

THREADS



Teaching to quilt

Angora goats

First ladies knitting

A wedding gift

Quilts for womens shelter

Crochet domino blanket

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

**Lynn Raymer, South West Pacific County
Peninsula Rotary, Washington State, USA**

These past few months seem to have flown. Visits to and from family, one Rotary event after another and no time to play! My club has changed a great deal in the recent past, giving up one project

revamping another and trying to do it all with fewer people. The organization Luggage of Love, which provided comfort bags for children moving into foster care has disbanded, so we are no longer working on that project. But the time and effort are now going into our Christmas projects, including Shop with A Cop and Christmas Angels. One provides a positive interaction between officers and children who may have had less than positive interactions in the past. The other provides Christmas presents in the form of necessary new clothing for needy children in partnership with the local community. Late this summer we had a golf tournament to raise money for these projects.

My own projects have been on hold, but hopefully, they will soon be back on the table. I have a couple of quilted pillow tops in the works as well as a table topper with a strip of hand-woven fabric I made. My looms are empty, but ideas abound. Hopefully, they will soon be warped.

Thank you to all who send articles, pictures of projects and other items of interest. Without you, we would have a pretty short newsletter! We all love to see what you are working on.

Another Zoom meeting is in the works for early November, tentative date the 12th. Stay tuned.





Our guild posing with 53 quilts donated to the women's shelter

DONATED QUILTS



Holly Astill - Rotary Club of Whitecourt Alberta Canada

I am a member of the Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists and also a member of the Pins & Pine Needles Quilt Guild of Whitecourt Alberta, Canada. We are a small guild but very active in charity donations of quilts. We have been a guild for 22 years. Our main charity is a women's shelter in our town and each year we donate numerous quilts so that the women and children that are starting over have quilts for their new homes. This year we also supplied donation quilts for the beds at the retreat centre where we hold our quilting retreats. The 2nd photo is us posing with 11 of the donated quilts to the retreat centre. The 3rd photo is our guild posing with 53 quilts donated to the women's shelter. We hold a quilt show every second year which includes a quilt raffle, guild challenges, demos, vendors market and lunch. Some of our other recent charity projects include handmade Christmas cards for seniors, quilts for fire or accident victims and small fidget quilts for Alzheimer patients (photo #1). During COVID, our guild met online with online guest speakers and sew along. Our first in-person meeting is scheduled in a few weeks, and many of us are excited to be getting back together in person. We will however continue to offer the online option.



Fidget quilts for Alzheimer patients

53 quilts donated to the women's shelter



October



TEACHING TO QUILT

Maria Yerton - district 6110, Pryor, OK

I've been lucky enough to teach a beginning quilting class for the last couple of years at a local vo-tech school in Oklahoma. Every semester I try hard to find a pattern that is interesting yet easy enough for a beginning quilter. This semester my students knocked it out of the park! I am so proud of each of them for their color choices, for sharing their knowledge and experience and for their finished projects.

This pattern uses a jelly roll and a background fabric that complements the color palette. In addition, we used a binding tool for cutting the jelly roll strips, and on the last night of class, I showed them how the tool was used for binding so they could utilize it to finish their quilts.

My favourite part of teaching this class is seeing individual personalities through the choices they make in color or pattern. As the pictures show, this pattern worked well for batiks, florals or holiday prints. The excitement the students shared as it came together and the friendly support they offered one another was a joy to watch. Teaching this class makes me proud to share the love of quilting, and I look forward to each new class.



A WEDDING GIFT

Pamela Sheldon, Rotary Club of Tahoe-Incline, Incline Village Nevada USA

I made this wedding gift for a fellow Rotarian, Brad Perry, and his beautiful bride, Sarah. Brad is an opera singer who has performed in Europe.



GOING TO AFRICA?

Linda Rabe

Are any Rotary Groups traveling to Africa to teach sewing? Are they bringing sewing machines? Treadle or electric? Setting up classes in advance? Working with local Rotary Club to learn what is needed?



QUILT FESTIVAL HOUSTON

**Dana Jones Gilpin County Peak to Peak
Rollinsville CO USA**

Wondering if any fellowship folks will have pieces exhibited in Houston. I'll be teaching and speaking there so could grab some photos of folks, their quilts or a combination of both. My number is +1-720-065-8430. Texts would be great but remind people to include their names.

