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Vickie Lord



Shattering the Glass

Agnes Northrop (1857–1953) was Tiffany Studios' leading designer of floral and landscape stained glass windows. In a time when women artists were often overlooked, she was one of the few publicly credited.

Inspiration: I'm drawn to Agnes Northrop's gift for turning rigid glass into fluid, luminous art. In a male-dominated field, she built a respected career and defined a signature style, supported by the skilled Tiffany Girls. Their collaboration shows how great art emerges from many hands, united by vision. For this quilt, I reimagined her landscape in fabric—jewel-tone textiles replacing glass, stitched lines recreating her design's structure. At its heart is a “shatter”—a moment where beauty fractures, just as she broke boundaries limiting women's artistry.



Vickie Lord

115

Melinda Rushing

2nd

Ode to Alice Walker

Alice Walker is a vital voice in American literature. As the first Black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction with *The Color Purple* (1982), she brought the struggles and resilience of Black women to the forefront. Her honesty and lyrical prose have inspired generations, expanding cultural conversations and affirming the transformative power of marginalized voices and literature.

Inspiration: In Celie's journey from silence to creative awakening, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* offered an enduring testament to art as survival. This quilt honors that legacy. Celie sewing embodies the moment her creativity becomes liberation, a truth that resonates for me as a quilter. Sewing is more than craft; it is healing, storytelling, and resistance stitched together. Though often banned for confronting sexual abuse, Walker's novel remains a beacon of truth. This quilt celebrates her courage and affirms the power of stories to transform lives.



139

Margaret Williams



Rosalynn Carter

Former First Lady of the United States and co-founder of the Carter Center, Rosalynn Carter was devoted to improving the quality of life for people around the world. She worked as an advocate for mental health, early childhood immunization, human rights, and conflict resolution. She founded the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers which promotes the mental health and wellbeing of family caregivers. As an environmentalist, she established the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail to expand pollinator habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Inspiration: Rosalynn Carter has always been an inspiration to me personally. Her kindness and concern for other people, regardless of their race or nationality, was a living example of her Christian faith. Her 77-year marriage to Jimmy Carter made them the longest-married presidential couple in U.S. history. It was a great love story. The log cabin blocks in the background of this quilt honor their work with Habitat For Humanity.



156

Gail Scogin



The Power of One Voice

Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* (1962) launched the modern environmental movement and led to the establishment of Earth Day in 1970. As a biologist working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she understood the devastating impact from the widespread use of pesticides, especially DDT. With poetic language, she warned that if we did not change direction, we could one day encounter spring without birdsong.

Inspiration : When I was in sixth grade, at a time when few women had careers in science, my favorite teacher introduced me to Rachel Carson's most famous book, *Silent Spring*. That moment—still a vivid memory for me after more than 50 years—inspired my own interest and subsequent career in environmental science.



"The Power of One Voice" is also the title of a 2015 film on the life of Rachel Carson, directed by Mark Dixon

157 Steve Agnello

250 Years of Matriotism

My inspiration for this quilt was to highlight the women chosen by our members to represent the spirit of Matriotism over the 250 years of America's history. As I researched these women's contributions, a pattern emerged. Throughout our history, Patriotism has inadvertently resulted in wars, oppression, inequality and other dark periods. Women have been motivated to respond to the needs of society through action.

Inspiration: "Matriotism is the opposite of patriotism...not to destroy it, but to be a yin to its yang, and balance out its militarism." - Cindy Sheehan. In my quilt, I have identified these women by their type of contribution and chartered them across our history. I have attempted to illustrate this yin and yang relationship. Through this project, I came to understand that Matriotism, above all, is a commitment to truth, and to celebrate the dignity of all life. And while our focus is on women, it is worth noting that men can and have acted in the spirit of Matriotism. One might argue, we need the spirit of Matriotism now more than ever.



102 Bobette Robinson

Tribute to Dolly

Dolly Rebecca Parton is a truly modern woman. She is a singer, author, philanthropist, actress, musician, songwriter and an American icon .

Inspiration: I have always admired Dolly for accomplishing whatever she sets her mind to. She is always smiling, kind, positive and considerate. I truly look forward to what she decides to do next!!



103 Emilu Bailes

1916 Graduate from Grady School of Nursing

My grandmother (1893 – 1979) was born in Georgia and graduated from Grady School of Nursing in 1916. She married, served as a nurse during World War I and during the last war was head of the Jefferson County Civilian Defense Volunteer Office. In December 1964, she was cited not only for her 18 years of service to the nurses' association, but also for outstanding community service.

Inspiration: I was raised in a traditional southern family where women did not work. Facing divorce in the mid 1980's I needed income to help support my three children. I found a sales job. Soon thereafter, I was hired by Abbott Laboratories as a Hospital Rep. That led me to learn about personal leadership, the importance of golfing to many MDs, and how science led pharmaceutical companies to appropriate physical treatments. The personal success of my grandmother, who I was named after, guided me!



104

Mary Ellen Von Holt

Rosie the Riveter and 13 original colonies

Rosie became a symbol of female strength, empowerment and resilience, reflecting the critical role women played on the home front during the war.

Inspiration: Rosie is a cultural icon in the US who represents the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II. Normal Rockwell immortalized her and others like her in the iconic painting he did (shown on my quilt) in May 1943 for the cover of the Saturday Evening Post, The artwork encouraged women to join the workforce and support the war effort. My father was in the Air Force during World War II and probably flew one of the planes that Rosie's Riveter and others built. Thirteen hand pieced stars with the initials of the original 13 colonies surround the photo transfer panels.



105 Susan Bertrand

Suffragettes

I have chosen to honor the countless women who worked tirelessly to get women the right to vote. Thank you for your bravery and foresight! I am forever humbled by your courage, dedication and determination.

Inspiration: I was inspired to honor the Suffragettes because their determination and sacrifice changed the course of history for women.



Thanks to our Foremothers

Thanks to our foremothers (and some forefathers) who fought for women's equalities and freedoms.

Inspiration: I was told you are perfect for the job except you are a woman. I was denied a credit card till my unemployed husband agreed to co-sign. I was not allowed to play basketball in high school because the governor thought girls might get hurt. You better believe that I am grateful to the women who came before and after me who fought so hard for the next generation of women to be free and equal. Read about these women and events in the writeups to the right. These freedoms are grouped according to Norman Rockwell's iconic series The Four Freedoms (1943). See panel depicting these on the back.



107 Frances Fister

Glory, Hallelujah!

Julia Ward Howe wrote the words to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in 1862 after a visit to Union Army Camps during the Civil War and hearing them sing "John Brown's Body". After hearing the soldiers sing, Howe was inspired to write new lyrics to the tune, creating a song that would better reflect the Union cause and its fight against slavery. The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" remains a powerful symbol of American patriotism continuing to be sung in schools, churches and patriotic events.

Inspiration: The Civil War was a terrible time for our country, and I was inspired by her dedication and support of the Union Army. Using her writing talent, she wrote new lyrics to a marching song with the aim of creating a pro-union, anti-slavery anthem and it soon replaced the old one.



