

# WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 14, Number 1

Spring 2007

## *The Hebron Embroidery Project Assists Palestinian Artisans*

*Tura Campanella Cook*

The Friendship and Peace Society (FPS) is a non-profit organization established in Palestine and the U.S. to foster friendship among Muslim, Christian, and Jewish women. In 1996 an American college student volunteering in the FPS Hebron office decided to begin a self-help project for the poorest village, Beit Kahel. He thought the women could sell their work in Jerusalem and become self-sufficient. Thus the Hebron Embroidery Project (HEP) was born. Priority for work is given to women who are the sole support for their families (the full name of the project is the Poor Women's Embroidery Project). However, local sales were not adequate to support the embroiderers, so FPS president Ellen Rosser sought other markets for the handwork. It was when Ellen returned to the U.S. and joined the Fair Trade Federation that the HEP began to sell enough embroidery to really help the women.



In 2000, Tura Cook's involvement with FPS began online. She was the office manager for a small company in Austin, Texas, that wanted to decorate the office with artwork from the places they did business. While looking on the internet, Tura found the Fair Trade site ([www.fairtradefederation.com](http://www.fairtradefederation.com)) and the listing for the Friendship and Peace Society. She was intrigued by the name and was drawn to the stories of the women (soon to be added to the new website). She returned later to make a personal purchase—the traditional Palestinian embroidered pillows she bought for her home and for gifts were outstanding in color and detail. She learned more about the economic hardship in Palestine and asked to sell embroidery on consignment.

Tura then joined the annual holiday craft sale sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee in Austin, whose focus is "women and fair trade." The other vendors were primarily from Mexico and Central America, and at first the Hebron

### **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 14*

<p align="center"><b><u>WARP</u></b> <b><u>Governing</u></b> <b><u>Board</u></b></p> <p>Deborah Brandon Pittsburgh, PA <i>brandon@andrew.cmu.edu</i> Term expires 2008</p> <p>Susan Shaefer Davis Haverford, PA <i>sdavis@uslink.net</i> Term expires 2009</p> <p>Sarah Saulson Syracuse, NY <i>sfsaulson@twcny.rr.com</i> Term expires 2008</p> <p>Adrienne Sloane Watertown, MA <i>aonels@yahoo.com</i> Term expires 2008</p> <p>Linda Temple Oklahoma City, OK <i>lgtemple@juno.com</i> Term expires 2008</p> <p><b><u>Administrative</u></b> <b><u>Coordinator</u></b> Cheryl Musch Madison, WI <i>info@weavearealpeace.org</i></p>
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## ***From the WARP Office....***

*Cheryl Musch, Administrative Coordinator*

For the last seven years, I have been WARP's Administrative Coordinator. This has truly been for me work born of love. There are times I cannot find words for how amazing WARP members are and how the organization connects people to new experiences. These connections are what WARP is about. These connections are about us and our shared knowledge, passions, and actions because we care about textile communities in the developing world.

I also work full-time at SERRV International as Director of International Development. I have the privilege in this position of traveling frequently to visit artisans in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As WARP's membership has grown and since I am often traveling, it is time for a new coordinator who can devote more time to tend to this strong and growing organization. I will continue to be an active WARP member and hope to contribute to the organization in other ways.

I will look forward to seeing many of you in Guatemala at our first meeting outside of the U.S. and our largest meeting ever!

## ***2007 Annual Meeting Plans Set***

Registrations for the 2007 Annual Meeting, to be held March 2-4 in Panajachel, Guatemala, have been enthusiastic and the meeting and attendant tours are fully booked. No more registrations will be taken. Watch for a complete report in the Summer issue of the WARP newsletter.

## ***Board Nominee for 2007 Selected***

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the nomination of Cheryl Musch to fill WARP's open board position. When Cheryl resigned as the organization's Administrative Coordinator, she was approached about the possibility of becoming a board member. Cheryl consented to resign from the nominating committee and submit her name as a potential board member. Cheryl's long-time commitment to and involvement with WARP makes her an excellent candidate for the post. The board position will be voted upon during the business portion of the annual meeting to be held in March. Other nominations can be made from the floor.

## ***WARP Directory Publication Postponed***

The WARP Membership Directory was scheduled to be published in early February. However, memberships and questionnaires were still arriving well past that time. The Board decided to postpone publication of the directory until late March, so as much membership information as possible could be included. If you have not renewed your membership and/or have not updated your directory information, please do so immediately by contacting Cheryl Musch (contact information at left).

## WARP Administrative

### Coordinator Position Available

WARP is currently conducting a search among its membership for a new Administrative Coordinator to replace Cheryl Musch. This is a part-time job, with much of the work concentrated from December to May. In peak months, work may total 30 hours, declining to about 10 hours per month during the summer. You will work from your own home. We would like the new coordinator to begin during spring 2007. Salary will be discussed during the interview process.