QUILT FESTIVAL HOUSTON - NOVEMBER 3 THRU 6 - 2022

Preview Night: NOV. 2. George R. Brown Convention Center. 1001 Avenida de las Americas. Houston, Texas 77010



Knit and crochet

Karen Hutchings, Rotary club of Huntley, Huntley Illinois, USA

I started crocheting a domino afghan for my granddaughter, Marjan and will be getting back to it now that cooler weather is upon us. Her birthdate is May 13, 2005, so am starting with dots for her birthday. She will give me the other dots' locations soon, and the last step will be adding fringe. She had a baby blanket, and now I am getting this ready for May of 2023 when she graduates high school. My next grandchild in line will be a sophomore in May so have lots of time to knit or crochet her afghan before she graduates.



My very own blanket

Jessica Rudolph, Rotary Club of Dublin, Ohio, USA



My Very Own Blanket is dedicated to warming the heart of every child in the foster care system and other children in need with a blanket, to give them a feeling of comfort, security and most of all, a SMILE!

Handmade blankets are created through the loving care of volunteers.

www.myveryownblanket.org
info@myveryownblanket.org
 614.530.3327
[My Very Own Blanket](https://www.facebook.com/MyVeryOwnBlanket)
[@MyVeryOwnBlanket](https://www.instagram.com/MyVeryOwnBlanket)
 407 W. Main Street Westerville, Ohio 43081
 Send us pictures to socialmedia@myveryownblanket.org

Want the child to see who made their blanket? Send a picture of you with the blanket you made to [#myveryownblanket](https://www.instagram.com/MyVeryOwnBlanket)

I have not been a member for too long and have not been to very many meetings, but would like to get active in our group and would also like to let our group know about a very special service opportunity they can be involved in to help bring love to children who so much need to see and feel loved in their area!

Here is a brochure of what we do, and I would love to be able to present to our group a little more about it at the next meeting if that would be approved.

Did you ever wonder about Angora goats?

Esther Arlan is a member of District 7040 Passport Club & resides in Nashua, New Hampshire

I recently read an interesting article on: "Angora Goats: A "Shear" Delight".

"Angora goats were developed in Turkey near Ankara, where the animals get their names." In the 16th Century, they were exported to different countries where it was believed they needed to live on dry, cool plateaus similar to where they lived in Turkey. Good management makes them great animals to raise for the beauty and warmth of their sheared fleece. Breeders select animals on the basis of fleece, body development and reproduction. Looking for good physical traits such as strong, straight backs and legs, healthy appearance makes or the weight of the fleece. Angoras are brush-browsing animals and like to eat higher-up vegetation and avoid some of the insects that live on the lower end of the bush.

Here are some terms used when referring to Angora goats: Buck is an adult male and may also be referred to as billy; Doe is a female and may be called nanny; Kid is either male or female; mutton/wether = a castrated male. They are cud-chewing animals. Well-tended goats are also well-fed, and they produce the best fibre. Think of that Angora sweater you wear for its lightness and warmth. Knitting with angora is not for beginners. It is one of the more expensive yarns you will find in your local yarn shop. Large stores such as Joann's or Michael's might not have 100% angora yarn. It can be blended with other fibres such as wool.

Next issue – what I have learned about the different types of wool and cotton yarns.

Esther



Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if kept without any goat companions. So, it is unhealthy for a goat if a family just owns one as a pet. Goats were one of the first animals tamed by humans and were being herded 9,000 years ago.

Knitting first ladies

Esther Arlan is a member of District 7040 Passport Club & resides in Nashua, New Hampshire



Fall is in the air here in Southern NH and fairs are going full swing. I know that if you travel some of our windy roads here in New England you are bound to find a crafts fair near wherever you are. May of the larger sheep/wool fairs have come and gone. Inside info, from one of the women in my local knitting group, who is exhausted from doing yarn shows. She has been travelling for almost a month now and keeps sharing all the goodies that she has seen from many different vendors. Some are small independent dyers/spinners, and others are at old mills that have been reborn. I have successfully avoided going to any of the shows this fall as "my wool cup runneth over". And my fabric stash is waiting for me to decide what I am going to do and when. I have cut fabric to make table runners for our six grandchildren. I do not know the colors of their kitchens, but they will be getting matching or coordinated cloth napkins to go with the table runners. My sneaky way of downsizing the stash.