108

Kathleen Hollingsworth

LTC. Charity Adams Earley

This quilt is dedicated to Charity Adams Earley and the 6888th Postal Delivery Battalion. Ms. Early was the first African-American woman to be an officer in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. The 6888th was the only unit of African American women to serve overseas during World War II. They delivered over 17 million letters in 90 days to our soldiers during World War II in an extraordinary effort to raise moral. The U.S. House of Representatives and President Biden awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, our nations highest honor, to the women of the 6888th.

Inspiration: After seeing the Tyler Perry movie "The 6888th" I was so moved by the story that I chose to make this quilt to honor LTC Charity Adams Earley and her 6888th Postal Delivery Battalion.



109

Ben M Hollingsworth

Honoring Christa McAuliffe

With millions of students in classrooms across the country watching, on that fateful day, they witnessed the tragic explosion of the Challenger shortly after the launch. Teacher Christa McAuliffe gave her life to fulfill her desire to gain knowledge that would benefit her students and those of other educators. As a Teacher in Space she was on board the Challenger spaceship as it was launched into space that January morning. The flight of the Challenger quickly met a fatal end for McAuliffe and the six others on board just 72 seconds after launch.

Inspiration: As a former teacher I can identify with Christa McAuliffe for being a great role model and inspiration to her students. Since giving her life to educate and inspire her students Christa, to me, was the model teacher.



One Woman Can Make a Difference

In 1906, a widow with 2 young sons, Lettie Pate Whitehead took over the Whitehead Holding Company, overseeing operations of the Coca Cola Bottling Company in the southeast. Under her leadership, the company thrived, at a time when most believed a woman's place was in the home. She later became one of the first women to sit on the board of a major American company (Coca Cola Company) in 1934. Her family has donated over \$5 Billion to date to charitable causes focused on women and girls, education, medical initiatives and the arts.

Inspiration: Like so many inspirational women, Lettie Pate faced adversity head on. Her wealth didn't shield her from tragedy. She lived through the deaths of both sons and two husbands, reflected in the quilt by the four cardinals watching over her. Yet she persevered and found purpose and joy by helping others. Her quote, stitched in the quilt, celebrates matriotism at its best. The flowering dogwoods represent her home state, Virginia. Note the Coca Cola bottles framing her portrait, a nod to her business success.



Dissent in Stitches - a quilted tribute to RBG

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933–2020) was an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1993 until her death. A pioneering lawyer, she co-founded the Women's Rights Project at the ACLU and successfully argued landmark cases before the Court that advanced gender equality. Appointed by President Bill Clinton, she became the second woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court. Known for her sharp legal mind, powerful dissents, and unwavering commitment to justice, Ginsburg championed equal rights, civil liberties, and fairness under the law.

Inspiration: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her unwavering commitment to justice inspired this quilt. What moved me most was her quiet strength — the way she chose her words carefully, built her arguments with precision, and changed the world not with noise, but with steadfast clarity. In her, I see an example of how intellect and persistence can be a form of love for one's country. Her dissents were calls to imagine a more equal nation. That spirit of resilience and hope is stitched into this quilt. Each fabric piece reflects the idea that progress is patchwork — made slowly, with care, by many hands working toward the same vision.



112 Cherie Tatro

The Gardens at Vallkill

Eleanor Roosevelt, devoted wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt and loving mother of their six children, was an American diplomat, activist, and First Lady who greatly expanded that role and became a powerful advocate for human rights and racial equality. She was a delegate to the UN. Under JFK, she chaired his commission investigating gender discrimination which led to the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

Inspiration: Eleanor Roosevelt influenced my life since I was a child. Growing up in Albany where she had lived as New York's first Lady, the stories of her impact on individuals were everywhere. Seeing her on TV as the US delegate to the UN talking about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I thought how amazing that she, a woman, could accomplish that. It changed my view of what I could do with my life forever. Her favorite place in the world was her cottage called Vallkill, especially her gardens. This quilt is made with a block called Eleanor's favorite and uses fabric with the flowers she loved.



113

Leigh Ann Kloefkorn

The Long Journey West

The 19th-century pioneering women were crucial to the settlement of the Westward Expansion. They were courageous, strong of spirit, resilient, and brave. They left everything familiar, arriving to new overwhelming challenges. Amazing women, indeed!

Inspiration: My love of history and antique quilts, the “1883” series, a road trip tracing parts of the Oregon Trail, and the story of my grandfather’s journey in 1890 at age 11 with his family’s wagon to homestead new land served as inspiration. These women took special quilts given to them as remembrances of their former homes. Life was difficult on the trip and remained so at their destination. Yet, they kept making quilts, passing on quilt making to the generations that followed. Unnamed 19th-century quilters hand and machine pieced these blocks; I sewed the patchwork. Fabrics range from approximately 1850 to 1890.



114 Liz Laxson

Use it up, Wear it out, Make it do, or Do without

The St. Michael Archangel Quilters drew our inspiration from our mothers who survived the depression by using it up, wearing it out, making it do, or doing without. We admire their resourcefulness and ability to make something beautiful from scraps. We each used our scraps to make a very traditional Nine Patch quilt and quilted it with a traditional Baptist fan pattern. The back is one big Nine Patch. We think these women, our mothers, are the best representation of Matriotism.

Inspiration: Our mothers did not have a lot, but they used their scraps to make a beautiful quilt to show their love for their families and providing them warmth. What mother wouldn't do all she could to make sure her family was loved and warm?



116

Nancy Hutchison

This I Accomplish

Harriet Powers (1837-1910) was born into slavery and lived most of her life near Athens, GA. Two of her amazing applique quilts are well known today, "The Bible Quilt" (Smithsonian) and the "Pictorial Quilt" (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston). Both quilts have blocks depicting the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, with a Dove signifying the Holy Spirit above. "This I Accomplish" is a quote by Mrs Powers describing her quilts. Harriett included cards explaining the Biblical references to the blocks. The title also refers to the book by Kyra Hicks of the same name.

Inspiration: My quilt is based on these blocks by Harriet Powers. It includes a rounded corner as in the original Bible Quilt, and hand dyed pink fabric for the background. She utilized symbolism in both quilts, which makes them even more interesting. I was fortunate to view the Bible Quilt in person in Atlanta and was captivated by the raw emotion.



117

Kathleen Ciarochi

Lady Liberty

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France. It was to commemorate the centennial of the U.S independence. After it's dedication, the statue became an icon of freedom and a welcoming symbol to immigrants arriving by sea.

Inspiration: As a young girl growing up on Long Island, my grandfather would take me to see the statue. At the time, you could climb to the top and see great views of NYC. My grandfather was an immigrant from Germany. It is one of my fondest childhood memories..



118

Ellen Apte

How the Cookie Crumbled

Ruth Wakefield invented the Toll House chocolate chip cookie.

Inspiration: Ruth Wakefield is to be admired for her gracious hospitality and running the Toll House Inn which she grew to seat 1000 people by her retirement. In doing so, she invented the Toll House chocolate chip cookie for which she generously gave the recipe to anyone who asked. She even gave the recipe to the Nestle Company and it remains on their chocolate chip package today .



