

WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 8, Number 3

Fall 2001

An Independent Weaver in Tajikistan

by Wendy Weiss

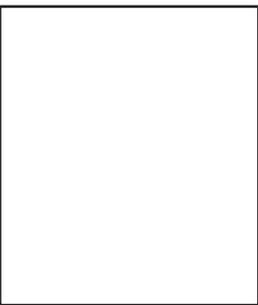
Khujand-Tajikistan May 28, 2001

Aminjonova Saltanathon's story gives new meaning to single motherhood. She is 59 years old, lives with her extended family and weaves surrounded by her children and grandchildren. A visitor approaches the compound that is home and studio to



Aminjonova down a narrow, walled path. After entering a door, a spacious courtyard edged with buildings constructed in traditional mud brick style appears. Youngsters sport stained fingers not from dye, but from mulberry juice. Mrs. Aminjonova was able to support her family with the income from her loom after her husband died 24 years ago when she was only 35 years old and had 10 children ranging in age from 5 months to 16 years old. Her son has taken over the weaving business now, but Mrs. Aminjonova continues to weave regularly.

Mrs. Aminjonova's husband wove Atlas fabric, an ikat cloth that still is used for the national women's dress of Tajikistan. Until his death, she helped him in his work space, which is located in a one room building along the courtyard. When she was faced with supporting her large young family on her own, she decided to continue weaving so she could work at home, even though this private studio practice was dangerous because of government policy of industrialization and collectivization. Her parents were deceased and she had no other relatives to help her, as is typical of the extended family structure to this day in this Central Asian country.



Her loom, at the time of my visit, had a red and white striped cotton warp, with a raised bench, a fly shuttle, two treadles, four shafts, and the warp stretched to the other side of the room about 12 feet. The warp is suspended from the ceiling and is weighted with a rock. As she advances the warp, and the rock rises to the ceiling, she knows she has woven two meters and she adjusts the warp. She was in the process of winding a new warp of 300 meters using a permanently installed, wall mounted vertical warping device, pictured here.

During the years she was raising her children and was responsible for marrying her six sons, she wove 23 meters in 24 hours, weaving up to 12 hours a day. In Tajikistan, a wedding is the single largest

continued on page 13

Mission Statement

To facilitate self-empowerment and betterment of women and communities-in-need through textile arts.

Goals

To foster dialogue and support within the organization

To serve as a clearinghouse for information, resources, and technical assistance within the international textile community

To provide cross-cultural education and support within the textile community

To provide guidance in the realities of appropriate assistance

To promote appreciation of textiles which reflect a community's culture

To enrich the lives of individuals in the global textile community through cross-cultural exchange

**WARP
Governing
Board**

Marcia Bellas
2752 McKinley Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45211
513/662-8445
marciabellas@juno.com
Term expires 2002

Donna Duke
116 E. Glendale Dr.
Boone, NC 28607
704/264-9422
donnad@boone.net
Term expires 2004

Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland
12604 W. Old Baltimore Rd.
Boys, MD 20841
301/972-5494 (phone)
301/515-5911 (fax)
upavimc@clark.net
Term expires 2002

Mary Kelly
1144 Old Stage Road
Cortland, NY 13045
607/756-8866
kellym13@juno.com
Term expires 2004

Cheryl Musch
3209 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/244-7817 (phone)
305/768-8470 (fax)
warp@yachana.org
Term expires 2003

Save these dates:
May 10-12, 2002
for the *10th WARP Annual Meeting*
Black Forest Conference Center
Colorado Springs, Colorado

From the WARP Office....

Cheryl Musch

It's been a slow summer in the office since everyone has been taking summer vacations. Now that fall is approaching, it's time for us to get back to work. There are several WARP continuing projects that you can assist with. I'd encourage you to contact Marcia Bellas if you've got slides you can contribute to WARP's new slide show. Board member Mary Kelly has established a new web site for educational programs of interest to WARP members (see below).

Also ongoing are WARP member sales of UPAVIM and Mayan Hands products which benefit WARP. Those who have had sales report them successes. Contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland if you're interested in hosting a sale of Guatemalan products. As always, if you have ideas to share, please let us know.

WARP's NEW Education Website!

Need to find a textile course or workshop presenter?

Want to buy textiles from producers in developing countries?

Like to see the world and learn something about textiles while you do it?

This summer, the WARP education committee has inaugurated a new website which has listings in all of these categories. The address is: <http://www.warpeducation.homestead.com>, but you can also access it from a link on the WARP website (<http://www.weavershand.com/warp.html>).

Originally the committee decided to gather information about educational opportunities in textiles and designed a survey to collect that data. Surveys were sent to colleges, textile museums and institutions, organizations and others interested in cross cultural textile education. Unfortunately, there were few responses (see the Spring 1999 issue of the WARP newsletter). However, the information collected was interesting and timely. The education committee decided to put the information on the internet where it is available not only to WARP members but to everyone. Moreover, a website makes it easier to change information as it comes in and to update entries. This is where YOU come in.

This is your invitation to visit WARP's education website. Tell us what you think, but most of all, if you have any information about any of the topics, do send it along, by either the e-mail address that is on the first page of the site or to kellym13@juno.com. Don't have a computer, but have a submission? No problem. A letter will reach me at the address below. You can put photos and logos on the web too, so send me any stuff that you'd like to see on our education webpage. I have a scanner and can just scan it in. Or if it is already scanned, send it to me in an e-mail attachment.

The more information we gather, the more useful it will be to our members and to others. Mary B. Kelly, 1144 Old Stage Rd., Cortland, NY 13045; 607/756- 8866 (phone); kellym13@juno.com (e-mail).

Member Profile...

At the last Annual Meeting, it was suggested that the newsletter include profiles of WARP members. Board Member Mary Kelly prepared the following profile about member Debbie Durham.

Debbie E. Durham: A Champion of World Crafts

One of the most dynamic members of WARP is Debbie E. Durham. Not only has she traveled and gained an intimate knowledge of individual cultures, she currently assists artisans from these cultures market their work.

