitches, close and tight
- Minimal shadowing of darker fabrics

### Embellishments/Other

- Embellishments & beadwork secure and appropriate
- Painting techniques, embroidery, or other techniques successful

### Sashing & Borders

- Appropriate in scale and design
- Even in width; straight lines straight
- Miters precise
- Fabric patterning aligns with seam lines
- Piecing & Appliqué standards above as applicable

### Quilting: Machine or Hand

- Quilting design enhances piece
- Amount of quilting sufficient, balanced, in proportion
- All 3 layers penetrated by quilting stitches
- Even, consistent stitches; front and back
- Tension is even, balanced, front and back
- Straight lines; smooth curves
- Markings not visible
- Starts & stops not visible; backtracking unobtrusive
- No knots or traveling stitches; tails trimmed
- No distortion, puckers or pleats caused by quilting
- Intersections are smooth, not puckered
- Stitching-in-the-ditch stays in the ditch

### Edge Treatment

- Binding uniform in width; correct proportion to quilt size
- Binding edge filled with batting
- Stitches small, tight, and secure
- Edge of quilt straight
- Corners 90° angle
- Based on design/intent, binding stitches complete, consistent, smooth, precise, and/or invisible

### Back/Reverse Side

- Backing fabric/design complements the front of the quilt
- No distortion, puckers or pleats
- Seam lines flat, smooth

2023 QUILT JUDGES: Linda Miller of Uniontown, OH and Edith Richmond Dyke of Toledo, OH

If you have any questions or concerns about this evaluation or the judging process, please call the Judging Committee Chair, Andrea Pasquale at 440-256-2122 x 3154



## African American Quilt and Doll Guild

The African American Quilt and Doll Guild  
meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday  
10 am to 1 pm.

Warrensville Hts. Civic and Senior Center  
4567 Green Road

Warrensville Heights, OH 44128

Phone 216-587-1250

AAQDG.ORG -- AAQDG@yahoo.com

Find us on Instagram @aaqdg\_fiber\_artist

*“Threads Intertwined Hold and Bind”*

## Our Mission

The mission of AAQDG is to embrace and share African American history and traditions, in order to develop an understanding of the history of quilting, cloth doll making, and needlework of African Americans. These endeavors and creative efforts will promote a sense of individual worth through the creative process of quilting, doll making, and needlework.

To encourage and/or provide educational opportunities for Guild members and others through exhibitions, programs and workshops.

To contribute to the well being of the African American community through the creative processes and interactions of Guild members with people of the greater community.

## AAQDG Calendar 2023

### June

- 1 The Warrensville Library is hosting a SOFT OPENING of the Innovation Center just for the AAQDG from opening until closing. If you wish to use any of the machines or you wish to have a one on one learning experience on any of the machines, you can come in and do so.
  
- 3 Sit and Sew - 10am – 1pm - Warrensville Sr Ctr.  
**Special Project:** The Burrito Pillowcase Project chairperson is Geneva Sarratt. The first sewing gathering for the project will be on this SIT AND SEW date. 1st.  
New Members Class 10am – 1pm Warrensville Sr Ctr.
  
- 17 General Meeting 10am – 1pm, Warrensville Senior Center

#### Other Sit and Sew Times

Every Wednesdays – 10 -4pm – Warrensville Senior Center. (Check with Sandy for cost)

Thursdays at Warrensville Library 10am- 8pm

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