

WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 9, Number 1

Spring 2002

Appropriate Assistance: What Works at Home Doesn't Work Other Places

by Bob Chase

"When I fed the hungry they called me a Saint, when I asked why people were hungry they called me a Communist".....Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife and Olinda, Brazil.

My wife Sue and I went to northeast Brazil a number of years ago as Peace Corps Volunteers. Though we were very young, we understood that we were privileged people, citizens of a rich and developed country.

Brazilians are a friendly and welcoming people, and we were soon part of the local community, imparting the wisdom we thought our society had to offer. We encouraged our new friends in the poverty ridden Brazilian Sertao to become more vocal about decisions impacting their community. In spite of the military dictatorship which ruled Brazil at that time, we felt certain there was a place for concerned citizens interested in better schools, health care, and community services.

Soon some of our new friends began speaking out for greater citizen control of local institutions. One of them even confronted local political leaders, demanding that poor students receive a better education.

Soon our friend was arrested and held in the local jail without charge...until he recanted and was released in disgrace.

We quickly learned that what worked in our country did not always work in other places...a valuable lesson, oft forgotten.

Thirty years later I am not sure that I understand much more about what development is or means than I did when we lived in Brazil.

I have been privileged to visit more than 25 nations that are considered developing societies. People in those societies are very poor materially...they often have insufficient food, poor housing, no jobs, little health care, are afflicted by corrupt officials, natural disasters, illness.

I am also aware that many people in our society, often those with the most material possessions and financial security, are selfish, unhappy, and self destructive.

Yet the reality is we live in a very rich society...while two billion people around the globe live on \$2 or less a day. This is unacceptable and we must continue to struggle to change the distribution of income in the world. But we must also come to terms with the fact that we in the North do not control the world nor are we responsible of all of its ills. Though that may seem obvious, it is essential to understand that we can not solve all of its problems either.

We must also differentiate between poverty and lack of development. Many societies that are poor in material possessions are developed in many other ways.

Mission Statement

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

Goals

To foster dialogue and support within the organization

To serve as a clearinghouse for information, resources, and technical assistance within the international textile community

To provide cross-cultural education and support within the textile community

To provide guidance in the realities of appropriate assistance

To promote appreciation of textiles which reflect a community's culture

To enrich the lives of individuals in the global textile community through cross-cultural exchange

Continued on page 13

**WARP
Governing
Board**

Marcia Bellas
2752 McKinley Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45211
513/662-8445
marciabellas@juno.com
Term expires 2002

Donna Duke
116 E. Glendale Dr.
Boone, NC 28607
704/264-9422
donnad@boone.net
Term expires 2004

Mary Joan Ferrara-
Marsland
12604 W. Old Baltimore
Rd.
Boys, MD 20841
301/972-5494 (phone)
301/515-5911 (fax)
upavim-
mayanhands@starpower.net
Term expires 2002

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

From the WARP Office...

Cheryl Musch

Thanks to all who have renewed with WARP for 2002. Our annual member directory is now in production, and you'll receive a copy in February. As always, it's packed with information about fascinating member projects and interests along with contact information so you can learn more.

Planning for our annual meeting at Black Forest Camp and Conference Center in Colorado Springs on May 10-12 is in full swing. Watch for a mailing in early March giving more details about the program. The mailing will also include information about board nominees.

Beth Davis and Carole Pierce are serving as our 2002 nominating committee. They are seeking nominees for two open board positions. If you'd like to serve, contact either Beth or Carole (see page 12).

As many of you know, I do some international travel with my job. I try to keep you up to date in the newsletter about when I won't be in the office. I'll be out from March 8 to April 8 to travel to Kenya and Uganda, and to attend the Fair Trade Federation conference in Washington, DC in April. If you have general queries, please let me know before or after that time. If you have questions about the annual meeting while I'm gone, contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland (see registration form, page 15).

What is Appropriate Assistance?

Linda Temple

One of WARP's goals is "to provide guidance in the realities of appropriate assistance." All of us, in some way, have grappled with this issue. When we, for the most part "wealthy" Americans, are faced with the overwhelming needs of other people we truly want to DO something. This issue of the newsletter explores how a number of WARP members have responded to this challenge--in a variety of ways, some seemingly contradictory. Many efforts focus on achieving long-term, sustainable solutions, although providing appropriate disaster and emergency relief can be equally challenging. I encourage you to contact other WARP members, to initiate and perpetuate a dialogue on this topic, and to contribute your ideas and/or experiences for future newsletters. The examples of inappropriate assistance are endless...much of it paid for by our tax dollars. We must continue to explore new avenues for effecting change that "promotes self-reliance and affirms the determination, ingenuity, and dignity of people" (from the World Neighbors mission statement).

Linda Temple is Publications Associate for World Neighbors, an international development organization, whose purpose is "to strengthen the capacity of marginalized communities to meet their basic needs and to determine and sustain an equitable and inclusive development process." For more information about World Neighbors, write 4127 NW 122nd, Oklahoma City, OK 73120, e-mail info@wn.org, or access the web site at www.wn.org.

***Exciting details about the
WARP Annual Meeting begin on page 10.
Send in your registration today!***

**Black Forest Conference Center
Colorado Springs, Colorado - May 10-12, 2002**

Member Profiles...