Primary responsibilities include: all bookkeeping and routine correspondence; production of annual membership directory; working with newsletter editor to coordinate its publication; overseeing all aspects of annual membership mailing and dues collection; working with board to organize annual member conference and board meeting; serving on board as an ex-officio member; coordinating all other WARP activities.

Qualifications include, above all else, a commitment to WARP and our mission. The coordinator must be able to serve gracefully as the public face of WARP. You need reliable internet service and willingness to use it heavily, as well as comfort with basic accounting, word processing, and database management software. Accurate record-keeping and keeping track of details on an on-going basis is essential.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a WARP member with some flexibility in your schedule and interest in working in the non-profit sector. Please apply by March 31. If you have questions about the job, please call or e-mail Sarah Saulson at any time

Please submit a resume and cover letter to:  
Sarah Saulson, WARP Job Search Coordinator  
sfsaulson@twcny.rr.com

### WARP Slideshow on the Move

This past fall there have been a lot more inquiries about the WARP slide show. It has been in Ohio, Ontario, and Washington. It will be going to a high school in Kentucky, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and to Indiana.

If you are interested in the slide show, please contact Carole Pierce, cpierce@mis.net.

*From the Editor: I will be writing the 2006 Annual Report in the next couple of weeks and would appreciate feedback about how WARP has influenced your life this past year. Please send comments to me directly at LGTemple@juno.com. Thanks.*

### *You can help WARP by*

#### ...providing financial support for the:

- Operating fund (includes WARP publications—the newsletter and directory)
- Scholarship fund
- Sister Memberships
- Endowment fund

#### ...volunteering to:

- Host an UPAVIM/ Mayan Hands sale to benefit WARP
- Show the WARP slideshow in your community
- Write an article for the newsletter
- Help with annual meetings
- Index WARP newsletters
- Solicit paid ads for the newsletter and/or membership directory.
- Encourage other textile organizations and guilds to link to the WARP website

If you are interested in any of these financial or volunteer opportunities, contact Cheryl Musch at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)



**WARP Newsletter**

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Editor: Linda Temple

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

The deadline for  
contributions to the  
Summer 2007 WARP  
newsletter is **May 11, 2007**.

Send articles and  
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.

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

***Member Profile***

***Chris Leith: Teacher, Artist, Networker***

*Pegi Bevins*

Chris Leith was born in Oklahoma in 1951 but spent most of her life in upstate New York. She took her first weaving class at Syracuse University and bought her first loom when she was 20 years old. After college, she began teaching at Emma Willard School in Troy, New York. EWS is an all girls' secondary school with, among other things, looms and a textiles program. Although she was teaching other arts courses as well as weaving, Chris's life at Willard for 26 years revolved mostly around the weaving studio.

In the mid 1980's, EWS began sending Chris to Haystack Mountain School on Deer Isle, Maine, for summer workshops. There, Chris learned to use dyes and shibori, and began to develop her weaving and her ideas about textiles. Living in Maine during the summers with her family evolved into building a home and permanently moving to the area in the summer of 2002. Once there, Chris became a fulltime textile artist. The community around Haystack has many artists who open their studios in the summer and sell work to visitors. Chris's own studio, Eggmoggin Textile Studio, has been open for four years now and is a huge success at every level. The studio has given her the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who are in the area, enjoying the beautiful coast of Maine.

In 2005, Chris participated in the annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, whose proceeds are used to purchase works of art and craft for the permanent collections of the museum, fund conservation and publication projects, and support exhibitions and education programs. She now applies to a variety of high-end retail shows around the country. Creating distinctive, one-of-a-kind scarves and shawls that provide comfort and beauty is her goal. Meeting and establishing a connection with her customers is also important.

Although Chris currently offers only a sprinkling of workshops promoting textile arts today, networking and encouraging people in their own creative work or business development is one of her passions. Chris has always found the networking of WARP fascinating as it shows how small and interconnected the world actually is. In the future Chris would like to work on projects that help people in developing countries or in the United States support themselves. You can learn more about Chris and view her distinctive handwovens for the body and home at [www.chrisleithstudio.com](http://www.chrisleithstudio.com).

*Pegi Bevins is a freelance writer and editor of products for language arts classrooms and an author of two children's novels. She can be reached at [prbevins@netins.net](mailto:prbevins@netins.net) (email). Visit her website at [www.funwaytoteach.com](http://www.funwaytoteach.com).*



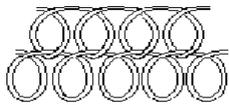
## Nalbinding

Nalbinding is a textile technique that predates knitting and crochet, dating back to the bronze or early iron age. The fabric is constructed by using a single-eye needle threaded with yarn, to form a series of interlocking loops. Nalbinding has in the past been practiced all over the world, and is still practiced in Central Asia, Persia, Scandinavia, Central and South America, and New Guinea. It is a craft associated mostly with Scandinavia since it has had a continuous tradition there.



