



AAQDG Newsletter

2024, Issue 1

February, 2024

AAQDG Officers

President

Evelyn Dorell

Vice President

Sandra Noble

Secretary

Vivian Miller

Treasurer

Patricia Hasan

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Eady

Contributors

Regina Abernathy

Evelyn Dorell

Barbara Eady

Vivian Miller

President's Message



Evelyn Dorell

I am immensely grateful to all who nominated and voted for me, propelling me into the role of President. Your trust and support mean the world to me, and I am eager to embark on this journey with each and every one of you.

A heartfelt thank you extends to the former President, Regina Abernathy, for her exemplary leadership during the past four years. Regina's dedication, innovative ideas, and unwavering commitment have played a pivotal role in shaping the Guild into the thriving community it is today. I am truly honored to follow in her footsteps and those of the esteemed past presidents who have set the bar remarkably

high.

Upon joining the guild in November 2021, the thought of becoming President never crossed my mind. My initial desire was to surround myself with creatively minded women of my age, and in that regard, I have undoubtedly succeeded.

Looking ahead, my commitment is to uphold the high standards set by Regina and my predecessors. I pledge to maintain the momentum and elevate our guild even further. I am excited about the opportunity to continue providing innovative projects, engaging activities, and enriching classes that hone our quilting and doll-making skills. It is my mission to not only celebrate the legacy and history of African American quilting and doll making but also to explore collaborative opportunities that will allow us to serve, expose, and educate the larger community about the profound connection between quilting, doll making, and African American history.

Together, let us weave a vibrant tapestry of creativity, camaraderie, and cultural significance. I am truly honored and privileged to lead this remarkable guild, and I look forward to the exciting endeavors that lie ahead.

Thank you once again for entrusting me with this responsibility. Let's embark on this journey together and make history.

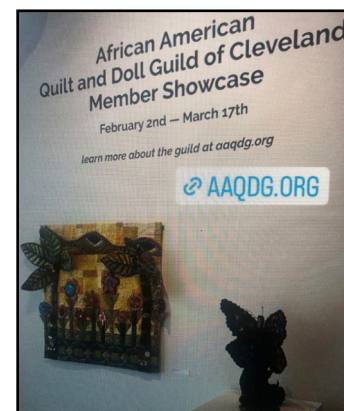
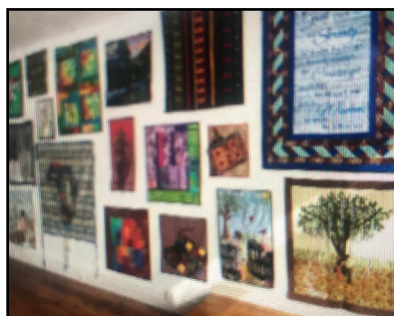
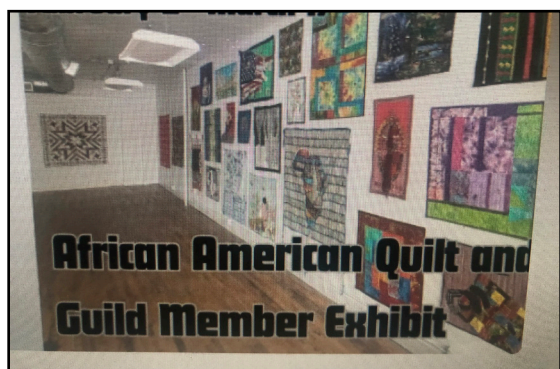
AAQDG Black History Exhibit at Praxis Submitted by Regina Abernathy

Praxis is pleased to host the African American Quilt and Doll Guild of Cleveland for a members exhibit during the 2024 Black History Month. Founded in 2006, the Guild's mission is to embrace and share African American history and traditions by means of quilting, cloth doll making, quilted wearables and needlework. AAQDG now has more than 70 members from all over Northeast Ohio. The show has a varied and wonderful display of artwork, quilts, dolls and quilted fashion.

