



AAQDG Newsletter

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President's Message



Regina Abernathy

Autumn is upon us. The leaves are turning into a spectacular array of colors. They definitely remind me of a colorful quilt. As you know during this season, the quilt and doll guild is preparing for a multitude of activities.

First, the guild will be changing leadership. We have candidates running for the presidency and the treasurer. Voting will occur in November. The guild is also anticipating receiving a grant from the Cleveland Foundation. We have been notified that a decision will be determined in late October or early November. Furthermore, members of the guild are working to complete their Underground Railroad Quilts accompanied by original stories which will be featured in our fourth

AAQDG book. Also, guild members are returning from the annual AAQDG quilting retreat which is always a joyful experience.

The AAQDG is preparing for an exhibit at the Shaker Library which will run from November through much of December. Simultaneously, the guild will be displaying as well as selling quilts at the Beachwood Arts Council Show which will also run from November through December. Furthermore, the guild will be exhibiting quilts, dolls, fashion, and accessories at the Praxis Art Gallery in Collinwood from January through March. And, as always, even though it is only October, organizations are beginning to call to request our quilts, dolls, workshops, and expertise for the upcoming 2024 Black History Month. Finally, and most importantly, the guild is busy preparing for our biennial AAQDG quilt show which will occur in May 2024.

Now, with a somewhat melancholy heart, this is my final message as the President of the African American Quilt and Doll Guild. I would like to thank all the members for ensuring that my four years as president has been a wonderful experience. I have learned so much from the guild. Your expertise and your kindness have been an inspiration. It has truly been a joy to serve as your president.

Be blessed,

Regina Abernathy

Spotlight On: Theresa Brown

Submitted by Doressa Carlton

THERESA BROWN



Theresa was born and raised in Harlem, New York. She began school at the tender age of four years old. At the age of seven, her mother taught her how to sew beginning with making clothes for baby dolls. Some of the clothes were distributed by missionaries to children.

She earned a Bachelor in Science Degree from Herbert H. Lehman College which is located in the Bronx. Her

degree is a discipline in Dietetic, Food and Nutrition.

After her divorce, Theresa moved to Shaker Heights, Ohio in order to be near her brother and his family who lives in Shaker Heights.

In 2003, Theresa earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Cuyahoga Community College (CCC) East.

Theresa learned to quilt at "Sew Creative Quilt Shop" (now closed) which was located in Chillicothe, Ohio. They had weekend quilt classes. She also has attended Quilt Classes by Sew De juVu Quilt Shop. She also gets inspiration from Facebook, You Tube, Internet, Magazines and Books. Theresa is very generous with her projects. She gives them to friends, co-workers, family etc. They have been the lucky recipients of her quilts, wall hangings, place mats, purses and overnight bags.

Theresa quilts as well as piece. She finds quilting to

be very relaxing, exciting and therapeutic. One of her favorite projects is working with "hexies". She finds it a joy to see the hexies come together, and build a piece of quilting art. One of her daughters is an accomplished quilter who also pieces her quilts.

Quilting is not her only passion. Theresa is a gifted painter who paints on canvas. You should ask her to show you some of her beautiful paintings.

Theresa also meets on Thursdays (via zoom) with single mothers. She teaches and helps them. She has been doing this for fifteen years as one of the programs sponsored by Parkside Church in Bainbridge, Ohio. This program consists of Bible Study, transportation when meeting at the Church or John Hay High School, social services, and day care. The single moms are also taught how to make jewelry which they can give as gifts or save as heirlooms. Theresa also volunteers at Cain Park (located in Cleveland Heights) on Thursday Nights in the Summer.

One day at the IX Center Sewing Expo, Theresa met Gloria Kellon who was president of the guild at this time. Gloria invited her to visit the guild where she was teaching Raggedy Ann and Andy Rag Dolls. Theresa came to the guild, was impressed and joined. She still has some unfinished rag dolls.

Theresa's personal motto is taken from Romans 8:28 (KJV):

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."



