

# WARP



W E A V E A R E A L P E A C E

Volume 13, Number 2

Summer 2006

## ***WARP Connects Textile Designer in Oklahoma with Thai Weavers***

*Lori Bacigalupi*

Every so often in life magic happens. While browsing through the Winter 2005 issue of the WARP newsletter, I noticed a request for a volunteer position for a three month project in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with Thai Tribal Crafts (TTC), a non-profit fair trade organization, which promotes and sells hill tribes handcrafts from the mountain villages of Northern Thailand.

My profound regard for textile culture is nothing new. My thirty years in the wearable art business has been devoted to the creation of specialty textiles. I have always felt we can touch history through cloth and recognize our common humanity. As a designer, and because of my love of textiles and interest in fair trade, I realized that this opportunity was a perfect fit for me.

I contacted Cheryl Musch, a board member for WARP and director of international development for SERRV International/ A Greater Gift, a non-profit Alternative Trade and Development Organization. Cheryl was the link between SERRV and WARP. She asked me to respond to several questions which would help her to get a better overview of my experience and expectations. The questions gave me an opportunity to think about the job and what I could bring to it. Specifically she wanted to know about my design experience and familiarity with sewing techniques commonly used amongst the Northern Thai tribes, known for their glorious handwork - appliqué, reverse appliqué, cross-stitch embroidery - and also for their handweaving traditions including *mit mii* (pre-dying the yarn in a familiar ikat style). Most of the work is done on backstrap and pedal looms.

I had a chance to meet with Kerry Evans, who would be my key contact regarding product design. She helped me understand the range of products TTC creates, and to get a better understanding of their style of work. I also explored TTC's website which introduced me to their product line and history.

Thai Tribal Crafts was organized more than 25 years ago to help tribes-people earn money from their traditional craft skills. The sale of these crafts has become increasingly important to thousands of people who can now provide food for their families, educate their children, and obtain much needed medical care. Thai Tribal Crafts pays their producers the highest possible prices, and then sells the product at a mark-up adequate to meet overhead and operational expenses.

*continued on page 14*

### ***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**

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**Administrative**  
**Coordinator**

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

*Cheryl Musch, Administrative Coordinator*

"Energizing" is the word I most often hear from members after they attend our annual meetings. This year was no exception. This energy will carry us forward into Convergence 2006 where we'll have a booth as well as an informational meeting. Spread the word about WARP at Convergence!

## **Convergence Update**

Later this month, from June 28 - July 1 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, WARP will have a booth at Convergence, the biennial fiber conference sponsored by the Handweavers Guild of America. The purpose of the booth is 1) to provide a means for members to jointly sell products to reduce the cost of having individual booths; and 2) to provide a venue to publicize the WARP vision to Convergence participants.

If you are going to Convergence, stop by the WARP booth and do some shopping. Early planning for the booth was done by Linda Bowden, with Mary Underwood doing on-site coordination. Contact Linda ([kbowden@swfla.rr.com](mailto:kbowden@swfla.rr.com)) or Mary ([amoscorey@mac.com](mailto:amoscorey@mac.com)) for more information or if you want to volunteer at the booth.

In addition, Board Members Deborah Brandon and Sarah Saulson will host a WARP special interest meeting at noon on Thursday, June 29. Please attend if you can.

## ***Thoughts from the 2006 Annual Meeting..***

*"The annual meeting was my first and I am still energized by all the amazing women I met. The projects presented were inspiring; it was great to see networking and support in action. Many thanks to those who brought their products which were all beautiful pieces of art."* Linda Bowden

*"I thought the WARP meeting was simply wonderful—with the emphasis on simple AND wonderful. Nothing was hurried, the collegiality was warm and stimulating, the setting idyllic—in a word, it was all wonderful!"* Janet Rodina

*"I am almost without words as this meeting was so wonderful for me on many levels. I have never spent a weekend with such special women. From the start one felt the listening, compassion, energy, mission and love for one another and for those women in developing nations so unable to participate and yet so present. I know that I will continue to be with WARP and hopefully give back in some way as much as I received at my first meeting. Thank you everyone for being you."* Carlyn Yanda

*"This was my first time to attend a WARP conference, and I absolutely loved it! Such a wealth of experience, creativity, knowledge and passion! I appreciated the fact that not every minute was scheduled; my many one-on-one conversations were as stimulating to me as the excellent speakers. And the silent auction and Marketplace were a textile lover's heaven. I came away encouraged, rejuvenated and inspired."* Elia Woods

## **WARP on the Web**

<http://www.weavearealpeace.org>

## 2006 Annual Meeting a Rich Mix

Gloria Miller

The sounds, scents and shades of spring at Dunrovin Retreat Center served to enrich and enliven the conversation and connection that took place outside Minneapolis when 31 members of WARP came together. It felt as if we had all been together before even though there were many members for whom this was a first meeting. The composition of the group varied greatly in age, discipline, and experience with textile arts yet each provided a strong thread to make up the WARP ready to be woven into a fabric stronger and more beautiful than any one thread.

