



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – August 2024

## QUILTING SISTAH NEWS

*African American Quilt Guild of Oakland*

Publicly supported organization 509 (a) (2)

### JUNTEENTH CELEBRATION AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY



An invitation for Guild participation in the Stanford University Black Staff Alliance on June 17 was our third appearance at this event. Guild members Sandi Knight, Marie Taylor, Dolores Vitero Presley and Ora Clay had the opportunity to give a brief history of African American Quilting to the staff and to exhibit their quilts. This year's event took place at Kingscot Gardens on the university's campus.

The Guild is grateful to Sandi Knight, who is a devoted Stanford alumna, for facilitating our visits to Stanford. We are looking forward to our 2025 Juneteenth celebration at Stanford.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Greeting Everyone,

Welcome to the August edition of our quarterly newsletter. We are excited to share some of our most recent achievements and updates with you.

I thank everyone in the Guild who actively helped and supported me when my role changed from *Vice-President to President*. The circumstance that caused the change was challenging, but we made it through.

As we go into our Silver Jubilee, I look forward to exemplary leadership from our newly elected officers.

Sincerely,

*Jacquelyn Carter*

# QUILTS ON DISPLAY

## NORTH CHARLESTON ART FEST CELEBRATING BLACK MUSIC

African American contributions to music has been great and varied. Once a musical genre has been absorbed into American culture, the originators, the groundbreakers are often left out of the discussion especially if they are Black.

Rock N Roll, the Blues, Gospel all have their roots with the Africans who were brought here. Rock, and Rock n Roll, have left off the names of pioneers of the musical genre.

**LaQuita Tummings'** quilt was shown in the North Charleston Art Fest in May. The challenge for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual exhibit was for artists to create fiber art pieces that honor and uplift Black Music and musicians. The label on the back of her quilt names over 100 guitarists starting with Lead Belly in 1888 to present time. The list of African American guitarist, male and female, is far from complete. The guitars on her quilt represent some of the instruments used by these trail blazers

Other AAQGO members participants included **Ora Clay**, **Teri Green** and former member **Niambi Kee**.



*Guitar Hero ©2024  
LaQuita Tummings*

# SEW-LANO QUILTS: A PATTERN OF CHANGE

Vacaville Museum June 22nd through September 21<sup>st</sup>



The exhibit features art quilts by the **Sewlano Fiber Artist Network** and showcases 20 of their artists and 41 art quilts. Most of the quilts are from technique classes taught over the last six years by AAQGO member Teri Green and other teachers. Several AAQGO members are included in this exhibit: **Amal Johnson, Evelyn Johnson, Deborah Reed-Salmon, Ora Clay, Sally Dickson and Teri Green.**

On June 27th, the first artist showcase was by AAQGO member **Deborah Reed-Salmon** who shared her quilt journey over the last 20+ years. Deborah shared beautiful traditional quilts, many of which are made with African Ankara fabrics, and always bright and colorful fabrics. On July 13th, **Ora Clay** was the featured artist and showcased her amazing collection of story and pictorial quilts. Ora previously taught her pieced background technique and several of those quilts are in the show.



Deborah Salmon



Ora Clay

Please support the museum's efforts to bring creativity and diversity to the Solano quilt community. The **Vacaville Museum** (located at 213 Buck Avenue) is open on Thursday-Friday from 1pm to 4pm, and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. While visiting, take some time to shop at the **Cloth Carousel** (local quilt shop sponsor) located a few blocks away at 150 Parker Street.



**VOICES IN FABRIC \ THE ART OF QUILTS**  
**North Berkeley Wealth Management**  
**Berkeley, CA**



Ora Clay

# PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL QUILT FESTIVAL Santa Clara, CA



*The Only Town for Me* ©2024  
Susan Cole



*Always Seeking* ©2024  
Susan Cole



*Play Cousins* ©2023  
Niambi Clay



*Connections Everywhere* ©2024  
Julie Belcher

# ACTA MENTOR/APPRENTICE PROGRAM



African American Quilt Guild of Oakland (AAQGO) members, Marsha Carter and Zondra Martin successfully completed the 2023-2024 Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) Mentor/Apprentice Program.

