

# WARP



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

Volume 16, Number 3

Fall 2009

## ***Spinning and Weaving Project Helps Save Threatened Birds in Kenya***

*Samuel Ngang'a Bakari, Luca Borghesio, Janice Knausenberger*

Did you know that wool spinning and weaving can help protect endangered birds living in Kenya's unique highland grasslands? This is what the Njabini Wool Spinning and Weaving Workshop of Njabini, Kenya is trying to do.

The Kinangop highland grasslands of central Kenya are a globally important biodiversity area. The grasslands are home to two seriously threatened birds, Sharpe's Longclaw and Aberdare Cisticola, as well as a suite of other rare species of flora and fauna.

Kinangop's grasslands were originally inhabited by nomadic Maasai pastoralists, but since the 1960s the grasslands have been increasingly settled by farmers and now more than 80% of all the indigenous grasslands in Kinangop Plateau have been converted to crop cultivation or plantations of eucalyptus and other non-indigenous trees. The remaining natural grasslands are owned by farmers with very low incomes who steadily

convert them to cultivation, where the endangered species cannot survive. Since very little of Kenya's highland grassland is protected inside Reserves or National Parks, it is clear that an effective and sustainable conservation strategy for these unique grasslands must include economic benefits to the local owners.

Sheep farming was a major source of income in the Kinangop Plateau for many years until the 1990s, when market prices of wool products dropped significantly. Farmers had to turn to crop cultivation to meet their needs. The developed land was inadequate to meet needs, so the farmers were forced to convert more and more grasslands to crop cultivation. This means that the small areas of natural grassland are the last refuge for a



### ***Mission***

*WARP serves as a catalyst for improving the quality of life of textile artisans in communities-in-need. We provide information and networking opportunities to individuals and organizations who value the social, cultural, historic, and artistic importance of textiles around the world.*

### ***Core Values***

*Textiles are an important component of the human experience.*

*Providing support to textile artisans from communities-in-need gives them tools to shape their own destinies.*

*Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action.*

*Making connections among textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change.*

*Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives.*

*continued on page 11*

## *From the WARP Office...*

*Judy Allen, Administrative Coordinator*

In the Summer 2009 newsletter, I introduced myself as your new administrative coordinator. Now here it is three months later and I think that I have learned a lot. I am at the stage now to be aware of how much I don't know yet, but the gap between the known and unknown is shrinking. For example, I have had fewer questions lately for Cheryl, so that is a good sign I am making progress. Lots of you have helped me learn by asking questions that I don't know how to answer. In the process of getting your answer, I become better equipped to answer the next member's question.

After all it is about members anyway, don't you think? As a networking organization, we depend on each member to contribute to the knowledge and experience of the whole and to share her or his connections, interests, and dreams with other members. So how do we assure that WARP continues to grow?

If each of us asked just one friend or acquaintance to become a WARP member and followed up to be sure that happened, we could double the membership size instantly. Think about that, twice as many resources available, twice as many people who share your enthusiasm for and support of hand crafted fibers and their makers. And if each of us renewed our membership promptly on time before the end of the year, we would ensure that WARP remains strong with a membership base of committed people. Additionally, we would save WARP the cost of follow-up to late-renewing members.

Currently our membership is at 248 – let's aim for 500 by the end of 2010. Remember if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns, you may reach me at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org).

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#### **Administrative Coordinator**

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## *Save the Date!*

### *WARP 2010 - Spirit in the Desert*

The 2010 WARP Annual Meeting will be held April 30-May 2, just outside of Phoenix, AZ, at the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center.

The Center is located in Carefree, AZ, approximately 45 minutes north of Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix and 30 minutes north of downtown Scottsdale. Nestled in the foothills of the High Sonoran Desert, the location provides breathtaking sunsets, and sunrises announced by the calls of the Cactus Wren and Gambel's Quail.

With an elevation of nearly 2,600 feet and surrounded by mountains and amazing desert landscape, the setting is perfect for WARP members to relax, enjoy each other, and learn from one another. See <http://www.spiritinthedesert.org> for information about the center. More info about the meeting will be coming in the next issue of the newsletter.

## **WARP Expands Online Networking**

*Judy Allen, Administrative Coordinator*

It started with college students, became popular with teenagers, then spread to young professionals. Recently older adults and even organizations are getting involved in social networking. This online phenomena allows people to find old friends, make new ones, exchange personal news, post blogs, videos, music, photos, notes, form groups, and in general tell the world just about anything they have a mind to share.

One of the best examples of an online social network is **Facebook**, started in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg exclusively for Harvard students. It now has 250 million users world-wide according to Facebook statistics (July 16, 2009). Since Facebook is the most used social network, the WARP board decided we should have a presence. In June, Deb Brandon, WARP board member, created a page at <http://www.facebook.com> (search for Weave A Real Peace). When you go there you will join 47 people who have become fans of WARP. While some are WARP members, it is not necessary to be a member of WARP to join the Facebook group. We hope that fans who are not members will decide to join WARP.

Facebook was not the first venture WARP made into the world of social networking. Board Member Adrienne Sloane, and new WARP member Claire Nicholas, talked at this year's Annual Meeting about having a presence on **Ravelry** (<https://www.ravelry.com>), the specialized social networking site for knitters and crocheters (register first; when registered, click on Groups and search for Weave a Real Peace). Since the founding in March, 30 people have joined. Just like Facebook it is not necessary to be a WARP member to participate, but Ravelry promises to be a great source of new WARP members.

