

# THREADS OF LIFE

January 2010 newsletter



*Noble basket makers and weavers from Rindi, Sumba. Rindi features strongly in Jill Forshees "Between the Folds", now available on [threadsoflife.com](http://threadsoflife.com)*

At this time of year, the communities we work with are all busy in their fields taking advantage of the rains. Meanwhile, we are busy in the office, getting ready for the 2010 fieldwork season and doing research. As a result of this research we are often asked for recommendations for books, videos and music about the traditions and cultures we work with across Indonesia. Following our own interests in these areas, we have spent a lot of time in specialist bookshops and libraries over the years, and have compiled a list of the most informative and entertaining media we have found. For the first time we can make this list available for purchase through the [ThreadsofLife](http://ThreadsofLife.com) website.

Our books are divided into three sections: Design & Craft, People & Culture, and Textile Collections & Exhibitions. In Design & Craft there are 4 books. One of them is "[Colour: Travels Through the Paintbox](#)" by Victoria Finlay. Part travelogue, part history, Colour remembers a time when red was really the colour of blood, orange was the poison pigment, blue was as expensive as gold, yaks carried green along the silk road, and an entire nation was founded on the colour purple. Exciting,

In the Textile Collections & Exhibitions section there are also 10 books. "[Gift of the Cotton Maiden: Textiles of Flores and the Solor Islands](#)" edited by Roy Hamilton, is a region by region study of the textile arts of Flores and Lamaholot - including Ngada, Ndonga, Sikka, and Lamalera, areas that supply some of Threads of Life's most beautiful work - with essays from leaders in the field. The book was published to accompany an exhibit at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History in Los Angeles.

In the DVDs section, the remarkable "[Indonesian Indigenous Weavers Festival 2005](#)" documentary chronicles the Festival and explores the traditional cultures and weaving arts of Indonesia from the perspective of the people for whom they are a way of life. The weeklong festival was organized by Threads of Life's partner organization, the Yayasan Pecinta Budaya Bebeli, and brought ninety-six traditional weavers and cultural leaders from eighteen communities across Indonesia.

In the Music section we present 6 CDs of ethnic music with extensive notes and maps from the

richly informative, and always surprising, Colour unearths an astonishing wealth of stories about the quest for colours.

In the People & Culture section there are 10 books. "[Between the Folds: Stories of Cloth, Lives, and Travels from Sumba](#)" by Jill Forshee is a vivid account of a so-called "traditional" society and its arts responding inventively to decades of international collecting, brought to life through the stories of individuals who produce and trade local cloth: animists, Christians, and Muslims; Sumbanese, Indonesian Chinese, and Westerners; inventive geniuses, master artisans, and exploited weavers; rogues, entrepreneurs, nobles, and servants.

areas where we work in Flores, Kalimantan, Sumba, Timor, Sulawesi that were published by the Smithsonian Museum. "[Vocal and Instrumental Music from East and Central Flores: Music of Indonesia Vol. 8](#)" presents the virtually unknown, rich, and highly diverse singing traditions from the eastern regions of the island of Flores. Among the wonderful traditions presented here are polyphonic singing styles strikingly similar to some Balkan music, large powerful choruses from Sikka, music for double flute, gong and drum ensembles.

Best wishes,  
from William, Jean, Pung, Lolet  
and everyone at Threads of Life  
and the YPBB Foundation

## 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 women's weaving cooperatives](#) through [fair trade](#), [revitalizing traditional textile techniques](#), and [conservation efforts](#).

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### OTHER PRODUCTS

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

### 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.

## HOW TO PURCHASE

Threads of Life sells its textiles, baskets, or other cultural artifacts 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](mailto:info@threadsoflife.com).

## 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](#).