

THREADS

Rotary



Rotarian Fellowship of
Quilter and Fiber Artists

Threads is a Newsletter for the Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists. It is published quarterly, featuring the work of Fellowship members as well as news and information regarding Rotary.

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Editor's note

Lynn Raymer, Rotary Club of Southwest Pacific County Peninsula
Seaview Washington State, USA



As we work to prepare for Melbourne there are many things to think about. Cheryl Minshew, our Chair, and I will be there with help from a number of other members. Member Simmy Ahluwalia is putting together a group on WhatsApp to help us communicate while we are at the convention. If you want to be included, contact Cheryl or I and we can get you added to the group, so you stay up to date even if you are not able to attend.

The booth is number 413.

"There will be a list of local quilt shops and their hours available at the booth. We will be meeting one evening for dinner and a meeting, venue to be determined. Please stop by the booth to get the information about time and place. It is tentatively planned for Tuesday evening."



On International Women's Day, I was invited to a spa day at a friend's house. She said we would do crafts, so I asked if I could bring my inkle loom. I had not used it for a while, or any of my looms, as I had been busy, mostly with stuff I'd rather not be busy with. It took me three tries to get it wrapped! But in the end, I had a small belt, that turned out to be a perfect match to my new shirt, so I wear it more like a very small scarf, for decoration. Then I quickly started work on a couple of guitar straps in Blue and Gold for the booth. And a couple of other small items are still in process.



I recently took a Wild Weaving class from my teacher, where we learned several new variations weaves and made a small wall hanging. It was fun and held in our local yarn shop.



I was able to attend a quilt, craft and sewing festival in Portland Oregon USA this past week and found several interesting resources. A lovely display of needlepoint threads and small kits; they also have a YouTube channel if you like to watch and learn. www.EdmarOnline.com. Youtube [@edmarco.9103](https://www.youtube.com/@edmarco.9103) The kits are Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery, the guild website is [BDEIG Brazilian Dimensional Embroidery](http://BDEIG.com).

There were sewing and quilting machines and some amazing patterns as well as fabric and yarn. Fiberworks-heine.com had many patterns with small pieces to make a mosaic, many of animals. ReetsRagsToStitches.com was another small project booth, made with little pieces.

It may take me a while to get to my goal of learning how to do “everything”!

Sewing is a survival skill

Linda Gerber, Boise, Idaho USA. Rotary Club: Eagle-Garden City



Anything you can do with fabric is fun to design and make. From quilts and blankets to costumes and bags.

I've had fun playing with different ideas, but it's always better if it's for service. I've had the opportunity to use fabric to make a waterfall for a charity event and added napkins, tablecloths, and aprons to auction gift baskets others fill with wine and goodies. Like many quilters, it was an honour to make masks for cancer patients, veterans, the elderly, and patients at the free clinic early in the pandemic.



My husband got me a T-shirt that said "Sewing is not a HOBBY It's a 2020 Survival Skill". My favorite thing has been making a small custom backpack for a disabled veteran with all the compartments he needed that fit on his walker.

I made a table top from scraps of over 600 masks I made to mark the year 2020. The woven piece was made as a Ipad case.





Spring is here at last

Esther Arlan, Passport Club, District 7040, New Hampshire, USA

Hello to friends near and far. It is Springtime in the northern part of the hemisphere and Fall in the southern part of our world. We here in New Hampshire (USA) are delighted to see the daffodils beginning to come out of the earth. A signal that Spring will come. Mother Nature has provided us with a couple of days of rain after a very long period of little snow and no rain. Wildfires are all around us but we are safe. Our friends south of the equator are probably looking forward to cool weather, raking leaves and putting their gardens to sleep. We hope that the hot weather and winds will soon be a thing of the past and the forest fires will be brought under control.

The New York Times has recently had several articles on knitting. In February 2023 guest essayist, Peggy Orenstein, wrote an article entitled: "The Revolutionary Power of a Skein of Yarn" (January 27, 2023). I think if you goggle NY Times you will be able to read and enjoy the article. In it she mentions the former first lady, Michelle Obama, posting a phot of herself knitting. You may recall she recently appeared on the cover of Vogue Knitting Magazine and proved that one can learn to knit at any age.