*nalbinding  
needles*

The needles used for nalbinding are usually somewhat larger than a large tapestry needle, and are traditionally made of wood, bone or antler. Nalbinding is done with short lengths yarn (2-4 yards), that are joined together (without knotting) as the work progresses. The resulting fabric can be very elastic or very stiff depending on the type of yarn and on ratio between the yarn size and the size of the loops. Nalbinding is mostly used for mittens, socks, hats, milk strainers, and bags.



The basic structure of the nalbinding stitch is the same as the blanket, or buttonhole, stitch. The stitches are usually worked from left to right in the round,

spiraling upwards, each row building on the preceding row. In its simplest form, a row of blanket stitches is worked into the running edge of the previous row of stitches. One variation involves working each row of blanket stitches into the point of intersection in each stitch of the previous row. There are many other variations of nalbinding, where the basic structure remains the same, but the loops are worked into one or more of the loops in the previous row, and into one or more of the previous loops just made.

### Resources:

***Lessons in Nalbinding: Scarves, Wimples and More***, by

Larry Scmitt, self published.

***Lessons in Nalbinding: Mittens, Mittens, Mittens!***, by Larry

Scmitt, self published.

<http://www.regia.org/naalbind.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/sigridkitty/>

<http://www.cs.vassar.edu/%7Ecapriest/nalebind.html>

<http://www.dilettante.info/nalbindingmain.htm>

<http://www.stringpage.com/naal/naal.html>

*Deborah Brandon can be reached at [brandon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@andrew.cmu.edu) (email).*

### Weave A Real Peace

#### Membership Information

#### **2007 Annual Dues**

\$30 (group/supporting)

*(strongly encouraged!)*

\$10 (simple living)

\$20 (U.S. and Canada)

\$25 (international;  
sister memberships)

\$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

**WARP  
2007  
Annual  
Business  
Meeting**



*relief print by  
Marilyn Anderson*

**Agenda**

Sunday, March 4  
*Panajachel, Guatemala*

- Approval of 2006 Minutes; discussion of year's activities
- Financial Report
- Election of Board Member
- Plans for coming year, including next meeting
- Old Business
- New Business

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

**Annual Meeting Destination:**

## ***The Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress of Guatemala***

**Barbara Knoke de Arathoon**  
*Exhibits Director and Acting Curator*

The Maya textile tradition is a living expression of the cultural diversity of Guatemala. In approximately 115 municipalities, the majority of which are located in the highlands, there are still women, and some men, who wear the daily and ceremonial dress that is distinctive of their village or region. From generation to generation, since pre-Hispanic times, these weavers have played a determining role in the preservation of this tradition, combining with vitality the inheritance from their ancestors with their own ability to adapt to the times. For many, weaving by hand on a backstrap loom of pre-Hispanic origin, or a foot loom, brought by the Spaniards, is their most important means of artistic expression.



In the capital city there exists a permanent tribute to the men and women weavers who have given life to this tradition: the Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress, named in honor of the goddess of weaving and fertility of the Maya postclassic era (AD 900 to 1524). It is a private, non-profit institution, founded 33 years ago to conserve this textile history. To that end, the museum collects, documents, rescues, exhibits and educates the public about Maya dress, emphasizing its ethnic, technical, and esthetic value.

The building has 3,000 square meters; its heart is the collection room, which keeps the collection in optimum condition according to the actual norms of preventative conservation. The visitors to the Museum can enjoy the four galleries of the permanent exhibit, two temporary exhibits, an interactive gallery for children and young people, and a video conference room in which three documentaries are shown in both English and Spanish. The Museum tour is complemented by a collection of native art of Andrés Curruchich, a Maya kaqchikel artist, and the watercolors documenting the indigenous costumes by Carmen L. Pettersen, well known Guatemalan artist. The Museum also has a specialized textile library, and a museum shop. The Museum offers a weaving course, and sells the high quality, artisanal weaving by the Mayan weavers in the Pro-Teje program. Very important also is the Museum's outreach education program that is based on the revitalization of the textile tradition in schools in rural villages. For more information and if you would like to acquire our publications, we invite you to visit our web site which is being translated into English: [www.museoixchel.org](http://www.museoixchel.org)

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*Annual Meeting Destination:*

## ***El Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena de Guatemala***

*Barbara Knoke de Arathoon*

*Directora de Exposiciones y Curadora Interina*

La tradición textil maya es una vívida expresión de la diversidad cultural del país. En aproximadamente 115 municipios localizados en su mayoría en el Altiplano, aún hay mujeres, y algunos hombres, que visten para la vida cotidiana y ceremonial estilos distintivos de un municipio o una región. De generación en generación ellas han desempeñado un papel determinante para preservar esta tradición desde tiempos prehispánicos, combinando con vitalidad, la herencia de sus antepasados y su habilidad para adaptarse a los cambios propios de cada época. Para muchas tejer a mano con el telar de cintura, de origen precolombino, o con el de pedales, introducido por los españoles, constituye su canal de expresión estética más importante.



