

# WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 9, Number 4

Winter 2002

## A Tribute To Bali

*Jean Howe and William Ingram, founders of Threads of Life*

“There are no more islands to run to and hide, the last paradise has been violated, we are all now interconnected by violence, let us find a way to be interconnected by peace,” WARP member Jean Howe wrote to friends on October 13.

The Kuta bombing tragedy in Bali on October 12, 2002 has changed the lives of more than the 191 victims. All of us who are living on this island have found that the peace and beauty that we have been blessed with has been shattered by a violence that none of us ever imagined would find us here.

No one was prepared, especially the hospitals and the medical staff. Without the help of the volunteers that rushed to do what we could, the horrific situation would have been much worse. None of us had been trained to respond in the way we did, we just found what needed doing and we did it. It was a heroic effort by all: Indonesians, Balinese, foreigners, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jews, we all worked side by side as a community and what we accomplished was incredible.

The Wednesday that followed the bombing was *Kajeng Kliwon* a day that appears every 15 days on the Balinese calendar and is considered a time of purification and cleansing. The island-wide offerings were bigger than usual and the foreign community were all encouraged to join in the prayers that took place in the temple to Shiva in Ubud. As we sat together after prayer, one of the Balinese, Nyoman Suradnya, said to the community “We must reflect on our karma and ask forgiveness for whatever ways we have contributed to the violence.” This is different from apportioning blame, either upon oneself or anyone else. It refreshes me and fills me with hope to be with people whose spirit is large enough to take responsibility in such a mature way.

The Balinese can be an example to the world of peace, love and tolerance, if we help them realize this aspect of their spirit. Anyone who has been here knows that their Balinese friends all exemplify an astounding faith in life and openness of heart. This island is now being challenged to manifest this as a communal stance. They are capable of choosing peace over war, where we were not. They are in the true front line of the war on terrorism and will show us the way, for they know, as one village priest told me, that “the bomb we must stop is the one in our own minds.”

*More about Threads of Life on page 13*

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Goals**

- To foster dialogue and support within the organization
- To serve as a clearinghouse for information, resources, and technical assistance within the international textile community
- To provide cross-cultural education and support within the textile community
- To provide guidance in the realities of appropriate assistance
- To promote appreciation of textiles which reflect a community's culture
- To enrich the lives of individuals in the global textile community through cross-cultural exchange

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

*Cheryl Musch*

Thanks to those of you who made the auction a success by donating items and bidding. There's a report on the auction below. We're nearing the end of the year and soon it will be time to renew your WARP membership. Watch for a renewal mailing in December. The form to update your directory information will be included. Consider asking a friend to join WARP in 2003! Remember that renewals will be at the new membership dues rates (page 5). It'll be another exciting year with WARP. Plan to meet fellow members in Black Mountain, NC at our annual meeting in April. Happy holidays!

## **First WARP Auction Raises \$1650!**

*Marcia Bellas*

WARP's first on-line auction offered a beautiful array of textiles from around the world. Twenty-four individuals placed 55 bids on the nearly 40 items offered for sale. High bids totaled \$1650.

Thanks go to Mary Kelly for creating an impressive web page, complete with pictures and descriptions of the items, as well as background music. Thanks too to those who bid and those who helped advertise the event. Finally, a big thank you to the following people for donating items to the auction: Ann Edington Adams, Marcia Bellas, Barbara Bergman, Kate Bobrow-Strain, Babbie and Stu Cameron (Mission Traders), Deborah Chandler, Louise Todd Cope, Donna Duke, Debbie Durham, Jennifer Easter (Maya Traditions), Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, Cindy Gaulin, Carol Hayman, Barbara Herbster, Libby Hoffman, Ann Jefferson, Mary Kelly, Susan Lilly, Louise Meyer, SERRV International, Carole Pierce, Sharon Rowlen, Sarah Saulson, Hope Thomas, Susan Weltman, Jennie Wood.

We hope to make this an annual event, so please keep a potential donation in mind during the coming year. We have some ideas for improving the auction, but your suggestions are welcome too.

**Contact information for Marcia Bellas in box at left.**

## **WARP Nominating Committee Report**

There will only be one position open on the WARP board this spring. Cheryl Musch's term expires in 2003. She has done an outstanding job on the board these past three years and we are delighted that she has expressed an interest in serving on the board for another term. Her name has been submitted to the nominating committee and as such, we are not actively seeking new board candidates for 2003. Anyone who wishes to submit a name is, of course, always welcome to do so. Although we can only accommodate one person for 2003, we're always on the lookout for potential future candidates. Any nominations should be sent to Beth Davis at ***bethbox@hotmail.com*** or Debbie Durham at ***shuksan@mindspring.com***.

