



Volume 29, Number 3 - Fall 2022

The Story of Navajo Sheep and a Forest Gump Professor

Lyle G. McNeal

Editor's note: WARP member, Lyle G. McNeal, Ph.D., is credited with rescuing the churro sheep from extinction. This article is the first part of his amazing story.

I'm very grateful for the WARP organization, their mission, and especially the request that I write an article for the WARP Newsletter for this Fall 2022 issue. I'm also very aware that many WARP members utilize the natural fiber of wool for their



Guard llamas from the Navajo Sheep Project introduced into churro flock near Ganado, AZ

artisan and cultural weaving and knitting practices. Following my earlier participation in a Zoom WARP panel discussion on Navajo and Hispanic usage and art with the Navajo-Churro sheep, I wish to share a comprehensive story on the sacred Navajo-Churro sheep, its origins, history, and how it came to North America, almost became extinct in the 20th Century, and how I worked to rescue this first sheep for future generations.

The Origins of the Original "Old-Type Navajo Sheep" a.k.a. 'churro' Sheep:

The origins of the 'churra' sheep go back to the pre-1500s in North Africa, in Morocco, where they were sustained by the Berber shepherds and their culture for hundreds of years. Eventually the 'churras' moved across the Mediterranean Sea with the Moors when they conquered Spain. From there they eventually made their way to North America by the Spanish Conquistadores in the post 1540s. At the same time Spain was also known for having the finest wool breed of sheep in the world, known as the Merino. The Royalty of Spain did not allow or permit any of the early explorers to take Merinos with them, but only the coarse woolled 'churra'. If any explorer was caught taking Merinos to the New World, they would be killed by decapitation. Therefore only 'churras' were brought to the New World in the 1500s and early 1600s.



Doc with Navajo weaver, Clara Sherman at Two Grey Hills, NM

Mission

WARP is a catalyst for improving the quality of life of textile artisans worldwide. We are an inclusive global network of individuals and organizations who value the social, cultural, historic, artistic, and economic importance of textile arts.

Values

- Textiles are fundamental to the human experience and reflect a community's culture.
- Cross-cultural exchange enriches the lives of individuals in the global textile community and promotes positive change.
- Networking and sharing information facilitate constructive action.
- Making ethical connections between textile artisans and the market empowers artisans through stable income generation.

Vision

- WARP is accessible to a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and all-inclusive network.
- We bring an ethical orientation to all we do.
- We promote the sharing of information, resources, and technical assistance within the global textile arts community.
- We see tangible impacts resulting from our networking in textile arts communities around the world.

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Supporting Young Weavers in the Federated States of Micronesia

Neil Mellen

When the young women of Yap's remote outer islands depart home to pursue education or employment in the US, they leave many of their cultural traditions behind. The art of traditional weaving is among the most important.



Lavalavas, the backstrap loom woven cloth of the Outer Islands of Yap, drying on a line

Weaving has been passed down from mother to daughter for centuries on the small islands and atolls of Yap, one of four



An outer island woman laying out yarn on her warp board

island states in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Scattered across 100,000 square miles of open water in the western Pacific Ocean, Yap State is comprised up of four contiguous main islands and 134 "outer" atolls and islands, of which 19 are inhabited.

Distinctive to the Outer Islanders is the oblong length of handwoven, fringed fabric called a lavalava, that the women wear as a wrap-around skirt when they reach maturity. Woven on a handmade backstrap loom, built of wood and

bamboo, the young girls begin learning to make the striped cloth by watching their mothers, aunts, sisters, and cousins.

The art of weaving is in danger of being lost, due to loosening ties between generations as many younger women leave their island homes. Owing to weight and size, backstrap looms are usually left behind when young women depart their home islands. It's at this point that the link



An outer island woman weaving on a backstrap loom

in the transmission of weaving skills is fatally severed.

Habele, a US nonprofit established by former Peace Corps volunteers who served in Micronesia responded to the challenge. To sustain the tradition among migrants in the US, Habele created and



Young women from the Outer Islands of Yap, living in Hawaii as they go to school, wearing lavalava.

launched the online resource, Weaving-Connections.org.

The website provides context about the lavalava and the cultural tradition in which it is situated. More importantly, it

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Linda Temple, Editor

Send address
corrections to:

info@weavearealpeace.org

or mail to

Weave A Real Peace (WARP)
PO Box 403
Seagrove, NC, 27341

The deadline for
contributions to the
Winter issue of the WARP
newsletter is
November 11, 2022

Send articles and
correspondence for
the newsletter to:

Linda Temple
1230 NE 70

Oklahoma City, OK 73111
lgtempleok@gmail.com
405/921-1064 (phone)

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by WARP.