Debbie is a doer. She served on the WARP board (1996-99) where she developed the current WARP slide show. Her international experience began in 1971, when she learned French in Tours, during an Ohio University Study Abroad Program. This led to her Peace Corps stint in Senegal two years later. Continuing her interest in French, she led groups for the Experiment for International Living Summer Program to France in 1977 and 1983.

But she really got her international "feet" wet in Zaire. In 1990, she managed a retail crafts store for *Je Gagne Ma Vie*, a Zairian artisan cooperative, providing workshops and technical assistance on product development and marketing. She also organized an International Fair for the American School of Kinshasa.

Returning to this country, Debbie embarked on a graduate program in Textiles and Clothing at Iowa State University. As part of her graduate assistantship, she worked with MarketPlace: Handcrafts of India and the Brunner Art Museum on a quilt show with textiles made by the women's co-op in Bombay. Her Master's research was funded by several awards and fellowships and was published in the *Clothing and Textiles Journal* in 2000.

Currently, Debbie holds an enviable job as Executive Director/Store Manager at One World Market in Durham, N.C. This fair trade store was established in 1992 to provide socially responsible shopping options for customers who want to give back, as well as give gifts or purchase crafts. Relying on her Zairian experience of helping artisan cooperatives prepare their work for the British and US market, Debbie now purchases crafts from Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, UPAVIM, Maya Traditions and others. The artisans are paid a fair wage and are paid in full for products shipped from the host country. Currently there are about 100 fair trade stores in the US; many belong to the Fair Trade Federation. Debbie's active involvement is complemented by talented and dedicated volunteers.

Debbie sums up her life, interests, and experiences in textiles in a very positive way. "The year in Zaire was a real turning point because it gave me a focus on craft development from the producer side. Graduate school provided a rich foundation in both the historical and cultural perspectives on textiles which I had seen or worked with in my previous travels. Now, in retail, I better understand some of the practical challenges of creating a market which appeals to the buying public - always challenging. Filling in the spaces are wonderful WARP contacts who have expanded and enriched my love of textiles in so many ways. It feels like I have come full circle," she says.

Next Newsletter

Travel enriches us in many ways, provides us with new perspectives, and sometimes changes our lives. The next issue of the WARP newsletter will focus on travel--Why Is It Important? Why Do You Do It (Or Wish You Could)? How Has Travel Changed You?

Also, space permitting, I want to include information about travel opportunities of interest to WARP members. If you facilitate such trips, have been on a trip you think others would be interested in, or know of interesting travel options, let me know.

Please send your thoughts and information to me by November 1 (contact information on page 4).
Thanks, LT



WARP Newsletter

published quarterly by
Weave A Real Peace
Volume 8, Number 3
Fall 2001

Editor: Linda Temple

Send address corrections to:
WARP
3102 Classen Boulevard
PMB 249
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

The deadline for
contributions to the next
WARP newsletter is
November 1, 2001.

Send articles and copies of
correspondence for
the newsletter to:
Linda Temple
1230 NE 70
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
lgtemple@juno.com
405/478-4936 (phone)
413/622-1504 (fax)

Information about an
organization or service in this
newsletter does not constitute
an endorsement by WARP.

Correspondence may be
edited or shortened at the
discretion of the editor.

WARP on the Web

[http://www.weavershand.com/
warp.html](http://www.weavershand.com/warp.html)

*thanks to Janis Saunders and
Beth Davis*

WARP e-group

[http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/WeaveARealPeace](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WeaveARealPeace)

Letters...

**SERRV's International Producer Relations Manager
(WARP's Own Cheryl Musch) Begins New Adventure**

I spent most of the month of July in India and Bangladesh for my new job as SERRV International's Producer Relations Manager. In this position, I visit the producers with whom we work—meeting the artisans, visiting their villages, and listening to the concerns and needs of the organizations. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to see how people are living and working, rather than visiting as a tourist.

In India I visited embroiderers, weavers, stone carvers, wood carvers, and some wonderful informal schools. My first day in India, we went directly into a slum school where 50 young kids were sitting on a concrete slab built over an old rubbish heap studying the basics. This gave me a glimpse into the conditions in squatter housing—where families slept, how they cooked, and the situation for many women in India, where alcoholism and domestic violence are serious problems. Patasi, a puppet maker, when asked about the needs of her group responded "survival." "We don't need to eat more than twice a day, we don't have big dreams, but we want our children to go to school."

Infrequently visited by tourists, the city of Ahmedabad was one of India's textile centers before the industry collapsed in the 1980s and 1990s. Now, a number of women embroider handcrafts for St. Mary's Mahila Shikshan Kendra, a Dominican center assisting those in need. Ahmedabad has a fantastic textile museum, the Calico Museum of Textiles, filled with rare tapestries and an incredible array of Indian textiles. Also in the city is Gandhi's home and ashram, where the spinning wheel he used to combat idleness and resist imported textiles resides. Heads of state visited Gandhi in this simple house, and he spun through their conversations.

Bangladesh is a country where there is almost no tourism and a large number of NGOs. Fair trade products made in Bangladesh include handmade paper, jute products, and pottery. A number of the organizations I visited also sell clothing in the country. It was so wonderful to see what fair trade work had done for the artisans. Their children are now attending schools, housing is improved, and the producers, who are mostly women, have an increased sense of self esteem and the ability to care for their families.

Cheryl Musch, Producer Relations Manager, SERRV International; 122 State Street, Suite 310; Madison, WI 53703 USA; 608/255-0440 (phone); 608/255-0451 (fax); cheryl@serrv.org (e-mail).

Where to Give Wool Weaving Yarn?

While preparing the newsletter, I realized I have had several requests from WARP members who are seeking individuals or groups that can use their excess yarns. In most cases, WARP members have said they are willing to pay shipping.

Any suggestions will be appreciated. Thank you, Linda Temple, 1230 NE 70, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; 405/478-4936; LGTemple@juno.com.

Crafts News, E-List from Crafts Center

The Crafts Center has just distributed Volume 1, Number 1 of their new e-list of announcements and events. They also are providing Crafts News in Adobe Acrobat pdf file format on their web site.

For more information about the Crafts Center, access their web site at <http://www.craftscenter.com>. To ask to be added to the e-list, send an e-mail to info@craftscenter.org.