### **WARP**

#### **Governing Board**

Marcia Bellas  
23 Marcell Avenue  
Barre, VT 05641  
802/476-2320

***marciabellas@juno.com***

Term expires 2005

Donna Duke  
116 E. Glendale Dr.  
Boone, NC 28607  
704/264-9422

***donnad@boone.net***

Term expires 2004

Mary Kelly  
1144 Old Stage Road  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607/756-8866

***kellym13@juno.com***

Term expires 2004

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

***warp@yachana.org***

Term expires 2003

Sarah Saulson  
105 Crawford Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13224  
315/449-9423

***sfsaulson@aol.com***

Term expires 2005

Hope Thomas  
374 Gleasons Falls Road  
Hillsboro, NH 03244  
603/464-3015

***hthomas@conknet.com***

Term expires 2005

**Tentative Schedule**  
**2003 WARP Annual Meeting**  
**YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly**  
**Black Mountain, North Carolina**

**Friday, April 4**

Afternoon - Field trip to downtown Asheville and Biltmore Village. In Asheville is the Earth Guild craft supply store, a Ten Thousand Villages store, and Grovewood Gallery.

Optional: A tour of the Biltmore Estate.

5:00-5:30 - Opening reception

YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC

5:30-6:30 - Dinner

6:30 - Introductions and sharing of projects

**Saturday, April 5**

8:00-9:00 - Breakfast

10:00-4:00 - Folk Art Center, Blue Ridge Parkway

Seminar on the history of crafts in Appalachia: ***Economic Development and Education***. Tentative speakers include representatives from Penland School of Crafts, Southern Highlands Craft Association, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, John C. Campbell Folk School, Oak Gallery, Handmade in America, and Haywood Community College.

4:00-5:30 - Marketplace and break

5:30-7:00 - Dinner

7:00 Mini workshops: fingerweaving, sprang, braiding, drop spindle spinning, and more...

**Sunday, April 6**

8:00 - 9:00 - Breakfast

9:00 - 11:00 - Annual meeting

11:00 - noon - Marketplace

***Wanted:***

volunteers to teach mini-workshops at the WARP annual meeting-- fingerweaving, braiding, sprang, drop spindles, knitting, crocheting, or other portable handwork.

Techniques learned in international textile communities particularly welcome. Please respond to Donna Duke

([donnad@boone.net](mailto:donnad@boone.net)) or Sandi Basel ([baselbeck1@aol.com](mailto:baselbeck1@aol.com)).

**Annual Meeting Planning in Full Swing**

The planning group for the 2003 WARP Annual Meeting has been busy. Philis Alvic, Sandi Basel, Donna Duke, and Eileen Hallman are putting together a most impressive weekend for us. Preliminary figures indicate that registration for the weekend, which includes two nights, five meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast), and all meeting activities, will be \$190, double occupancy. Registration for all activities without room and board will be \$55 (includes lunch on Saturday only). To attend Saturday program only, registration (including lunch) will be \$35.

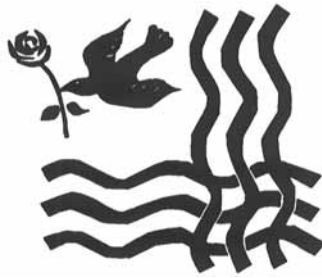
More information about the program, along with transportation suggestions and registration forms, will be mailed to WARP members in December. Registrations will be due soon after, so make plans now to attend.

Visitors' information about North Carolina is available at:

<http://www.southernhighlandguild.org/>- Appalachian Mountains Producers Guild (information about the Folk Art Center here); <http://www.blueridgeparkway.org/>- Blue Ridge Parkway site; [http://www.visitnc.com/index\\_home.asp](http://www.visitnc.com/index_home.asp) - North Carolina Department of Tourism; <http://cva.morehead-st.edu/index.html>- A Gateway to and Resource for All of Appalachia

**Marketplace**

Once again, we will have the great International Marketplace at the 2003 WARP Annual Meeting. Marcia Bellas has offered to coordinate the event again this year, so please let her know if you want to reserve a table or would like to have more information about the event. Contact information for Marcia is on page 2.



### **WARP Newsletter**

published quarterly by  
Weave A Real Peace  
Volume 9, Number 4  
Winter 2002

Editor: Linda Temple

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

The deadline for contributions to the Spring WARP newsletter is **February 15**. The Spring newsletter will be mailed early in March.

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.

## **Mujeres en Acción**

*from brochure sent by Anne Lamborn*

Mujeres en Acción (Women in Action) is a non-government organization of 900 rural Guatemalan women using microcredit to improve the economic situation in the areas of agriculture, craft, and commerce. Using modern technology and their own resources, they are self-governing and working towards self-sufficiency.

Founded in 1992, Mujeres en Acción began active participation in development programs in 1993. Mujeres en Acción participated in various national organizations in order to create and put into action **The Peace Accord**, especially in relation to agriculture.

The objectives of Mujeres en Acción are

- 1) to provide rural women with economically viable lives by strengthening community organization;
- 2) to create an equitable means for Guatemalan women to meet their social, economic, political, and cultural needs—to elevate their dignity and promote peace; and
- 3) to provide women with models of appropriate technology in agricultural, artisan, livestock, and commercial production. Education is essential to raise their productivity.

As of August 2002, there were 23 ongoing projects; \$38,960 in loans to approximately 900 women participants, with an average loan of \$43. The women repay their loans to the Guatemalan rural development bank, BANRURAL, at a 16% interest rate.