Our most recent entry into the specialized social networking sites came when Deb took the suggestion of WARP member, Susan Weltman, and set up a page on **Weavevolution** (<http://www.weavevolution.com>--click on Groups, then on Search Groups and type Weave a Real Peace into the search box and click enter. Scroll down to the bottom of the page.) You will see that even though it was only set up mid-July, there are already 21 members, again some of whom are WARP members and some not.

And that brings us to the **WARP Yahoo Group**, the e-list we use for our official communication. It is a closed group, requiring WARP membership for participation. Despite the variety of communication paths available to you, I hope you will go to your computers right now and join Yahoo if you have not already done so (click on the 'Contact us' button on the WARP website, [www.weavearealpeace.org](http://www.weavearealpeace.org), to sign up.). Of our 244 members only 126 are participating on Yahoo as of August 6, which means when an announcement goes up it is reaching less than half the membership.

If we are to be a strong networking organization, we need all the connections we can possibly make. Please join Yahoo first and then consider one of the other social networking organizations and encourage those you interact with in the social networking world to join WARP.

### **You can help WARP by**

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

- Operating fund (includes staff salary, listserv and website costs, and WARP publications—the newsletter, brochure, and directory)
- Scholarship fund
- Sister Memberships
- Endowment fund

#### **...volunteering to:**

- Show the WARP slideshow in your community
- Write an article for the newsletter
- Help with annual meetings
- 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 Judy Allen at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)



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The deadline for  
contributions to the  
Winter 2009 WARP newslet-  
ter is **November 6, 2009**.

Send articles and  
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organization or service in  
this newsletter does not  
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Submissions may be  
edited or shortened at the  
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**Member Profile**

**Cindy Lair: At Home With WARP**

*Member Profile editor Candy Meacham interviews Cindy Lair, who, in addition to everything else, sends out the WARP newsletter every month.*

**Where do you live now?** Boulder, Colorado

**How do you make your living?** Production Manager for Schacht Spindle Co., Inc.

**Where, when, and how did you become interested in fiber arts?** I started at Schacht in 1988 just as the Matchless spinning wheel was beginning production. I assembled wheels for 12 years, then transferred over to the production side of the company, eventually becoming the production manager. My interest in the fiber arts developed over time with the company, largely through the use of the tools we make. I have worked for Schacht for 21 years.

**What formal education, if any, have you had in fiber arts? Or are you more self-taught?** No formal education, I have a BA in Art History from the University of Iowa. I have learned largely through classes at the local spinning and weaving shop, Shuttles, Spindles, and Skeins. I am generally considered an expert on the performance of spinning wheels or looms, (mechanically speaking), but definitely a novice at spinning or weaving. When customers ask if I spin or weave, I usually allow that I know how but that I prefer really loud machines that can cut your arm off. Ultimately, I am probably more of a furniture maker.

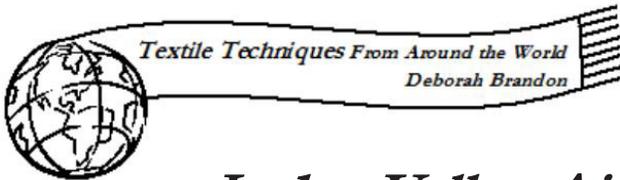
**What fiber arts-related accomplishments have you achieved?** My first Turkish felt piece was accepted into the Boulder Handweaver's Guild show. My biggest accomplishment is seeing some of my ideas come to fruition in our Lady Bug spinning wheel. One accomplishment is a child's chair which my Eritrean brother, Habtezghi, can build easily, finishing the seat and back with his weaving. (See Cindy's article about Habtezghi in the Summer 2009 newsletter.)

**What do you hope to accomplish in the fiber arts field in the future?** Spinning and weaving are such ancient crafts. My accomplishments in terms of tools will mostly benefit people like myself, whose income is disposable. An accomplishment would be to provide people with access to equipment or techniques where lives could be made a little less brutal by having the option of appropriate technology.

**What is your philosophy of the role fiber arts plays or can play in people's lives, either as individuals or as a local/national/world community, or both? What role has fiber arts played in your life thus far?** Fiber arts have always been a crucial component of who we are as people, culturally, economically, socially. Truthfully there is no part of our lives untouched by fiber, whether we have an awareness of it or not.

Clearly the fiber arts have played a crucial role in my life, fulfilling my life in ways which leave me awestruck every day.

*continued on page 12*



Textile Techniques From Around the World  
Deborah Brandon

## Indus Valley-Ajrakh

Ajrakh is a traditional form of block printing on textiles, where maroon and indigo dominate. It is practiced in the Indus Valley of Pakistan and India. Ajrakh cloths are mostly used as turbans and shoulder cloths for men, and as shawls for women. The making of Ajrakh is man's work, and is a long and arduous process. Depending on the particular craftsman, the weather, and availability of raw materials, methods differ mostly in the proportion of ingredients used, the length of time assigned to each stage of the process, and the order in which various steps are taken. The process involves printing patterns with various mordants (dye fixatives) and resists (to prevent dye penetration).

The traditional process starts with thoroughly cleaning lengths of cotton fabric. The cloth is then softened and bleached. The final step before printing involves soaking it in a mordant that contains tannin.