Members first gathered at the Textile Center (<http://www.textilecentermn.org/about.asp>) for a tour of the facility which was founded 10 years ago by a group of women who desired to give a home to the fiber arts and to promote networking and education through its gallery, classes, library, and shop. Many of the local guilds use the space for their meetings and have consolidated their libraries at the facility. It is a lively, airy space that supports well its purpose. It was a special treat that the gallery is currently exhibiting the work of Sudanese and Hmong immigrants.

From there we drove a short distance to visit Karen Searle's studio where we feasted our eyes upon her many and varied creations in the fiber arts from the whimsical to the thought-provoking. She later provided a lesson in making Bolivian tassels for those who wished.

As we gathered for opening introductions at Dunrovin on the St. Croix River, there were continued expressions of delight at being with the group and these never waned throughout the weekend. There was an energetic level of sharing and networking that promised to further the work and marketing of fiber artists throughout the world.

The formal sharing included keynote Elisha Renne who spoke about Queen Amina Embroidery of Nigeria, a group she has lived and worked with over a period of time. Her presentation was made richer by her slides and the lovely fashions she wore. Shorter presentations included Mano a Mano, a program in Bolivia that helps to build and provide for clinics and schools; Need Magazine, a new publication which uses photography from some of the most renowned photographers who have documented needs in many parts of the world in hopes of linking them with people who can provide assistance; and programs in Minneapolis with East African and Hmong women.

The panel on Fair Trade provided a primer in its concepts and acronyms as well as discussion of some of the practical aspects and limitations of fair trade. In the evening there was an opportunity for brief presentations from participants on a variety of topics including Handweaving in Appalachia, Lace making in Brazil, Camphill Village: a farming and handcrafting community that includes adults with developmental disabilities, Mayan Hands in Guatemala, and Backstrap Weaving school in Guatemala.

### *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, Convergence booth
- Index WARP newsletter
- 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)

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**WARP Newsletter**

published quarterly by  
Weave A Real Peace  
Volume 13, Number 2  
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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 Fall  
2006 WARP newsletter is  
**August 11, 2006.**

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.

***Member Profile***

***Sara Goodman: “Textiles connect  
people culturally and historically”***

*Pegi Bevins*

In 1972 as a high school student, Sara Goodman had an experience that piqued her lifelong interest in fiber arts. She met a young man who had been traveling around Indonesia collecting textiles. He showed her stacks of ikat fabrics and explained that the knowledge of making such textiles might one day be lost because the younger Indonesians were no longer carrying on the tradition. That’s when Sara vowed to learn to weave—which she did in college, along with learning to spin and work with natural dyes.

In the 1980’s, Sara tried to make a living doing production weaving but after attaining limited success, decided she’d better get a “real” job. She became a fifth-grade teacher, and for the next 25 years, her love for fiber arts took a back seat to her career. But a few years ago Sara decided to bring fiber arts back into her life. She started by buying a spinning wheel and then a loom. Eventually, she left teaching and opened her studio: Casa de los Sueños, House of Dreams. There she does a combination of weaving, dyeing, shibori, and felting. She also teaches weaving to kids and adults and, once a year, hosts a class with a well-known fiber artist.

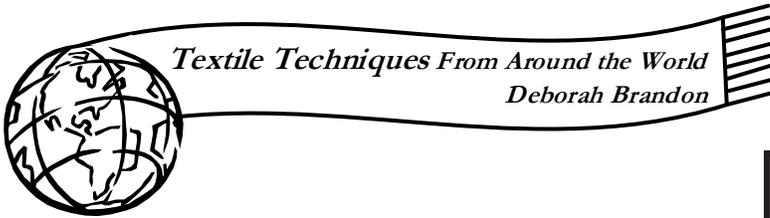
For Sara, one of the hardest parts of leaving teaching was leaving behind the sense that she was doing her part to create positive change in the world—so joining WARP was a natural fit for her. Through the WARP newsletter, she found Jean Howe, William Ingram, and the Threads of Life Foundation in Ubud. Howe and Ingram were her hosts when she traveled to Bali last summer. Sara’s travels around the world have taught her that textiles connect people culturally and historically.

Sara has received awards from the Vermont Weavers Guild and the New England Weavers Seminar. Daryl Lancaster’s Fiber Forecast article featured in *Handwoven Magazine* highlighted Sara’s work, and the fashion show at Convergence will feature one of her pieces in 2006. Sara is also on the Board of the Rugmark Foundation, which seeks to eliminate exploitive child labor from the handmade carpet industry in South Asia.

In the future, Sara plans on exploring ways to combine the different techniques she knows into one piece. She especially likes doubleweave, and, with her new 24-harness compu-dobby loom, she hopes to put all sorts of complex weave structures into different doubleweave blocks at once.

Sara currently lives on seven scenic acres in Lyme, New Hampshire.

*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@iowatelecom.net (email). Visit her website at www.funwaytoteach.com.*



## Kazakhstan-Syrmak Carpets

Karakul sheep have been raised in Central Asia for over 4,000 years, and their wool is used for felted and woven rugs. The Kazakh syrmak carpets are made by sewing together pieces of felt of contrasting colors, using mosaic, quilting and applique.

Syrmak carpets are rectangular and traditionally consist of a center field, narrow borders along the longer edges, and wider borders along the shorter edges. The classic carpets were limited to two colors--black and white. Once natural dyes and (later on) synthetic dyes became available, the carpets became more colorful. The designs on most carpets are formed by various combinations of the ram's horn motif.