**Mujeres en Acción, 3 Calle 11-94, Zona 1, El Tejar Chimaltenango, Guatemala; 011-849-03-26 (phone and fax); meai@internetdeltgua.com.gt (email). WARP member Anne Lamborn is the US contact for Mujeres en Acción, 408/354-8493 (phone); lamborn@ix.netcom.com (email).**

## **WARP Newsletter Accepting Paid Advertisements on Trial Basis**

By popular request, the WARP newsletter will begin carrying paid advertisements on a trial basis. This will be an experiment until we can be sure that any additional printing and postage expenses will be reimbursed. If you would like to become a volunteer advertising executive, please get in touch with Linda Temple (contact information at left). Responsibilities will include corresponding with advertisers regarding advertising copy and collecting payments.

Effective January 1, 2003, rates for WARP members will be:

- Business card - \$6/issue; \$22 for 4 issues;
- 1/4 page - \$11/issue; \$40 for 4 issues;
- 1/2 page - \$18/issue; \$65 for 4 issues;
- Full page - \$30/issue; \$108 for 4 issues;
- Classified - \$1.50 per line for members (50 spaces)

**Advertising rates for non-WARP members will be double the above figures.**

**All rates are for camera-ready copy.**

*At the 2002 annual meeting, the board of directors decided that, for the next year, each WARP newsletter would feature a successful community project in textiles and crafts. Board Member Mary Kelly volunteered to coordinate the gathering of these articles. The first article was about UPAVIM, a vibrant Guatemalan cooperative. In this issue, Mary Kelly focuses on a symposium she recently attended focussing on African American quilting groups in the southern USA.*

### ***Successful Community Projects in Textiles and Crafts***

*Women United Facing the New Millennium (1998) 42" x 53" Made by Charlotte Hill O'Neal, Tanzania, East Africa.*



### **Common Threads: Creating a Cloth for Empowerment**

*p.s. Your roommate will be Cuesta Benberry, quilt historian and author.*

This handwritten note was scrawled on the bottom of an official letter from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. It was signed "Roland Freeman", who, I knew, was the organizer and moving spirit behind a landmark conference "Common Threads: Creating a Cloth for Empowerment" highlighting the role of textile cooperatives in women's empowerment and recent research on African American Quilters. I was taking part as a representative from Eastern Europe along with a colleague from Russia.

The hotel room was dark as I entered it, later that month to attend the conference, but in the corner in a comfy chair, a small lady, a bit frail from age, smiled at me. The famous Cuesta Benberry, curator of the exhibition "*A Piece of my Soul: Quilts Made by Black Arkansans*", which opened at the Old State House in Little Rock in 1999 and collector of many African American quilts, including some held by the museum itself, was a lively, cheery person with a no-nonsense manner. It was clear, as the conference progressed the debt each presenter owed to her pioneering spirit.

This was my first introduction to the subject of African-American quilt history and the stories never stopped during the entire weekend. Roland Freeman, photographer and author, whose exhibition and book "A Communion of Spirits: African American Quilters, Preservers and Their Stories" was completing its four month stop at the Smithsonian before traveling to museums in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio and California was the first presenter. This show was the catalyst for the conference that provided a detailed look at southern Black quiltmakers, their homes and their precious quilts. It was his dedication in documenting the lives and work of African American quilters that made their work known on a national scale.

*Continued on page 7*

### **Weave A Real Peace**

#### Membership Information

#### 2003 Annual Dues

- \$10 (simple living)
- \$20 (regular)
- \$30 (group/supporting)
- \$100+ (patron/donor)

All memberships are based on the calendar year and expire on December 31. Members receive all publications for the year joined.

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

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

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

**WARP** to:

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

## **FUNDAMARCOS Moves Closer to Goal of Developing Maya Cultural Center**

*Mary McKay*

In December 2002 FUNDAMARCOS (Fundación Agricultura Marcos Orozco) will take one further step towards its long term goal of developing a Maya Cultural Center in Antigua, Guatemala. For two weeks Chuck Regier, Curator of Exhibits of Kauffman Museum in Kansas, will be serving as an exhibit design consultant working with the Guatemalan Maya team.

As a Maya organization, FUNDAMARCOS desires to develop a center that will seek to esteem, preserve, and demonstrate various expressions of Maya culture, such as weaving and crafts, music and dance, agriculture and cuisine. Intangibles such as family, community, spiritual, and environmental values will also be considered. The goal is to provide something more than a museum that principally looks at the arts and culture of the past. La Casa de la Cultura Maya, as the center is presently being called, will also present cultural and environmental choices confronting Mayas today and choices that will be made, either consciously or unconsciously, in the coming years. The Casa de la Cultura Maya hopes to be a place of dialogue about cultural survival in an environment increasingly awash with Western goods and values.

Another function of the Maya Cultural Center will be to educate international tourists and non-indigenous (ladino) Guatemalans about the richness and value of Maya culture. FUNDAMARCOS wants to give Mayas an opportunity to present their own explanations of their culture to the tourists who visit Guatemala. They also hope to reach out to school age ladino children. Maya docents will provide interactive, age appropriate presentations for students from Guatemalan schools, primary through high school. The goal is for these children to develop pride in the contributions of the Maya to their national culture and identity.