Wooden blocks are used to print the resist and mordant patterns on the fabric prior to dyeing. The printing blocks are carved out of teak wood by expert craftsmen. Each Ajrakh pattern requires a set of 3-4 printing blocks—one for the white areas of the design, one for the black, and the others for various combinations of mordants and resists to create the full pattern, including the red and/or blue areas.

The first block is dipped in a *kiryana* resist (gum Arabic and lime). Where that resist is applied, the blue dye (indigo) will not be absorbed wherever the resist is applied, leaving the white outline areas. The second block, is dipped in a *kut* (iron acetate) mordant, which will yield the black areas of the pattern. The third block is dipped in a *karrh* solution, which consists of a resist (mud paste) to protect the areas that are to be red, white, and black from the indigo dye. The *karrh* solution also contains a mordant (alum), which will yield a rich maroon. Those areas are dusted with dried camel dung for further protection.

During the process of printing a particular pattern, the appropriate block is positioned carefully beside and/or on top of previously printed areas to ensure the continuity and accuracy of the overall design, and to prevent the different colors from overlapping, so that the outlines and the fillers are placed correctly. If both sides are to be printed, the reverse side is printed while the print on the other side is still damp, so that the cloth will dry evenly without distorting the lines of the patterns.

Next comes the dyeing. First in indigo. The indigo dyed cloth is then washed carefully, to remove the resists, without smearing the mordanted areas, so as to ensure clear lines. The areas free of the resists are now blue and will remain so. In the next step, the cloth is dyed in an Alizarine solution (from the madder plant),

*continued on page 10*

### Weave A Real Peace

Membership Information

#### 2009 Annual Dues

- \* \$35 - Individual, U.S. and Canada
- \* \$40 - Individual, international and sister memberships
- \* Simple living - Choose an amount you can live with
- \* \$50 - 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, a quarterly newsletter, and can participate in the WARP listserv.

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 US funds payable to **WARP** to:

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

or visit the website at  
[weavearealpeace.org](http://weavearealpeace.org)

## Fall Back into Old Habits or Turn Over a New Leaf for Fair Trade?

*Carmen K. Iezzi, Executive Director, Fair Trade Federation*

As the year winds down, will we fall back into our old routine or turn over a new leaf for Fair Trade?

Within Fair Trade, there is frequent confusion and continuing debate about the ways in which change happens for artisans and farmers. Some argue that only by rapidly expanding the volume of sales can farmers and artisans benefit and therefore every effort to expand is justified. Others believe that change happens when the relationships between suppliers and consumers change, that the depth and interconnectivity of those relationships are the real tests of progress. In truth, both are important; yet most of the messaging we encounter in Fair Trade tips the balance clearly towards one perspective.



At the Fair Trade Federation, we work hard to strengthen and promote those rooted in relationships, fully committed Fair Trade Organizations (FTOs). We recognize the difference in what they do and want to inspire others to journey with us. While some treat Fair Trade as a marketing gimmick or a way to offset unfair practices, FTOs invest time and effort, as well as money, in their producer partners. And these actions are by no means a new phenomenon - nearly 14% of all FTOs have been operating this way for more than twenty years. Two organizations, SERRV International and Ten Thousand Villages, have been working this way for more than sixty years!

So, why are these different theories of change important now? Winter and Fall are times for gift-giving and coffee-drinking; times when we reconnect with family and friends; when kids head back to school to learn about the world around them. It is also a time for us to reconnect with our broader community through the choices we make.

Now is a time when consumers are making careful decisions with their dollars; so, Fair Trade supporters need to more effectively articulate why supporting Fair Trade Organizations makes a difference.

We need you to speak out in your communities for Fair Trade Organizations and their artisan and farmer partners. We all need to be better advocates. Only 6% of US consumers can name a Fair Trade Organization unaided, yet many marginalized communities depend on their good work.

We need to use this Fall to amplify our voices in support of FTOs. Try some of the suggestions in the box at left. And visit [www.FairTradeFederation.org/GetInvolved](http://www.FairTradeFederation.org/GetInvolved) for more ideas.

WARP readers may know well the distinction between a Fair Trade Organization and ones that just have a Fair Trade product or two. This year, we shouldn't fall back into our old habits; but more actively spread the word. This year, help people turn over a new leaf and create tremendous positive change by supporting FTOs.

*Carmen Iezzi can be reached at [cki@fairtradefederation.org](mailto:cki@fairtradefederation.org)*

### ***Get Involved!***

- \* Give a talk on Fair Trade with FTF's PowerPoint presentation or request a speaker from FTF.
- \* Sponsor a Fair Trade Holiday Sale as a fundraiser for your local school, faith community, or civic organization.
- \* Host a home party for your friends when the weather's too bad to go out.
- \* Introduce a local teacher to different curricula and games about Fair Trade.
- \* Drop off cards at local stores or use our store-specific check lists to talk through Fair Trade with managers.
- \* Reverse Trick or Treat with your kids or give out Fair Trade Treats.
- \* Suggest your office choose Fair Trade for its corporate gifts this year.
- \* Make a year-end investment in or donation to a FTO and enable their work to continue for years to come.