119 Andrea Barrett

Swan Song for a Star: Alma Thomas Meets James Webb

Born in Columbus, GA in 1891, Alma Woodsey Thomas is now recognized as a major American painter of the 20th century. She was the first African-American woman with work in the White House's permanent art collection. Her painting "Resurrection" was acquired in 2015. Thomas moved to Washington, D.C with her family as a teenager after the Atlanta Race Massacre of 1906, seeking more security and better educational opportunities for girls. In 1924 she became Howard University's first fine arts graduate and then began her 35-year teaching career.

Inspiration: Thomas is known for "exuberant", colorful, abstract paintings; her two most frequent subjects were nature and human exploration of space! Her paintings are characterized by "broken brushwork" on fields of color or in rings of concentric circles. The images from the James Webb telescope are as colorful and abstract as her paintings so I drew inspiration from a 2023 image to create a quilt in her signature style of concentric rings of color.



120 Donna Stanley

Hello, Dolly!

With a career that spans over 60 years, Dolly Parton has touched the lives of many. Although she is best known as a singer and songwriter, she is much more than that. As a philanthropist, she pours herself into programs that are dear to her heart. Dolly is a true American treasure.

Inspiration: I chose Dolly Parton for this challenge because she is an inspiration to me. She is a true legend. As an elementary librarian, her program *Imagination Library*, where a picture book is put into the hands of young children, is dear to my heart.



121 JoEllen Holmes

Jane Addams, American Social Activist

Laura Jane Addams was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. Her life's work was to promote peace and justice to her community and her nation. In 1889, she co founded the Hull House, which was a settlement house that offered safe housing and services to immigrants. She championed many causes and reforms, which included the first juvenile court, advocated successfully for new labor laws for children and rights for women to vote. She was a friend of Ida B. Wells and was a member of the first board for the NAACP.

Inspiration: She is known to many as the mother of Social Work and started the first School of Social Work at the University of Chicago. The creator of this quilt is a life long Social Worker and honors Jane Addams with this quilt.



122

Sally Joerger

Sacagawea

Sacajawea helped guide Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery through the western lands of the Louisiana Purchase. She foraged for and helped prepare food, helped tend ill corps members, and accompanied Clark walking along the rivers they navigated to lighten the load the boats carried. When the group neared Shoshone country, she recognized landmarks, guided them along the best passages, and interpreted when the Corps bargained for horses needed to continue their journey.

Inspiration: I chose Sacagawea as an atypical 'American' woman who helped shape the United States. At the time she was not even considered an 'American', was barely mentioned in Lewis and Clark's journals and was not compensated for her contributions to their work. Some historical facts about her life are agreed on, but myth and legend are part of our understanding. The designs on this quilt were adapted from moccasin beadwork of the Shoshone, a native American tribe.



123 Chris Price

Love is like a Butterfly

Dolly Parton is a great entertainer but also a smart businesswoman. She has been recognized for her giving spirit to people in need around the country. She is known for creating "Dollywood" in TN. She also created the "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library" which donates free books to fight literacy in honor of her father. In 2004, the Library of Congress presented her with the "Living Legend" award.

Inspiration: Through Dolly's entertainment career, she has been able to spread her spirit of giving and positive attitude around the world.



124 Louise Clynes

Julia's Kitchen

Julia Child popularized gourmet cooking in America, introducing French cuisine through her accessible cookbooks and groundbreaking television show. She inspired a generation to experiment with fresh ingredients and home cooking. Julia challenged the notion of convenience foods and demystified complex recipes. She championed the joy of cooking as an art and a science. Her legacy continues to influence trends today, including support for seasonal produce, and the farm-to-table movement.

Inspiration: I wanted to honor Julia Child when I read about her fascinating career with the OSS (precursor to the CIA), her travels around the world and her many awards and honors. When Julia moved from Massachusetts to a retirement center in California, she donated her kitchen to The Smithsonian Institution, where it is on display today. My quilt is inspired by the iconic blue pegboard that covered her kitchen wall, arranged with her French copper pots and cast-iron pans.



MOTHERS

When considering women who have influenced our nation in the past 250 years, it was nearly impossible to select just one. However, there is one woman essential to every other famous and not-so-famous woman. This is their MOTHER. For better or worse, we ALL have one. My entry is created on a portion of my own grandMOTHER's 100 year old hand made quilt and it features a 200 year old poem, "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle" by William Ross Wallace. Also embroidered are 13 stars reflecting our nation's flag as it was 250 years ago. May God truly bless all our MOTHERS!

Inspiration: It was simply focusing on my own MOTHER and grandmother and realizing their influence on my own life.



Homage to Pioneer Women

The pioneer women across America raised families by sewing, cooking, educating and building homes in very harsh conditions. History accounts have been written by men and about men so these women have gone unnamed and unheralded.

Inspiration: The pioneer woman in America had to be strong and resourceful. She often had no choice but to struggle through each day with little access to daily needs let alone amenities we now take for granted. When I design in my fully-stocked sewing environment, I wonder if I could have survived on a prairie in Kansas like my grandmothers? I hope so, but my trials today cannot compare to those the pioneer women endured. When I was a new quilter, I visited the Henry Ford Museum and saw the Susan McCord quilt exhibit. Her Vines quilt has never left my mind as I travel through my quilting journey.



127 joella molway

The First American Woman

I chose 24 American women who excelled in their various fields rather than focus on one specific woman. Each of these women accomplished something no other American woman had previously done.

