



Indigenous Artisans, Producers Solve Environmental Problems

Nicole McGrath

It may be a surprise to many that there are hundreds of producer and artisan cooperatives around the world concerned with environmental issues and finding solutions to protect their natural resources.

One explanation is their dependence on the natural environment for survival. Many ethnic groups live in isolated areas where they understand the need to respect their surroundings. In addition, recent outside interest for resources (wood, oil, water, space) has required special attention to protect what is valuable and necessary for their community's survival.



Carpenters' Workshop in Pajapan, Mexico

In Pajapan, Mexico, the forest surrounding the village is part of the bio-reserve of Las Tuxtlas. The indigenous people have long been known for their excellent carpentry work with furniture. Their concern for the depleting sources of wood and the effect on the forest, also threatened by clear cutting for cattle grazing, inspired them to replant grazing fields with precious local trees 30 years ago. By cultivating beautiful trees such as cocuite and granadillo to carve smaller items like fine kitchen utensils and home accents for the fair trade market, the cooperative and the community benefit from an economically sustainable activity while protecting the forest surrounding their village.

Others, having suffered serious health consequences from the use of harmful pesticides, return to traditional and organic farming techniques. Shade grown coffee and cocoa are great examples, with crops planted under fruit trees or a forest canopy, providing critical habitat for birds and wildlife. Another common conventional crop is cotton. The devastating modern cotton farming practiced in various parts of the world causes one million human poisonings a year from exposure to pesticides. An alternative took root in Peru in the 1980s. In fact, naturally coloured cotton plants have been cultivated in the Andes by the Quechua and their ancestors for 5,000 years. The ancient native plants were found still being farmed by indigenous people,

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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 clearing-house for information, resources, and technical assistance within the international textile community

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

To provide guidance in the realities of appropriate assistance

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

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

From the WARP Office....

Cheryl Musch, Administrative Coordinator

Happy Holidays to all on behalf of myself and the WARP Board! It's nearing the end of the year, so watch for your renewal form for WARP membership in 2004. This year, ask a friend who is interested in supporting the global textile community to join WARP's network. Give a brochure from your renewal mailing to someone who might want to join us or give a gift membership. As our network grows, we all benefit from increased knowledge, experience, and dialogue.

WARP would not be possible without everything you, WARP's members, have done this year. Thanks to all who have volunteered your time, participated in WARP's auction, shared our slide show, engaged in listserv discussions, attended the annual meeting, held sales for WARP, given generous donations, and so much more. We offer you our heartfelt thanks.

Second WARP Auction Grand Success

Marcia Bellas

WARP's second online was a success, raising nearly \$1600 for WARP. Thirty people participated in the fun, placing 100 bids on the 45 beautiful textiles or textile-related items offered for sale. This year we posted bids on the auction website, which contributed to lively bidding wars on some items. Most popular item? A shawl from Burkina Faso, donated by Linda Temple. After ten bids, the shawl sold for \$55.

Thanks go to Mary Kelly for again creating an impressive auction web page. Thanks also those who bid and helped advertise the event, and a BIG thank you to the following people for donating items to the auction: Philis Alvic, John Atlee, Marcia Bellas, Alice Brown (eight items!), Vanina Bujalter (two items), Deborah Chandler, Donna Duke (seven items!), Debbie Durham, Gage Evans (two items), Lolli Jacobsen (two items), Mary Joan Ferrara Marsland, Carol Hayman, Mary Kelly (two items), Deb McClintock, Nina McGivern, Polly Ohman, Sarah Saulson (four items), SERRV International/Cheryl Musch, Linda Temple, and Carol Ventura (three items).

Mary and I plan to host another auction next year, so keep this in mind as you travel the world (and as you clean out closets and drawers).

