

# WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 8, Number 2

Summer 2001

## Sheep Is Life: A Celebration of Sheep, Wool, Weaving, and Cultures



Sheep is Life brings together people from many cultures who love sheep, wool, and weaving. This year's celebration will host three groups from Europe who want to learn more about the Navajo Sheep Culture. The Celebration takes place from June 18-23, 2001,

at Diné College, Tsaile, Arizona, Navajo Nation. Organized by Diné bé'ina, Inc. (The Navajo Lifeway), this event honors the central role that sheep play in the spirituality, philosophy, and daily life of traditional and indigenous cultures.

Marie Ange, a shepherdess in the mountains of Corsica, where she is a renowned traditional singer and cheese maker, makes her first trip to the Navajo Nation.

Marie-Thérèse Chaupin and Andrew McGregor represent ATELIER (European Association for Study, Liaison, Innovation, and Research into Textiles), founded in 1989 to develop cooperative programs among people wishing to promote and upgrade wool as a natural material and to make it once again an element of local development.

LITTORAL, based in England, assists European farmers who have been emotionally, as well as financially, decimated by the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Their Art and Agriculture Program emphasizes the importance of "culture" in agriculture.

Throughout the weekend, there will be presentations by Navajo elders, spinners, weavers, and storytellers, discussing the foundations of the Navajo Sheep Culture and its relevance for the contemporary world. Sheep cheese making will also be a featured activity on Friday and Saturday.

Other special guests include weavers from Chiapas and representatives from the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture; American Livestock Breeds Conservancy; Tierra Wools; Heifer Project International; Navajo Sheep Project; Center for Sustainable Ecologies, Northern Arizona University; and Slow Foods Ark. Paola Gianturco and Toby Tuttle, authors of *In Her Hands*, will present a slide show.

For more information and a daily schedule visit [www.recurtos.org/sheepislife](http://www.recurtos.org/sheepislife); call Joan Thompson at 520/755-6448; e-mail [sznjmsn@gilanet.com](mailto:sznjmsn@gilanet.com), or write Diné bé'ina, PO Box 539, Ganado, AZ 86505.

### *Mission Statement*

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

### *Goals*

To foster dialogue and support within the organization

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

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

To provide guidance in the realities of appropriate assistance

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

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

**WARP  
Governing  
Board**

Marcia Bellas  
2752 McKinley Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45211  
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.  
Boysds, MD 20841  
301/972-5494 (phone)  
301/515-5911 (fax)  
upavimc@clark.net  
Term expires 2002

Mary Kelly  
1144 Old Stage Road  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607/756-8866  
kellym13@juno.com  
Term expires 2004

Cheryl Musch  
33 Grim Drive  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
660/665-8952 (phone)  
305/768-8470 (fax)  
warp@yachana.org  
Term expires 2003

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

*Cheryl Musch*

It was great to see many of you at WARP's annual meeting in New Hampshire. I always find these meetings wonderfully refreshing, and feel, as Beth Davis said to me, like it's an annual vacation with friends.

These meetings always focus WARP on what we can do in the coming year. As you can see in this newsletter, a number of projects are underway. WARP will be producing a new membership brochure this year, the slide show will be updated, we'll be investigating grant possibilities to ensure our future, planning our next annual meeting, and jump starting our library and education committees. We're so fortunate to have wonderful volunteers working on these projects.

Also, on a personal note, I'll be moving to Madison, Wisconsin, to become SERRV International's new Producer Relations Coordinator. This position involves international travel to visit producers. Since I'll be gone for sometimes as long as 3 weeks, the WARP Board and I discussed what the best path for the administrative coordinator position is for the future. For the next six months, we'll be in a trial period, to see if managing my new job and the WARP position are compatible. I'll continue to be as accessible as I can, so don't hesitate to contact me!

***Resources...***

***FibreArts Online*** (<http://www.fibreartsonline.com>) bills itself as "the Internet Connection to the FibreArts Community." In addition to information about a wide range of fiber techniques (basketry through weaving), the site has extensive resource links, upcoming workshops, and community events and projects. Of particular interest to WARP members might be the travel information and experiences for fiber artists. The Weaving Away directory links travellers who work with fibres to hosts around the world with similar interests.

***PEOPLink*** has created a new CatGen (catalog generator) system which enables enterprises anywhere in the world to create/maintain a Web catalog for free. They recently "soft launched" it to friends in the Fair Trade movement and will open it to the public in August. For more information, access <http://www.catgen.com/presentation1.ppt> -

3 minute general presentation, good for forwarding

<http://www.catgen.com/catalog> - first examples of use by Trading Partners in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

<http://www.catgen.com/home/dandemo2> site uploaded largely with a cell phone

The ***MicroFinance Practice (MFP) e-mail list*** has been established to facilitate e-mail conversations among microfinance practitioners worldwide. A full set of guidelines is available at: [http://www.mficonsulting.com/mfp\\_rules.html](http://www.mficonsulting.com/mfp_rules.html). Chuck Waterfield ([waterfield@microfin.com](mailto:waterfield@microfin.com)) and Howard Brady ([hbrady@mficonsulting.com](mailto:hbrady@mficonsulting.com)) moderate the list.

## **Florida Guild Continues Sister Guild Project**

by Pam Marble

During the past two years, the Florida Tropical Weavers Guild (FTWG) has been developing a relationship with weavers in Guatemala. FTWG is a statewide guild that supports fiber arts education through an annual conference.

Name tag pouches were ordered for our most recent conference from weavers in San Martin Zapotitlan. These weavers were resettled after the civil war and now they work the coffee and cotton plantations to earn a living. Until they connected with the local Association to Coordinate Rural and Educational Development (ACDIRE) they had no experience marketing their weaving. Most are illiterate so measurements are unfamiliar. Therefore, little sticks of the appropriate length were distributed as references for our required dimensions. The initial samples were lacking in finishing finesse but the weavers were making rapid progress and this was to be their first 'real' order. So some of our own weavers offered to sew the colorful fabric woven on backstrap looms with traditional designs. Everyone was delighted with the finished product.