Alternative Holiday Shopping

Linda Temple

When I requested information from WARP members about alternative holiday gift giving ideas, I expected a good response--many WARP members are involved in alternative trade activities and past newsletters have had excellent articles on this topic. However, I did not expect the volume of mail I received--an extraordinary number of great ideas. This appears to be an idea whose time has come... So how to share this information in a somewhat coherent manner?

I don't know if I've achieved coherency, but I have tried to give you some idea of the opportunities that are available to us. Throughout this newsletter you will find excellent contributions from members. There is also information about a variety of resources, including The Heifer Project, Alternative Gifts International, and Seva, where you can purchase gifts--livestock, food, health care, etc.--in a family member or friend's name. There are ideas for making practical and thoughtful gifts, and many resources for purchasing fairly traded items--some of us aren't quite ready to stop having gifts under the tree all together. And WARP members themselves sell items that make great gifts.

Sarah Saulson sent suggestions for on-line resources, which are a good place to start if you have internet access. Bobby Hineline's article tells how you can make fairly traded gifts available in your community and benefit WARP at the same time. Special thanks to Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, who collected many of the resources referenced in this issue.

I hope you enjoy, and can use, these suggestions. Please let me know what experiences you have if you do follow-up on some of these ideas. Needless to say, I can't personally vouch for all of them, so mention here is not an endorsement. And I'm sure we've left out many equally wonderful resources as well. But I hope this issue of the WARP newsletter will provide you with a start. Happy Holidays!

Heifer Project International

from Heifer Project International printed materials

If giving gifts that are meaningless and quickly forgotten is frustrating, particularly during the holidays or on special occasions, consider giving a goat, a cow, or a flock of geese. This alternative adds a new dimension to giving, especially when the gift means a hungry family's radical shift from poverty to self-reliance. Since 1944, Heifer International has helped more than four million poor families in 125 countries become self-reliant through the gift of food- and income-producing animals and training in their care.

This year, Heifer will sponsor more than 300 projects and supply 26 types of animals to farm families in 47 countries, including the United States. Heifer's "living loan" of livestock promotes self-reliance, which builds self-esteem and helps families lift themselves out of poverty.

Milk, eggs, wool, and other benefits from the animals provide families with food and income. Project animals--from cows and chickens to llamas and water buffalo--improve children's nutrition and help families earn money for education, clothes, health care, and better housing.

Heifer's requirement that each family "pass on the gift" by sharing one or more of the animal's offspring with other needy families ensures project continuity and multiplies the benefits of the original gift for generations. The tradition of passing on the gift also instills a sense of dignity among participants.

Sample gifts: Heifer, \$500 (share \$50); goat, \$120 (share \$10); sheep, \$120 (share \$10); trees, \$60 (seedlings \$10); chicks \$20; llama \$150 (share \$20); pig, \$120 (share \$10); rabbit trio, \$60 (share \$10).

For more information, call 800/696-1918, or visit Heifer International on-line at <http://www.heifer.org>

Editing Assistance Offered at no Cost

WARP member Sarah Saulson is offering a volunteer service to third-world craft producers who are interested in selling fiber-related crafts in the United States on the world wide web. She will help edit their text into standard colloquial American English, to make it more accessible to our market.

If you are working with groups that would be interested, Sarah would like to hear from you.

Her e-mail address is sfsaulson@aol.com, or she can be contacted at 105 Crawford Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13224; 315/449-9423 (phone). Sarah has a background in editing, marketing, anthropology, and weaving and dyeing.

Alternative Shopping on the Internet

by Sarah Saulson

Surfing the web turns can be a really nice way to find wonderful alternative holiday gifts made by artisans in the developing world. I'm excited about the web and craft for a two reasons. It opens up world-wide market access to producer groups. It can also help eliminate marketing middlemen so the makers receive more income from their work.

I have found some nice web sites where you can order beautiful things, with an emphasis on fiber. I've communicated via e-mail with some of them, and they are eager to hear from us. It's a wonderful feeling to send an e-mail to a rural craft cooperative in Bangladesh and hear back from them the next morning!

I highlighted the pages below because they are either small importers or the actual producer groups, and some of the products are quite unusual. There is also plenty of information about larger well-established and better known groups, like SERRV and Ten Thousand Villages (the Ten Thousand Villages website will tell you the nearest store to where you live). I found all these groups from two sources. First, the Fair Trade Federation (www.fairtradefederation.org). At the top of their homepage, click on "On-line Catalogs." The other source is the membership list of the Crafts Center, in Washington, D.C. (www.craftscenter.org). Go to the membership directory, where you can find a description of what each producer group does as well as their web site.

If you have any interesting on-line shopping experiences, I'd enjoy hearing from you. Sarah Saulson, sfsaulson@aol.com.

<http://www.patagoniagifts.com> Nice ceramics and jewelry made from silver and gold-dipped rainforest leaves.

<http://www.ringingmountain.com> Beautiful page with Tibetan carpets.

<http://www.GeckoTraders.com> Lots of small items from Asia made by land-mine victims and other needy groups.

<http://www.Inkaurpi.com> Textiles, ceramics, wood carvings from Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia

<http://www.lucuma.com> Unusual fiber-framed mirrors and lovely carved gourd vessels.

<http://www.quixote.org/nca/> The website of the Nicaraguan Cultural Alliance.

<http://www.transylvanianimages.com> Beautiful Romanian table linens.

<http://www.twoporters.com> Boxes, picture frames and more made from hand-made Nepalese papers

<http://www.macreperu.com> Beautiful ikats and handmade paper items with native wildflowers.

<http://www.banascraft.org> Unusual textiles from India for home decor.

<http://www.citechco.net/tarango> Nice jute products.

Elizabeth Durand

Most likely you all know of this book, but just in case it's passed a few of you by, *Unplug the Christmas Machine* is full of great ideas and stories. I gave it to my brother and sister for Christmas one year, and have sent it on to many friends over the years. It helps decommercialize and relax the holidays, so is a good beginning.

[Editor's note: If your local bookstore does not have this book, the Advanced Book Exchange, <http://www.abebooks.com>, has used copies ranging in price from \$3.00 to \$20.00.]