Three rectangular pieces of felt are used to construct a classic black and white syrmak carpet: two pieces in the pattern colors (one white and one black), and the third, for the backing. The same pattern is then drawn on each of the pattern felts (to form positives and negatives of the design) which is then cut out. Each black pattern piece is laid into the corresponding opening in the white felt, and each white piece is fitted into the matching space in the black felt. These pieces are then sewn in place to form a solid rectangular surface, which is quilted onto the backing. The seams connecting the pattern pieces (and sometimes also the quilting stitches) are then hidden by couching. The couched seam consists of two yarns, one spun with an S twist and the other with a Z twist. Couching with thicker yarn is used to strengthen the edges. If applique is added to the mosaic patchwork, it is often couched onto the felt. Traditionally, the applique was of thin felt, but nowadays various fabrics are used.

### Resources:

**Felt: New Directions for an Ancient Craft**, by Gunilla Paetau Sjoberg, translated by Patricia Spark, Interweave Press.

**Feltmaking**, by Deborah McGavock and Christine Lewis, The Crowood Press Ltd.

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/kazakh.html>

[http://www.bukhara-carpets.com/making/about\\_kazakh.html](http://www.bukhara-carpets.com/making/about_kazakh.html)

<http://intangiblenet.freenet.uz/en/kaz/kaz3222.htm>

Deborah Brandon can be reached at [brandon@asd6.math.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@asd6.math.cmu.edu) (email).

### Another Thought from the Meeting:

*"Maybe it was because I needed it, but for me this was the best WARP meeting in years. Perfect setting, intensely interesting people talking about intensely interesting projects. My mind is still excited with possibilities. Oh, and the textiles I brought home have generated universally awed and appreciative responses."* Deborah Chandler

### Weave A Real Peace

Membership Information

#### 2006 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 a biennial 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

## *deYoung Museum Offers Exhibitions and Study Opportunities for Textile Lovers*

*WARP member Debbie Durham contributes the first of what she suggests become a regular feature in the newsletter--information about permanent textile collections around the world. In this article she tells of her visit to the deYoung Museum in San Francisco. Consider sending an article about a textile museum or collection you've visited that other WARP members should know about.*

As many of us travel around the country for family gatherings, conferences, or work-related trips, it might be of interest to know about permanent textile collections or special exhibits WARP members wouldn't want to miss. I have been in Santa Cruz for a little over a year and have returned multiple times to San Francisco to visit the recently reopened **de Young Museum** in Golden Gate Park ([www.deyoungmuseum.org](http://www.deyoungmuseum.org)). WARP members will appreciate their mission to "celebrate the uniqueness of the world's cultures and reveal the interrelatedness of human expression across distance and time." The new deYoung was designed by prize-winning architects whose integration of light, expansive space, and intimacy among galleries is extraordinary. To see the perforated copper façade of the museum buildings alone is worth a visit!

The museum's expanded Textile Arts Center provides a facility for both exhibition and study. The current exhibit *Beauty, Prestige and Power* is representative of their permanent collection of 12,000 textiles and costumes from around the world. This textile exhibition is housed in a gallery of unique proportions. As you enter a white walled space with hardwood floors and elevated ceilings, the darkened rooms of the interior gallery draw you in via a door at the apex of the entrance. The ceiling slopes from 19 feet at one end to 14 feet at the other allowing for a multitude of interesting displays. Within the low lit gallery are displayed a distinctive collection of Turkmen carpets, ceremonial and ritual hats, Anatolian kilims, Central Asian silks, and linen needle lace as well as contemporary fiber art. On a recent visit to the gallery, textile scholar and colleague Josephine Moreno and I noted several pieces which deserve mention. A 20<sup>th</sup> century weft-resist dyed (ikat) plain cotton weave skirt panel from Bali was vertically mounted on a linen base revealing rich red and gold patterning. The graduated angle of the display case expertly showcased the textile. We also especially loved "Peruvian Fields" a contemporary double half hitch knotted piece of linen in turquoise and burnished reds.

Adjacent to the gallery is the Textile Education Gallery. Explicit and well designed posters provide visitors with textile terminology defining types of yarns, weaves, and dyeing techniques from around the world. Thirty-two drawers with glass covers allow visitors to examine textile fragments, samplers, and small wall hangings. The gallery also hosts a Textile Study Center where researchers can access data from the library of 5,000 volumes (open by appointment). For a more extensive report on the new de Young's textile collections, read the November-December 2005 issue of HALI ([www.hali.com](http://www.hali.com)).

I invite other WARP members to share reviews of favorite collections.

*Debbie Durham can be reached at [shuksan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shuksan@sbcglobal.net)*

### *Linda Ligon Honored*

Long-time WARP member and supporter Linda Ligon, Founder and Creative Director of Interweave Press, was recently named to *Folio*: magazine's "Folio:40" list of top innovators and influencers in the publishing industry. She appears on the list as one of the top ten chief-level executives "whose ideas and creativity, along with successful implementation, have driven business in new directions." *Folio*: cited Linda's role in building Interweave Press into a multi-platform craft enthusiast media company that delivers targeted content through its six magazines, book publishing program, and special events. "Folio:40" is the publishing industry's oldest and most prestigious list honoring publishers who've had a significant impact on their own products and the magazine industry in general.



