



AAQDG Newsletter

2022, Issue 1

July, 2022

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Barbara Eady

Contributors

Regina Abernathy
Doressa Carlton
Barbara Eady
Gloria Kellon
Sandra Noble
Frances Tyus

President's Message



Regina Abernathy

What a year! The guild has had a very wonderful year. First and foremost, the AAQDG held an in-person biennial quilt and doll show in May at the South Euclid Church of Christ. Our speaker was the world renowned, April Ship. Her quilt, *The Lynching Quilt*, included the names of individuals whose lives were cut short by the lynch mobs of America. Tickets for her first speaking engagement sold

out so rapidly that the guild arranged for a second show and that also sold out. Of course, April Ship had the audience enthralled by her recollection of the effort and emotions which went into creating the quilt. Furthermore, the fashion show, which is the AAQDG's signature *Piece de Resistance*, was the talk of the show. The original creations were stunning. Not only that, there was still a quilt show and a doll show to view.

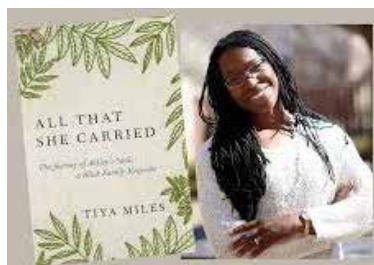
The guild also hosted two Quilt Exhibits and programs honoring Juneteenth. One was held at the Shaker Library and the other at the Shaker Heights Historical Society. Both exhibits were well received and are still open to the public.

Of course, as quilt members, we are still creating for our portfolios and for our future endeavors. Quilting and doll making is what we do. It is who we are. The year is not over, and we continue to create for the future. There is so little time and so many quilts and dolls to create.

Be blessed,
Regina Abernathy
President

AAQDG to Join Book Discussion

*Submitted by
Barbara Eady*



in Cleveland to receive the prestigious Anisfeld-Wolf award for her latest book, *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*. AAQDG has

Dr. Tiya Miles, Harvard professor of history, public historian, and award winning author will be

been invited by the Cleveland Foundation to participate in a discussion of the book along with members of Praxis Fiber Workshop and members of the Cleveland Foundation, hosted by Mr. Ali Boyd, Manager of the Warrensville Heights County Public Library.

Professor Miles writes that she will make special mention of the Guild, Praxis and the library from the stage of the Connor Palace at Playhouse Square at 6 p.m. Thursday September 15 during the Anisfeld-Wolf Book Awards ceremony. Tickets are free and will be available in late August.

Meet Vivian Miller: Handbag Queen

Submitted by Doressa Carlton



Vivian brings to the meetings a bright smile and words of encouragement. She was invited to visit our meetings by Myrya Johnson. She met Myrya at Artisan Treasures. After visiting an AAQDG meeting, she decided to join (at that time Gloria Kellon was president). Vivian joined the Beginner's Quilt Class, and

is presently making dolls to display at her daughter's yoga studio, Urban Asanar.

She learned to sew in her 7th grade Home Economics Class. She did not own a sewing machine (at that time all of your sewing had to be done in class, therefore, a sewing machine at home was not necessary). When she did decide to buy a sewing machine, she bought a White sewing machine. She still remembers the beautiful dress that her mother made for her.

Being an only child, and since her mother worked a lot, for her safety she lived with her aunts and uncles. When her cousins visited, they were taught how to do beautiful hand embroidery. She still remembers the beautiful items they embroidered.

Sewing is like therapy to Vivian. When she sews, she forgets about time, cares, etc. Whenever she walks into a quilt or fabric store, she is mesmerized by the fabrics and notions.

She has made men's underwear, swimsuits, curtains and clothes for children, adults and people in here family as well as for herself. She began making beautiful totes and bags after attending a quilt show in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she saw a travel bag on the counter and bought the pattern. She has sold her bags on Etsy, Facebook and the Cultural Market Place Event at Case Western Reserve University. Many of her bags are sold by "work of mouth" which is her best advertisement.

Vivian is an Office Administrator for a church. She is also a member and secretary of a Non-Profit Organization that helps people over fifty to find a position in the workplace or start their own business. She is also the secretary of our guild (AAQDG).

She loves to go to movies and one day spent an entire day at one (from 10 am to 10 pm). Her son is an international makeup artist, and her son-in-law owns a video technology company that supports the movie industry. Her 16-year-old granddaughter has been in three Spike Lee Movies, has her acting card and takes acting lessons (Vivian's love of movies must be contagious).