2004 Nominating Committee Report

Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland and Eileen Hallman, WARP's 2004 Nominating Committee, have nominated Melinda Lowrey to replace departing board members Donna Duke and Mary Kelly. The board has recommended that only one board position be filled next year, bringing the total number of board members back to five. Logistically, a smaller board simplifies the decision-making process.

Melinda is a computer programmer, a charka spinner, and is particularly interested in Central and South American textiles. She lives in Sonoma, California.

Elections will be held at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Nominations may be submitted from the floor at that time.

WARP Governing Board

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Fair Trade Federation Update

Chris O'Brien, Managing Director, Co-op America Business Network

World wide, the fair trade movement is experiencing tremendous growth and public recognition. As America's leading trade association of fair trade businesses, the Fair Trade Federation (FTF) serves as the primary organizing force for companies dedicated exclusively to fair trade principles and practices.

The Fair Trade Federation is an association of fair trade wholesalers, retailers, and producers whose members are committed to providing fair wages and good employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers worldwide.

FTF directly links low-income producers with consumer markets and educates consumers about the importance of purchasing fairly traded products which support living wages and safe and healthy conditions for workers in the developing world.

FTF also acts as a clearinghouse for information on fair trade and provides resources and networking opportunities for its members. By adhering to social criteria and environmental principles, Fair Trade Organizations (FTOs) foster a more equitable and sustainable system of production and trade that benefits people and their communities.

The Fair Trade Federation increases the market for fair trade businesses through a variety of programs. In July, FTF set a new precedent by suing U.S. Customs to enforce existing U.S. laws that are designed to prevent products produced by child slaves from entering our borders. The lawsuit, jointly filed by the International Labor Rights Fund, Global Exchange, and the Fair Trade Federation, is intended to pressure Customs into following the law and to build leverage with corporate cocoa industry interests. Industry is now preparing to respond.

Our second annual Report on Fair Trade Trends was jointly produced by FTF and the International Federation for Alternative Trade and was published in September, with support from TransFair USA and TransFair Canada. The report provides an industry-wide snapshot of fair trade growth and trends, for the U.S., Canada, and the Pacific Rim. The full report is available on the Fair Trade Federation web site listed below.

A brand new publication, *The Handbook on How to Retail Fair Trade* is being planned for publication in late Spring of 2004--serving as an user's guide to integrate fair trade into retail operations.

Our biggest project at hand is conducting a stakeholder process to produce our new Strategic Plan, which will incorporate our vision and goals for the next five years. The Strategic Plan will include plans for fundraising, partnering with allies, embracing educational opportunities created by certifications, strengthening membership criteria and monitoring, and helping to foster the emergence and growth of a new generation of fair trade companies.

For general inquiries or information about membership in the Fair Trade Federation, please contact Jaime Albee at 202/872-5338 (phone), or visit: www.fairtradefederation.org.

FTF Membership Criteria

Fair Trade means an equitable and fair partnership between marketers in

North America and producers in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and other parts of the world. A fair trade partnership works to provide low-income artisans and farmers with a living wage for their work.

Fair Trade Federation (FTF) criteria are:

- Paying a fair wage in the local context.
- Offering employees opportunities for advancement.
- Providing equal employment opportunities for all people, particularly the most disadvantaged.
- Engaging in environmentally sustainable practices.
- Being open to public accountability.
- Building long-term trade relationships.
- Providing healthy and safe working conditions within the local context.
- Providing financial and technical assistance to producers whenever possible.



WARP Newsletter

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Editor: Linda Temple

Send address corrections to:
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Oklahoma City, OK 73118

The deadline for contribu-
tions to the Spring WARP
newsletter is **April 1**.

Send articles and copies of
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the newsletter to:
Linda Temple
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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.

California Here I Come...

Anne Dunham

Make this your theme song for this year's WARP Annual Meeting, April 23-25. As usual the weekend will include a two-night, five meal stay at a spectacular site. The Presentation Center, nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains about fourteen miles from the San Jose airport, features cottages each accommodating between five and nine people. Some have a common living room. Most rooms are double with a few singles. This magnificent setting, amid the redwoods, has dining and meeting facilities which will nicely accommodate the weekend's activities.

