

# THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

January 202  
Issue # 52

## Editor

Lynn Raymer  
liraymer@hotmail.com

## Fellowship Board

**Cheryl Minshew**  
Chairman  
619) 445-2026  
cminshew43@gmail.com

**Helena Daniels**  
Vice-Chairman

**Diana Barden**  
Secretary

**Marty Wyatt**  
Treasurer

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

## Contents:

Page 1-2 Report from  
Sewaid Timor

Pages 3 From the  
Chairman

Pages 4 Bits and Piec-  
es

Page 5 Underground  
Railroad

Page 6 Pacific Fiber  
Fest

## Sew Aid in Timor By Tony Castley



Team: Glenda Bones , Vera Liondas, Sheila McDowall , Gay Grillmeier, Rhonda Whitton , Sandra and Tony Castley.

Students: Twenty two ladies; Two from Soibada , four from Oecusse four from Dili, six from Viqueque and six from Lacluta,

# Timor continued



We had shipped up previously 8 x Singer 4411 Heaver Duty automatic sewing machines, 5 x Triumph Overlockers, and four good reconditioned second hand machines – two Berninas, one Brother and one Janome. A huge pallet of fabric, sewing accessories and haberdashery was also sent. After many months of preparation, we flew into Timor Leste on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> and settled into the Timor Lodge near the airport. We had hired a function room at AL-Fela ( a women's crisis NGO )

and Monday morning all our sewing machines, fabrics etc. were delivered there at 8.30am and we arrived soon after in our little hired Microlet. We took the whole morning to set up and then all our students arrived at 1pm for a briefing- which concluded at 3pm.

Tuesday morning 9am the teaching program began, and when it became clear that only one of the 22 students spoke English, we could see we were in for some challenges. We had arranged for a young man (Amin ) to help us as an interpreter, but we quickly realised we needed more and later Mira and her daughter Elda helped out.

When we say beginners, we quickly learned that these ladies had never seen a sewing machine, let alone ever used one. So it was a couple of trying days, teaching these ladies to use the sewing machines and the overlockers. Ironing wasn't much different, as early on the iron was left upside down, and another time melted the plastic frame of the ironing board etc. So we asked, thru the interpreter, who had ever ironed before, only 4 or 5 out of the 22 had ever used an iron.



## from Cheryl Minshew

Tony Castley reports that the bushfires in Australia have been devastating with around 2,500 homes lost, and so much forest land. And they estimate a billion fauna have been killed. Donations can be sent to <https://rawcs.org.au/> the Rotary Australia World Community Service organization.

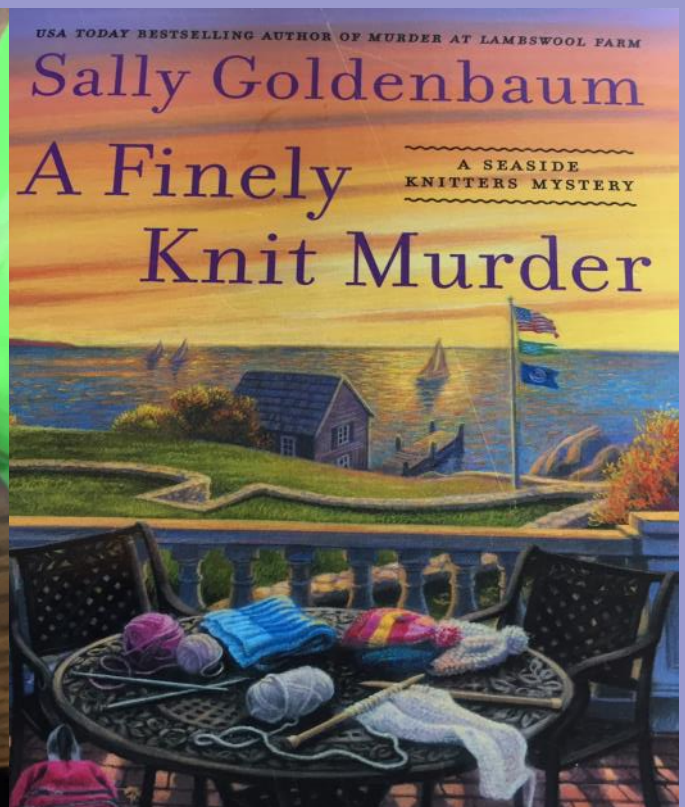
We are stretching our wings a bit this year, with the auctioning of a quilt for a project other than Polio Plus, also considering doing a raffle of some sort as another way to raise money.

For inspiration from Esther Arlan

The quilt shops are owned by the same family in Meredith NH. They purchased one of the largest and oldest quilt shop Keepsake Quilting and then expanded into the shop next door that was a yarn shop. Pineapple carries many patterns and packets of fabric to match the hanging finished pattern kits.



# Bits and Pieces from Esther Arlan



Have you checked out a paint store recently? There is a wealth of paint "chips" available that are great for new ideas and use of colors when knitting, crocheting or quilting. I recently was in a Sherwin Williams Paint Store looking for gray paint chips to bring home. I did a double take of the color I was considering: SW7672 - called "Knitting Needles". If you go into a paint store see if there are colors that could be used in a contemporary or traditional quilt. What color is it?

Many returning veterans are in need of more than just physical or occupational therapy. "Make a Quilt of Valor" might be something your local guild would be interested in participating in. For information on how to help or donate a quilt visit: [www.QOVE.org](http://www.QOVE.org).

