



STASH

February 19, 2014

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FEBRUARY MEETING



For February, Black History month, the PBQ was treated to an excellent presentation by Jean Martin and Minnie Parker Watts. The subject was quilts as codes for slaves traveling the Underground Railroad. Both Jean's and Minnie's husbands were there to offer support to their wives.

Much of Jean's and Minnie's information came from the book, *Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* by Jacqueline L. Tobin and Raymond G. Dobard. Jean and Minnie had made quilts and blocks to illustrate their stories.

Jean's quilts included Jacobs Ladder which showed the way or pointed the

direction to go. The Monkey Wrench represented an important ally in the escape, the blacksmith. A Wagon Wheel quilt meant it was time to prepare for the journey. A Carpenter's Wheel represented it was time to leave. The Bear Paw meant there was food nearby as did a Basket quilt. Crossroad indicated the direction to proceed on the journey. A Shoo Fly quilt meant you were among friends. A Bow Tie told slaves to dress in a formal manner so as to blend in with others. The Flying Geese quilt meant follow the geese north, as most slaves traveled in the spring. Birds in the Air also directed travel to the North. The direction was pointed out by the light fabrics of the quilt. A Drunkard's Path was a warning to move in a zigzag fashion to avoid capture. The Sail Boat marked sailors and boatmen who hid slaves in the bottoms of their boats. The North Star instructed slaves to follow the North Star to freedom.

Jean's sister sent a Log Cabin quilt signifying home, hearth and safety.

Minnie made block samples of Carpenter's Wheel and Shoo Fly. She also showed us her Gee's Bend quilt made from hand dyed fabrics. It was a very graphic modern design inspired by another book featuring African American quilts, *Leaving Gee's Bend* by Irene Latham.

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Pastor Tommy Fairley

Sweet Chariot”, “Down by the Riverside”, “I’ll Fly Away” and “Amazing Grace”. The crowd joined in the music, singing along and clapping. Everyone enjoyed themselves and gave the program a standing ovation.

Lhay Triffley, director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, spoke to us about classes and trips offered for seniors. She brought catalogs and OLLI Newsletters for the guild to look over.

Kelly Ellis, special events manager from the Hattiesburg Zoo, gave us information about the zoo and about the Zoo Challenge category included in the 2014 PBQ Show. VisitHattiesburg sponsors a \$250 purchase award

Interspersed with stories about slaves escaping to the north were spirited songs lead by Pastor Tommy Fairley of Collins singing and playing the harmonica. Pastor Tommy entertained us with songs of the era, “Swing Low

for the winning quilt, which must be 24 inches square and represent the Hattiesburg Zoo

Susie Jackson asked quilters willing to take some of their quilts to Brookhaven for a trunk show to contact her. I’m sure you remember the group from Brookhaven who entertained us with a bed turning last October. We need people willing to return the favor.

Martha Ginn announced that a group has been working with the webmaster on a new and updated website which will enable us to keep the site more current. It went live last week. See it at www.pinebeltquilters.com.

Snippets: Missy Lee recommended that the plastic kitchen wrap, Press 'n Seal can be used for quilt related purposes. Laminate your appliqué patterns so that they can be marked with a Sharpie pen. Cut thin strips of Press 'n Seal and wrap around your spools to keep the tread from unraveling. Keep small pieces together between two pieces of Press 'n Seal.

Dianne McLendon announced that about 50 members will be participating in the Round Robin Challenge. She handed out the first of the challenge fabrics and announced the dimensions for the center block which will be 18.5 x 24.5 inches. New directions



Monkey Wrench and Bear Paw



Jean's quilts Birds in the Air and Minnie's Gee's Bend quilt

will come to us every other month, but don't bring your challenge for show and tell. We will all have a wonderful surprise next February when everyone should be finished.

Betty Moore announced that Joan Harper, representative of Wesley Hospital made a donation to the Children's Quilt group. Anne Esteve's friend from Hawaii sent a donation of 70 pounds of fabric. Betty said that 13 quilts had been turned in at the meeting, and she had 14 tops ready to quilt.

Linda Bastin and others who attended the Boutique Group showed off the double pot holders they made at the last meeting. At the next meeting they will make notebook covers which will require 2 LONG fat quarters of coordinating fabric and maybe some decorative ribbon trim. She invited everyone to bring a lunch and join them.

Betty Bingham reported 127 pillows had been turned in. That is 69 for Forrest General Hospital, 30 for the Collins hospital, and 28 for Wesley.

Geraldine Simmons reported that she had received 15 walker totes and 11 catheter bag covers. If anyone has upholstery weight fabric they have no use for, her

group would be happy to take it off your hands. It works very well for walker totes and catheter bag covers.

Wanda Wallace announced that over 200 raffle tickets had been sold at the February MQA Gathering.

The program for the March 19th meeting will be Quick Quilts by Marietta Johnson.

GULF STATES QUILTING ASSOCIATION

15TH BIENNIAL QUILT SHOW

Friday March 21 and Saturday March 22

10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Northshore Harbor Center

Slidell, Louisiana

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY - GEORGE COUNTY STYLE

MELON PATCH QUILT GUILD, 2014 QUILT SHOW

Saturday, April 12, 2014

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

George County Middle School

330 Church Street, Lucedale, Mississippi



Pine Belt Quilters Newsletter
1041 Poplar Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

MARCH REMINDERS

February Birthdays:

Angela Bryant	Jerlene Cornwall	Mary Daw
Versia Dennis	Elsie Harris	Mary S. Herrington
Mildred Jenkins	Lois Livingston	Mary Nell Magee
Carol McCutcheon-Appiah	Joyce O'Keefe	Barbara Peters

People with birthdays in March please remember to bring a small gift (quilt related) to be used as a door prize. It should be wrapped or bagged.

Group 3, Judy Byrd's group is in charge of refreshments for the March 19 meeting.

The March 13 boutique meeting is notebook covers taught by Linda Basden.

The March 26 workshop is Quick Quilts with Marietta Johnson.

The February fat quarter lottery is greens.

The program for the April 16 meeting is an Appliqué Quilts Trunk Show with Carolyn Kimble.

**The April meeting will be held at the Heritage Methodist Church,
3 Baracuda Drive, Hattiesburg. (I will have directions in the next newsletter.)**