Events, still in the planning stage, will include a trip to Martha Stanley's studio in Watsonville and an optional Friday tour of the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. For those who wish to stay for the week and attend the Conference of Northern California Handweavers the following weekend, sightseeing information will be available. We may also be able to arrange accommodations at private homes for those who would like to stay without the added expense of hotel fees.

The cost will be \$190, the same as last year, which includes registration, room, and board. Registration for all activities without room and board is \$55. To attend Saturday's program only, registration (including lunch) will be \$35. Pat Funke, a member of the Glenna Harris Guild that is also a WARP member, will handle registration. More specific information, along with transportation and accommodation requests will be sent to WARP members in January.

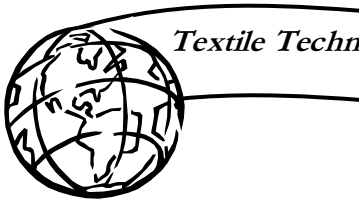
For suggestions, requests, or to volunteer to help, contact Anne Dunham at 9090 Bohlman Road, Saratoga, CA 95070; 408/867-0133 (phone); annedunham@earthlink.net (email).

WARP Goes to Convergence 2004

Deborah Chandler sends a reminder that WARP will have a commercial booth at Convergence 2004 in Denver from June 30 - July 3. The primary purpose of the booth is to give space to members to sell the goods of artisans with whom they are working, in the US or other countries. At Convergence 2000 in Cincinnati we sold over \$12,000 worth of wonderful textiles and other products, and we hope to do even better this time.

Goods can be shipped in advance to Schacht Spindle Company, who has generously offered to receive packages and even deliver them to the exhibit space for us. We hope that anyone who wants to sell will also be present to work in the booth, helping with setup before the conference, taking care of customers during, and tearing down afterwards. WARP will keep a percentage of sales to cover the expenses incurred.

If you work with any groups who you think would like to have an opportunity to sell through us, or have any questions, contact Deborah Chandler at MHHands@intlnet.com (email), or write to her at PO Box 591828-M131, Miami, Florida 33159 (a mail forwarding service that will take the mail to Guatemala). More complete information will be sent to all participants in the Spring.



Amish Quilts

One of the most distinctive features of Amish quilts is in the play of black against saturated hues in the top. The top is usually pieced at home, often on a treadle sewing machine, whereas the quilting is always done by hand, and is commonly carried out in groups at a "quilting."

Amish communities are very close and extremely conservative. Changes in designs, fabrics, and colors are made only with community approval; hence the emergence of distinctive regional styles. Adhering to community guidelines also means that changes occur very slowly.

Quilting became popular among the Amish in the 1870's. Most of the first Amish quilts were made in one solid dark color in worsted wool, with elaborate quilting patterns. Gradually, basic piecing was added, and more colors were used. As the "English" (i.e. non-Amish) started making crazy quilts, the Amish began using basic block patterns. The quilts were made of wool and cotton. In the early 1900's brighter colors started appearing. During World War II, as wool and cotton became scarce, synthetics replaced natural fabrics. Due to the difficulty in working with synthetics, quilting patterns became less intricate. By the 1940's pastels were added to the Amish palette, prints started appearing, and applique work emerged.

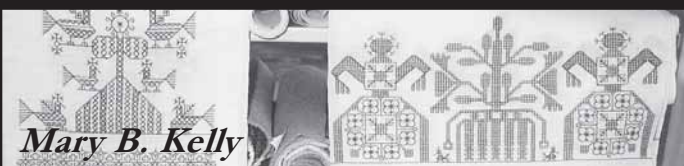
In the 1960's the "English" discovered Amish quilts, and Amish quilters started producing quilts for sale. Quilting is still an important part of community life--the Amish continue to make quilts for family use as well as for sale.

