

# THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

January 2017  
Issue # 40

Editors: Esther Arlan  
learlan@comcast.net  
Lynn Raymer  
liraymer@hotmail.com

## Fellowship Board

Cheryl Minshew  
Chairman  
(619) 445-2026  
cminshew@cox.net

Helena Davis  
Vice-Chairman

Diana Barden  
Secretary

Marty Wyatt  
Treasurer

Mail Dues to:  
Marty Wyatt  
3282 DoubleTree Way  
Madera CA 93637

## Inside this issue:

Page 2: Spice Trade Picture quilts

Page 6: Knitted Knockers

Page 7: From the Chairman; Favorite tools

Page 8: For your reading pleasure

The five women picking the most expensive spice in the world, saffron in Afghanistan was so exquisitely detailed that you wanted to tell them how much you valued the work that they were doing and recognized how painstaking the work is.



## Check it out!

Stitches West  
Feb 23-26 Santa Clara CA USA

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

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

Interweave Yarn Fest Loveland CO USA March 30-April 2 2017

# Spice Trade Quilts

By Esther Arlan

It's a dark and dreary day as I sit down to write about some things to consider as we approach Spring. But first, here is something to do when you are in the dumps and need to put on your big girl pants. Take out the Sunday paper and find out what is new at a museum near you or visit a quilt or yarn shop. I did that just a week ago, the laundry needed doing, the house could use a good dusting and vacuuming and instead of that I jumped in the car and headed to Lowell, MA. I chose Lowell as my destination as there is a state and national park and the New England Quilt Museum is within a couples of minutes' walk from the place that tells the story of the "Girls of the Mills". I was in for a delightful surprise when I went into the Quilt Museum as they had two very interesting displays. One display was of quilter/artists who have been together for 30 years. Imagine meeting with the same group of women for 30 years and sharing your love of quilting. Below you will see a couple pictures I took with my iPhone. Then I went to look at the "Spice Trade" exhibit. With the time I spent ohing and oohing over the small wall hangs there was little time left to go over to the National Museum or visit any art galleries that were nearby. I did come home feeling 100% and ready to face the chores that waited for me.



The map of the spice trade and the colors of the different fabrics made me want to return to India and Africa and soak in the smells. Another favorite was the monk in his shades of saffron fabric. You felt you were with him as he entered a dark building.