## 2005: The Year in Review...

*Cheryl Musch*

**Membership** - WARP's membership continues to increase. It rose from 307 members in 2004 to 321 members in 2005.

**Sister Memberships** - Part of the increase in our membership was due to WARP members who supported "Sister Member" groups or individuals outside of the U.S. involved in textile production and development. There were more than 15 Sister Members in 2005, from India, Peru, Lesotho, Thailand and more.

**WARP Board** - Board terms ended for Marcia Bellas, Sarah Saulson, and Hope Thomas. Sarah was nominated for a second term, and Deborah Brandon, Adrienne Sloane, and Linda Temple were nominated and elected to the board. Thanks to Marcia, Sarah, and Hope for their service on the board.

**Annual Meeting** - Historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC was the site of the 2005 Annual Meeting. The 38 members who attended April 15-17 learned about Gullah culture, indigo, Trique huipiles, and craft producers in Africa.

**Newsletter** - When members renew, they often comment on how much they enjoy WARP's newsletter. As editor, Linda Temple is its driving force, and we thank her for her commitment and many years of producing an outstanding and inspirational newsletter. Past issues of the newsletter are on our web site.

**Brochures** - After distributing our first 10,000 brochures, board member Sarah Saulson worked to get the brochures reprinted. We now have 10,000 more. These were broadly distributed at textile meetings, conferences, and workshops in Summer 2005.

**UPAVIM/Mayan Hands Sales** - Thanks to members who have had UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sales, and thanks to Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland who graciously makes these sales possible. This year, WARP netted \$5,560 from these sales, a more than \$1,500 increase from the previous year.

**New Web Site** - Thanks to Joan Fernbach and Rose Gerstner, WARP launched a new web site at [www.weavearealpeace.org](http://www.weavearealpeace.org). This effort was coordinated by board member Melinda Lowery. Thanks to Janet Saunders who for many years has generously hosted our site on hers.

### ***Reserve the WARP Slide Show Now!***

To schedule the WARP slide show (available in a variety of formats),  
contact Carole Pierce, [cpierce@mis.net](mailto:cpierce@mis.net) (email)

To have an UPAVIM and Mayan Hands products in conjunction with the show,  
contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, [UpavimMayanhands@comcast.net](mailto:UpavimMayanhands@comcast.net) (email).  
Profits from these sales benefit WARP.

Special Section: 2005 Annual Report/  
2006 Annual Meeting



*Weave A Real Peace*  
**Financial Report - 2005**

**WARP Checking Account - 2005**

1/1/2005 - 12/31/2005

Income

2005 Dues .....	\$6,063.00
2006 and beyond Dues .....	515.00
2005 Meeting Fees .....	5,522.00
Annual Meeting Vendor Income .....	330.15
Online auction .....	89.23
Donations - general .....	1,881.99
UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sales .....	5,557.14
Product sales .....	.80.00
Interest income .....	17.44
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$20,055.95</b>

Expenses

2005 Annual Meeting .....	\$3,359.73
2005 Board Meeting .....	1,843.78
2006 Annual Meeting .....	670.00
Staff salary .....	5,242.64
Member Directory .....	1,282.82
Newsletter .....	2,307.21
Brochure .....	1,506.88
Convergence 2006 .....	1,200.00
Mail Service .....	250.00
Office supplies .....	30.20
Postage .....	238.93
Slide show .....	19.34
Copies .....	42.93
*To Endowment Fund .....	600.00
(10% 2004 Dues)	
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$18,594.46</b>

Checking Total

Income vs. Expenses ..... \$1,461.49

**Summary of Credit Union Accounts**

1/1/05 Balance .....	\$18,595.44
Checking Income vs. Expenses .....	\$1,461.49
Money Manager Interest .....	127.54
CD Interest .....	59.89
**Correction/additional 2005 expenses .....	688.15
<b>12/31/05 Balance .....</b>	<b>\$20,932.51</b>

\*\* 2005 expenses not posted:

\$520.00 (salary); \$102.29 (postage);  
\$47.71 (office supplies); \$18.15 (copies)

Account Balances 12/31/2005

Checking .....	8,972.81
Money manager .....	5,874.81
CD (matures 11/11/06) .....	6,059.89
Savings .....	25.00

**Total Account Balance ..... \$20,932.51**

**WARP Endowment Fund**

1/1/05-12/31/05

Income

Interest earned .....	414.91
*Deposit .....	600.00
Net Income .....	\$1,014.91

1/1/05 Balance ..... \$16,425.19

Net Income ..... 1,014.91

**12/31/05 Balance ..... \$17,440.10**

\*Ten percent of all membership dues are contributed the Endowment Fund. A deposit of \$600 for 2004 membership dues was made on 1/5/2005.

Cumulative Totals for FY2005

Account balances 12/31/05 .....	\$20,932.51
Endowment balance 12/31/05 .....	17,440.10
<b>Total cash on hand 12/31/05 .....</b>	<b>\$38,372.61</b>



## Weave A Real Peace

### 2006 Annual Business Meeting – May 22, 2006

Dunrovin Retreat Center, Marine on St. Croix, MN

*minutes by Cheryl Musch*

Meeting called to order by Linda Temple at 9:10 a.m.