Resources:

The Amish Quilt, by Eve Wheatcroft Granick, Good Books.
<http://www.womenfolk.com/historyofquilts/amish.htm>
<http://magazines.ivillage.com/countryliving/collect/ar/>
<http://quilting.about.com/>

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

Making and Using Ritual Cloths



Mary B. Kelly

Just Published... this how-to book gives you many photos, charts and ideas for creating powerful and beautiful cloths for ritual gatherings. Practical advice on transfer and stitching as well as a general history of how ritual cloths have been used in traditional cultures round out this 100 page book.

Now available for WARP members at \$5. off. \$25.00 postpaid. Send check to: STUDIOBOOKS BOX 23, MCLEAN, NY 13102

paid advertisement

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

WARP Slide Show

This Fall the WARP slide show has been to Arkansas, New York, Pennsylvania and to the SOAR (Spin-Off Autumn Retreat).

If you are a member of a fiber guild or if there is a fiber guild in your community, please encourage them to view the show. The comments from guilds have been very positive.

Next year, the WARP slide show will be available in VHS or CD formats. There will also be a seven minute mini-version of the show available on CD that can be used at conferences or exhibits to promote WARP.

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

Llamas and Alpacas Move to Guatemala

submitted by Deborah Chandler

Guatemala has its first llama and alpaca herd. There are 56 llamas and alpacas, half and half. They were donated by the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle, and Food, "as part of a project seeking commercial incentives for the Cuchumatanes." The area now has some 200,000 sheep, with similar diet and climate needs, so the people have hope the project will be very successful.

One of the ideas is to combine the fibers of the animals to improve the quality of the final product. Other ideas include: use the fiber alone to weave, raise babies to expand to other areas of Guatemala like San Marcos and Sololá, and increase tourism. "The Sierra de los Cuchumatanes is spectacularly beautiful, and we hope that with the camelids tourism will increase," says Marroquín Krings, who has worked with sheep in the region for more than 15 years.

The animals were distributed to families in two cooperatives that have more than 2,000 families as members. Joya Hermosa/Beautiful Jewel and Unión Cuchumateca (—teca is someone who is from the area named) are in Chiantla and Aguacatán, Huehuetenango. In their first four months the animals have already attracted hundreds of tourists, both Guatemalan and international. The first crías (babies) are due in February, and until then the llamas and alpacas will be taken to fairs in the area to show off Guatemala's new arrivals.

Last Minute Holiday Suggestions

In the Mall

submitted by Sarah Saulson

A mall store called the Body Shop is selling beautiful, hand-made gift boxes for \$3.50. They are designed to help you put together gift sets of their personal care products (soaps, lotions, etc.) The boxes, made of beautiful papers, are from a Nepalese women's craft cooperative. The Body Shop donates all proceeds from sale of the boxes back to the women's group.

Shop Union - Online

You can shop with your conscience at The Union Shop Online--the AFL-CIO's retail store featuring top-quality, union-made-in-the-USA clothing and gifts. Everything from fleece jackets, books and music, to the perfect red wagon for the child in your life can be found on their website at <http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/81aNePY1W1NL/>

And if you're in Washington, D.C., visit The Union Shop in person at the AFL-CIO, 815 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

WARP on the Web

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

WARP Members Keep Networking, Using International Connections.

Mary Kelly

We are using this series of articles to highlight the various options that members have for networking using WARP as a resource. One of the most challenging as well as satisfying ways to network is cross-culturally via international connections. Just glancing through our membership list or any issue of the newsletter brings the wide-world to us. Whether you have an interest in Asia, or have ideas to share about the Balkans or Central Europe, you are sure to find someone who has either been there or has done work or research in those areas.