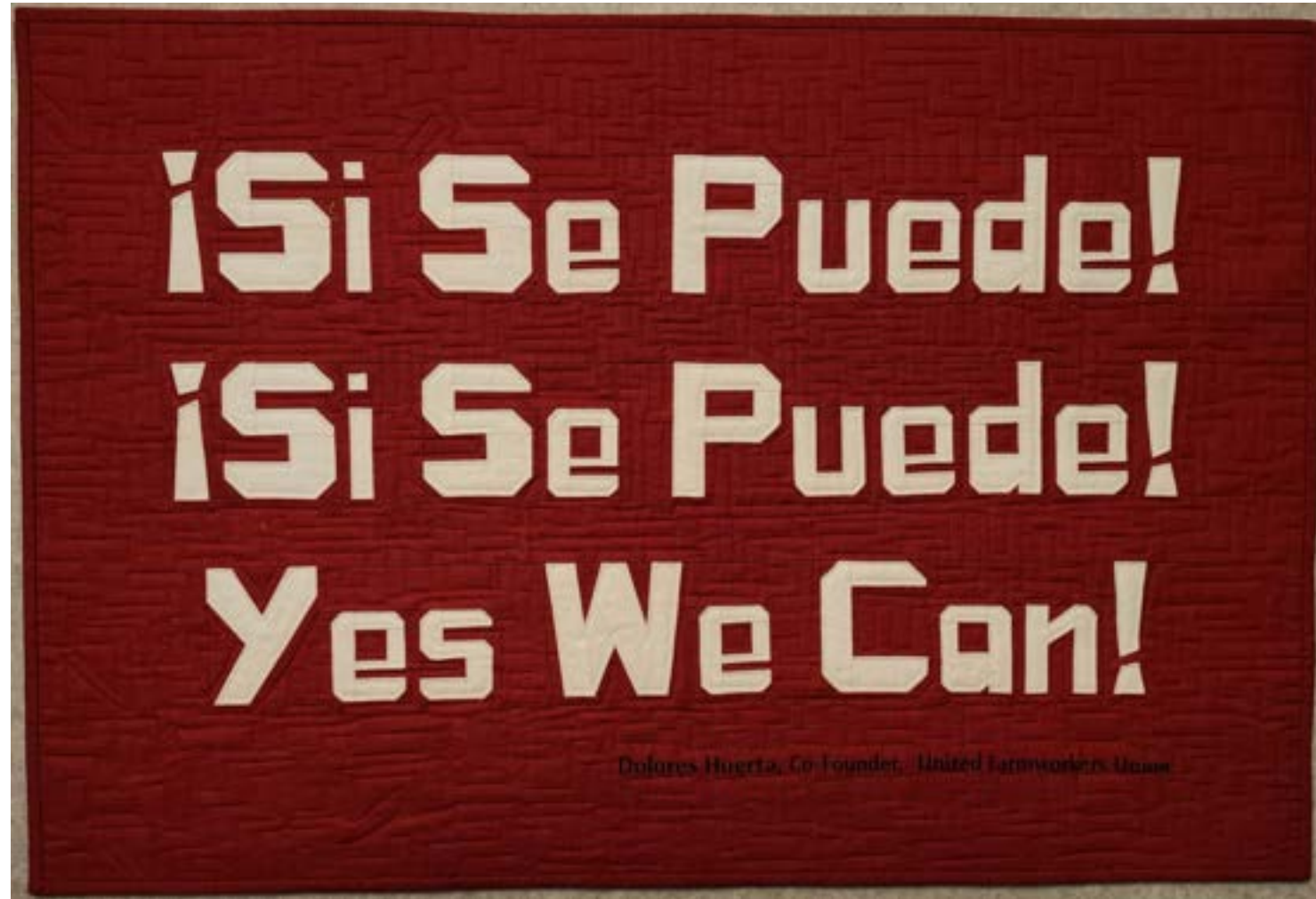
Inspiration: I started with a list of approximately 30 women. The list was narrowed down as I found fabric which reflected the field in which she excelled. Each block has one thing in common. Can you find it? (Hint: It's not the picture or the embroidery.) Additionally, the foundation fabric for the quilt is special as it belonged to my grandmother.



Words Matter

Dolores Huerta, born in 1930, is a champion of labor rights and women's rights since the 1960s. Perhaps she is most known for co-founding the United Farm Workers union, along with Cesar Chavez. The UFW grape boycott brought growers to the bargaining table and improved conditions for farm workers across the country. During the boycott, in a difficult time, Ms. Huerta coined the phrase "Si, Se Puede", reflecting the determination of the movement to bring about change. Ms. Huerta also worked tirelessly for women's rights.

Inspiration: Words DO matter! This phrase encourages people everywhere to keep working for social justice, human rights and economic fairness. Ms. Huerta's work provides a template for the organizing needed today. She survived the pressure-filled (male-dominated) atmosphere of the labor movement and rose above petty struggles to join forces with women's groups, candidates for office, and public officials. At 93, Ms. Huerta continues her fight to make life better for others.



'Si Se Puede' used with permission of the United Farm Workers

Honoring the Six Triple Eight

Led by Major Charity Adams, The Six Triple Eight (6888) Postal Battalion, is the story of the only all-Black, all female unit of the Women's Army Corps to serve overseas during WWII. Their mission was to clear a 2 year mail backlog that had caused the low morale of the American troops. Their motto "No Mail, Low Morale" served to remind them of their mission regarding the war effort. In spite of harsh conditions, the 6888th Battalion is credited with designing an effective way to deliver mail to millions of American personnel. They served in both Birmingham, England and Rouen, France and found success in both locations. They received the Congressional Medal in 2022 decades after serving.

Inspiration: We wanted to highlight the women of the Triple Six Eight because they are trailblazers. They rose above the limitations placed upon women in the Armed Services during their time period and remain role models for all of us today through their Courage, Honor, Legacy and Patriotism.



130

Linda Bailey

America the Beautiful

Lady Bird Johnson beautified America with her leadership of environmental projects. As First Lady from 1963 to 1969 she initiated the Highway Beautification Act. Her efforts to promote urban beautification laid the groundwork for future environmental legislation and initiatives. She also advocated for key social issues, including the "war on poverty", the Head Start Program, and women's rights. Her accolades include the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977.

Inspiration: I had the privilege of meeting Lady Bird Johnson several times, including trips to the LBJ Ranch, as I assisted with events leading up to the publication of her book "A White House Diary". Her book focused on environmental and beautification projects. She encouraged integrating natural beauty into urban planning. The very visual nature of her environmental projects means that there are hillsides covered in wildflowers throughout our country, and I tried to capture that beauty in a quilt.



I dream all people is my family

Lois Curtis was born with an intellectual disability, and her family placed her in an institution at age eight. She lived there until at the age of 22 she sued Georgia for the right to live in the community and won. The state appealed to the Supreme Court, and she won again. Lois' courage and vision resulted in policy changes in Georgia and across the country to assure that everyone, regardless of disability, would be supported in living in the community. At age 24 Lois realized her dream to have her own apartment, to pursue being an artist and to enjoy lots of friends while fiercely advocating for disability rights.

Inspiration: Lois was fiercely outspoken regarding disability rights. Her life demonstrated that being labeled with an intellectual disability does not show the great ability that is present in every person. She did not allow the state policy to keep her confined to an institution. What is now known as the Olmstead Decision established the civil right of everyone regardless of disability to live in the community. It is a constitutional right. Thank you Lois for creating a path for all of us to live together.



Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Ross, c. 1822 –1913) was an American abolitionist and social activist. After escaping slavery, Tubman made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including her family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. The blocks in this sampler quilt are part of a larger piece design by Eleanor Burns and Sue Bouchard. Each quilt block, representing secret messages, were used to aid “travelers” on the underground railroad.

Inspiration: While slavery and the resulting civil war was one of the darkest periods in the US, I respect the bravery of Harriett Tubman and others like her for their efforts in saving many people from the atrocities of slavery. A few years ago I stumbled upon *The Underground Railroad Sampler* book, by Eleanor Burns and Sue Bouchard. A quilt that I made from this book was recently purchased and used as a prop for the BET+ tv series, *Diarra From Detroit*. The producers asked for a few additional custom blocks including the Harriet Tubman block featured in this quilt.



Quilt Liberty

Freddy Moran and Gwen Marston represent a special kind of creative freedom, and they influenced the way we design and construct quilts today. Gwen is renowned for her liberated, free-pieced designs, and Freddy is heralded for her eccentric use of color ("10 colors don't work, 100 do"). Together they enlightened and energized a whole generation of quilters. They collaborated on two books, toured, taught, lectured, and presented gallery and museum shows.

Inspiration: Freddy Moran and Gwen Marston collaborated to create a liberated way of making quilts that they call The Parts Department. They take traditional quilt blocks and give them new life by liberating shapes and colors. For example, "red is a neutral, and black and white rocks". Quilters are encouraged to make as many blocks as possible and then combine them with joy and abandon. The process is exhilarating.



Madame Secretary

After witnessing the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in 1911, Frances Perkins became a leader in improving fire safety and unsafe working conditions under NY governors Al Smith and Franklin Roosevelt. Later President-elect Roosevelt asked her to serve as the Secretary of Labor. As the first female and longest serving Cabinet Secretary, Perkins became the driving force behind the New Deal, employing over a million people during the Depression and providing a basic social safety net and safer working conditions.