FTWG also loaned money to purchase additional woven items that we could sell at the conference and then return the profits to the respective villages. From San Martin Zapotitlan we sold additional pouch fabric and several handbags. From La Estancia we sold colorful cintas, woven bands used for straps, belts and hat bands.

In addition the FTWG members voted to donate raffle proceeds for the purchase of a sewing machine for the weavers in San Martin Zapotitlan. This will enable them to improve the finishing details on their products.

This was all accomplished only through the assistance of many people, including Deborah Chandler, Luis Xiloj, and Jamie Mackenzie who facilitated communication with the weavers. Special thanks goes to Sandy Carr and other members of FTWG for their enthusiastic support.

Those of us who are fortunate to be (or have) sisters, know that sisterhood is a long term, hopefully rewarding, give-and-take relationship. Our initial steps toward a connection have been successful. Now our challenge is to continue to strengthen the bonds that can weave us together into a truly reciprocal relationship.

*For more information contact Pam Marble, 832 Robert Street, Venice, FL 34285-3433; pamela.marble@gtc.net.*

## **LA and Caribbean Microcredit Summit**

Mexican President Vicente Fox, Grameen Bank Managing Director Muhammad Yunus, and other dignitaries will gather at the Latin America and Caribbean Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils, to be held October 9-12, 2001 in Puebla, Mexico. 600 participants from every country in Latin America are expected. The goal of the Campaign goal is 'working to ensure that 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, are receiving credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by 2005. 'For more information access the Microcredit site at <http://www.microcreditsummit.org/>

### **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

33 Grim Drive

Kirksville, MO 63501

660/665-8952 (phone)

305/768-8470 (fax)

[warp@yachana.org](mailto:warp@yachana.org)

### **Upcoming Newsletters**

The Fall issue of the WARP newsletter will focus on alternative holiday gift-giving opportunities. Please send information about reliable alternatives to our consumer-driven holiday frenzy.

Fiber-related travel opportunities that seem likely to be of interest to WARP members are frequently mentioned in the newsletter. In the winter issue, I'd like to focus on why you think visiting other cultures is important, and to highlight some of the trips that are currently available. I encourage you to contribute any thoughts or experiences you have on this subject.

Thanks, LT



### **WARP Newsletter**

published quarterly by  
Weave A Real Peace  
Volume 8, Number 2  
Summer 2001

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  
**August 15, 2001.**

Send articles and copies of  
correspondence for  
the Fall newsletter to:

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

Information about an  
organization or service in this  
newsletter does not constitute  
an endorsement by WARP.

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

### **WARP on the Web**

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

*thanks to Janis Saunders and  
Beth Davis*

### **WARP e-group**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
group/WeaveARealPeace](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WeaveARealPeace)

## ***Letters...***

### **Crafts Center/Rugmark Partnership**

Dear Friends,

The Crafts Center works actively to advocate for fair trade, cultural preservation, and microenterprise support for artisans around the world. This year, we are stepping up our efforts to work towards the elimination of abusive child labor in crafts by partnering with the RUGMARK Foundation.

RUGMARK is a global nonprofit organization that works to end child labor in the carpet industry and offer educational opportunities to children in India, Nepal, and Pakistan. It does this through carpet loom monitoring, consumer labeling, and operating schools and rehabilitation centers for former child weavers.

RUGMARK, the Crafts Center, and other members of the Washington, D.C. – based Child Labor Coalition have launched a campaign to let the carpet industry know that U.S. consumers want to see the elimination of child labor in the manufacture of carpets. Since 1995, RUGMARK has rescued more than 2,000 children from carpet looms in India, Nepal, and Pakistan, who have been offered the chance to go to school in one of RUGMARK's 11 affiliated schools. To date, 10 carpet manufacturers have joined RUGMARK's child labor –free certification program. However, some of the leaders of the U.S. carpet industry, operating under the umbrella of the Oriental Rug Importers' Association, have attempted to block RUGMARK's success. They want to ignore the problem of child labor in order to continue with "business as usual". Since RUGMARK is only able to inspect the looms of participating manufacturers, it is crucial that we obtain full participation from the industry. For every child that RUGMARK is able to rescue, we know that there are at least 300 more waiting for help. Consumer pressure is the best way to create change in the industry, so I hope that you will get involved.

For starters, please visit the RUGMARK website at [www.rugmark.org](http://www.rugmark.org). There you will find an "action kit", which outlines several ways, that you can become active in our no child labor campaign. In addition, you are invited to join a raffle to benefit RUGMARK, which, among other things, offers a \$5,000 gift certificate to Odegard Carpets, the largest RUGMARK importer. For more details on this raffle, access [http://www.rugmark.org/events\\_upcoming.htm](http://www.rugmark.org/events_upcoming.htm).

Sincerely,

Leah Kaplan, Executive Director  
The Crafts Center

1001 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 525  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5528

202/728-9603 (phone); 202/296-2452 (fax)

[info@craftscenter.org](mailto:info@craftscenter.org) (e-mail)

<http://www.craftscenter.org> (web site)

## Letters...

### Textile Trip to China

Recently I was one of eleven weavers and artists, five from New Mexico, who took a trip to China to participate in an international tapestry exhibition in Beijing. Five people in the group had pieces on display. Included in the trip were visits to the provinces of Hunan, Guangxi, and the island of Hainan to visit traditional craftspeople.

In the province of Hunan, southwest of Beijing, we saw the work of the Tuja minority whose weaving looks similar to brocade work done in Guatemala. They also do embroidery that is similar to counted cross stitch. As the bus took us through the countryside, we saw much about how the people live. Every inch of land is used for something. The sides of hills are extensively terraced, and vegetables grow in every available spot around the homes. Water buffalo grazed in the fields and occasionally were seen pulling a simple plow. I was thrilled to discover that the jagged, tall mountains of traditional Chinese painting, that look like something out of a fantasy world, really exist.