Donate supplies

WARP members respond to international needs in many ways. Many remember the stories that Babbie Cameron told to WARP members when she returned from the former Yugoslavia. Her idea to solicit yarns for women in refugee camps for knitting the thick socks and stockings that they had traditionally needed for their families' winter wear resulted in a huge outpouring of yarn donations from our members as well as many other individuals and groups. "Rainbow Socks" the idea of one member, resulted in the chance of many to participate in an immediate need. As the socks appeared for sale in the US, other members were anxious to purchase them to help the project further. While WARP was not officially involved in sponsoring this member or project with funding, the support and backing of our members was helpful to its success.

Find scarce resources

Another WARP Board member, Sarah Saulson, has volunteered to find specific weaving equipment for an African group. Sarah says "I am looking for 18-dent reeds to help young women who have apprenticed in Madame Laurencia's weaving studio located in Bolgatonga, in northern Ghana. Once they finish the program, the goal is to provide them with looms to begin their own weaving careers. This is the poorest, most remote part of the country where sustainable income generation for women is very important. I first learned about Madame Laurencia from the director of an NGO addressing women's needs in northern Ghana when in 1999, when the director visited my studio through a group here in Syracuse, Beyond Boundaries. At that time, Madame Laurencia was just getting the studio up and running. Now, not only is it established, but it has achieved her goal of actively teaching young women. The first group graduated last year. They requested my help in providing reeds. So far, I've acquired a few reeds at cost through an ad I placed on the Spinning and Weaving Housecleaning pages. They will be hand-delivered to Bolga. I'm still looking for 18-dent reeds of any length and would appreciate hearing from anyone who wants to do a little studio housecleaning themselves."

Thanks to

Carol Kelly who has maintained the master list of WARP e-mail addresses for the last several years. Carol, a longtime WARP supporter and former board member, is moving on to other interests, and we want to offer a big thank you for the work she's done for WARP.

...and to

Lucinda McCaffery for her generous donation to WARP.

WARP Brochures

Available

If you would like more copies of WARP's spiffy new 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)

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**Call for
Nominations:
2003 R.L. Shep
Book Award**

Nominations for the R. L. Shep Book Award are being accepted until March 1, 2004. Only books published in 2003 are eligible for this award which will be conferred in the fall of 2004. This award is given annually to the publication judged to be the best book of the year in the field of ethnic textile studies. The purpose of the award is to encourage the study and understanding of ethnic textile traditions by recognizing and rewarding exceptional scholarship in the field and, at the same time, to call attention to and promote the work of the Textile Society of America.

For more information contact:
Lotus Stack, Textile Curator
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Minneapolis, NM 55404
612-870-3047
lstack@artsmia.org

Activities and Publicity Promote RUGMARK

The most recent issue of *Natural Home Magazine* (January-February 2004) features an article about RUGMARK and cites "Five Ways to End Child Labor." Other RUGMARK Foundation news is available from their e-newsletter (last issue October 31, 2003). Nina Smith, Executive Director., writes

"I just returned from Kathmandu, where I met with carpet exporters, visited RUGMARK schools, and spoke to child labor experts about trends in the carpet industry. RUGMARK is considered to be a success in Nepal, having nearly eliminated illegal child labor in carpet factories. And nine RUGMARK children are now attending college!

But as you will read below, the Maoist insurgency in Nepal is crippling the beautiful Himalayan country and is intensifying the child labor problem. Our inspectors say that without constant factory monitoring, children will quickly return to the looms. To help the children and their communities, Nepal RUGMARK Foundation is expanding its child labor prevention program, which includes school sponsorship for children at risk of entering the work force." Other items in the e-newsletter can be found on their website at www.rugmark.org.

RUGMARK is a nonprofit organization working to end illegal child labor in the carpet industry and offer educational opportunities to children in India, Nepal, and Pakistan. And the RUGMARK label is your best assurance that no illegal child labor was used in the manufacture of a carpet or rug. RUGMARK Foundation, 733 15th Street, Suite 912, Washington, DC 20005; 202/347-4205 (phone); 202/347-4885 (fax); and on the web at www.rugmark.org.

