

# WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 11, Number 1

Spring 2004

## Tres Manos: Providing Skills for Life in Southern New Mexico

Lucia Bond

Tres Manos is the textile arts program of Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico. Our goals are to foster human and economic development through home-based micro-enterprises, and to encourage participants to make their own decisions about their future. Since the inception of this program we have had over 80 participants. We receive funding from New Mexico Arts, USDA Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Community Adjustment and Investment Program.



*Dolores Dorado*

This program is created to train low-income female residents of the colonias in three programmatic areas including technical skills (weaving, spinning, sewing, and beading), life skills, and business skills. Our life skills component helps educate our participants in many areas including self-esteem, nutrition, domestic violence, teamwork, housing opportunities, and depression by inviting experts in these areas to talk to the women. These guests are very informative and help the participants to cope with situations they may be facing. Our business skills are provided by WESSTCorp (Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Training), a local non-profit.



*Maria Barraza, Maria Navarra-Pino, weaving instructor, and Raquel Rubio*

Training takes place three days a week at our training center in San Miguel, about 12 miles south of Las Cruces. We offer on-site childcare with a trained provider, and we work with Ben Archer Transportation to provide rides to and from the center for our participants and their children to help eliminate barriers to training. Our participants are all residents of colonias, which are unincorporated rural communities that are within 150 miles of the U.S./Mexico

### *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*

*continued on page 11*

## *From the WARP Office....*

*Cheryl Musch, Administrative Coordinator*

It's always exciting here at the WARP office when we get close to our annual meeting. Members anticipate seeing each other once again. And the meetings, in different locations, with different members, are always a great place to get together to talk about the passion for empowering textile communities that we all share. I hope to see you in San Jose. If you haven't registered yet, do so soon! Also, you should have received your Annual Membership Directory. If you didn't receive it for any reason, please let me know.

### **Reminders**

The **2004 Annual Meeting** will be held April 23-25 and there's room for more! The cost for the meeting is \$190 and includes a two-night, five meal stay at the Presentation Center, nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains about fourteen miles from the San Jose airport. Anne Dunham reports that she's had good luck with last minute airfares on priceline.com, so think about joining us. Fly into the San Jose airport and contact Anne about transportation options, or with other questions. Anne Dunham, 9090 Bohlman Road, Saratoga, CA 95070; 408/867-0133 (phone); [annedunham@earthlink.net](mailto:annedunham@earthlink.net) (email).

If you wish to participate in the international **Marketplace** at the annual meeting, contact Marcis Bellas (contact info at left). Marketplace provides an opportunity to sell textiles or other items of interest. If you are not attending the meeting, you can make arrangements with someone who will attend to represent you. Items can be shipped ahead of time to the Presentation Center, 19480 Bear Creek Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95033. WARP requests a donation of 10 percent of sales.

Members who wish to participate in WARP's commercial booth at **Convergence 2004** in Denver from June 30 - July 3 can contact Deborah Chandler at [MHands@intelnett.com](mailto:MHands@intelnett.com) (email), or write to her at PO Box 591828-M131, Miami, Florida 33159 (a mail forwarding service that will take the mail to Guatemala).

The primary purpose of the booth is to provide space for members to sell the goods of artisans with whom they are working, in the U.S. or other countries. At Convergence 2000 in Cincinnati we sold over \$12,000 worth of wonderful textiles and other products, and we hope to do even better this time.

WARP members attending Convergence are invited to help at the booth. Contact Deborah for more details.

### **From the WARP Listserv**

My husband and I are hoping to go to Mongolia this summer, mainly to hike. Have any of you been to Mongolia, know anything about textiles there, know a good source to learn more? Thanks, Susan Weltman, 109 S. Adelaide Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904; 732/846-3139 (phone); [sweltwoman@aol.com](mailto:sweltwoman@aol.com) (email).

### **WARP**

#### **Governing Board**

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[bthomas@conknet.com](mailto:bthomas@conknet.com)

Term expires 2005

## ***Member Profile - WARP's Administrative Coordinator Extraordinaire: Cheryl Musch***

Cheryl Musch is not only WARP's Administrative Coordinator, she works full-time at SERRV International, one of the largest fair trade non-profits in the U.S. SERRV works with 90 artisan groups in 35 countries to generate income through craft production. Like WARP, SERRV works to facilitate self-empowerment and betterment of in-need communities and artisans.