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



2022 Annual Meeting a Grand Success

With Tradition, Innovation, and Community Stewardship: Evolution of Textile Arts as the theme, the 2022 Annual Meeting brought together speakers from textile communities around the globe to discuss questions artisans face in this ever-changing world. How do weaving communities cope with issues of commercialization and cultural appropriation? What is the role of young generations in adapting for a sustainable future? What can we all do to give voice to weavers and improve the quality of life of textile artisans worldwide?

These issues and more were explored in the two and a half day meeting, which had 482 registrants from 25 countries. There were two keynote speakers: Lily Hope (Intertwining Community with Re-emerging Traditional Materials) and Arushi Chowdhury Khanna (Himroo: Reviving the Lost Weave of Aurangabad) and five panel discussions: Adaptation with Migration: Artisans Beyond Borders, Baskets of the World: Panel Discussion dedicated to Jackie Abrams, Inspired Fashion Design: Innovation meets Tradition, Reviving Traditional Textiles of India, and the National Weavers Movement of Guatemala, along with presentations by the four Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship students. All of the sessions were recorded and can be accessed at <https://weavearealpeace.org/2022-warp-meeting/>



Auction Proceeds Top \$11,000

The WARP online auction has become a much-anticipated fundraiser. This summer, we had 170 wonderful textiles, ranging in final bids from \$5-\$385, with an auction total of \$11,834. These funds help WARP sustain the work we are doing. Thank you to all of the WARP members who donated items from your personal collections, and thank you to everyone who participated as a bidder!

Upcoming WARP Events

WARP Members only

Please email info@weavearealpeace.org to receive the Zoom link

Meet a Member: Fireside Chat with Elena Laswick

Wednesday, 10/5 at 1 pm ET

Meet a Member: Fireside Chat with Cael Chappell

Saturday, 11/9 at 1 pm ET

Registration open mid-October

Free & Open to All

WARP 2022 Textile & Book Raffle

Ticket Sales: September 23–October 9th; Drawing: October 10th

Continuing Textile Traditions: Around the World in 80 Fabrics

Saturday, 10/15 at 1 pm ET US (New York & Canada)

Continuing Textile Traditions: Indigo Around the World

Saturday, November 19th at 1 pm ET

Go to weavearealpeace.org to register for these events.



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Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

www.weavearealpeace.org

2022 Annual Dues (USD)

- \$50 - Individual in US/Canada
- \$90 - 2 year special - Individual US/Canada
- \$40 - International Individual/International Sister Guilds
- Simple living - Choose an amount you can live with
- \$40 - Sister/Gift Subscriptions
- \$75 - Friend of WARP
- \$50 - Professional: Guild/ Business/ Non-profit Organization
- \$150+ - Patron of WARP

All memberships are for 12 months, and expire 12 months from date of joining.

Members have access to annual Membership Directory through a secure 'members-only' section of the web site, a quarterly newsletter, and can participate in the WARP Google Discussion Group.

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, telephone number, and email address with appropriate check, money order, or Paypal information in US funds payable to WARP to:

Weave a Real Peace
PO Box 403
Seagrove, NC, 27341
or join online at

<http://www.weavearealpeace.org>



WARP Governing Board

Maren Beck
Eugene, OR

maren@hilltribeart.com
Term expires 2023

Deborah Chandler
Guatemala City, Guatemala
1992warp2022@gmail.com
Term expires 2025

Cael Chappell
Albuquerque, NM
cael@basketsofafrica.com
Term expires 2024

Beth Davis
Acton, MA
daviswarp@gmail.com
Term expires 2025

Hedy Hollyfield
Raleigh, NC
hhollyfieldwarp2022@gmail.com
Term expires 2024

Elena Laswick
Arlington, VA
hello@ixilcollective.org
Term expires 2024

Rocio Mena Gutierrez
Mexico City, Mexico
romegu@hotmail.com
Term expires 2025

Cheryl Musch
Kirksville, MO
cheryl@yachana.org
Term expires 2024

Sarah Saulson
Providence, RI
sarahsaulson@gmail.com
Term expires 2023

Kelsey Wiskirchen
Executive Director
info@weavearealpeace.org

From the WARP Office

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Dear WARP Members,

What an exciting summer this has been! In June, we celebrated WARP's 30th anniversary during our 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting. During this three day event, we had the great privilege of bringing together speakers from textile communities around the world to discuss Innovation, Tradition, and Community Stewardship. Thank you to all who joined us online for this special occasion.

In July, I had the pleasure of attending the Handweavers Guild of America's Convergence gathering in Knoxville, TN



with WARP board member, Maren Beck. The first WARP meeting was held by a small group at Convergence in 1992, and how our community has grown since that first meeting! Maren and I had the chance to connect with many long time WARP members, and also to welcome many new members. After three years since our last in-person WARP gathering, this experience was energizing!

I am already looking forward to our in-person meeting next year in Kent, OH. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you on zoom for our monthly panel discussions and Fireside Chats.

