

# WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 11, Number 2

Summer 2004

## ***Get Ready: Third Annual Textile Auction Scheduled for October 1-15***

*Marcia Bellas*

In 2002 WARP began an online textile auction as a fundraiser and as an opportunity for members to buy and sell textiles. While most of the donations are exquisite examples of international textile techniques, many are fine textiles created by WARP members. Both of these purposes continue to be filled: last year the auction netted over \$1500 for the organization and featured textiles from Burkino Faso, Armenia, Mexico, India, Viet Nam, Guatemala, Turkey, Tanzania, Indonesia, Bhutan, Romania, Finland, and Norway, as well as many exceptional pieces woven by WARP members.



*Pakistani bed cover*

The 2004 online textile auction will be October 1-15 and items are currently being solicited. If you wish to make a donation, please send a photograph, description (size, fiber content, and any available information about country of origin and weavers), and minimum bid to Mary Kelly (7 Hickory LE, Hilton Head, SC 29928; kellym13@juno.com). Mary needs pictures and information not later than September 15, but please email her prior to that date so she will know how many items to expect. Mary will post pictures and information on WARP's website in time for the first day of bidding, October 1. ***Note that donors do not mail the item to Mary, but rather directly to the high bidder at the end of the auction.*** Donations are tax-deductible.

We also hope that you will participate in the auction. Bids are placed by emailing Marcia Bellas (contact information on page 2). Marcia posts high bids on the website daily so you can monitor the bidding. At the end of the auction, Marcia contacts high bidders. They send a check to her, after which items are mailed to them.



*Romanian runner*

Lastly, please let others know about this event! It's a wonderful way to purchase beautiful textiles, to help a great organization, and to meet WARP's goal of promoting appreciation of textiles which reflect a community's culture.

## ***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  
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Term expires 2005

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

***Cheryl Musch, Administrative Coordinator***

It was wonderful to see many of you at our annual meeting in Los Gatos, CA. It was a good time of sharing ideas, renewing friendships, and energizing WARP. Our next annual meeting will be held at beautiful St. Helena Island in SC. Watch for more information in newsletters and on our web site. Plan ahead and join us next April!

### **Volunteer(s) Needed for WARP's New Website!**

WARP is ever growing. We now have our own domain name and hope to have our own website within a year. Our site at [www.weavershand.com](http://www.weavershand.com) has been invaluable to us, and we are indebted to Janis Saunders for hosting WARP on her site. Our goal is to have a dynamic online presence with information about annual meetings, our newsletter, related links, etc., etc. We are looking for a WARP volunteer (or a friend of WARP's) to help design and/or maintain the site. This person would have input from the board, so they would not be working all alone. In addition, to lighten the load, the responsibilities, i.e. design, coding, and maintenance could possibly be shared by several people. At this point, we are open to all possibilities. We have no definite timeline, and knowing that everyone's schedule is full, we are flexible. Please contact Melinda Lowrey (contact information at left) to discuss further. This is a wonderful opportunity to help WARP grow!

### **Discussion Continues on Frequency of WARP Meetings**

At the WARP meeting, we discussed the possibility of going to an every-other-year meeting format (after 2005) because of low attendance and the amount of work that goes into planning a meeting. The discussion has moved to our e-list, where responses range from "Keep the meeting annual!" to "Every other year sounds OK to me." Some members noted that time, budget, and location affected their ability to attend meetings. If you want to join the discussion or review responses to date, sign up for the listserv by contacting Beth Davis at [bethbox@hotmail.com](mailto:bethbox@hotmail.com). Or, let any board member know what you think (contact information at left).

### ***2005 Annual Meeting Set for Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC***

The location and date for WARP's 2005 Annual Meeting have been set for April 15-17 at Penn Center on St. Helena Island off the coast of South Carolina. Penn Center's website at <http://www.penncenter.com/> describes the Center: "Tucked in the heart of the South Carolina Sea Islands between glimmering marshes and deep water, nestled beneath the silvery moss draped limbs of massive live oaks, you will find the Penn Center - the site of one of the country's first school for freed slaves and one of the most significant African American historical and cultural institutions in existence today... Penn Center sits at the heart of Gullah culture, on the 50 acres of the historical campus of Penn School."

Attendees can fly into the Savannah, GA airport (45 miles away) or the Charleston, SC airport (70 miles away).

## **Member Profile - Louise Meyer: Creating Opportunities, Connecting African Artisans**

**Tori Derr**

Many years ago, Louise Meyer was exposed to the “aesthetic power and complexity” of West African textiles when she worked with a Kente cloth weaver at the Museum of African Art. This began a more than 20 year odyssey of working with African artisans to preserve traditional West African weaving.

Over the years, Louise has worked closely with artisans in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. She and a Kente weaver, Bobbo Ahiagble, co-authored a book titled **Master Weaver From Ghana**, which won several prizes and was accepted for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade social studies curricula in the US and Ghana. Finding a publisher to keep the book in print has been difficult, though. She has been working on a second book, to show how cotton is transformed from fields, to spun fiber, to woven cloth, and to record the passing of this knowledge from mother to daughter in Mali.

