

## Quilts cont'd from pg 1

on repetitions, orderly rows, and symmetry in both the patchwork and the quilting, the modern approach is more free form with unusual arrangements and experimental fabrics.

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nefield usually follows patterns from online sites like Pinterest and Instagram, but says her next step is to create her own. She's also drawn to bright colors, pixelated effects, and playing with negative space. Her quilting technique often

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ent approach,” she said of picking up the technique so fast.

Her quilting community agrees.

"She showed up at our guild meeting a little over a year ago, showing us her first quilt," said Joy Ruplinger of the Portland Modern Quilt Guild. "We almost fell out of our chairs looking at her piece, one that only a seasoned quilter would attempt. She quickly won everyone's hearts with her sweet and lovely demeanor."

It's fair to say that Bennefield has an innate knack for creative design. In her personal life, she tried her hand at Bob Ross-inspired landscape painting and sewed clothing and Halloween costumes for her four children when they were younger.

With her kids now grown up and moved out, Bennefield has found the time to focus on quilting. She taught herself the basics through online tutorial sites like Craftsby and Creative Bug.

"One of the things I've learned is what a quilt really is," she said. "There's this thing called a quilt sandwich."

Essentially, the sandwich is compiled of three layers: the top design made from piecing together various fabrics, a middle layer of batting, and a bottom layer (or backing) which is typically a solid piece of fabric or another less complicated design.

"Quilting is actually what you do to stitch all three of those layers together," said Bennefield. "So there's all these decisions that you have to make."

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employs spiral stitching, too, starting in the center of the blanket and working outwards. Professionally, Bennefield comes from a background in IT. It makes sense, she said, because "as a kid, I liked to take things apart and put them back together."

In 1998, Bennefield moved from her native Houston, Texas to Beaverton, Oregon to take a job at Nike, where she was also the president of the Black Employee Network for five years. Later, she jumped ship to Intel, where she's currently employed as a user experience designer.

As a quilter, it's a perfect fit.

Bennefield works from her home, which means she can do double duty between her work station and her quilt station, which are strategically located in the same room in her house.

Beside a professional desktop set-up, Bennefield's quilting world opens up into a colorful array of fabric swatches, ironing boards, sewing machines and measuring tools. The surrounding walls are lined with shelves of spooled and rolled fabrics, neatly organized by color and pattern.

"Most of my work meetings are these online deals, so I will literally break out the iron when things get stressful," she said. She'll often alternate from one quilt to another, too, and laughingly pointed to a box of scraps or half-started projects, which she calls her UFOs ("unfinished objects").

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PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

## Vigil for Pittsburgh

The Rev. Kelle Brown sings along with other religious leaders and about 1,000 people inside Temple De Hirsch Sinai for the Seattle Vigil for Pittsburgh Oct. 29. An estimated crowd of 1,000 more people stood in the streets outside the building to honor the lives of the 11 people murdered in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh Oct. 27.

## Shooting cont'd from pg 1

Thursday. Authorities say he raged against Jews during the attack.

Members of Pittsburgh's grief-stricken Jewish community, meanwhile, endured another round of funerals for the congregants who were gunned down in Saturday's rampage.

Melvin Wax, 87, Irving Younger, 69, and Joyce Fienberg, 75, were being laid to rest as part of a weeklong series of services.

"It can't be fixed," Robert Libman said at the funeral of Fienberg, his sister, clutching his chest as he described the pain of losing her. "My sister is dead. My sister was murdered. There was no one I know like her. Pure goodness. ... She was the most tolerant and gentle person that I've ever known."

Her sons, Anthony, of Paris, and Howard, of Vienna, Virginia, said she spent five years caring for their father as he battled cancer, then after his death a few years ago, devoted more of her time and energy to Tree of Life.

"My mom would be very angry that her funeral wasn't able to be at Tree of Life, and that her friends lost Saturday couldn't be here," Howard Fienberg said.

The funerals for Wax and Younger were to be held later Tuesday.

Six people were wounded in the attack, including four police officers, two of whom remained hos-

pitalized with gunshot wounds. Two congregants were still in the hospital, one in critical condition.

In a bit of good news, hospital officials said the two most seriously injured shooting victims are improving.

A police officer and a congregant remain in intensive care but "are doing much better now," Dr. Donald Yealy, chairman of emergency medicine at UPMC, said Wednesday. "I think overall the

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prognoses are good now. But each of them, in a varying way, will have a different trajectory and likely will require a series of ongoing care."

The first three funerals were held on Tuesday, with thousands of mourners jamming a synagogue, a Jewish community center and a third, undisclosed site for the funerals of a beloved family doctor, a pillar of the congregation, and two intellectually disabled brothers in the 50s who were known as "the boys."

Cecil and David Rosenthal were

"beautiful souls" who had "not an ounce of hate in them — something we're terribly missing today," Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, a survivor of the massacre, said at their funeral at Rodef Shalom, one of the city's oldest and largest synagogues.

The brothers were both active at Tree of Life, with Cecil the more gregarious of the two, a man with a booming voice who was known as the "mayor" of the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood and the "town crier" for the gossip he managed to gather.

"They were innocent like boys, not hardened like men," the Rosentals' sister, Diane Hirt, told mourners.

On Tuesday afternoon, after the day's funerals were over, Trump and first lady Melania Trump arrived in Pittsburgh to shouting, chanting protesters with signs such as "It's your fault" and "Words matter," a reference to allegations that Trump's combative language has emboldened bigots. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, both Democrats, declined to join him during the visit.

"He didn't pull the trigger, but his verbiage and actions don't help," said Squirrel Hill resident Paul Carberry, 55, wearing anti-Trump patches on his hat and jacket.

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## Ceasefire cont'd from pg 1

Erika Preuitt, director of the Department of Community Justice's Adult Services Division, said community members should be aware they can contact her department for help connecting with services, including mental health and housing.

And community member Joe Bean Keller, who began volunteering in gang outreach in 1986 and whose son, Deontae, was killed by Portland police in 1996, announced he would hold the first of a series of talk sessions at his home

Oct. 27. He told *The Skanner* he intends to make the talks a recurring monthly event and that all members of the community are welcome.

Antoinette Edwards, director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, said families seeking assistance or information should call her office, (503) 823-8263 or the Gang Impacted Family Team at (503) 823-4438.

Kimberly Dixon, who talked about her son, Andreas, who was murdered in 2013, and the lifelong impact of grief,

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also implored those present to turn their ballots in.

"If it costs about \$30,000 a year to keep someone in jail, we don't have a budget issue, we have a prioritization issue," Dixon said.

Black Male Achievement coordinator

C.J. Robbins told *The Skanner* he thinks institutional change will be the key to addressing gun violence.

"Nine times out of 10, by the time a young person has picked up a gun, there are several systems that have failed," Robbins said.