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THREADS OF LIFE

July 2012 Newsletter

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Dear William,

June was a busy month. The new Umajati Retreat is now open and already providing both a relaxing space for our guests and critical support to the Be Bali Foundation. A talk I gave in late May at the TEDxUBUD event in Bali is now online as a video and is the most concise and hopefully entertaining statement yet about what we are doing at Threads of Life. We are announcing a partnership with the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival for our October Bali textile tour. New Field Notes take us to Sumatra and east Bali to see traditional performances and ceremonies. And the New Textiles on the Website section focuses on an unusual piece from eastern Flores.

Left to right: Geringsing textiles in Tenganan, Bali; the Umajati Retreat; detail of a Kreet Beloge woman's tubular sarong from Flores

In This Issue

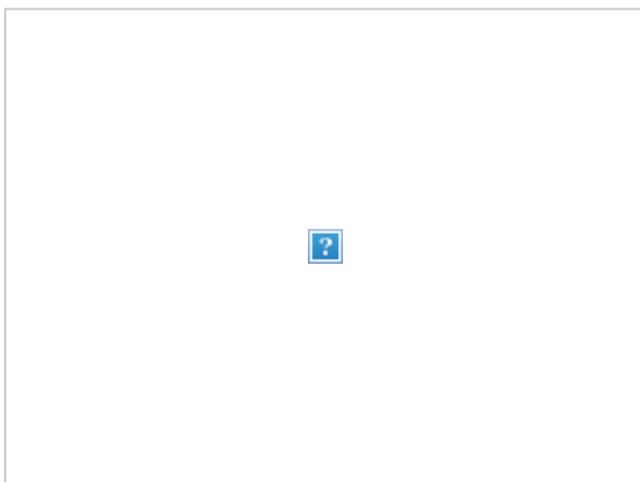
[TEDxUBUD](#)

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Weaving a new approach to poverty alleviation



Behind Being Fully Funded

In last month's newsletter I mentioned the video documentary 'Behind Being' that Quincy Davis is planning to make about the importance of culture and community, and that refers to the work of Threads of Life. Quincy was seeking funding for his project through [Kickstarter](#) and recently fulfilled his target and is now starting work on

Threads of Life at TEDxUBUD

Have you ever visited TED.com? The tag line for TED is "Ideas worth spreading" and the site has videos of over 1000 inspirational talks given at TED conferences around the world. The idea of TED itself has given rise to a whole movement of local volunteer-coordinated TED events, called TEDx. At the end of May, I was

invited to speak at [TEDxUBUD](#) to an audience of 300 change agents: "a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other" as the TED website puts it. Working out how to talk about everything Threads of Life does in less than 15 minutes without notes and only a few images was one of the most difficult things I've ever done. The video of the talk is now on [YouTube](#). Have a look and let me know how you think I did.

UMAJATI RETREAT



Umajati Retreat NOW OPEN and keeping the Bebali Foundation afloat

The [Umajati Retreat](#) that I mentioned in the last newsletter is now open and accepting guests, and is already providing the Bebali Foundation with critical life support!

The Bebali Foundation's main 2012 funding from the Ford Foundation has been held up in Indonesian government bureaucracy since April awaiting official approval. The Bebali Foundation's internal funds were exhausted at the end of April and since then Umajati has been taking on more and more of the burden of support, covering all Bebali Foundation staff salaries for June. Fortunately, the Indonesian government seems ready to approve the Ford Foundation grant by July 1st, but the importance of Umajati to the sustainability of the Bebali Foundation has already been proven.

Surrounded by tranquil rice fields, Umajati is a lush garden property hosting two elegantly converted hundred-year-old Javanese teak wooden homes that provide 21st century living in 19th century houses. Each has a kitchen and several private garden spaces around a shared swimming pool. Umajati is just 10 minutes north of Ubud and offers daily, weekly or monthly rentals hosted by Balinese house-keepers and cooks who specialize in healthy and vegetarian food.

See the houses and read more about what our intentions behind the project are at the new [Umajati Retreat website](#).

For more information, contact Jean at jean@threadsoflife.com



the video. I thank you to everyone who supported his work.