In March NY Times had an article about "A Knitwear Sensation at 83". Ms. Delia Barry, an octogenarian, knitted sweaters for Colin Farrell of "Banshees of Inisherin" fame. When contacted by the author of the article, Lou Stoppard, Delia was playing bingo with friends but took his call. Ms. Barry learned to knit at school at age 7 and by the time she was a teenager was making her own clothes. She traveled to London with her husband at the age of 20 and worked in a telephone factory. She continued to knit rising early each day and knitting for two (2) hours before work, or walking on a beach after she retired. When her husband was diagnosed with cancer she knitted and raised funds for Greystones Cancer Support group. Today she is living back in County Wicklow, where the town of Greystones is located. She spends her days walking with friends and knitting. We wish her well as she continued to knit and enjoy retirement.



Playing with stitches. Knit in wool using stash yarn. No pattern, just having fun.

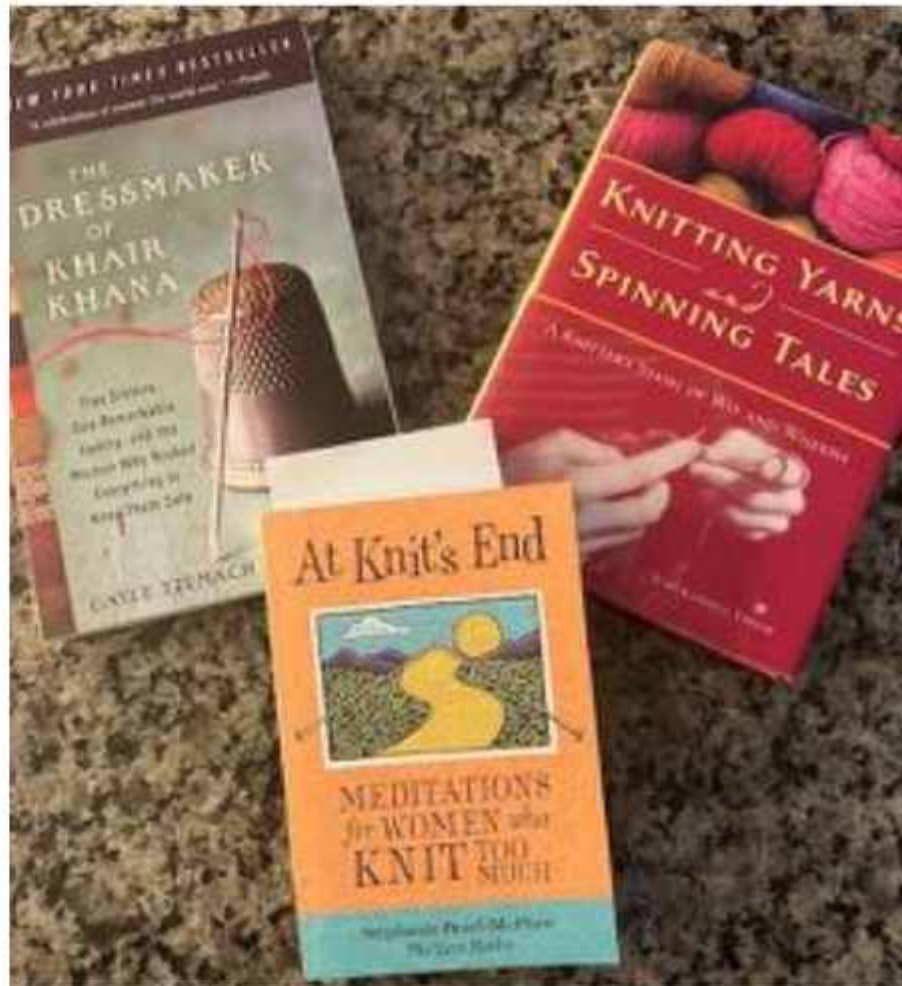


A variety of stitches on a glove.

Sorry to tell you this but I do not spend hours each day knitting. My fingers would not allow it. In fact, it has been a while since I picked up two sticks to use with yarn or 5 sticks to knit a pair of socks. Seems I have just been in a funky mood and knitting just wasn't included. Instead, I have spent time reading. Being in two reading groups that are very diverse has kept me busy just keeping up with Zoom dates to discuss the books. I did dig out some older books in my collection of knitting books and have begun to revisit them. One book that is easy to carry with me is The Yarn Harlot's "Meditations for Women Who Knit Too Much" which makes me smile. If Stephanie Pearl-McPhee is ever in your neighborhood take the time to meet her. I had the fortune of attending a workshop with her several years ago and think we spent more time laughing as she told of her travels and adventures in knitting.