En la capital se yergue un tributo permanente a las tejedoras y los tejedores que han dado vida a esta tradición: el Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena, nombrado en honor de la diosa del tejido y la fecundidad en el período postclásico (900 - 1524 D.C.). Es una entidad privada, sin fines de lucro, que desde hace 33 años se dedica a conservar este patrimonio cultural, para lo cual se colecciona, documenta, rescata, exhibe y educa en torno a la indumentaria, resaltando su valor etnográfico, técnico y estético.

El edificio consta de 3,000 metros cuadrados; su corazón es el área que alberga la colección, la cual se resguarda en condiciones óptimas de acuerdo a las normas actuales de conservación preventiva. Los visitantes al Museo pueden deleitarse con las cuatro salas de su exposición permanente, dos de exposiciones temporales, una sala interactiva para la niñez y la juventud, y un salón de proyecciones en el que se presentan tres documentales en español e inglés. Complementan el recorrido la colección de pinturas de arte *naif* de Andrés Curruchich, pintor maya kaqchikel y la de acuarelas sobre trajes indígenas de Carmen L. Pettersen, connotada artista guatemalteca. El Museo cuenta también con una biblioteca especializada, una Escuela de Tejido y una tienda; tiene a la venta artesanía textil de alta calidad, elaborada por tejedoras indígenas como parte del programa de Pro-Teje. Es de resaltar la proyección educativa “extra-muros” que realiza en escuelas de comunidades rurales a través de proyectos de revitalización textil. Para mayor información y si desea adquirir nuestras publicaciones, lo invitamos a visitar nuestro portal: [www.museoixchel.org](http://www.museoixchel.org), que pronto estará disponible en inglés.

### ***A special thank you***

to the following  
members for their  
generous contributions  
to WARP's programs.

Alice Brown  
Leslie Grace  
Fran & Frank Irvine

### ***Thank you to the following people for having UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sales.***

These sales are a significant support for WARP, and we offer our thanks to them.

Marcia Bellas  
Peg Coffey  
Barbara Decker  
Katherine Dunlevey  
Foothills Fiber Guild  
Terri Gram  
Ann Myers  
Karen Piegorsch  
Caroline Villa  
Susan Weaver

### **WARP Brochures Available**

If you would like copies of WARP's brochure to distribute to your guild or at local conferences, please contact Cheryl Musch in the WARP office - see page 2 for contact information.

## **Jobs...**

### **Rugmark USA**

- \* Director of Business Development
- \* Communications Specialist  
Washington, DC

Rugmark USA is a nonprofit organization working to end illegal child labor in the hand-made rug industry.

For more information, visit the Rugmark website at [www.rugmark.org](http://www.rugmark.org) (About Rugmark/Staff/Employment Opportunities)

## **Robib Village Silk Weaving Project**

*Carol Powley*

Located in one of Cambodia's most remote provinces lies a commune of six small villages known collectively as Robib Village. It lacks electricity, plumbing, and telephone lines, and has no reliable communication links to even the nearest city, Kampong Thom, just two hours away. Literacy rates are low, medical care is minimal, and villagers are vulnerable to many diseases such as TB and malaria.

The agricultural economy never reaches beyond the borders of Robib due to the lack of good roads and reliable transportation. One lone taxicab travels to and from the village, crammed with people. It leaves each day first thing in the morning and returns later that night.

Agriculture has been Robib's primary economic resource. Rice is harvested once a year but there is never a surplus. In years when flooding or a bad crop occurs, villagers can barely feed themselves. Other food sources such as corn and vegetables are sold in the village market.

From 1975–1979, Robib was under the control of the Khmer Rouge. The village was blocked from access to the outside, schools were closed, and ancient traditions such as silk weaving were lost. But with the Robib Village Silk Weaving Project, established by Bernie Krisher and American Assistance for Cambodia (AAFC), an important part of the Khmer history and culture is being preserved while bringing economic opportunities and hope for a brighter future.

Seven Robib villagers are studying under the Preah Vihear Silk Weaving and Production Project in Tbeng Meanchey. Its "Farm" was established in 1997 by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, the same group that founded the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines. The primary focus of the project has been in the training of the large population of disabled Cambodians in the art of silk weaving. Many of the trainees are land mine amputees, others are polio victims. The Robib villagers are the first able-bodied people to be trained there.

The villagers learn all aspects of weaving, from building the loom to threading the heddles and designing the patterns. They are also taught to treat, dye, and roll the silk in preparation for weaving, and are even involved in raising the silkworms, whose wonderful raw silk is processed and woven into scarves and other items.

With their training complete, they will return to Robib to produce beautiful, handwoven items for the global community to enjoy. These items, along with those made by the disabled artisans at the Farm, are now available for sale on the internet. Thanks to the dedication, hard work, and technological know how of the AAFC, a website has been established and all proceeds of the sales will be distributed among the artisans. Part of the fund will remain in an account which will pay for the transportation, training, and living expenses of the villagers who will be trained at the Farm. Check out the website at <https://www.e-multiweb.com/123builditmall/CambodiaShop/Start.asp>

*Carol Powley can be reached at [cpowley@verizon.net](mailto:cpowley@verizon.net)*

## **Documenting Mexican Textiles**

*...a posting on the Textile Society of American ListServe 1/07*

"I thought you might be interested in my Mexican indigenous textile study. Over the past 35 year I have collected more than 400 garments from indigenous Mexican villages. Four years ago I decided to document the textiles with first hand field studies.