Praxis is a nonprofit fiber arts studio located in Cleveland

Ohio. The nonprofit art initiative offers classes, memberships and residencies. It is located at 15301 Waterloo Rd in the Waterloo Arts District.

Please join Praxis and the AAQDG for openings on Walk All Over Waterloo on February 2nd and March 1st, from 6-8 pm. Also, the hours of Praxis Fiber Workshop are as follows, Monday 4-8pm, Wednesday and Sunday 12-4pm or by appointment contact@praxisfiberworkshop.org



AAQDG President featured on Kickin It With Kenny

Submitted by Regina Abernathy

Early one Friday morning, Evelyn Dorell, the President of the African American Quilt and Doll Guild, was asked to be present at the Praxis Arts Studio in the Waterloo Art District. It was only 8 am in the morning? Why so early? Well, TV station Fox 8 had requested that she be present for an interview.

Kenny Crumpton, the host for the ongoing TV segment, Kickin It With Kenny, was present for the Black History Month Exhibition of quilts and dolls from the African American Quilt and Doll Guild which was located at the

Praxis Art Studio. Thus, Evelyn Dorell, was need for the interview.

While being interviewed, Dorell explained the history and purpose of the guild. She also assisted in explaining some of the exhibit. Also on hand to explain the creation of the dolls which were also presented in the quilt show was Mary Pinckney, a professional doll artist.

The interview is now available on youtube.



Documentary to Include AAQDG

Quilts & Members

Submitted by Regina Abernathy

*"...AAQDG
will be
included in
Pre and Post Show
videos
that will open
the piece for schools."*

Mrs. Treva Offutt, Director of Education at Playhouse Square, contacted AAQDG with a request. Playhouse Square will be presenting the musical, *Show Way*, in the Spring of this year. *Show Way* is an autobiographical piece created by Jacqueline Woodson. It is about a generation of quilt makers in her family. She created the musical based on her book, which has the same name while she was a Resident at The Kennedy Center.

Well, what was the request? Playhouse Square requested that the AAQDG be included in Pre and Post Show videos that will open the piece for schools. Of course, the answer to the request was yes.

Therefore, a quilt show was hung. Offutt and her filming crew met members of the guild at the Warrensville Library. The filming crew stated that they wished to showcase the AAQDG, and explore the tradition of women gathering, sharing, and preserving

history as they continued the practice of quilt making.

Evelyn Dorell, Bernice Sander, Janda Lipker, and Regina Abernathy were interviewed by Playhouse Square. The process was wonderful because the idea of the film was to showcase the fact that quilting has evolved. The quilt exhibit varied from quilts created in the 1950's until present day quilts. The AAQDG also showcased the art of Black American Anime quilts.

Ms. Offutt stated that there will be an audience of approximately 100,000 people who will view this project. It is the hope of both Playhouse Square and AAQDG that the film will inspire young folk to consider the art of quilting as a viable option in their future.



Quilting Legacy

Submitted by
Regina Abernathy

*“Leaving a legacy behind may sound like something reserved for history books or a blockbuster movie — like it’s a status for bigger-than-life characters. But everyone leaves one behind, both personally and professionally. Your **personal values**, nurtured relationships, and **free time activities** all form the building blocks of your legacy.”*

Elizabeth Perry

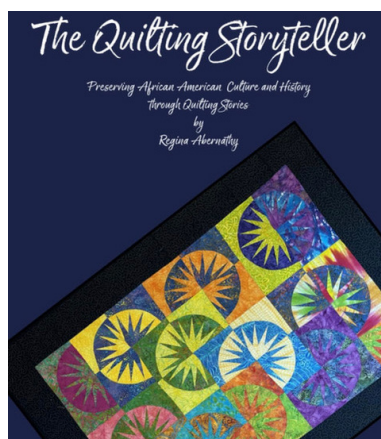
Content Marketing Manager, ACC

I thought it was important to leave a legacy for my grandchildren. My children were taking so long to get married and have children that I told them, “If you do not hurry up and have children, you are going to see your mother on the evening news. I will be there because I have stolen someone’s baby in an attempt to have grandchildren.”