FUNDAMARCOS has asked Kauffman Museum, a regional ethnographic and environmental museum, to provide technical assistance in exhibit design and in the planning and management of a cultural center. Kauffman Museum was chosen because of the staff's experience with interpretation of Maya culture gained through the museum's special exhibition and educational project entitled "Threads of Life: Mayan Clothing from Guatemala." This exhibition received a 1993 Award of Excellence from the Kansas Museum Association. EPIC, the Ecumenical Project for International Cooperation, is the partner NGO in the United States assisting FUNDAMARCOS in the development of La Casa de la Cultura Maya.

*For more information you may contact WARP member Mary McKay, P.O. Box 433, Allenspark, CO 80510; [epic@csd.net](mailto:epic@csd.net) (email); or access FUNDAMARCOS web site at [www.epicprojects.org](http://www.epicprojects.org)*

### **New Members**

Susanne Allen  
910 Harbor Bend Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38103  
901/527-5448  
[playswithstrings@hotmail.com](mailto:playswithstrings@hotmail.com)

Christi Eales Ehler  
N52 W37160 Juneau Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
262/569-0873  
[christilee@core.com](mailto:christilee@core.com)

Joyce Fournier  
118 East Escalones, Apt. B  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
949/492-6903  
[egenston@juno.com](mailto:egenston@juno.com)

Cindy Gaulin  
2705 Broadway Ave., Apt. 9  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
412/531-9453  
[cakgaulin@yahoo.com](mailto:cakgaulin@yahoo.com)

Lori Rawlinson  
548 Ellie Cove  
Collierville, TN 38017  
901/853-6053  
[loriijo@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:loriijo@midsouth.rr.com)

Mozelle Sukut, Ph.D.  
31071 Marbella Vista  
San Juan Capistrano, CA  
42675  
[mozelles@cox.net](mailto:mozelles@cox.net)

## **Common Threads: Creating a Cloth for Empowerment**

**Continued from page 5**

Over the next few days, quiltmakers and other textile craftspeople from around the country and around the world told how they used their art for economic empowerment of poor women. As a related focus, important research on African American quilters was presented by Cuesta Benberry, and Dorin Derby, Professor at Georgia State University, who discussed the Liberty House handicraft marketing cooperatives of Mississippi and the African American quiltmakers of coastal South Carolina. Raymond Dobard, author of *Hidden in Plain View: the Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* revealed the hidden codes sewn into quilts to guide slaves on their trail to freedom. Finally, Carolyn Mazloomi, founder of the Women of Color Quilting Network and author of *Spirits of the Cloth: Contemporary African American Quilts* displayed many actual quilts from her group.

During the many sessions, we were treated to slides and videos from various collectives. The Alabama Freedom Quilting Bee showed their work, as did the Mississippi Cultural Crossroads Quilters. Their stories were joined by their African sisters, who came from the Arthington Women's Self Help Quilting Group in Liberia and from Zamani Soweto Sisters in South Africa. Quilts from the Smithsonian collection, some of them slave quilts, were shown in the permanent collections, and the exhibition of photos by Freeman was on display at the Museum of Arts and Industry.

The common thread connecting all these groups across the globe was the central role played by quilting, weaving and tapestry in efforts to empower women. Presentations focused on crafts, women's organizations and the struggle for women's empowerment. Symposium participants explored the issues that arise when women get together to use these crafts to better their lives. They also looked at the impacts of resulting changes in cultural and social roles, as well as the broader economic context.

Indeed, the symposium provided a rare opportunity to learn how these seemingly different groups had addressed local issues, the lessons they had learned, and the challenges they continue to face.

***For more information, contact Mary Kelly at 1144 Old Stage Road, Cortland, NY 13045; 607/756-8866 (phone); kellym13@juno.com (email).***

### **New Contact Information**

Kim Bellas  
kbellas@comcast.net

Susan Caskey  
1477 Autumn Rd.  
Rydal, PA 19046  
scaskey@comcast.net

***Reserve This Date***  
**WARP Annual Meeting 2003**  
**April 4-6, 2003**  
YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly  
Black Mountain, NC

### Newsletter Help Wanted

Would you like to help with the WARP newsletter?

In particular, we would like someone to do a Members' Profile article for each newsletter. This popular column was started last year as an experiment by Board Member Mary Kelly. Mary has gone on to start the series on "Successful Community Projects in Textiles and Crafts," but we've had many requests for the continuation of Member Profiles. The tough part will be deciding *which* interesting member to write about. It's a great opportunity to meet some of the most interesting people in the world.

If you have ideas for other columns or improvements in the newsletter that you could contribute, please contact Linda Temple (contact info on page 4).

## Knits and Purls: An Adventure in Bolivia

Adrienne Sloane

In an effort to marry long held interests in textiles and in the developing world, this past summer I decided to put my knitting expertise to good use by exploring the possibility of volunteering on a project overseas. The Crafts Center Directory turned out to be a particularly valuable resource. [Available from The Crafts Center, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 525, Washington, DC 20036; 202/728-9603 (phone); 202/296-2452 (fax); [info@craftscenter.org](mailto:info@craftscenter.org) (email)].