Now with the world wide web and as part of the textile documentation process, I have created a web site that documents over 300 villages. These villages are documented with photos of the textiles, people wearing the textiles, village life and surrounding environment. I do all of the field research and web development. Also included are detailed studies of indigenous women in costume and an extensive listing of indigenous textile patterns by individual town. The web address is [www.mexicantextiles.com](http://www.mexicantextiles.com)

Thank you,

Bob Freund, Tlalpan, Mexico, Rfreund719@hotmail.com"

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## **Visit The Textile Museum's New Online Exhibition**

Did you miss the chance to see Pieces of a Puzzle: Classical Persian Carpet Fragments while it was on view at The Textile Museum? Just wish you could visit it again?

The TM is pleased to announce the launch of a Web site that makes the exhibition content available online at [www.textilemuseum.org/pieces/index.html](http://www.textilemuseum.org/pieces/index.html)

Friends and enthusiasts of The Textile Museum worldwide can now explore the beauty of classical Khorasan carpets from the comfort of their own homes. A resource for people with different levels of expertise and knowledge, the new Web site provides a cultural, aesthetic and historical view into this little-known type of classical Persian carpets.

The Pieces of a Puzzle online exhibition features numerous full-color images, including the nine carpet fragments that were on view at the Museum from September 1, 2006 to January 7, 2007 as well as maps, photographs and explanatory text.

The Pieces of a Puzzle: Classical Persian Carpet Fragments Web site is made possible through the generosity of Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 S Street NW, Washington DC. Hours are Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, and Sunday 1 - 5 pm. Admission is free. For more information, call 202/667-0441 or visit The TM Web site.

**World Fair Trade Day**  
**May 12, 2007**

### **More Textile Travel Opportunities**

#### **Colors of Oaxaca**

April 18 - 26

#### **Best of Oaxaca**

August 14 - 22

Contact Sharon Giles

564 Old State Road

Oley, PA 19547

610/781-4345

[waterbuffalo2@aol.com](mailto:waterbuffalo2@aol.com)

#### **The Language of Maya Textiles: The Highland Villages of Chiapas**

March 9-18, 2007

Learn about the motifs and iconography used in the weavings of diverse highland Maya communities that surround San Cristobal de las Casas. For more information, please contact us at

[info@tiastephanietours.com](mailto:info@tiastephanietours.com),  
734/769-7839 or visit us

at

[www.tiastephanietours.com](http://www.tiastephanietours.com)

#### **"Fibers of Japan"**

Textile Society of America

Study Tour to Japan

October 31 -

November 11, 2007

Details at [http://textilesociety.org/events\\_tours.htm](http://textilesociety.org/events_tours.htm)

REGISTRATION

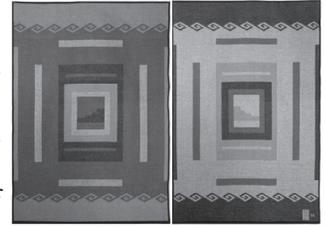
DEADLINE:

February 15, 2007

# *A Historic First: The Black Mesa Blanket™*

by Carol Halberstadt

Black Mesa Weavers for Life and Land proudly announces the production of the Black Mesa Blanket™. Designed by Diné shepherds and weavers, with weft spun from their rare Navajo-Churro fleece, this saddle blanket motif moves from water through clouds toward land, the sacred Black Mesa center, and celebrates unbroken Diné traditions.



**Black Mesa Blanket:  
male side (left) and  
female side (right)**

The Diné of Black Mesa in northeastern Arizona are one of the most traditional indigenous populations within the U.S. Their history is one of ongoing struggle to sustain their culture, land, water, and way of life. Black Mesa Weavers for Life and Land was cofounded in 1998 by a group of Diné and a Massachusetts resident to help restore economic and social self-sufficiency to the region through preservation of traditional lifeways based on shepherding and fair-trade marketing of their products—primarily Navajo-Churro wool, handspun yarn, and weavings. Faced with problems of economic and cultural survival in a fragile ecosystem, Black Mesa Weavers works with local Diné families and communities to expand their traditional economy within the contemporary marketplace through sustainable development, and reinvests in the strength of the community.

With the mission “Our work is grounded in the knowledge that human and environmental justice are inseparable,” we have, since 1999, been working with the Black Mesa Diné to conserve the land that nurtures them. We have demonstrated how a volunteer, grassroots organization can improve the lives and well-being of people through the work of their own hands. We have implemented ways to overcome the limited market access to which the Diné have historically been restricted and empower them to get their products to a wider market by fair trading from the source.