Vivian has not put her projects into competitions but her goals are someday to have her work put into art museums, art galleries and art shows. Her personal motto is: "It's important to be kind and support others."

Meet Patricia Hasan

Submitted by Doressa Carlton



Patricia joined the Guild to increase her quilting and doll-making skills. The members have been a great inspiration and help to her as she works on her many projects.

Patricia's mother was a prodigious sewer and her grandmother was a seamstress. She learned a lot from both of them. Patricia also took

Home Economics courses in high school which included sewing. She also likes to knit stuffed toys. When her mother-in-law passed, she inherited a Sunbeam sewing machine which became her favorite as it came with a lot of feet.

Her interests, other than quilting, sewing, doll-making and knitting are: walking, fitness and exercise classes at Tri-C, yoga, reading drawing and listening to audio books while working on projects. Her favorite genre is Mysteries. While taking a class at Tri-C, Patricia met Carolyn Jenkins who told her about our guild. As a member, Patricia has taken

Beginner Quilt Classes and Doll-making Classes. She took a "How to make Your First Quilt" class on YouTube and made her granddaughter a quilt.

Patricia finds quilting and doll-making relaxing and rewarding. It is also exciting and therapeutic. While working on various projects, she has a chance to empty her mind and forget any concerns. It is a great feeling to take a piece of cloth, yarn or paper and develop it into a completed project. What a thrill to go into a yarn or fabric shop and see all of the various fabrics and yarns just sitting there waiting for someone to chose them to make a project or gift. Patricia also gets ideas from other people, craft books, Pinterest and Nature.

As of today, she has not entered any competitions but plans to enter some in the future. She plans to teach her grandchildren how to knit (she has five granddaughters and one grandson). An interesting fact about Patricia is that she is a retired Police Woman. Her Personal motto is : "Go where you are celebrated and not just tolerated."

2022 AAQDG Quilt & Doll Show Submitted by Gloria Kellon

“This time we had a multitude of quilts and dolls ready to be displayed, and displayed they were in an artistic and beautiful manner.”



Wow! AAQDG, We Did It! Our 2022 Spring Quilt & Doll Show was phenomenal even if we say so ourselves! Members worked together under the excellent leadership of Sandra Noble. This time we had a multitude of quilts and dolls ready to be displayed, and displayed they were in an artistic and beautiful manner. Our program with April Shipp was sold out immediately and so we were able to schedule a second show on Saturday which was a first for our quilt shows. April's "Lynching Quilt" was examined in amazement. The trunk shows under Vivian Miller's direction were informative and entertaining.

Jackki Boyd as MC guided us expertly through the The Fashion Shows which featured many stylish and creative fashion statements made by members. The Doll displays were outstanding. There were dolls of all types. The doll choir was melodious and it was fortunate that Terra Turner's gorgeous dragon couldn't sing or we would have had to put out a fire!

We had visitors from Great Lakes Quilters' Network from Michigan who spent the weekend with us. The vendors were great. Barbara Eady and Jackki Boyd created a Quilt Catalog for this show which turned out to be quite profitable. We must mention that with this show AAQDG tested a new method for fund raising and it was successful.

Our thanks goes out to Kenneth Hale who was such a great help with our marketing. Brenda Jackson, keeper of the coffers for this show was delighted. Quilts were raffled off and Sandra Moore sold small quilts. Cheers to Norma Dixon, The Great Longarm Quilter who helped.

So many prepared for this show. Dianna Frazille kept snacks ready as we all worked. We missed our president, Regina Abernathy, but we knew she was thinking of us. AAQDG, now pat yourselves on the back and get your machines out and get ready for 2024!



AAQDG Celebrates Juneteenth at the Shaker Library

Submitted by Regina Abernathy

On the second floor of the newly renovated Shaker Heights Library, one will find the newly designed art gallery. In this art gallery, one will see the Juneteenth display of quilts and fiber arts by the African American Quilt and Doll Guild. These Juneteenth quilts are on display from June 18th through July 31st. They are there to educate the public about the history of the holiday.

