

# About the Quilters

## Aleca Bowe

**Group:** Sew What Sisters



## Ann Farley

Ann Farley, a retired OB/GYN and Surgical R.N. from Fairfield, Calif., developed a love for the art of sewing at the early age of around 5-6 years old. Her mother, Sarah, would often times make her school clothes and baby clothes for her eight children. Ann remembers her mother staying up until the wee hours of the morning the night before Easter, making her and her sister Easter dresses to wear to church the next day. Her mother taught her to sew with a needle and thread, helping her to make diaper shirts for the newest addition (baby) to the family.

**Groups:** Sew What Sisters, Quilting Sisters of Solano County



## Barbara Fuston

Barbara Fuston is a Fairfield resident and retired from the U.S. Postal Service. She has been actively quilting since 1983.

“My first quilt project began when I was 7 years old. I say began because I haven’t finished it yet. It still packed away and on my “to do” list. I watched my mother sew and I wanted to do what she was doing. Well, I wasn’t very good at it, thus the unfinished quilt project. That being said, thirty years later I found myself in North Carolina on a work detail with nothing to do but work, read, and do crossword puzzles. Wake up, Barbara, you’re in textile country with all kinds of threads and materials and fabrics. I took up quilting again and haven’t put it down.

**Groups:** Quilting Sisters, Quilt Club of Fairfield and the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland.



## Deborah-Reed Salmon

Deborah Reed-Salmon, a native of San Francisco, California, has resided in Vacaville since early 2000. She is a wife and mother of two teen aged girls. Deborah started sewing in middle school as an elective subject and quickly fell in love with it.

After sewing women garments for over 30 years as a hobby she started looking for more exciting things to do with her talent. Deborah was introduced to the world of quilting by a close friend in 2004 and quickly discovered that she enjoyed the challenge of putting together the shapes and colors of multiple



pieces of fabric to create art.

Drawing inspiration from pictures and patterns of fabrics she designs assemble and quilts all of her projects to completion.

Deborah takes every opportunity to inspire others to catch the quilting bug by hosting sewing workshops for young girls from time to time.

**Groups:** Deborah is an active member of two quilting groups, The Quilting Sisters of Solano County and Sew What Sisters. She is a contributing member of the AAQGO (African American Quilt Guild of Oakland).

## Debra King-Abraham

“I have been an apparel sewer for more than 40 years and decided to learn how to quilt 15 years ago. I love creating anything out of fabric, it just brings me so much joy and serenity.

I attended my first quilting class @ Hancock Fabrics in Vallejo and still cherish that quilt to this day. I take various classes throughout the year and my favorite style is art quilting and applique. I don't particularly like puzzles but applique is a fabric puzzle that turns into a very rewarding art piece. I have an applique Volkswagen bus on my office wall. When I look at all of the bright pieces it makes me smile.

I like to think my strongest asset is color collaboration. I can look at a piece of fabric and coordinate the colors effortlessly.

I also teach a beginning sewing class for the City of Vacaville and enjoy teaching as well. It's rewarding to the students and me when they've accomplished the tasks of choosing a pattern, learning to read the instructions, cutting the pattern from the fabric and



sewing the garment. You see a sense of pride in them when their finished product resembles the pattern, especially the younger students.”

**Groups:** Debra is a member of the Sew What Sisters

## **Fredi Slaughter-Walker**

“I retired as a Social Worker with Solano County and became inspired to try quilting after some gentle pushing of a good friend. I enjoy working with cloth; watching the way color and shape play together to create a design or speak a mood. As a quilter still in training I’ve learned that I enjoy bringing pieces of cloth together by hand (rather than by machine) and have now ventured off into learning needlework; surface embroidery and needlepoint.

I continue my participation and enjoyment of working with children and adults as I did while working, but now through a different means such as community quilting groups.”

**Groups:** Sisters Quilting Collective of Sacramento, Sew What Sisters, and Stitchin’ Sisters.





## Jeanette Robinson

Jeanette Robinson was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and spent over 40 years in Sacramento, CA. “Upon retirement in 2004, I moved to Fairfield, CA and started living the retired life style. My daughter signed me up for a class at Cornerstone Quilt Shoppe. Once I learned the basic quilting techniques, I have been hooked ever since then. I have made four (4) Underground Railroad Quilts and gave them to my children and grandchildren. I also took a class at Cornerstone Quilt Shoppe learning how to make "Tee Shirt" quilts. I love making up my own quit top designs. I have made over 28 quilts and have given most of them to family members

Most recently, I participated in a quilt show and created an art quilt replica of the “El Campanil” building at Mills College. The quilt was on display at the Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland California as part of the “Oakland: Neighborhoods Coming Together” show.