After many projects with African weavers, Louise helped found a website called [Africancraft.com](http://Africancraft.com), an internet resource to connect people with African artisans and other artists inspired by Africa. “I wanted to show all the good sides of Africa. It’s a beautiful continent: very rural, culturally in-tact, wonderful people. And I wanted to show that Africa actually inspires a lot of people.”

The website is a virtual storefront for artisans, and she hopes to enlist as many people as she can find to market their work through this site. “No one will ever find these artisans otherwise.” There are many challenges to maintaining the website. Louise currently struggles with how to make the website grow, how to fund it, and how to have more artisans benefit from the website. “Connecting people could be so easy if they had the technology.” Technology training and access is an essential need for many African artisans.

More recently, Louise has started a non-profit organization that promotes alternative energy use with solar cookers. The original goal was to provide a better source of technology to artisans so they had time to devote to their craft rather than their chores. The stoves have been used by artisans in parts of Lesotho, Tanzania, and Zanzibar. In these latter two countries, artisans use the solar cookers for preparing grasses that they then use to weave baskets. Louise’s non-profit, Solar House Energy, is working in twelve of Mexico’s protected areas, teaching communities to solar cook; several sites are located in Oaxaca.

Louise hopes to continue her work to create opportunities for artisans to grow their craft, and hopes that WARP members can help (see box at right). You can contact Louise at 3327 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington DC 20010; [louise6@earthlink.net](mailto:louise6@earthlink.net) or [louise@africancraft.com](mailto:louise@africancraft.com) (email); 202/328-6834 (phone).

**Tori Derr, the new column editor for Member Profiles, is a teacher, a weaver, and a community development worker in Albuquerque, NM. She can be reached at [tori\\_derr@hotmail.com](mailto:tori_derr@hotmail.com).**

### **How WARP Can Help**

Through [Africancraft.com](http://Africancraft.com), Louise met a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho, Siiri Morley, who is working with a women’s weaving group, Elelloang Basali Weavers, to develop internet capacity and market their mohair weavings. Siiri and Louise both suggest that WARP members could help African weavers by helping locate market links, especially to galleries.

“The women are great at what they do, but they face enormous challenges in researching market possibilities. Promoting themselves and following up on abstract marketing contacts is very difficult for them,”

Siiri says.

WARP members with connections to stores, galleries, and other venues, could help African weavers market their goods. WARP members interested in volunteering could also help with marketing training on the ground in Lesotho.

WARP members who work in Africa can help to broaden the network of weavers connected to [Africancraft.com](http://Africancraft.com). Or, just order some weavings for yourself!

To view the work of the Elelloang Basali and other talented weavers, visit the website: [www.africancraft.com](http://www.africancraft.com)

To contact Siiri about ways you might help Lesotho women weavers, email her at [siirim@yahoo.com](mailto:siirim@yahoo.com)



**WARP Newsletter**

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Editor: Linda Temple

Send **address corrections**

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

The deadline for contribu-  
tions to the Fall WARP  
newsletter is **September 10**.

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

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

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

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

## ***Funding Connections***

*Cheryl Musch*

Last summer, WARP introduced a new program to connect textile artisans in need with potential funders. To date, we've made the following important connections:

**Kenya:** The Contemporary Handweavers of Houston funded repair of a solar water heater used for washing and dyeing by the Nanyuki Spinners & Weavers. Later in the year, a small group of women celebrating International Women's Day in North Carolina gathered funds to support a group of women in need. They chose to give their donation of \$425 to the Nanyuki group as well. The group has had a very difficult year since they are dependent on tourist sales, and tourism has dropped sharply in Kenya.

**Ghana:** The weaving apprenticeship project in northern Ghana that Sarah Saulson works with is thankful to WARP members for reeds, shuttles, and a new loom.

**India:** Individual WARP members responded to a need of the Leprosy Rural Rehabilitation Center to build six new looms. They received funds for not just six looms, but seven!

**Guatemala:** WARP member Marilyn Anderson publicized the need for last minute contributions to Pro Arte Maya for reprinting the ***Artes y Artesanías Mayas de Guatemala*** coloring book. WARP members responded with contributions.

**West Bank:** A WARP member was moved by the article about the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in our last newsletter and sent a donation to assist with the project.

If you know of a textile group in need, maybe one with whom you've worked, let Cheryl Musch know specifically what they need and what it will cost, and we'll get the information into our next newsletter.