Working Assets Will Match Tax Rebate Check Donations

If you would like to give your tax rebate to a nonprofit, Working Assets will match contributions dollar for dollar--up to \$1 million--to an eligible nonprofit. Eligible nonprofits include Legal Aid, Amnesty International, Global Exchange, Habitat for Humanity and many, many more. A complete list is available at <http://www.GiveForChange.com>

You can donate exactly \$300 or \$600 to any nonprofit or nonprofits (in one transaction) on GiveForChange.com between July 4, 2001 and November 1, 2001 -- and your donation will be matched. Or write to the Donations Manager, Working Assets, 101 Market Street, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94105

Linda Hendrickson:

I have a variety of items related to tablet weaving and ply-split braiding; books; tablets, shuttles and other weaving tools; yarn kits; cords for ply-split braiding; small finished items such as key fobs and ornaments; and gift certificates. Two inexpensive self-published booklets are for complete beginners — “Great SCOT!” and “Tablet Weaving for Parents & Children.” All are shown and described on my web site, <http://www.lindahendrickson.com>, or call me at 503/239-5016.

Jo Critchlow:

This is not exactly a Christmas idea, but could be. For years I have been making laundry bags (ah heck, out of purchased fabric) for high school graduates who are entering college. I make the bag in their college colors and applique their names on it. And I make them huge. I still hear from middle-aged parents that they are still being used. The only problem with sharing the idea is that I always tell the kids that if they see someone with a similar bag, it is probably a friend of mine. Also, I have made swim team towels in school colors with appliqued names.

Alice Hickcox:

I think it is very exciting that WARP is collecting and publishing suggestions for alternative gifts. After a visit to Guatemala this summer I realize how important it is for artisans to have markets for their goods. So groups like Mayan Hands and UPAVIM (and others listed in the Fair Trade site linked from the WARP page also) are terrific.

Also as you have mentioned, gifts that give support to others in honor of someone make good alternative gifts. You have probably received information about Alternative Gifts International, but if not, here is their site: <http://www.altgifts.org/> (more information about AGI on page 13).

Diane Alberga:

I'm not sure if anyone suggested my favorite fair-trade venue: MarketPlace. Most of the spiffy clothes I wear are from MarketPlace (as opposed to my not-so-spiffy-clothes). Okay, so I'm an unreconstructed hippy, but they do suit my style! They have a catalog although I make my purchases at Ten Thousand Villages, a chain of stores that carries fair-trade items.

[Editor's note: Learn more about MarketPlace: Handwork of India at <http://www.marketplaceindia.com>. To find a Ten Thousand Villages store near you, or to order on-line, access <http://tenthousandvillages.com>, or call 717/859-8100]

Susan Davis:

For unique both small and larger gifts, some of which directly benefit Moroccan women artisans, look at the website

<http://www.marrakeshexpress.org>

There are small and large handwoven rugs, woven pillows, and embroidered pillows produced by a young woman whose photo you can print and send with the pillow [a bargain at \$20]. There is also jewelry [silver pendants] and there are reproductions of vintage travel posters to Morocco. While the jewelry and poster selections are currently small, they will be updated this fall. By emailing the site [sdavis@uslink.net], you can receive updates whenever there is new merchandise.

Music of the Andes: A Benefit Album for Fair Trade

Two Latin American folk groups, Katari and Bwiya-Toli, have recorded a new CD, with 40% of the proceeds going to the Fair Trade Federation. The CD is a wonderful mix of Andean music with voices, bamboo panpipes (zamponas), flutes (queenas), string and percussion instruments. The inside cover provides a detailed explanation of fair trade and contact information for the Fair Trade Federation.

Cost is \$16/CD. Send order and payment to Kimberly Grimes, Made By Hand, Route 1, York Beach Mall, South Bethany, DE 19930

Natural Home
**Explores 'Ethnic &
Ethical' Options**

An article in the September/
October 2001 issue of *Natural
Home* magazine (whose
President is WARP member
Linda Ligon) has an interesting
article about how "responsible
shopping for world arts and
crafts requires doing a little
homework." With quotes from
Jennie Wood (Jennie's articles
about Central Asian carpets
were in the past two WARP
newsletters), and
representatives from Aid to
Artisans and Ten Thousand
Villages, the article introduces
readers to the world of fair
trade and alternative shopping.
Natural Home's web site is
[http://
www.naturalhomemagazine.com](http://www.naturalhomemagazine.com)

Carole Pierce:

Another idea is purchasing a door, window, etc. in someone's name from Habitat for Humanity. Contact the local chapter in your community for more information.

Carlona Coker:

Hello WARP members, I do not weave, yet. My special thing is researching bits of information. I would like to offer the following sites and suggestions. Donation of a book to a library in your community or in another community. Students in Spanish class at the high school in town here created books and sent them to the library that burned down in Guatemala. CAMO, Central American Medical Outreach is located in my community. Deb Chandler has been in contact with this group (<http://www.camo.org>) They provide many ways to help, purchasing supplies for an orphanage, wheelchairs and prosthetic devices, etc.

<http://www.russianorphans.org> is a site I found while visiting <http://www.incrediblepeople.com> (this site is not for gift ideas but is very uplifting). <http://www.seva.org> helps in many ways including eye care (more on page 13). Check out the links also. Seva was found on the "Smart Peoples Guide to Special Needs Directory" which serves needs internationally, <http://www.maryland-us.com/special.htm>

Jeanne Nash:

Those who attended the WARP gathering at Ghost Ranch may remember my small knit teddy bears. I haven't had bear-burn-out yet and am still producing my "Working Bears," variously called Border Bears, Burundi Bears, Li-bear-ies, Ours sans Frontieres, Ositos, etc., depending on their job. They cost \$10 for the small and \$20 for the larger chenille ones, and all the money goes to support projects of communities in need around the world. The yarns may be anything I've purchased or spun, gifts of friends, and The Brown Sheep Company who also donates fleece for stuffing. For further information: oplibro@juno.com.

A good source of alternative shopping is Ten Thousand Villages, if you are fortunate enough to have one in your neighborhood. They are a UNICEF SHOP, SERV-type endeavor organized by the Mennonites, and apparently very carefully run to get the benefits to the artisans quickly. The quality of the work that I have seen has been excellent.