Since 2002, we have held annual wool buys, and in 2003 launched a wool-processing enterprise for handspun Diné yarn. The white Churro fleece from our 2005 and 2006 wool clips was used to create the Black Mesa Blanket. Shepherded for two years by our Advisory Council, and cosponsored by two Arizona museums (the Navajo Nation Museum and the Museum of Northern Arizona), it is the first time that Pendleton Woolen Mills has produced a blanket designed by Diné and woven of weft spun from their rare Navajo-Churro fleece. Part of the proceeds of this very limited number of blankets will be used as scholarship aid for Diné students from the Black Mesa region.

*continued on page 13*

## **New Members**

Kimberly Andersen  
Mango Tree Imports  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
mangotreeny@verizon.net

Janyl Baishera  
Altyn Oimok/Golden  
Thimble  
Kyrgyzstan  
altyn\_oimok@list.ru

Betsy Blumenthal  
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bblumenthal@comcast.net

Gloria Colindres Amaya  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
gloriaLa5@yahoo.com

Dana Dallas  
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TheDallas4@verizon.net

Margie Davis  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
msdzine3@yahoo.com

## Letters...

My parent company is called Maurice Johnson International Sales, Inc. The name of the yarn brand is the "3rd World Women's Yarn Spinners Guild" or 3WWYSG. I want to start a spinners cooperative in Guyana. Right now I can spin cotton and wool with an Indian spinning wheel called a charkha. I can also do wool and similar fibers on a drop spindle. From what I envision right now our primary product is yarn, but I'm going to learn how to process our yarns into things. I've been told to think about gloves, caps, socks, and hosiery to start. These other products is what I really need help with. What can WARP help me do with the yarn that I'm making???

I'm open to a lot of ideas. Like I want to do my own cooperative, but I'm willing to work with someone who is already in the business. Perhaps I can be a salesperson for products that are already being made.

I'm an MBA student at NC Central University in Durham and I've been in the handicraft importing industry for seven years now. I may be making a trip to India this year to see the Indian industry for myself.

I also need help with sales. I'm in contact with Aid to Artisans, but if there is anyone with market research on the hand-spun industry or anyone who has worked in the sales area, then I need to meet them.

Thank you and best regards, Maurice Johnson; 1302-A South Roxboro Street, Durham, NC 27707; horizonis@hotmail.com

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### **2006 R.L. Shep Ethnic Textile Book Award**

The R.L. Shep award is given annually to the publication judged to be the best book of the year in the field of ethnic textile studies. The purpose of the award is to encourage the study and understanding of ethnic textile traditions by recognizing and rewarding exceptional scholarship in the field. The award consists of a cash prize, funded by an endowment established by R. L. Shep in 2000. The endowment is administered by the Textile Society of America, through an Award Committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

Nominations are open to English language books (including bi- or multilingual publications in which all essential information appears in English). For the purpose of the award, "ethnic" textiles are defined as the non-industrial textiles of Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Native and Latin America, as well as those of identifiable cultural groups in Europe and North America. Books of a variety of formats, including monographs, anthologies, and exhibition catalogs may be nominated. The main criteria for the prize-winning book are high quality research and scholarship, presented in an accessible, engaging manner. Books must contain a publication date of 2006.

Please send your nomination(s) and three review copies to Margot Schevill or contact her for additional information. DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2007. Margot Blum Schevill, 1309 Oxford St., Berkeley, CA 94709; 510/845-2802

#### **More New Members**

Margaret M. Dunford  
Belmont, NC 28012  
mmaxymuk@aol.com

Susan Gutwill  
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Kathy Hatfield  
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kkopec@nycap.rr.com

Barbara James  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023  
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Ellyane Hutchinson  
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ellyaneh@yahoo.com

Maurice Johnson  
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Maria E. Katonak  
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mariak6@verison.net

Carole Ann Lovin  
Clearwater, FL 33763  
viacreate@aol.com

Annie MacHale  
Soquel, CA 95073  
AspinnerWeaver@comcast.net

## ***The Weaving Cultures of Bali and Flores: A Textile Tour With Threads of Life***

*July 17-30, 2008 - \$2400 per person, based on 14  
travelers, not including international airfare.*

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

Manasota Weavers Guild,  
Inc.  
Sarasota, FL 34278  
khking@comcast.net

Cheri McCord  
Myers Flat, CA 95554  
eelrockelegance@yahoo.com

Nancy Merritt  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Katrina Mitchell  
Boulder, CO 80302  
katrinalmitchell@yahoo.com

In their motifs and ceremonial uses, the traditional textiles of Indonesia represent an understanding of the natural world and community that has sustained people through the centuries. As economic forces drive weavers to abandon time-honored traditions the textile arts degrade and so do the cultures they express. Supporting the continuation of the textile arts demonstrates that these traditions have value in a modern, global context. This restores people's pride in their culture and ensures the traditions supporting their physical and spiritual life continue.