Our 2012 Tours

Click on the following links to view our tour brochures for 2012

[02 - 12 October:
The Textile Arts & Culture
of Bali & Culture of Bali](#)

[15 - 22 October:
Trekking in Tana Toraja,
Sulawesi](#)

**Spaces still
available!**



About Threads of Life

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



Donate to The Bebali Foundation

Threads of Life's nonprofit partner, the Bebali Foundation, works with the same communities as Threads of Life to support cooperative development

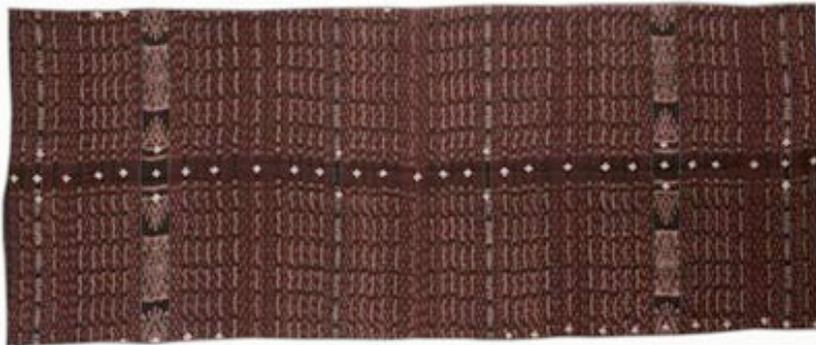
Ubud Writers & Readers Festival and Stories in Cloth: A Tour of Bali's Textile Traditions

2-12 October 2012

Our textile tour that follows on from the [Ubud Writers & Readers Festival](#) has been extended to include discount participation in the 3-7 October festival.

Following on from the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival, this 5-day textile tour is led by Threads of Life and based at the [Alila Manggis](#) in east Bali. We will meet weavers in their homes, their studios, and cooperatives in the villages of Seraya on Bali's dry east coast, amongst the lush rice fields of Sidemen, and in the ancient and storied community of Tenganan Pegeringsingan. Experiencing the weavers' lives through these visits, and seeing their textiles, will be the highlights of a tour that offers unique insights into the forces at play in Bali's contemporary textile traditions. Being based at the Alila Manggis we enjoy the resort's quiet luxury, the culinary excellence of the Seasalt restaurant, and the highly-regarded cooking school. Tour price is AUD 1,795 or USD 1,890 per person, including a AUD 290 early-bird ticket for the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival. For more details, visit our [website](#) or download the [tour brochure](#).

(Dates, prices, itinerary, terms and conditions for those already signed up for the tour are unchanged, though they may also chose to take advantage of the Festival discount.)



New Textiles on the Website

***Kreot Beloge* Woman`s Tubular Sarong**

Flores island (2011)

Tied, dyed, and woven by Antonia Bui Hera

Warp ikat, Handspun Cotton, Natural Dyes

62 x 151 cm (24 x 59 in)

The people living under the Ile Mandiri mountain on the eastern tip of Flores are weavers and basketry artisans as well as being farmers. Many of the women living in the village of Demun Pagong are part of an organization called [PEKKA](#) which is a national organization that supports women-headed households. Indonesian law recognizes only men as householders, so single women - who have been left by or have lost their husbands - suffer discrimination and isolation. Threads of Life is working with PEKKA as many of these marginalized women are weavers. The people of Demun Pagong maintain their tradition of using textiles as a gift exchange at marriage. This textile, locally called Kreot Beloge, is the most highly regarded ritual textile that is exchanged at marriage. It is handspun and predominately red and with small shells as decoration.

and environmental sustainability. The Bebali Foundation trains weavers in the establishment and maintaining of credit unions, and the sustainable cultivation, harvesting and use of dye plants. Its groundbreaking dye plant and dye recipe identification and documentation is the backbone of ongoing work to safeguard endangered indigenous weaving traditions, and the livelihoods they represent, from extinction. To support the Bebali Foundation, please donate at www.bebali.org via Give2Asia, PayPal, or bank transfer.

Join Our Mailing List

To read more about this textile, visit the [Our Textiles](#) section of the website. To read more about the weavers of Demun Pagong, visit the [Field Notes](#) section of the website.



Field Notes

This month's Field Note updates include a piece about the Ngusaba Samba ceremonial month between mid-June and mid-July in the village of Tenganan Pegeringsingan in [east Bali](#). During this period the complex and beautiful double-ikat textiles for which the village is famous are to be seen in the villagers' ceremonial dress. The height of the ritual cycle is the Mekare Kare series of ceremonial battles between the village men that tests their bravery, and the Ngastiti ceremonies during which a young women is processed through the village to ride the community's ritual ferris wheels. A second Field Note details the April 2012 field work in the Lake Toba area of [Sumatra](#) and the performing arts encountered along the way. The work of building relationships upon which trust and long term collaborations can form continues, and we meet some of the weavers with whom the project is working.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William".

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

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