WARP's Newest Members

by Mary Kelly

This month we are featuring our newest members - those who have just joined in our WARP adventure. We were curious about them. how they found us and why they joined. Not surprisingly, they were attracted to us in different ways. Here are their reasons:

"I saw the WARP booth at Convergence, in Cincinnati."
Susan Lilly

"I found WARP on the Internet while looking for yarn for my loom. Your mission and purpose are close to my heart and it seemed a wonderful organization to be a member of." Sister Margie Packer

"I first heard about your group at the Rocky Mountain Weavers' Guild via Chris Switzer and a wonderful presentation she helped provide by Nilda Callanaupa of Peru. I then saw a mention of your email site in a recent RMWG newsletter which reminded me that I had wanted to find out more. It made sense that to find out more, I should join."
Terry Slagel

Our newest members come from all over the country and have many different backgrounds and professions. Susan lives in Portland, Oregon, and describes herself as a weaver/designer, but she is also an author. Her book *Clothing Patterns from the Weaving Room* shows many patterns made from handwoven cloth. The Weaving Room is her studio. "I am a theatre costume designer, and I wrote a book about how to make clothing from handwoven cloth.



Susan Lilly

I taught costume design and costume history at Willamette University for eight years, and the book was the result of all that thinking," she says. "I mailed a copy of my book to WARP headquarters, thinking it could help with product development for people who weave on 20" or 30" looms."

From Indiana comes Sister Margie Packer, a Roman Catholic nun. She describes her life and interests this way. "I am a sister of Holy Cross and am retired. My active ministry before retirement was in the health field. I live at Rosary Convent, Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. I did some weaving in my middle years but now that I am older, I am a novice at Rigid Heddle weaving and some tapestry and enjoying it very much. I was in the Navy during World War II and will celebrate my 50 year anniversary as a Sister of the Holy Cross this summer. "

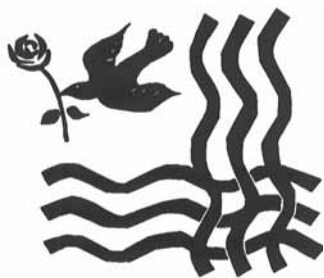
Terry joined us from Colorado and we may meet her at our annual meeting there in May. "I am a public school teacher in Colorado who has been involved in a variety of fiber crafts since childhood. Three years ago I found out about spinning wheels, floor looms and felting. The house and the wallet have not been the same since. On your web site I saw many wonderful educational opportunities that I may be able to share with my students in the future. I am always looking for authentic ways to help students make connections concerning how others live that will help them be a little less egocentric. What better way than the universal world of fiber? I had also thought there may be future opportunities for a service learning project, such as purchasing items to sell at our annual school auction to raise money for a given community."

We welcome these and our other new members. We hope they will benefit from WARP as much as we do, and we look forward to their contributions to our rich exchange of information and support.

For contact information, see 'New Member' boxes on pages 10 and 11.

Condolences...

To Jean Nash of Ft. Collins, CO, whose husband died suddenly in January.



WARP Newsletter

published quarterly by
Weave A Real Peace
Volume 9, Number 1
Spring 2002

Editor: Linda Temple

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

The deadline for
contributions to the next
WARP newsletter is
May 15, 2002.

Send articles and copies of
correspondence for
the newsletter to:

Linda Temple
1230 NE 70
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
lgtemple@juno.com
405/478-4936 (phone)
413/622-1504 (fax)

Information about an
organization or service in this
newsletter does not consti-
tute an endorsement by
WARP.

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

Short Term Consulting (or, Am I Doing Anything?)

by *Philis Alvic*

Over the past eight years I have done seven volunteer consulting jobs for two different international agencies which lasted between two and seven weeks. In my early exciting experiences I found myself dealing with the question, "Am I actually helping these people or just having a hell of a good time?"

The short time commitment does limit the range of possibilities, but also in many ways contributes to the effectiveness. When I want to meet with people, I can usually talk to them immediately, because the plane carries me back home soon.

Within the first few days in a country, I try to come up with a plan for action. Usually it involves getting people together to jointly tackle a common problem. I maneuver ducks into a row by talking to a range of people and anticipating obstacles. Surprisingly I have found that I am very good at introducing to people to each other in their own country. Either people are not aware of their shared interests or they have been too busy to pursue contact. By virtue of having flown thousands of miles and being from the USA, I find I have great credibility in local eyes. And I seem to be able to certify others as also holding credible ideas.

With successive projects I have become more successful as I better understand those things that I can do and cheerleading is always a major function. The optimum time seems to be one month. It allows me to determine problems, propose a project, and get people excited about it. Even though I travel with a computer and leave lengthy reports in my wake, I know the pages will only be read if I have been able to energize a local group to take up the difficult job of following through. Contact Philis at 2815 Phoenix Road, Lexington, KY 40503; 859/276-0356 (phone); philisalvic@prodigy.net.

Guidelines for Disaster Assistance

The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) provides information and guidance in support of appropriate international disaster relief. Their "Guidelines for Effective Private Sector International Disaster Assistance" suggest that

- monetary contributions to established relief agencies are always the most useful response to disasters
- donors confirm there is a need for all items being collected.
- items are delivered only to organizations having local distribution capacity
- donations are made only to organizations having the ability to transport collected items to the affected region
- donors never assume the U.S. government or any relief agency will transport unsolicited relief items free of charge
- volunteer opportunities for disaster relief are extremely limited.

CIDI is a program of Volunteers In Technical Assistance (VITA), a private, not-for-profit, international development organization which, for over four decades, has empowered the poor in developing countries by providing access to information and knowledge, strengthening local institutions and introducing improved technologies. Its particular focus is on support to entrepreneurs in the private, public, and community sectors and on facilitating connectivity and technical information exchange between and among individuals and organizations. For more information about CIDI, access their web site at <http://www.cidi.org>. For more information about VITA write to 1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 710, Arlington, VA 22209; 703/276-1800 (phone); 703/243-1865 (fax); vita@vita.org (e-mail), or <http://www.vita.org> (web).