Warm wishes from the WARP Office,
Kelsey Wiskirchen
WARP Executive Director



Results of Recent Member Survey

Beth Davis

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete this year's WARP member survey. We received responses from people who have been a WARP member for lengths of time that varied from less than a year to the full 30 years of WARP's existence. Most people had participated in numerous WARP activities – particularly the annual meetings, auctions, monthly panel presentations, and Meet A Member Fireside Chats. Although English was the primary language for 95% of the people who responded, there was a substantial amount of enthusiasm

voiced for our programs in languages other than English. Feedback on the 2022 Virtual WARP Annual Meeting was overwhelmingly positive, but there was also understanding and support for the need to introduce a hybrid component to our Annual Meetings, once we resume having them in person.

The complete survey results can be found in the Members Only page of the WARP website. For any members who did not have a chance to complete the survey, we are always happy to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at info@weavearealpeace.com.

"When you learn something from people, or from a culture, you accept it as a gift, and it is your lifelong commitment to preserve it and build on it."

- Yo-Yo Ma, cellist



Member Profile: Cael Chappell

Gloria Miller

“Basketry is diverse yet universal to all cultures across time. It’s something that binds branches of humanity to each other - I like the diversity yet universality of basketry.”

Looking for a higher paying job when he was 19, Cael Chappell was hired by an African Art gallery where they needed someone who could type and move their inventory from handwritten to a computer spreadsheet. He loved it and dropped out of college at age 19, then quickly worked his way up from typist to doing everything from coding inventory, client sales, and other database applications. He then was sent to Africa to purchase inventory and worked on logistics for large scale museum exhibits. The company was focused on Zimbabwe but he also sourced baskets for them in Swaziland, Botswana, and South Africa.



Cael with Kellen Kengazi in front of the weaving center outside of Fort Portal, Uganda

When he went to Africa, he saw how people lived and understood how difficult life is for them. His life’s passion then became to do what he could to economically help rural people in Africa. In 2002, he came up with the idea of “Baskets of Africa” which has been supporting thousands of weavers over the years by selling baskets for them in the US and around the world. Cael sees it as a means to not only make weavers financially independent but contribute to the preservation of the skills and culture.

Both his grandmothers were fiber artists and he benefitted from their early

influence. When the weavers in Africa inspired him to start weaving his own baskets, he started experimenting and figuring things out on his own and has become an accomplished and passionate basket weaver in his own right.

Cael learned about WARP from Jackie Abrams who assured him that the group is not only for weavers of fabric. He has found it to be a group of like-minded people working to preserve textile traditions and he is now on the board serving as secretary.

His basketry has been selected for multiple national and international exhibitions including Handweavers Guild of America, Fiber Arts Network, National Basketry Organization, and Society of Arts and Crafts. He was honored in 2020 by Fiber Art Now Magazine which selected him as one of 20 “Emerging Fiber Artists”. His first small group invitational gallery exhibition occurred in July and August in Nashville, NC. For Cael, weaving baskets is like therapy—like a meditation. He finds it calming and it allows him to focus on something abstract.

You can learn more about Baskets of Africa at <https://basketsof africa.com> and about Cael’s art at <https://CaelChappell.com> He is honored to have two pieces in HGA’s Dogwood to Kudzu basketry exhibit this year at Convergence. He can be reached at cael@basketsof africa.com

Gloria Miller, the Member Profile columnist, is a Sister of Mercy and has been working with a knitting group in Peru for many years. She became connected with WARP when she started weaving in 2006 and continues to enjoy weaving and her weaving connections all over the world.

Connect to the WARP Community!



@weavearealpeace



Weave A Real Peace



Weave A Real Peace (Google Groups)



weavearealpeace.com/blog

Post Your WARP Experiences

- Social and textile work of members/yourself
- Events from WARP meetings
- WARP’s history and long-time members
- New members you’ve met
- Events relative to WARP’s members and mission
- Local and global textile initiatives

(Tag posts with @weavearealpeace and #weavearealpeace for posting!)

Be a Social Media Volunteer

Interested in writing a guest post for our blog? Contact Deborah Chandler weavingfutures2012@gmail.com

Would you like to be featured on our Instagram or Facebook pages? Send your stories (with images) to Elena Laswick elenalawick@gmail.com

Interested in helping with the blog or Facebook? Contact Kelsey Wiskirchen info@weavearealpeace.org



2022 Raffle!

WARP will be holding a textile and book raffle this month, with an exciting collection of donations from WARP members! We have a collection of Zulu wire baskets from Baskets of Africa, a beautiful Guatemalan table runner from Ixil Collective, a loom and weaving class from Kakaw Designs, books from many of our WARP member authors, and so much more.