**Contact information for Cheryl is on page 2.**

### **US Department of Commerce Resources Online**

An article in the most recent issue of ***Crafts News*** (volume 15, issue 57) about the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) outlines the requirements for certification to export textile and folkloric products from AGOA members in Sub-Saharan Africa (see [www.agoa.gov](http://www.agoa.gov)). The Resource list at the end of the article provides links that will be helpful for WARP members working in other countries as well:

- *What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About: The African Growth and Opportunity Act.* Download available at: [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications). Copies available from the US Department of Commerce.
- *US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection Publication: Importing into the United States* (designed for the novice importer). Download available at: [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/publications/) Copies available from the US Department of Commerce.
- *The Harmonized Tariff Schedule.* Shows the duty rate applicable for imported articles as well as what items qualify under AGOA. See [www.usitc.gov/webpubs.htm](http://www.usitc.gov/webpubs.htm).



## Huipiles of Guatemala

The huipil is the most important item of a Maya woman's traditional costume. The huipil is usually a heavily decorated rectangular cotton blouse made up of one, two, or three panels, woven on a back-strap loom, and then sewn together. The side seams are either left free, or sewn up to the armholes. Typically, the huipil is made without sleeves, but cut wide so as to cover the upper arm.

The embellishments on the huipil are its most striking feature. Some of the designs are abstract, and others are more pictorial in nature. A wide variety of symbolic designs are used, such as the flora and fauna of Guatemala, as well as creatures and symbols from the Maya myths.

A variety of techniques are used to decorate the huipil. The most popular method is brocading, where a supplementary weft is used to create designs in vibrant colors. Other weaving techniques include ikat (referred to as *jaspé* in Guatemala), weft wrapping (similar to soumak weaving), tapestry, and open-work gauze.

Methods that are used to decorate the woven huipil include embroidery, crochet, and applique. Embroidery is often used around the neckline to prevent fraying, and in the stitching that joins the panels. On some huipiles, embroidery is the main decorative technique.

The techniques used to make traditional huipiles, i.e. those designated for wear in the villages and/or for special occasions are more elaborate, and more time consuming. The style, and color of the huipil, as well as the motifs and techniques used for the decorations are still heavily influenced by location and various traditions. Many of the huipiles that are made for sale are made using modern methods, e.g. machine embroidery on commercially woven fabric. In addition, modern interpretations of traditional motifs, and completely nontraditional motifs are popular.

### Resources:

***Textiles from Guatemala***, by Ann Hecht,  
University of Washington Press, 2001.

<http://www.mayanculture.com/index.html>

<http://www.santiagoatitlan.com/Weaving/weaving.html>

<http://www.usi.edu/artdept/maya/index.html>

<http://www.nimpot.com/Huipiles/index.asp>

***Deborah Brandon can be reached at 412/967-1578 (phone); or at [brandon@asd6.math.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@asd6.math.cmu.edu) (email).***

### Weave A Real Peace

#### Membership Information

#### **2004 Annual Dues**

\$10 (simple living)

\$20 (U.S. and Canada)

\$25 (international;  
sister memberships)

\$30 (group/supporting)

\$100+ (patron/donor)

All memberships are based on the calendar year and expire on December 31.

Members receive all publications for the year joined.

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

Dues are used for printing, mailing, and office expenses. Weave A Real Peace (WARP) is designated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. All donations to WARP are tax deductible in the United States.

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

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

## Sister-Member Albertina Lopez de Martin

Albertina Lopez de Martin, an indigenous weaver from Santa Catarina Palopo on Lake Atitlan in Guatemala and her nine-year-old daughter were special guests at the 2004 WARP Annual Meeting in Los Gatos, California in April. Albertina is a WARP Sister-Member, and she was able to attend the meeting courtesy of Lolli Jacobsen and the Mendocino Art Center, plus a donation to WARP from Market Day!, a fair trade group in Oklahoma City.



Albertina has been weaving on the traditional Mayan backstrap loom since the age of eight. In addition to the WARP meeting, she attended the Conference of Northern California Handweavers and also taught backstrap weaving classes at the Mendocino Art Center this spring.

WARP's Sister-Member initiative began in 2003 and is intended to provide international textile cooperatives or individuals a link to WARP's supportive, knowledgeable, connected community.



*Printha Platt and Sarah Saulson model traditional Maya traje (clothing), assisted by Albertina and Melissa Lopez de Martin at the 2004 Annual Meeting*

This special membership category provides an opportunity for members to help artisans while strengthening, expanding, and diversifying the WARP network. If you don't know a candidate for sister membership, but are interested in being a sponsor, contact Cheryl Musch (contact informatino on page 2).

### WARP Slide Show

Now is the time to reserve the WARP slide show for Fall showings. Consider having a sale of crafts from UPAVIM and Mayan Hands as well.

To reserve the show in slide, VHS, or CD format, contact Carole Pierce, cpierce@mis.net (email); 859/986-8666 (phone).

To make arrangements for UPAVIM/Mayan Hands items to sell, contact Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, UpavimMayanhands@comcast.net (email); 301/515-5911 (phone). Profits from sales (minus shipping expenses) benefit WARP.

