

## AFRICA IN AMERICA

### African American Museum of Philadelphia

We have a museum dedicated to Americans of African ancestry in Philadelphia, [www.aampmuseum.org](http://www.aampmuseum.org), one block from Chinatown, immediately across the road from a Federal Penitentiary. I am a member, and I have been there twice, in June with Dr Macharia Warungi to celebrate with the City of Philadelphia the festival of Odunde, and in December 2008 with my daughter Patience to work on quilts with local ladies of African ancestry.

Quilts have many uses other than warmth. The ladies talked about healing quilts which were filled with herbs including sage that were wrapped around feverish humans. The number of knots made when the layers were all tied together were used to record children born, sold and lost.

The ladies come together frequently, usually after church in Sundays, to work on quilts and tell stories about Philadelphia, the South, sewing: everything. I heard about onions used for topical healing.

On this page are pictures from my December visit. I am seen below with the organizer Mama Clara.

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