## One WARP Connection...

Linda Temple

*Editor's Note: This issue is full of connections made by WARP members that exemplify what we are about as an organization. I was fortunate to be part of the interactions that led to the article on page 1 and I relate them below. After learning about this chain of events, Janice wrote "I think what is happening here is an excellent example of what WARP is doing." If you have had similar experiences that you'd like to share, please let me know. Thanks, LT*

A few months ago, WARP member Alice Hickox wrote of a blog she reads: "I was wondering if this story, from a bird-watching blog (<http://10000birds.com/labelled-with-love.htm>) would be of interest to WARP members? It is about an effort in Africa to save habitat for a rare bird by encouraging farmers to raise sheep and produce wool products by dyeing, spinning and weaving the wool."

I contacted 10,000 Birds and Charlie Moores responded. He was quite interested in knowing more about the WARP network, so I directed him to the WARP website. He also enthusiastically consented to write an article for the Fall newsletter. A week or two later, he got back in touch confirming contact info for Janice Knausenberger, whose article in the Spring issue about her work with another Kenyan group had interested him.

With the deadline for newsletter articles fast approaching, I contacted Charlie to see how the article was coming. He copied me on an email to "Sammy," asking if the article was complete.

Meanwhile, I got a note from Janice asking if she could submit an article about a new group she's working with in Njabini, Kenya. She sent the article to me, and the group sounded curiously similar to the cooperative Charlie had written of. I asked Janice for clarification. She related how Luca Borghesio, of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Samuel Ngang'a Bakari ("Sammy"), of the FoKP-Njabini Wool Spinning Workshop in South Kinangop, Kenya, had contacted her about the possibility of doing consultation work. They also asked if she would be willing to edit an article for the WARP newsletter. She had never heard of Charlie Moores.

Turns out Alice's suggestion resulted in

- " the 10,000 Birds contact reading the Spring newsletter on the website, and
- " reading Janice's article, then
- " getting in touch with the Kenyan project manager, who
- " got in touch with Janice, who
- " consented to consult with the group (and edit the article for the WARP newsletter).

Janice knew nothing of all this activity until I told her. A perfect example of the WARP network in action!

### **CORRECTION:**

**The 2009 WARP Annual Business Meeting was held at The Welcoming Center in Akron, PA, *not* in Akron, OH, as reported in the last issue!**

### **Watch for WARP Renewal Notice!**

Membership renewal for 2010 is coming up soon. Look for a mailing the last half of November. All memberships are based on the calendar year and expire on December 31. By completing your paper form and paying by check or Paypal before December 31, 2009 you will be assured that you won't miss any newsletters and your prompt renewal saves WARP money in follow-up correspondence.

### **Norwegian Textiles on Display**

WARP member Mary Kelly recently curated a show of embroidered textiles from Norway that will open in late September and run through February 2010 at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, IA. Titled "Sacred Symbols, Ceremonial Cloth," the exhibit is being held in conjunction with the Fourth Conference on Norwegian Woven Textiles, to be held September 25-27. For more details on the show and conference, see the museum website at [www.vesterheim.org](http://www.vesterheim.org), or contact Mary Kelly at [Kellym13@juno.com](mailto:Kellym13@juno.com).

***For more info...***

Mayan Hands -  
[www.mayanhands.org](http://www.mayanhands.org);  
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UPAVIM -  
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[info@upavim-  
mayanhands.org](mailto:info@upavim-mayanhands.org)

SERRV International -  
[www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)

More FT organizations  
listed at  
[www.fairtradefederation.org](http://www.fairtradefederation.org)

## ***How the Recession Affects Artisans***

*Thousands of artisans in developing countries around the world are facing significant decreases in their incomes and reduced orders for their products as a result of the current economic slowdown. It will be a challenge for them to feed their families. School enrollment will likely decrease if there isn't money for fees. These artisans want and need jobs to provide for their families. Like others in the developing world, Guatemalan artisans working with Mayan Hands (MH) and UPAVIM are struggling through this difficult time. -- Cheryl Musch*

### **Mayan Hands**, by Deborah Chandler

Barbara A. is one of the most noticeable members of the group of weavers in Panabaj, Santiago Atitlán. I'm not sure if it is her stature, taller than most Mayan women, her wonderful smile, or her 13 children, but she is pretty unforgettable (you can see her on the MH DVD, at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), search Mayan Hands). A hard worker, she weaves on a small floor loom, making west-faced coin purses, cosmetic bags, etc. With the money received after Hurricane Stan from donations sent to MH by concerned friends, she built a new room onto her house which she showed me with button-bursting pride. Now the house has two rooms.

In 2008, Barbara's income per month (average) was \$52. In 2009 so far her average is \$15. Thinking that maybe Barbara herself is working less, looking at the group as a whole gives these numbers:

- 2008 – Total group's income per month (average) - \$2,241 (for 35 women, so \$64/month each)
- 2009 January – August average - \$1,082 (for 35 women, so \$30.90/month each)

This coming month the group will get no work at all from Mayan Hands.

### **UPAVIM**, by Barbara Lorraine

The ripple effects of our economy have really hit international artisans this year and UPAVIM is no exception. There is very little work for our women and hours have been cut in the programs. It has been hard for Mary Joan, our US Distributor and Director, to pay for the shipments we send due to lack of cash flow, while she tries her best to provide some work for the women. Here is how one woman at UPAVIM copes.