**Costume & Clothing Design**  
*(from the Weaving Room)*  
by Susan Lilly

**new book!**  
238 pages of patterns and ideas for handwoven fabric

**Get the Inside Story**

**Style for Every Body**

**Capes  
Capes  
Capes**

Send \$39.95 plus \$5 shipping or \$10 (international) check or money order

**The Weaving Room**  
3733 SE 35th Place  
Portland, OR 97202  
www.weavingroom.com

The advertisement features a central image of a woman wearing a dark, long-sleeved cape. Below this image are two smaller images: one showing three women standing together, and another showing a family of four (two adults and two children) wearing similar capes. The text is arranged around these images, providing details about the book and the publisher.

paid advertisement

## Special Section: 2003 Annual Report/ 2004 Annual Meeting



### 2003: The Year in Review

The board's focus for 2003 was on networking--expanding our membership network, looking for ways WARP members can connect with one another to seek advice and share expertise, and finding avenues for the WARP community to have an impact on the international textile community through funding connections and sponsored memberships. We extend our thanks to all the many members who helped make this possible. *Cheryl Musch, Administrative Coordinator*

**Membership** - After several years of steady growth, WARP's membership held steady from 2002 to 2003 at 258 members.

**Annual Meeting** - Nearly 30 WARP members attended our 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Black Mountain, North Carolina on April 24-26. The meeting focused on craft development in the Southern Appalachian region.

**New Brochure** - Thanks to Sarah Saulson and others, WARP has a new membership brochure. The brochure highlights WARP's mission and the benefits of membership.

**New Sister-Member Program** - To give international textile groups and individuals and WARP members an opportunity to exchange expertise, WARP launched a Sister-Member Program in which WARP members can sponsor memberships for our international friends.

**New Funding Connections Program** - WARP often learns of needs in textile communities around the world. This year, we began to make funding connections - bringing their needs to you so you have the option of offering assistance. This year, members funded new looms for the Leprosy Rural Rehabilitation Center in India and repair of a solar water heater used for washing and dyeing wool by the Nanyuki Spinners & Weavers in northern Kenya.

**Slide Show** - Thanks to Mary Kelly, our slide show is now available on video and CD. Carole Pierce has done a great job coordinating distribution of this show which was sent to sixteen groups this year.

**Online Auction** - Our second annual online auction raised \$1,565 for WARP. WARP received 45 donations for items for the auction. Thanks to Marcia Bellas and Mary Kelly who, for the second year, worked on organizing the auction.

**Convergence 2004** - In 2003, WARP began making plans for a booth at Convergence, June 30 - July 3, 2004. Deborah Chandler agreed to organize this effort.

**UPAVIM/Mayan Hands Sales Partnership** - Thanks to Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland and all the WARP members who held sales, WARP had another year of successful partnership with UPAVIM and Mayan Hands, Guatemalan handcraft groups. This partnership netted WARP nearly \$3,000.

**Ongoing Programs** - WARP has a number of ongoing programs that have continued in 2003. Thanks to Linda Temple for producing four great newsletters. Thanks to Janis Saunders for hosting and maintaining our website, and to Beth Davis for her work with Fred's Threads, WARP's e-list.

### WARP at Convergence 2004

While there will be no WARP meeting at Convergence 2004 in Denver, WARP will have an impressive presence in the Vendor Hall. Deborah Chandler, who is coordinating the WARP booth, reports that we will have a good range of items for sale: handspun yarn from at least three sources; rugs/tapestries and baskets from two countries in Africa; Guatemalan products from two groups; Afghan yarn, rugs, pillows, tote bags, scarves, shawls, a few knitting patterns, and postcards; and more. We will also be representing three projects from within the US. The vendor exhibits are open from Wednesday, June 30 until Saturday, July 3. If you are attending Convergence, please stop by to help or just to visit.



*Weave A Real Peace*  
Financial Report - 2003

WARP Checking Account - UMB 2003  
1/1/03-12/31/03

Income

2003 Dues .....	\$4,795.00
2004 and Beyond Dues .....	515.00
2003 Meeting Fees .....	4,950.00
Annual Meeting Vendor Income .....	272.10
Online Auction .....	1,565.00
Donations .....	2,531.00
Newsletter Advertising .....	113.00
UPAVIM/Mayan Hands Sales .....	2,976.90
Misc (Slide Show Ins. Payment) .....	103.94
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$17,821.94</b>

Expenses

2003 Annual Meeting .....	\$3,191.53
2003 Board Meeting .....	448.36
2004 Annual Meeting .....	1,815.00
Staff Stipend .....	4,249.95
Member Directory .....	722.79
Newsletter .....	2,037.09
Brochure .....	1,328.19
Auction Advertising .....	90.00
Mail Service .....	150.00
Returned 2003 Dues .....	30.00
Office supplies .....	22.31
Postage .....	449.31
Slide show .....	218.88
Copies .....	141.41
Gifts .....	50.00
Convergence 2004 .....	1,100.00
Deposit to Endowment Fund .....	524.00