As Producer Relations Manager at SERRV, Cheryl is often on the road visiting craft producers--women and men who share their skills weaving, carving, painting, and more. Recent trips have taken her to Southeast Asia (Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia) and Guatemala, where she met with Deborah Chandler who is now the in-country director for Mayan Hands, a group working with Mayan weavers.

In the last few years, SERRV realized that simply buying handcrafts is not enough to impact poverty. Artisans need the skills and tools to be able to expand their markets. SERRV took on a development role--assisting craftspeople in improving products, providing technical assistance, and finding new markets and customers.

Cheryl's position focuses on the development aspect of SERRV's work. She drafts long-range plans with groups for what they need and then helps them implement those plans. In concrete terms, she might find a summer volunteer to work with a group of spinners and weavers in Kenya, send funds to basket makers in southern Bolivia so they can buy measuring tapes and rulers to make identical baskets, line up a consultant to visit groups SERRV might want to work with in Ghana, and check into problems artisan groups may be experiencing. SERRV's goal is to give artisan groups the tools they need to achieve greater independence.

Cheryl feels good about having a job that has an impact. "Whenever I visit craftspeople, whether it's in Thailand, Vietnam, Bolivia, Kenya, or Guatemala," Cheryl says, "I learn that selling crafts has allowed them to feed their families, educate their children, improve their homes, and access health care. That's important to me." She continued, "Some good connections have been made between SERRV's partners and WARP members, and I hope that will continue."

*Contact information for Cheryl is on the sidebar on page 2.*

## ***Gallery to Feature East Asian Textiles***

New WARP member Janet Rodina is announcing the June 15 (or thereabouts) opening of Silk Weavers Textile Gallery in Sebastopol, California. The "Connecting Cultures, Weaving Peace" exhibit will feature textiles from Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Lao ex-patriot weavers will be doing demonstrations at the event. Janet intends for the Gallery to be a lively place, with invited speakers, weavers, and small ethnic music concerts.

If you have questions about this exciting new Textile Gallery, please contact Janet Rodina at [jrodina@silkweavers.org](mailto:jrodina@silkweavers.org) (email); 707/823-2144 (phone), or by mail at 6932 Sebastopol Avenue, Suite A, Sebastopol, California 95472.

### **2004 Annual Meeting Agenda**

Sunday, April 24  
10:00 to 12:00

- Approval of 2003 Minutes; discussion of year's activities
- Financial Report
- Election of Board Member - The board has recommended that only one board member be elected to replace departing board members Donna Duke and Mary Kelly. The Nominating Committee has nominated Melinda Lowrey, a computer programmer from Sonoma, California, for the position. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.
- Plans for coming year, including next meeting
- Other Business

Send additions or corrections to the Agenda to Cheryl Musch (contact information in sidebar on page 2).

### **WARP Brochures Available**

If you would like copies of WARP's brochure to distribute to your guild or at local conferences, please contact the WARP office:

Cheryl Musch,  
3209 Atwood Avenue,  
Madison, WI 53704; 608/  
244-7817 (phone); 305/  
768-8470 (fax);  
[warp@yachana.org](mailto:warp@yachana.org) (email)



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

The deadline for contribu-  
tions to the Summer WARP  
newsletter is **May 28**.

Send articles and copies of  
correspondence for  
the newsletter to:  
Linda Temple  
1230 NE 70  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
**lgtemple@juno.com**  
(email)  
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.

## **STITCH Women's Language School Delegation - May 29 to June 6, 2004**

As described in the Fall 2002 issue of the WARP newsletter, "STITCH is a network of US women working to support women organizing for a just wage and fair treatment on the job in Central America. Our members are union organizers, union members, community organizers, social workers, teachers, professors, students, and other women and men who believe in international solidarity...." – from the STITCH website: [www.afgj.org/stitch/](http://www.afgj.org/stitch/)

The STITCH network is sponsoring a women's delegation to Guatemala this summer that combines Spanish instruction with an in-depth look at the effects of free trade on women workers and unionists. This exciting delegation provides opportunities to:

- connect with US and Guatemalan women activists;
- study Spanish and learn more about Central America;
- understand what free trade agreements really mean for women workers in Central America; and
- meet pioneering organizers and learn how you can take part in the struggle for global economic justice.