Patty V. is making tough choices for her family: electricity or a doctor's visit, school supplies for her three children or food, day care payments, or asthma medication. "We have always struggled and made tough choices, but now, with the economy the way it is, the choices that I have to make are affecting my children's health and education." Over the last year Patty's monthly income dropped from an average of 1,050 Quetzals (US\$131.25) a month to Q.320 (\$40.00). For Patty, this wage drop means that she is forced to make choices among bills, balanced nutrition, and prescription payments.

UPAVIM asks that you visit their website ([www.upavimcrafts.org](http://www.upavimcrafts.org)) and send your friends! You can also take the initiative, like WARP member Katherine Dunlevey - long time supporter of UPAVIM and Mayan Hands. She passed around our catalog to her family and friends and sent in a group order! These small actions really make a difference.

## ***Chautari: Bhutanese Women's Fiber Arts Cooperative in Vermont***

*Christina Erickson writes: "Last winter, a family friend, and one of your members, Mary Jane Svenson, posted on the WARP listserv a request for materials for the Bhutanese Women's Fiber Art Cooperative in the Burlington, VT area. Several of your members contacted us and/or sent in materials, and I just wanted to send a follow-up and thank you.*

*We are very grateful for all donations received — from all over the country! We now have two small table looms and are getting spinning wheels so we can process the many raw fleeces we received. Already the women have participated in one craft fair and we are lining up other market opportunities. Stay tuned for future updates!"*

*Chautari is the place where the members of the community meet under the shade of the pepal tree to share their thoughts and information.*

The group of women participating in this project are recently arrived refugees from Nepal and Bhutan. Currently, there are approximately 15 women that are actively involved, but the group expects to grow as word spreads. As all refugees received by the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program do, these women are engaged in English classes and working on settling into northern Vermont life. The idea for this project was generated from Sumana Serchan, who volunteers as a Nepalese translator for this community. Chautari, developed with help from her family and friends, was to give a place where these women could come together to share ideas and skills and perhaps be able to integrate more quickly into the local community. The basic premise of Chautari is that the women pay a small fee for materials and borrowing tools (\$1) and then they will earn money from any goods they sell, minus a small percentage (10%) to give back to the group to aid in purchasing more materials, etc. Various market options continue to be investigated as to where the women will be able to sell their goods. At this point, the group is functioning as a grassroots, informal organization, but is exploring options to become an official non-profit organization, to aid in charitable giving tax credits.

*For information contact Carolynne Wang at [crwang@mac.com](mailto:crwang@mac.com), Christina Erickson at [cerickson14@hotmail.com](mailto:cerickson14@hotmail.com), phone at 802/985-5031 or 802/355-2714.*

### ***WARP on the Web***

*[www.weavearealpeace.org](http://www.weavearealpeace.org)*

*You can join WARP's Listserv from the  
'Contact Us' link on the website.*

*WARP also has a group on [ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com), the  
knitting networking site; on Weavevolution,  
<http://www.weavolution.com>; and on Facebook.*

***Join today!***

### ***Hand/Eye Magazine***

The premier issue of ***Hand/Eye Magazine***, an "independent, international publication which explores the nexus between design and development, culture and commerce, art and craft, and environment and ethics," was mailed last month. Subtitled *Connecting Cultures, Inspiring Action*, the magazine was founded and is edited by Keith Recker, former director of Aid to Artisans.

The first issue of the magazine, mailed in early August, focuses on the beauty of Africa and the many positive aspects of "art, craft, design, travel and philanthropy unfolding right now in Africa." The theme of the next issue will be The Future of Folk in the US.

Articles submissions are encouraged and can be sent to ***editor@handeyemagazine.com***. More information about ***Hand/Eye***, including submission guidelines, can be found at their website, ***<http://www.handeyemagazine.com/>***

## *Encuentro de Tejedores de las Americas/ Gathering of Weavers of the Americas*

*excerpted from the Encuentro de Tejedores de las Américas website, [www.textilescusco.org](http://www.textilescusco.org)*

The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco and the Advisory Committee have the pleasure of announcing the Encuentro de Tejedores de las Américas (Gathering of Weavers of the Americas), which will take place in the city of Cusco from 11th to the 15th of October 2010. The goal of this gathering of weavers from all the Americas is to create a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience as well as for establishing bonds of fellowship. From the website:

“Weavers over the centuries have wrought one of the most outstanding cultural legacies. Thousands of years before receiving the name “América,” up until the present day, this land has harbored one of the most representative expressions of people and culture: Handmade cloth.

Through weaving we not only create an aesthetic flow, we also establish a connection between the observer and the creator. Weaving is both a diagnostic of culture and the narrative instrument that can convey everything from domestic scenes to ancient myths. The woven discourse, sometimes implicit and at other times explicit, is grounded in the world-view of the weaver. This conference aims to re-unite, as well as pay homage to, the weavers of the Americas. The need arises for modest reparation, finally paying a tribute to the weavers.”

The First Call for Proposals for the event has been issued and the website includes criteria for proposals. More information can also be sought from Paula Trevisan at [paulatrevisancusco@gmail.com](mailto:paulatrevisancusco@gmail.com), or from Melvyn Ladrón de Guevara at [melvyn@textilescusco.org](mailto:melvyn@textilescusco.org)

### ***Second Mayan Hands Adventure Tour - Guatemala***

November 20-30+, 2009  
(plus optional add-ons)  
8 people maximum –\$1,595  
– covers all but airfare and  
personal shopping  
12% discount for anyone  
who has sold \$1,500 or  
more of MH textiles.  
For more information, go  
to the Mayan Hands  
website,  
[www.mayanhands.org](http://www.mayanhands.org)

### ***If you sell on eBay....***

You can designate a percentage of your sales to benefit WARP through the MissionFish program. MissionFish allows sellers to give proceeds from their sales to a favorite nonprofit. Nonprofits can also receive donations from eBay users through the Donate Now feature, which lets anyone with a PayPal account donate to WARP right away –without buying or selling anything.