Artisan Enterprise Network Provides Access to Resources for Low-Income Artisans

by Leah Kaplan

Appropriate assistance to low-income artisans – providing them the kind of support they need when they need it – is a central tenet of the Crafts Center's newest initiative, the Artisan Enterprise Network (AEN). Launched in 2000 with seed funding from the World Bank, AEN weds hands-on training with the power of the Internet to help artisans build successful enterprises. Its mission is to democratize access to information, skills, key contacts and business planning and management tools so that artisan entrepreneurs have a level playing field on which to compete in the global marketplace.

How do we do this? We believe that strategic alliances are the key to success in today's economy. Relying on the global network that the Crafts Center has built over the last 15 years, AEN identifies in-country partners to learn from them how to strengthen their activities and improve the artisan businesses in their area. We in turn provide our partners with the collective wisdom of professionals with years of experience in all aspects of running a successful artisan enterprise and especially in selling to the US market — from design to production to marketing to quality control.

What does AEN offer? AEN is built on three core programmatic components:

- **A course, Artisan Entrepreneur**, with 14 modules covering more than 60 subjects on how to successfully manage the different aspects of a handcraft business
- **A Website, www.artisanenterprisenetwork.org**, with a **TOOLBOX** full of key information for artisan entrepreneurs:
 - **FAQs:** Frequently asked questions gathered from artisan enterprises in over 30 countries and AEN's experts' answers
 - **Grassroots Solutions:** examples of best practices and solutions to artisan enterprise obstacles that are creative, low-cost and replicable
 - **U.S. Product Trends:** key information to know BEFORE designing new products
 - **U.S. Market Update:** and its impact on artisan enterprises
- **B2B Links**, also on the website, includes:
 - List of major U.S. importers, wholesalers and retailers selling handmade products
 - Trade Show Guide with links to the best shows and tips for success
 - E-Commerce sites selling handmade products on the Internet
 - Artisan Resources including professional organizations, key magazines and journals, continuing education, the best retail shows in the U.S., where to buy raw materials, tools and equipment at wholesale prices

Since our launch 18 months ago, AEN has piloted its first training module through our partner AIDECA, a non-governmental organization with years of experience working with artisans in Peru, as well as conducted workshops in several other Latin American countries. We also created and launched the AEN website, and helped artisans generate more than \$83,000 in sales through our links to the U.S. market. In 2002, our goal is to complete the full AEN training curriculum (see the AEN website for the list of 14 modules), substantially update and expand the AEN website based on user feedback during the last year, and partner with groups in two additional countries (Guatemala, and Colombia), as well as continue our work implementing AEN in Peru through AIDECA.

Leah Kaplan is Executive Director of The Crafts Center. See box at right for contact information.

Next newsletter...

Celebrating WARP's 10 year anniversary!

In the next issue we will talk about WARP's first ten years. Has something you've learned from WARP members made a difference in your life? Please send letters and articles by May 15.
Thanks, Linda

If you would like more information on the Crafts Center and AEN, please contact us at 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 525, Washington, DC, 20036, tel: 202/728-9603, fax: 202-296-2452, info@craftscenter.org (e-mail) www.CraftsCenter.org; www.ArtisanEnterpriseNetwork.org (web sites)

Calendar of Events...

April 4-7 - Fair Trade Federation Conference, Washington, D.C.; <http://www.fairtradefederation.org/conf02.html>

May 10-12 - WARP Annual Meeting, Colorado Springs, CO

May 19-21 - "The Art, History & Use of Natural Dyes," Iowa State University, Ames IA. Contact Sara J. Kadolph, Iowa State University, 1052 LeBaron, Ames, IA 50011 USA (515/294-3012), skadolph@iastate.edu

Textile Museum, 2320 S Street, NW; Washington, D.C. 20008; 202/667-0441; <http://www.textilemuseum.org>:

March 2: "Collecting in the Stans: From Kyrgyzstan to Turkmenistan"

March 9: "Central Asian Tent Bands"

March 16: "Incorporating Rugs and Textiles into Your Home"

March 23: "Hidden Threads of Peru: Q'ero Textiles"

November 10-13 - Microcredit Summit +5, New York City, USA; <http://www.microcreditsummit.org/plus5>

Rainbow Socks Founder Shares Lessons Learned from Experiences

by Babbie Cameron

While spending the month of January with three of our grandchildren, it dawned on me that there are similarities between grandparenting and providing appropriate assistance to textile artisans who ask for WARP members' help. When I was a mother of young children, I had a very specific role in our family. Now that I am a grandmother, yet still my daughter's mother, I fill a different role. It has been tricky for me to refrain from mothering my grandchildren and from disciplining them when they are wild and unruly. I am slowly learning that being a grandmother has appropriate boundaries and lends broader assistance to the entire family unit.

I am an inveterate helper. My lack of patience is a big character flaw, but there you have it--an impatient, visionary (do-gooder) who has managed to organize a successful international project that has provided income and dignity to refugee women in Bosnia and Croatia since 1994. I never gave much forethought as to how to organize Rainbow Socks. I responded to a very real need to help refugee women sell their beautiful socks, mittens and kilim rugs in the U.S. As the months and years of our refugee knitting project went by I DID learn some invaluable lessons regarding appropriate assistance. I stopped flying by the seat of my pants. From mistakes and failures came insights. From successes and enthusiastic responses for the Rainbow Socks project came the strength to continue through an obstacle course of difficulties. What follows are some basic personal observations about providing "appropriate assistance" to artisans in a cross-cultural setting:

- 1) Realize from the start that your own way of approaching a project is just that—your way. The artisans you work with will have their way. Meeting in the middle, where flexibility and compromise can flourish, is essential.
- 2) Identify good leadership "on the ground," preferably someone who is respected by the group and who has earned their trust. Knowledge of English is essential. Hopefully the leader will serve as a good teacher and coach for the group as well as a good administrator. In this way your suggestions and comments can be passed along in a reliable fashion.
- 3) Provide the group with a computer and, if possible, a digital camera. This facilitates exchanges of ideas and comments on designs quickly and clearly. Of course training on the computer is essential and must be done at the beginning of your endeavors.
- 4) Establish a secure method of paying the artisans with good record keeping, etc. This is THE lynchpin for a successful project overseas. It is demeaning and demoralizing for the producer group to have to wait for months to receive payment for their handcrafts. [Note: When we started Rainbow Socks in 1994 refugee women sitting in camps in the Balkans were very dispirited. Well-meaning humanitarian aid workers had taken their products back to the U.S. or Canada to sell them and then had waited 8 to 12 months to send the payment. We decided to take out a small loan to pay the refugee knitters up front for the slipper socks. Now we pay for each shipment when it arrives at our home business in Maine, then recoup the money later in sales.]