AQS Grand Rapids Trip

Submitted by Lucy Kimes, Photos by Evelyn Dorell

“Our very own guild was on display. Our theme for the Ultimate Guild Challenge was “The Sky is the Limit”.

In the ongoing quest for inspiration, fabric and fun, members and friends of the African American Quilt and Doll Guild traveled to Grand Rapids Michigan to attend the AQS Quilt Show. In past years the show has always offered quilts of variety and style but this year they offered something truly special. Our very own guild was on display. Our theme for the Ultimate Guild Challenge was “*The Sky is the Limit*”. Each quilter had the freedom to interpret the theme and then to express it as a quilt. As usual, their creativity and skill made us proud.

Our featured quilt artists were:

- *Maude Fields- Swimming With The Whale
- *Martha Harris- Up, Up, And Away
- *Pat Hassan- Free Spirit
- *Myrya Johnson- My Aspirations
- *Sandra Moore- Music Is In The Air
- *Bernice Sanders- Great African American Inventors and Achievers
- *Barbara Townsend- Birth
- *Terra Turner- Amina Takes A Ride

Friday on the way back home, we were joined by Sharon Ray and members of the Great Lakes Guild at the Ann Arbor Sewing Center. The fabric store offered courteous service and a 20% discount. To complete our stay with them, they gave away a yard of fabric to the person who guessed the correct number. Congratulations! Evelyn Dorell was the winner of the fabric.

Traveling together on the bus gave our members both new and old the opportunity to become better acquainted with one another. We celebrated Maude Fields birthday with a rendition of “happy birthday” and she provided snacks. We were blessed by the cake offerings (peach pound cake and sock it to me cake) of Gregory Simonson. On the way back home, Myrya Johnson shared the vision of a sashiko challenge to support those who are creating a jeans garment for the 2024 fashion show.

I am sure that many of us fulfilled our quest. We discovered a new technique, a new idea for a quilt, the perfect fabric, or a new quilt buddy.



Spotlight on Gregory Simonson

Submitted by Doressa Carlton

GREGORY SIMONSON

Gregory Simonson was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he and his family lived until he was nine years old. At nine years old, the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where they lived for two years. After two years, they moved to Cleveland, Ohio where Gregory has since resided.

Gregory taught himself the art of designing his unique (awesome) handbags, totes, carry-ons etc. His favorite process in making the bags is designing and ironing of the material. He loses track of time when at work on his designs. During some of his travels, he has also bought dolls for his collection. Gregory has been sewing for over forty years, and handbags are his favorite.

He gets inspiration from everywhere; especially YouTube and Japan. He also gets inspiration and satisfaction when people buy, ask for, and enjoy his creations. His biggest fan is his sister who buys his bags, and have given them to many relatives and friends. He was recently surprised when his




brother, who lives in Cincinnati, bought some of his designs.

Another talent Gregory has is baking. He loves to bake. Words cannot describe his baking skills. The Guild can attest to this fact because he has brought samples to our meetings and quilt show.


Gregory generally goes to Japan every other year. He is greatly impressed with the Japanese Culture and work ethic. Their quilts and fabrics cannot be adequately described (you have to see to fully appreciate their genius). He recently returned from Japan with some beautiful Japanese "Salvage Denim" and some cotton fabric. He also bought a pair of jeans made from this denim. The Japanese have a "Fabric Town", whereby, an entire

street has nothing but fabric stores. This is Gregory's third visit to Japan, however, this is the first time that he returned home with fabric that he had bought from Japan. There is an art to the way that the Japanese wrap your purchases – they don't just fold your fabric and put it in a bag.

Gregory's motto is: "Where the Unusual is Common".



Great Estates Program



When you lose a loved one, the last thing you want to worry about is probate court.