Participants will spend five mornings learning Spanish with one-on-one instruction at a well-respected school in the colonial town of Antigua, Guatemala. In the afternoons, they will meet with women fighting for better conditions in the booming textile industry, activists working on the global economy, and local union leaders. In the final days of the delegation, delegates will travel to the plantations in central Guatemala to hear from banana workers affected by free trade policies. Participants will enjoy the area's lush tropical terrain, gain a deeper understanding of the banana industry's deep history in the region and its current challenges, and explore our own roles as consumers and activists. Conversations with union leaders in both venues who are tackling trade issues will broaden understandings of the globalization, provide information about what women are doing to empower themselves, and will improve organizing skills.

This delegation is open to women only. The cost of the delegation is \$800 and includes housing, all meals, language instruction, and travel inside Guatemala. Participants must pay their own way to Guatemala City and cover incidental costs such as snacks and tips. Limited scholarships are available.

To request more information or an application, please contact: STITCH, 1525 Newton St, NW, Washington, DC 20010; 202/265-3790 (phone); [stitch@stitchonline.org](mailto:stitch@stitchonline.org) (email).

### **Textile Museum Exhibits**

Exhibits, lectures, workshops, and demonstrations at the The Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. are listed on their website calendar. Upcoming exhibits include *Timeless Connections: Exploring Tapestry Weave* from April 16 - August 1, 2004; *Floral Perspectives in Carpet Design* from August 26, 2004 through February 6, 2005; and *A Garden of Shawls: The Buta and Its Seeds* from October 1, 2004 through March 6, 2005.

View all events or sign up for the e-newsletter on their website, [www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org).



## *Double-Ikat Weaving In India*

In single-ikat weaving, the warp (or weft) is resist-dyed in a planned design prior to weaving. Bundles of threads are tightly wrapped to form resist areas, so that when the threads are dyed, only the parts of the thread that aren't resist tied absorb the dye. In double-ikat, or Patan Patola, as it is referred to in India, both warp and weft are resist-dyed to form a complex design when woven. Having to match the design in both the warp and weft complicates the entire process.

The warp and weft threads are reeled from eight strands of silk, and then bleached. The ikat patterns are first designed on graph paper, and then transferred onto the warp and weft. Next, the marked portions of the warp and weft threads are wrapped tightly with cotton thread. After the silk threads are dyed, some of the cotton threads are removed. The process of wrapping, dyeing, and unwrapping, is repeated several times, in order to obtain a rich and colorful pattern.

After the dyeing process is completed, the warp threads are placed on the loom in sequence, and the weft threads are carefully wound onto bobbins. The weaving process is very exacting as well, and is usually done by two weavers at a time. The tension on the warp has to be uniform throughout, and the design on the warp and weft has to be perfectly matched.

Traditionally, Patan Patola were woven for weddings and for worship. Nowadays, the main use is still for wedding saris, but they are also used for handkerchiefs, tablecloths etc.

### Resources:

*The Sari: Styles-Patterns-History-Techniques*, by Linda Lynton,  
Thames & Hudson Ltd.

<http://www.newartgate.co.il/Articles/showArticle.asp?EssayID=10>

<http://www.patanpatola.com/inside.html>

<http://patolaofpatan.com/about.htm>

[http://www.geocities.com/kala-mag/articles/fal02\\_patola.html](http://www.geocities.com/kala-mag/articles/fal02_patola.html)

<http://www.icr.com.au/~danaj/page2.htm>

<http://www.indistudio.com/india/weave/weaveGujratPatola/gujPatola.htm>

*Deborah Brandon can be reached at 412/967-1578 (phone); or at [brandon@asd6.math.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@asd6.math.cmu.edu) (email).*

### *Fair Trade in the Media*

The March 8th edition of *Time* magazine highlighted the success of Fair Trade coffee in making it into the consciousness, if not the cafes, of the mainstream coffee industry - and it mentioned RUGMARK as the carpet label equivalent. More RUGMARK news available on their website at [www.rugmark.org](http://www.rugmark.org).