In Guangxi, we visited embroiderers who live in a village on the border with Vietnam. It was a seven hour drive each way over very bumpy roads and we were soon very worn with traveling. The roadsides were filled with banana groves and, as in the rest of China, people live everywhere. We saw pigs being carried to market in handwoven basket-like cages in the backs of trucks.

In the other provinces we visited, the rice harvest had been completed and the farmers were burning the stubble in the fields. The air was often thick with smoke. On Hainan, the harvest was in progress and people were spreading the rice to dry along the sides of the new concrete highways that crisscross the island. In the fields you could see them tossing the rice into the air from baskets to let the chaff blow away from the grain.

We went into the mountains at the center of the island to visit two minority groups: the Li and the Miao. We drove as far as we could and then hiked a short distance to a village of the Li people. They welcomed us in an almost riot-like fashion. The young men climbed the coconut trees and cut down coconuts for us to eat.

The people were happy to show us their weaving. The looms consisted of just a few sticks, and they did a brocade work similar in technique to that of Central America. The colors and designs were bright and fresh to our eyes.

Overall it was a great experience. The opportunity to see and experience a vastly different way of life was enriching. The natural beauty was beyond belief for this desert girl. The areas we visited were lush and green, yet even there they had concerns for water; much of it is polluted. Given a chance to go again, I would go in a heartbeat. Sincerely, **Ann Edington Adams**, 500 College Place, Las Cruces, NM 88001; [adamsfive@zianet.com](mailto:adamsfive@zianet.com)

### New Members

Maria Carlo  
F-191  
PO Box 591828  
Miami, FL 33159-1828  
502/767-1017 in  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala  
[helen@c.net.gt](mailto:helen@c.net.gt)

Deborah Cary  
PO Box 545  
Mirror Lake, NH 03853  
603/569-4654  
[cary@worldpath.net](mailto:cary@worldpath.net)

Carol Chave  
693 Washington St.  
New York, NY 10014  
212/924-3732  
[carolchave@hotmail.com](mailto:carolchave@hotmail.com)

Carol Kumpula Clark  
PO Box 1292  
Kingston, WA 98346  
[cklark@silverlink.net](mailto:cklark@silverlink.net)

Judith Conaway Multimedia  
3405 N. Harding  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773/267-2790  
[judconaway@earthlink.net](mailto:judconaway@earthlink.net)  
[www.judithconaway.net](http://www.judithconaway.net)

Steve Csipke  
199 Massachusetts Ave. #1111  
Boston, MA 02115-4943  
617/266-4943  
[steveindexer@hotmail.com](mailto:steveindexer@hotmail.com)

Anita Fletcher  
9372 Rocky Woods Dr.  
Cordova, TN 38018  
901/755-4812  
[maggiefletcher@mindspring.com](mailto:maggiefletcher@mindspring.com)

Rosemarie Gerstner  
PO Box 1487  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
304/876-6392  
[paulfolk@intrepid.net](mailto:paulfolk@intrepid.net)

Lynn Henderson  
311 Robertson Ave.  
Danville, VA 24541  
804/797-2998  
[jlndhend@earthlink.net](mailto:jlndhend@earthlink.net)

# New Rugs in the Old Way

Jennie Wood

## Part II

Part I of this article (see WARP newsletter Volume 8, Number 1, Spring 2001) described an exciting renaissance in the use of handspun yarns and natural dyes that has occurred in the rug-weaving world just in the last fifteen years or so. Until then, most of the rugs woven in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century used commercially spun yarns and synthetic dyes. In the case of the best rugs, the dyes used were of good quality and were applied with great skill, but they were not the traditional materials that produced the glowing examples of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The work done in western Turkey by the Dobag project (sold in this country by Return to Tradition), the rugs of George Jevremovic's Woven Legends, and those of Tufenkian Carpets are three examples of this renaissance that I described in Part I. Their web sites are well worth visiting.

Another project – actually, several ambitious projects under the direction of one organization/business – is Yayla Tribal Rugs. Yayla's headquarters is in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but most of their work is done among refugees in Pakistan and Nepal.

In 1988, with the help of a non-profit organization called Cultural Survival, Yayla began weaving pile carpets with a Turkmen tribal group called Ersaris. The Ersari Turkmen were, and still are, refugees from northern Afghanistan who had fled to Pakistan and were living in camps. Yayla organized handspinning with other refugees, using carpet wool from the mountains of Afghanistan, and had the yarns dyed with traditional dyes by still other refugees. The Ersari Project still produces pile rugs with Turkmen designs.

Other Yayla productions in Pakistan include fine pile rugs woven by Hazaras, a Shia ethnic group from central Afghanistan (other Afghan Moslems are Sunni), the Baghlani, also from northern Afghanistan, who weave only their own designs in their traditional, saturated (still natural) colors, the Larhabi who weave soumaks in marvelous geometrics, the Mogols and the Uzbeks, who weave kilims or flat-weaves.

In most of these cases, the wool used comes from Afghanistan. It is washed, hand carded and handspun in Pakistani Baluchistan by Mogol refugees, then it is dyed in Lahore. The yarns go to weavers in refugee camps where all but the largest rugs are woven by women at home. Rugs too large for the home weaver are made by the men of the family in studios. A lot of people are working with Yayla. Proceeds from the project have been used to build schools for children.