I contacted projects in Bolivia and Peru by email and heard back from Mimi Woodbridge, one of three principals in Alma de los Andes (Spirit of the Andes), a project that advocates human rights, self esteem, and income generation through knitting for indigenous women in Bolivia. My timing was particularly fortunate as Mimi was in the States, and we were able to meet in person. Out of several meetings came an invitation to work with Alma's lead knitters in a five day design workshop in the beginning of October.

The stated mission of Alma de los Andes is "self esteem and economic power in the hands of women." An important aspect of the project is that no costly equipment is needed, no change in lifestyle is required, nor is there any negative impact on the environment. Because alpaca and cotton are indigenous fibers and almost every Bolivian woman learns to knit at her grandmother's knee, the project was founded on developing these resources.

After taking the free courses offered by Spirit of the Andes, the women are certified as professional knitters by the Bolivian Ministry of Industry and Commerce. They then knit for a greater market, receiving a fair recompense for their work. All the money received from the sale of Spirit of the Andes products goes directly to the support of the women and their families. The women have an average of five children, therefore sales generated help 6,000 people. 1,000 women have now been trained to hand knit and beautifully finish sweaters for children, adults, and pets.



The design workshop initially was to be held in Coroico, a four hour journey from La Paz down, as the guidebook calls it, "the most dangerous road in the world." This information only added to my anxiety about flying, altitude, and how little I knew about what was expected of my participation in the workshop. Thankfully, the venue was changed to Sorata (2,695m) described in the Lonely Planet guide as "A lovely, medieval-

Continued on page 9



## **Navajo-Churro Sheep Join Slow Food's Ark**

*submitted by Suzanne Jamison, Sheep Is Life*

Slow Food U.S.A. announced in October that the Navajo-Churro sheep have been selected for Ark U.S.A., Slow Food's program to protect food threatened with extinction. The Navajo-Churro sheep breed is North America's earliest domesticated farm animal. Spanish explorers and colonists first brought them into New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Once numbering two million, the breed was dissipated by a federally-imposed interbreeding program and a government-mandated livestock reduction program. By the 1970s, only 450 Navajo-Churro sheep were left in the United States.

Navajo-Churro sheep provide excellent meat, abundant milk, and highly desirable fleece. The breed is extremely hardy and lives lightly on the land, requiring less water and grass than other sheep. The Churro breed is of major cultural importance to the Navajo people. Slow Food's Ark project identifies and promotes high quality foods that reflect the history and culture of a region.

For more information about Slow Food, access their web site at <http://www.slowfoodusa.org/>

## **Knits and Purls: An Adventure in Bolivia**

*Continued from page 8*

looking town with steep stairways and a maze of narrow cobbled streets, which may well have the finest setting of any town in Bolivia."

Also, I was appreciative of the many useful and informed replies to my email about Bolivia and the effects of altitude. (Thank you WARPers)

I gathered up some knitting needles (I am a machine knitter), borrowed some knitting dictionaries (mine were lost in a studio fire), packed some magnifying glasses and other gifts and put myself in the hands of American Airlines. While I have spent much time in Asia, this was my first foray into South America. I hoped that the month I had spent in Oaxaca two years ago doing Spanish immersion would stand me in good stead.

I was in Bolivia for almost three weeks. For the first five days, I was asked to lead five knitters in thinking creatively about design, introduce textural elements into their work as well as provide color guidance. I also designed on the computer for future use. It was an intense and very rewarding experience.

The rest of my trip was spent in La Paz, having the requisite stomach bug, and then in Cochabamba contacting other knitting projects and generally getting the lay of the textile land. It was an interesting but backward way to be introduced to Bolivian textiles. I loved the incidental pieces of it such as seeing women vendors on the streets of La Paz knitting in their stands or spinning alpaca with drop spindles.

I came away with a tremendous respect for the women and a reinvigorated interest in the power of knit. I hope for more opportunities like this in the future.

*Adrienne Sloane can be reached at 31 Barnard Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472; aonels@yahoo.com (email); 617/926-1914 (phone).*

### **Condolences...**

To Cheryl Musch, WARP's administrative coordinator, whose mother died unexpectedly in October.

## WARP Members Share Gift Ideas...

### Congratulations

to La Tienda Folk Art Gallery in Seattle, on their 40th anniversary. WARP member Leslie Grace is the founder of La Tienda. Current owners Fred Hart and Monique Tran now have two stores in the area.

### Heifer Project

*Lynn Sinclair*

In response to your request for alternative gift giving I offer this option though I'm sure many WARP members may already be aware of the work of this organization. Heifer International is a wonderful non-profit organization that works to alleviate hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation. Heifer helps impoverished families become self-reliant by providing food and income producing animals and training. Since 1944, Heifer has helped more than 4 million families in 125 countries. Families "pass on the gift" by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need. A full description for those who do not know this group can be seen at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org). The following is excerpted from their recent gift catalog:

#### **"Knitting Basket: \$500; Share of a Knitting Basket: \$50**

Your gift of a Knitting Basket will include two llamas and two sheep—one male and one female of each... From shearing to spinning, weaving and finally to selling woolen goods at market, your gift of a Knitting Basket will help struggling families earn extra income to break free from the grip of poverty and hopelessness. Over time, as your gift multiplies and more animals are passed on to help others in need, entire communities will be warmed by the precious wool of your Knitting Basket."