Inspiration: Frances Perkins' vision of a society that protects and improves the lives of the most vulnerable Americans became reality with the passage of legislation that has lasted for decades. The Social Security Act is 80 years old this year, protecting senior citizens, the disabled, homeless, abandoned and neglected children, improving maternal and child health and establishing public health services.



Whispering Coral

Dr. Sarah Davies, an Associate Professor of Biology at Boston University, focuses on understanding the health, resilience, and adaptability of coral reefs in the face of global climate change. By examining both coral and their symbiotic algae, Dr. Davies contributes valuable insights into coral adaptation and potential strategies for reef restoration. Her work supports global efforts to protect and restore these vital ecosystems.

Inspiration: Whispering Coral was born out of a deep concern for the fragile beauty of our oceans and the quiet crisis unfolding beneath the surface. Coral reefs—once vibrant ecosystems teeming with life—are now fading, struggling under the weight of environmental stress, warming seas, and human impact. This textile piece is a visual metaphor. At its center, I celebrate the vitality of healthy coral: colorful and alive. In contrast, the edges of the quilt begin to fade, representing the fragility and loss now witnessed in our reefs. These border elements are not just design—they are a plea. A whisper. A call for awareness and action.



Environmentalist, Writer, Professor

Janisse Ray is an environmental activist, writer and professor. She was born in Baxley, GA in 1962. Her book “The Ecology of a Cracker Childhood” calls attention to the ecology of the vanishing longleaf pine forests that were once abundant throughout the South. As an environmental activist, she has campaigned on behalf of the Altamaha River and is a contributor to Audubon and NPR’s Living on Earth. She has received numerous writing awards. Her professorships and seminars teach others how to spread their stories.

Inspiration: I am inspired by her love of the natural world and her dedication to its preservation. I am equally inspired by her journey: From a poor kid growing up in a junkyard to an ecologist, writer and college professor. Her journey embodies the American Dream, and her devotion to the environment exemplifies what is best in America.



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Alexa Morrison

A Coat of Many Colors

Dolly Parton is an award-winning country music singer, song writer, and actress. She is a successful businesswoman and co-owner of The Dollywood Company. Dolly has founded several philanthropic organizations which bring education and poverty relief to East Tennessee where she was raised.

Inspiration: Dolly Parton is rich, famous, and successful, yet she never forgot her roots or the community where she was raised. She continues to give back to her community and her country. My quilt was inspired by Dolly's song Coat of Many Colors which she wrote about a patchwork coat her mother made for her using rags that had been given to the family. Dolly was so proud to wear the coat to school; however, when she got there the other kids teased her. I thought this quilt was the perfect way to honor her accomplishments. Her music and movies have brought me so much happiness throughout my lifetime.



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Pamela Cobb

Luella Klein: Fertile Ground

Luella Klein-Colquitt (1924-2019) was an American OB-GYN, the first female department chair at Emory School of Medicine and the first female president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Her exuberant legacy is the result of tireless advocacy for equality in healthcare for adolescent, low-income, incarcerated, and LGBTQI+ women, women of color, women with disabilities, women with HIV, and other underserved populations.

Inspiration: I wanted to celebrate a woman who advocated and supported all types of women, particularly in the area of gynecological healthcare. Women's healthcare research is underfunded, and women are wildly underrepresented in clinical studies, often leading to needless suffering and dire outcomes. Dr. Klein used her knowledge and passion to bring awareness and support for a wide population of women in Georgia and beyond, helping many generations to come.

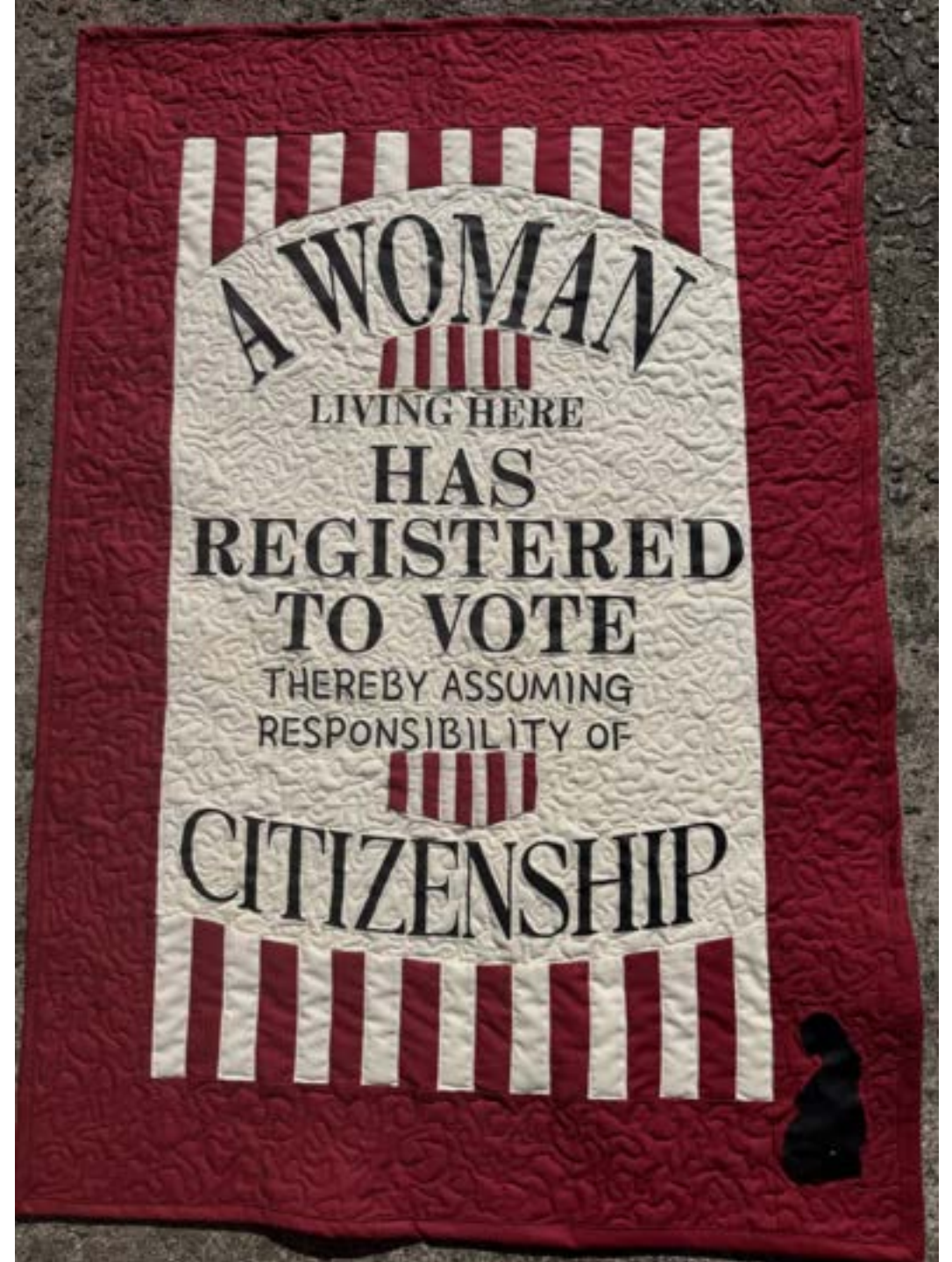


140 Ginger Heusinkveld

Thank you Grandmother!