*Continued on page 14*

### More New Members

Alice Hickox  
160 Poplar Circle  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404/571-0786  
ahickco@emory.edu

Susheela Hoefler  
120 NW Trinity Pl. #205  
Portland, OR 97209  
503/827-8965  
susheela@marios.com

Charlotte Stimson  
Bittersweet Herb & Fiber Farm  
1426 Promised Land Acres  
Olean, NY 14760  
bittersweetfarmc@netscape.net

Melissa Walker  
124 Perkins Road  
Madbury, NH 03820-7011  
603/742-0497  
fax: 603/740-8626

Patryc Wiggins  
Economic Corporation of  
Newport  
PO Box 190  
Guild, NH 03754  
603/863-8857  
patryc@cyberportal.net

### Directory Corrections

Ann Edington Adams -  
adamsfive@zianet.com

Adrienne Sloane -  
aonels@yahoo.com

Catherine Jones -  
Cleveland, OK

### Updated contact information

Rita Rooney - 908/496-4550

Haya Meyerowitz -  
sf\_haya@bezeqint.net

Kate Bobrow-Strain  
553 59th St.  
Oakland, CA 94609  
510/653-5128



## Special Section: 2001 Annual Meeting/2000 Annual Report

### Annual Meeting - 5/5/2001

*minutes by Marcia Bellas*

Approximately 40 people attended WARP's annual meeting in southern New Hampshire, May 4-6, at Boston University's Sargent Camp. Scheduled activities included lectures about the textile industry, past and present, by affiliates of the New Hampshire Humanities Council, as well as presentations on ethnic textiles by WARP members Philis Alvic, Mary Kelly, Jennie Wood, and Molly Martin. Attendees made field trips to the Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts and to Colony Mills and Harrisville Designs in Harrisville, New Hampshire. As always, the conference was full of good conversation and laughter, as members caught up with old friends and made new acquaintances. This year's meeting was marked by a special "Javalian Court" ceremony and reception honoring Deborah Chandler and Linda Temple, two founding mothers who have retired from the WARP Board. Members expressed their appreciation by giving to Deborah and Linda a framed batik prints, one a weaver and one a spinner, and scrapbooks of personal messages from members.

The annual business meeting, conducted by Deborah Chandler, took place Saturday evening. Those present approved minutes from the 2000 annual meeting. Deborah reviewed WARP's activities during the past year, noting that the most significant accomplishment was hiring Cheryl Musch as the group's administrative coordinator. Several individuals testified that this has improved the efficiency of the group's operation and reduced the amount of work required of board members, who can now focus on non-clerical tasks.

Deborah reported that the response to WARP's "Strengthening the Warp" fund-raising campaign has been wonderful. We have raised

more than \$12,000 toward our \$15,000 goal. The money will cover the cost of our administrative coordinator through FY2001. The Board advises that we begin raising money for an endowment so that we can use the interest income and eliminate or reduce the need for continual fundraising. Those with fundraising ideas are asked to contact Marcia Bellas.

Members discussed "Fred's Thread's," our listserv. It is designed as a discussion group, but coordinator Beth Davis reported that there is not a great deal of discussion going on. She wondered whether there is too much overlap with WARP's other email list (maintained by Carol Kelly), which distributes announcements to members. Those present indicated that they want both services to continue. Members can decide whether they want to receive only announcements or subscribe to the listservs.

WARP's booth at Convergence 2000 was a great success. Members sold \$13,000 in merchandise; \$3,000 of which went to WARP. Convergence 2002 will be held in Vancouver, but WARP will not have a booth because of the difficulties associated with taking merchandise into Canada.

Members present approved WARP's financial report for 2000, with one correction—expenses for annual meeting are for the year 2001, not 2991.

Receiving no other nominations from the floor, those present elected Donna Duke and Mary Kelly to the Board. They replace Deborah Chandler and Linda Temple, whose terms have expired. Those present expressed appreciation to Debbie Durham and Beth Davis for serving on the nominating committee.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing plans for the coming year. See page 10 for details.



## 2000: The Year in Review

The year 2000 was a year of “firsts” for WARP. For the first time, WARP hired a paid staff person. WARP made its first commercial venture at Convergence 2000. Fred’s Threads, our first e-list, was launched, and for the first time we raised more than \$11,000. Our membership hit an all-time high, and more people than ever attended WARP’s annual meeting.

Here is a summary of WARP’s activities in 2000:

Membership- In 1993, WARP had 81 members. From ‘93 to ‘98, WARP experienced rapid growth, with membership leveling off near 200 for the last few years. This past year, WARP’s total membership was 219.

Governing Board - The year began with a Governing Board including Babbie Cameron, Deborah Chandler, Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, Carole Pierce, and Linda Temple. At the annual meeting in March, Carole completed her board term and Cheryl Musch was elected to the 5<sup>th</sup> board seat. Due to other commitments, Babbie resigned from the board before year’s end, and Marcia Bellas was nominated to complete her term. Board terms are staggered so some board members continue terms as new ones are elected. The board met for a day before the Annual Meeting in Abiquiu and has been in steady contact via e-mail throughout the year.

New Administrative Coordinator - Throughout WARP’s history, managing projects, correspondence, and membership records had been distributed among board members and member volunteers. As we grew, this became increasingly difficult to administer on a volunteer basis. In June, WARP hired Cheryl Musch as Administrative Coordinator for eight hours a week. This is the first time WARP has ever had a staff person to manage the daily tasks of the office. This move has allowed the board to focus on decision making rather than the daily tasks of the organization.

Fundraising - In order to fund the new Administrative Coordinator position, WARP introduced our “Strengthening the WARP” fundraising campaign. Although still short of the goal of \$15,000, WARP members’ generous donations totalled an amazing \$11,120.53.

Newsletter - Our newsletter continues to be an outstanding and visible means of communicating with members. Newsletter editor Linda Temple produced four excellent issues in 2000.

WARP Online - Thanks to Beth Davis, WARP launched a new online e-group—Fred’s Threads—for discussion and increased networking among WARP members. Our listserv has actually drawn new members to WARP. People find our list, want to join, and become members so they have access. WARP has a web presence online at [www.weavershand.com/warp.html](http://www.weavershand.com/warp.html) thanks to Janis Saunders.

Slide Show - The WARP slide show was presented to eight different groups including five guilds in Warren, NJ; Provo, UT; Sarasota & Manatee Counties, FL; Oklahoma City; and Stoddard, NH. It was included in an anthropology class at U. Windsor, Canada, and as part of a home economics teachers’ meeting in Portland. Attendees at the WARP annual meeting in Abiquiu, NM, also had a chance to view the program. We continue to receive very positive and appreciative remarks. Debbie Durham has done a wonderful job managing this slide show. Since January 2001 there have already been eight borrowers!