Gerry Woodhouse:

I have two aunts in their 70's who don't drive, and it's difficult for them to get out and get groceries, and they are on fixed incomes. One has a problem with her esophagus and can't swallow pieces of meat or vegetables. She eats lots of soup; so, I have made up packages of supplies with several of my favorite soup and bean recipes. The boxes contain extra virgin olive oil, pesto paste in a tube, Balsamic vinegar, boullion cubes, bay leaves, garlic powder, cumin, Adobo seasoning, canned green chiles, and dry beans. The recipes are for Black Bean Soup, Red Beans & Rice, Potato Soup, and Green Chile Stew. I even threw in a plastic jar of peanut butter! I'm sure they will love this. I know it's tough to pay the price for virgin olive oil on a fixed income, so this will be a treat.

[Editor's note: If you aren't able to make the soup packages yourself, you can order very good fairly traded soup mixes from several places, including SERRV and Ten Thousand Villages.]

How-To-Do-It: Sponsor a Sale

\$500 Raised for WARP; Holiday Sale Planned

by Bobbie Hinceline

After the WARP Annual Meeting when I heard the refrain "WARP has changed my life," I began to see just what that means. I went home and decided to try a sale of UPAVIM/Mayan Hands (see sidebar at right) at a denominational meeting. That went over big (and I learned a few things) and decided to raise some money for WARP with a sale at my home. I invited everyone I could think of and had a one-day sale (with some friends coming a couple days before.) That too was a success and raised \$500 for WARP.

The idea has now expanded into planning for a weeklong "Marketplace" at Christmas time which will benefit a local women's shelter that's being planned. It's amazing the connections that are made with just an innocent trip to an annual meeting. I'll soon be going to Guatemala on a medical mission with my husband but I'll be able to stay a few extra days with Deb Chandler. WARP has changed my life!

Market Day! An Easy Model to Duplicate

Excerpted from an article by Linda Temple that appeared in the Summer 1999 issue of Networks, the newsletter of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF).

For those of us who live in an area without a Fair Trade retail store, supporting artisans in developing countries presents a challenge. Here in the Oklahoma City area we are refining a model to meet that challenge.

Market Day! is a volunteer non-profit organization whose goal is to assist artisans in developing countries by providing a market for their wares. We began in the mid-1980's with a \$125 collection taken from our local weaving guild, which we used to purchase fabric from a weaving cooperative in Guatemala. Guild members were given fabric in exchange for their donations, and we sold the rest of the fabric at a private show and sale. With the proceeds we purchased more textiles. Over the years, we have expanded our inventory significantly, and we currently maintain an inventory of \$5,000-\$7,000.

We are experts at setting up and dismantling international emporiums on short notice. We arrange 8-10 fair trade sales each year—in area restaurants, coffeehouses, churches, and private homes. Sales receipts average about \$2000 per event. We also provide inventory for the gift shop at the headquarters of an international development organization based in Oklahoma City.

Arranging **Market Day!** sales in various locations allows us to target different populations and to plan our ordering accordingly. We order at wholesale prices from FTF members or directly from producers who we know subscribe to fair trade practices. Retail sale prices cover our postage, printing, office supplies, and inventory. Purchases are paid upon receipt, because using consignment options would overtax our minimal bookkeeping and inventory systems.

This model can work well in communities because specific jobs can be well-defined, requiring minimal time and effort. We succeed with a core volunteer staff of only four people, who have jobs, families, and other community commitments.

Market Day! volunteers have shared their methodology with many community and church groups who have successfully adopted this model. For more specific information about how to start your own fair trade marketing group, contact Linda Temple by phone at 405/478-4936; or e-mail at LGTemple@juno.com.

Host a Sale for WARP

UPAVIM Crafts and Mayan Hands make it easy to hold a sales event at your local church, office, home, or guild meeting. These two groups have generously offered to consign pre-priced fairly traded handcrafts from Guatemala to WARP members who wish to host a sale to benefit WARP. You get a box of handcrafted items, sell what you can, and return what is left with the income from the sale. All the profits, above wholesale cost (and minus shipping), will go to WARP. Help WARP, Guatemalan artisans, and your local community by having a consignment sale. Contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland (upavimc@clark.net or 301/515-5911) for more details.

New Members

Pamela T. Crane
123 East Chaffee Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13207
315/469-8322
chaffee89@yahoo.com

Elizabeth A. Durand
624 Georges Lane
Ardmore, PA 19003
610/642-1826
billeliz@inet.net

Kathleen Eagle
Earthsun Fibers
1400 B Abercrombie Dr.
Kodiak, AK 99615
907/486-0947
keagle@gci.net

Kathleen King
1763 Hamilton Dr.
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610/783-7036
two.nomads@rcn.com

Kate McLucas
1125 Broadway #304
San Francisco, CA 94109
415/922-8118
kate@mclucas.com

Welcome Back

Portland Handweavers Guild
PO Box 6676
Portland, OR 97228

News and Updates...

AfricanCrafts Activities

Master Weaver Gilbert "Bobbo" Ahiagble, an Ewe Kente weaver from Ghana will be in the United States from 10/15/01-1/10/02. Program manager, Louise Meyer, is seeking funds to bring his 26 year old son, Chapuchi, also a professional weaver, with him on this teaching tour so that the legacy can be passed on as is the African tradition ... "from father to son." The following locations are on their schedule:

10/18-25: Oakland Museum of California as part of the
"Wrapped in Pride" exhibition

12/3-8: Skidmore College, Saratoga Spring, NY

12/10-25: Washington, DC programs at public schools and
teacher workshops

12/26-31: Detroit Institute of Arts

"Bobbo" has taught in 18 states in the USA, Canada, Switzerland and neighboring Ivory Coast. He is the director of his own craft school in his home town in the Volta Region of Ghana. You can learn more about him on <http://www.africancraft.com>

Master Weavers Amidou Coulibaly (President) and Koko Fofana, of the UGAN Craft Cooperative of Ivory Coast, are in Switzerland as part of "Africa in Basle and Basle in Africa" celebrated during August and September. This major cultural event is an addition to the Workshop in Malinke Strip Weaving Amidou gives yearly in Muttentz, a village outside of Basle.