I would go here again at the "drop of a hat".

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's book "The Dressmaker of Khair Khana" kept me spellbound. Life in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized control is well worth reading. On the lighter side is author Maggie Sefton who has written a number of knitting mysteries. If you are going to read her books it is best to start with the 1st book and progress from there. Each book can stand on its own but is more enjoyable as the characters are the same in each book.



Titles include: "Knit One, Kill Two"; "A Deadly Yarn (bk 3)"; "Dyer Consequences"; & "Skein of the Crime". If there are other series do let us know about them.



Today I received in the mail yarn that I ordered from a local yarn shop I visited in Maine before Covid. The Cashmere Goat is a wonderful shop and the staff and owner are extremely friendly and helpful. I usually do not knit with cotton yarn but had several skeins in my stash and added 4 new skeins which will become an afghan for a new baby in our extended family. The object is to complete the afghan before he enters school.

Quilt shows are all over the place. I have successfully avoided going to any show as my fabric stash grew when we visited our daughter in Arizona this winter. I have several pieces of fabric cut to make placemats for our youngest son's RV. So that our daughter-in-law does not feel neglected I purchased yards of fabric with "seed" envelopes. Each placemat will be double-sided – one with flower seeds and the reverse with bicycles. That is a project that needs to be started now and completed before summer when the RV will be on the road.

I hope you like the photos that I have attached to this article. Wherever you travel this year be safe and stay well. Keep us posted on the yarn shops and quilt shops you visit. Perhaps if some of our readers are in that town, city or state they will be able to stop in and tell the owner they read about it the Rotary Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists. Check websites for places you will be traveling to this year and see what local, independent craft shops are nearby. Some visitor centers have pamphlets with yarn & quilt shops listed.

If you are heading to Melbourne, Australia – have a great time and stop at our booth and say hello to Fellowship members.

Esther



Quilting

Elsie M. Whisenant, Rotary Club of Valdese, Valdese, NC, USA

Since I have my computerized long-arm quilter, I have become the local person you want to see when you find that old quilt top your grandmother, aunt, or mother made years ago and it somehow came into your possession. Since last November, I have quilted six beautiful quilts for my friends. This has been a real challenge since some squares were not so square; seams needed to be repaired; one was sewn by hand; one was handmade chenille which she had not completely finished but they wanted it quilted anyway; and lots of frayed strings had to be trimmed.

I pressed, used spray starch, pressed again, and prayed a lot! I was so afraid I would ruin one of them, but they all turned out okay. I also put the binding on each of them. What a privilege this has been to see these beauties become real quilts to be displayed instead of being stuck in a drawer somewhere!

I am still learning how to use this JanomeQMP 20 and the ProStitcher computer program. Computers and I don't always get along so well!