Annual Meeting - Held at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM, March 24-26, this annual meeting was attended by 48 people - the most ever! Field trips included Tierra Wools and the textile archives of The Museum of International Folk Art.

Visibility - For the first time WARP sponsored a booth at Convergence, held in Cincinnati in June. Sales were brisk and WARP members sold \$13,000 in goods. The booth provided a wonderful opportunity to share WARP’s ideals with hundreds of textile enthusiasts. Thanks to Linda Temple for organizing this event and to Babbie Cameron for pulling together the Cloth Bridge that graced the booth. WARP also held an informational meeting which included our slide show. About 30 people were in attendance. WARP’s continued presence through meetings and flyers at both national and regional textile conferences has been identified as a goal by the board and serves to familiarize people with WARP.

Directory - Thanks to Sharon Rowlen, who has done an incredible job with WARP’s new database, and a group of hearty volunteers, our 1999-2000 directory was printed and distributed to members.

Special Section: 2001 Annual Meeting/2000 Annual Report

2000: Financial Report

UMB Checking Account -  
1/1/00-12/31/00

**Income**

2000 Dues	\$ 3,682.00
2000 Meeting Fees	9,115.00
2001 Dues	747.00
2002 Dues	35.00
Annual Meeting	
Vendor Fees	362.37
Convergence Income	13,325.01
Copier sale	215.00
Donations - General	2,033.30
Education Fund	20.00
Endowment Fund	425.00
Miscellaneous	28.05
Pueblo to People Fund	200.00
Strengthening the WARP	11,120.53

**Total Income \$41,308.26**

**Expenses**

2000 Annual Meeting	7,949.72
2000 Convergence	10,486.25
2001 Annual Meeting	1,202.20
2001 Board Meeting	166.00
Staff Salary	3,000.00
Endowment Fund	5,871.40
Directory	1,067.76
Strengthening the WARP	770.51
Mail service	229.00
Newsletter	1,420.28
Office equipment	214.94
Office supplies	261.93
Postage	486.94
PtoP disbursement	200.00
Printing (general)	182.15
Slide show	54.01
Telephone	66.38
Returned 2000 Dues	15.00
Gifts	51.95

**Total Expenses \$33,696.42**  
**Income/Expenses \$ 7,611.84**

**Summary of Checking Account**

1/1/00 Balance	\$ 1,188.16
Gross Income	12,321.23
(\$5,000 transferred to Endowment Fund for holding)	
12/31/01 Balance	\$ 8,509.39

**WARP Money Market Account  
1/1/00-12/31/00**

**Income**

Endowment -	
10% membership	\$ 399.60
Endowment - donations	425.00
Holding for general fund	-5,000.00
Interest earned	1,256.91

1/1/00 Balance	\$24,639.17 <sup>1</sup>
Net income	2,081.51
12/31/00 Balance	\$11,720.68 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>includes \$20,000 on loan that was withdrawn in 2000; holding 5,000 for general fund  
<sup>2</sup>still holding \$5,000 for general fund; actual Endowment Fund balance is \$6,720.68

**Cumulative Totals for FY2000**

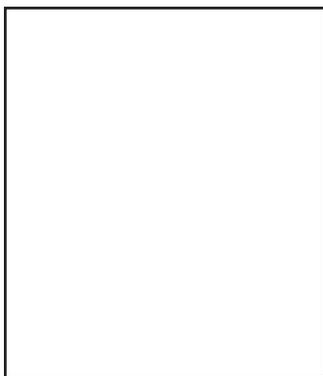
(12/31/00 balances)

Checking	\$ 8,509.39
Endowment	11,720.68
Total cash on hand	\$20,230.07



## 2001: Plans for the Year

Marcia Bellas will **re-do the WARP slide show**, to be used for informational, educational and fundraising purposes. Philis Alvic volunteered her husband, Barry Schroeder, to make videos from the new slide show. Members expressed appreciation to Debbie Durham for creating the initial slide show and for handling viewing requests.



*Beth Davis, Gage Evans, and Mary Kelly at Harrisville Designs*

Carole Pierce will take over mailing the slide show to interested persons/groups. Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland said that if slide show borrowers want to sell Guatemalan textiles when they show the slides, she will donate profits from

UPAVIM and Mayan Hands sales to WARP (see article on page 15).

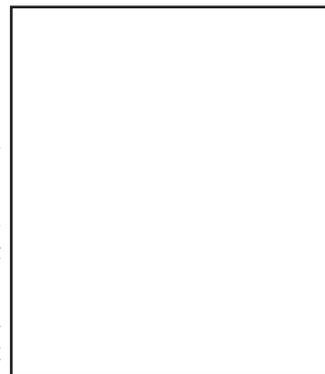
**Produce a new brochure** to recruit new members, educate and inform, and use for fundraising. \$1500 is available in the budget for this project. Cheryl will coordinate this project. Members expressed interest in making fliers available at textile meetings.

**Initiate library project.** For the last several years, WARP members have been working on and dreaming of a library that members could utilize via mail. Gage Evans and Carlona Coker will work to make this a reality.

**Resurrect education project.** Several members began a project some years ago researching ethnic textile programs (where taught; identifying gaps in available programs). Karen Searle indicated that the Textile Society of American and the Textile History Museum have been working on this same research, so

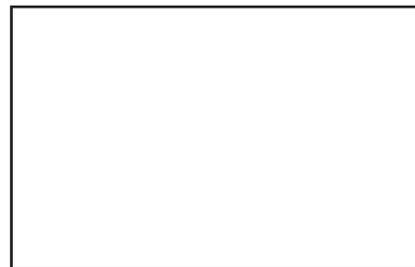
there may be no need for WARP to do it. The Education Committee (Mary Kelly and Karen Searle) will work to identify next steps.

