

THREADS OF LIFE

September 2009 newsletter



Basketry used in Tapobali, Lembata; Hiking in Lembata; a young weaver in Seraya, Bali

Dear Friends,

Since our July newsletter, six new field notes have been added to the Threads of Life website.

[Sumba, May 2009](#)

We go in a new direction to the community of Hamba Praing and meet their indigo dyers.

[Adonara, June 2009](#)

One of our field staff, Wenten, introduces us to the little-known textile traditions of Adonara, an island between Flores and Lembata.

[Tapobali, Lembata, June 2009](#)

Wenten also writes about the rapid progress of one of our newest cooperatives on the south coast of Lembata.

[Seraya, Bali, June 2009](#)

Lolet tells us about the young weavers of the Karya Seni Warna Alam cooperative.

[Lembata and Adonara, August 2009](#)

Wenten returns to Lembata and Adonara, this time with the two interns we have been hosting from the Alola Foundation in Timor-Leste.

[Bokong, Timor, 2009](#)

Lolet tells the story of how the Nek Mese cooperative has grown in leaps and bounds since we helped found it in 2004.

Though it looks as though we were idle during July, a lot of field work was done for Threads of Life's sister organization, the [YPBB Foundation](#), with visits to Timor and Savu, and a weeklong twenty-participant natural dye workshop in Bali.

For those in Bali during early October, we are offering several exciting events during the Ubud Writers' and Readers' Festival (<http://www.ubudwritersfestival.com/>).

[Free Special Event: 6pm October 8th Story & Song from East Flores](#)

The opening of this exhibition will be accompanied by a presentation in words and song about the motifs and meanings of the traditional textiles of Sikka in Flores by members of the Sanggar Bliran Sina cooperative. They will also explain their ongoing work to recover, document and replicate the motifs of all their community's traditional cloths, and discuss how they are sharing their work through local schools and their own small community exhibition space.

[Exhibition: October 7th-16th, 10am to 7pm Stories in Cloth: Motifs and Meaning in Indonesia's Textile Arts](#)

Across Indonesia, traditional textiles are more than simple articles of dress or ritual objects. They are vessels that convey meaning from one generation to the next, offering each weaver the opportunity to interpret and contribute to the lore expressed through her work. Through a special exhibition documenting the motifs and meanings of contemporary textiles from across the archipelago, Threads of Life offers a unique insight into the world of traditional cloth, not from the Western point of view, but as the weavers themselves see their work and its importance.

[Cultural Workshop: 2-5 pm October 9th \(reserve through festival website\)](#)

[Stories in Cloth: A Guided Journey](#)

In their motifs and ceremonial uses, the traditional textiles of Indonesia represent an understanding of the natural world and community that has sustained people through the centuries. Starting at the dye plant garden and studio of the YPBB Foundation and finishing at the Threads of Life gallery in Ubud, I Made Maduarta and William Ingram will introduce the uses and stories associated with dye plants across the archipelago, and the motifs and meanings that can be discerned in traditional cloth: spice trade influences juxtaposed with indigenous motifs, echoes of Indian trade cloths,

imagery related to defining aspects of the local environment, history and genealogy entwined. (Meet at Roda Internet, opposite Café Des Artistes, Jalan Bisma, Ubud)

Best wishes.
from William, Jean, Pung, Lolet, Weti
and everyone at Threads of Life

On Threadsoflife.com

Threads of Life is a fair trade business that utilizes culture and conservation to alleviate poverty in rural Indonesia. The heirloom-quality textiles, baskets and crafts we commission are made with local materials and natural dyes. With the proceeds from sales, we help weavers to form independent cooperatives and to manage their resources sustainably.

WHAT WE DO

This section explains the breadth and depth of our work. Behind the beautiful textiles seen in the gallery are months of [field work](#) each year [supporting womenis weaving cooperatives](#) through [fair trade](#), [revitalizing traditional textile techniques](#) , and [conservation efforts](#).

INDONESIAN TEXTILE ARTS

Fourteen slide shows explore the traditional [textile arts](#) from across the Indonesian archipelago while introducing the [weavers](#) and their [cooperatives](#), and the [materials](#) , [natural dyes](#), and production [techniques](#) they employ.

OTHER PRODUCTS

Traditional links between livelihood, culture and nature are expressed through some of the world's finest [basketry](#). Diverse [culture arts](#), including pottery, woodcarving and bead work, also retain a remarkable vitality.

HOW TO PURCHASE

Threads of Life sells its textiles, baskets, or other cultural artefacts through its [gallery in Ubud](#), Bali, and occasional overseas exhibitions and sales. Books, music and videos are available [online](#).

THREADS OF LIFE TEXTILE ARTS CENTER

Jalan Kajeng 24, Ubud, Bali 80571, Indonesia
Open 10 am to 7 pm daily. [Click for directions](#).
Gallery Tel +62-361-972187.
Office Tel +62-361-976581.
Fax +62-361-976582.
Email info@threadsoflife.com.

FIELD NOTES

Keeping people informed of our ongoing work in the communities is important to us. Every time our staff return from a field visit their experiences and observations are turned into a [field notes](#) slide show. Over time a rich archive of these will build up for visitors to browse through.

OUR TEXTILE

Detailed descriptions, cultural references and photographs with high-resolution images [catalog](#) a varied and exciting sample of the best textiles produced by the weavers' cooperatives associated with Threads of Life.

CLASSES, TOURS and UPCOMING EVENTS

The [classes](#) offered at the gallery on the history and diversity of Indonesia's textile arts are an excellent way to gain a new level of appreciation. News of any tours, events or exhibitions we are offering is also to be found here.

YPBB FOUNDATION

YPBB stands for Yayasan Pecinta Budaya Bebali and is the name of the Indonesian nonprofit that the Threads of Life business is partnered with in its community work. [Read more](#) about YPBB's projects and funding.

GET INVOLVED

To join the Threads of Life mailing list, click [subscribe](#). To update your contact information in the mailing list, click [update](#). To remove your name, click [unsubscribe](#). To send us an email, click [contact us](#).