**WARP Board
Member Featured**

Paintings by WARP Board Member Mary B. Kelly will be featured in a one-person exhibit in the Wirtz Gallery at the Roberson Museum of Arts in Binghamton, NY, from February 1 - April 30. Titled **Russian Reflections**, the show celebrates 25 years of influence and inspiration in her paintings and includes four series: *Goddess Chapel*, *Shrine of the Black Virgins* in oil, *Winged Women*, in mixed media and *Russian Domes* in watercolor. The exhibit opens March 25, 2004.



Community Action Agency
**Custom spinning, weaving
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New Mexico encouraging
micro-enterprises in the
colonias.**

505-527-8799, ext. 133
BondL@caasnm.org
320 E. Wyatt Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001

This project is made possible in part by
New Mexico Arts, a division of the
Department of Cultural Affairs, and the
National Endowment for the Arts.

paid advertisement

WARP Networking Continues

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Sponsor a group

A glance through any WARP newsletter, shows how involved members are individually with groups abroad. While some have actually visited these projects, many keep in touch from the United States, advocating for the area, the people they have come to know and products they appreciate. Nicole McGrath's fair trade group, Peri Dar, based in Quebec, works with groups all over the world assisting in the sales of their products. Adrienne Sloane described Alma de Los Andes, an empowerment group of women from Bolivia who need assistance. Jean Howe works with Threads of Life, a U.S. foundation whose work is to sustain the traditional weaving arts of Bali, Indonesia, while Mary McKay draws our attention to FundaMarcos, a Mayan group in Guatemala who are seeking to create a Cultural Center. Marilyn Anderson assists the Pro Arte Maya Education Project by collaborating on coloring books for schools that highlight the crafts and folk traditions of Guatemala. This is only a small sampling of a long list of international connections our members sustain.

Go help

Finally, in several cases, members have actually pulled up roots and traveled to the country of their choice for a limited time or permanently, in order to make a long-term difference. One of our founding mothers, Deborah Chandler made this commitment last year. She says "I don't know if I would be in Guatemala now if it weren't for WARP - maybe but maybe not."

In May of 1998, Deb first went there to help with SERRV International. While there, she met artisan groups and other contacts through WARP that resulted in a commitment to work in Guatemala. As of March 2003, Deborah is serving as the in-country Director of Mayan Hands, an organization begun by WARP member, Brenda Rosenbaum. Thirteen groups of Mayan women who live throughout Guatemala make and sell woven articles through WARP distributor, Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland. "It is amazing and good work," says Deborah. "I feel extremely fortunate to have been given this opportunity...It's dirty out here in the trenches. And enormously satisfying, to do even one little bit to help. Some days I wake up excited about what I'm doing. Other days I'm depressed as hell. That was true in the US too, but now when I'm in the US, more than anything else I'm in awe of how easy life is physically."

Opportunities to meet specific needs

Networking through our newsletter has resulted this year in a new project our International "Wish List." Board members wanted to highlight the many opportunities for giving specific donations to worthy international projects. Cheryl Musch, WARP's administrative coordinator, often receives letters asking for specific items for weaving or textile projects. She outlines these in her "Funding Connections" column. Individual members can help if they choose. In the last newsletter, Cheryl told us that two of the projects she

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Upcoming Events...

2004 WARP Annual Meeting - April 23-25 at the Presentation Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains, outside of San Jose, California. See page 4 for more information.

...and stay in California a few days for

Interlacing Cultures: A Fiber Festival, sponsored by the Northern California Handweavers. April 30 - May 4, 2004. For more info, call 510/888-2253; or access their web site at <http://www.cnch.org/pages/conferences/cnch2004>

WARP Booth at Convergence 2004 in Denver, Colorado from June 30 - July 3. Details on page 4.