The Apprenticeship Program encourages the continuity of California's thriving traditional arts and cultures by contracting mentor artists to offer intensive, one-on-one training to eligible apprentices who demonstrate a committed engagement with, and a talent for, a specific traditional art form or cultural practice.

Marsha and Zondra, committed to the program and themed their year long journey, **“AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL TRADITIONAL QUILTING: GATEWAY TO THE SOUL OF 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN FIBER ART”**, and dedicated their work to their enslaved African American foremothers who while enslaved toiled (for free), from **“cain’t see to cain’t see.”**

The duo spent the year in concentrated learning, discussing and channeling how their foremothers spent their days on plantations and in wealthy households. The enslaved women were needed for spinning, weaving, sewing and quilting. That left little time in the day for them to do their own sewing, so they sewed scrap quilts into the nights by candlelight and fireplace light to provide bedcovers for the comfort and warmth of their loved ones.

During the year, Zondra bravely completed five works of art, while enduring a serious health crisis. She made two hand pieced, hand quilted traditional quilts(**one dubbed “the nine footer**), one hand pieced digital photo memory wall quilt, with hand pieced blocks made by her mother, one wall art hanging, featuring First Lady Michelle Obama and one machine pieced and machine quilted (with a special quilted Sankofa design), African fabric strip quilt.

Zondra continues the art of hand piecing and hand quilting of her maternal foremothers and learned the art from her grandmother and mother.

The ACTA Mentor/Apprentice Program culminated with a Public Sharing of Zondra's creative works, on May 25, 2024, at the Oakland Public Library, West Oakland Branch.

# SUNSHINE AND SHADOW

Our condolences to Fran Porter and family on the loss of her husband Carl.

Our positive thoughts and prayers to all members and their families who are facing medical challenges.

## EVENTS

<p>August 10-11</p> <p>Delta Quilters Guild Brentwood Community Center 36 Oak St, Brentwood</p>	<p>September 20-21</p> <p>Sierra Quilt Guild of Tuolumne County Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora</p>	<p>September 28-29</p> <p>Piece by Piece Quilters of Morgan Hill United Methodist Church 17175 Monterey Morgan Hill</p>
<p>October 5-6</p> <p>Mother Lode Quilters Sutter Creek Auditorium Sutter Creek</p>	 <p>City of Oakland Older Americans Art Project 2016</p>	<p>October 28-November 4</p> <p>Houston Quilt Festival Celebrate 50 years of quilting artistry at the Houston International Quilt Show</p>





## ***BIRTHDAYS***

### ***AUGUST***

Cheryl Buckley - 6

### ***SEPTEMBER***

Ernestine Tril – 7

Zondra Martin - 9

Sally Dickson - 11

LaQuita Tummings - 24

### ***OCTOBER***

Kyla Lemon – 3

Ora Clay - 6

Louise Jackson - 10

Deborah Butler - 24

A'donna Richardson - 24

Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the purpose and objectives of this Guild, and payment of annual dues. No discrimination shall be made with regard to race, color, creed, or national origin.

# OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

September 1, 2023- August 31, 2024

Officers and committee chairpersons can be reached at [aaqgoakland@gmail.com](mailto:aaqgoakland@gmail.com)

or

PO Box 31834, Oakland, CA 94604

<b>OFFICERS</b>	
President	Jacquelyn Carter
Vice President	
Secretary	Sandra Oby
Treasurer	Dolores Vitero Presley
Past President	Marie dePorres Taylor
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>	
Black History Month Family Workshop	
Education	Ernestine Tril
Exhibits	Ora Clay Dolores Vitero Presley
Membership	Teresa Weyand Jerry Oyarzo Hickey
Newsletter	Teresa Weyand Dolores Vitero Presley
Sunshine	Evelyn Johnson
Website	Catherine Mukai
Worthy Causes	Deborah Butler
<b>SUSPENDED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2022-2024</b>	
Historian	
Parliamentarian	
Library	
Opportunity Quilt	
Publicity	
Retreat	

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