Continued on page 7

Maya Traditions Seeks Office Manager

Maya Traditions is a small, fair-trade wholesale business based in San Francisco, California. As described in the box at right, the organization is seeking a part-time office manager. For over ten years Maya Traditions has worked with Maya indigenous weavers in the highlands of Guatemala. Their mission is to support weaving groups and small family businesses through providing consistent income as well as health and education projects.

The organization works with more than 100 Maya women in five established groups in rural villages. Their main commitment is to women who do backstrap weaving, an ancient traditional craft which women can do at home while caring for their families. In addition, they work with a group of women hand crochet artisans, and with footloom weavers who are trying to preserve their craft, and small family businesses.

Lessons Learned...

Continued from page 6

5) Design issues:

- a. In working with a group of artisans in another culture we need to keep in mind "where is the market for these items? Who will the potential buyers be?" With the Rainbow Socks project, we faced the "color calamity" early in the game. We unpacked dozens of beautifully knit slipper socks in ungodly color combinations. Have you every seen a man's XL slipper sock knit with pink? Or can you imagine selling orange and pea green socks to a customer looking for that "perfect gift"? I don't think so! One of my roles has been to take swatches of yarn colors that appeal to North American tastes and to educate the knitters about colors for export. I often take pictures from children's books, from calendars and from magazines to give them ideas about colors that will sell well in the U.S. and Canada.
- b. My role in hopefully providing appropriate assistance to former refugee knitters in Bosnia and Croatia is to encourage them to use traditional patterns in non-traditional color ways. In this manner we preserve what is indigenous to their (former) villages or regions while producing items that can be sold outside of Bosnia and Croatia. I am most careful about non-infringement of copywritten patterns that I take along to help educate our knitters.
- c. Finally--and for me most importantly--I share myself with the Rainbow Socks group. They know about my family, my community, what matters most to me. Through an interpreter we talk about women's concerns--health issues, families, cooking, our fears, our longings. I spend a lot of time honoring their experience because even though it has not been my path in life, their struggles to survive a war and to create beautiful textiles in the dingiest refugee camps need to be honored for them to feel useful again. Perhaps this is the most appropriate assistance of all--honoring the creativity of another human being and coming along side her/him to co-create items of worth.

Babbie Cameron and her husband Stu founded Rainbow Socks in 1994. In 2001 they folded the project into a larger mission effort also of their founding, Mission Traders. You can visit their new endeavor on the web at www.missiontraders.org, or contact them at 621 Temple Road, Wilton, ME 04294; 207/779-1798 (phone); 207/779-1797 (fax); rainbowsox@ctel.net (e-mail).

Job Opening

Part time office manager,
San Francisco based,
small, fair-trade import
company, working with
Guatemalan Maya
backstrap weavers, selling
products wholesale in the
US. 24-32 hours a week.

Pay is \$15 an hour.

Handle customer
contacts, help with
ordering, shipping, need
experience with com-
puter/quick books
accounting. To inquire,
send email to
jane@mayatraditions.com

Friendly, small office.

For more information
about Maya Traditions
contact Jane Mintz at
Maya Traditions, 3922
Mission Street, San
Francisco CA 94112; or
415/587-2172 (phone or
fax);

jane@mayatraditions.com
(e-mail); [http://
www.mayatraditions.com/](http://www.mayatraditions.com/)
(web site).

Thoughts on Appropriate Assistance...

Deborah Chandler

When I was in the Peace Corps in Honduras, I sent a letter to Handwoven about my experiences with weavers there, which was approximately nothing, since there are no weavers in that country. But something I said inspired a woman to send me a box of cloth scraps (I think), usable for quilts or whatever. I don't actually recall what was in the box, because I never got it. She sent it without checking with me first, and was incensed later when I suggested that she should have asked before sending it. "I never had to ask to give a gift before!" was the gist of her hurt. But she'd never sent anything to Honduras before, where the postal reality is like it is in many third world countries. In the first place, the "gift" was unlikely to even arrive, given the part of the country I lived in.

Second, if it had arrived, I would have been assessed a tax that the person at the post office determined. In the case of items that came with prices still attached, that was what they charged—not a percent, but the total amount. When my mother sent me some stuffed rabbits that she had made, they first showed them to everyone in the post office because they were so cute (note: all boxes are opened before delivery, so there are no secrets), and then they decided how much it would cost me to receive them. I could refuse, in which case the rabbits would have been "returned." Of course, the chance of the package getting back to my mother was even less than of it getting to me in the first place.

The moral of the story is, don't send surprise gifts. The rules and realities vary everywhere, and you need to know what's likely to happen before you send the goodies. If you are sending something to truly needy people, odds are good they won't be able to afford the tax charged, so even if what you sent gets to its destination, they won't be able to accept it. I knew of friends, other Peace Corps Volunteers who did have some money, who basically gave away shirts, chocolate, and other gifts because they couldn't afford to receive them. So please, ask first. Deborah Chandler can be reached at Weaving Futures, PO Box 591828/M131, Miami, FL 33159, or DeborahWF@aol.com.