Review of Minutes from 2005 Annual Meeting. Call for corrections or additions. Adrienne Sloane motioned approval, motion seconded, minutes unanimously approved.

Review of 2005 programs and activities from 2005 Annual Report by Deborah Brandon.

Suggestions – Web site

- Seek links to our web site from other textile web sites.
- Ask members to put links to WARP's web site.
- Put annual meeting information on web site as soon as possible.
- Anthropology web sites might also host links.

Cheryl is the board liaison for the web site. Let Cheryl know if you have ideas to improve or change the web site.

Report on Board Meeting by Adrienne Sloane.

Annual Meeting Scholarship Fund – Thanks to a generous donation of \$2,000 from Alice Brown, we have a scholarship fund to support students in related textile fields who wish to attend our annual meeting. The board recommends giving priority to local students, and funding up to \$500 annually. This year, one scholarship was given to a local student to cover registration costs.

Newsletter – Members continue to support the newsletter and see it as a key activity of WARP. We do have a system for paid ads, but do not actively solicit ads. While we routinely include trips and resources in the newsletter, advertising guarantees consistency in content and appearance. Because of privacy concerns, member contact information in future newsletters put on the web site will be limited to name, email address, and city/state.

Funding – WARP needs funding for two key activities—the newsletter and the member directory. Linda Ligon made a generous personal donation this year to help underwrite the newsletter. The annual cost for the newsletter is approximately \$2,500; \$1,500 for the directory. In order to enhance our funding possibilities, we would like to know about connections members have made through WARP. This would include anything that because of WARP or the WARP newsletter made a difference for you and helps us fulfill our mission.

Suggestions – Newsletter and Funding

- Inviting one-time ads in the member directory instead of in the newsletter.
- Encourage people who don't mind getting their newsletter from the web site to do so.
- The membership feels that it's good to put Spanish articles in the newsletter.
- Let Linda know if you have anything to share about the impact of WARP on your life.

Member Directory – The board reassessed how essential the directory is to our mission and decided it is important to print the directory annually. Renewal forms will be sent near the end of 2006 and the directory will be printed early in 2007.

Sister Members – We currently have 19 sister members. Let Cheryl know if you know of a textile group who would benefit from getting a newsletter and networking through WARP.

Convergence 2006 – Linda Bowden gave an overview of plans for the WARP booths at Convergence at the end of June. The purpose of the booths is 1) to provide a means for members to jointly sell products and reduce the cost of having individual booths; and 2) to provide a venue to publicize the WARP vision. Our

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## **2006 Annual Business Meeting**

*continued from page 9*

booth is right at the entrance—a great location! Mary Underwood will do on-site coordination. Deborah Brandon and Sarah Saulson will facilitate a WARP special interest meeting on Thursday, June 28 at lunch time.

UPAVIM/Mayan Hands Sales – These sales provide WARP with one third of our budget, and we are grateful to Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland for this wonderful opportunity. We would like to do anything we can to ease the burden on Mary Joan. Having the sale combined with the slide show makes a strong event. This consignment model could be replicated by other members who sell products, and we'd appreciate hearing from anyone interested in doing so.

Fundraising – We tried auctioning textiles on eBay in place of an online auction, but for a number of reasons, this did not go well. Our silent auction of gently used ethnic clothing at this meeting was a success, netting nearly \$800. For members who sell products, consider assigning a small percentage of your sales as a donation to WARP. Thank you to Deb Brandon for donating WARP scarves. We're hoping to have WARP t-shirts to sell at Convergence.

We will be encouraging members to renew at the \$30 supporting level for 2007 if they can afford it.

Continuity – The board recognized that our institutional memory is fading, and that we need to write down what's been decided and put it in a binder. Cheryl will initiate this process.

Review of 2005 Financial Report by Linda Temple. The financial report handed out at the annual meeting is being corrected. The corrected report will be included in the newsletter (see page 8).

Endowment Fund – Deborah Chandler explained that the intention of the fund is to move ourselves toward sustainability so in time interest income could support operations. Currently, 10% of all membership dues and any designated donations go into the fund.

Election of Board Members - Cheryl Musch's term is ending after two consecutive terms (six years). She will continue as WARP's Administrative Coordinator and will participate in the decision-making process, but will not be a voting board member. Melinda Lowrey resigned from the board early in 2006. Her position will be filled at next year's annual meeting. Susan Schaefer-Davis has been nominated to fill Cheryl's position (Anne Dunham and Carole Pierce, nominating committee). Linda called for nominations from the floor. There were none. Sara Goodman motioned to accept the nominating committee's candidate; motion seconded, approved. Cheryl and Melinda were thanked for their work as board members.

2007 Annual Meeting – The board suggested options, including Portland, OR or Santa Fe, NM. Meeting attendees decided they would like to have the next meeting in Guatemala, hosted by Deborah Chandler, in a non-Convergence year. Dates are tentatively set for May 18-20, 2007. There will likely be an additional week for people who would like to stay on in Guatemala.

Meeting adjourned by Linda Temple 10:45 a.m.