During eight days in Bali, you will learn about the weaving traditions of Bali and eastern Indonesia, and experience hands-on the arts of ikat tie-dyeing, backstrap loom weaving, batik, and dyeing with natural indigo-blue and Morinda-red. In Bali, and also during four days in central Flores, you will meet members of the weavers' cooperatives supported by Threads of Life and see them practicing their arts with a newly refined eye. Facilitated discussions will open a two-way dialogue with the weavers. There will be time for personal interaction and the opportunity to buy directly from the artists.

The tour is based on a minimum group of 10 paying participants, and a maximum of 14 paying participants. Tour fee is US\$ 2400 per person and includes scheduled domestic airfares and domestic airport taxes, breakfast and either lunch or dinner each day, two evening performances in Bali, lectures and classes, scheduled local transport and airport transfers. It does not include international airfare. Tour leaders are WARP members Jean Howe and Sara Goodman.

For more information about Threads of Life check their website at <http://www.threadsoflife.com>. For more information or to receive a trip brochure contact Sara Goodman at [sara.goodman@valley.nets](mailto:sara.goodman@valley.nets)

## ***Books...***

***Mapula: Embroidery and Empowerment in the Winterveld***, by Brenda Schmahmann, discusses the complex circumstances that resulted in the founding of Mapula in 1991. One of the most important community art projects in South Africa, the Mapula Embroidery Project generates an income for economically disadvantaged women. Mapula embroideries couple high levels of technical and visual artistry with work that speaks eloquently of public histories and women's personal experiences.

Schmahmann examines the histories and backgrounds of project members, revealing how women's experiences of disempowerment and under-privilege have been bound up with a politics of not only race but also gender.

***Mapula: Embroidery and Empowerment in the Winterveld*** is available from David Krut Publishing ([www.davidkrutpublishing.com](http://www.davidkrutpublishing.com)) for 265 Rand (US \$37).

## STITCH Delegation Participants To Learn Effects of Free Trade

What are the true costs of free trade? Almost one year after the passage of the Central American Free Trade Act (CAFTA), many are still trying to assess the damage from this trade pact on working conditions for women workers in Central America and at home. How can we truly understand the impact without knowing the women themselves?

Join STITCH in Central America to learn about the lives of our union sisters in Central America and how we can unite with them to challenge unfair trade policies of the past and future!

**Resisting the Politics of Free Trade:  
Women Organizing for Labor Justice**  
STITCH Women's Language School Delegation  
May 26 - June 3, 2007 . Guatemala

The STITCH women's delegation combines excellent Spanish instruction with an in-depth look at the effects of free trade on women workers and unionists. This exciting delegation will give you the opportunity to:

- Connect with US and Guatemalan women activists.
- Study Spanish and learn more about Central America.
- Understand what free trade agreements really mean for Latin American workers.

This delegation is open to women only. The cost of the delegation is \$850 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 may be available—union women and women of color will be given priority. Applications are due by April 13, 2007.

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

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### **A Historic First: The Black Mesa Blanket** *continued from page 10*

We are cooperating with other indigenous and nonprofit organizations to develop and expand the community-based marketing of Navajo-Churro wool and the number and quality of Diné-raised Navajo-Churro sheep (of which only an estimated 1,000 are within the Navajo Nation).

A central part of our work is advocating—together with grassroots indigenous and nonindigenous environmental organizations—for the development of renewable energy resources, the phasing out of dependence on burning of fossil fuels, and the conservation of the aquifers that supply water to the entire region.

*For more information about the Black Mesa Weavers - Fair Trading from the Source - access their website at [www.blackmesaweavers.org](http://www.blackmesaweavers.org), or contact Carol Halberstadt at [carol@blackmesaweavers.org](mailto:carol@blackmesaweavers.org)*

### **More New Members**

American Assistance for  
Cambodia  
Bernard Krisher  
Robib Village Silk  
Weaving Project  
Tokyo (150-0012), Japan  
[bernie@media.mit.edu](mailto:bernie@media.mit.edu)

Kathy Rousso  
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Louise Schiller  
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Alice Schrade  
Delmar, NY 12054  
[amschrade@earthlink.net](mailto:amschrade@earthlink.net)

Janet Thomas  
Lark Textile Design  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Caroline J. Todd  
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Berkeley, CA 94703  
415/215-5144  
[carolinejtodd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolinejtodd@sbcglobal.net)

Kathy Virag  
Arlington, VA 22201  
[mekokat@yahoo.com](mailto:mekokat@yahoo.com)

Michele Weaver.  
Salem, OH 44460  
[maweaver@aol.com](mailto:maweaver@aol.com)

## **Palestinian Embroiderers**

*continued from page 1*

Embroidery Project was the only vendor of Palestinian textiles. Some buyers had negative perceptions of Palestinians that soured their interest in the embroidery. Others had never seen Palestinian crafts and were both impressed and supportive. Tura recalls one buyer who looked askance and inquired, "You're not giving money to 'the Palestinians,' are you?" Showing her a photo of the elderly woman who had embroidered the peacock wall hangings, Tura responded, "This woman spent several months embroidering this. When it sells I will be sending her the money, minus the costs of shipping and handling. She deserves the money...and who else would I give it to!" This seemed to satisfy her. The woman purchased a small purse that we hope will remind her of 'the Palestinians' whenever she sees it.

