

THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

Pagtinabangay: The Quilts and Quilt makers of Caohagan Island by Dana E Jones

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CHECK IT OUT

International Quilt Show, Houston, TX - November 3-6, 2016

In Kuna, Idaho & Canberra, Australia to Birmingham, England - August 6 & 11 2017

Quilt Festival, New England, April 5-8, 2017, Manchester, New Hampshire

Sea of Quilts September 17-16 2016 Coos Bay Oregon

Pagtinabangay is a Visaya word that means working together for the good of all. That is the essence of quilting on Caohagan Island, a 13-acre coral-reef island in the central Philippine region of Visayas. When the women and men of the island began quilting, they could not have envisioned how it would enhance their lives. They didn't know their unique work would become admired and coveted by quilters, artists and others around the world.

Junko Yoshikawa, a former executive director of Hearts and Hands Patchwork School in Tokyo, introduced quilting to Caohagan in the late 1990s. As the islanders — mostly women and some men — saw they could make money to support their families through quilting, more and more embraced the art until today more than 100 of the approximately 300 adults on the island quilt. Quilt sales raise more than one third of the island's income.

When Junko taught the first quilters — in groups of 10 at a time — she taught only the basics of piecing, appliqué and quilting. She shared black-and-white drawings of traditional quilt blocks from a Maggie Malone book but she did not provide patterns or templates. The island's school at that time offered only first and second grade classes, so islanders did not have paper or pencils. Junko quickly saw a need to teach differently than she had in the formal Japanese classrooms. She took an experiential approach, leaving the new quiltmakers to discover techniques and designs that worked for them. The result is a body of work in which no two quilts are the same and while they are nods to quilting elsewhere, the Caohagan Island quilts have a unique look.

The Caohagan quiltmakers cut pieces for blocks, appliqué motifs and borders free-hand directly from fabric with scissors. Some quiltmakers plan an entire quilt top in their minds — some of the younger quiltmakers who have more education may sketch designs — then begin cutting the pieces. Others begin by cutting individual appliqué motifs then plating them onto a pieced background until they have a design they like.

They piece, appliqué, embroider and quilt by hand. The only process done by sewing machine — on a machine donated by Bernina of Japan — is stitching the front side of bindings to the quilts. This is done for durability. One quiltmaker, Akang Booc, is paid to do this for all the quiltmakers. Individual quiltmakers hand stitch the bindings to the back of their quilts. Corners are mitered.

When a quiltmaker has quilted a quilt, it is trimmed to one of a number of standard sizes for sale purposes. The edges are trimmed using a rotary cutter, mat and large wooden square. When quilts are finished, they are washed in the sea then rinsed in freshwater. The salt water helps set the colors. Dark- and bright-colored

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Pagtinabangay

(continued from page 1) fabrics are pre-washed in the sea. The quilts are hung on clotheslines to dry then inventoried for sale.

At first, the quilt makers used fabric Junko brought from Japan, which included fabrics made in Japan and the United States. Soon the islanders switched to locally produced fabrics purchased in Cebu City, the closest large city to Caohagan Island. The fabrics are cotton/polyester blends, and the batting is polyester. Three women fabric shop every four to six weeks buying about 1,000 meters of fabric each trip to supply the community stash. They also pick up thread, embroidery floss, and other tools and notions.

Junko long ago stepped out of teaching, which is now handled by the experienced quilt makers. Most sales of Caohagan Island quilts have been in Japan. Since introduction of the quilts to the United States at an American Quilter's Society show in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 2013, U.S. sales have been growing.

For information on the quilts and to purchase quilts and copies of the book *Pagtinabangay: The Quilts and Quiltmakers of Caohagan Island* by Dana E. Jones with foreword by Gerald Roy, visit www.islandquiltsbook.org.





