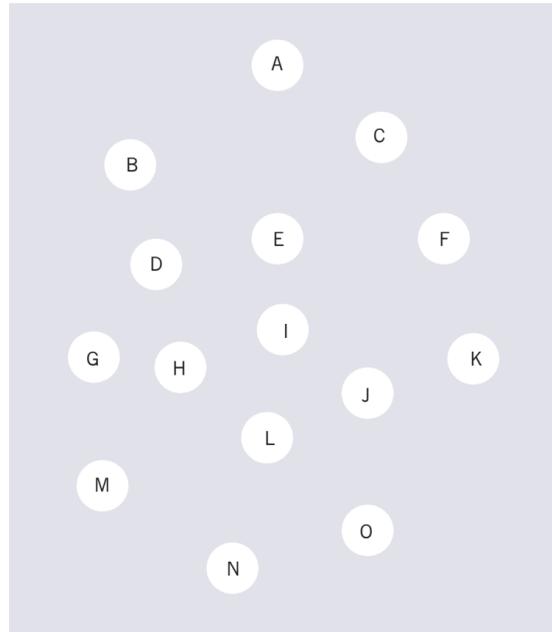


The Belize Orchids Quilt



Initially, the Santa Teresa quilters found it hard to master the intricate orchid designs. But they had fun learning! The species are identified in captions below.



Peace Fellow Laura Burns (far left) was delighted at the enthusiasm of the quilters. She later blogged: "Everyone has a story to tell." Laura wrote the quilter profiles below.



A. **Lisa Yolanda** learned how to embroider from her mom, Thomasa Muku. At 14 years old, Lisa is not a member of the Santa Teresa Struggling for the Future Women's Group, but she embroidered this orchid to help the group and her mom.

Orchidaceae Pleurothallis



B. This was **Juanita's** first time doing embroidery, and while she accidentally poked her fingers multiple times while working on her panel, she said it was a good learning experience and wants to do it again. Juanita has three children: one son and two daughters.

Orchi- daceae Vanilla Hartii



C. This was **Lorrainia's** first time doing embroidery, but she really enjoyed the work, and she has already started embroidering another panel for her home. She has two daughters. Lorrainia is happy to be in the women's group, and looks forward to similar projects.

Orchidaceae Vanilla



D. **Paulina** is the Chairlady of the Women's Group, and at 19, is also the youngest member of the group. She lives with her father and mother, and enjoys spending time helping her mom in the kitchen, especially making tortillas. She hopes that in the future, the women can start selling arts and crafts.

Orchidaceae Macradenia brassavolae



E. **Rosaria Max** is the Vice Chairlady of the Women's group. Rosaria moved from a neighboring village to marry her husband, who farms corn. She has four children, and she is excited about the women's group because it provides her with support in caring for her children while her husband is working on the farm. Rosaria enjoys preparing corn tortillas and chicken soup.

Orchidaceae Epidendrum imatophyllum



F. **Paulina** is the Chairlady of the Women's Group, and at 19, is also the youngest member of the group. She lives with her father and mother, and enjoys spending time helping her mom in the kitchen, especially making tortillas. She hopes that in the future, the women can start selling arts and crafts.

Orchidaceae Gongora quinquenervis



G. **Paulina** is the Chairlady of the Women's Group, and at 19, is also the youngest member of the group. She lives with her father and mother, and enjoys spending time helping her mom in the kitchen, especially making tortillas. She hopes that in the future, the women can start selling arts and crafts.

Orchidaceae Trigonidium egeronianum



H. Speaking through a Q'eqchi' translator, **Carmen** described life at home. She has two daughters, and she likes making corn tortillas for them. This was her first time doing embroidery work.

Orchidaceae Sobralia



I. All of the the women embroidered different orchids found in the Sarstoon Temash National Park. The orchids, in addition to a host of other wildlife found in the park, are threatened by oil exploration by U.S. Capital Energy and illegal poaching.



J. **Paulina** is the Chairlady of the Women's Group, and at 19, is also the youngest member of the group. She lives with her father and mother, and enjoys spending time helping her mom in the kitchen, especially making tortillas. She hopes that in the future, the women can start selling arts and crafts.

Orchidaceae Oeceoclades maculata



K. **Rosaria Max** is the Vice Chairlady of the Women's group. Rosaria moved from a neighboring village to marry her husband, who farms corn. She has four children, and she is excited about the women's group because it provides her with support in caring for her children while her husband is working on the farm. Rosaria enjoys preparing corn tortillas and chicken soup.

Orchidaceae Sobralia



L. **Cordelia** is an employee of Sarstoon-Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM), an organization that works to protect the Sarstoon Temash National Park. She proudly poses with the orchid she has embroidered.



M. **Thomasa** is busy with seven children (4 girls and 3 boys), but she is an active member of the Women's Group. Thomasa makes cakes and tamales to sell on buses in the area to raise money for the group. Thomasa also enjoys making chicken stew, tortillas, and rice and beans for her family.

Yellow Clavata



N. **Paulina** is the Chairlady of the Women's Group, and at 19, is also the youngest member of the group. She lives with her father and mother, and enjoys spending time helping her mom in the kitchen, especially making tortillas. She hopes that in the future, the women can start selling arts and crafts.

Orchidaceae Polystachya clavata



O. **Paulina** is the Chairlady of the Women's Group, and at 19, is also the youngest member of the group. She lives with her father and mother, and enjoys spending time helping her mom in the kitchen, especially making tortillas. She hopes that in the future, the women can start selling arts and crafts.

Orchidaceae Sobralia