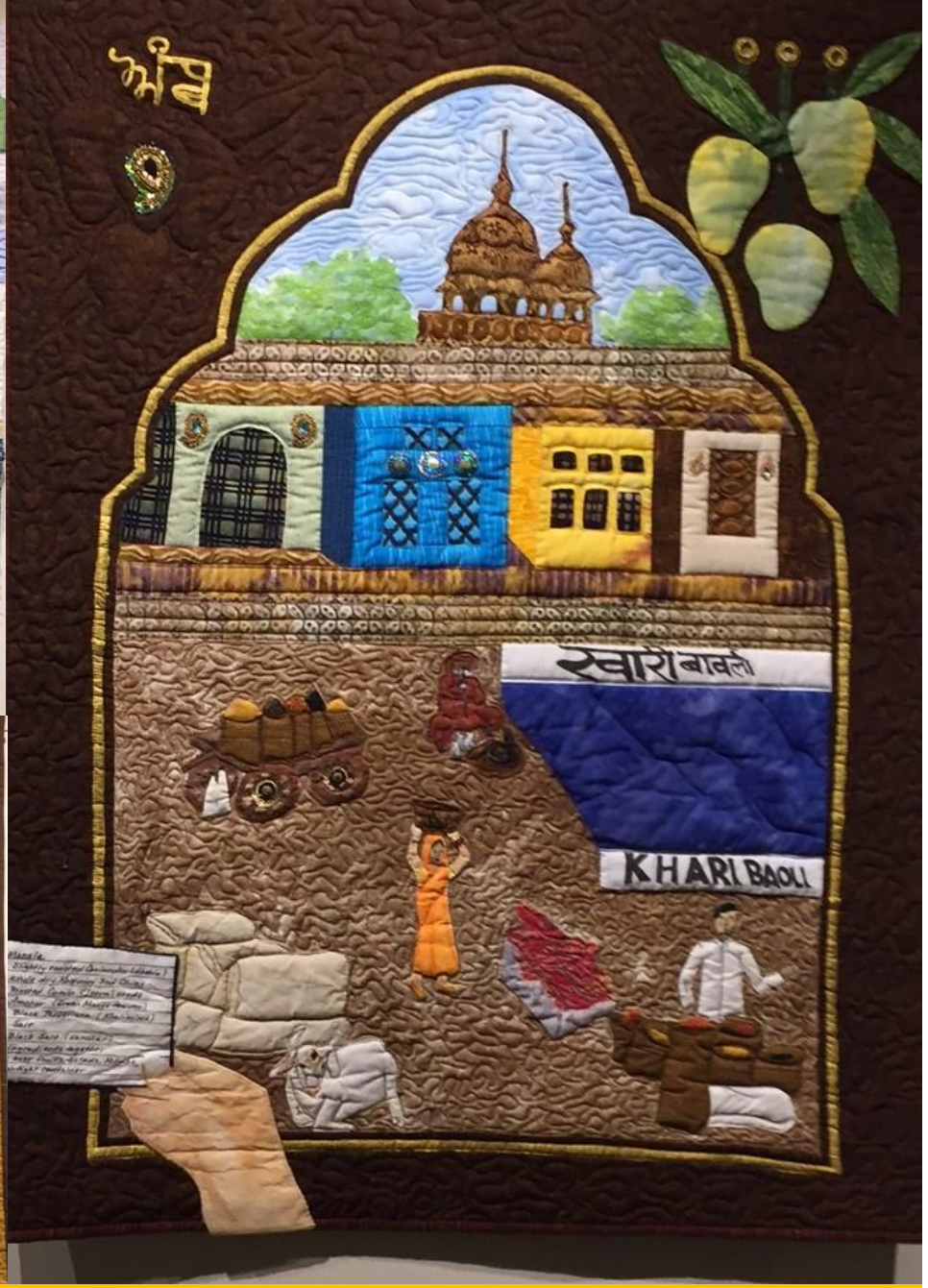


I photographed two samples of the squares that make up this quilt in shades of yellow and light browns. The basket used pieces of vintage fabrics. The basket just pops out at you and you wonder why didn't I save all the old doilies and notions.

The bottle of gin has embroidery stitches as well as interesting fabric. The different fabrics that were used was also delightful. I recognized fabric that is in my stash and the places where I purchased some it. One of my favorite quilts in the exhibit was the one with two women with their baskets on their heads. The colors spoke loud and clear.



# More Spice Quilts

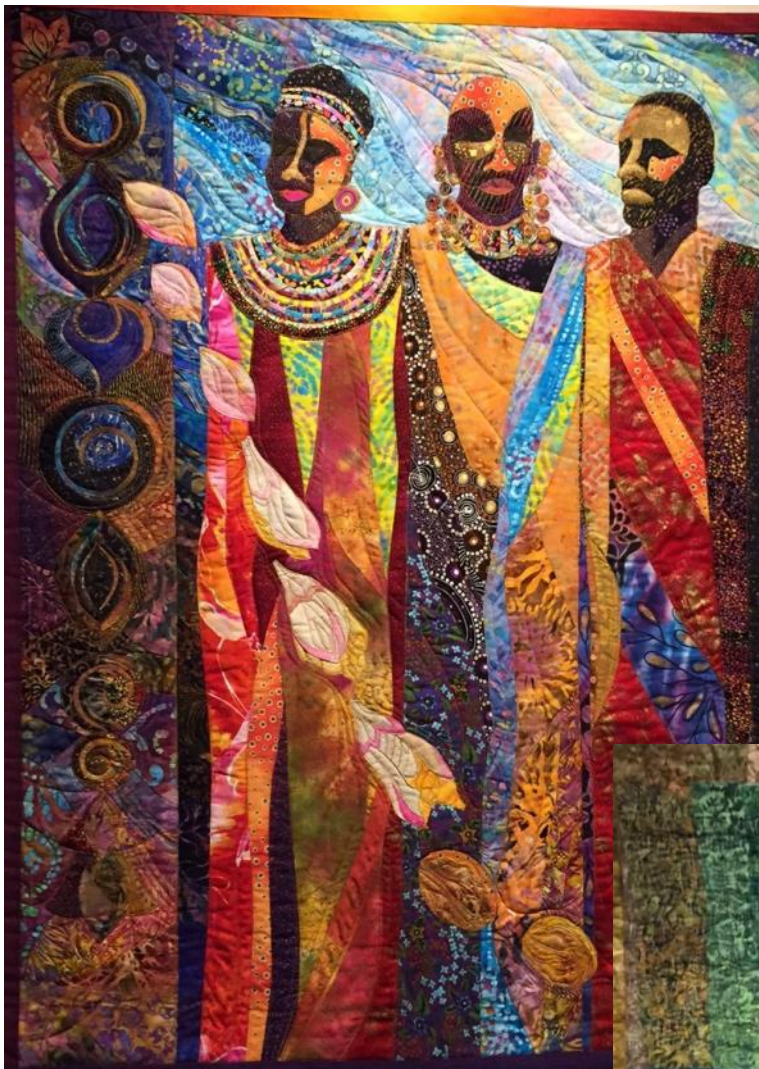


The Spice Trade exhibit brought back memories of my trip to Cochin, India as well as the bazaars of Kenya.

As I wondered from one quilt all I could think of was the women who work in the fields collecting flowers and seeds. You could almost close your eyes and smell the various large containers filled with various spices.







This quilt of three men was made of African fabrics and was so exquisite that you knew it was a masterpiece. It sold as soon as it was hung up.

When we were in India several years ago our guide gave each of us the equivalent of \$1.00 (US) and we had to go out on our own and purchase spices. We were not supposed to exceed the \$1.00. Imagine yourself deciding how much to purchase of each spice and not go over the budgeted amount. I failed the contest when the bag of bay leaves I bought went over the budget by five cents. It was fun and I'll never forget how I wondered between the bags of spices, the fruits, vegetables, dogs and cows.