Well, times have changed. I now have four beautiful grandbabies. However, they are too young to know about all of the things I long to teach them. They are too young to go to all of the places I long to show them. I have more time behind me than in front of me. Thus, I thought I must create something... some type of legacy to leave them.

As a quilter, mostly an art quilter, I have always told everyone who would listen that especially African American quilters must learn to document, document, and document their quilts. Also, as a storyteller, I delight in creating quilts which tell the history and stories of African Americans which are seldom told. Furthermore, as a former English teacher, I have always said I would write a book.

Well, all of these creative forces have collided. I have created a quilt book which documents the stories of



African Americans I actually knew and with whom I interacted. I created quilts based upon their stories and my own personal stories.

I have always drawn inspiration from African American culture and history to create, colorful, and intricate quilts which tell the story of the African American experience. I wanted my grandchildren to understand that I am part of that experience because I lived through it. I wanted them to see photos of my quilts and be able to read the stories which led to the creation of them. I wanted this book to be part of my legacy.

Thus, I wrote “The Quilting Storyteller – Preserving African American Culture and Tradition Through Quilting Stories.” It is now available on Amazon.

Presently, I have become a speaker. I have been fortunate to be asked to give talks about my book and the various stories which are in the book. Of course, a quilt exhibit is part of the speaking engagements.

At the end of every speaking opportunity, I stress the importance of sitting with a loved one and documenting any of life’s lessons they wish to leave their loved ones. I stress that everyone has a story to tell. If your parents are alive, take out a tape recorder and record some of their stories. If you are a quilter, take photos of every quilt and document them for your future loved ones. If you are a storyteller, tell your stories. Write your stories. Don’t let them disappear like a puff of smoke.

Everyone has a legacy to leave. Please leave yours. My book, *The Quilting Storyteller* by Regina Abernathy, is available on Amazon. Please purchase and leave a review.

Museum Requests Co-Founder

Submitted by Sandra Noble &
Regina Abernathy

On January 23, Sandra Noble spoke to ladies from the Knollwood senior home via zoom about African American narrative quilts on behalf of the Canton Museum of Art. The ladies had attended the Dairy Barn Quilt National 2023, a collection of contemporary quilts at the museum.

She used a Power Point presentation of 20 quilts created by members of the African American Quilt and Doll Guild for discussion of telling stories with images.

During this Zoom address, Sandra Noble discussed African American Narrative Quilts. She explained during her power point presentation that these quilts were inspired from the culture, experiences, history, and traditions of the African American. Some were also inspired by personal

stories.

Noble also discussed the various techniques, textiles, hand stitching, and notions used in her personal quilts and well as the narratives she wished to convey.

Also, Noble conveyed comparisons and similarities between the quilts of the Dairy Barn Art Center’s Quilt National Exhibit and the Narrative quilts created by the AAQDG.

Afterwards, there were a variety of questions asked. The visitors to the museum were pleased with the ample amount of new information they received about African American Narrative Quilts.

(MAC) SCHOLARS Welcome Quilter

Submitted by Regina Abernathy

“Some students oohed and awed as they entered the auditorium and saw the quilt display at the front.”

Approximately fifty, fifth and sixth graders greeted quilter, author, and storyteller, Regina Abernathy, for a joyous afterschool activity. The students, all girls, dressed in their MAC Scholar tee shirts came into the Woodbury auditorium for their after school meeting.

The MAC Scholars is an organization which encourages, highlights, and supports the academic achievement of African American girls and boys in the Shaker Heights School District.

Some students oohed and awed as they entered the auditorium and saw the quilt display at the front. After being seated, Mrs. Abernathy was introduced by one of the sixth graders. Mrs. Abernathy asked if any of the girls were collectors.

“Raise your hand if you collect anything?” She said. Many hands were raised.