Total Expenses ..... \$16,568.82

Total Income/Expenses ..... + \$1,253.12

Summary of Checking Account

1/1/03 Balance .....	\$12,146.47
Income/Expenses .....	+ \$1,253.12
12/31/03 Balance .....	\$13,399.59

WARP Money Market Account/  
Endowment Fund  
1/1/03-12/31/03

Income

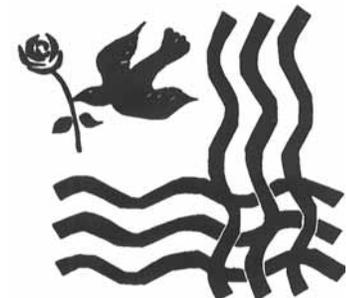
Endowment - 10% membership .....	\$524.00
Endowment - donations .....	450.00
Interest earned .....	55.46
<b>Net Income .....</b>	<b>\$1,029.46</b>

1/1/03 Balance .....	\$15,305.62
Net Income .....	1,029.46
12/31/03 Balance .....	\$16,335.08

Cumulative Totals for FY2003

Checking balance 12/31/03 .....	\$13,399.59
Endowment balance 12/31/03 .....	16,335.08
<b>Total cash on hand 12/31/03 .....</b>	<b>\$29,734.67</b>

Correction: In 2002 Financial Report, Total Cash on hand 12/31/02 was listed as \$27,451.83. This total should have been \$27,452.09.



Special Section: 2003 Annual Report/  
2004 Annual Meeting



**WARP 2004 Annual Business Meeting**  
**4/24/04 at the Presentation Center,**  
**Los Gatos, California**

*minutes by Melinda Lowrey*

Board member Mary Kelly welcomed the group and introduced WARP's theme for 2005: "One Bridge/Many Journeys."

The **2003 Annual Meeting minutes** were approved and Hope Thomas gave an overview of 2003 accomplishments:

- a great 2003 annual meeting
- a wonderful new membership brochure
- a successful 2nd annual online auction
- initiation of Sister-Member Program
- WARP slideshow now available on video and CD
- Mayan Hands/UPAVIM sales continue as income generator

The **financial report** was presented by Cheryl Musch. We have been in a good position the last couple of years. Some current sources of income include:

- membership dues
- annual meeting vendor income
- the online auction
- donations
- newsletter advertising
- UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sales

The **candidate elect** for the WARP board, Melinda Lowrey, was introduced. She lives in Sonoma, has three children and is retired. She is a weaver, spinner, and knitter. With no additional nominations from the floor, Melinda was elected by acclamation and will replace outgoing board members Donna Duke and Mary Kelly.

Marcia Bellas gave a huge thank you to outgoing board members Mary Kelly and Donna Duke. Mary has been very involved in the auction and the newsletter, UPAVIM sales, and has been all around "cheerleader" for the organization. Donna has done the WARP taxes for many years, does UPAVIM sales as well, and helped organize the 2003 annual meeting.

Sarah Saulson discussed **continuing projects**:

- New membership brochure – will be in packets at CNCH and Convergence. She encouraged all to distribute the brochures freely.
- Funding Connections, an extension of our mission, is ever growing (see page 4).
- The 2004 Online Auction will be October 1-15 – Sarah urged us all to begin thinking of contributions, for submission by September 15<sup>th</sup> (see page 1).
- This year we will work on building visibility of the Sister-Member program through newsletter articles and by adding information to our membership brochure.

**Thank you's** went to nominating committee members Eileen Hallman and Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland. Also to newsletter editor Linda Temple, to Carol Pierce for coordinating the slide shows, to Beth Davis for maintaining the e-list, and to Janis Saunders for hosting our website. And many thanks to Cheryl Musch WARP's administrative coordinator. Also to Anne Dunham who spent many hours organizing our fantastic 2004 annual meeting, and to Pat Funke, who helped with registration.

Cheryl Musch talked about upcoming **new projects**:

- Convergence 2004 booth – Please contact Deborah Chandler directly if you can volunteer time at the booth or would like to offer goods for sale.
- WARP's website is currently housed at A Weaver's Hand domain, courtesy of Janis Saunders. We will focus time and energy this year on developing our own site.

Marcia Bellas introduced for discussion the **2005 annual meeting** and whether or not we should switch to an every other year venue. A lively discussion followed, and the discussion was wrapped up with the understanding that we would definitely have a meeting in 2005. Cheryl stressed planning starts now.

## ***Canadian Flora MacDonald: Working to Change the Lives of Women in Afghanistan***

*Nicole McGrath*

### **Part I**

**Watch for WARP brochures** in goody bags at Convergence and at the Creative Strands Conference this summer!

We are pleased that for the second year, the Creative Strands Conference (PA) has designated the proceeds of their raffle to go to WARP.

