



THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

Greetings from New Zealand

Editorial by Ailsa McKenzie

Hi happy stitchers!

Another month has flown past. In New Zealand, it is now time for gardening and warm weather activities. However, this does not stop me from doing my craft work!! I have decided that since I now have three grand-daughters, it is time to get my smocking skills back into practice. This is an age-old craft which has thankfully come back into fashion again, so I am about to start practicing on one year-old, Elanor.

Smocking is not just a decoration for babies' and children's clothes, it give a unique designer touch to other clothing with bands of elegant stitching. It is the technique of gathering fabric with rows of decorative stitching, giving it

elasticity and fullness.

The earliest existing English examples are the wonderful country smocks of the 19th century, on which intricate smocking incorporates extra embroidery stitches (chain stitch, feather stitch and buttonhole stitch.)

Smocked dresses were introduced in the 1880's and have remained firm favourites in babies' and children's' clothing.

There are also many patterns for decorative smocking, i.e. smocked balls to hang



on the Christmas Tree. I have yet to finish my many UFO's (unfinished objects) before I launch into making these for all

the family!!

I hope you are all getting organized for the festive season. Many of you will, I guess, be like me and be busy making presents for family and friends. I am now onto my third smocked dress - have done the easy part (the smocking) so now have to get the garments put together. It is very satisfying work!

We had our last meeting of the year for our Quilters Group on Saturday, and everybody was given a name (some time before) of another member, and was asked to make them a pin cushion. What a wonderful array of work and different ideas!

This worked really well and everyone went away happy with the result.

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Tips 'n Tricks

- ☺ For machine appliqué, an inexpensive, easy-to-tear-away alternative to stabilizers is coffee filters!
- ☺ Save your dryer sheets and use them on the back of blocks of appliqué. Just press with the iron to make them smooth.
- ☺ Save small scraps for rainy day kid crafts instead of coloring.
- ☺ To learn more about Thrifty Quilting check out the Keepsake Quilting website www.keepsakequilting.com/thriftyquilter

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SEW + AID



Tony Castley, center, and Teaching volunteers who organized a trip to Banda Aceh, Indonesia to establish a sewing room and teach women to make articles to sell.

Contacts for Tony:

tonyc@sewgroup.com

www.sewaid.com

PDG 2008-09 Tony Castley from D9680 in NSW Australia joined RFQFA in June 2007 at the Salt Lake City RI Convention.

Tony says, "My whole life is Rotary and Sewing and Craft. I own one of the World's largest sewing and craft businesses." Additionally, Tony has his own foundation *Sewaid International* where they teach sewing and get poor people established in small home sewing business in 3rd World Countries.

Tony and a group of volunteers just returned from East Timor—"a very sad country". Rotary has many good projects there. Tony says, "We are helping a

foundation there to make Maternity Kits. They make 600 of these kits per month as the Timorese ladies have absolutely nothing, so they won't come into a birthing centre to have their baby, because they have no clothes for themselves or the baby- but given the maternity kits which have a night dress for them and baby clothes and other essentials, then they will come. In October Tony was off to Laos and Northern Thailand to work on future Sewaid projects.

Tony keeps a database of some of Australia's top sewers and quilters and when a project is planned, he invites them to come and do the teaching as a volunteer. Tony would love to have any of our members from around the world join them.

Meet Barbara Bitetto, Dye and Fiberworks Sumner, Washington, USA

I have been weaving since the late 70s. Mostly I do towels, runners, and scarves. I have two floor looms in my studio. This year I am President of the Tacoma Weavers Guild. There are about 50 members in the guild.

I also enjoy quilting projects. It has been fun to take part in the group projects. For the past 7 years, I have been teaching an adult sewing class to mostly Hispanic ladies from the community.



MONTREAL—AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE!



Knit Team Captain Esther Sherman-Arlan assembles an Afghan of International flags for our Fellowship's PolioPlus Fundraiser in Montreal.

I started with 8 rows for the bottom border; seven (7) knitted stitches for the right hand border and three (3) stitches for the left side of that panel. I slipped the last stitch to make a smooth easy way to attach the next panel.

My "flags" are not square! They are 16" wide and 11-1/2 inches long. I separated the flags with several rows of knit stitches. That is, I knit each row. The flags are all straight knitting.

I will finish the afghan by crocheting around the outside border with the Rotary colors.

So far I have completed 2 panels (4 flags each) and I'm working on #3 and #4 panels. The flags completed are — Japan, United States, Can-

ada, Russia, Israel, Sweden, Ireland, Sierra Leone, and Thailand. Details are being added as I go along. I am using countries we have had as Group Study Exchange teams, or Youth Exchange students at our club.

I am still trying to recruit knitters to help. I'll try to get around to some noon clubs in District 7040 (New York), but this time of year there is lots of snow and ice!



If you would like to be part of this project (or can

volunteer a friend that knits), get in touch with Esther for instructions and pattern.

Email Esther on:

learlan@roadrunner.com



QUILTS FOR CANADA CONVENTION

RFQFA Quilters are making fall and spring leaf quilt blocks which will be assembled into 2



quilts for our Polio fundraiser in Montreal.

To date 28 have signed up to make the fall blocks and 18 for the spring blocks. We need 35 of each.

Top Row: Marlene Harsin & Elaine Libovicz.

Bottom Row: Lynn Rutenberg & Barbara Bitetto.

Contact Diana Barden on email:

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History sourced from '48-Hour Country Quilts' by Fran Roen.

Early 1800's—In the United States, especially on the East Coast, a real love for quilting as a pastime had developed. People had more leisure time and quilting bees provided them with an opportunity to enjoy each other's company, so more fancy quilts were made as a result. Cottons became cheap, including printed cottons.

1807— Drab colours had almost disappeared from prints, but as long as fabric pieces remained, they continued to show up in patchwork.

1810s—Elizabeth Fry of England taught imprisoned women to do patchwork and pieced work, and if they were to be transported overseas, she saw to it that they had enough material for the long trip. They could then sell their work upon arrival and start to make a living at quilting.

1815—Common use of mechanical rollers for faster printing on fabric.

1800-1850— Fan Quilts began to appear.

Fellowship Member Raises Funds for Polio



Sherrin Palmeteer, pictured here at the RI Convention in Los Angeles, is from Ontario, Canada. Sherrin's husband Bob is currently the District Governor of D7080. Sherrin made the quilt (left) and toted it around on all the club visits. They sold tickets and raised \$8,000.00 for PolioPlus!!!! Bob made the Oak quilt rack which the winner received along with the quilt. Come by the booth in Montreal and meet them both!

Quilt and Handmade Oak Quilt Rack raise \$8,000 for PolioPlus.