**Next year's annual meeting will mark WARP's tenth anniversary!**



*Clemente Ruiz at the Marketplace exhibit*

Members expressed interest in holding the meeting in Colorado because this was the site of the first WARP meeting. Chris Switzer, Gage Evans, Ann Adams, Ruth Johnson, and Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland will assist with meeting preparations. More volunteers are needed, particularly members who reside in Colorado. Hope Thomas, who handled many of the arrangements for this year's meeting (thank you Hope!), will prepare a report for those working on next year's meeting. Some members are interested in having ethnic textile demonstrations at the meeting to bring home WARP's mission. Lolli Jacobsen will try to reprint WARP t-shirts for the tenth anniversary.



*Donna Duke, Linda Temple, and Deborah Chandler at the "Javalian Court" marking the end of Linda's and Deborah's board terms.*

Photos by Marcia Bellas; thanks to Carole Pierce and Gage Evans who also sent wonderful photos.

## **CENSUDI: Empowering Women in Ghana<sup>1</sup>**

*by Sarah Saulson*

The Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives (CENSUDI) is an NGO based in Bolgatanga, a city in the Upper East region of Ghana. Established in 1994 by Franciska Issaka, CENSUDI addresses issues of gender inequality and promotes sustainable development throughout Northern Ghana. Issaka is an unforgettable woman - intelligent and energetic, with a beautiful ability to connect with others. Her vision for CENSUDI is remarkable for its holistic approach to improving the lives of women, giving them a more powerful voice within Ghanaian society at large as well as within the local sphere at home. Girls in Northern Ghana are often married very young, and their formal education ends as they start raising families, leaving a wide gender gap in terms of literacy. Politically, women are underrepresented, and CENSUDI has been active in recruiting women's votes and helping women win elective office. In the 1998 District Assembly elections CENSUDI encouraged women to run for office and organized skills workshops for the candidates.

One of the ways CENSUDI supported their candidacies was by commissioning songs on the need to vote for women, which were broadcasted over the radio. One of the tunes became wildly popular and received airplay throughout Ghana. In the three districts where CENSUDI supported women candidates, the increase of women members of the assemblies was as high as 50%.

In addition to education and political empowerment, CENSUDI sees entrepreneurship, including craft production, as an extremely important tool for improving women's well-being and standard of living. Many women are responsible for their family's subsistence farming activities, but with increasing food insecurity, they are also under great pressure to earn cash. CENSUDI supports basketry, ceramics, and weaving - which have traditionally been women's work - in an effort to help them increase family income. At this time, local women are making baskets and other crafts and successfully selling locally, including at the CENSUDI-sponsored shop, the Craft Place. CENSUDI wants to broaden weaving and other craft production both in design and output to the point where it can be marketed internationally. Unlike southern Ghana, in the North weaving is traditionally done by women rather than men,

*Continued on page 13*

*<sup>1</sup>This article was originally printed in Crafts News, a quarterly publication of The Crafts Center. The Crafts Center is an international nonprofit organization that assists low-income artisans in the developing world by connecting them to markets and information resources. For more information, please contact The Crafts Center, 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 525, Washington, DC, 20036, 202-728-9603 (phone), 202-296-2452 (fax), info@craftscenter.org (e-mail), www.craftscenter.org (web).*

### **Fiber Traditions of Upland Oaxaca**

#1 August 6-13

#2 September 3-10

Cost: \$795 includes all hotels, most meals, private transport in Oaxaca and all demonstrations and entry fees. Group size is limited. An eight day journey through the Oaxacan uplands, the cradle to the great Mixtec and Zapotec civilizations. Weaving, basketry, rope making and dyeing go back thousands of years in Oaxaca. With the introduction of silk and wool 450 years ago, the skilled artisans quickly mastered working these fibers as well. We travel to the Mixtec village beneath the cliff where silk is cultivated and spun. We meet with the last traditional wool hat maker in Oaxaca. We'll spend a day in the old Zapotec village of Teotitlan seeing how different local plants are used to dye the wool from which the villagers weave their famous rugs. There will also be hammock making, rope twining, handmade paper, flying shuttle looms and palm and yucca basketry. We will make a cane basket in the Zapotec village of Papalutla and travel into the canyon of Apoala, the birthplace of the Mixtec people, to see how hats are woven from local palm. And much more. For more information, contact Rachel Werling, Biologist, and/or Eric Mindling, potterologist, [www.manos-de-oaxaca.com](http://www.manos-de-oaxaca.com); Apto Postal 1452, Oaxaca, Oax. cp 68000, Mexico

### **Slides needed for new WARP slide show**

WARP's slide show is used for educational and informational purposes, as well as fund-raising. Numerous groups, particularly fiber arts guilds, have borrowed the show over the last few years. We now want to produce a second slide show to reflect WARP members' current activities. Those wishing to have their projects included in the new slide show should send two copies of 3-5 labeled slides, along with some accompanying text, to Marcia Bellas, 2752 McKinley Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211. Please send the slides after June 15, but no later than July 31, 2001. Slides will not be returned.

If you would like to borrow the current slide program, contact:

Carole Pierce  
200 Peach Bloom Hill  
Berea, KY 40403  
859-986-8666  
cpierce@mis.net

Use of the program is free of charge, fulfilling WARP's mission "to provide cross-cultural education and support within the textile community". We only ask that users pay shipping charges.

## **Implementing the Maya Education Project**

by Marilyn Anderson

*In previous articles, Marilyn has told us about working with Consejo Maya to translate Maya Arts and Crafts of Guatemala (Artes y Artesanías Mayas de Guatemala) into several Mayan languages and Spanish (Winter 2000 WARP newsletter). In Marilyn's most recent letter, she tells about distributing the completed coloring book to Mayan village schools.*

In January 2001, I returned to Guatemala. During my month long stay, I worked with Consejo Maya colleagues to write the teachers' guide for Artes y Artesanías Mayas de Guatemala, develop a questionnaire to give teachers before they use the coloring book, and together we traveled to four bilingual schools which form part of the Consejo Maya Network.