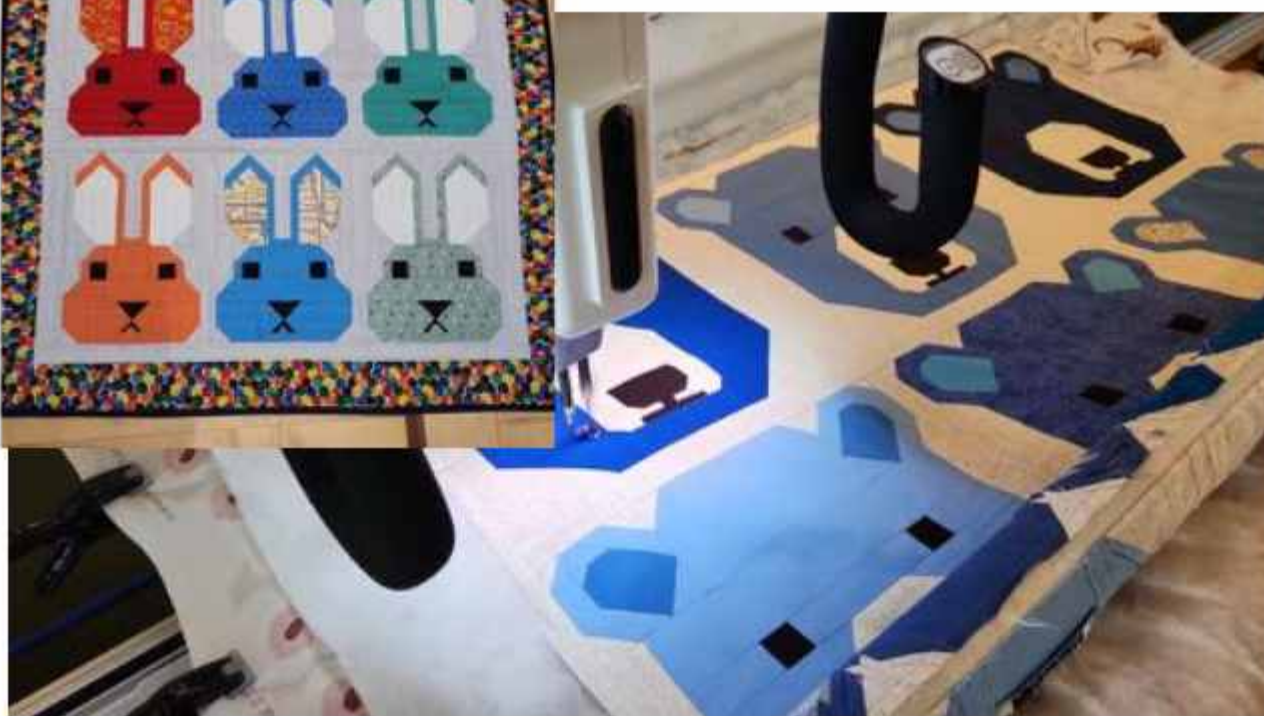


Baby quilts, socks and quilting

Nora Falk, Rotary Club of Marblehead, Marblehead Maine, USA

I'm very excited for Australia, and while my husband will be busy at the conference, I'm looking forward to exploring the city. But I will definitely come and seek you out at the House Of Friendship.

A year ago I broke my knee and it took a long time to get fit enough to climb the stairs into my attic studio, so I've been knitting socks more than sewing quilts. But I'm back! Lots of friends and friends' kids had babies this year, and of course I've been making baby quilts. I finally tried Elizabeth Hartman's patterns and had fun experimenting. I'm attaching some pics. Once the pieces have all been given, I'm going back to making some art quilts and mixed media projects for our local arts festival in July.



Knitting, crochet, and patchwork

Vigdís Stefánsdóttir, Reykjavík Grafarvogur Rotary Club, Iceland



First, a confession; I love crafts! Knitting, crocheting, sewing, patchwork. Just love it. So, I have been doing this and that. Made two knitting patterns for kids, one which is a sort of Frozen sweater and the other a Lopi-like pattern. It is actually a reproduction of an older pattern I made. Then I knitted a cardigan for my oldest grandchild and lastly used a large crochet hook to make "holes" for another. I also made a dinosaur quilt for one 10-year-old granddaughter and lastly, a quilt for a friend. Her mother passed away and left some fabrics which she asked me to turn into a quilt.



It was a bit difficult as there were many green colors but not much else. On second thought, I should have picked another pattern...



Hats for premature babies

Fiona Miles, Guildford Chantries Rotary Club, District 1145 England

My current project is knitting ONE premature baby hat a day for the month April.

The hats are to be donated to Dr. John Philip who is chair of the Rotary Healthcare Fellowship and is also part of the Rotary GB&T's Ukraine Taskforce. The hats will ultimately reach Ukraine and be issued to premature newborns to help with the prevention of heat loss and to improve survival rates.



If you want to know more
here is the link to the
Rotary Magazine

www.rotarygbi.org/magazine/

This initiative is to compliment the Kangaroo Mother Care wraps that will be provided (currently being manufactured in Moldova). If you want to know more here is the link to the Rotary Magazine www.rotarygbi.org/magazine/
The pictures above are, the hats I have made up to the 6th April and boxed up the first 119 hats my club has donated (not all knitted, 96 cotton ones were purchased by members) being presented to Dr John Philip in March 2023. In addition to knitting these hats at the rate of one a day for the month of April I have asked members of my Rotary club to sponsor me in aid of the End Polio Now Campaign. We have World Immunisation Week 24th – 30th April. Regrettably I will not be at the convention in Melbourne but wish all those going a successful time at the RFQFA booth.

Jane Goodall, knitting and crochet

Marie Seiser, West Bend Sunrise Rotary Club, District 6270, West Bend Indiana USA.

You asked what we've been doing so here are a few items from last year. I haven't quilted in years, but spend a lot of time knitting or crocheting. My granddaughter asked for the dolls from the 'Iconic Women' pattern book.