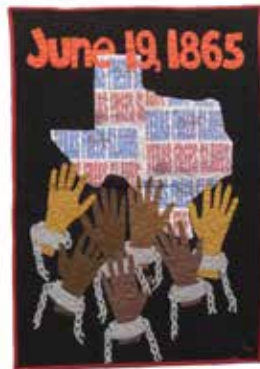
The AAQDG also hosted a Juneteenth program, chaired by Gloria Kellon, on Saturday, June 18, 2022. In the tradition of our ancestors, the call of the drum played by Dwayne Dixon opened the program, which was hosted by Patricia Hason. Prayer was offered by Mrs. L. Pearl Shields, followed by Mary Pinckney as she presented the poetry of Maya Angelou, "And Still I Rise."

Mrs. Lashelle Johnson, C.E.O. of Omega Global Development, inspired and informed the audience with her view of the second official celebration of Juneteenth. Our President, Regina Abernathy, enlightened the audience with the history

of how African American churches purchased land and created parks, Emancipation Park and Frederick Douglas Park, as safe spaces to celebrate this important and oldest African American holiday. Her remarks were educational and thought provoking.

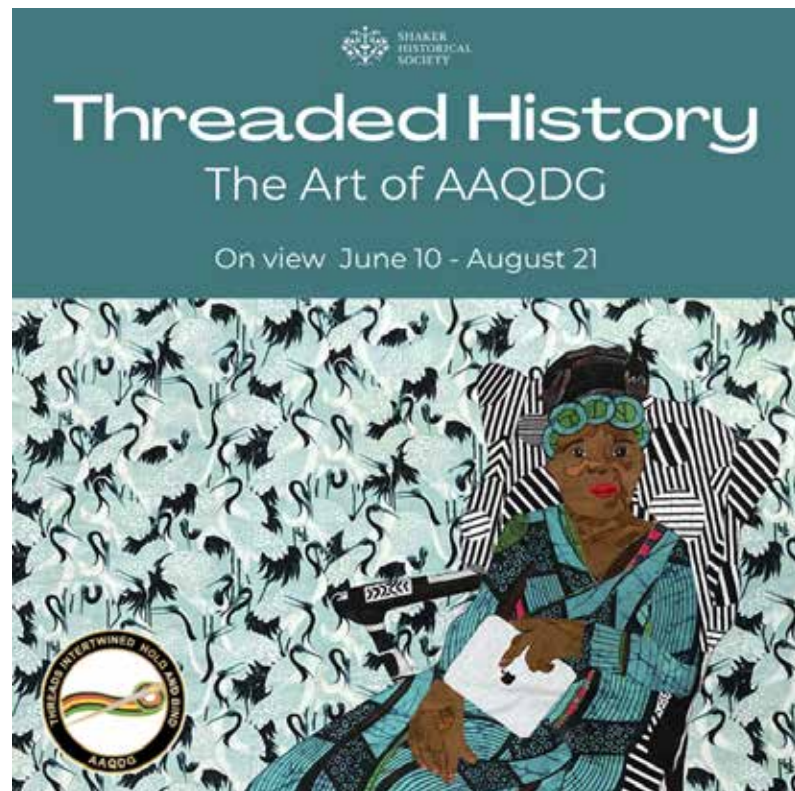
Barbara Eady explained the thinking and interpretation behind her inspirational Juneteenth quilt, "Free to Marry". She explained that Juneteenth represented the first time African Americans were free to experience that their bodies were their own. They were free to determine to whom they would commit their lives and their bodies. Marriage was a freedom received at the end of enslavement.

Remarks by Vice President, Sandra Noble introduced visitors and acknowledged thanks to the Shaker Library and Margaret Simpson, who invited the AAQDG to exhibit. The audience was again invited to view these special quilts as they were leaving.



Summer SHS Quilt Exhibit

Submitted by
Regina Abernathy



Threaded History: The Art of AAQDG — June 10 - August 21, 2022

Threaded History: The Art of the AAQDG celebrates the work of African American Quilt and Doll Guild members who tell the stories of their lives, joy, history, healing, and families through their art. These quilts will be on display at the Shaker Historical Society, located at 16740 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio.

The SHS hosted an opening reception for the quilt guild on Friday, June 10th from 6pm until 8pm. The display was exceptional. The dolls were displayed behind lighted leaded glass cases and the quilts were displayed in newly purchased rolling walls.



