STASH

GEE'S BEND QUILTS

China Pettway and Mary Ann Pettway from Gee's Bend

Barb Peters opened the meeting with a reminder that when most of us were children we were taught to "make do". She shared with us a blanket her grandmother made from wool scraps her grandfather brought home. The blanket was put together with yarn and was very utilitarian. It was valued for its warmth when Barb was a child, but it is valued now because of who made it. Barb wanted to remind us that we as individuals are not valued because we are perfect or because we are beautiful but because of who made us. Then she led us in prayer.

Martha Ginn introduced us to Mary Ann Pettway and China Pettway of Gee's Bend. Both ladies were taught to quilt by their mothers. Gee's Bend is an isolated, rural black community just southeast of Selma, Alabama.

(It's a drive of 45 minutes to an hour.) It is named after Joseph Gee who established a cotton plantation in the area in 1816. One in three of Gee's Bend's 700 residents is named Pettway, after slave owner Mark H. Pettway who bought the land in 1845. Mary Ann told us that she and China are related "somewhere way back down the road."

Mary Ann is one of twelve children. She is a member of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir, and became interested in the Gee's Bend Quilts Collective when she heard quilters in the choir talking about their exhibition trips and meeting new people. Quilting has allowed her to go places she never dreamed she would go. She is now manager of the Gee's Bend Quilts Collective. There are currently about 15-20 members who are

still actively producing quilts. Some make their own tops and get together with others to quilt them. Others do both the piecing and quilting on their pieces.

China Pettway is one of ten children and is one of Gee's Bend's leading gospel singers. She told us about the hardships and the pleasures of growing up poor in rural Alabama. When she was a child, quilts were made to put on beds or to hang on walls to keep the cold out. Both ladies are appreciative of what they have now.

Flower Pops, friendship block

Martha gave us an impromptu display of quilts she was returning to members who displayed their works at the Tasha Tudor Exhibit at the Oddfellows Gallery. She also showed some samples of quilts she made using a free-form method of piecing. Martha will be teaching this method at the January workshop.

Betty and Joe Bingham reported they had received 15 pillows, 17 blankets, 18 scent pads. Kaye Christensen reported they had received 22 walker totes and six catheter bag covers. Mary Nell Magee

Mary Ann and China brought many small quilts to show us and to sell. It was interesting to hear the names they had for some of their quilts, Lazy Gal (Amish Bars), Housetop (Log Cabin), Half Housetop (Offset Log Cabin) and Pig in the Pen(Bow Tie.) Mary Ann said she couldn't bring her big quilts because she had to package them up to send to the Smithsonian.

During the program China and Mary Ann sang the inspirational "Give Me My Flowers," the traditional spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," an unexpected pleasure.

Dianne McLendon has been the keeper of a list of New Year's Resolutions made by PBQ members in January of 2015 and she questioned everyone on their results. It was interesting to see who had accomplished their goals through the year. She also introduced us to the next friendship block. This one, called Flower Pops, is machine appliqued. (See photo above.) Dianne reminded us that our Shapely Challenge quilts will be revealed at the March meeting.

Martha Ginn reported that early work for the quilt show is ongoing. Much of the work so far involves the contract with the convention center. **You should note that the cost of entering a quilt has increased. However, there will be a $3.00 discount for quilts entered early. That is a $1.00 saving over past entry fees.** Kaye Christensen has agreed to handle ticket sales. We still need a volunteer to do a hanging plan. The week of the show, we will need help in many areas. Mark your calendars and plan to help.

reported they had received 10 children's quilts and reminded us that she had kits for members to take home to quilt and bind.

The February 10 PBQ program will be Pattern Drafting by Linda Flanders. Linda will also teach pattern drafting at the February 24 workshop.

There was no boutique meeting in January. The project for the February 4 meeting (in case you receive this newsletter before that date) will be an Ironing Tote/Pressing pad. Mary Nell Magee will be teaching in the choral hall. Remember, make one for yourself and one to sell in the boutique. You can find a supply list on the website under Guild Activities.

Judy Byrd is the new courtesy chair. Please let her know of illnesses or special needs within the guild. Her phone number is 601-784-3049.

Pine Belt Quilters Newsletter
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February Reminders

February Birthdays:

Linda Flanders	Carmen White	Ann Burkhalter
Carol Flathers	Ellen Gill	Lois Dedeaux
Martha Beal	Ann Esteve	Ollie Jean Lane
Martha Slaid	Betty Reid	Peggy Gable
Nell Miller	Vivian Plummer	Barbara McGowen
Betty Bingham	Judy Cagle	

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

The February 10 program is "Pattern Drafting" with Linda Flanders.

The February 24 Workshop is "Pattern Drafting" with Linda Flanders.

The color for the February's fat quarter lottery is reds.

The next Children's Quilts meeting is March 2.

Have you renewed your PBQ membership?