Docey Lewis

...My short answer to U.S. weavers[about providing appropriate assistance] is "buy (collect) the products made by talented weavers who would otherwise not have market access." Supplying raw materials and equipment or helping weavers from underdeveloped countries to design textiles for the US market may be perceived to be helpful, but unless there is a significant marketing piece to support the materials/technology/design effort, this strategy may not help. Web-based marketing of textiles hasn't proven to be effective, that I know of. That's my two cents. Docey Lewis can be reached at Docey Lewis Designs, Inc., PO Box 1048, Washington, CT 06793; 860/868-9932; doceydid@aol.com.

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 Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/244-7817 (phone)
305/768-8470 (fax)
warp@yachana.org

"Textiles as Reflections of Community"

Add your photos to those of WARP members Marilyn Anderson and Mary Kelly in this special exhibit at the 2002 Annual Meeting. Contact Mary Kelly for more information (see sidebar on page 2).

WARP on the Web

[http://www.weavershand.com/
warp.html](http://www.weavershand.com/warp.html)

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

Letters....

Culture Bank in Mali receives funds

submitted by Louise Meyer

A project in Mali just won \$200,000 from the Development Marketplace competition at the World Bank on 1/10/02. Matching funds must still be found. The project combines a village museum and educational center with a village bank by allowing local inhabitants of a Dogon village in Mali to use their cultural objects as collateral to acquire small business loans. While on loan, objects are researched, documented, and organized into a museum collection. Interest income from credit activities is reinvested in the loan fund or is used to finance a program of educational and cultural activities. Likewise, income from tourism at the museum is used to finance the Culture Bank operations.

Todd Crosby, a Peace Corps volunteer designed the Culture Bank program in 1996 and it has been sustainable for the past two years. Africancraft.com is associated with the project and will host the Culture Bank's virtual museums. More information about this project will appear in the next issue of WARP, or contact Louise Meyer at 3327 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20010; 202/328-6834 (phone); louise6@earthlink.net (e-mail). More information about the Development Marketplace can be accessed at www.developmentmarketplace.org

"Fiber Art in France" Tour Offered in August

The Friends of Fiber Art International, new members of WARP, sent information about their organization and the upcoming "Fiber Art in France" tour they are organizing. Camille Cook wrote, "Unfortunately we missed the opportunity to explain why travel serves our extraordinary mission based on the idea that 'The best gift one can give a fiber artist is a fiber collector.' Friends of Fiber Art International is a membership organization that fosters communication among Collectors, Curators, Critics, Dealers, and Artists. Since 1991, Friends of Fiber Art has made a difference through unique and innovative programs designed to instruct and inspire the art appreciative public about the "collectibility" of fiber art.

Camille invited WARP members to join a mini-tour of France designed to discover some of the best work in fiber art being made. The tour includes four nights in a superb hotel next door to the Palace of Versailles, plus elegant meals, sympathique travelling companions and exquisite art in many forms. The featured attraction is the 5th International Festival of Fiber Art in the city of Beauvais. Tour dates are August 27 to 31, 2002. Two and three-dimensional works from all over the globe will be seen in a half dozen different shows. Artists on the tour will have the opportunity to present slides of their work to the collectors travelling with them.

For more information about the Fiber Art in France tour contact the Friends of Fiber Art International, Box 468, Western Springs, IL 60558; 708/246-9466 (phone and fax).

Brown Sheep Wool Yarn to Donate

Lallie Wetzig has a large amount of Brown Sheep wool yarn that she will donate to someone or a group that weaves or knits for charitable purposes. There are many different colors; some is the single ply sport weight and some is the thicker yarn. Lallie's email address is rjembs@cs.com; or write her at 70 E. Pacemont, Columbus, OH 43202; 614/267-3716 (phone).

Weave A Real Peace

Membership Information

Annual Dues

\$7 (simple living)
\$15 (regular)
\$25 (group/supporting)
\$100+ (patron/donor)

All memberships are based on the calendar year, expiring December 31. Each member receives 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

New Members

Susan Abouhalkah
PO Box 189
Burton, TX 77835

Michelle Feride Akcar
62193 Charolais Drive
Montrose, CO 81401
970/240-0752
ferideakcar@hotmail.com

Blythe Batten
6157 29th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727/345-5384

Codey Brown
538 Gardiner Road
Jefferson, ME 04348
207/549-4072
weaver@gwi.net

Jeanne Cadoret
4865 Sutliff Rd. NE
Solon, IA 52333
jcadoret@aol.com

Nilda Callanaupa
Kennedy A
Av. Dramantes G-17
Cusco, Peru 251275
229299 (fax)
cttc@terra.com.pe
www.incas.org

B. Angelica Crowe
1030 Melody Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847/234-5408
angelcrowe@aol.com

Friends of Fiber Art
International
Camille Cook
PO Box 468
Western Springs, IL 60558
708/246-9466
(phone and fax).

Tentative Schedule WARP Annual Meeting

Friday, May 10

1:45 - Guided tour at Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs, followed by optional visit to Pioneers Museum
4:30-5:30 - Black Forest Camp - Opening reception: *Textiles as Reflections of Community* photo exhibit
5:30-6:30 - Dinner
6:30 - Shared stories of WARP's first meeting followed by introductions

Saturday, May 11

8:00-9:00 - Breakfast
9:00-10:00 - Where We've Been and Where We're Going - Deborah Chandler
10:00-10:15 - Break
10:15 - 11:45 - Paul Ramsey, Oriental Carpet Expert
noon - 1:00 - lunch
1:00-4:00 - To be announced (we're finalizing some wonderful presentations)
4:00-5:30 - Marketplace and break
5:30-7:00 - Dinner
7:00-7:30 - WARP slide show
7:30-9:30 - Open forum for members to share information about their projects, experiences, and interests. Slide projector available. Please limit your presentation to 10 or 15 minutes so we have time for all!