The shops are forecasting a cold winter and are showing items to make using fall and winter colors...yellows, oranges, browns and many shades of green are on the shelves in fabric shops and independent yarn shops. For our friends south of the equator enjoying spring and summer colors - what stands out for you? Are you being bombarded with things to make for Hanukka, Kwanza and Christmas? Are you seeing fabrics using native designs? Or are you working on your projects with snowmen and slides?

I am in very serious trouble! Joanne fabric closed two stores in my area over the summer. Perfect time to stock up on sale items whether you needed them, thought you would need them or just wanted to add to your various stashes. So why am I in serious trouble? They opened up this superstore less than 2 miles from my home. Across the parking lot from Starbucks and one of the grocery stores. I went in there shortly after they opened with Lionel and he was as impressed as I was by the huge carefully laid out store.





Bright lights and bright colors as you can see from the photos I took yesterday on my way to food shopping. I asked permission before taking any pictures and will share the newsletter with them after it is published. Since I was alone I got to take my time walking up and down the rows and rows of merchandise. The WOW effect is the back wall where all the yarn is displayed and just makes you want to touch and combine colors and see what the effect would be. There are rows and rows of all weights of yarn and knitting tools. The tools display is so attractively displayed, and all you need for quilting is right there. Scissors, cutting boards, and tape measures are within easy reach. If you sew everything is there are rows of threads and needles for all types of fabric.



When I came home all I could think of was what would Martha Washington think? She was a knitter who knit socks for all of George's soldiers. Or Letitia Christian Tyler the 1st wife of "Tip A Canoe and Tyler to" fame who spent many days knitting. Ida Saxton McKinley, wife of President William McKinley, who crocheted 3,500 pairs of house slippers to be sold for a charity event!

There were first wives who quilted: Eliza McCardle Johnson (Andrew) and those that sewed: Mary Todd Lincoln (Abe) & Grace Goodhue Coolidge (Calvin). It seems all the ladies did embroidery and taught others to enjoy handwork.

Among the 1st ladies a few stand out in my mind: Abigail Smith Adams who famously told her husband - "John remember the pins and needles for the ladies". Eleanor Roosevelt (Franklin) who carried her knitting everywhere she went and was often seen knitting at meetings and making socks for friends. The latest to join the bandwagon, that I am aware is Michelle Obama who made the cover of Vogue Magazine. She took up knitting when COVID forced everyone to stay indoors and when outside to avoid crowds. I sent a letter to Ms. Obama asking her questions that could be used in our newsletter but have not received a reply yet.



Eleanor Roosevelt. Picture from judyweightman.wordpress.com

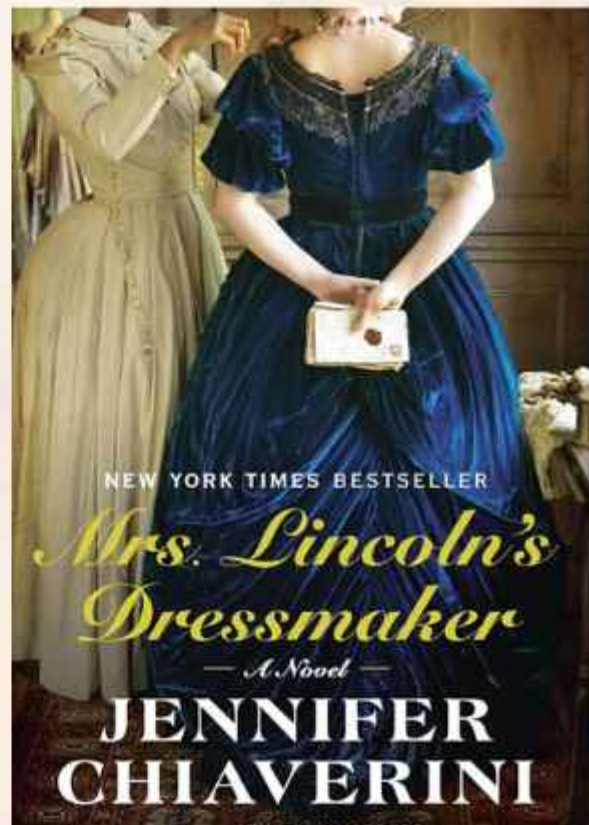
The Internet has a number of pictures of first ladies and other famous people knitting at meetings, in planes and pretty much everywhere.