### ***New Members***

Misi Ballard  
Greenwood Village, CO  
80111  
mayaweavers@hotmail.com

Margo Boylan  
Old Forge, NY 13420  
boylan@capital.net

Carmel Crafts Guild  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
groveweavr@aol.com

Nikki Dunham-Hoshida  
Davis, CA 95616  
peacenik2u@yahoo.com

Carolyn Fineran  
Gypsies Collection  
386 Madison St.  
Denver, CO 80206  
cfinerane@aol.com

Habitat Integrated Pakistan.  
Lahore3, Pakistan.  
hipnchaudhry@yahoo.com  
info@thehabitat.org  
www.thehabitat.org

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## Handwoven Baby Blankets Make a Difference

Lyn Lucas

The Tulsa Handweavers Guild's two year study of twills had a very exciting by-product. The members of the Guild decided to study twills by having members weave enough samples of a twill of their interest to share with all the other members. One of the Guild's members, Paula Pettit, suggested that members consider putting an extra yard of warp on their sample warps to weave a baby blanket that could be given to a local charitable organization.

One Guild member worked with parents of the local Early Head Start program, a program that provides quality childcare for infants and toddlers whose families have incomes at or below the Federal poverty guidelines. Guild members decided to donate these handwoven blankets to this program thinking only that every new baby deserves to be wrapped in something beautiful when they are brought home from the hospital.

Indeed the parents were thrilled with the blankets, but something very special started to occur between the caseworkers and the families when they brought the blankets to the families. Young parents who often kept their thoughts, feelings, hopes and dreams to themselves started to really open up to their caseworkers. The blankets had been saved and given most often to parents with extra struggles: one blanket accompanied a child to St. Louis for heart surgery, another blanket wrapped a child that had multiple health challenges at birth and has been back and forth to the hospital three times with the child and her mother as she has gone through three surgeries, and two blankets were given to a pregnant mother of twins who had been informed that one of the babies would be born with a birth defect. But the most

*continued on page 15*

### More New Members

Silvia Leidig  
Ventura, CA 93003

Jean McCracken  
Fairfield, CA 94534  
jmc@buildtheword.com

Louise M. Macul McLeod  
c/o ML McMahan,  
Hercules Inc  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Gloria Miller  
Millbrae, CA 94030-1771  
glorsm@aol.com

Maren Peterson  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
maren.peterson@att.net

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## PUCHKA Perú Textiles/Folk Art/Market Tours

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### **Sister Members**

One of WARP's goals is **to provide cross-cultural education and support within the textile community.** To help meet this goal, WARP memberships have been provided to several textile groups around the world so they may benefit from the organization's networking opportunities. Currently the following groups and individuals are Sister Members of WARP:

ASIA

Alola Foundation  
Dili, East Timor

Habitat Integrated Pakistan  
Lahore, Pakistan

International Foundation  
for Fair Trade and Development (IFFAD)  
Tamil Nadu, India

Thai Tribal Crafts  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Weavers' Wheel  
Goa, India

Women's Education for  
Advancement and Empowerment (WEAVE)  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

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### **Sister Member: Habitat Integrated Pakistan**

**Ms. Naila Chaudry**

Amid beating drums and the shrill screech of bagpipes, the bear is dragged onto the center of the arena. The crowd, gathered for the *dangal* or a wrestling match, cheers loudly as the bear is tied with a long rope to a peg. Their cheering reaches a frenzied pitch as ferocious bull terriers are loosened upon the bear. The toothless and clawless bear tries to defend itself from the attacking dogs. If it's lucky it will defeat them in the three-minute bout and come out with a ripped nose and mouth and other bloody scratches.

These displays were staged during public Eid celebrations or other festivals in the rural strongholds of local landlords and politicians in Pakistan. But all this changed in 1993, when word of this barbaric sport reached international conservationists and animal rights organisations like WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) and WWF (World-Wide Fund for Nature), who started an anti-bear-baiting campaign in Pakistan. As a result, an explicit and hard-hitting report and video film was produced, which made international headlines. The resulting condemnation forced the Pakistani government to reinforce the strict ban on bear-baiting events, which had originally been introduced to the sub-continent by the British.

The late Mr. Inayatullah, Chief Executive officer of Habitat Integrated Pakistan, was faced with an uphill task, for bear-baiting has been the traditional livelihood for generations of *qalandars* (gypsies), which they were unwilling to relinquish. Also, the ban on bear-baiting meant that the already impoverished *qalandars* were facing further poverty and hardships. So Inayatullah had to come up with alternatives that would help wean the *qalandars* away from this means of livelihood. In 1998, as a start, Habitat set up a small training centre for *qalandar* women, where they were taught sewing and other vocational skills like fruit preservation and knitting. The NGO also made plans to teach the younger *qalandars* skills like basketry and carpentry, and provided them with donkey or bullock carts to earn their living as transporters of minor goods.

However, after a couple of years, some of these efforts failed because the traditional *qalandar* families were simply not interested in either the vocations or the way of life they entailed. They believed that their fate was to roam the earth under the open skies as gypsies. They used to say to Inayatullah, "These roofs that you have placed above our heads may fall down on us one day." However, the younger generation likes to do embroidery. While the young women do not adhere to HIP for a long period of time, they often learn the profession, get married, and move to other places. After learning the profession, these girls can stay at home and do the embroidery and can look after their homes. They are able to support their families. At the moment, there are five young girls in the program.

