



Women's History Month 2015: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

MEMORY QUILT PROJECT

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site is devoted to preserving and interpreting the history of African American women. As part of Women's History month, we are celebrating African American quilt-making in conjunction with this year's theme: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives. We invite YOU to participate!

Throughout the month of March, quilters and visitors to the historic site (or by mail) are encouraged to create small quilt blocks commemorating an inspiring African American woman. Blocks can be simple or complex, we welcome contributions from non-quilters and beginners as well as experienced artists and quilt-makers. Some ideas for blocks include:

- Write the name of an inspirational woman
- Draw a sketch or portrait using permanent markers
- Paint a picture using fabric paints
- Create a pieced or appliqued traditional quilt block
- Complete a fabric or multimedia collage
- Decorate your creation in any way you choose

At the end of the month, we will hold a Quilting Bee program where volunteers from the Uhuru Quilters Guild of Maryland will help assemble these blocks into a memory quilt to commemorate the African American women who have inspired us, past and present. The quilt will become part of the collection at the National Archives for Black Women's History, and will be on display to the public at the Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic Site during the spring/summer.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Block Title: _____

Why does this woman inspire you?

Instructions:

Start with a 5” square muslin block, or pick up a block at MAMC.

Decorate the block with an image or a design that commemorates an African American woman who is an inspiration. She can be a contemporary figure alive today, a historic heroine, a woman in your life, or a literary character – it’s up to you!

How to decorate your block? Any way you choose! Here are a few ideas:

- Write the name of an inspirational woman.
- Draw a sketch or portrait using permanent markers.
- Paint a picture using fabric paints.
- Create a traditional pieced or appliqued quilt block.
- Craft a fabric or multimedia collage.
- Embroider, knit or crochet a design

A few things to remember:

- Make sure to leave one quarter inch on each side of your design, so blocks can be sewn together.
- Choose decorative elements that are appropriate for fabric, and attach any embellishments securely to your project – we can’t guarantee that large or heavy items will remain attached when the piece is on display.

Turn in your completed block with the attached entry form by **Saturday, March 22, 2015**, to:

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site,
1318 Vermont Avenue NW,
Washington, DC, 20005.

All blocks will become property of the National Park Service.