A desire to understand the challenges faced by women in Afghanistan brought me to a presentation by former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Flora MacDonald, early in 2003. People filled the meeting room at South Asia Partnership to hear her speak. Photographs of her travels showed people smiling, eager to learn, to work, to rebuild. They were standing in bare landscapes where orchards and vineyards once flourished. Many had spent months cleaning and repairing an ancient water distribution system that had been poisoned during the war. Children attended classes in ruined buildings, but only when there were enough teachers. There was little sign of the post-war relief funds promised by the US and the international community. In this country where women account for 60% of the current population but who have little access to income or education, it is impossible to rebuild Afghanistan without international assistance. People needed humanitarian assistance not only in Kabul but elsewhere, particularly in the rural areas. Yet, even the slightest effort to help would go a long way: women are so eager to get back into school, work and improve their lives. I left convinced that I had to do *something*.

Since the start of her career in politics, Flora MacDonald has been making the world a better place for women. She opened doors for women in politics and as Minister created Canada's employment equity legislation. Following sixteen years in politics, she stepped naturally into a humanitarian role on the boards of South Asia Partnership, Future Generations, CARE Canada, and a number of others. Over the last three years, women in Afghanistan have been a special focus for Ms. MacDonald, travelling to the war-torn country and across Canada, seeking support from our government, organisations, and individuals. March 2001 marked her first visit to Afghanistan during the Taliban rule. Another visit followed just before the Grand Loya Jirga of June 2002. She journeyed to Afghanistan twice more in 2003.

Though there are significant improvements, there is much left to do, and still there is little sign of the post-war funds promised two years ago. A discussion paper released in March 2004 by Novib-Oxfam Netherlands, ActionAid, and Alternatives, states that international support has been exceptionally low for Afghanistan (\$75 per capita) compared to other post-war countries such as Kosovo (\$288) and East Timor (\$175).

During her visits, Ms. MacDonald met many Afghan women who wanted to talk about their challenges and their needs. When the Loya Jirga met in 2002, between 100 and 200 women were selected to attend as representatives of their community, but their voices were drowned out by the dominant warlords. This

*continued on page 12*

## ***2004 Annual Meeting Exceeds Expectations***

*Linda Temple*

The initial idea that led to the founding of WARP was to have a one-time face-to-face meeting of interesting/interested people that Deborah Chandler and many of her friends knew would love to meet one another. They had all either worked with or were interested in supporting textile artisans in developing countries. After the first meeting in 1992, those attending decided that we wanted more than that one-time face-to-face meeting. In fact, we wanted to do it every year. The annual meetings were viewed as opportunities to visit one another and to hear about what different ones of us were doing, wanted to do, would like to help someone else do, etc. We shared resources and contacts, encouraged and supported one another.

The 2004 Annual Meeting at the lovely old convent/retreat center outside of Los Gatos, CA met all of this criteria and more. The twenty-four participants hailed from Pennsylvania, Vermont, California, Illinois, Oregon, Wisconsin, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, and Guatemala.



After a guided tour of the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles on Friday afternoon, the evening was spent making quick introductions, visiting the International Marketplace, learning about backstrap weaving with demonstrations by Albertina Lopez de Martin and her daughter Melissa, and visiting.



*Martha Stanley*

On Saturday, Anne Dunham had made arrangements for us to tour Martha Stanley's studio in Watsonville. Ms. Stanley has extensive knowledge of ethnic textile techniques and has reconstructed many ancient weaves from archeological finds. We then visited Barbara Roizen's churro ranch before returning to the Presentation Center. Saturday evening was filled

with more extensive introductions from each of the participants—for most of us, this is a favorite part of the meeting. The International Marketplace was open and featured wonderful products from Hatooa Mose Mosali (Lesotho tapestries); Albertina Lopez de Martin, Marcia Bellas, UPAVIM, and Mayan Hands (Guatemalan textiles and jewelry); Janet Rodina (Weaving Web Textile Arts); Eleanor Adams (Camphill Village); and Eileen Hallman (New World Textiles).



*Barbara Roizen*

The annual business meeting was Sunday morning, and then, all too quickly, it was time to return home. My belief that there cannot be a more interesting group of people, discussing more interesting topics, than comes together for WARP's annual meeting was once again confirmed. Plan now to attend next year's meeting on St. Helena Island (see page 2).

### ***Email Change...***

Maya Traditions - as of  
Monday, June 28, 2004  
our e-mail address will  
change to:  
information@  
mayatraditions.com or  
contact@  
mayatraditions.com

**New Members**

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**Afghan Knitting Patterns Now Available**

Ann Rubin of *afghans for Afghans* writes that they are now selling traditional Afghan knitting patterns on their web site at <http://www.afghansforafghans.org/patterns.html>. They currently have four patterns: Afghan Mittens, Afghan Socks for Children, Friday Mosque at Herat Sweater-Jacket for Children, and Afghan Vest for Men. A fifth pattern (for a pair of Afghan-theme socks) will be available soon.

