

THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

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Kings River Quilt Festival by Diana Barden



Secretary Diana Barden and her quilt guild.

Quilt Shows and Fabric Shops lure us in like fish on a hook! My quilting buddies and I had a chance to attend the Kings River Quilt Festival in a small quaint town called Reedley, California, which is only about an hour or so away from where I live. The Quilt show had some fabulous pieces of art, but what I enjoyed most was our little trip down Reedley's historic Mainstreet. For about two blocks on each side of the street there are periodic mosaic quilts embedded in the sidewalk! Also in honor of the annual quilt show each of the shops has a quilt displayed in the window. Right there on Mainstreet is the Mennonite Quilt Center. What a fabulous shop!!! The fabric is gorgeous and of the best quality. I found a pattern I loved and bought the fabric. I have no idea when I will find the time to make it, but maybe before the Toronto Convention!!!! My next adventure will be to the Pacific International Quilt Show in October. The ladies from my Quilt Guild chartered a bus to go over for the day. It will be in mid-October. This is a big show and I have never been to it before, so I'm excited!

King River Continued



This one - it was wonderful!
Made all from tiny $\frac{1}{2}$ " or smaller strips!





In the city



Lynn's Story

Sometime in 2013, Diana Barden, then Chairman of our Fellowship, put out a call for newsletter editors for the fellowship. Esther Arlan, Rotary Club of Nashua West, and Lynn Raymer, Rotary Club of Southwest Pacific County Peninsula, Washington State, answered the call. Four years and many emails and a few phone calls later, we had lunch together yesterday.

The newsletters that we have published over those four years have included lots of pictures of various fiber arts, shows, and conventions. We have talked about projects involving our crafts, Days for Girls, Layettes for newborns in Africa to reduce infant deaths due to hypothermia, Afghans for women facing fistula surgery and soft Knitted Knockers for women healing from breast cancer surgery to name of few. Other than a few pictures of members at conventions, we have not done an article focused on the fellowship aspect.

Over the years, in our emails and phone calls, Esther and I have celebrated our clubs, but also our families. We have shared health concerns, sadness and happy occasions, moves and vacations. But we had never met face to face. Esther and her husband Lionel Arlan, PDG, District 7040, had just finished a cruise across the North Pacific and were visiting their son in the Seattle area. After a couple of phone calls to sort it out, we agreed that my husband, Larry Raymer, and I would drive north and her son would drive them south to meet in Tacoma.

I told Esther's son that I had been as excited as if I were meeting a rock star. From the moment we met, I felt like I was with an old friend. Our shared experiences with Rotary clubs, shared health concerns, pride in our children, were so familiar. Our husbands found common ground in hobbies. The thousands of miles between our homes vanished.

That is the power of Rotary fellowships.



Lynn and Esther pretending to work on an outline of this newsletter, then laughing at ourselves. With pictures of the view from the window.





Another year has passed and I visited the National Quilting Exhibition in Birmingham England in August..again! I went on my own this year as my faithful friend Mary who I go with every year, had her son visiting from Seattle and she felt that she had to spend time with him. It was a great day and the exhibits were all amazing, I just do not know how the judges come to a final decision -I am glad I am not one of them. Again this year there were lots of 'modern' entries and as a traditionalist I do find it difficult to get my head around some of them at times but the colours are always stunning ...and that makes up for it. Unfortunately I missed Kaffe Fasset this year, he was coming the next day.

Having attended the Rotary Convention in Atlanta I was also fortunate enough to visit the Quilt Museum in Paducah which was a fantastic experience, my husband, Ron was suitably impressed too!. He always says he loves to see the quilts but does not like the 'shopping' for fabric after!! I did pay a visit to Hancock's of Paducah and for those of you who have never been- this is a revelation, I was stunned when I walked in, seeing so much fabric I froze to the spot and only came out with two yards of fabric..... much to Ron's amazement.