Small groups of Swiss fiber artists do a annual village-stay in Waraniene, Amidou and Koko's village, to continue learning Malinke weaving techniques. The cultural exchange between Muttentz and Waraniene has enriched the lives of many. Amidou and Koko have plans to build a larger craft school, like Bobbo has done in Ghana. You can stay tuned by visiting Amidou's section of the <http://www.africancraft.com> website.

Fair Trade Federation Partners with Co-op America

The Fair Trade Federation (FTF) is on the move. Both literally and figuratively. Last spring, FTF formed a close partnership with Co-op America (CA), to move the FTF office into CA's headquarters in Washington, D.C. and hire CA to staff and operate FTF programs.

Along with the new partnership and new location come new programs and services. FTF membership now includes dual membership in the Co-op America Business Network, which provides FTF members with a whole new range of benefits and resources. One new benefit is that FTF members are featured in Co-op America's National Green Pages, an annual directory of socially and environmentally responsible businesses (online at <http://www.greenpages.org>). This new exposure is helping to bring FTF's message to hundreds of thousands of conscious consumers around world. Keep watching for exciting new programs and developments from FTF's new Washington headquarters.

New contact information for the Fair Trade Federation: 1612 K St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20006;

<http://www.fairtradefederation.org>; info@fairtradefederation.org; 202/872-5329 (phone); 202/822-8471 (fax).

Book Review..

submitted by Philis Alvic

Plowing the Sea: Nurturing the Hidden Sources of Growth in the Developing World, by Michael Fairbanks & Stace Lindsay
Harvard Business School Press, 1997.

Although working with multimillion-dollar industries, the business consultants who wrote this book give advice which is applicable to small textile operations. The book turns what it calls the seven patterns of uncompetitive behavior into positive action agendas:

- ♦ Export complex products. (Avoid exporting unprocessed commodities and natural resources. Make something out of what you have.)
- ♦ Invest in knowledge of more demanding and sophisticated customers. (Hire a designer, pay attention to craftsmanship, and aim high.)
- ♦ Understand and improve relative competitive position. (Study your competition and figure out where your business can offer special services or fit into an under-served niche.)
- ♦ Study the opportunities for forward integration. (Look at getting your product closer to the consumer – less middlemen.)
- ♦ Improve interfirm cooperation. (Team up with other like businesses in presenting products to an international market.)
- ♦ Engage in productive reasoning. (Don't just take the usual reasons for not being productive. Really study the situation — gather statistics.)
- ♦ Avoid paternalism. (These are government perks, which tend to be a disincentive for maintaining quality and growth.)

RUGMARK Announces New Grassroots Action Kit

RUGMARK has just released information about their new Grassroots Action Kit, a tool for individuals to help move children from carpet looms to schools.

The RUGMARK Action Kit, made possible through funding from the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, provides interested consumers and activists with ten ways that they can help to end child labor in the carpet industry.

RUGMARK, a global nonprofit organization, provides an alternative to the growing child labor problem in South Asia through its monitoring and certification program, as well as its schools and rehabilitation centers for former child workers. Independent RUGMARK inspectors perform on-site investigations of overseas carpet factories prior to issuing a RUGMARK certification. Producers that pass inspection are issued RUGMARK labels that are affixed to the carpet, making it easy for consumers to identify child labor-free carpets.

Individuals who would like to download a copy of the new, eight-page RUGMARK Action Kit can visit the RUGMARK website at <http://www.rugmark.org> or call the RUGMARK office at 202-347-4205. United Methodist Women may also contact Julie Taylor at 202-488-5660, ext. 102 or jtaylor@gbgm-umc.org.

New Contact Info

Diane Alberga
6028 Edmondson Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228
410/744-7045

Cheryl Musch
3209 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/244-7817 (phone)
305/768-8470 (fax)
warp@yachana.org (e-mail)

Lee Ann Ward
134 A Tripp Road
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 1K5 Canada
250/537-8542

Ruth and Morris Johnson
New e-mail:
mrjohnson12@juno.com

Marcia Bellas
New phone:
513/662-8445

**WARP slide show now in
a community near you!**

September 15: Syracuse Weavers Guild, Syracuse, NY

October 9: Champaign/Urbana Spinners & Weavers Guild, Urbana, IL

October 22: Memphis Guild of Handloom Weavers, Cordova, TN

November 1: Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

January 19: Space Coast Weavers & Fiber Artists, New Smyrna Beach, FL

Has your guild, textile class, or local fair trade organization seen the program yet? Check out the WARP website <http://www.weavershand.com/warp.html> for a preview. Click on Traveling Slide Show.

Use of the program is free of charge, fulfilling WARP's mission "to provide cross-cultural education and support within the textile community". We only ask that users pay shipping charges.

If you would like to borrow the current slide program, contact:
Carole Pierce
200 Peach Bloom Hill
Berea, KY 40403
859-986-8666
cpierce@mis.net

Rural Development Leadership Network Launches Marketing Venture

submitted by Carlona Coker

The **Rural Development Leadership Network** (RDLN), a multicultural social change organization founded in 1983, supports community-based development in poor rural areas of the United States through hands-on projects, education and skills building, leadership development and networking.

In many rural communities, few jobs are available, except perhaps farm labor or entry level part-time jobs in the fast food industry. This project focusses on areas that are historically oppressed. For a number of the women involved, economic difficulties have been compounded by health problems, disability, accidents and/or other catastrophe. Through the Rural Women's Product Development and Marketing Venture, these women intend to gain income and self-reliance for their families and enhance the quality of life in their communities.

There are four collaborating groups:

The **Artes del Valle** (Colorado) sells a wide variety of items, especially those using traditional Spanish and Indian weaving and embroidery. Above are woven coasters, runners, embroidered tissue holders and skirts, as well as jewelry and Artes del Valle note cards.

The **Freedom Quilting Bee** (Alabama) grew out of the Civil Rights movement. Local people lost work on farms after registering to vote in the nineteen sixties, and the women put their skills to use in earning family income. The Freedom Bee is now the largest employer in Alberta, Alabama. The group's products include various sizes of quilts (Grandmother's Dream, Bear Claw, Grandmother's Choice, and Coat of Many Colors), potholders, place mats, and napkins.