**RUGMARK Foundation e-News (April 30, 2004)**

The most recent issue of the RUGMARK e-News includes information about their Groundspring project:

“In Nepal, where the Maoist movement causes serious political unrest, the RUGMARK staff continues to provide a place of security and learning for children.

Majoj Magar is twelve and was rescued from a Nepalese carpet factory two years ago. His uncle also worked in the factory and had hoped to place him in school, but could not afford the fees. Majoj went to work instead. Today Majoj plays with his classmates and studies to become a health worker to help other children.

Minchu Maya Tamang is one of seven children in her family. When her parents became ill, she dropped out of school at age eight and went to work in the carpet factory where she rolled balls of yarn. She is now eleven and after almost two years in a RUGMARK rehabilitation and education program, has caught up in her studies and hopes to one day become a nurse.”

Other articles, available in full at [www.rugmark.org](http://www.rugmark.org), include a promotional campaign for child labor-free soccer balls; RUGMARK importer and retailer news; 2004 Global Campaign for Education Action Week; and plans for Children’s World Congress and World Day Against Child Labor.

**Flora MacDonald: Working with Afghan Women**  
*continued from page 10*

disappointment has not prevented them from seeking education and training to rebuild their lives. A woman explained the benefits of her participation in a micro-farming project to Ms. MacDonald: she had received 30 chickens and three weeks of training from CARE. The eggs produced allowed her to improve her children’s diet, and to sell many more eggs at the market. With the income she received she was able to buy other food such as vegetables – a great leap from poverty and starvation. Practical skills help with production; literacy and numeracy skills help with exchanges at the market.

*This article will be concluded in the next issue of the WARP newsletter. Nicole McGrath founded Peri Dar in November 2002, a Canadian fair trade company now on its second annual campaign promoting the work of CARE for women in Afghanistan. For more information contact Nicole at Peri Dar Inc. [www.peridar.com](http://www.peridar.com) (website); [nicole@peridar.com](mailto:nicole@peridar.com) (email); or 819/456-4724 (phone).*

## ***Second Panel for The Thread Project, Threaded Harmony, Nears Completion***

**Terry Helwig**

I'm the founder and director of **The Thread Project: One World, One Cloth**, an international project which encourages tolerance, celebrates diversity, and promotes the belief that we humans can learn to live in compassionate community with one another. We finished weaving our first World Cloth called *Hope Materializing* early this year and are nearing completion of the second cloth *Threaded Harmony*.

The cloths are being woven from individual threads sent by thousands of people world-wide. Each cloth consists of seven panels woven by different weavers. One panel has been woven on a back-strap loom by Mayan women weavers in Guatemala. Deborah Brandon, a WARP member (column editor for "Textile Techniques from Around the World") is weaving one of the panels of *Threaded Harmony*. Plans also are underway to include a Greek weaver and a group of Hmong women. One panel was a school-wide project and involved the children in both the weaving and the collecting of individual weft threads. In MN, a school collected threads from their sister school in Japan and their sister city in Poland.

With so much turmoil going on in the world, I find thread a powerful metaphor for mending our torn seams and for weaving us together in unity.

In several years, there will be seven cloths in total, one representing each continent. Forty-nine weavers and tens of thousands of people will help to make these cloths--some of the most diverse ever woven. It is hoped these cloths will someday be displayed in the United Nations. This summer *Hope Materializing* will be displayed in the Colorado Springs airport.

If you would like to learn more about the project, the Hallmark Channel will be airing a short segment about it on their *New Morning* show on July 28. Also, an article will be appearing in the July/August issue of *Spirituality & Health* called "Materialize Your Visions." If you would like to send a thread or are interested in being one of the 49 weavers who will be part of this project visit [www.threadproject.com](http://www.threadproject.com) or e-mail Terry Helwig at [terry@threadproject.com](mailto:terry@threadproject.com).

### **WARP Newsletter Ad Rates**

For WARP members:

Business card - \$6/issue; \$22 for 4 issues;

1/4 page - \$11/issue; \$40 for 4 issues;

1/2 page - \$18/issue; \$65 for 4 issues;

Full page - \$30/issue; \$108 for 4 issues;

Classified - \$1.50 per line for members (50 spaces)

Rates for non-WARP members will be double the above figures.

All rates are for camera-ready copy.

### **WARP on the Web**

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

### ***More New Members***

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## **In Memory of Amidou Coulibaly (1946-2004)**

*Louise Meyer*

Amidou Coulibaly, President of the Union des Artisans du Nord (UGAN) in Korhogo since 1983, served as the major spokesman for artisans in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (RCI) and internationally as a cultural "ambassador" to Ghana, Togo, France, Switzerland, Germany and the US. He was trained as a master weaver, but had no formal education. Since its recognition as a Groupement de Vocation Coopertive (GVC) in 1978, UGAN bettered the lives of its members and their families, and has grown into RCI's largest craft cooperative.