Anyway back to the NQE I spent the whole day there and did buy some fabric which jumped out and said 'buy me'..well you know how it is. I have since used it all as we have our District Conference this weekend and we are promoting Fellowships and I have a small stand promoting us (RFQFA) and hopefully getting some more members from the UK and I have made table runners, mats and small items for sale..all 'pennies' going to End Polio now. UP date- She made \$500, enough to vaccinate 3600 children. Helena Daniels



Esther's Story

Greetings Rotary friends,

Where to begin - ??? It started four years ago + when both Lynn and I responded to an e-mail from Rotarian Diana. We both responded that we would be willing to work on the Newsletter for Quilters and Fiber Artists.

Little did I know then that I would be working with a woman who had multiple skills and could do great layouts for the newsletter. How lucky I was as my skills are extremely limited and all you would have seen was lots of words and photos. Lynn and I have shared much over the years and yet never met until this Fall. It was like having a sister and friend wrapped up in one. The only thing missing was not being close neighbors.

We did not let the 3,000 miles that separate us normally stand in the way as we shared many things together via the internet. When we met for lunch in Tacoma it was a dream come true and a real face that had a big smile. I bet our husbands figured it would be boring but as it turned out both men shared many tales and felt comfortable together. Lynn is one lovely lady and I know that we will continue to share our lives for years to come.

But back to summer and our (Lionel & I) trip to the New Hampshire Craft Fair at Sunapee Mountain. It had been quite a few years since we attended and what a surprise. It was no longer a few artists but many wonderful artists from different dimensions showing their talent. I have sent along a few photos of a quilt artist that I met. Michele O'Neil Kincaid was a lady who loved to share her quilts with others. Each piece on display told a story and one could spend hours talking to her and learn about how she got started and how she grew as a quilt artist. There was one piece, cannot find the photo, of how she used an old fashion headboard and wove cloth with quilting thru the slats. Kincaid has a website where you can find out about her workshops and lectures [mail-
to:lectures...michele@fiberartdesigns.com](mailto:lectures...michele@fiberartdesigns.com) or www.fiberartdesigns.com.