Scarf

Socks for grandson

Jane Goodall and her chimp



Marie Curie



Shawl

Sylvie Gosselin et Geneviève Soucy Ouellette. Club 6410 – Sherbrooke, QC Canada. District 7850

Cette courtepointe a été créée pour aider la Fondation du Rotary. Le Club Rotary de Sherbrooke, Qc Canada (Club 6410 District 7850) est heureux d'offrir cette courtepointe. Elle a été exécutée par Geneviève Soucy Ouellette et Sylvie Gosselin, membres du club et par Geneviève Langlois et Katherine Boutin, amies de notre club.

Cette activité nous a permis de rassembler 3 générations de participantes. Katherine, la plus jeune, a eu beaucoup de plaisirs et a pris son rôle au sérieux. Nous souhaitons que cette courtepointe fasse le bonheur d'une personne et aidera le Rotary International lors du congrès international du Rotary à Melbourne, Australie en mai 2023

Nous sommes fières de contribuer à la Fondation du Rotary. La mission du Rotary est d'aider les membres des différents clubs dans le monde, à faire progresser l'entente mondiale, la bonne volonté et la paix en œuvrant dans les domaines de la santé, de l'éducation, de la protection de l'environnement et de la lutte contre la pauvreté. La Fondation Rotary transforme les dons en actions durables qui changent le quotidien de milliers de personnes aussi bien près de vous qu'à l'autre bout du monde.

Merci au Club Rotary de Sherbrooke de permettre de telles activités.



**Nann Hilyard's has an interesting blog:
WithStringsAttached.blogspot.com**

Three generations

Sylvie Gosselin and Geneviève Soucy Ouellette. Sherbrooke Rotary Club's members. Club 6410 – Sherbrooke, QC Canada. District 7850

This quilt was created to help the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Sherbrooke, Qc Canada (Club 6410 District 7850) is pleased to offer this quilt. It was performed by Geneviève Soucy Ouellette and Sylvie Gosselin, members of the club, and by Geneviève Langlois and Katherine Boutin, friends of our club.

This activity allowed us to bring together 3 generations of participants. Katherine, the youngest, had a lot of fun and took her role seriously. We hope that this quilt will make one person happy and help Rotary International at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia in May 2023.

We are proud to contribute to the Rotary Foundation. Rotary's mission is to help club members around the world advance global understanding, goodwill, and peace by working in the areas of health, education, environmental protection, and poverty alleviation. The Rotary Foundation transforms giving into sustainable actions that change the lives of thousands of people both near you and on the other side of the world.

Thank you to the Sherbrooke Rotary Club for allowing such activities.



Australian animals

Paula Adams (Retired RCSP Executive Secretary). Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, FL



I've finished my donation for the convention.

It's a baby quilt themed with Australian animals, (platypus, kangaroo, crocodile and a koala).

I'll be sending it with our PE, Jillian Doyle.



Best knitting pins ever (for now)

Vigdís Stefánsdóttir, Reykjavík Grafarvogur Rotary Club, District 1360, Reykjavík, Iceland

I knit a lot and recently I discovered new knitting pins. I just love them. They are easy on the hands and for me at least, make the knitting even more enjoyable. The pins are square (yes!) and made by Addi.



Seattle Art Museum

Barbara Bitetto Rotary Club of Sumner, Washington Dist. 5020

I have been sewing some items for the booth in Melbourne even though I won't be attending. I have been using Australian fabric for them since they are unique and represent the country. I was in Melbourne in 2000 and got some fabric then and have included it in the things as well. I made some table runners and cosmetic bags. Our PE for Sumner Rotary (Washington) will be bringing them to the convention. His wife is a quilter and would be willing to help out in the booth.

