



THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

Greetings from New Zealand

Editorial by Ailsa McKenzie

Hi all!

I hope everyone had a wonderful festive season, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy 2010! My, how quickly the years pass these days!!!!

I guess that in the northern hemisphere this is the time for stitching in all its various forms, but here, “down under”, we are (or at least should be) in our warmer months and really want to be outside instead of sitting at the sewing machine. I have had enforced sewing days lately, as my daughter is getting married at the end of February, and I have been making the dress for her flowergirl (my grand-

daughter). It is turning out like a little fluffy princess dress



and she will, naturally, look gorgeous!

I found this readers tip the other day in a magazine, sent in by Karen Davie from Victoria, Australia. I thought it made very good sense!

“When I read through magazines, I want to sit down and make just about everything. As time isn’t always available when I find new patterns, I keep a journal of the volume

and page numbers as the very first book in my bookcase, fol-

lowed by rows of my craft magazines. I also write down who the project would be good for, then when I have time, it is easier to browse my journal instead of the numerous magazines, so I can start there and then.”

I have often thought I should mark the patterns I like somehow, but Karen has given me the inspiration to move on and do it!

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HELP WANTED



Did you know one of the hottest selling items at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics were these red mittens.

Our knit and crochet teams are working on afghans, but if you want to make mittens, scarves, hats or other, email Esther on learlan@roadrunner.com or Bonnie on botzie@aol.com.

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New Zealand Flora & Fauna

Meet Liz McKenzie from Auckland, New Zealand



Liz using her Swift Quilting Frame

Liz McKenzie has been quilting for 6 years, but has been sewing for more years than she cares to remember. She started quilting by going to night classes, and then joined a new day time group called "Fat Quarter Quilters" who meet once a fortnight. That's about the time she got 'hooked' and joined the Auckland Patchwork Quilter's Guild. Liz was lucky enough to be able to go to the *Festival of Quilts* in Birmingham in 2007. Liz says she's lost count of

the number of quilts she has made, but they range from a king size bed quilt, a wedding present for her son and daughter-in-law, to small wall hangings. She enjoys doing machine appliqué and paper/foundation piecing. Liz also likes to knit and crochet and has been in touch with our fellowship knitters with hopes of helping on the flag project. Liz is married to Neville, charter member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Half moon Bay, Bucklands Beach D9920. They own a print business and enjoy hosting exchange students and GSE team members. Liz contributed these blocks for the Montreal quilt project:



The Nikau Palm block was designed by Jenny Hunter. Her website is <http://www.plumeart.co.nz>. "The Nikau Palm is the only palm species native to mainland NZ. Growing up to 16 metres high, its stout trunk is topped by a smooth bulbous-shaped crown from which the graceful 3 metre long leaf fronds grow. Pink flowers are produced between November and April." This is extract from "NZ Quilter" magazine, issue no. 65-Oct. 2008.



The Ginkgo leaf pattern was from an Australian magazine, "Favourite Patchwork Quilts". The pattern was designed by Nicole Bridges and inspired by a copse of ginkgo trees she came across in the gardens of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. Nicole exhibits internationally.

MONTREAL—AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE!



RFQFA member Mary Flinn is nearing completion of her afghan. She tells us she still needs to block them and add a few emblems.

Mary Flinn from Lansing, New York, USA in D7170, has joined the knit team. Mary is making a knitted flag afghan for our fellowship's polio fundraiser in Montreal.

Mary plans to have 15 flags all connected with stitches of Rotary blue. The flags represent Nigeria, Peru, Ghana, Egypt, Germany, India, Jordan, France, South Africa, Togo, Dominican Republic, Japan, Argentina, Mali, and a Rotary GSE one in the center.

Mary will be driving to Montreal and plans to bring her afghan with her.

Knit Team Captain Esther Arlan, D7040 New York, is also finishing up a flag afghan and will start assembling the blocks soon. Esther thanks everyone who has contributed and welcomes more help—learlan@roadrunner.com.

Esther will be bringing a box of donated yarn from Coats & Clark in colors of yellow, white, and red—some of the knitters and crocheters might want to work on a project at our booth, or take some home for future projects.

NY is having a late winter with snow, fog, and cold temps. These gals are ready for spring!

2011 Mardi Gras in New Orleans

Note from Diana Barden

I know we're still months from the Montreal Convention, but I need you to put on your thinking caps for our future vision.

The 2011 Convention Promotion Committee would like to provide related activities that appeal to all fellowship members. If you are familiar with the New Orleans area, you can help.

Are there any events or activities related to any of the fiber arts that would appeal to our members and others that enjoy our craft? Examples might be quilt or yarn shows, museums, or shops in the vicinity. Perhaps there are fabric mills or bead factories, or any number of places of interest. The committee would like to provide convention goers with a list of possibilities that they could add to their vacation itinerary. Please give this some thought and let me know on jerrybarden@comcast.net if you have suggestions.

P.S.—Doesn't the word "Mardi Gras" bring visions of some fantastic projects we can work on next year!



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

1840-1890—*"Framed" quilts make a showing, i.e. those with borders.*

1840-1940— *The traditional period for Amish quilts, which featured sharp colour contrasts and always solid fabric.*

1850—*"Turkey red" is the most popular colour in quilts. This is the first time binding was cut on the bias and sewn on mitred corners.*

1850-1865—*Pleated or ruffled edging became popular ways to finish a quilt.*

1856— *A painting by T.W. Wood documents the fact that quilting was not done only by women. It depicts a Private T. Walker piecing a quilt top, and, from the looks of it, he's doing a great job.*

1861-1865—*"U.S. Civil War quilts" were sold for bandages and other medical uses.*

Late 1800's—*Popular colours in quilts are purple, mauve, blue, pink and buff yellow.*

1879—*The Smithsonian Institution has a beautiful machine-sewn quilt in its collection.*

The History of Silk Thread by Penny Halgren

Courtesy of <http://www.how-to-quilt.com>



A silkworm sitting next to a cocoon. Silk thread comes from unwrapping the cocoon.

Silk thread was first processed in China, and has been used in embroidery for more than 5,000 years. Silk was a primary thread for embroidery, used in tapestries and garments,

blackwork, and samplers. During World War II, the silk supply literally dried up overnight. Chemical companies developed synthetic fibers commercially, and these fibers replaced silk almost instantly. As a result, for more than fifty years, people have looked upon silk as rare, expensive and delicate. Quilters have used silk for centuries in their quilt making. The translucent cellular structure of silk allows it to absorb dyes and reflect light for a pure and beautiful luster. Now, in addition to thread, silk batting is more common. Today, batting manufacturers are combining cotton with silk to create a batting that is easy to use while retaining the benefits of silk—its strength and beautiful drape.