The Chojun Textile & Quilt Art Museum

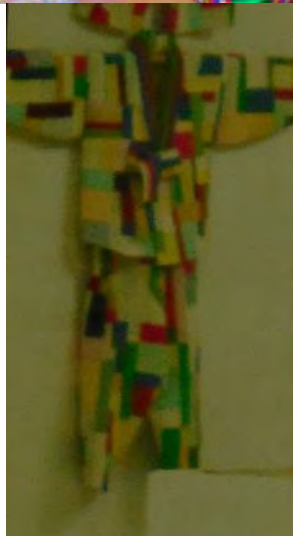
By Lynn Raymer

It was such a delight to be an active part of the Fellowship of Rotarian Quilters and Fiber Artists booth this year. Spending time with Helena Daniels and Cheryl Minshew talking with Rotarians from around the world, sharing our passions was very special. I shared a number of photos and experiences on our Facebook page, but I wanted to share a special experience we had with you all. For a couple of days, we had several visits from Sung-He, a Korean Rotarian who is a textile designer. She sat and talked with us about the quilts, and was most interested in one of Cheryl's quilts in the auction. She talked about her friend, the widow of a Rotarian who she wanted to have see the quilts. The next day she brought Kim Soon-Hee to visit. It was the last day of the auction and the price had gone up, but Kim Soon-Hee wanted the quilt for her Museum. The Chojun Textile & Quilt Art Museum in Jung-Gu Seoul Korea. The two women had been friends since University days when they were both learning textile arts. Sung-He is a textile designer in the Dongdaemun district, one of several districts that focus on art of some kind. Sung-He got one of the quilts and on that last day, Kim Soon-Hee upped the bid to get the one she wanted. Then they arranged to take us to lunch and visit the museum! After a lovely lunch at a very nice Chinese restaurant, about 15 courses in a private dining room, we walked a couple of blocks up the hill to the museum. What a treat. They have classes there for elementary school age children where they make increasingly complex little purses. We got to try making the easiest, a little tissue purse with an extra pocket on the back. Then we walked through the museum to look at textiles and quilts from Laos, Pakistan, North and South Korea, the USA and some others that I have forgotten. We saw silk panels painted by the very famous artists who did the artwork for the 50,000 won bill and the 5,000 won bill. They are mother and son. Then we got to see the quilts hanging at the entrance to the museum. It was awe inspiring to receive this wonderful gift.





Opposite page: The entrance to the museum when we arrived. Clockwise above: Kim Soon-Hee; Quilt just inside the entrance; Cheryl and Shirley working on their tissue holders.; five of the dishes we were served for lunch.; our group standing in front of Cheryl's quilt before we left; a first birthday suit made of 100 pieces of fabric for long life.



Seoul 2016



More Convention Photos



Page 6 Convention, Cheryl, Helena and Lynn; hand quilted detail, our booth, Rotary fabric, the General Secretary.

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Korean BBQ, Quilt fabric, fabric crafts, the river in Dongdaemun



The McKinley Quilt by Esther Arlan

February/March 1907

Caroline N. Moore died in March at the age of 84 in her Brooklyn, New York, home.

In 1901 she had become known as the maker of the *McKinley Quilt*, which she made

from silk and satin ribbons that had been tied around bouquets presented to President and Mrs. McKinley during a trip to California in May of that year.

The ribbons were collected and sent to her by her son, Charles, described by the New York Times as a "close personal friend" of the president who had accompanied the McKinley's on the trip. It took over two months to make the quilt, completing it 10 days after the president's death. It was reported that she used 630 spools of embroidery silk and 153 yards of ribbon, and that it had a perimeter of 8-1/2 yards. The quilt was later presented to Mrs. McKinley.

1913 - In early February, one month before the end of his single term in the White House, President Taft received a red-white-and blue quilt made by a 82 year old Civil War veteran. S.H. Read of Merna, Nebraska, who had served as a sergeant in the 15th Infantry Regiment, included a letter in which he said the quilt contained 5,982 patches and had been made entirely by hand.

From the Chairman Cheryl Minshew

Greetings! So the most important and exciting new is that we were surprised when we tallied up our sales- approximately \$9000.00!! The best ever.