Mujeres Unidas (New Mexico) is based in Mora, New Mexico, under the umbrella of Helping Hands. Items made by Mujeres women include pillows, quillows (pillows which turn into blankets), dolls, jelly, fragrant soap, woven rugs, and many other items.

The **Native Women's Cooperative** (Oklahoma) works with Cherokee artisans in fourteen counties in Oklahoma. A special challenge in is to keep a steady stream of inventory coming from people who are geographically dispersed, some of whom do not have telephones. Among the items sold by the Native Women's Cooperative are jewelry, baskets, pottery, leather pouches, dolls, and dream catchers.

For more information about the **Rural Development Leadership Network**, write to Starry Krueger, President, Rural Development Leadership Network, PO Box 98, Prince St. Station, New York, NY 10012; 212/777-9137 (phone); 212/477-0367 (fax); rdln@ruraldevelopment.org (e-mail); or access their web site at <http://www.ruraldevelopment.org>.

Microcredit Summit Campaign Update

The registration brochure is now available for the Latin America & Caribbean Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils to be held October 9-12, 2001 in Puebla, Mexico. The registration forms and the brochure can be accessed at <http://www.microcreditsummit.org/latin/latin.htm>

There is a new internet portal with a strong section on Microfinance. The Development Gateway is being built to promote the exchange of knowledge on a wide range of topics including several pages on microfinance. It already contains over 150 items such as articles, policy documents, case studies, etc. It can be accessed at http://www.developmentgateway.org/topic/?page_id=3733.

An Independent Handweaver in Tajikistan

continued from page 1



expense of a family and the groom's family pays for the wedding. Mrs. Aminjonova related how difficult it had been, but her life as a weaver had allowed her to raise her family successfully. She smiled and invited us to drink tea and taste the mulberries her grandchildren had picked for us.

Note: This trip to Tajikistan was funded by Winrock International's Farmer to Farmer Program, as part of a volunteer experience for which I taught textile design. For more information, contact Wendy Weiss by phone at 402/477-2713 or by e-mail at wweiss1@unl.edu.

Seva: Gifts of Service

from the Seva web site

Seva is a Sanskrit word for compassionate action, or service. Gifts of Service have two purposes: They provide the opportunity to be a part of direct and practical service: removing blinding cataracts, providing clean water where there is none, planting seeds for healthy diets, buying surgical equipment, and providing training for doctors and midwives where they are needed.

A Gift of Service is a way to match your heartfelt desire to respond to basic human needs in our global community with your need to share gifts with others. You can make a donation to any of Seva's programs - or to our general fund - in honor of a friend or loved one.

Seva sends a gift card describing the gift to your designated gift recipient - whatever the occasion. To learn more about Gifts of Service, access the Seva website at <http://www.seva.org> or call 800/223-7382.

AGI: Gifts That Change the World

from the Alternative Gifts International catalog

The global mission of Alternative Gifts International (AGI) is to send authentic, life-giving gifts to a needy world—gifts that build a partnership with oppressed people and that protect and preserve the planet's environment—in order to build a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world community.

AGI is an interfaith nonprofit agency. It raises funds each year for global gifts through its "Alternative Gift Markets" held nationwide. Designated grants then are sent to the established international projects of several reputable nonprofit agencies for relief and development. Since its incorporation in 1986, AGI has raised more than ten million dollars to empower the world's poorest citizens and preserve the planet.

Alternative Markets are hosted by churches, synagogues, schools, businesses, service clubs, or other organizations. Some Markets are hosted in homes, or at an office party, where Alternative Gift catalogs and shopping lists are distributed. Schools and colleges have found that hosting Alternative Gifts Markets is a highly effective learning tool that engages students in a dialogue about global needs and international issues.

Donors can choose gift projects that provide hunger relief and shelter, restore the environment, ensure child survival, build peace or long term development.

Contact AGI to see what you can do to help, or to find the nearest Market to your community: on the web at <http://www.altgifts.org> or call 800/842-2243.

Weave A Real Peace

Membership Information

Annual Dues

\$7 (simple living)

\$15 (regular)

\$25 (group/supporting)

\$100+ (patron/donor)

All memberships are based on the calendar year, expiring December 31. Each member receives all publications for the year joined.

Members receive an annual Membership Directory with information on members' interests and activities, and a quarterly newsletter.

Dues and donations are tax deductible and are used for printing, mailing, and office expenses.

For membership or additional information, please send your name, address, and telephone number with appropriate check or money order in U.S. funds payable to **WARP** to:

Weave A Real Peace
3102 Classen Boulevard
PMB 249
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

***Slides Needed NOW
For New WARP Show***

In the last newsletter and via email, I have requested slides for a new WARP slide show. Only a few people responded, so I am ***extending the deadline for submissions to October 31*** and appealing to you one more time. If you have slides illustrating a relevant project or plan to take slides in the near future, please let me know! If I don't receive enough new slides, I will simply update the current slide show rather than completely redoing it. The slide show is used primarily for informational and educational purposes. If you want a project/group with which you work to be represented in the slide show, send two copies of 3-5 labeled slides along with some accompanying text to: Marcia Bellas, 2752 McKinley Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211 (marciabellas@juno.com). Slides will not be returned.

Upcoming Events...

September 11-16 - Robert Hull Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.

Exhibit: "Weaving the Patterns of the Land: Preserving Inca Textile Traditions." Opening Lecture and Reception: Thursday, September 13, 2001, 5:30 p.m.: "Ancient Civilizations of Peru and their Textile Treasures, Susan Lee Bruce, Ph.D., consultant for Andean Textiles, Peabody Museum, Harvard University. Many related events. See <http://www.flemingmuseum.org> for more information.

September 28 - The Crafts Center, Washington, D.C.

Guest lecturers Paola Gianturco, co-author/photographer of "In Her Hands: Craftswomen Changing the World" and Dr. Stephen Huyler, art historian, cultural anthropologist, museum exhibition curator, and photographer who has pursued a lifelong survey of India's folk art and its meaning within rural societies. Dr. Huyler is the author of four books including: "Village India," "Painted Prayers," "Gifts of Earth," and "Meeting God: Elements of Hindu Devotion".