AAQDG School Outreach

Quilts: The Talk of The School

Submitted by Regina Abernathy

Four quilts, *The Great Migration*, *Why I Vote*, *The Green Book*, and *When The Street Lights Come On*, by Regina Abernathy were on display in the main hallway of Woodbury Elementary School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. The quilts were to serve as a reminder that history is someone's story. Many of these stories are stories of living people and that their story is still being told.

Mrs. Zeigler stated that "Your quilts are the talk of the school," Ms. Rashid stated, "You would be surprised to know the number of times teachers, custodians, and other

adults came to my office to discuss these quilts." "We are very grateful that you allowed us to display them."

The quilts served as an inspiration for students to research African American History and create a class quilt. Each student was to create a quilt block once they had completed the research.

Ms. Rashid, the Assistant Principal, extended an invitation for Mrs. Abernathy to attend the cumulative celebration at the end of February. Ms. Abernathy also received a card and gift from the school as a thank you.



Warrensville Elementary School

Submitted by Sandra Noble

I met with a class of fifth graders at the Warrensville Elementary school every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM during the months of April and May.

The idea for them to do a quilt project started after a presentation I made about making art quilts in March. Mrs Bugakis, the art teacher and I discussed the class making a 12x12 block with a landscape theme. I showed them a variety of landscape examples and then they drew their

ideas on paper. Basically, they used a fusing technique.

Each morning I gave them a step to follow or a drawing lesson tree and bushes.

The blocks the children made were successful, the only issue was we ran out of time for them to be quilted. The class worked well without any big issues. I plan to do it again next school year.



AAQDG Calendar 2022

June

- 4 Sit and Sew - 10am – 1pm -
New Members Class 10am – 1pm = Warrensville Sr Ctr. **Please, No Visitors**
Doll Technique Class
- 10 Opening Reception – Threaded History The AAQDG at the Shaker Heights Historical Society
- 18 **Celebrate Juneteenth with AAQDG** at Shaker Hts. Library **2:00 – 4:00pm**
- 25 General Meeting 10am – 1pm, Warrensville Senior Center

July

- 23 10am – 1pm, General Meeting – in person Warrensville Senior Center
Shop Hop – After the General Meeting
- 6 Annual Picnic
- 19-20 American Quilt Show, Grand Rapids, MI overnight bus trip
- 27 10am – 1pm, General Meeting – in person Warrensville Senior Center Picnic

Sept

- 3 Sit and Sew - 10am – 1pm Warrensville Senior Center and via Zoom
Training Classes - Class times 10am – 1pm = Warrensville Senior Center.
New Members Class **Please, No Visitors**
Doll Technique Class 10am to 1pm
Intermediate Quilt Class – Norma Dixon
- 14 “Tentative” Co- host Reception w Warrensville Lib honoring Anisfield Wolf Book Award winner of the Cleveland Foundation, *Tiya Miles “All that She Carried”*
- 16 -17 Fall Retreat Sept.
- 24 10am – 1pm, General Meeting – in person Warrensville Senior Center

October

- 1 Sit and Sew - 10am – 1pm Warrensville Senior Center and via Zoom
Training Classes - Class times 10am – 1pm = Warrensville Senior Center.
New Members Class **Please, No Visitors**
Doll Technique Class 10am to 1pm
Intermediate Quilt Class –
- 22 10am – 1pm, General Meeting – in person Warrensville Senior Center

November

- 5 10am – 1pm, General Meeting – in person Warrensville Senior Center

December

- 3 Christmas/Kwanza Celebration
- 25 **CHRISTMAS**

Other Sit and Sew Times

Every Wednesdays – 10 -4pm – Warrensville Senior Center. (Check with Sandy for cost)
Thursdays at Warrensville Library 10am- 8pm
New Classes are developing, please let us know if you are willing to teach a class or interesting in learning. Contact Frances Tyus, tyusaka1917@gmail.com (216-548-4551)



African American Quilt and Doll Guild

The African American Quilt and Doll Guild
meets every 1st and 4th 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

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.

"Threads Intertwined Hold and Bind"

Dolls by Doressa Carlton



During the Pandemic (Covid-19) which has not left us yet, AAQDG member, Doressa Carlton, thought of the nurses who reported to work everyday during the pandemic. They received a paycheck, but she felt they should also get recognition for their dedication. AAQDG members get recognition via ribbons etc. for their awesome work, but she thought the nurses in our group (active or retired), should also get recognition for their hard work. These custom dolls were given to AAQDG members as an appreciation.