Cuyahoga County's Great Estates Program provides you with all the tools and information you need to avoid unnecessary costs and delays in settling an estate.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY Great Estates Program

Submitted by Barbara Eady

Have you been putting off making your final arrangements? I certainly was. I kept procrastinating because it just seemed too daunting. Then I attended a county information session at the Warrensville Library last week and learned it isn't as hard as I thought. Apparently I wasn't the only one who was looking for help because the session was standing room only with a line of people all the way to the front door demanding a second session which took place that night. That's why I'm submitting this article.

Avoiding probate can be as easy as filling out documents, having them notarized and filing them with the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office 2079 E. 9th Street 3rd Floor.

Everything you need to know for planning for Real Estate, Personal Property and Transfer on Death Designation Affidavits can be found on the website at cuyahogacounty.us/greatesates.

All the forms are there ready for download too. Check it out.

AAQDG Goes to Dollmaking School

Submitted by Doressa Carlton

“Four members from our guild attended. They were: Barbara Townsend, Doressa Carlton, Terra Turner and Myrya Johnson.”



NIADA ACADEMY LIVE DOLLMAKING SCHOOL JULY 16-18, 2023

National Institute of America Doll Artists (NIADA) held their annual workshop in North Carolina (NC) this year. Four members from our guild attended. They were: Barbara Townsend, Doressa Carlton, Terra Turner and Myrya Johnson. The workshops were held in Spencer, NC at the First Community Center, the airport is in Charlotte, NC and the hotel is located in Salisbury, NC.

Up the street from the Community Center is the “NC Museum of Dollhouses, Model Trains, Dolls, Toys & Miniatures”. The museum is housed in a 4,000 ft building. Everyone went to the museum after classes on Monday, July 17th. It is overwhelming. I have never seen so many dolls etc. in my life housed into one building! It is a “Must See” whenever one is in this part of NC.

The address of the museum is: 108 Fourth Street, Spencer, NC.

The NIADA was founded in 1963; therefore, this is their 60th Year. We were given NIADA Ballpoint pens with a fake diamond on top as a gift to commemorate this milestone.

However, due to lack of sufficient enrolees this will be NIADA’s last live workshops in America. The workshops will be via virtual in America, and the live workshops will be overseas. They are planning their 2025 conference in Warsaw, Poland. NIADA’s Academy has many courses that can be obtained through their website: NIADA.org/Academy. I have taken courses from their website, and they were very clear with lots of information. There is a workbook in each course that can be downloaded for future reference

This year, we lost an Icon/Pioneer in the Dollmaking World: Elinor Peace Bailey. I can’t remember our having a Quilt Show; whereby, at least one of her dolls were exhibited. Elinor was very relentless in establishing dollmaking clubs, and making patterns that were easy to follow. I was fortunate to have her as a quest one week end at my house. She was teaching a dollmaking class at Pins and Needles that was in Middleburg Heights at that time.

I hate to start naming the dollmakers that we have lost (I might leave out a name). As I was writing this article, I thought about a County Song written and sung by the late George Jones. The name of the song is “Who’s Going to Fill Their Shoes?” It goes like this:

“... Who’s gonna fill their shoes?
Who’s gonna stand that tall?
Lord, I wonder who’s gonna fill their shoes?
Yes, I wonder who’s gonna fill their shoes?”

The above is just a part of the song.

For Information: NIADA is the brand of their organization, however their mission today is more international – so they are adding “An International Artist Organization” to their title.

Allison Smith

Submitted by
Doressa Carlton



Allison Smith presented a Trunk Show of her quilts on 14 and 15 June at Quinby Park in Warren Ohio. Her quilts are awesome and the show was very informative. Allison informed us that one of her Portrait Quilts is on display at the Ohio Governor's Mansion. During the trunk show Allison explained the process of making her quilts as well her ideas and how/where she gets inspiration.

Allison was also honored by the Fund for Women and Girls Gems of the Valley as a 2023 Gem of the Valley. The event was held October 12th, 2023 at Drake's Landing and a donation of \$100 was made to an organization of her choice. Congratulations Allison!