### Weave A Real Peace

#### Membership Information

#### **2004 Annual Dues**

\$10 (simple living)  
\$20 (U.S. and Canada)  
\$25 (international;  
sister memberships)  
\$30 (group/supporting)  
\$100+ (patron/donor)

All memberships are based on the calendar year and expire on December 31.

Members receive all publications for the year joined.

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

Dues are used for printing, mailing, and office expenses. Weave A Real Peace (WARP) is designated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. All donations to WARP are tax deductible in the United States.

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

## 2004 Sheep Is Life Celebration to be in June

Sheep is Life celebrates sheep, wool, and weaving with three days of free public events on Friday through Sunday, June 25-27, at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona. Organized by Diné be' iiná, Inc. (The Navajo Lifeway), the eighth annual Sheep is Life Celebration honors the central role of sheep in Navajo spirituality, philosophy, and daily life, and brings together people from many cultures who love sheep, wool, and weaving. Diné be' iiná, Inc. promotes the return of the Navajo-Churro Sheep, a rare breed that once was the foundation of the Navajo economy.

Daily activities also include shearing, carding, spinning, dyeing with native plants, weaving, panel discussions, film presentations and educational information. Arts, crafts, wool, yarn, and food will be for sale. Pre-conference workshops, requiring registration and a fee, will be held Monday through Thursday. There is no charge for participation in the weekend events. More information is available online at [www.navajolifeway.org](http://www.navajolifeway.org) or call 928/871-4991 (phone); [rachdahozy@navajolifeway.org](mailto:rachdahozy@navajolifeway.org) (email).

### **Crafts Center Acquired by CHF International** *from a notice sent January 23, 2004:*

The Crafts Center, a non-profit founded in 1986, has been acquired by CHF International, a non-profit organization that specializes in economic, social, and environmental development. CHF is known for its innovative and effective micro-enterprise programming and looks forward to expanding the reach and impact of the Crafts Center through its 35+ overseas programs. New contact information is available on the Crafts Center website ([www.craftscenter.org](http://www.craftscenter.org)); the website for CHF is [www.chfhq.org](http://www.chfhq.org).

### **WARP Slide Show**

The WARP slide show went to SOAR (Spin Off Autumn Retreat) in the fall, which generated even more requests for the show. It has been to New Jersey, and Indiana, and is now in Arizona. It will be at the WARP Annual Meeting and at the Conference of California Handweavers. The show has been block scheduled for the month of November in Arizona.

Some of the showings have been in conjunction with sales of crafts from Upavim and Mayan Hands.

To reserve the show in slide, VHS, or CD format, contact Carole Pierce, [cpierce@mis.net](mailto:cpierce@mis.net) (email), 859/986-8666 (phone).

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## Networking Outside the WARP Circle

Mary B. Kelly

When WARP members look to network with others, many work within our group. We documented in earlier articles how member-to-member contacts are facilitated using electronic media. We also showed how member-to-member contacts opened up past connections, donations, sponsorship and help for groups abroad across international borders. In this last article we'll focus on networking opportunities outside our membership circle but within our own borders.



*Rosario Delfina Poncio de Garcia, from Guatemala, demonstrating backstrap weaving for Girl Scouts in Colorado*

As an information sharing group, we will never be successful if we talk only to the converted. Although it is important to help each other, it is also important to reach out to other weavers, textile artists and enthusiasts, schools, and art centers. One special way to show others weavers what we do is through our website and listserv. We hope to re-vitalize these important communication tools this year. On this note we also bring others into our circle by our annual WARP auction, where beautiful textiles made or collected by WARP members are for sale.

Weaving and textile groups have long kept in touch with us by subscribing to our very informative newsletter. In addition they have supported us by using our slide show for programs at their meetings. This year we introduced the use of video tapes and video CD's to widen our appeal to these groups. As DVD players become more available, we may want to tell our story to groups and facilitate discussion via this new medium.