I chose to honor the suffragettes who risked so much to fight for women's right to vote. From their courage, women have drawn strength to gain more rights and respect.

Inspiration: My grandmother was pregnant with my mother and marching with the suffragettes. It is now my responsibility to carry the flame of progress. My mother was recognized for having the longest unbroken streak of voting in Stone Mountain. I gratefully accept the challenge of speaking up when justice isn't being served. I am proud that my sons are picking up the torch.



Frances Perkins: Character and Conviction

Frances Perkins, Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor during all 12 years of his administration, is considered the architect of the New Deal. Frances is credited with formulating policies that shored up our economy during the Great Depression, and she framed many of the workers' rights we take for granted now, including Social Security, minimum wage, unemployment insurance, the 40-hour work week, and more. Frances Perkins devoted her life to improving working conditions for all Americans. She truly exemplifies one woman's ability to change the world.

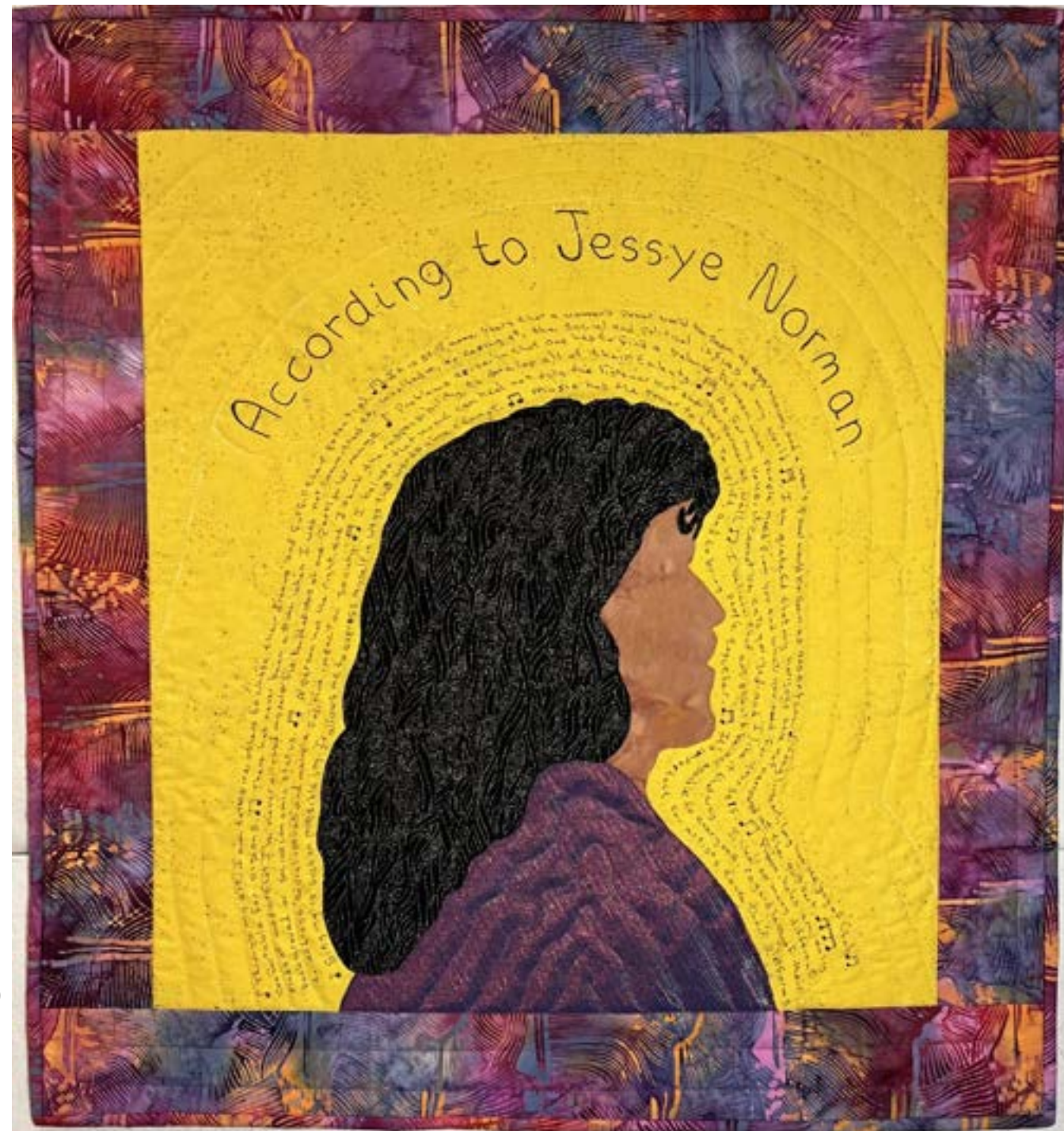
Inspiration: Frances Perkins is a role model for American women of every era, including me. We share the same New England roots, the same familial belief that America is a land of opportunity, and the same encouragement from fathers to dream big, study hard, work diligently, and stay faithful to ethical standards that would make our ancestors proud. Frances was brave, taking big risks to achieve her goals. She didn't have an easy life, but she never stopped believing in the pursuit of happiness not just for herself, but for every American.



According to Jessye Norman

Jessye Norman (1945 – 2019) was born in Augusta, Georgia. She became an opera singer, but also sang many other types of music such as gospel, jazz and R&B. Her voice could not be categorized. Her career began in Europe, due to discrimination in the USA. When she returned, she became an advocate for civil rights. She sang for two presidential inaugurations and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She received five Grammy Awards, the Kennedy Center Honor, and the National Medal of Arts. She also established the Jessye Norman School of the Arts in Augusta, GA, for disadvantaged youth. Quotes of Jessye Norman's are printed on the quilt.

Inspiration: I chose Jessye Norman because even though she preformed all over the world, she never forgot her roots in Georgia. By establishing the school for the arts in Augusta, GA, she gave many disadvantaged students the chance to study music. She also used her music platform to promote social justice. She was her own person and refused to be confined to one type of music.



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Ann Banes

Life Through A Lens - Dorothea Lange

Dorothea Lange's street style of photography began during the Great Depression with photos of bread lines and unemployed men wandering the streets of San Francisco. As her work gained recognition, the federal government hired Lange to document the dire economic conditions of migrant farm families fleeing the Dust Bowl and to identify areas where aid was needed the most urgently. Many people recall "The Migrant Mother" photo as her most iconic photo of this time. Lange's photos were filled with emotion and empathy while maintaining her subject's dignity, which is still emulated by photojournalists today.

Inspiration: Dorothea Lange was not intimidated working in a heavily male dominated field. She was more concerned with the purpose of her photography. Dorothea hoped her work would help to effect change for the better by raising awareness to issues that others may have been too far removed from to notice. Dorothea felt her severe limp resulting from childhood polio had influenced who she was as a photographer because it humbled her and allowed her to see people in a less judgmental way.



