



Dear William,

We have two particularly exciting pieces of news to share with you this month. First, Threads of Life is opening an online gallery. Second, we are now offering specialized 3-day and 4-day tours that we are calling Hidden Bali Experiences, and are using Umajati Retreat as the accommodations. This newsletter is completed by a complex Textile of the Month from Timor, news of the BaliSpirit festival, and a very interesting new website about Ubud and Bali.

A New Online Retail Gallery - Coming Soon!

The idea of an online gallery has been in the pipeline for a long time, but the complexities of shipping and customs duty have always slowed the process. Finally, we are getting some of the problems sorted and can foresee a launch within the next couple of months. The site will offer much the same level of detail as the main site, with texts on the cloth and its cultural background, and detailed photographs of each piece, but they will be for sale. This will address a frequent grumble we hear about the current site: so many lovely, tempting textiles and none of them for sale. All that will soon change!



Tenganan village is visited on both tours

Hidden Bali Experiences

Threads of Life is now offering a new schedule of tours accommodating guests at the Umajati Retreat. The sub-title for these new tours is "small-group tours that touch the heart of

A rice field path on the Hidden Bali Experience Nature of Bali walking tour

In This Issue

[Online Gallery](#)

[Hidden Bali Tours](#)

[Textile of the Month](#)

[Withdrawal from WFTO](#)

[BaliSpirit Festival](#)



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.



Bali" and each has been designed to do just that, taking visitors off the beaten track to see some of our favorite places and meet some of our favorite people.

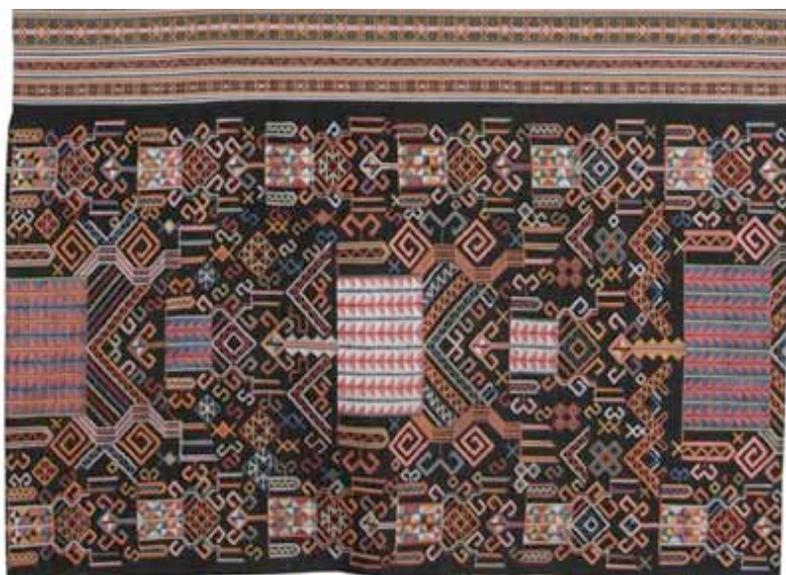
Our Hidden Bali Experiences can be arranged at any time to grant you access to authentic culture that honors tradition and avoids commoditization. Building on more than 20 years of experience of leading culturally sensitive tours in Bali, these are 3-day or 4-day tours are arranged to fit individual travel itineraries for small groups of 2 to 6 guests. Each experience is themed around a specific aspect of Bali's heritage, including an exploration of the textile arts, and a walking tour through the countryside of Bali. Please share these with your friends!



[Textiles of Bali Tour](#)



[Nature of Bali Tour](#)



Buna supplementary warp wrap panel at foot of cloth

Textile of the Month

Tais tubular sarong
Timor island (2012)
Dyed and woven by Antoneta Sae
Supplementary warp wrap patterning,
silk and commercial cotton, natural dyes
62 x 120 cm (24 x 47 inches)

As our textile of the month we have chosen a beautiful sarong from Bokong in Amanatun, Timor. The design on the foot is made with a supplementary warp-wrapping technique with natural-dyed silk threads. The motif is called *atalae* and represents a praying mantis. The Dawan people express ancestral images in their textiles in various forms. The *atoni* (human figure) and *beso* (frog) are depicted with outstretched arms and legs. The *atalae* praying mantis has extended arms that can hold its prey and also a head that moves in an almost human way as it looks around. All of these images remind the people of the way of the ancestors, and speak both to maintaining ancestral customs and venerating the ancestors. For a weaver this is particularly important for by weaving her



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 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.



Umajati Retreat

Surrounded by tranquil rice fields, Umajati is a lush garden property hosting two elegantly converted 100-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.

www.umajati.com

4 bedroom house

For a weaver this is particularly important, for by weaving her clan motifs she continues to "bring down" knowledge to the people of the current generation - thus the stories, values and ethics that guide their way of life can be passed on.

To view this cloth in more detail, visit the [Our Textiles](#) pages of the Threads of Life website.

Threads of Life withdraws from the WFTO

Threads of Life has been a part of the fair trade movement since we began working with Indonesia's traditional weavers in 1997. In 2004 we became a member of the World Fair Trade Organization, which in its own words, "represents Fair Traders from grassroots through to the G8 and is the authentic voice of Fair Trade, having driven the movement for 20 years. It is the only global network whose members represent the Fair Trade chain from production to sale." As of 2013, Threads of Life has withdrawn its membership of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO). Nothing has changed in terms of Threads of Life's practices and values. We are still the same fair trade organization, but we feel that the WFTO has changed and no longer properly represents our participation in the full fair trade chain.

[Read the full article on the Threads of Life blog](#)

Threads of Life at the [BaliSpirit Festival](#)

In late March, Threads of Life participated in the BaliSpirit Festival which brings the best of yoga classes and world music to Ubud for three days each year. This was the first time that Threads of Life has participated. We were given a booth generously paid for by one of the Festival sponsors, and it was a good opportunity to make connections with a younger group of people who have not been exposed to our work before.



The festival was an eye-opening experience. Many people are now coming to Bali because it offers the best of their home lifestyle at a lower cost, while they can work long-distance over the internet. With a reputation for being the cultural heart of Bali, one of Ubud's biggest challenges today concerns communicating its cultural values and inviting this new group of visitors to connect with the island's rich culture. A good place to read more about this is the website Ubud Now and Then recently launched by Ubud photographer Rio Helmi: <http://www.ubudnowandthen.com>. It is full of interesting information, including articles by author and long-term resident [Diana Darling](#).

Best wishes,

1-bedroom house,
USD 190 per night.
2-bedroom house,
USD 245 per night.
Weekly and monthly rates are
available on request.

Threads of Life on TEDx



Weaving a new approach to poverty alleviation



Constant Contact, the service that hosts this e-newsletter, has awarded us its 2012 All Star Award for consistently high open rates, click through rates, and low bounce rates.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

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

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to lafnduck@concentric.net by info@threadsoflife.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Threads of Life | Jalan Kajeng 24 | Ubud, Gianyar | Bali | 80571 | Indonesia