Individual members link WARP with the wider textile community by giving lectures, workshops and exhibitions, or leading textile tours. They also write books about textile subjects and articles for textile publications such as *Handwoven*, *Threads*, *Piecework* and *Shuttle Spindle and Dyeplot*.

National weaving conferences, such as Convergence, always bring us new members. Visits to our booth, conversations with our members and purchases allow us to interact with textile specialists around the country during these meetings.

### **Tour to Benefit Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco**

Nilda Callanaupa of the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, and Mary Frame, who has spent twenty-five years researching pre-Columbian and Andean textiles, will be leading a two week tour of Quechua weaving villages in the Cusco region of Peru from October 15 to 28. For more information or to reserve a space, contact Betty Doerr at 415/552-8471 (phone) or doerrwells@earthlink (email).

### ***Thanks to***

Susan Abouhalkah, Alice Brown, Babbie & Stu Cameron, Cindy Lair, the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild and the Schacht Spindle Company for their generous contributions.

Judy Curby & Gayle Smalley for their donation in honor of WARP member Cathy Curby.

Peggy Coffey for hosting the first UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sale of 2004, with profits going to WARP.

And a big thank you to Donna Duke who has done WARP's tax returns for MANY years. Thank you, Donna!

### **Seeking Contacts in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia**

Fiber artist Lori Bacigalupi, from Norman, Oklahoma, will soon be traveling to Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia for two and a half months, on a search for the textile trail that runs through the many indigenous cultures of the Andean highlands. If you have connections in those countries you would be willing to share please contact Lori by email at [lori@kissofthewolf.com](mailto:lori@kissofthewolf.com).

## *New Members*

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Nancy Frantz  
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## *Letters*

### Atfaluna Crafts, Gaza

We would be very pleased if you could put an announcement in your newsletter.

Because of the ongoing turmoil here in the Palestinian society, local markets for crafts produced by our deaf people have been very adversely affected. We would be extremely appreciative of any help that would allow us to identify markets outside the area. Our deaf people have worked so hard to help themselves by establishing a vocational training/crafts production business that produces well-finished and creative items reflecting the culture and art of the region.

At present, Atfaluna Crafts employs 72 deaf men and women, most of whom have never had the chance to go to school and who would otherwise not find work in the "hearing world." In addition, 250 very needy women work from their

homes doing traditional embroidery for pieces used in our products. Money they make goes to buy medicines, food, and clothing for their children. It would be a real catastrophe for these very needy persons if it became necessary to cut back on production due to lack of sales, and therefore cut back on staff. There is no meaningful social welfare system in place in this society that provides for the needs of the sick and the hungry.

We look forward to hearing from you and very much appreciate your help. Please note my new e-mail below. Sincerely, Geraldine (Gerry) Shawa, Executive Director, Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, 72 Philisteen St. (P. O. Box 44), Gaza City, The Gaza Strip, The Palestinian Authority (Via Israel). +972-8-2828495/2865468 (telefaxes); geraldine.shawa@atfaluna.net (email); www.atfaluna.net (website).

### *TSA Newsletter Highlights WARP*

WARP was the featured organization in the Textile Network column of the Textile Society of America's Winter 2004 Newsletter. In addition to presenting WARP's mission, goals, and member activities, the article, written by TSA Newsletter Editor and WARP member Karen Searle, has photos of WARP members Ruth and Morris Johnson, who work with tapestry weavers in Lesotho.

The Textile Society of America provides an international forum for the exchange and dissemination of information about textiles worldwide, from artistic, cultural, economic, historic, political, social, and technical perspectives. TSA's 9th Biennial Symposium will be held October 7-9, 2004, in Oakland, California. For membership and other information about the organization visit the TSA website at [www.textilesociety.org](http://www.textilesociety.org).



## Letters

### **Barbara Bergman writes from India**

Here is some news from a member traveling in Africa and India for eight months. Last year at the annual meeting in North Carolina I got to meet WARP members and be amazed by our variety of members and unity in the theme of nurturing and supporting native cultures. Now as the time for the 2004 annual meeting arrives I think of everyone and wonder if they remember the member who is traveling. I am presently starting the sixth month of travel.