**Groups:** The Quilting Sisters of Solano County and the African American Quilting Guild of Oakland, CA..

## Leola Williams

Leola Williams is a resident of Suisun City, CA.

**Groups:** Sew What Sisters and Quilting Sisters of Solano County



## Renea McLean White

“I have sewn garments since I was the ripe old age of nine! I thought there was no other world until I was introduced into the world of quilting in 2005. It all began with me volunteering to help cut out kits for a group that was formed at work. The group was called the Pins and Needles Brigade and they made quilts to donate to the children’s receiving home in Sacramento. The rest is history!! It has become my passion and I have something to look forward to when I retire.



**Group:** Sew What Sisters

## Rose Marie Caraway

“I grew up on the East Coast and learned how to sew when I was a young girl. I started with making my clothes in middle school and took up quilting when my friends started having their children. I started making ethnic porcelain dolls about 20 years ago and I love to read the latest novels.”

BS Chemistry, Lehigh University Bethlehem PA

MBA, Business, Golden Gate University

Ms. Caraway currently works as a Project Manager/Environmental Scientist for the Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco.

**Groups:** Quilting Sisters of Solano County, and the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland.

## Sandra Sweeting-Hall



Sandra Sweeting-Hall, a native of California and a retired Project Manager, resides in Fairfield. “I started quilting in 2010. My Grandmother and Mother were quilters so I grew up appreciating the art but was never interested in sitting still long enough to learn it. I finally caught the bug a few years back when I saw a quilt with Biblical scriptures designed into it. I wanted to learn to do that. Soooo, I started with a beginner’s class so I could understand the terms and techniques and here I am.



I am having a blast learning the art. The only thing is I don’t get to keep too many of the quilts. I think once all my family members have their own, made-by-Sandra quilt, I can begin to keep a few.

**Groups:** I am currently a member of the African American Quilting Guild of Oakland, CA, the Sew What Sisters, and the Quilting Sisters of Solano County, CA.

## Teresa Lucas-Jones

“I have been quilting for the last ten years and loving every minute.”

**Group:** Sew What Sisters





## Teri Green

Teri Green has been a resident of Fairfield since 1999 and has been quilting since 2000 when her youngest daughter was born.

“I’ve been sewing since I was 8 years old making school clothing. My grandmother gave me the book “Hidden in Plain View” which talks about the history of quilts used during slavery times. I realized at that time that every quilt has a story. Quilting gives me an opportunity to make masterpieces from small pieces of fabric stitched together.

I believe that there are no mistakes in quilting that cannot be fixed...they just become part of the original design. I hope to leave a legacy so future generations can talk about the quilts that their “great-great grandmother Teri made.

I love making quilts with pictures with family members that show generations of love. In 2014, I worked with the Quilting Sisters to machine piece the 2014 Opportunity Quilt for the guild’s first quilt show.

Most recently, I had opportunity to create an art quilt replica of the Oakland Bay Bridge, which was on displayed at the Joyce Gordon Gallery in Oakland California as part of the “Oakland: Neighborhoods Coming Together” show. The quilt was sold so I made another one. I recently joined Textile Dream Studio’s 12 x 12 program and have committed to making one art piece each month.

I am married to Rev. Jim Green and have 2 daughters, 1 son and 2 grandchildren and an active member at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church (Fairfield CA).”

**Groups:** I am a member of the Quilting Sisters of Solano County, and the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland.





## **Velma Finch**

Velma Finch, a retired ATT Transport Engineer, began quilting in 2012. She loves volunteering her time at the Food Pantry, a ministry at her church, and working with Foreign Missions. She was instrumental in working with the library to get the quilt displays in the Solano County libraries, which started in 2012. She still considers herself a novice at quilting, her goal is to take more classes in 2018 and challenge herself with intermediate to more complex quilt designs.

**Group:** Quilting Sisters of Solano County