Lady Liberty

Lady Liberty is the oldest statue in the US, dedicated in 1886. The copper-clad statue, a gift to the United States from the people of France, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel.

Inspiration: The Statue of Liberty has always been an inspiration to me. I can imagine the excitement of immigrants from long ago glimpsing her from afar as their ship chugged into NY Harbor. Her torch held aloft lights the path to freedom and liberty. Her right hand holds a tablet depicting our laws of democracy. The points of her crown represent the seven continents and seas confirming the universal right to freedom. To me she is a sentinel of our shores depicting hope and balancing the foundation of law that makes our democracy work for all. Long may she stand. A 1.5-inch grid creates a pixelated pattern to depict the image if viewed about 20 feet away.



145

Lenée Sparks

Hope

The “Matriotism Challenge” enables me to honor my mother, Beverley Emerson. It was my mom who established a foundation of hope in me, hence the name of my quilt. As a young girl I would go to bed with a heart full of hope, anticipating wearing a garment that my mom lovingly stayed up late sewing just for me. By daybreak I was proudly donning the beautiful garment! Thanks Mom for believing in tomorrow! Because of your hope and belief, I too hope that something wonderful becomes of every stitch. 1 Corinthians 13:7 says love hopes all things. I love you Mom!

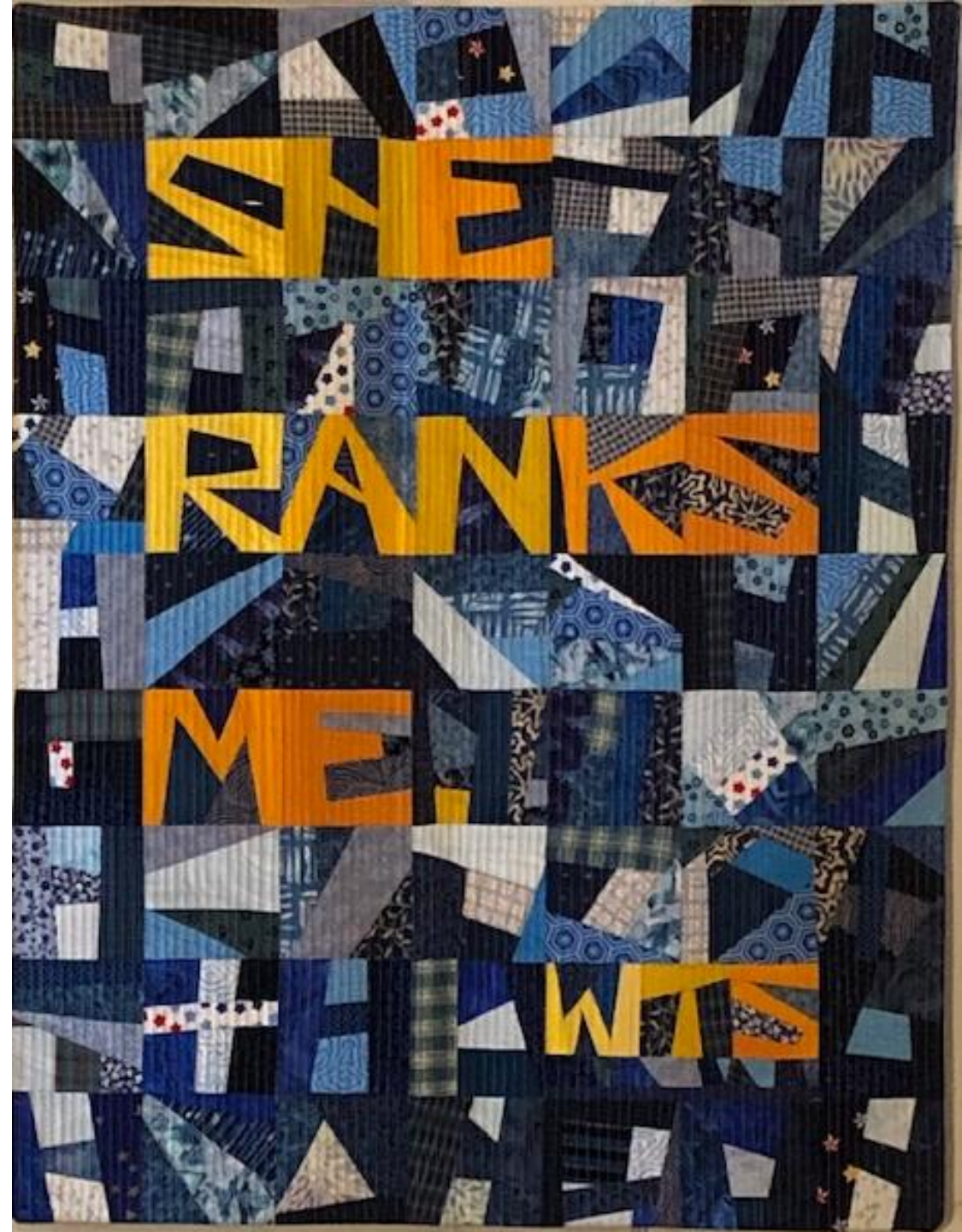
Inspiration: A quilt that my mom designed and created in 1985 inspired this quilt. Mom diligently hand appliquéd sixteen tulip squares while sitting by the bedside of her mother. When researched, tulips are a symbol of rebirth. Thanks Mom for this gift of hope! In the center of this hope quilt is one of your beautiful tulip squares that is to celebrate you and all of your accomplishments. God bless you, Beverley Emerson!



H is for Hospital

Mary Anne “Mother” Bickerdyke (1817–1901): An experienced nurse, the Widow Bickerdyke was sent by her church with \$500 of supplies for the army hospital in Cairo, IL. When she arrived, the hospital was in chaos. She fashioned bathing tubs from barrels and soon had the patients back in bed, washed and with clean linens. She provided them with healthful meals and dealt severely with anyone misappropriating supplies meant for the patients (regardless of rank.) She was admired and respected by both Grant and Sherman. She was referred to by the officers as “The Brigadier in Charge of Hospitals.” The enlisted men called her “Mother.”

Inspiration : Mother Bickerdyke has fascinated me since first hearing about her in an episode of Ken Burns’s Civil War. In the series Burns told the story about some field officers complaining about her behavior. Gen. Sherman threw up his hands and declared, “I can’t do a thing in the world. She ranks me!” At a time when women had little power, she didn’t ask permission to make changes to the army way, she just did it. After the war, she worked tirelessly to help thousands of her boys acquire army pensions.



147 Rose Haisty

Nancy Hart's Story in Traditional B&W Quilt Blocks

Nancy Hart was a Georgia Homesteader during the Revolutionary war. She fought off six British soldiers who had invaded her home. She was also known to pass information valuable to the patriots fighting for independence. Hart County in Georgia is named for her.

Inspiration : I decided to tell the tale of Nancy Hart in quilt block form. The blocks such as drunkards path, turkey tracks, cups and saucers and pine tree all portray moments in her story as Nancy fought six British soldiers. The centerpiece is the hanging tree where the soldiers met their end and were buried in shallow graves.