I have a good story to tell about bringing two manual sewing machines and setting them up in a small remote village when I was in Senegal, West Africa. A good subject for a future newsletter might be how to connect local craftspeople to appropriate technology when traveling.

My latest textile experience in India was visiting a craftshop outside of Jaipur in the state of Rajasthan. The shop had about six people handblocking fabric with supposedly natural dyes. The colors were right, indigo blues and shades of rust and beige browns and black. But I don't know of any way that indigo can be hand stamped because it is a oxidation process that takes place under water out of contact with oxygen in the air. The blue did not smell like indigo. Language was a barrier. I don't speak Hindi and the workshop owner spoke minimal English and could not write Roman script.

This meant that I could not even get him to write down the sources of dyes for me to look up later. I know enough about the Shipibo Indians of Peru using both bark and special clay to produce the black and rust colors of their cultures and have also seen the mud cloth making of Western Africa that uses bark and clay to produce brown, black, gold and tan colors. The similarities of tone color to those of the Indian fabrics lead me to believe the Indian colors are natural dyes for the browns.

However, I need more explanation to accept that the "Indigo blue" is natural indigo blue and not synthetic dye of similar chemical makeup. Nonetheless, the stamping with the wooden blocks by workers that seemed to have fulfilling jobs in a breezy shaded workspace and the producing of beautiful fabrics left me impressed.

For anyone traveling in western India the following is the village and name of the workshop. Owner: Kaahaniyalal Udaywal. Factory name: Nutan Printing Works. Factory address: Factory H34, Industrial Area, Bagru-303-007, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Office phone 865291. The factory is located in Bagru, a delightfully non-touristy town, about a 45 minute bus trip from Jaipur.

Hello to everyone at the annual meeting. Love, Barbara Bergman, [heartwoodbergman@hotmail.com](mailto:heartwoodbergman@hotmail.com)

### **More New Members**

Toby Goldsmith  
1968 Prindle Rd.  
Charlotte, VT 05445  
802/425-2750

Ginnie Killough  
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[vkill@up.net](mailto:vkill@up.net)

Albertina Lopez Cumez  
c/o Lolli Jacobsen  
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Margarita Lainez  
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Pol C-23 #4  
Col. Jardines del Volcan 2  
Ciudad Merliot, la Libertad,  
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Tobie Lurie  
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Northwest Arkansas  
Handweavers Guild  
Monica Milam  
21 Eaton Cir.  
Bella Vista, AR 72715

### **WARP on the Web**

<http://www.weaversband.com/warp.html>

## *More New Members*

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## *Rubia Continues Work with Afghan Weavers*

*Rachel Lehr*

After more than twenty years of civil war, Afghanistan, once a developing nation, is now among the poorest countries in the world and the origin of the largest refugee population. War, in addition to drought, starvation, and a destroyed economy have forced millions of Afghans across its borders into Pakistan, Iran, and Tajikistan. We hear daily about the problems of the people in Afghanistan and of the women in particular.

Rubia, a non-profit organization founded in 2000 by Rachel Lehr and Jennie Wood, seeks to provide Afghan women with the opportunity to support their families while preserving their rich tradition of handwork. Rubia provides high quality materials for embroidery and other handwork—all dyed with traditional plant dye sources. Workshops provide training in all the skills needed to create fine functional and ornamental textiles that reflect the Afghan and wider central Asian aesthetic.



Proceeds from the sale of their products, some of which are featured on Rubia's website, are used to support literacy training and health care education, as well as sustain growth of a business that is compatible with a traditional textile heritage and with the home-based way of life of most Afghan women.

New traditions are at the heart of Rubia's work that involves translating the heritage and skills of uprooted women into sustainable livelihoods. Traditionally, textiles have been women's handwork, done in the home, between domestic chores, to enhance their surroundings. Rubia seeks to integrate these traditional elements with the new benefits of earning a living wage.

For more information about Rubia, contact Jennie or Rachel at PO Box 655, Peterborough, New Hampshire 03458 USA; 603/924-3824 or 603/428-3058 (phone); staff@rubiahandwork.org (email); www.rubiahandwork.org (website).