In addition to representing the HEP at several local church fairs, Tura has also sold at national meetings of Peace Now and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). WILPF commissioned the HEP to make change purses which they gave as premiums to their donors and also to sell on their website. It has been difficult to move the larger, more expensive pieces because buyers at these venues are not expecting to spend over \$100. The challenge has been to find locations that can sell the large wall hangings and handwoven table linens. A recent upgrade to the website ([www.friendship-and-peace.org](http://www.friendship-and-peace.org)) should help. Contacts at upscale shops and folk art exhibits are being sought, and individuals who desire to be local distributors are encouraged to contact HEP.

Tura writes "Our media and culture is full of anti-Arab stereotyping. We are not aware of women or families or culture. I think overcoming this perception is part of the mission of the FPS. I find myself envying the other vendors when I am in group events, because I have to provide so much education to overcome prejudices. I also have unusually high prices because of taxation and a lengthy shipping process. I feel very discouraged that the women embroiderers' lives are so precarious. They beg me to make orders, and I do what I can, although I find it very hard to move the products. The "used dresses" sold on the website are dresses that women sell because they are desperate to buy food. I really want to get them orders for the new \$300 dresses so that they can earn more money, and not sell the clothes off their backs. It is very depressing to me to have these dresses for sale under such circumstances.

"We need more orders and sales. There are over 100 women on our list of 'poor women,' and not enough work for them. I have been doing this work seasonally, and do have a job and

*continued on page 15*

### ***Welcome Back!***

Chris Leith  
Sargentville, ME 04673  
[cwleith@hotmail.com](mailto:cwleith@hotmail.com)  
[chrisleithstudio.com](http://chrisleithstudio.com)

### ***Correction***

Marilyn Webster  
[marilynw81@earthlink.net](mailto:marilynw81@earthlink.net)

Queen Amina Embroidery  
Mallam Ya'u Tanimu  
Department of Languages  
& Mass Communication  
Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic-  
Zaria  
Zaria, Kaduna State  
NIGERIA  
Contact: Hassana Tanimu

## Explore Morocco in May

*May 19-June 2, 2007 - \$2895 per person, based on 11-14 travelers, not including international airfare*

Join WARP member Susan Davis and her travel organizer friend Joan Noble to explore exotic Morocco—fabulous crafts, perfumed markets, and delicious food are just a few of the experiences you'll enjoy! But the truly unique feature of these trips is meeting many local people in their homes and villages. We travel over the Atlas Mountains, ride a camel into the dunes of the Sahara, stay in comfortable hotels in Marrakech, Fes, Rabat and the charming seaside town of Essaouira. And in a tent in the Sahara!

Meeting local people, we have the opportunity to discuss weaving, education, parenting, health and other topics first-hand. Susan Schaefer Davis is the study leader. A former Peace Corps Volunteer, she has worked and lived in Morocco off and on over the past 40 years, and highlights include meeting with some of her Moroccan colleagues who will share their professional lives and experiences with us. She was last in Morocco in December, and found people as friendly and welcoming as ever.

In order to make this a more personal experience, the trip is limited to 14 travelers - and some are already signed up. The value is exceptional, as there are few out-of-pocket expenses. You can see the full itinerary of the trip on Susan's web site at [www.marrakeshexpress.org](http://www.marrakeshexpress.org) (click on "Travel" at the bottom of the home page).

To reserve a place you need to pay a deposit of \$500 by April 1, so act quickly to reserve a spot. If the trip does not fill, your deposit will be fully refunded. If you would like more information, or wish to discuss the trips further, please contact Susan Davis at [sdavis@uslink.net](mailto:sdavis@uslink.net) or Joan Noble, trip organizer and escort, at 800/566-9228 or [jungljoan@yahoo.com](mailto:jungljoan@yahoo.com).

### **New Email Addresses**

Jackie Abrams  
[jackieabrams@verizon.com](mailto:jackieabrams@verizon.com)

Marcia Bellas  
[marciabellas1@comcast.net](mailto:marciabellas1@comcast.net)

Pegi Bevins  
[prbevins@netins.net](mailto:prbevins@netins.net)

Teena Jennings  
[tj9@uakron.edu](mailto:tj9@uakron.edu)

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## **Palestinian Embroiderers**

*continued from page 14*

family responsibilities which come first. My hope is that WARP members can assist us in finding more people to be involved in the FPS so that we can market more embroidery and help more families survive. You can make a difference, that's for sure."

*The Hebron Embroidery Project's website is [www.friendship-and-peace.org](http://www.friendship-and-peace.org). Tura Campanella Cook can be reached by email at [turacc@earthlink.net](mailto:turacc@earthlink.net)*

### **WARP on the Web**

***<http://www.weavearealpeace.org>***



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

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