There are many books on First Ladies. I just finished reading *Mrs Lincoln's Dressmaker*. Covers a period of time from before the Civil War to shortly thereafter. Perhaps at another time, I will develop a list of paperback books that are easily found in libraries about quilt groups that solve mysteries/murders; sewing circles that are always losing their needles and knitters that swap stories about dropped stitches. Send me your favourite books on our handwork – learlan@comcast.net

With many schools facing shortages of teachers, this might be the perfect time to start a "Club" and share your skill with the youngsters in the lower grades. I recall with fondness the year I volunteered in an elementary school (I did over many, many years) where part of the science project was visiting a local farm and watching the sheep

being shorn of their heavy coats. The kids brought back some unprocessed wool, carded it and then with wooden dowels made knitting needles. The children were then taught the knit stitch and made a gift scarf for their mothers. They never realized all the skills that they used: reading, measuring, counting and writing. It was a banner year for them and me.



Our website is <https://rotariansquilt.com>
and the facebook page is [Rotarian
Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists](#)

Thank you all for the contribution to the Newsletter



Bubble-quilt or puff quilt

Vigdís Stefánsdóttir, Rotary Reykjavík Grafarvogur, Iceland

In June, I usually start thinking about what to make for Christmas gifts; who would like (in my opinion) to get something handmade. Most often, my youngest grandchildren are the ones I make things for, but sometimes I do larger quilts, sweaters or other items for the older ones.

Ever since I started quilting, I had meant to make a bubble quilt but somehow never got around to doing it. I also found the method a bit tedious.

So, when browsing quilt pages, I came across a very nice-looking bubble quilt, and the method was very different from the one I had seen years earlier.

This is probably something that everyone else has seen and knows about, but for me, it was a revelation!

I used an old duvet cover and some remnants of quilt fabrics.

Each pair of squares (5" for the upper part, 4.5" for the lower part) is sewn together, on 3 sides. The fourth side is left unsewn. I actually did chain-sew them, and it took a surprisingly short time to do so.

Then I sorted the squares as I started sewing each row together.

Next, I put a handful of filling in each pocket in the first row and sew them together so that the seam closed the opening of all the first-row pockets.

I filled the next row and added to the quilt and so on.

When finished I simply added backing (turn-over method), turned the quilt and tied it in a few places.

The little owner (almost 4 at the time) accidentally saw the quilt - which meant it could not be kept for Christmas!



St. Fagans, Cardiff, Wales

Vigdís Stefánsdóttir, Rotary Reykjavík Grafarvogur, Iceland

I lived in Wales for two years while doing my master's degree. Wales is wonderful, full of all kinds of quirky houses, buildings, museums and things. One of my favourite museums is St Fagans National Museum of History. It is Wales's most-visited heritage attraction, standing on magnificent castle grounds on the outskirts of Cardiff.

During the last fifty years, over fifty original buildings from different locations in Wales and from different historical periods have been rebuilt in the 100-acre parkland. Each building is frozen in time and opens a door into Welsh history offering a fascinating glimpse into the past. The museum has over 250 antique quilts showing the history of quilts in Wales.

Being a quilter, I had to take pictures of the old quilts and share them! I would love to remake the one with the squares. If you are interested in the history of Wales quilts, Quiltfolk have made a fantastic workshop about quilts in Wales, that can be bought from here: https://www.quiltfolk.com/magic-of-wales-workshop/?_kx=8D00jyC_9YvIXF5KNpjMyTwVDTGpR25MwrqSrPoNPk05aYW54u5ScgUMUbWN_Yh9_QE47Aj

[_kx=8D00jyC_9YvIXF5KNpjMyTwVDTGpR25MwrqSrPoNPk05aYW54u5ScgUMUbWN_Yh9_QE47Aj](https://www.quiltfolk.com/magic-of-wales-workshop/?_kx=8D00jyC_9YvIXF5KNpjMyTwVDTGpR25MwrqSrPoNPk05aYW54u5ScgUMUbWN_Yh9_QE47Aj)