Sunday, May 12

8:00 - 9:00 - Breakfast
9:00 - 11:00 - Marketplace
10:00 - noon - Annual meeting
noon - 1:00 - Lunch followed by departure

Oriental Rug Expert to Speak at Annual Meeting

At the WARP annual meeting in May, Paul Ramsey of Shaver-Ramsey Oriental Rugs in Denver will present a slide show and share personal experiences from his travels and research of oriental carpets over the past twenty-five years. During that period he has traveled extensively in rug producing countries, namely Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan, for the purpose of documenting rug production as well as trading in oriental rugs. Widely known as a specialist in the oriental rugs and weavings of Turkey, Iran, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan, he has a particular specialty in kilims and other tribal rugs of these areas, as well as those of central Asia.

Mr. Ramsey served as President of the Rocky Mountain Textile Society from 1983-87, as a member of Board of Directors of the Asian Art Association at the Denver Art Museum from 1984 to 1988, and was acting President for two years. He is one of the founders of the American Conference on Oriental Rugs (ACOR), and served as the President of the Board of Directors of ACOR from 1994-97. He has served as a consultant to the Denver Art Museum and the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. He served as co-curator of the exhibition, "Prayer Rugs of the Caucasus" held at the Denver Art Museum from May through July 1998. More information is available about Mr. Ramsey and his business at <http://www.shaver-ramsey.com>.

WARP Annual Meeting Promises Rich Opportunities to Share, Learn

On May 10-12, WARP will return to its roots. In 1992, a small group met in Elizabeth Harvat's cabin near Kremmling, Colorado, with a vision for an organization that would empower women and communities-in-need through support of textile arts. Now a group of nearly 250 members, we come together again in the Rockies to celebrate our tenth anniversary.

The meeting will focus on WARP's mission and our six goals to carry that mission out (see page 1). Special sessions highlighting WARP's history and international textiles are tentatively scheduled. As always, there will be time to share, visit, and dream; to exchange ideas, experiences, and passions; and to make plans for the future.

Special meeting events include an exhibition of member photographs featuring projects and field trips to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum (see page 14). The meeting site, the Black Forest Camp and Conference Center, is 15 miles north of Colorado Springs. It has shared hotel-style rooms and a dining room with a spectacular view of Pikes Peak and the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Costs: \$165 per person which includes all meeting expenses, lodging, and food from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. All rooms are double occupancy (and triple occupancy if registration is high). If you want to request a particular room mate, please do so when registering (registration form is on page 15).

Field trips: Off-site field trips are planned for the afternoon of May 10 for those arriving early enough to participate, at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Pioneers Museum, which has a wonderful quilt collection.

Getting there

By car: The Black Forest Camp is easily accessible off of Interstate 25 at exit 158, just 15 miles north of Colorado Springs. A map is available at <http://www.bfcc.org/map.htm>.

By air: Area airports are in Colorado Springs and Denver. Driving from the Denver airport to the Camp takes about one and a half to two hours. Gage reports that ground transportation is available from the Colorado Springs airport to area locations and from Denver to Colorado Springs.

To register: Complete and mail the form on page 15 before April 5.

WARP's "official" **annual business meeting** will be held Sunday, May 12, at Black Forest Conference Center, Colorado Springs, CO
Agenda items will include:

- Discussion of last year's activities
- Financial report
- Election of board members
- Plans for the coming year, including the 2003 annual meeting
- Other business

Your input for agenda items is requested. Please send suggestions to Cheryl Musch as soon as possible (contact info on page 2).

More New Members

Barb Gallagher
The Weavers Loft
24647 Zimmer Road
Guilford, IN 47022
weaving@nalv.net

Joan Leon
344 Sterling Oaks Cove
Colliersville, TN 38017
901/854-3810
gypsieladi@hotmail.com

Susan Lilly
The Weaving Room
3733 SE 35th Place
Portland, OR 97202
503/239-9541
SusanLilly@weavingroom.com
www.weavingroom.com

Mary McCormick
18241 SW Terry Ave.
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
503/639-0470
dmmccorm@hevanet.com

Sasha Claire McInnes
1598 Cedar St.
Prince George, B.C.
Canada V2L 1B7

Sister Margie Packer
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Rosary Convent Rm 209
St. Mary's
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574/284-5832
mmpacker@juno.com

Avery Patten
520 Lookout St.
Chattanooga, TN 37403
423/756-3480

Mrs. N. A. Rashid
7114 Kensington Court
University Park, FL 34201
941/351-8174

WARP Seeks Board Nominees

Are you willing to serve on the board of WARP? Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland and Marcia Bellas both complete board terms this year, so we're seeking two new board members for three-year terms beginning in May 2002.

WARP has a working board where board members are active, as their skills and interests dictate, in sharing the work, exchanging ideas, and making decisions. WARP's greatest need right now is for someone with good organizational skills who can help guide WARP's future.

Minimum requirements for being a WARP board member are to have attended at least one annual meeting and to use e-mail on a regular basis (more than once a week!) since that's how we do most of the organization's business.

If you enjoy communicating with other WARP members and are good at organizational planning, this may be the job for you. Not only is it rewarding, it's fun! If you have the time and the vision for WARP's future and are interested in this opportunity, contact either Beth Davis (bethbox@hotmail.com; 978/264-3949) or Carole Pierce (cpierce@mis.net; 859/986-8666) who are serving as WARP's Nominating Committee *by March 6*. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in May. Nominees will be asked to attend the board meeting as observers the day before the annual meeting begins.