Searching for nutmeg >





# knitted knockers

*soft, comfortable, knit prosthetics  
for breast cancer survivors*



The mission of Knitted Knockers is connecting volunteer knitters (and crocheters) with breast cancer survivors to provide free knitted knockers. They do this by inspiring and equipping volunteers to make them. Knittedknockers.org has free patterns and videos on how to make great knitted knockers. The patterns have been downloaded 200,000 times.

They did not invent knitted knockers but rather approached the young woman in Maine who had named them after making some for herself to see if they could use the name and share them freely with others. She was thrilled as she was no longer able to. There are now over 200 groups registered with us in 50 states and 12 countries. They recently sent 100 knitted knockers to the women of Rwanda where reconstruction is not an option for most women. The group is working with them to provide them with the resources to make them for themselves in the future. While prostheses are readily available, that are heavy and expensive. These are soft, light weight and can be used during the healing process or while waiting for reconstruction surgery.

There are 3 ways that people can help:

If you can knit or crochet, make knitted knockers. We are sending out well over 200 a week free to women all over the world and can only do it because of the wonderful volunteers willing to make them.

Share with your friends on social media. Like and share us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (@knitted\_knocker), etc. This helps us to reach out to the 1.2 million women living in the US right now that have not been reconstructed after mastectomy.

Donate Money. The organization is 100% volunteer run and survives by donations. Donations are tax deductible in the USA as they are a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Donations can be mailed to Knitted Knockers Support Foundation, 1780 Iowa St., Bellingham, WA 98229 or made via PayPal on our website at [knittedknockers.org](http://knittedknockers.org). This address gets you to the Washington State group but a little searching may find one closer to home.

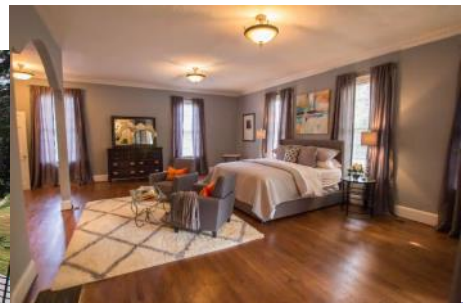


# From the Chairman

Cheryl has been planning and plotting fun times for Atlanta! The convention is getting closer and I know many of you have been working hard to make lovely and/or useful items for our fundraiser and show off you many talents. Cheryl has been in contact with quilt and yarn shops in the area and hope to have some shopping opportunities available at the booth in the House of Friendship. Plan to stop by the booth and see what's cooking. We will be needing help with the booth to allow everyone a chance to go to break out sessions and plenary sessions. Please consider signing up for a shift of even 1-2 hours. It is a fun opportunity to get to know other fellowship members.

Cheryl has rented a lovely house in Atlanta and there is one, possibly one and a half still available. Please contact Cheryl if you are interested. Chat with other fellowship members or spend time away from the crowds in your own room.

619) 445-2026  
cminshew@cox.net



## Favorite Tools

I asked our Facebook page "What are your favorite tools for you chosen art?" These are some of the answers I got.

**Anne Dale** -Omnigrid rotary cutter rubber grips, two size cutters and 5" scissors - if I could only have one pair this is it. Small enough for tiny trims but long enough to trim fabric and Clover straight tailors awl - I use this almost every day to hold things while stitching - to pull threads . It is a safety tool. I put it near the needle while sewing instead of my fingers. and it pokes a nice hole when you need it..

**Nelda Mohr**—I have been using an Accuquilt cutter for several years to cut fabric for quilts. This year I got a new Accuquilt Big electric cutter which really speeds up my cutting and allows me to use larger dies

**Gretchen Rauch**— needle threader. My grandmother used one and I always wondered why? Now I know, the old eyes aren't what they used to be

Editors note :I was just scrolling through a site and saw an 'antique' yarn threader that I thought might be helpful with my weaving. This note from Gretchen has me thinking about getting one.

Issue 40 Threads  
[www.rotariansquilt.org](http://www.rotariansquilt.org)



Share ideas on facebook at [Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists](#). Or send ideas for articles to:

[learlan@comcast.net](mailto:learlan@comcast.net)

[liraymer@hotmail.com](mailto:liraymer@hotmail.com)

## Websites to check out

[knittinguniverse.com](http://knittinguniverse.com)

[knittedknockers.org](http://knittedknockers.org)

[knittingparadise.com](http://knittingparadise.com)

[daysforgirls.org](http://daysforgirls.org)

*Check out the January/February 2017 issue of Piecework Magazine. You can journey thru the rich history of knitting. The cover of the magazine talks about "Arm Chair Traveler: Knitting in 9 Countries". I had just promised myself to cut back on magazines but could not resist this one. Every article was interesting and I searched thru my stash of knitting swatches, from classes taken years ago, and found some swatches of samples I had made still on their needles or holders. Read about a woman from Northern Norway who became an expert on knitted patterns as she lived her life as a "nomad teacher".*

*Read about the 19th century wrap that became known as "The Nightingale". See how it has involved to today's cape. There is a pattern for you as a bonus.*