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### **Textile Techniques from Around the World:**

#### **Indus Valley-Ajrakh**

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which depending on the mordants in various areas of the design will yield the red and black patterns.

Finally, the cloth is thoroughly cleaned and then dried.

#### **Resources:**

Sindho Ajrak: Cloth from the Banks of the River Indus, by Noorjehan Bilgrami, White Orchid Books.

Ajrakh Mordant Resist Batik and Tie Dye, DVD, Ends of the Earth Surviving Traditions Production.

[http://www.asanjokutch.com/content/ajrakh.asp?main\\_cat=handicrafts](http://www.asanjokutch.com/content/ajrakh.asp?main_cat=handicrafts)

<http://www.fabindia.com/craftsProfile.asp>

<http://www.maiwa.com/artisans/ajrak.html>

[http://www.copperwiki.org/index.php/Ajrakh\\_Printing](http://www.copperwiki.org/index.php/Ajrakh_Printing)

Deborah Brandon can be reached at 412/963-7416 or at [brandon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@andrew.cmu.edu).

## ***Spinning and Weaving Project Helps Save Threatened Birds in Kenya***

*continued from page 1*

large number of species of flora and fauna. The birds might be the best known – but by no means are they the only ones.

The Friends of Kinangop Plateau (FOKP), a community-based conservation group, came up with a far-sighted strategy to protect the grasslands while at the same time trying to ensure that the people who live on them also benefit. FOKP runs a Wool Spinning and Weaving Workshop to address these problems. The workshop is located in Njabini village, at the southern edge of Kinangop Plateau, and is run by a core of 15 women aged between 20 and 30 years, and six men aged between 22 and 37. For eight of them, this is their core income-generating activity and they work on a full time basis. The Njabini workshop buys wool from the farmers of Kinangop Plateau, and has successfully persuaded several farmers to continue to rear sheep in the natural grasslands, rather than cultivating the land. The workshop has for the past 4-5 years added value to the wool, which is mostly from Corriedale sheep, through carding, dyeing, and spinning it into yarns. The yarns are produced in various sizes and mostly sold to weaving workshops in Nairobi. Additional income has come by selling handwoven carpets and mats, which are made using the traditional frame loom. Bags and knitted items, such as socks, gloves, and scarves, are also made and sold locally.

The largest challenge now facing the Njabini Workshop and the survival of the grasslands comes from the global recession. Most significantly, buyers have severely cut their purchase of yarns, the major source of income for the workshop in the past. The Njabini workshop is now focusing on improving the quality and uniqueness of their wool products, particularly their rugs. In addition to pursuing marketing opportunities throughout Kenya, the Njabini Wool Spinning and Weaving Workshop's goal is to produce products that meet and exceed the standards for export.

The members of the Njabini Workshop take their responsibility to their community and the environment very seriously. They know their success is crucial in motivating farmers to retain the livestock and preserve the pastures that also are the habitat of the threatened wildlife. The Njabini Wool Spinning and Weaving Workshop is a locally conceived project with the aim of providing a win-win situation for the farmers, the conservationist, and the local people. The future success of the workshop will depend on its ability to expand beyond the local markets with its quality products.

*Janice can be reached by US mail at Unit 8900 Box 7233, DPO, AE 09831-4102; by phone at 254/733-776846; or by email at [janice@jgkdesigns.com](mailto:janice@jgkdesigns.com). Luca Borghesio, of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, can be contacted at [borghesio@gmail.com](mailto:borghesio@gmail.com); Samuel Ngang'a Bakari, of the FoKP-Njabini Wool-spinning Workshop in South Kinangop, Kenya ("Sammy"), can be reached at [sbakari2004@yahoo.com](mailto:sbakari2004@yahoo.com)*

***Related article on page 7***

### **WARP Slide Show Available**

All of a sudden there has been a flurry of requests for the WARP slide show. It is currently in Millbrae, CA, then will be going to Buena Vista, CO, then on to Medina, OH and finally to Woodward, IA. So get your requests in now for Fall and Winter showings. To schedule the slide show, contact Carole Pierce, [cpierce@mis.net](mailto:cpierce@mis.net)

### ***Saving the World's Women: How Changing the Lives of Women and Girls in the Developing World can Change Everything***

was the theme of the Sunday, August 23 issue of the ***New York Times Magazine***. It includes a number of excellent articles, all focusing on the status of women world-wide, particularly in developing countries. The magazine can be accessed online at the ***New York Times*** website, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (click on 'magazine' near the bottom of the page and then on past issues; or Google 'August 23 NY Times Magazine').

## ***New Members***

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## ***Member Profile: Cindy Lair***

***continued from page 4***

The single most important role today would be the sense of belonging and contributing to a community which is vital to women's lives.