*Jennie Wood and Rachel Lehr, Rubia's founders, were both in Afghanistan last summer meeting with numerous aid agencies and potential participants. Constantly changing conditions in Afghanistan require close monitoring and daily assessment. With salaries to pay on both sides of the Atlantic to keep this important and valuable work moving ahead Rubia continues to market their exquisite textiles, write proposals, and seek donations. Rubia's wish list includes lots of scissors for sewers, flashlights for the countryside, sewing kits (needles & thread), first aid kits for rural families, \$\$\$, a digital camera, frequent flyer miles, shipping, and a tractor.*

## **From the WARP Listserv**

Bali & the Textile Arts of Indonesia, 8-Day Study Tours 08-15 May 2004 or 31 July-07 August 2004. For more information contact: Threads of Life/Laughing Duck Tours, Kubu Roda, Jalan Bisma #3, Ubud, Bali 80571, Indonesia, 62-361-976581 (phone); 62-361-976582 (fax); Lafnduck@concentric.net (email); www.threadsoflife.com, www.laughingducktours.com (websites).

## **Mayan Hands Weavers Increase Earnings!**

*Excerpt from a letter from Deborah Chandler, Guatemalan Coordinator for Mayan Hands, to Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, U.S. Coordinator for MH:*

My favorite piece of news is that in 2002 the women in Nahualá earned an average of Q6.94/day, a little under \$1, and in 2003 they earned an average of Q22.48/day, almost \$3, a 323% increase! 2004 will be even better, as we now have really good products for them.

Everyone else in the cooperative is earning more than that, ALL earn more than Guatemalan minimum wage. In five groups they earned between \$3 and \$4/day, in two groups between \$4 and \$6, in four groups \$7-\$9, one of the Atitlan groups is making over \$10 per day, and the Rabinal tablecloth weavers are making a relatively staggering \$16.43/day average. Everyone is earning more than they were last year, some by a lot, and all the result of having a production schedule and getting them yarn constantly, avoiding the blank spaces/down time between orders. In total, since we made the big changeover, we've paid the women Q496,480.25, nearly half a million quetzales. And actually it is more than that, as there are some payments not included in these totals. So it is really OVER half a million, more than \$62,500.

WARP members can help the weavers of Mayan Hands and help WARP at the same time by hosting a sales event in your community. You can request pre-priced handcrafted items, sell what you can, and return what is left, with all profit above wholesale (and minus shipping) going to WARP. Contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland (UpavimMayanhands@comcast.net or 301/515-5911) for more details.

### **continued from page 1**

border where inadequate infrastructure such as inferior housing, lack of sewage or city water, or even electricity are typical. Income levels are typically below poverty level, and households are usually Hispanic and/or Spanish speaking.

Once participants have gained the skills to make marketable items, they are hired as piecework employees. We provide materials and they receive money for the labor of their items once the items are sold. This is done until they are ready to start their own businesses and create their own products. This gives them a chance to express their creativity and make money from home without having to compromise their traditional roles in their households.

After the participants have completed their business, life, and technical skills training they receive their training equipment which includes a sewing machine, spinning wheel, or beading supplies. We offer a substantial discount on the weaving looms, as they are expensive and participants need to make sure that they are ready to commit the space in their homes to a loom.

Tres Manos has opened a retail location in Mesilla to sell our participants' wares. We have weaving demonstrations and we take custom orders. We also sell a sampling of items online and they are available from our website at [http://www.caasnm.org/programs/tres\\_manos.htm](http://www.caasnm.org/programs/tres_manos.htm). We invite you to visit us in person or online to learn more about our program. For any questions, please call 505-527-8799, ext. 114 or e-mail Lucia Bond, Program Director at [BondL@caasnm.org](mailto:BondL@caasnm.org).

### ***More New Members***

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Ellen Willson  
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734/662-2284  
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### ***New Sister Member***

Jacinta Matilde Terraza Gallego  
Museo Ixchel del Traje Indigena  
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### ***Welcome Back***

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*California, Here We Come - WARP 2004 Annual Meeting April 23-25*

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