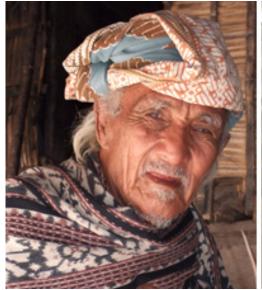
# THREADS OF LIFE

#### September 2010 newsletter







The Deo Rai traditional leader of Narmata, Savu; An earthenware palm sugar vessel; Filtering lontar palm nectar prior to sugar making

Dear Friends,

A busy mid-year has meant a few months have passed since our last newsletter. During that time two new field notes have been posted: one on Lolet's return visit to the village of Nggela in <u>Flores</u> to witness the Joka Ju ceremony, and one on the return of a lost fringing process to weavers in Helong, <u>Timor</u>, after a chance inquiry from an Australian textile conservator.

Being from the UK, I'm used to there being no summer. Year-round rain is nothing new. But what we are experiencing this year in Indonesia is something else entirely. The <u>US Climate Prediction Center</u> says the current La Niña event will continue "through early 2011" and that there will be "enhanced convection over Indonesia" until at least November. No kidding! The annual monsoon has become a yearlong monsoon, with some devastating consequences. A few years ago we were telling you how many communities that we work with in eastern Indonesia were suffering from drought, with their crops shriveling before they were ripe. This year, crops have rotted before they ripen, with the same starvation-inducing effects.

The solution to both these extremes of climate (beyond reducing all our carbon footprints) is to help these communities diversify their livelihood streams, which is what much of Threads of Life's and the YPBB

Threads of Life
at the Ubud Writers and
Readers Festival 2010

http://www.ubudwritersfestival.com/

October 6th at 6.30 pm.
FREE performance
Dance, music and stories
on the traditional culture of Savu
At the Threads of Life Gallery,
Jalan Kajeng #24, Ubud, Bali.
Tel 0361-972187.

October 7th at 6.30 pm.
FREE performance
Dance, music and stories on Savu's traditions of lontar palm sugar harvesting
At the Threads of Life Gallery,
Jalan Kajeng #24, Ubud, Bali.
Tel 0361-972187.

Threads of Life
at Jenggala Ceramics
http://www.jenggala.com/

October 9th at 6.00 pm. FREE performance Dance, music and stories

Foundation's work is about. To help us with this important work, please donate to the <a href="YPBB Foundation">YPBB Foundation</a>.
<a href="http://www.ypbb.org/howtogive.htm">http://www.ypbb.org/howtogive.htm</a>

### DONATE

For those in Bali over October, we invite you to attend one of the events we are offering around this year's Ubud Writers and Readers Festival. Dancers and musicians from communities Threads of Life of life works with on Savu will perform their traditional song and dance, followed by a slide presentation about the Savunese way of life and the importance of the lontar palm. There will be an opportunity to see the Savunese women weave lontar palm baskets and visit a retail exhibition of their stunning textiles. Savu is a remote island to the southwest of Timor. Its savanna landscape and long dry season mean the indigenous people live for much of the year off of lontar palm sugar. Remoteness and hardship have bred a rich culture bound to the lontar palm. Tradition is steeped in an honoring of the ancestors: design structures and motifs in the island's textile arts indicate the wearer's matrilineal bloodline.

#### on the traditional culture of Savu

At Jenggala Ceramics, Jalan Uluwatu II, Jimbaran, Bali. Tel 0361-703311

## October 9th to 20th, 9 am to 6 pm. EXHIBITION The Traditional Textiles of Savu and Timor

At Jenggala Ceramics, Jalan Uluwatu II, Jimbaran, Bali. Tel 0361-703311

Traditional textiles made using natural dyes by women members of weavers' cooperatives associated with Threads of Life showcase some of the best textile art currently being produced on the islands of Savu and Timor. An astounding degree of cultural integrity and artistic diversity is expressed over this 400 kilometer arc, and will be documented in text and photographs to accompany this textile exhibition.

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 <u>field work</u> each year <u>supporting women's</u> <u>weaving cooperatives</u> through <u>fair trade</u>, <u>revitalizing</u> <u>traditional textile techniques</u>, and <u>conservation efforts</u>.

#### 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 <u>field notes</u> 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 <u>textile arts</u> from across the Indonesian archipelago while introducing the <u>weavers</u> and their <u>cooperatives</u>, and the <u>materials</u>, <u>natural dyes</u>, and production <u>techniques</u> they employ.

#### **OUR TEXTILES**

Detailed descriptions, cultural references and photographs with high-resolution images <u>catalog</u> a varied and exciting sample of the best textiles produced by the weavers' cooperatives associated with Threads of Life.

#### **OTHER PRODUCTS**

CLASSES, TOURS and UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

The <u>classes</u> 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.

#### 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 <u>subscribe</u>. To update your contact information in the mailing list, click <u>update</u>. To remove your name, click <u>unsubscribe</u>. To send us an email, click <u>contact us</u>.