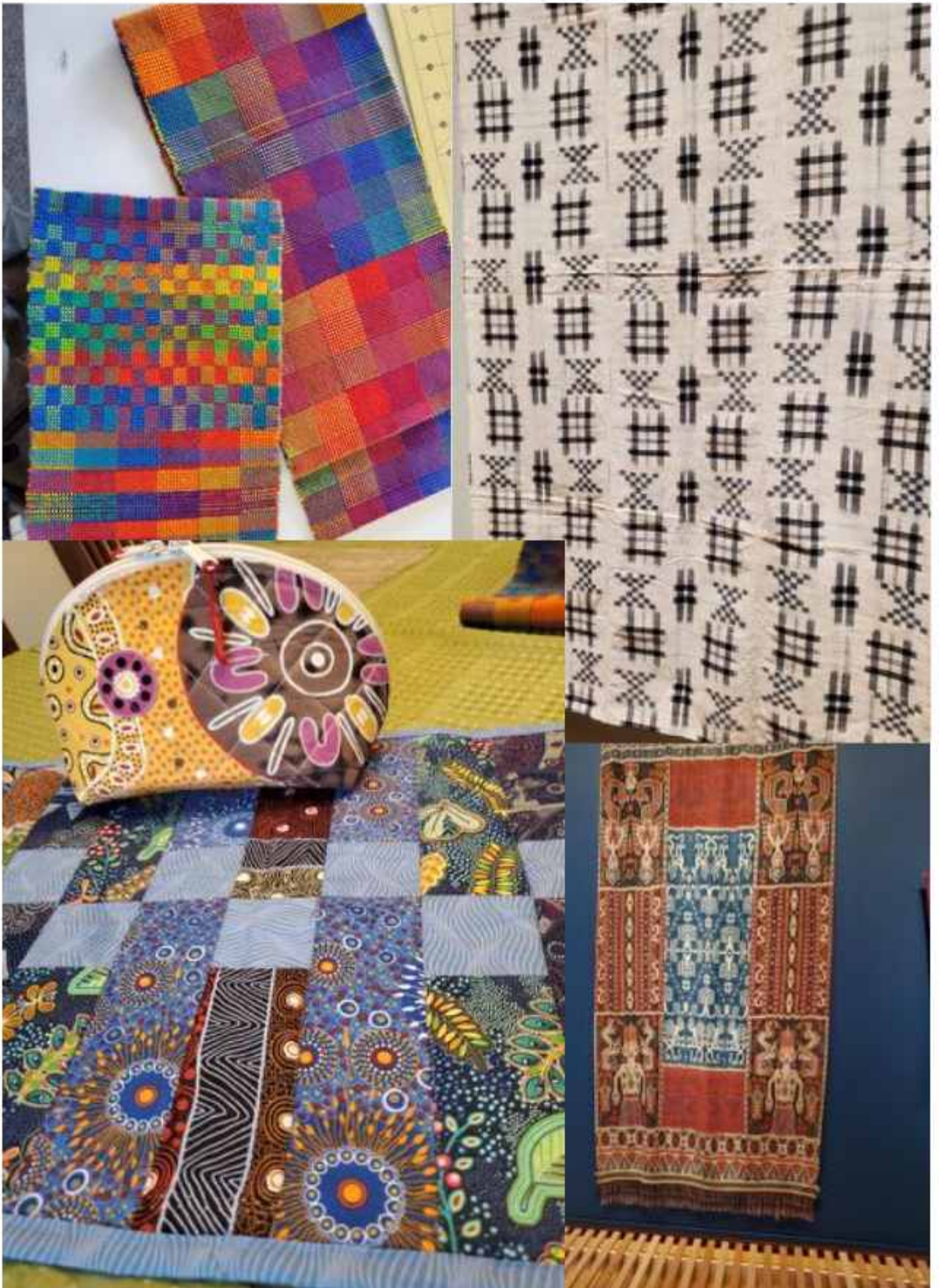
I enjoy all types of fiber arts including quilting, weaving and dyeing. I have been a longtime member of Tacoma Weavers Guild and the Pierce County Clothing and Textile Advisors. Both groups give me a lot of support and friendship. January to March I work for the Sewing and Stitchery Expo that is held in a neighboring city. Around 20,000 come annually to the trade and education show.

Last week I went to Seattle Art Museum to see an exhibit on Ikat. There were items from Japan, India, Uzbekistan and Indonesia. Since I understand the method of dyeing both the weft and warp, I could appreciate the skill needed to weave the pieces. Some of the favorite pieces were indigo pieces from Japan since I have visited Japan many times and learned about the technique used. I am amazed how the technique is used all around the world.



I enjoy the group and like the Zoom meetings. Good being with kindred spirits.

This work is from Ikat.



Work from the Seattle Art Museum - show Ikat

House blocks

Cheryl has received a wonderful collection of house blocks and fabrics! She is starting to piece the quilt. I have attached photos of some of the blocks mailed to her.

The fabrics represent the United States - Louisiana, Alaska, California (Lake Tahoe), New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Californian (Navy), Hawaii, Maine, Washington, and Wyoming. As well as Mexico, Kenya, England, and Canada! One member choose Australian fabric to build her "house".

Thank you ALL!