Buy or Sell at WARP's Great Marketplace

Once again we will have an International Marketplace at the annual WARP meeting, May 10-12. Debbie Durham began this wonderful tradition in 1996 at the annual meeting in Berea, Kentucky. Marketplace provides an opportunity for WARP members to sell handcrafts from the communities that many of us support. We hope to have a high level of participation this year among both sellers and buyers to help WARP celebrate its tenth anniversary. In the past, items for sale have included wonderful Rainbow Socks, mohair tapestries from Lesotho, popular Guatemalan products from UPAVIM and Mayan Hands, ethnic clothing from Marketplace: Handcrafts of India, and much more.

If you are attending the meeting, you can bring merchandise with you and set up your display when you arrive. If you do not plan to attend the meeting, you may ship items in advance, and make arrangements for a WARP member who is attending the meeting to "keep shop" for you. If shipping via UPS, the address is: Black Forest Camp and Conference Center, 780 East Baptist Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80921. If shipping via U.S. mail, the address is: Black Forest Camp and Conference Center, 16275 Kingswood Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Label "For WARP Conference" on the boxes. The conference center has a secure area in which to store items. Please note, however, that WARP cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. Shipped items should arrive not later than Thursday, May 9. Arrange with your "shop keeper" to send any unsold items back to you following the conference; you are responsible for shipping costs. Contact Cheryl Musch or Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland as outlined on the registration form (page 15) to get names of people who will be attending.

Please notify Marcia Bellas (contact information on page 2) and check the appropriate box on the registration form if you plan to participate in Marketplace so that we are sure to have enough tables for all vendors. Vendors can plan on at least half of a long table, but possibly more depending on the number of vendors. Each vendor is responsible for pricing items. WARP collects a 10% fee on all sales.

More New Members

Nancy Simonson
409 E. Main Street
PO Box 148
Rochester, WI 53167
262/514-4131
weaver1013@aol.com

Terry Slagel
21515 Indian Springs Rd.
Conifer, CO 80433
303/697-1554
tslagel@jeffco.k12.co.us

Margie Teraoka
55 Stonepine Rd.
Hillsborough, CA 94010
650/340-8922
mteraoka@aol.com

Address Changes

Kim Bellas
8701 E. Saddleback Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85749

Kate Bobrow-Strain
755 Ohlone Ave. #773
Albany, CA 94706

Sue Caskey
PO Box 2403
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Caroline Villa
2820 E. 6th St. #110
Tucson, AZ 85716

Thanks...

To Judy Curby and Gayle Smalley for their contribution in honor of WARP member Cathy Curby.

Appropriate Assistance

Continued from page 1

The Alternative Trade movement has been focused on a fairly narrow role--assisting poor people to increase their incomes. At SERRV we have decided that our approach must be driven by the people we attempt to assist and must also allow them to gain the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to control their future. It also must allow them to strengthen their institutions which are so important in building societies that can withstand the pressures of transnational corporations.

We must be extremely careful that in our effort to help people we do not make them dependent on us for their only source of income.

Recently I talked with a young man who participated in a study program in Haiti. Participants in the program were prohibited from becoming involved in any type of activity to assist local residents. They were there to learn, not to change things. He related that this was difficult for most people....their natural instinct was to start doing things almost immediately.

Far too often we not only are willing to help...but assume we have the answers. Years and years of assistance and billions and billions of dollars of aid would suggest the opposite.

So what do we do?

Our very first priority should be to make sure that we in our country are doing everything possible to allow people in poorer societies to chart their own course without our interference.

Secondly, if we wish to help we must help on their terms. We can offer our experience and expertise but then must let people in other cultures make their own decisions.

We must learn to listen and realize that human development is a continuous process in which we have as much to learn as those who have fewer possessions...perhaps more.

Gandhi challenged us to picture the poorest man we have ever seen and consider how our actions will impact his life.

If we continue to ask this question of ourselves and our institutions, we will have taken the first steps toward building a more just world.

Bob Chase is President of SERRV International, a Nonprofit Alternative Trade Organization and Treasurer of The International Federation for Alternative Trade. He can be reached at 122 State St, Suite 310; Madison, WI 53703.

The Microcredit Summit Campaign to hold +5 Summit in November of 2002 in New York City

The Microcredit Summit +5 will be held November 10-13, 2002 in New York City. More than 3,000 delegates from 140 countries are expected to attend, including Heads of State and Government. Delegates will review progress toward the Campaign's goal of reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families with microcredit, and will discuss strategies for overcoming obstacles.

For more information about Microcredit Summit +5, contact Anna E. Oman, Media Associate, Microcredit Summit Campaign, 202/637-9600 (phone) or via e-mail at oman@microcreditsummit.org. Information is also available on the web at <http://www.microcreditsummit.org/plus5>.

Thanks...

To UPAVIM, Mayan Hands, and those of you who have held sales of Guatemalan products to benefit WARP. Sales from this Mayan Hands-UPAVIM program have netted us more than \$2,000, and we're grateful for your support.

If you're interested in hosting a sale which provides work to Guatemalan weavers, gives your community an opportunity to buy great products, and supports WARP, contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland (upavim-mayanhands@starpower.net; 301/515-5911).

Full Spectrum of Special Events Planned for Annual Meeting

Photograph Exhibit - Textiles as Reflections of Community

One of WARP's goals is "To promote appreciation of textiles which reflect a community's culture." At Black Forest Camp, an exhibit of member photographs will highlight our connections to communities around the world. Photographs include Mary Kelly's "Sisters of the Amazons" featuring Russian textile artists of Chuvashia and Marilyn Anderson's "Granddaughters of the Corn" exhibit, showing Guatemalan weavers. If you would like to participate in this exhibit, please contact Mary Kelly (contact information on page 2).