**Why did you join WARP?** I was first sent to WARP on behalf of Schacht Spindle, because I had an interest in what WARP represented. Years before, I had a seminar course in college focusing on Women and Economic Development. I was totally hooked on the subject of underdeveloped and developed nations' treatment of women. Other than specialized books not much information actually existed focusing on the lives of women, let alone a group that actually networked to help improve women's lives. I knew I was emotionally and intellectually home after meeting the women and men of WARP.

**What else would you like readers to know about you?** I'm a human GPS. I have a wide variety of interests—housing construction, furniture making, toy making, needle felting, cake decorating, stained glass. I am oddly enough considered a horse and baby whisperer, I can calm either. I read a great deal and I love a good nap.

**Would you like to communicate with WARP members with similar interests? If so, what is the best way to reach you?** I would enjoy communicating with other WARP members. I can be reached at my personal email ***laircowgirl@msn.com*** or on Facebook or Ravelry.

*Candy Meacham is an educator, a weaver, and a WARP board member. She can be reached at [mchkee@earthlink.net](mailto:mchkee@earthlink.net).*

### ***Ella Baker, a Woman of Vision and Conscience***

Long-time WARP member Ella Baker, a contributor to "Spin-Off" and "Handwoven" and active SOAR participant, passed away peacefully at her Virginia home on May 15th. She was 94. The joys of passing on her skills and wisdom to students of all ages continually renewed her fascination with spinning and weaving. As a weaver, Ella embraced the values instilled by her no-frills upbringing as the daughter of a minister, recycling thrown-away clothing and plastic shopping bags into sturdy rag rugs. A woman of vision and conscience, she was involved with several organizations fostering fiber arts as a medium of cultural exchange and social justice.

In WARP's 1994-1995 member directory Ella wrote, "My interest is great, but I'm 78! I still do some teaching of early spinning methods. I have a roomy home in the mountains in which things go on."

***compiled from obituaries sent by Ella's daughter, Sally Hughes, who writes — "And things are still 'going on,' although not in such centralized fashion, as Mom's equipment and supplies are finding their ways into the hands of the next generation, in new and different special places...thanks to the networking fostered by organizations and publications like yours."***

## ***Project in Philippines Assists T'boli Weavers***

Charles Bodwell, who works for the UN on global sourcing and development, is currently working on a project with the T'boli tribe in the Philippines, and is seeking assistance in marketing, design, and general business. He originally contacted WARP member Marilyn Anderson, who forwarded his request to others. Charles wants to tap into WARP's network and knowledge even more. He writes:

"The T'boli women weave fantastic, culture- and religion-infused geometric designs, working for months, creating seven meter by one meter long panels. The designs come to them in dreams (from ancestors, others) and each work is unique. I have set up a preliminary website at <http://tboli.globalmatters.com>, and also a video at [http://www.youtube.com/\(search for T'boli weavers, click on "The T'boli Tribe and T'nalak Weaving, Lake Sebu, Philippines\)](http://www.youtube.com/(search%20for%20T%27boli%20weavers)), about my recent visit to the area."

In Lake Sebu, he is primarily working with the Cooperative of Women in Health and Development, which includes groups with some of the best weavers in the area. More information about this project is also available at [http://www.devcomm.com/tboli\\_culture.htm](http://www.devcomm.com/tboli_culture.htm). Charles can be reached at [bodwell@ilo.org](mailto:bodwell@ilo.org).

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## ***Books...*** by Linda Temple

***Guatemalan Woven Wealth: Preserving a Rich Textile Tradition***, by Deborah Chandler and Raymond E. Senuk. Friendship Bridge, 2009. 57 pages.

As is mentioned in many articles in this issue, artisans in developing countries are severely affected by the world-wide recession. Fair trade organizations are struggling to come up with new and effective ways to sell products. Trunk shows and home sales are two avenues being explored.

In 2006 designer Mary Anne Wise visited Guatemala and was motivated to help survivors of Hurricane Stan. She returned to the US and, with the support of other major designers, held a sale of Guatemalan textiles in Minneapolis to benefit the weavers of Panabaj. Several sales later, the group had raised \$100,000 for non-profits working in Guatemala.

Marcia Kahn and Drew Carlson, of The Rug Source in Denver, offered to host the event in 2009 (September 10-12 at the Denver Design Center) to benefit Friendship Bridge, a microcredit organization ([www.friendshipbridge.org](http://www.friendshipbridge.org)). Linda Ligon, of Thrums, LLC (and founder of Interweave Press), became interested in the project and suggested the sale catalog become a book. With the involvement of many talented volunteers, this book is the result. All profits from the book benefit Friendship Bridge's efforts in Guatemala.

Deborah Chandler has written a superb narrative to accompany Raymond Senuk's descriptions of current-day Guatemalan textiles in this full color book edited by Linda Ligon. Deborah provides a concise but thorough overview of the history of Maya weaving; weaving methods, patterns, and yarn used; and descriptions of traditional items of clothing. The photography is excellent.

***Guatemalan Woven Wealth*** is available from the Friendship Bridge, [www.friendshipbridge.org](http://www.friendshipbridge.org), for \$16.95, plus shipping.

## ***More New Members***

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## *Help Wanted: How to Develop Sustainable Support for Artisans*

*Laverne Waddington*

I was born in India, raised in Australia, and have been living in South America for sixteen years--working, exploring, and learning to weave with indigenous weavers.