One of the skills, which is taught to these urban and rural women is a special technique of doing embroidery by using silk

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## WARP Member Websites: Check 'em Out!

As a regular addition to the newsletter, we will feature several member websites in each issue. If you have a website, and we don't have the address, please send it to Cheryl Musch (contact info on page 2).

**www.handweavers.com** - Tierra Wools is a spinning, hand dyeing, and hand weaving workshop and a retail store. They buy local wool, wash it, spin it, and weave the yarn into beautiful weavings which are sold from their workshop in Los Ojos, a small village in the Chama Valley of northern New Mexico. Their web site includes general information, as well as class schedules, product information, and an opportunity to sign up for their mailing list.

**www.marybkelly.homestead.com** - Mary Kelly's site makes available her books (*Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe* and *Making and Using Ritual Cloths*, among others), cards, and paintings. A refreshingly varied site.

**www.moonflowerenterprises.com** - Member Maria Concepción Cuc's site for Moonflower Enterprises is an online fair trade store featuring products from Guatemala. Established to promote an understanding of the cultural, artistic, political and social fabric of Guatemala, Moonflower Enterprises is active in the local Spokane, WA, community.

**www.saralamb.com** - Spinner, dyer, and handweaver Sara Lamb's site includes her gallery of cut pile bags and rugs, bead and embellished bags, kimonos, and fabrics. Find her classes and shows, and link to her blog to see what she's up to!

**www.silkmoon.org** - The Silk Moon Textile Arts gallery run by WARP member Janet Rodina in Sebastopol, California, features southeast Asian handwoven textiles. The site includes dates for events, trunk shows, and demonstrations.

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## Another Great Annual Meeting

continued from page 3

The Marketplace was open throughout the meeting and provided a venue for members to share the work of many women from around the world and to support their art and livelihood. This year there was also a silent auction of ethnic clothing and fabric which proved to be a source of delightful competition and fashion modeling as well as of fundraising for WARP. Besides the memories of rich sharing, and the continued networking with members, participants departed with new found fabrics to further enhance their connections with fiber artists all over the world.

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## Sister Member: Habitat Integrated Pakistan

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thread, sequins, beads and *dpaka* (a shiny material which comes in different colors) onto material with a pattern drawn on it.

When the embroidery is finished, the material is taken out of the threads. It is stitched and turned into a pillow cover or a bed spread. A fine hand-made craft is produced finally.

For more information about *Habitat Integrated Pakistan*, visit their website at <http://www.thehabitat.org/> or contact Ms. Naila Chaudry at [hipnchaudhry@yahoo.com](mailto:hipnchaudhry@yahoo.com)

### **Sister Members**

#### AFRICA

Elelloang Basali Weavers  
Lesotho

Lawrencia Akasga  
The Craft Place  
Bolgatanga, Ghana

Nanyuki Spinners &  
Weavers  
Nanyuki, Kenya

#### LATIN AMERICA

Bridge of Hope Fair Trade  
Project  
Lima, Peru

Nilda Callanaupa,  
Center for Traditional  
Textiles of Cusco -  
Cusco, Peru

Spirit of the Andes  
La Paz, Bolivia

#### UNITED STATES

Tierra Wools  
Los Ojos, New Mexico

Tapetes de Lana  
Las Vegas, New Mexico

*For more information about these groups, or to donate to Sister Memberships, contact Cheryl Musch at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)*

## Textile Designer Consults in Thailand

continued from page 1

Cheryl asked me for my first available departure date, so I rearranged my work schedule and managed an April 20th departure. It seemed only weeks before I hopped on a plane headed to Thailand, loaded with books, magazines, ideas, sketches and excited anticipation. James Young, a photo journalist and fellow traveler accompanied me, so SERRV got a two for one deal. As partners, our intentions for some time have been to explore a larger world together and serve it the best way we could. This trip fit into James' sense of purpose as well.

We arrived in Chiang Mai, and met Harry Wathittayakul, who is the general manager of TTC, affectionately known as Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam was one of the founders of TTC and a long time general manager. I was introduced to my office, desk, computer, and other members of TTC's highly cooperative and hard working team. I felt comfortable immediately.

Harry gave me an action plan for design and product development which included objectives and specified the producer groups we were to target. In order for me to have a deeper understanding of these groups, their skills, traditions, and culture, Harry arranged a visit to each of the targeted producer communities. We visited several Karen, Lahu, Hmong, and Akha villages, working directly with four of the seven hill tribes associated with TTC. Time limitations prevented us from working with the Lawa, Lisu, and Mien.

Traditionally some of these tribal people have supported their families by engaging in slash and burn agriculture, requiring them to move their village every few years in search of new fields when old ones lost their fertility. It is no longer possible for them to continue this semi-nomadic lifestyle, as there are no new places to move to, and the government of Thailand has imposed ecological restrictions which prohibit these old methods. Therefore, the hill tribe people are finding that they have less land on which to support their families. In addition some of these people have a recent history as refugees from a brutal Burmese army which has driven them from their original homelands.

The production and sale of handcrafts, with its rich history of form and function, is one obvious answer to their problem, and one which does not destroy the traditions of tribal community life. In fact, handcraft production helps to restore and revive these traditions which otherwise might have been lost.