October 12-14 - The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.

The 24th Annual Rug Convention will address the textile traditions of Central Asia, exploring issues of nomadic culture and its weaving. For more information, contact the Educational Department at 202/667-0441, ext. 35; or e-mail nevans@textilemuseum.org.

April 27 - October 28 - The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.

Exhibit: "Body Conscious: A Look at Clothing Around the World."

Rainbow Socks Returns as Mission Traders

WARP members were saddened last winter when the Rainbow Socks' project ended after six years of providing support and income for refugee knitters in the Balkans. Thus the notice of the beginning of Mission Traders was received with great joy. WARP member Babbie Cameron writes that Mission Traders, a ministry of Mission at the Eastward, Presbyterian Church USA, in Farmington, Maine, is a unique partnership established to market unusual handcrafted items produced by women in the Maine area, along with international textiles, ceramics, and baskets from South Africa, Bosnia, and Palestine. Mission Traders will continue to work with refugee women in the Balkans, selling their beautiful socks, mittens, and rugs. They will also sell napkins and placemats made from African textiles by women in their sister church in Alice, South Africa.

In addition, after Palestinian women from a school for the deaf in the Gaza Strip sought their help in selling their handicrafts, they chose to represent the Palestinian deaf community, not taking sides politically, but in recognizing a dire need. Finally, reduced economic opportunities in Franklin county, in western Maine, have been the impetus for the final component of this partnership. Local Maine crafts women who do not have access to larger markets are also represented by Mission Traders.

Sales of Mission Traders' items will send fair trade wages directly to each individual crafts person, with proceeds used to support a poultry project at the Macfarlan Presbyterian Church in Alice, South Africa.

For additional information about Mission Traders, contact Babbie Cameron at: Mission Traders, 621 Temple Road, Wilton, Maine 04294 USA; 207/779-1798 (phone); 207/779-1797 (fax); rainbowsox@ctel.net (e-mail).

STW Fund Drive Achieves Goal!

Thanks to all who helped us reach our fundraising goal of \$15,000 for the Strengthening the WARP campaign. A special thanks to Alice Brown and others who helped put us over the top. Together we raised \$15,800. Thanks so much for your support!

Special thanks as well to WARP donors

- ♦ Tom and Linda Temple for a donation to WARP in honor of the marriage of Gage Evans and Bill Bailey;
- ♦ Bobbie Hineline and the PennWest Conference of the United Church of Christ Church in Society Committee for the \$500 proceeds from an UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sale; and
- ♦ the Contemporary Handweavers of Houston for their unrestricted donation.

Long-term Financial Solutions for WARP

Marcia Bellas

As reported above, WARP has met its Strengthening the WARP fund-raising goal! The income from the \$15,000 fund drive, which began in Spring of 2000, will fund the cost of the administrative coordinator and additional office expenses through June of 2002. We are excited about reaching this short-term goal and now are seeking ways to achieve some degree of long-term economic independence through an endowment or other sources of guaranteed income. Otherwise, WARP will always face an uncertain future and we will always have to be concerned with fundraising efforts.

I have started applying for grants for operating expenses and our endowment fund, as well as for the costs associated with bringing artisans to our tenth anniversary meeting next spring. My sense is that as a "communication organization" WARP does not fit neatly into typical organizational profiles. Consequently foundations may find us less appealing than organizations that are more active in addressing some of the issues with which WARP is concerned. Another challenge is that many foundations do not support operating expenses or endowment funds. Nonetheless, I am submitting grant applications and will let you know if I get lucky. So far I have applied to Aid to Artisans (rejected), ASDA, Atkinson, Ben and Jerry's, Blossom, Gaea, Joselow, Namaste, Mott (rejected), Muste, OMRON, Wild Oats, and the Denver Foundations. If you know someone associated with any of these foundations, please put in a good word for us. If you know someone at another foundation that might be suitable, please let me know.

Again, I want to encourage you to think about fundraising strategies. I don't particularly enjoy fundraising (except when a check arrives), so I'd appreciate any help you can offer. Please let me know your ideas and if you would like to participate in some way. Thanks to Mary Kelly for helping search for potential sources of conference support. Contact me by e-mail at marciabellas@juno.com.

WARP Informational

Fliers Available

If you would like copies of the WARP informational fliers to distribute to your guild or at local conferences, please contact

the WARP office:

Cheryl Musch
3209 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/244-7817 (phone)
305/768-8470 (fax)
warp@yachana.org



Weave a Real Peace
 3102 Classen Boulevard
 PMB 249
 Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Special Issue: Alternative Holiday Gift Ideas

What's in this newsletter ...

An Independent Weaver in Tajikistan	1
From the WARP Office	2
WARP's New Education Website!	2
Member Profile - Debbie Durham: A Champion of World Crafts	3
Theme of Next Newsletter (<i>What do you think about travel?</i>)	3
Letters (<i>Producer Relations Manager at SERRV, Wool Yarn to Give Away, Crafts News/E-List from Crafts Center</i>)	4
Alternative Holiday Shopping	5-9, 13
Heifer Project International	5
Alternative Shopping on the Internet	6
Working Assets Will Match Tax Rebate Check Donations	6
WARP Members Tell All	7-8
How To Sponsor a Sale (\$500 raised in Pennsylvania; <i>Market Day!</i> model in Oklahoma)	9
SEVA: Gifts of Service	13
AGI: Gifts that Change the World	13
AfricanCrafts Activities	10
FTF Partnership with Co-op America	10
New Members/Directory Corrections/Updated Contact Information	10-11
Book Review: <i>Plowing the Sea: Nurturing the Hidden Sources of Growth in the Developing World....</i>	11
RUGMARK Announces New Grassroots Action Kit	11
Rural Development Leadership Network Launches Marketing Venture	12
WARP Slide Show Schedule	12
Updates from the Microcredit Summit Campaign	12
Upcoming Events	14
Slides Needed for New WARP Show	14
Rainbow Socks Returns as Mission Traders	14
STW Fund Drive Achieves Goal!	15
Long-term Financial Solutions for WARP	15