### **WARP Brochures**

#### **Available**

If you would like copies of WARP's brochure to distribute to your guild or at local conferences, please contact the WARP office:

Cheryl Musch,  
3209 Atwood Avenue,  
Madison, WI 53704; 608/  
244-7817 (phone); 305/  
768-8470 (fax);  
warp@yachana.org (email)

This personal story recounts 27 years of our working partnership. My husband was stationed in RCI from 1975-1979 and I found a teaching position at the Institution National des Arts (INA) in the textile department. I was offered a position as a local consultant with a mandate to strengthen the artisan sector and form craft cooperatives. Waraniene was selected as the pilot village and that is where I first met Amidou. My tasks were to do a market survey of hand-woven products sold at all village markets; revive hand-spinning of cotton; improve the quality of the traditional weaving; revive old patterns; standardize sizing; diversify the production to appeal to urban markets, and organize exhibits. At that time, it was estimated that only 6,000 traditional weavers and spinners remained in the North and that weaving and spinning would die without assistance.

With the help of two PCV and two French cooperants, each with his/her expertise, we made up a very good team. Within two years we made great strides creating new products out of hand-spun, plied and dyed cotton in a village run dyeing studio. Successful and beautiful exhibits and fairs with craft demonstrations were held throughout West Africa.

By 1980 I was living in Berne, Switzerland but remained in close contact with UGAN. I found a market for some of UGAN's products at the Fair Trade shop located in Lucerne. In 1984, the Swiss government for Foreign Economic Affairs (SECO) offered free exhibit space to RCI at Switzerland's largest industrial fair, MUBA held in Basle. Amidou was part of this exhibit representing UGAN's artisans. When he arrived in Switzerland we went into the woods to cut tree branches so he could build a loom for demonstrations. His presence at MUBA made the RCI booth very popular. By 1988, UGAN had a high-quality catalog written in three languages (English, German and French), which led to greater exposure and better marketing opportunities.

In 1985 I organized a three-week village stay in Waraniene for five Swiss textile artists. This educational textile study trip was repeated annually until 2000.

*continued on page 15*

## ***EPIC Continues Work in Central America, US***

WARP member Mary McKay reports in the annual report for the Ecumenical Project for International Cooperation (EPIC) that their work in Central America and the United States is progressing well. EPIC is a small organization that seeks out program partners who have effective and creative solutions for significant global problems. By working with committed and talented local individuals and organizations, impressive results are obtained with small amounts of money.

EPIC projects include:

- La Semilla Agricultural Training Center and the Loma Linda Training Center in Honduras – providing vocational agricultural training.
- Taxco Viejo Silver Artisans Cooperative in Mexico
- Free the Slaves, a non-profit organization working to end slavery worldwide
- APRODENI – The Association for the Promotion of Human Rights for the Children of El Salvador
- La Casa de la Cultura Maya, a Maya cultural center in Antigua, Guatemala
- Rio Motagua Sustainable Agricultural Projects in Guatemala
- Good Earth Educational Center in Mexico
- The Land Institute in Salina, KS
- Peace Education in Watauga County, NC
- Adopt-Missile-Silo Protests in CO

For more information about EPIC, contact Mary McKay at PO Box 433, Allenspark, CO 80510; 303/747-2059 (phone); EPIC@csd.net (email); www.epicprojects.org (website).

## ***In Memory: Amidou Coulibaly***

***continued from page 14***

In July and August 1998, Amidou taught traditional Malinke strip cloth weaving to American fiber artists in Atlanta, GA. He also worked as an Artist-in-Residence at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art where thousands of visitors admired his fine skills as a weaver. There he was joined by his wife Nassouko, who sat in front of his loom spinning thread.

In 2000 at the World Summit for Social Development held in Geneva, Switzerland, Amidou and I were invited to speak on a panel to UN delegates about the benefits of the Internet to rural artisans.

Amidou's death was felt by his fellow-artisans in the Kohogo area who have unfortunately been experiencing difficult times without tourists. It was also profoundly felt by the many friends and supporters he made in the US, Switzerland, and in France. All of us while mourning his loss have gathered together to make sure that his legacy will not be lost and that the path he paved will be followed by his fellow artisans.

To learn more about Amidou and UGAN visit the African Craft website at [www.africancraft.com](http://www.africancraft.com).

***Louise Meyer, 3327 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20010; 202/328-6834 (phone); louise6@earthlink.net (email).***

## ***Thanks to...***

Anne Dunham for doing a fantastic job coordinating our annual meeting in Los Gatos, California.

Pat Funke for taking registrations for the annual meeting.

Our annual meeting vendors for their contributions from sales.

Lucy Daley for having an UPAVIM/Mayan Hands sale, which benefits both Guatemalan artisans and WARP.

SERRV International for their generous donation.

Everyone who is volunteering at WARP's booth at Convergence, especially Deborah Chandler, coordinator; Deborah Robson, who secured the license and did the paperwork; and the door prize contributors.



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

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