Sitting recently on a bamboo floor, watching with awe as beautiful cotton yarn is woven into a stunning fabric, I sense the magic that drew me here, the common thread of humanity which WARP and SERRV so graciously espouse. As we joke, share a drink of water, and recognize the bond that unites us across worlds, it makes sense that we all work together to weave a real peace.

Please visit TTC's website at: <http://www.ttcrafts.co.th/>

*Lori Bacigalupi has owned and operated Kiss of the Wolf, a wearable art studio, located in Norman, OK, since 1976. Her motto is to "honor the cloth; honor the maker of the cloth." She can be reached at [kissofthewolf@earthlink.net](mailto:kissofthewolf@earthlink.net)*

### **More New Members**

Spirit of the Andes/Alma  
de los Andes  
Marina Claros, President  
La Paz, Bolivia  
[http://  
spiritoftheandes.com/  
pages/2/index.htm](http://spiritoftheandes.com/pages/2/index.htm)

Tapetes de Lana  
Las Vegas, NM 87701  
[info-t@tapetesdelana.com](mailto:info-t@tapetesdelana.com)  
[www.tapetesdelana.com/](http://www.tapetesdelana.com/)

Tierra Wools  
Los Ojos Handweavers,  
LLC  
Los Ojos, New Mexico  
87551  
[wools@cvn.com](mailto:wools@cvn.com)  
[www.handweavers.com/](http://www.handweavers.com/)

Vermont Weaver's Guild  
Bethel, VT 05032

Maria Elena Weaver  
Canon City, CO 81212-4366  
[babyprogram@peoplepc.com](mailto:babyprogram@peoplepc.com)

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## Letters...

*Linda Hendrickson*

My husband and I spent two weeks in Belize last year, and I would like to recommend to WARP members my favorite experiences: a tour of a permaculture farm called "Dem Dats Doin," and two full-moon nights with a Mopan Maya family high in the mountains near the Guatemala border.

I arranged both experiences with Alfredo and Yvonne Villoria, who give tours of their farm, and are the coordinators for the Maya Village Homestay Network ([demdatsdoin@btl.net](mailto:demdatsdoin@btl.net)). I discovered their program on the Internet ([www.southernbelize.com/homestays.html](http://www.southernbelize.com/homestays.html)). From her tiny office at the boat dock in Punta Gorda, a small town literally at the southern end of the paved road in Belize, Yvonne had arranged for me to stay with Justino Peck and his family.

Justino met me at the bus station in Punta Gorda for the two-hour ride to the village of San Jose. He is the chairman of the Toledo Cacao Growers Association, and he and his wife Christina have seven children. Their home is on a lush hillside, framed by tall palm trees, a simple wooden structure with thatched roof, and without electricity or plumbing.

Justino took me on a magical walk among his organic shade-grown cacao trees. This cacao becomes Maya Gold Chocolate, which I have found at my local food co-op in Portland, Oregon, and now make a point of buying every week! Read more about this fair trade chocolate at [www.greenandblacks.com/story.php](http://www.greenandblacks.com/story.php)

I spent one entire day in San Jose sharing fiber art skills with women from a craft group. Since Belize was a British colony, these Maya speak English as their second language. They showed me how they make coiled baskets from the fronds of the jipijapa palm and fiber from the agave cactus. I demonstrated tablet weaving and ply-splitting, and gave the women a chance to try both techniques.

Things really got busy in the afternoon when the children got out of school. The girls gathered around with great enthusiasm to make tablet-woven friendship bracelets, tensioning their warps on sticks they pounded into the ground. I didn't see any weaving in the village. What a surprise to me to introduce weaving to the Maya!

*WARP member Linda Hendrickson can be reached at Laurelhurst Fiber Art Studio & Urban Farm, Portland, OR; [www.lindahendrickson.com](http://www.lindahendrickson.com) (website)*

## Handwoven Baby Blankets

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exciting part of the story is that these blankets invited more intimate conversations between parents and helpers, a lowering of defensive barriers, and a real sharing of the hopes and fears that every parent has. Parents expressed the feeling that if a stranger cared this much for them and their baby, then they must really be valuable after all.

*WARP member Lyn Lucas can be reached at [lyn@amsiweb.com](mailto:lyn@amsiweb.com)*

### **More New Members**

Weavers' Wheel  
G/2, Landscape Royale III  
Porbavaddo,  
Bardez Dt. - Goa  
India

### **Contact changes**

Carol & Tom French-  
Corbett  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
[tomfrenchcorbett@comcast.net](mailto:tomfrenchcorbett@comcast.net)

Lyn Rivers  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Donna Roberts  
[monteverde@usadatanet.net](mailto:monteverde@usadatanet.net)

Jennie Wood  
[amla1@verizon.net](mailto:amla1@verizon.net)

### **WARP Travels...**

WARP's 2007 Annual Meeting will be held in Guatemala from May 18-20, 2007. Deborah Chandler will be making local arrangements.

WARP members Sara Goodman and Jean Howe will be hosting a tour to Indonesia at the end of July 2008 for WARP members and others interested in textiles. For more information contact Sara at [seg@valley.net](mailto:seg@valley.net)

More information about these events will be posted on WARP's website as soon as it is available.



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PMB 249  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

*Plan your travels with WARP: see page 15*

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