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

WARP members will have the opportunity to tour the Fine Arts Center's "Sacred Land - Indian and Hispanic Cultures of the Southwest" exhibit as the first event of the meeting. This exhibit features 16 Hispanic textiles and 25 Navajo and Pueblo Indian textiles. Your admission is included in the registration fee. Tour begins at 1:45 on Friday, May 10. 30 W. Dale St., Colorado Springs; 719/634-5581; Map available on their web site at <http://www.pikes-peak.com/FineArts/>.

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Along with preserving the history and culture of the Pikes Peak region, this museum houses a significant collection of quilts as well as the Van Briggie Art Pottery exhibit, a Native American collection representing the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho cultures. We invite WARP members to visit the museum on their own after the tour at the Fine Arts Center. Admission is free, but bring plenty of quarters for parking! 215 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs; 719/385-5990; <http://www.cspm.org/>.

Colorado Springs is an area of incredible natural beauty. You may want to plan extra time to visit the towering sandstone rock formations at the Garden of the Gods (<http://www.gardenofgods.com>) or to view snow-capped Pike's Peak from the Pike's Peak Visitor's Center.

Appropriate Assistance?

(reprinted from the Summer 2000 issue of the WARP newsletter)

A recent article in the New York Times discusses the issues raised when technology is introduced to remote parts of the world ("How a Byte of Knowledge Can Be Dangerous, Too" April 23, 2000). Especially interesting is information about the women of the Wapishana and Macushi tribes of Guyana, who began making money by marketing their intricate handwoven hammocks over the Web at \$1,000 each. The project was introduced by Bill Humphries, who headed Guyana Telephone and Telegraph, and who was optimistic about technology's money-making potential.

"Feeling threatened, the traditional regional leadership took control of the organization, alienating and finally driving out the young woman who ran the Web site. The weaving group fell into disarray.

"The events should be a case study for students of economics and social work," wrote Indera Ramiall, who is Guyanese, in a letter to the newspaper in the capital city of Georgetown. "Economic advancement is not just about technology and markets; more fundamentally, it is about human relationships."

Updated WARP Show on the Move!

The WARP slide show is on the move. 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 will be given to you). Enjoy the show.

2002 schedule so far:

January 19, Carol Kelly,
Space Coast Weavers &
Fiber Artists, New
Smyrna Beach, FL
March, first week, Flo
Willfang, Pottawatomi
Spinners & Weavers,
Ontario, Canada
March 27, Debbie
Durham, Triangle
Weavers, Durham, NC
May 10-12, WARP annual
meeting, CO
May 27, Sally Ishikawa,
Corvallis Weavers &
Spinners Guild, OR
June 1, Brecia Kralovic-
Logan, Santa Barbara
Fiber Arts Guild, CA
July 14, Robyn Josephs,
Pendle Hill, PA
October 5, Mary Kelly,
Fiber Guild of the
Savannahs, SC

To request the slide show,
contact Carole Pierce
200 Peach Bloom Hill
Berea, KY 40403
859/986-8666
cpierce@mis.net

WARP Annual Meeting 2002

Registration Form

(due to WARP by April 5, 2002)

Name _____

Address _____

phones/fax/e-mail _____

_____ Yes, sign me up for the **2002 WARP Annual Meeting** - \$165.00
(member rate; see page 9 for how to become a member!)

\$_____ **Amount enclosed** (check or money order to WARP in US funds)

_____ I plan to attend the field trip to the Fine Arts Center on Friday afternoon;
please reserve a place for me.

_____ I want lunch (12:00) at Black Forest Camp on Sunday, May 12.

_____ My preferred room mate is _____

_____ I need a ride from the Denver _____ or Colorado Springs _____ airport.

_____ I can give someone a ride from Denver _____ or from the airport in
Colorado Springs _____.

_____ I plan to participate in Marketplace; please reserve a table for me.

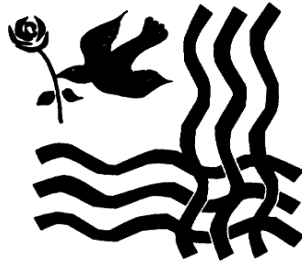
Please list special needs below. Be specific.

Questions? Contact Cheryl in the WARP office, warp@yachana.org;
608/244-7817; **OR**

between March 8 and April 8 when Cheryl is out of the office, contact
Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, 301/515-5911 (daytime) or 301/972-5494 (evening)

Send this form and your check or money order (U.S. funds) to:

Cheryl Musch
3209 Atwood Avenue
Madison, WI 53704



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

Register now for the *10th WARP Annual Meeting*
Black Forest Conference Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado - May 10-12, 2002

What's in this newsletter ...

Appropriate Assistance: What Works at Home Doesn't Work Other Places 1
 From the WARP Office 2
 What is Appropriate Assistance? 2
 Member Profiles - WARP's Newest Members 3
 Short Term Consulting (or, Am I Doing Anything?) 4
 Guidelines for Disaster Assistance 4
 Artisan Enterprise Network 5
 Rainbow Socks Founder Shares Lessons Learned 6
 Calendar of Events 6
 Maya Traditions Seeks Office Manager 7
 Thoughts on Appropriate Assistance 8
 (Deborah Chandler, Docey Lewis)
 Letters *(Culture Bank in Mali, Fiber Art in France Tour, Brown Sheep Wool Yarn to Donate)* 9
 New Members, Address Changes 10-12
 WARP Annual Meeting - Tentative Schedule 10
 Oriental Rug Expert to Speak at Annual Meeting 10
WARP Annual Meeting Promises Rich Opportunities to Share, Learn 11
 Board Nominees Sought 12
 Buy or Sell at the Great Marketplace 12
 Microcredit Summit Campaign holds +5 Summit in November 13
 Annual Meeting Special Events 14
 Annual Meeting Registration Form 15