And what a wonderful surprise The Republic of Korea was. It's a very beautiful country and its people were so kind, helpful, and much fun to be around. Our Quilter and Fiber Artists booth was located at a great spot in the House of Friendship and was filled with many beautiful items for sale, including member Leila Risteli, Finland, handspun and knit socks, Lynn Raymer, USA hand thrown pottery yarn bowls, Marguerita Dobrinin, Australia, totes and scarves, and of course quilts, table toppers, placemats and more all donated by fellowship members. Besides being the most beautiful booth, we were also the busiest and the funnest!

I'd like to encourage all of you to attend the RI convention being held in Atlanta, Georgia June 10-14 2017. The Georgia Rotary Clubs have been working hard for at least the last four years and have so much planned for us so please consider. Lynn Raymer, Helena Daniels and myself had a lot of time to talk while we were in Seoul and have come up with some very exciting programs for our fellowship, including shopping tours and a lovey party, just for starters. For the first time, the Fellowship will have membership pins available for all current members, something we've talked about for years! (coninuted page 10)

Thoughts from Esther

It is hard to believe that here in New Hampshire many communities are facing water shortages and bans on watering lawns while in other parts of the country (US) fires and floods make up the daily headlines. If you know of any quilter or fiber artist that has suffered a loss of any kind please let either Lynn or myself know. We would be happy to start a stash for them as they need to stop for a moment and enjoy the sheer pleasure of doing handwork.

It is also the time of the year when there are many craft fairs. It is almost impossible to keep up with all of them but I am sure that somewhere near you, in the not to distant future, there is a fair that would be of interest to one of our members. I am looking forward to heading over to one of our mountains for the annual crafts fair and will be looking for quilts that are hand made as well as hats, mittens, scarves that will have unusual yarns. I promise not to forget my camera and share some of the new ideas that I see with you.

I am still working on getting more information about the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. A Rotarian from Vermont recently did a presentation to our Rotary Club on the cottage industry the women are trying to set up. At this time they are making quilts and a NH Rotary Club sent the women 6,000 pounds of fabric. Yes, they took up the challenge and exceeded it by far. It was all delivered to the Reservation by Rotarians, who worked together throughout New England to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, from collecting fabric, boxing it and shipping it. No money was spent on the shipping due to the generous donation of various moving companies. When the fabric was unloaded they discovered that there were 8 brand new sewing machines in the van. I will continue to try and speak to the local women who are involved with this project.

I am looking forward to see pictures of our booth at the International and hear some of the stories of the folks who manned the booth. Details of the amount of money donated to the Polio Plus campaign should be out shortly.

Wishing everyone a quiet summer and look forward to hearing from you about upcoming craft fairs and quilt shows. It might encourage me to add it to my travels this fall.

Please send your comments to me at: learlan@comcast.net.

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Share ideas on facebook at Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists. Or send ideas for articles to:

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Websites to check out

www.wrbqinc.com

www.fiberartinternational.org

www.chinafiberart.com

www.sebarts.org

www.friendsoffiberart.org

[Fiberart International - May 6 - August 21, 2016
Pittsburgh PA](#)

Don't forget, annual dues are due!

From the Chairman continued

And, just between you and I, I've been shopping hotel options and have come up with what I would like to think is a marvelous idea that includes you if you're interested. I've been looking at some of the gorgeous large homes that the old South is famous for and are available for rent- some with as many as 8-10 bedrooms, large yards, swimming pools, etc. So, would anyone out there possibly be interested in staying in a sorority house kind of situation? It would actually be cheaper than a hotel for each of us, there would be plenty of parking for those of us who will have cars making it more convenient for those who don't. There are many homes not far from the convention center, so getting to and from the convention would be easy. So, all of that being said, if you might be interested in a very fun stay in Atlanta, would you please let me know as soon as possible. Oh, and I talked with Helena Daniels' husband and he thought it would be fun and interesting - husbands are welcome!

I've really enjoyed talking with you and look forward to hearing your thought and ideas.