There are many other ways to contribute with gifts from \$10 to \$5000 giving everything from tree seedlings to honey bees, or any number of animals from dairy goats to yaks, but the knitting basket seemed so appropriate for WARP members. Heifer sends you delightful gift cards for those you wish to honor by this meaningful gift which explain that in their name you've given the gift of self reliance to a struggling family.

---

### **Recommended by several WARP members...**

*If the World Were a Village*, by David J. Smith and beautifully illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong, is a new, exceptionally well reviewed book for children recently released by Kids Can Press. Based on the familiar text, *If the World Were a Village* explores the lives of 100 villagers (22 people speak a Chinese dialect; 20 earn less than a dollar a day; 32 are of Christian faith; 17 cannot read or write; 39 are under 19 years old), giving children an opportunity to "discover that life in other nations is often very different from their own. The shrunk-down statistics — some surprising, some shocking — and David Smith's tips on building "world-mindedness" will encourage readers to embrace the bigger picture and help them to establish their own place in the global village."

The thirty-two page book, designed for ages 7 and up, sells for \$15.95. If your local bookstore doesn't already have the book, ask the manager to add it to the inventory (locate the nearest independent bookstore in your area by accessing <http://www.booksense.com>).

## WARP Members Share Ideas...

### **Mission Traders**

*Babbie Cameron*

As I write this holiday announcement for our WARP newsletter, I am looking out at 3" of pristine white snow that fell during the night in our mountains of western Maine. All around us, even in this remote and rural area of New England, the stores are "tackled up" with artificial Christmas decorations ALREADY. Away with Halloween junk - in with red, green, and white junk. If you are reading this WARP newsletter, I dare to assume that you are facing the holiday season with as much ambivalence as I am. As WARP members we have options as conscientious consumers that many Americans know nothing about.

We support fair trade in all that we do in our organization and hopefully this commitment carries over to our personal shopping habits as well. I am part of a six person group of retired church folks who run **Mission Traders**, a self-help group that raises money for a poultry project in South Africa. We have a sister church in Alice, South Africa which is located in the Eastern Cape province near where Steven Biko was martyred for his anti-apartheid actions. On the grounds of the Macfarlan Presbyterian Church and in six satellite outstations, our brothers and sisters in South Africa are raising chickens, thanks to our funding the project and to Heifer Project International's excellent management of the poultry initiative. Over 150 families are involved already, with many more scheduled to begin participating in 2003. It was our joy to travel to South Africa in April 2002 and to see the difference our support is making in the lives of many very poor people.

To raise the money needed to underwrite the poultry project, **Mission Traders** sells handcrafts from women here in western Maine, from former refugee knitters in Bosnia, from a School for Deaf children in Gaza City, and from several self-help groups in South Africa. We take no salaries ourselves. All profits go back to the producer groups (or individuals) and forward to the South African families raising chickens. We are proud of the unique handmade items we can offer consumers as alternatives to commercial shopping. Especially at Christmas and Hanukah when we want our gifts to come from the heart, any purchase from **Mission Traders** will do just that. We have many, many beautiful items for you to choose from. Please visit our website at <http://www.missiontraders.org> or phone (207/779-1798) for a catalogue.

We look forward to hearing from you, and more importantly we wish you a season of joy and light in a turbulent world.

### **Members of the Fair Trade Federation**

Many fair trade organizations sell their wares online. Check out the web site of the Fair Trade Federation (<http://www.fairtradefederation.com/>), where you can link to the online sales catalogs of over 35 members of the federation.

### **Textile Museum Calendar**

November 16 - "To Restore or Not to Restore: Collecting Antique Rugs"

November 23 - "Silk in Tribal Textiles: Cambodia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus"

December 7 - "Collectors' Choice: Building a Private Textile Collection"

December 8 - Lecture: "Classical Carpets in Italian Renaissance Paintings: Art Objects and Status Symbols"

December 14 - "Noteworthy Flatweaves from the Anatolian Plateau"

December 21 - "Antique Anatolia: 16th to late 19th-century Turkish Rugs"

December 28 - Film: "Khotan: Oasis of Silk and Jade"

Some events require advance registration. For more information, contact The Textile Museum, 2320 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008-4088, 202/667-0441; [www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org) (web site)

## ***WARP Members Share Ideas ...***

### **Peri Dar**

*Nicole McGrath*

Applying their expert knowledge of an ancient technique for new export markets, artisans in Kyrgyzstan make beautiful and colourful felt slippers and moccasins to be sold through Peri Dar, a new fair trade company (a Business Friend of the Fair Trade Federation). Felt making has been done for practical and decorative use in Central Asia for over 3000 years, and women have preserved this important element of their culture. These slippers are really charming and priced for budget wallets. If you like to shop, beware of the irresistible and festive Christmas stockings, cushions and ottomans... Also worth seeing are the mirror embroidered toran (festive door decorations) made by tribal women in arid Kutch, North West India. These will dress up your home for the holidays in an instant, and will look fabulous year round as window trimming. Available online from Peri Dar at <http://www.peridar.com/>

---

### **Support Indonesian Artisans**

*Jean Howe*

As a result of the bomb that killed 191 people in Kuta, Bali, most of the countries of the world have banned travel to Indonesia. Many have extended this to include much of Southeast Asia. I must say that I still feel safer here in Bali than I do in America.