The Torah is a scroll that is read at Jewish services on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays. It is then held and handled with the greatest of love and care each time it is removed from the Ark. "Torah Stitch by Stitch" was conceived by Toronto textile and Judaica artist Temma Gentles. Today men and women around the world are stitching the words of the Torah cross stitch by cross stitch on canvas. Individuals who are interested in participating in this project are invited to contact Temma at: [torahstitchbystitch.org](http://torahstitchbystitch.org). The kit cost \$18.00 and includes a paper cross stitch pattern of the verses to be stitched, black embroidery floss, canvas panel and needles. Once you receive the kit you have six (6) months to complete your assignment. To understand how huge this project is and I quote "The Torah has 5,856 verses and 304,803 letters". This is from an article I read in the July/August issue of Hadassah Magazine.

Let me know if you decide to participate in the project. [leearlan@comcast.net](mailto:leearlan@comcast.net) and under subject type Stitch by Stitch. Oh yes, you do not have to be Jewish to participate in this project





# Underground Railroad Sampler Quilt-Helena Daniels



The history of the Underground Railroad Sampler Quilt has always fascinated me. I have often read of the history hidden in quilts, such as the way a Log Cabin block was used to signal a 'safe house' for runaway slaves. When I came across a book called 'Hidden in Plain View' by Jacqueline Tobin I learned that certain quilt blocks were possibly used as a code to guide the slaves to freedom.

Jacqueline Tobin met a lady called Ozella McDaniel Williams from S.Carolina who told her that quilts were used to communicate information about the Underground Railroad.

According to Ozella and her family's oral history there were

ten quilts used to direct the slaves to get ready for escape. Ozella also mentioned a number of secondary patterns. Each of the blocks had a different meaning and a part to play in the code. The quilts would be hung one at a time on a fence or cabin door or left to 'hang out' while communicating a specific action or step in the journey.

'The Monkey Wrench'- turns the 'Wagon Wheel'- towards Canada. With the help of Jesus, the 'Carpenter'- follow the 'Bear's Paw'-through the woods. Fill your 'Baskets'- with enough food and supplies to get you to the 'Crossroads'- Once you get to the 'Crossroads', dig a 'Log Cabin'- in the ground. 'Shoofly'- told us to dress up in cotton and satin 'Bow Ties'- Follow the 'Flying Geese'- and 'Birds in the Air'- stay on the 'Drunkard's Path'- Take the 'Sailboat'- across the Great Lakes to the 'North Star'- above Canada.....

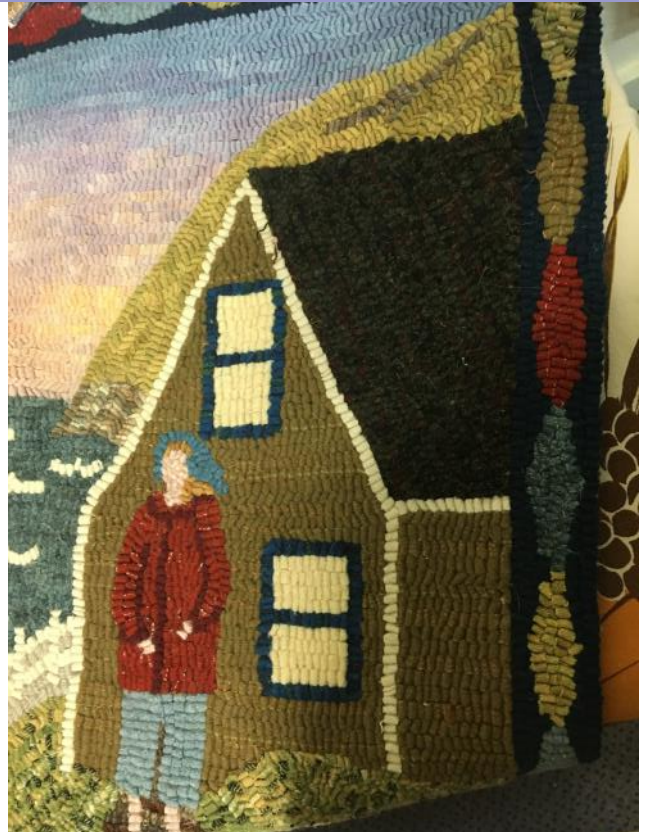
Lanterns also played a significant part during times of the Underground Railroad. A very brave lady called Harriet Tubman a 'conductor' who made nineteen trips North with runaways would signal safety with the wave of a lantern or sound of a song to those hiding by the wayside. Fugitives hiding in graveyards could spot a lantern signalling safe passage from a hillside in the distance

John Rankin the Presbyterian Minister on moving to Ohio became known as one of the most active 'conductor' on the Underground Railroad and he posted a lantern at his home up from the banks of the Ohio River for those stealing through the river while his wife made quilts to use as warnings.

If you happen to make a sampler quilt remember to add a story label so the meaning of the blocks will never be lost!



# Pacific Fiber Festival Long Beach Washington



Have you heard of Abracadabra Yarn? It changes color when in sunlight, then turns back inside. Felted pets looked like fun to make. Detail from a mat, woman working on a mat.





## Issue 52

Cheryl Minshew, Chairman  
619) 445-2026  
cminshew43@gmail.com

Helena Daniels  
Vice-Chairman

Diana Barden  
Secretary

[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:

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

Carolina Fiber Fest  
March 13-14 2020  
North Carolina State Fair Grounds  
Raleigh NC  
[Carolinafiberfest.org](http://Carolinafiberfest.org)

Fiber festivals 2020  
<https://midwestfiberartstrails.org/fiber-festivals-2020/>

Knitting Patterns <https://www.knitting-bee.com>

Quilt Patterns  
<https://www.accuquilt.com/patterns/free-quilt-patterns>

Quilt Shows  
<https://www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk/>

<https://quiltersguildblog.files.wordpress.com>

## European Quilt Shows

