

THREADS

Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists



Anna Lena's Story

October 2013
Issue # 26

In the 1880s a young woman named Anna Lena left Sweden alone to find a new life in America. A little more than 100 years later, her granddaughter followed her own dream and honored her grandmother's courage by turning a passion for quilting into a business. Karen Snyder opened Anna Lena's a store that catered to the quilter.

Karen states that she always knew she wanted to quilt. When she received a free pattern in the mail just after she turned 40, she decided it was time to start. That first quilt was "Grandmother's Flower Garden" and she was hooked.

Along with other fabrics, Karen carried reproduction of 1930's vintage fabrics in Anna Lena's, but was not satisfied with the faded colors and thought they should be brighter. After her friends told her to quit complaining and design her own fabrics, she made a couple of attempts before she was given a contract by a manufacturer. Since then she has designed many new fabrics. She is currently designing Redwork fabrics and quilts. She has written several books on quilting.

After 11 years, Karen retired from retail. She has a lovely studio where she continues to design fabric and quilts and works on projects and her blog. Her products are available at your local quilt store or on



her website <http://AnnaLena.com> and stories and patterns are available on <http://AnnaLenaLand.com>.

Karen is the wife of Rotarian Bob Hamilton and has contributed to the Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fabric Artists international booth in the past as well as worked with the local quilt guild to provide quilts for "Wrapped in a Smile". I was lucky enough to visit her in her studio and see her working on her latest projects, made from fabric she brought home from her last trip to Sweden. The

"Potato Chip Bag", designed by Quilt Country, (because you can't make just one) is named after an old potato chip commercial that claimed you couldn't eat just one. I was intrigued to see that she was using the same old sewing machine, a Singer Featherweight, that I learned to sew with. Simple, basic, it does the job with no fancy stitches.



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CHECK IT OUT!

International Quilt Festival, Houston, TX – October 26-28 2013

Stitches: Knitters magazine: www.knitters.com – lists the following dates:
East – Hartford, CT – November 7-10
West – Santa Clara, CA – February 20-23, 2014
South – Atlanta, GA – April 10-13, 2014

Knitters Review: www.knittersreview.com lists a wealth of information

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Traveling

Ailsa McKenzie (former newsletter editor)
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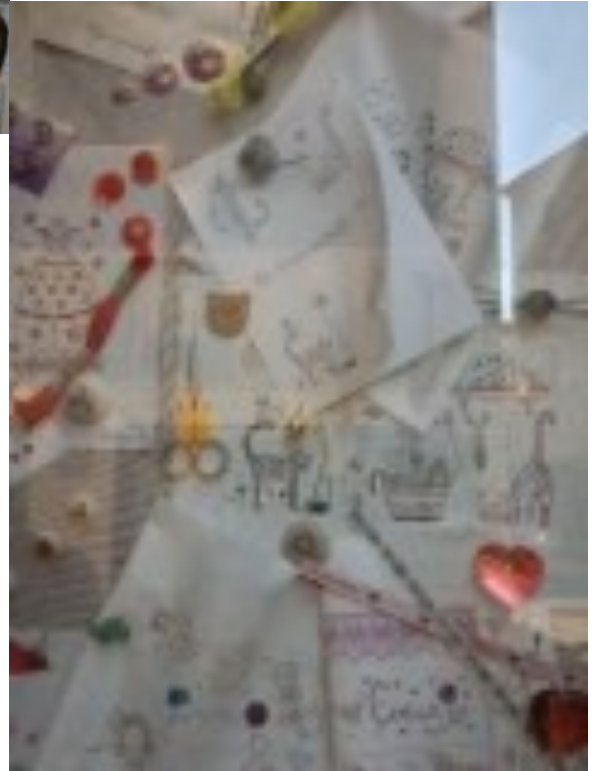


We are in Vaison la Romaine in the Province of Vaucluse, just above Provence in France. We are staying in a Gite (holiday home) for a week and it is all very beautiful! We have travelled around quite a bit and today have been to see the highest Viaduct in the world at Millau which is amazing!

On the stitching side, there are lovely wee shops with embroidery, knitting yarns, fabrics and patchwork quilts to die for! I just wish I could make up my mind what I want and what I want to do with it!!!

Now sitting outside in 25 degrees celcius and hardly even giving the poor folks at home in New Zealand a thought. They have snow on the hills !!!

Wish you could all be here!!!



In the shops



Travel Essentials for knitters

tape measure, extra needles, pins (common & straight); yarn samples; extra copy of pattern; notebook; needle protectors; scissors; holders; etc. list of yarn shops, etc where we will be heading;

Giving Back



Greetings from Australia,

I will tell you about our club and a little about the Wrap with Love charity. My husband and I belong to the Belmont Rotary club. Belmont is about 100 kilometers north of Sydney on the east coast of Australia. We have about 27 members; only 3 of them are women.

The charity Wrap with Love was formed just over 20 years ago. It was based on the simple idea of asking volunteers to knit squares which could be sewn together to make a warm blanket.

They now donate over 30,000 wraps each year through bona fide aid agencies. One of our members wife suggested a knitting day to support Wrap with Love.

It was such a success that we had two more knitting days and hope to have 10 complete wraps finished soon. The group has been so successful that we will now get together once a month. Sue Larkin

A note from our Chairman

In April 2013 District 5220 Governor Marvin Williamson, RI Director Steve Snyder, and a party of other Rotarians and spouses traveled to Romania where they visited the home of Adi and Nicoletta who are helping to raise orphaned and abandoned children. They also visited the classroom of a former Vocational Training Team member who teaches autistic children. DG Marv took along supplies to get handprints of the children using cotton fabric blocks and acrylic fabric paint in a variety of primary colors. The blocks were assembled and stitched into lap sized quilts by members of our RFQFA from the Madera Rotary Club in California D5220. These quilts will be put on the silent auction at the district's annual Foundation Dinner in November. Funds will be used for our district project in support of these Romanian children. The quilts are bright and cheery and each one has the name and age of the child written on it. There are even handprints of caregivers Adi and Nicoletta.



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Diana Barden, Chairman
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Share ideas on facebook at [Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists](#). Or send ideas or articles to:

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Esther

*This website for Visit Your Quilt Shop
Day has contact information for quilt
shops around the world.
www.quiltshopday.com/about*