AAQDG Retreat

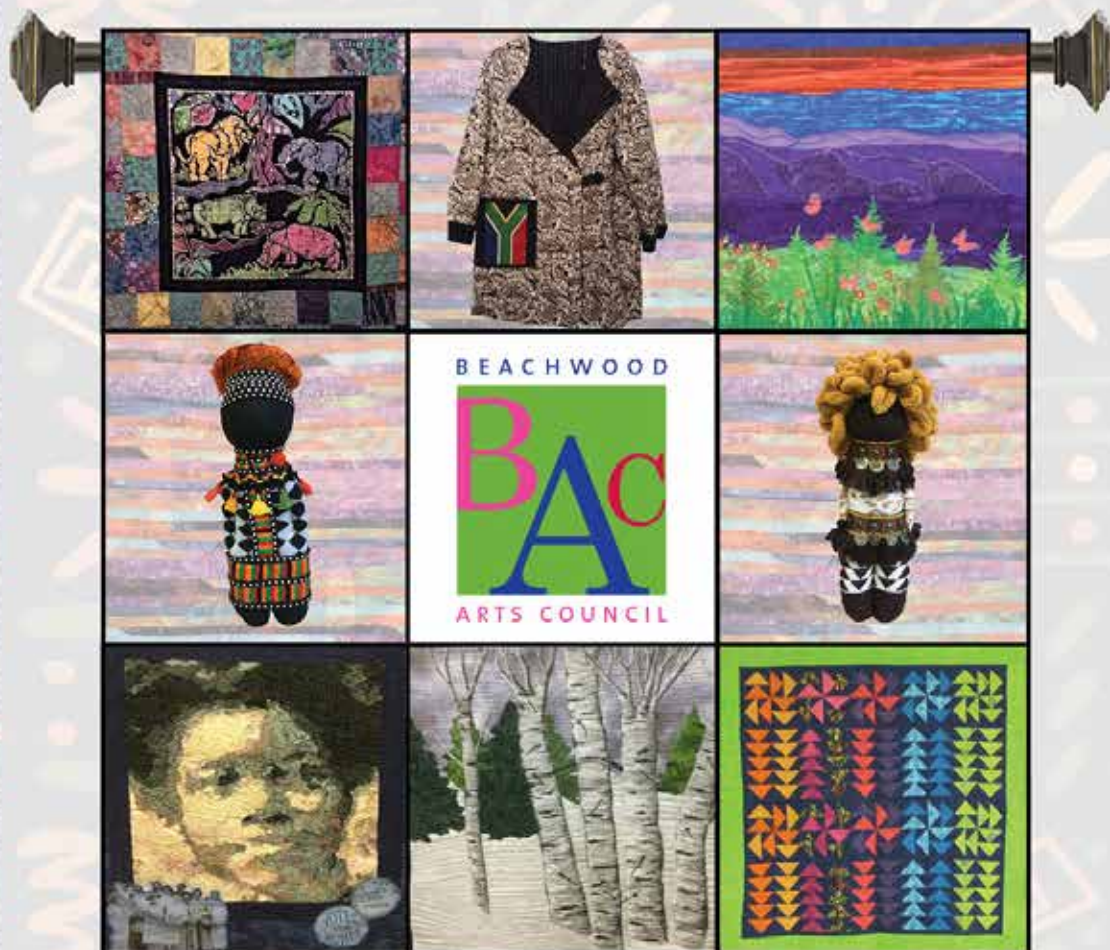
Photos Submitted by Cleosene Johnson

Quilters and Dollmakers retreated to the Hampton Inn in North Olmstead on October 6th and 7th for a relaxing weekend.



Beachwood Arts Council presents

AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILT AND DOLL GUILD EXHIBIT



Beachwood Community Center
Wednesday, Nov. 8 – Thursday, Dec. 7

OPENING RECEPTION:
Saturday, Nov. 11 | 5-7 PM

For details, visit beachwoodartscouncil.org
or call 216-595-3400



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.