My initial aim was to learn new skills and document the processes, so I spent four days with my first teachers in Peru and returned to my home in Chile to weave and write up my journal about the experience. However, I was aware that my short stay had had some influence on the lives of these people. I was amazed, for example, when my initial enquiries about learning to spin were scoffed at--there was nothing to learn and even a four-year old child could manage it! During my stay, my teachers Margarita and her daughter Silvia began to realize that they should feel immensely proud of their skills as both weavers and spinners. Their status in their small community was somewhat raised as neighbors constantly came to see how they were earning money by teaching this craft to a foreigner. Both women busied themselves at night weaving wristbands that I sold at my hostel. However, I returned to my home saddened by the thought that these small positive changes would not be sustained.

In Bolivia, my teacher Hilda had long ago stopped weaving because of her age and failing eyesight. She would call out the warps that needed to be picked to form the intricate patterns while I wove, bent over the staked-out ground loom. In the evening, I would leave the weaving and return to my hostel. Soon I realized that Hilda, not being able to resist the call of the loom, was secretly unrolling and working on it when I left. To my delight, one day she pulled out a ball of yarn from her apron pocket and started warping using her foot and hand as warping posts. Tying one end to her waist and the other to a stake in the ground, she made heddles. She wove a short band with figures and the initials of a government official. With this she hoped to "motivate" him to more speedily process the documents she needed for her pension. She chatted happily about the other visitors that may come and want to learn to weave. With the money I was paying her, she had already bought a small oven for her daughter to bake and sell bread. I was her only customer for the first week until she got accustomed to the new gadget and her bread began to improve! However, once again I left these people somehow feeling that these small glimmers of hope would probably be extinguished.

Now I have arrived at the WARP part of my journey. Here I hope to meet, learn from, and be inspired by those who have fanned those small flames of hope into something truly sustainable and give back to those people who have given so much to me.

*Photos of Laverne's work can be seen at [www.flickr.com/photos/39560980@N05/sets/72157620033311308/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/39560980@N05/sets/72157620033311308/). She can be reached at [lwaddington@hotmail.com/](mailto:lwaddington@hotmail.com/)*

### ***TSA Call for Papers: Twelfth Biennial Symposium 2010***

The Twelfth Biennial Symposium of the Textile Society of America, hosted by the Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design, College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will take place in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 6-9, 2010.

Scholars, curators, artists, gallery and museum professionals, educators, and lovers of textiles are encouraged to submit proposals. For additional information and guidelines please download a PDF from the website, <http://www.textilesociety.org/> Submission deadline is October 1, 2009.

## *Chin Weavers Work to Maintain Textile Traditions in Indianapolis*

*Nina Veronica Macchia*

In Indianapolis, I work with a group of Burmese Chin refugee women who are weavers and who brought their ancient textile traditions from their homeland. The Chin weavers are women of uncommon talent. They are all recent refugees and are very low-income, especially in this dismal economy in Indiana. Many of their husbands have recently been laid off.

The Chin women weave on backstrap looms and want to continue to do so. I am endeavoring to get each weaver a loom of her own, plus materials. So far, we are working with donated materials and small gifts of money. However, this is not a viable long-term strategy.

We have a Chin man who is a woodworker, and he has made three incredible backstrap looms so far. I've done extensive internet research and could not find real backstrap looms for sale, so we are thinking of making these looms for sale by order. I doubt there is a huge market for backstrap looms, but it would bring the woodworker some income. I told him, "don't quit your day job" (he was envisioning a home business that would pay all his bills), and once the interpreter translated, we got a good laugh at this American-ism. Now when he sees me, he says smiling, "I won't quit my day job."

The weavers know that their textile traditions will die if they cannot weave and dye and pass their knowledge on to their daughters, granddaughters, and nieces. They are proud of their textile heritage, and for good reason. We want to create an opportunity for the women to weave and earn money, and to run their own group once it gets established.

Chin people bring great skills to this country that are not well utilized as they work in our factories and warehouses. They are primarily agrarian folks, craftspeople, farmers, carpenters, etc., and of course they must begin with entry-level jobs in order to become self-sufficient in this country. Besides the weaving project, we are working on an initiative that will give the Chin access to farmland on which to grow crops for sale in farmer's markets and restaurants.

The mutual goal is for the weaver's group to weave items for sale in 1) the Chin refugee/immigrant community in the US and in other countries (traditional items of clothing), and 2) in the wider American market/internet market (contemporary items with traditional references). I hope this is viable, but I am so unsure!

I would like to converse with some people in WARP who can give guidance in the business end of the weaving project.

*Nina Veronica Macchia is on the RefugeeLink Board of Directors, 8055 Van Ness Way, Indianapolis, IN 46240. She can be reached at 317/363.9113 or at [californiagr1@gmail.com](mailto:californiagr1@gmail.com).*

### ***RefugeeLink***

RefugeeLink is a new, not-for-profit agency in the Chin resettlement area of South Indianapolis that provides post-resettlement services to refugees, asylum seekers, and victims of human trafficking. We are so new that we do not have a website (working on it), but we opened our doors this month with 100 clients in need at the get-go. Wow...so far we are volunteers, including our executive director, Nancy Michael. We are working valiantly to meet needs, solve challenges that the refugees have, and create opportunities for them to become knowledgeable about the new culture they now live in, to be self-sufficient, learn English, and prosper.

### ***Address Change***

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