For the people of Indonesia, the loss of tourism has added to the heartache of this tragedy. Weavers and batik artists from across the archipelago found their export market on Bali, either directly or through traders. Not only has the tourist market disappeared, having been scared away by the bombing, but the export market has also collapsed as overseas buyers observe travel bans by their nation's governments.

As women generally use their income for the education and health needs of their families, the collapse of textile markets means children not going to school and families not receiving medical care. Unless travel bans are lifted and tourists start to return to Bali in the next three months the situation will indeed become dire.

If we allow this to occur than the terrorist will have won. The peaceful way in which the Balinese and Indonesians have responded to this tragedy can show the whole world how we can weave a real peace from our differences. We must show them that their work is not in vain. We must show that we prefer their peace over our war.

Come back to Indonesia, Support Indonesian textile artists.

### **Request the WARP Slide Show for 2003**

The recently updated WARP slide show continues to travel. The show comes to you in a Kodak carousel, with an informative narrative, writings by WARP members, brochures, and WARP handouts. You are requested to pay for shipping to the next area (instructions are included). The slide show comes with an narrative, brochures and book marks, and a notebook with articles written by WARP members.

#### 2003 schedule

January 18, Pinellas Weavers Guild, Palm Harbor, FL and The Weavers Guild of St. Louis, Chesterfield, MO. Get your request in now.

To request the slide show, contact Carole Pierce, 200 Peach Bloom Hill, Berea, KY 40403; 859/986-8666; [cpierce@mis.net](mailto:cpierce@mis.net)

### **WARP on the Web**

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

Education site: [http://](http://www.warpeducation.homestead.com/)

[www.warpeducation.homestead.com/](http://www.warpeducation.homestead.com/)

## ***“To Bali With Love”***

Jean Howe adds:

A Tribute to Peace and Unity event in Ubud on November 9 and 10 will involve more than 80 banjar (community organizations) and about 10,000 people of all ethnic groups, all religions. ***Threads of Life*** is doing a special exhibition called “To Bali With Love.” The display will be all the wonderful supportive emails received from all over the world during this time. People wrote of their love, their faith in the Balinese to rebuild and to act as a role model of peace for the world. It shows the power of the internet and our interconnected desire for peace.

Our staff made natural dyed batik prayer scarves that we are selling to donate to the families of the victims of the Kuta bombing. Lolet, ***Threads of Life*** staff (at right) is wearing the simple prayer flag “to Bali with Love.” Kadek (below) is using the canting or writing tool for batik as he makes these flags. The scarves are all dyed in two shades of tannin from plant material, made at the ***Threads of Life*** foundation which is called ***Yayasan Pecinta Budaya Bebali*** (the Foundation of Love of the Bebali Culture). Bebali are the sacred textiles that are used for ceremonies in Bali.



***Jean Howe and William Ingram are the founders of Threads of Life a US foundation, whose work is to sustain the traditional weaving arts of Indonesia. The Summer 2002 issue of the WARP newsletter has more information about the organization. Threads of Life Jalan Kajeng #24, Ubud Bali. lafnduck@indosat.net.id (email); http://www.ThreadsofLife.com (web site).***

***Remember WARP if you are considering end-of-year charitable contributions.***

***WARP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization as designated by the IRS; all donations are tax deductible in the United States.***

***Send donations to: WARP, 3102 Classen Boulevard, PMB 249, Oklahoma City, OK 73118***

## *Rubia Update – November 2002*

*Jennie Wood*

Rubia, the Afghan women's handwork project currently operating out of Lahore, Pakistan, was organized a couple of years ago by my partner, Rachel Lehr, and me. Our goals, from the beginning, have been to provide work and income to displaced Afghan women and to promote literacy among this disenfranchised illiterate community. The resource we chose to accomplish these goals is the amazing embroidery skills of these women and the spectacularly rich cultural heritage of designs and patterns that they seem to carry around with them in their blood streams.

The following is an update on our project, written mostly by Rachel, after her most recent visit to Lahore in the searing heat of August 2002. Rubia's onsite director is Sakhi Sharay; Hafiza is the heart and soul of the project. Hafiza does all the training, supervising, design drafting, and quality control for Rubia.

Rachel was taken to see the new (the only) elementary school that had been started by Sakhi a few weeks earlier. This school serves the children of the women in Rubia's training project as well as other Afghan children in the community. *Direct pressure from the women led to the establishment of this school.* Rachel had visited with the women many times before this new educational initiative began, so she immediately saw the difference it made in their lives. Children got up early, washed up, and ran off to school with a notebook and pencils in their hands, and a smile on their faces. The children were eager to show Rachel their homework, and they told her about all the new words and letters they were learning. The world was, at last, opening up before their young eyes and they couldn't get enough.