“Wonderful.” Mrs. Abernathy replied. “Well, I am a collector also. I am a collector of stories.”

“Wow”! Some students whispered.

“Once I collect the stories, some of them I turn into quilts. Can I tell you a story?” Mrs. Abernathy asked.

Not one story, but four stories were shared with the MAC Scholars. Then, approximately six students explained portions of the book their classes were reading which coincided with the author’s stories and quilts.

There was a question and answer period and snacks and giggles were shared.



2024 Quilt and Doll Show

African American Quilt and Doll Guild
Presents the 8th Biennial Quilt & Doll Show

*"Stitching Stories:
Celebrating Our Heritage"*



*Save The Date
Friday & Saturday*

May 17&18, 2024

Church of the Savior
2537 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Reminders

Remaining Photo Shoot Dates submitted by Barbara Eady

Saturday, March 2, 2024 Quilts and Dolls

Saturday, March 16, 2024, Quilts, Dolls, and Wearables

Time is 9:30 to 1:00 PM Location, Warrensville Senior Center

Please don't wait until the end because we must leave at 1PM

Trunk Show submitted by Vivian Miller

The trunk show euphemistically called that (from the old days when we used trunks to travel and carry our stuff) is in need of participants. Vivian Miller is the chair. Each person will have 20 minutes to display their creations while telling a brief story about each item they are showing.

For instance, one person displayed a quilt, wall hanging, and clothing they had fashioned. Twenty minutes should give you about 5 minutes per item.

If you have a "collection" of assorted items and would like to show how diverse and awesome quilters are, contact Vivian at (216) 293-1158.

AAQDG (BLACK HISTORY MONTH)

FEBRUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Feb. 1	The Woodbury Elementary School, 15400 S. Woodland Rd, Shaker Heights, OH., Regina Abernathy, has on display some of her quilts, that coincide with the 5 th & 6 th curriculum, located in the main entrance of the school
Feb. 1	Beachwood Community Center, 25325 Fairmount Blvd. Beachwood, Oh Barbara Townsend will have her quilts on display “Celebrating Black History through Creative Expression” until February 18th.
Feb. 2	Praxis hosts exhibit of AAQDG quilts opening reception Will be exhibited till March 2, 2024
Feb. 3	Sit & Sew Warrensville Civic & Senior Center
Feb. 5	“Kicking it with Kenny” at Praxis at 8 am to discuss the history of quilt.
Feb. 8	Playhouse Square filming of AAQDG quilts to be included in the documentary
Feb. 11	At The fifth Christian Church, 4109 Benwood Avenue, Cleveland, OH, Regina Abernathy, will have on display her quilts and will be discussing her book.
Feb. 13	Zoom presentation of quilts to the Dodge Middle School in Twinsburg, Oh by Sandy Noble, “My Quilt Journey as a Quilter”.
Feb. 15	At the Western Reserve Historical Society’s History on Tap, celebration of Black Culture through music; from 5:00 pm. to 8 pm, Regina Abernathy will be featured at this event.
Feb. 16	At the Antioch Baptist Church, 8869 Cedar Avenue, Cleveland, OH, at 11 am, Regina Abernathy will host an exhibit and storytelling event,
Feb. 17	AAQDG general meeting, at the Warrensville Civic & Senior Center, in person and via Zoom.
Feb .17th	AAQDG Quilt Show photo session 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Feb. 19 th	“All Day Black History Celebration of Cultural” @ Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road, Cleveland, Oh 44121
Feb. 22	MAC Scholars Sisters, Shaker Heights. Regina Abernathy will exhibit and discuss black history quilts with elementary school children
Fri. 23 rd	AAQDG Quilt Show photo session 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Feb. 24	Celebrate Quilts in Black History, Jackki Boyd will present a storytelling art session, where members will make a fabric stamped mini quilt collage. Warrensville Heights Library, 4415 Northfield Road, Warrensville Heights, OH



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.