

LAMQG General Membership Meeting 10/12/20

Greg welcomed visitors: from LBMQG, Bay Area, the Valley.

Mary Fons

“Quilts on the Underground Railroad: Facts, Fictions, and What It All Means”

Editor of Quiltfolk magazine; Issue 16 is first themed issue, “Family”

Interested in “the life of quilts in popular culture”

Underground Railroad quilt code is controversial, polarizing, contested topic

1831-63: active dates of Underground Railroad; helped fugitive slaves escape the South; network of people and places who helped others escape chattel slavery”

The Quilt Code:

Game used it in schools to teach about Underground Railroad; guilds make quilts to help celebrate it; plays + lectures describe it

Hidden in Plain View (1999), Tobin and Dobard: argued that quilts were used to help people escape; carried messages in their construction

Tobin met Ozella Williams at market in Charleston, SC, who told her about the code

Monkey wrench turns wagon wheel to Canada . . . I.e. A variety of traditional patterns worked together as a coded map; book purported to have verified this oral “history”

Immediate critiques from AfAm historians; authors later claimed it was partly fictionalized

Many of the blocks don’t show up in American quilts until much later

No one else corroborated Ozella’s story

And yet, the idea and response was a cultural phenomenon; people grabbed onto the story

Can’t prove but also can’t disprove it

Lauren Horton published essay in *Western Folklore* (refereed academic journal) in 2017 on the date itself: argued that whether the story is true or not is not the most interesting thing about quilt code; instead, what the debate tells us about our current culture and its values is the important thing; that it tells us about the relationship between facts and beliefs at this moment in history

Sanford Biggers: artist who uses quilts in his art; his recent book *Code Switch*

advances the quilt code theory, crucial to understanding his art

Quilt Code appeals to our valuing of intelligence, cunning, unity, freedom

Membership Meeting

Jacque Gering doing 3-hour class Dec. 5, how to quilt your project: “Where to Go Next”

LAMQG polled the membership about moving Nov. meeting to the Friday evening of retreat (Nov. 13, 7:30pm). The motion carried (89% in favor).

Miriam's House expects 10 moms and 15 kids. Ann Howley needs two more mom quilts (twin size). Several members indicated they have some done and/or in progress. They have a big back yard, so we may be able to give the quilts ourselves on Christmas Eve. We are also invited to be on Zoom meeting tomorrow to plan.

Zoom meeting with Miriam's House:

All are welcome

Tues 10/13/20 11 am

Meeting ID: 858 2937 2452

Passcode: 859550

Ann Richardson showed the label on Edna's quilt. She is contacting Edna's daughter to arrange delivery.

Maureen and Greg spoke about dues (\$65, Paypal, Venmo; Zelle soon). Members experiencing financial difficulties should let a board member know. Board can help with the financial burden.

Paypal: treasurer@lamqg.org

Zelle: treasurer@lamqg.org

Venmo: @lamqgtreasurer

Betty spoke about our virtual Retreat and the In Isolation Together project. Volunteers can e-mail Betty at programs@lamqg.org. Sign-ups for swag bag should happen soon: only 25 bags available. Yvonne gave out sign-up link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UHznINs3CFt4wY-YP4pH0HqRY1wIWGQQhmiSj0RTkcc/edit>

Show and Tell: more fabulous examples from our members!

The meeting ended with giveaways to celebrate our twelfth anniversary. Thanks to all our donors!

Lisa C, Marjory, and Robin got Quiltfolk magazines

Liberty got a Quiltfolk puzzle

Karynn got a Ruby Star Society charm packs

Ann got a Treasure box

Rhonda got a Modern Plus Sign Quilts (book)

Liz G got the MQG tote

Mary Ella got an Oliso mini-iron

Jennifer N got Tess's quilting services gift card

Lavielle got an ironing and cutting mat with carrying case

Ann H got an Olive Case made with Tula Pink

Plus \$10 Quiltfolk gift cards