The school is located in two dark, hot, and stuffy rooms rented above a residence. The rooms, cooled by a single floor

*Continued on page 15*

### **Call For Vendors/ Representatives Of International Fiber Artisans**

**World Weaving** is a 2½ day marketplace and cultural exchange event to be held in Southern California on August 1, 2, and 3, 2003. In previous years, this annual event invited cooperatives and artists directly, but because of the difficulties with visas and customs, this year they are inviting representatives of these artists to participate, demonstrate, and sell for the groups they represent to the 4000 visitors who will attend. It is an opportunity to showcase and network your group's fiber and textile arts, clothing, home accessories, jewelry, and paper goods, to the west coast. Only first level contacts need apply—no commercial vendors. Because **World Weaving** is held on an historical mission site, space is limited, and vendors are carefully selected for diversity and maximum sales success.

To receive an application or for further information, please contact **World Weaving** at [worldweaving@missionsjc.com](mailto:worldweaving@missionsjc.com) (email), 949/234-1300 ext 321 (phone), or write World Weaving, Mission San Juan Capistrano Museum, PO Box 697, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693. More information about World Weaving is also available on their Web site at <http://www.missionsjc.com/weavingexpo.html>

## **Rubia Update – November 2002**

*Continued from page 14*

fan, are filled with 30 children, who sit on the floor and repeat lessons written on the blackboard by the teacher. These modest but very significant services are provided free of charge for all the pupils. Pencils, notebooks, and simple texts in Dari, Pashto, and English are all provided by donations to Rubia and the income from our sales.



The women's embroidery training and literacy project is progressing rapidly as well. In addition to the handwork training, Hafiza offers literacy classes five days a week. With pride and exasperation, she admits that women come to her every day at all times to discuss their training and classwork. They eagerly showed off their writing notebooks along with their impeccable embroidery to Rachel. Hafiza is always working on some aspect of Rubia—designing patterns, overseeing stitchery, or tidying her classroom. She is thrilled to be doing such important work, and the community of women around her provide her with the satisfaction of an important job well done.

Back at Rubia USA, we press on with fundraising sales in and around New England. We will talk and show slides to any group, small or large. We have our pillows in a few shops and are looking for more opportunities for selling. The most fearless step we've taken is to work with a sales rep who put our pillows in her showroom at the huge wholesale market in Highpoint, NC. About six months ago we realized that we weren't going to survive by selling pillows, or anything, one at a time. Rubia's website, <http://www.rubiahandwork.org>, is underway; it should be up and available by the end of November.

We have added new pillow sizes and shapes, as well as buttery soft embroidered wool shawls and embroidered wool felt tote bags. With the skills and motivation of the Afghan women behind us, the sky's the limit. Today Lahore, tomorrow Kabul!

**Jennie Wood lives at 3 Scott Street, Peterborough, NH 03458; 603/924-3824 (phone); wood\_jennie@hotmail.com (email)**

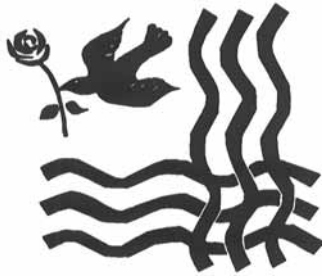
***Please send  
contributions for the  
next newsletter***

Many of us are working to help artisans in other parts of the world by selling their handwork. In the next newsletter we will share our most successful ideas for marketing these goods.

Please send your thoughts, suggestions, ideas, and experiences to Linda Temple (contact information on page 4) **by February 15.**

### **WARP Informational Fliers Available**

If you would like copies of the WARP informational fliers to distribute to your guild or at local conferences, please contact the WARP office: Cheryl Musch, 3209 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53704; 608/244-7817 (phone); 305/768-8470 (fax); [warp@yachana.org](mailto:warp@yachana.org) (email)



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

***2003 WARP Annual Meeting - April 4-6***

***What's in this newsletter ...***

A Tribute to Bali .....	1
From the WARP Office .....	2
Fundraising Auction Raises \$1650! .....	2
Nominating Committee Report .....	2
WARP Annual Meeting 2003 - Tentative Agenda .....	3
Annual Meeting Planning in Full Swing .....	3
<i>Mujeres en Acción</i> (Women in Action) .....	4
Newsletter Accepting Paid Advertisements .....	4
<i>Successful Community Projects in Textiles and Crafts</i>	
Common Threads: Creating a Cloth for Empowerment .....	5
FUNDAMARCOS Moves Closer to Goal .....	6
New Members .....	6
New Contact Information .....	7
Knits and Purls: An Adventure in Bolivia .....	8
Help Wanted .....	8
Navajo-Churro Sheep Join Slow Food's Ark .....	9
WARP Members Share Gift Ideas	
Heifer Project .....	10
<i>If the World Were a Village</i> .....	10
Mission Traders .....	11
Members of the Fair Trade Federation .....	11
Peri Dar .....	12
Support Indonesian Artisans .....	12
Textile Museum Calendar .....	11
Request the WARP Slide Show .....	12
"To Bali With Love" .....	13
Rubia Update - November 2002 .....	14