The morning after my arrival, (but a year after beginning the production of the new nine language coloring book), those of us who had worked hard to make it a reality, Virginia Ajxup, Juan Zapil, (Consejo Maya), Fernando Peñalosa (Yax Te' Foundation), and myself, had the pleasurable experience of being together and holding the books in our hands. We all have realized, since the beginning of our effort, that we were providing Maya children with unique educational material.

*"No publication [for children] is presently available which shows images of artisans or that deals with the issues of the value of traditional crafts as they relate to Maya communal work, to the environment and the fragile balance that allows their continuation."* (from the proposal to the Agostino Foundation).

Since each Consejo Maya school was located in a different part of the country and spoke different Maya languages, our trip in itself was a lesson in multiculturalism among Maya groups. With the heavy boxes of coloring books copies and the teachers guides in the back of the Consejo Maya van, Juan and I set out. In each town we spent about three days to have initial meetings with school directors and to arrange for time with teachers and students.

*"Are there are opportunities to discuss the arts and crafts of the Maya in the teaching curriculum that you teach?" "Yes," a teacher in Rabinal responded. Answering the question which followed, "To what purpose do you talk about them?" she replied "to promote and value them and to save those crafts that are being lost, so that they will not disappear."*

These words from a teacher's reply to our questionnaire made us realize that those who would be using the coloring book already shared our love of Mayan craft traditions and our concern about their future.

Since my return home to Rochester in February, wider distribution of the coloring books has begun. Several other



photo by Marcia Bellas

*Continued on page 13*

## **CENSUDI: Empowering Women in Northern Ghana**

**Continued from page 11**

making this a logical enterprise - along with basketry - to increase women's incomes.

CENSUDI has received financial assistance from the European Union and the German Development Service. Another important partner has been Beyond Boundaries, a volunteer group from Syracuse, New York that promotes cross-cultural exchange and social justice. For several years, members of Beyond Boundaries have been visiting Bolgatanga and have donated scholarship funds to help girls stay in school. Through Beyond Boundaries, I was able to donate weaving equipment that I was no longer using, but which the women weavers of Bolgatanga desperately needed. A ceramic artist from Syracuse is interested in helping local potters switch from wood-fired to gas kilns, to help preserve the rapidly dwindling wood supply.

CENSUDI is active in many other projects. It hopes to solve very large, systemic problems, working, at this time, with minimal resources. Issaka writes, "As a young indigenous women's organization working almost alone in the area of meeting women's strategic needs in the northern sector, our challenges are myriad." But Issaka has a remarkable gift for inspiring those around her, and continues to recruit more and more true believers to her cause.

*Sarah Saulson is a weaver and member of WARP. For more information, contact her at [sfsaulson@aol.com](mailto:sfsaulson@aol.com), or contact Ms. Franciska Issaka, Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives (CENSUDI), Commercial Street TUC Building, Post Office Box 134, Bolgatanga, Upper East Region, Ghana, 233-72-222-49 (phone), 233-72-222-49 (fax), [censudi@africaonline.com.gh](mailto:censudi@africaonline.com.gh) (e-mail).*

## **Implementing the Maya Arts and Crafts Education Project**

**Continued from page 12**

schools will participate in the pilot project. An offer has come from an individual who wishes to donate funds to purchase sets of sample traditional crafts to have as examples for teachers who use the coloring book with their classes and for support of more artisans to teach in Consejo Maya schools.

We want to make the Maya Arts and Crafts Education pilot project as effective as possible and we plan to proceed carefully to make the project larger by involving still more schools and distributing a larger number of coloring books. All the while, I am aware that as a North American, most of the impetus and energy to do this work must come from devoted individuals in Guatemala such those of the Consejo Maya. My job is to work on book production and to facilitate fundraising. Always, we keep in mind our goal: to help children to become the "craft keepers" of the future and thus continue these fragile yet resilient traditions that somehow have survived during the past millennia to the twenty-first century.

*For more information contact Marilyn Anderson, 34 Nicholson Street, Rochester, NY 14620; 716/271-4374.*

### **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 Rugs in the Old Way, Part II**

*Continued from page 6*

In 1990 Yayla and Cultural Survival again teamed up to support the production of pile carpet weaving, this time in the Tibetan tradition, employing Tibetan refugees in Nepal who were (and still are) fleeing Chinese oppression in their home country. The Tibetan style of carpet weaving produces a rug with an exceptionally deep and dense pile, one with a luxurious, almost decadent feel. Yet the designs from this tradition are serene and contemplative, usually showing significant areas in the field of one color. These areas are marvelous canvases for the masterful use of natural dyes. Some small mats are "solid" colors, with only the subtle variation in tone of the dyes as a pattern.

I encourage you to visit the Yayla web site, [www.yayla.com](http://www.yayla.com), for lots more information about these projects and, most importantly, to read about the people and the traditions who make these projects work.

As I write this in late May, the situation in Afghanistan has worsened, though that hardly seemed possible a year ago. The Taliban, the ruling militia of the country, have decreed that the remaining Hindus in Afghanistan must wear strictly-defined Moslem dress and must display a label showing that they are Hindu. Does this sound familiar? The extreme drought of the past months has driven more and more families into Pakistan, where they've been placed in a "camp" and provided only with plastic tarps for shelter.

It will take more than weaving and spinning to bring significant relief to the Afghan people, but if you're in the market for a lovely rug for your floor, I hope you'll consider one from the projects mentioned in these two articles.

Jennie Wood can be reached at 603/924-3824, 3 Scott St., Peterborough, NH 03458.