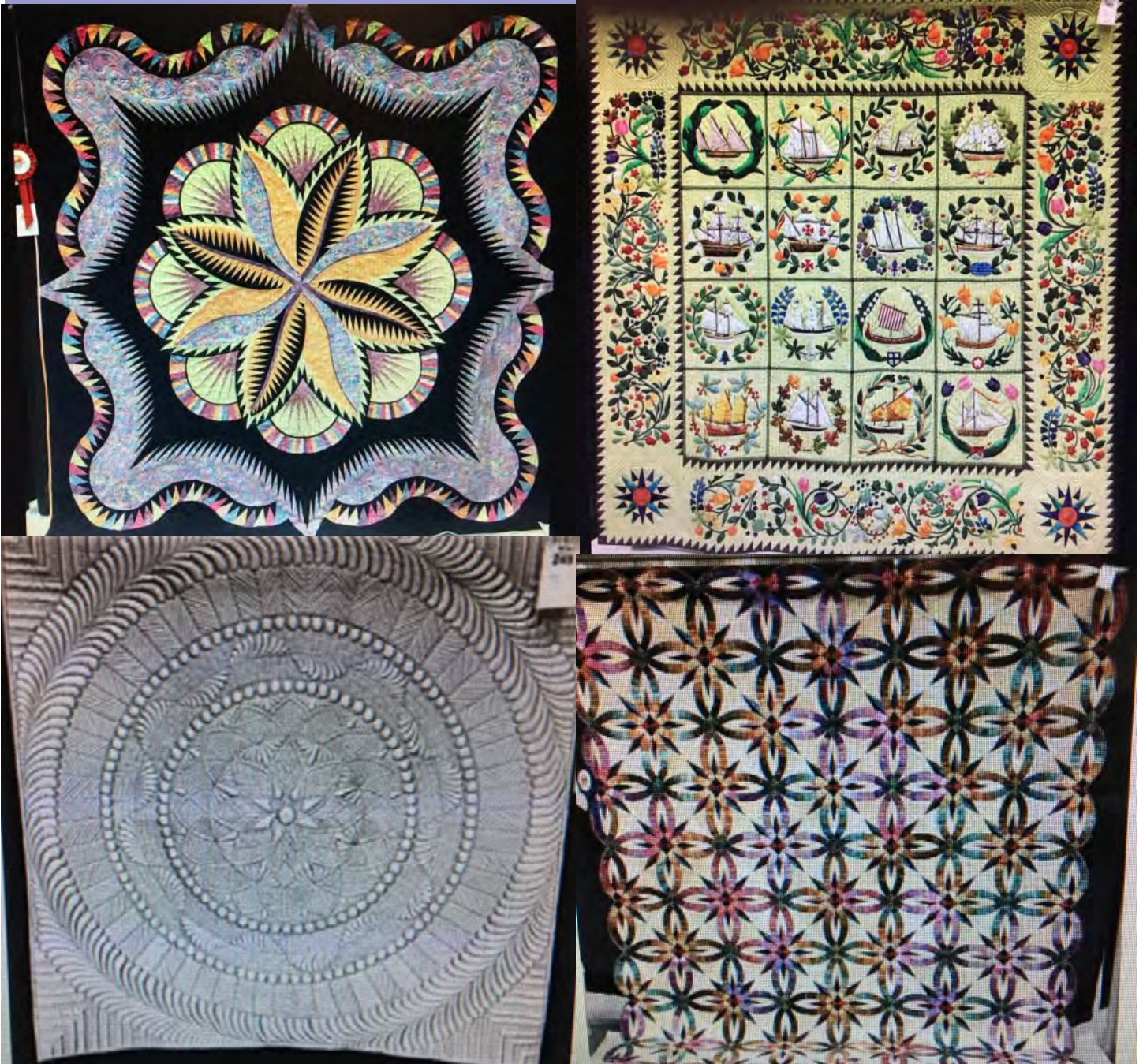
Quilter Ann Peck had the gown/dress on display at the exhibit. The patchwork had interesting pieces of photo printed designs and gave me ideas for future projects. I took out some of the things I have tucked away in a memory box for future projects.

On the knitting scene - I am completing my sixth baby afghan this summer. One of the afghans has gone off to Spain where our Rotary Exchange Student from Japan now lives. It is hard to believe that she was 17 years old when she lived with us and is now a married woman and expecting her first baby this fall. Her life changed as an exchange student and the baby will be speaking three languages - Japanese, Spanish and English. One of the other afghans is going to our 1st Rotary Exchange Student from Saranac Lake. She was also an Ambassadorial Scholar studying in Lima, Peru. Following her completion of her medical degree she went back to study infectious diseases and ended up making numerous trips to Africa where she trained doctors to use ultra sound equipment, how to prevent diseases and how to make kids love to go to the doctor.

I end with the following - Rotary is worldwide and one of the best things is meeting fellow Rotarians and sharing stories and becoming friends. One of the best things I learned about our Fellowship is how great the folks are that share their expertise and knowledge with us. My best experience was meeting up with Lynn and her husband. I am looking forward to a return trip to Washington State and spending more time with Lynn and hopefully visit her Club. So hats off to one and all and enjoy the coming season.

Esther

From the Chairman



Pictures from Cheryl of the San Diego Quilt show.

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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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Be sure to check out our Facebook page: Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists. You will find pictures of projects, information about events and pretty pictures. Add to the activity!

<https://www.interweave.com/store/weaving>

Check youtube.com for videos on tablet weaving. This ancient technique looks very challenging.

This is a plea for help. Esther and I love working on the newsletter as it gives us an excuse to research information. But we really love it when you send us information about what you are doing, projects related to our work with fibers and others. This time, it is all from the board or us.

What are you working on for Convention Toronto? Please send pictures and/or tell us about your projects. We know that the wider the variety of information we have the more interesting the newsletter will be. How has belonging to the fellowship enriched your life?

Will January be the best yet because YOU contributed???