148 Aliki Strakes

Sweet Indulgence

This quilt pays homage to Juliette Gordon Low (1860-1927), founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Born in Savannah, GA, she modeled the Girl Scouts after the popular Boy Scouts program and Britain's Girl Guides, starting the first two chapters with 18 participants in Savannah in 1912. Today, it continues with extensive programming for girls and young women teaching them valuable life skills including citizenship, leadership, environmental and business skills.

Inspiration : Many of us may have been (or parented) a daisy, brownie, or a cadet and no doubt remember the annual cookie drive, the famous fundraising program that helps build confidence and entrepreneurial acumen. The iconic green cookie box instantly brings to mind gaggles of young girls working together to sell boxes outside supermarkets or going door to door in their neighborhood. The cookie program helps to teach goal setting, money management, sales skills and business planning - all of which were needed as I parented two daisy daughters, each trying to best the other in cookie sales. I fondly remember seeing their confidence bloom with each sale, and smile at the memory. Thin Mints are my favorite - what's yours?



Badges for Daisy

Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low (1860 - 1927) founded the Girl Scouts of America, a worldwide organization devoted to building courage, confidence and character in girls and young women. As a leader, Daisy did not receive merit badges. To honor her life and legacy it seemed fitting to award her these 8 badges. When Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low was laid to rest, a telegram was tucked in her uniform pocket. It read, “You are not only the first Girl Scout, but the best Girl Scout of them all”.

Inspiration : When I moved to Marietta at the tender age of 12, scouting provided the community I desperately needed. While my favorite memories are of our camping adventures, I learned a lot of life skills through badge completion, rank advancements and community service projects. It was being surrounded and supported by a network of leaders and fellow scouts that made Marietta start to feel like home.



150

Margaret Williams

Juliette Gordon Low

Juliette Gordon Low, nicknamed “Daisy,” was from Savannah, Georgia. Inspired by Boy Scout founder Sir Robert Baden-Powell, she founded the Girl Scouts of the United States in 1912. This worldwide organization encourages girls to learn new skills, embrace adventure, and be their best selves. The U.S. Mint released a quarter honoring Juliette Gordon Low in 2025.

Inspiration : I like to say that I’ve been a Girl Scout since age 4, when I attended Camp Bear Creek with my mother who was the camp nurse. Scouting was a big part of life in our family. My sister was even awarded the “Tough Cookie Award” as an adult. When my daughter became a Girl Scout, many more precious memories were made including a trip to Juliette Gordon Low’s Birthplace in Savannah. I’m grateful to have had scouting my life.



151 Kim Jenkins

To the Moon!!!

Margaret Hamilton, a computer scientist, led the Software Engineering Division of the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory, which in 1961 contracted with NASA to develop the Apollo program's guidance system. Her team was responsible for the programming of the command module and lunar module. Hamilton has been credited with popularizing software engineering

Inspiration : She was an active contributor to the success of President Kennedy's goal of going to the moon. Her technical skills and abilities stood out in a time when the technical, scientific, and engineering fields were dominated by men.



152

Susan Eisen

Grandma COBOL

Grace Hopper was a college professor who joined the Navy Waves in 1943 and worked on early computers. She wrote the first computer manual. Her biggest contribution was the idea to write programs in an English-based programming language and use a "compiler" program to translate it into machine code. She helped create the COBOL programming language which was widely adopted by business and government and is still in use today. Her pioneering work laid the foundations of modern computing.

Inspiration : I was a COBOL programmer early in my career. As part of a class project, I had to write a small section of a compiler. It was very difficult and complex despite existing references for me to pull from. I am in awe of the woman who came up with the idea. My favorite quote of hers is "The most dangerous phrase in the language is 'We've always done it this way.'"



153 Evelyn Kennedy

Nanmo's Legacy

Nanmo was my mom's pet name. She passed away in 2025 after 86 years of a marvelous life. Like all our mothers, she was a product of her time. She did not go to college. Her life was full with nurturing children, keeping up with old and new friends and contributing to her community. I knew mom was brilliant, wise and witty, but writing her obituary reminded me of the things she accomplished and the people she touched.

Inspiration : Velvet, shinies, sparklies and googaws were favorites in the art quilts mom made. Her stash plus some items from the clothing of her progeny were combined to make this legacy quilt. It is a tangible record of her life for her descendants. It reminds us of her. She saw and elevated people. She loved puns and classical music. How do you pigeonhole a whole life into a few words? The quilt is complex yet has a structure- like her life. It moves. It sparkles. Like a spinning galaxy, the connections seem infinite.



154

Ruth Chow

Harriet

The author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe was a preacher's daughter and grew up among thinkers, teachers, and writers. Stowe proclaimed a "vocation to preach on paper", in part because women were not then allowed to preach in a pulpit. Nor were women in her day allowed to vote. But Stowe was horrified by slavery and writing was her means of persuasion.

Inspiration : As a Christian myself, Ms. Stowe's lifelong pursuit of Christian ideals inspires me. She wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin to persuade people to abolish slavery and in addition she says: "I wrote what I did because as a woman, as a mother, I was oppressed and broken-hearted with the sorrows and injustice I saw, because as a Christian I felt the dishonor to Christianity - because as a lover of my country, I trembled at the coming day of wrath." Quotes from Uncle Tom's Cabin are quilted in the background of the quilt; quotes from other letters and publications are inked to form the image of Harriet.



155 Devon Pfeif

To Space and Back

Sally Ride flew on the space shuttle Challenger in 1983, making her the first American Woman to go up into space. She was among 35 scientists & technicians selected by NASA as a mission specialist. On that mission she operated the robotic arm, which she helped develop. After leaving NASA, she stayed involved in the space industry; serving on the presidential commissions that investigated the loss of both the Challenger (1986) and the Columbia (2003). Leading the Office of Exploration she wrote the influential report - Leadership and America's Future in Space.

Inspiration : To me her biggest contribution is her outreach to young students. Sally Ride Science is a company dedicated to motivating kids to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. She has written several science books about space and shared her enthusiasm for Outer Space.



158 Carla Gracen

"To See Takes Time."

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was an American teacher and artist. She painted ~900 paintings. She derived inspiration from American images. Her primary subjects were aerial views, flowers, landscapes, and bones. Georgia was quoted saying, "If you take a flower into your hand and really look at it, it's your world for a moment." Another quote..."Color is one of the great things in the world that makes life worth living to me."

Inspiration : I have always admired Georgia O'Keeffe's rendition of beautiful flowers with colors inspired by nature. Many years ago I attended a museum gallery exhibit of her paintings and purchased a box of note cards from the gift shop as a memento. She used simple lines and amazing color combinations in her work. Georgia used mindfulness, by taking the time to notice, explore, and understand the world around her.



159

Lisa Feinberg

The American Prima Ballerina: Woman of Two Worlds

Maria Tallchief was one of the most celebrated Native American women of the 20th century. She was the first American dancer in history to achieve international recognition and fame, the first U.S. American Prima Ballerina in 1949, and the first American to perform in Moscow's "Bolshoi Theater". Maria Tallchief was, indeed, discriminated against because of her Native American ancestry, but she never lost hope. She continued working towards her dreams and eventually became one of America's most popular and widely celebrated ballerinas.

Inspiration : The achievement of becoming the first prima ballerina in the U.S. and being Native American Maria Tallchief had to overcome many obstacles and difficulties which I greatly admire.