## ***Letters...***

### **Staff Needed for Co-op America/FTF Partnership**

Greetings Fair Traders and Friends,

As you probably know, the Fair Trade Federation recently announced a partnership arrangement with Co-op America. FTF's new office will be co-located with Co-op America's offices in Washington, D.C. As part of the transition, Co-op America is hiring a new staff position to manage many of FTF's programs. This position is full time and available immediately. A copy of the job description can be accessed on Co-op America's web site at <http://www.coopamerica.org>. Please mail cover letters and resumes to: Fair Trade Federation, ATTN: Chris O'Brien, 1612 K St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20006

Or email your cover letter and resume to:

[chris@coopamerica.org](mailto:chris@coopamerica.org)

In cooperation,

Chris O'Brien, Managing Director, Co-op America Business Network, Associate Director, Fair Trade Federation.

### ***Special Thanks...***

To an anonymous donor for a generous contribution of \$1,000 given through a charitable gift fund. Your gifts allow WARP to continue to empower communities-in-need through textile arts.

To Hope Thomas, who coordinated the best WARP meeting ever!

To the vendors at this year's Marketplace, who donated \$432 (10% of their sales) to WARP: Eileen Hallman, New World Textiles; Eleanor Adams and Tom and Carol French-Corbett, Camphill Village; Marilyn Anderson, Maya Arts and Crafts of Guatemala; Jennie Wood; Ruth and Morris Johnson, Lesotho tapestries; Brenda Rosenbaum/Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, Mayan Hands; Molly Martin, Hamill Gallery; and Mary Kelly.

To Molly Martin for donating almost \$100 from sales of printed materials to Strengthening the WARP, and for giving WARP members a private tour of Hamill Gallery of African Art after the conference (and discounts on purchases!).

## **Still Strengthening the WARP**

Last year, the WARP board set a goal of raising \$15,000 to hire an administrative coordinator for the office. This \$15,000 was earmarked for coordinator salary through June 2002 and related office costs. We've raised \$13,677 through your generosity. That leaves only \$1,323 to go! You can help us meet our goal by:

- Sending any donations you pledged to WARP in 2000.
- Bringing your change bag to the bank and sending a check. One member recently sent in \$40 from just half a bag of change.
- Consider giving a little extra to WARP this summer.
- Holding a sales event at your guild meeting, church, home or local street fair (see sidebar).

We're so close! We know we can reach our goal with your help. Help us meet our goal in Strengthening the WARP!

## **WARP Fundraising Efforts Must Continue**

As we near the end of our Strengthening the Warp campaign, many of us realize that our fundraising efforts are not yet over. Recall that the \$15,000 goal of the campaign will fund our administrative coordinator position until June 2002. What then? Few people enjoy perpetual solicitations and fewer still enjoy soliciting. One way to eliminate or at least reduce the need for both is to raise an endowment for WARP. An endowment fund would provide a steady interest income with which to pay our administrative coordinator.

WARP needs your ideas about fund-raising strategies. Do you know of individuals, corporations or private foundations that might be interested in supporting WARP's mission with a gift to our endowment fund? Do you have personal connections to any potential funding sources (e.g., are you acquainted with someone on the board of trustees of a foundation)? Does your employer make donations to the favorite non-profit groups of employees or give matching donations when employees make a donation? Do you have ideas for fundraising strategies other than grant-writing? Would you like to participate in some way? Please contact Marcia Bellas ([marciabellas@juno.com](mailto:marciabellas@juno.com)) with your suggestions!

### **Host a Sale for WARP**

UPAVIM Crafts and Mayan Hands make it easy to hold a sales event at your local church, office, home, or guild meeting.

These two groups have generously offered to consign pre-priced fairly traded handcrafts from Guatemala to WARP members who wish to host a sale to benefit Strengthening the WARP. You get a box of handcrafted items, sell what you can, and return what is left with the income from the sale. All the profits, above wholesale cost (and minus shipping), will go to WARP to Strengthen the WARP. Help WARP, Guatemalan artisans, and your local community by having a consignment sale. Contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland ([upavimc@clark.net](mailto:upavimc@clark.net) or 301-515-5911) for more details.

***Yes! I want to help assure the future of WARP.***

***Here's my tax deductible gift for Strengthening the WARP***

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country** \_\_\_\_\_

*Weave A Real Peace, 3102 Classen Blvd, PMB 249, Oklahoma City, OK 73118-3899*



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

## Special Section: 2001 Annual Meeting/2000 Annual Report

---

### *What's in this newsletter (and what you can do about it)...*

Sheep Is Life: A Celebration of Sheep, Wool, Weaving, and Cultures .....	1
From the WARP Office .....	2
Resources ( <i>FibreArts Online, PEOPLink/ CatGen, MicroFinance Practice e-mail list</i> ) .....	2
<i>(Check them out!)</i>	
Connections Made Through Sister Guild Project .....	3
<i>(Talk to your guild about establishing a Sister Guild Project)</i>	
Latin America and Caribbean Microcredit Summit .....	3
Letters ( <i>Crafts Center/Rugmark Partnership; Textile Trip to China</i> ).....	4-5
New Members/Directory Corrections/Updated Contact Information .....	5-6
<i>(Welcome!)</i>	
New Rugs in the Old Way, Part II .....	6
Special Section: 2001 Annual Meeting/2000 Annual Report	
2001 Annual Meeting Notes .....	7
2000: The Year in Review .....	8
2000: Financial Report .....	9
2001: Plans for the Year .....	10
CENSUDI: Empowering Women in Northern Ghana .....	11
Tours: Fiber Traditions of Upland Oaxaca .....	11
Implementing the Maya Arts and Crafts Education Project .....	12
Slides Needed for New WARP Slide Show .....	12
<i>(Send slides today!)</i>	
Job Opening - Co-op America/FTF .....	14
Special Thanks .....	14
<i>(\$1000 anonymous donor; annual meeting coordinator Hope Thomas; Marketplace vendors at Annual Meeting)</i>	
Still Strengthening the WARP .....	15
<i>(Send money!)</i>	
WARP Fundraising Efforts Must Continue .....	15
<i>(Send suggestions for grant applications, other strategies for fundraising)</i>	