Visit SERRV International's website at www.serrv.org - Work at SERRV - for more volunteer opportunities

WARP Networking Continues

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had described had already been funded by our members and member groups; the Nanyuki Spinners and Weavers in Kenya and the Leprosy Rural Rehabilitation Center. If you know of any international groups needing specific assistance, contact Cheryl at 608/244-7817 (phone) or warp@yachana.org (email).

Gift memberships and newsletters

WARP has also hoped to involve international people and groups in receiving our newsletter. This year we initiated the Sister Member program. At the time of our membership drive, our members are asked to sponsor an international member whom they know, for WARP membership and the receipt of our membership directory and newsletter. Thus they become aware of funding and networking possibilities within our group and can publicize their own projects through articles, ads and letters.

Advice and expertise

International groups or individuals can also contact WARP for specific advice on projects they wish to begin, marketing advice or crafts development. WARP member Philis Alvic has assisted crafts persons in Armenia to market their art, has written a book featuring each craftsperson, and has facilitated meetings with Armenian artisans to found a new Crafts of Armenia organization.

So whether individually or collectively, WARP members network on the international scene, helping, advising, and creating new ways to interact.

New Members

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gelliott63@hotmail.com

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315/445-2661
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Lucinda McCaffery
Poplar Creek Landing
25 Covese Circle
Elloree, SC 29047

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

new book!
238 pages
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and ideas
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fabric

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Solving Environmental Problems

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inspiring a return to safe cotton cultivation. No chemicals or other synthetic processes are used to grow, soften, or colour the naturally pigmented cotton. The ancient cotton plants grow in various colours: cream, beige, brown, rust, chocolate, mauve, green, and other earthy tones. Related cotton plants are also being cultivated and woven by indigenous people in Guatemala, contributing to the social welfare of rural communities, healthier and safer working conditions, and rebuilding natural environments. Though the ancient cotton produces wonderful luxury items, it is possible for most of us to support this ancient cotton revival and the growers and weavers in this project by purchasing reusable cotton coffee filters, certified organic by Skal, owner of the prestigious EKO quality symbol.

It is sometimes also valuable for organizations and governments to collaborate with communities when building sustainable environmental projects. Within the mountain districts in Nepal, a rotating harvest and replanting management programme was initiated in 1985 by the Nepal government with the assistance of community workers. It was necessary to implicate the people who use the forest resources and to understand the importance of these resources to local villages and culture. The bark from the lotka shrub is harvested once during an eight-year period, the time it takes for new shoots to mature and be ready for another harvest. The shrub grows at 1200 to 3000 ft in the forest, usually a two day walk from the nearest village. The bark is boiled, cleaned and beaten to produce a fibre pulp, then mixed with water and poured onto a floating frame to make paper. Women are involved in the harvesting, preparation, paper-making, and printing of the fine paper.

Nepalese artisans have been producing hand-made paper for thousands of years, and for 400 years using the lotka bark. Other materials used for paper making are recycled paper and cotton. Printing is done using natural vegetable dyes and block prints, with many of the designs a reflection of Nepal's traditional art and ancient culture. The paper workshops connected to fair trade export markets have a strong commitment to social and environmental issues and employ mostly women in an effort to fight poverty in Nepal.

When looking at the cooperatives producing fair trade products around the world, we find many other eco-friendly projects. Selecting fairly traded products for our purchases means we are at once buying what we need and supporting responsible production and community well-being. For some cooperatives, the simplicity of the production means no power tools are used, and the tasks can be done by those without access to electricity or fossil fuels. For others, solving an environmental problem becomes key to the well-being of the community. It's a good idea to make sure our decisions as consumers enables their positive action instead of supporting harmful production practices such as those found in many large-scale agricultural and manufacturing centres. Small but sustainable projects found in fair trade networks are a practical, viable solutions for healthier environments and communities.

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California, Here We Come - WARP 2004 Annual Meeting April 23-25

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