Thank you to our generous donors for this event! Tickets will be on sale through the WARP website from September 23rd through October 10th, with the drawing held on October 11th. Tickets cost \$5 each, and you can choose which items you are interested in. We will send an announcement by email when tickets are on sale.

Be Part of WARP's Re-Design!

WARP is getting a facelift! From a new website design to an updated logo, the WARP rebranding committee hopes this redesign will represent how dynamic the WARP community is. We need your help to accomplish this!

Your textile arts communities are the face of WARP, and we invite you to be a part of our redesign project. The new website will highlight members, member textile communities, and member testimonials. If you're interested in sharing a testimonial or photo(s) to be featured on the WARP website and promotional mate-

rials, please email them to info@weavearealpeace.org by October 1st.

The new website will depict how international and diverse the WARP community has become. We are looking for group images, or individual artisan images, or even images of the textiles your community produces. Please send us photos from your weaving/fiber art community, and include any captions or credit information important to your images.

Thanks for being the best part of WARP,
Rebranding Committee



Artisan Textile Resource Guide Update

As part of making our website more functional for members and non-members alike, the WARP board is working on updating the Artisan Textile Resource Guide. These changes focus on making the Guide more impactful for member businesses and more user-friendly for browsers. Please be on the lookout for

an email regarding your existing listing in the Guide or if you are interested in being listed. Have a question, concern or suggestion for the committee in the meantime? Feel free to reach out to Rocio Mena Gutierrez at romegu@hotmail.com



Supporting Weavers

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provides well-researched practical details about the parts of the loom, and simple do-it-yourself instructions on how to build one from commonly available materials.

A master weaver from the island of Fais, Regina Raigetel, served as project lead. Photographs, drawings, and videos were obtained from Outer Island weavers, and those who have moved to other FSM islands, Guam and Hawaii. Documentation also came from Peace Corps volunteers who had served in Yap. Collectors and anthropologists further helped identify historical and place-based differences among the construction of the loom frames and warping boards.

Finally, models of a warping board and a frame loom were constructed. Subsequent refinement took into account

the weavers' preferences, including ease of transportation and storage. Migrant weavers often experience cramped living spaces and periodic relocations, making compactness and transportability essential. Design plans are posted online at www.WeavingConnections.org

Starting in 2022, collaboration with the Library of Congress will expand the effort. A Community Collections Grant from the American Folklife Center is allowing for in-depth peer interviews of weavers, telling the story of these women in their own words.

Neil Mellen is the Founder of Habele, a US non-profit serving students and schools across Micronesia. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer on the Atoll of Ulithi in Yap State, Micronesia from 2002 through 2005. He can be reached at contact@habele.org



WARP 2022 Covid-19 Relief Grants

Maren Beck, on behalf of the 2022
WARP Grants Committee

WARP's 2022 COVID Relief Grants program has almost completely wrapped up, and we have received reports from 14 of the 15 grantees.

It has been fascinating to see how the funds were used this year compared to last.

But first, here are some of the statistics from this year's grants compared to last:

of applicants for grants: 2022 = 42 applicants, 2021 = 18 applicants, two-year total = 60 applicants.

of grantees: 2022 = 15, 2021 = 12, two-year total = 27 artisans/groups.



Warping (YeshiMo in blue jacket, Choe Dema and Sharub Choden). Leki Textiles and Weaving Studio, Bhutan, used part of their grant for artisan supplies.

of countries receiving grants: 2022 = 9 countries, 2021 = 7 countries, two-year total, 16 different countries.

\$ total of grants: 2022 = \$10,800, 2021 = \$6,000, two-year total = \$16,800.

\$ average of grants: 2022 = \$720, 2021 = \$500.

of artisans benefiting from a grant in 2022 = 252.

of total people, including family members, benefiting from a grant in 2022 = 820.

So, what do these stats tell us? First, a great financial commitment by WARP membership to support artisans who

were negatively impacted by COVID-19. Second, a greater diversity and reach in terms of the geographic spread and number of artisan groups receiving grants, due, in part, to the expansion of eligibility for any artisan group, regardless of WARP



Mujeres Sembrando La Vida, Mexico, used all of their funds to purchase dyes, fibers, and handmade products from Coop members.

affiliation or not. Third, a greater financial impact on groups of artisans due to the Committee's recommendation to increase the size of our grants; individuals and families received \$500 grants, and groups/



Cooperative TIMNAY in Morocco used half of their grant to pay for artisan supplies.

coops/associations received up to \$1,000 grants. This enabled the total number of artisans and family members helped to substantially expand. While we did not request the volume of artisans and family members impacted by the Grant in 2021, we did measure it for this year, and the numbers are astounding as shown above: 252 artists and a total of 820 people.

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New Members

Olaitan Adeleke

Kathy Barth
Arnold's Park, IA

Linda Bowman
Des Moines, IA

Christina Bruce
Santa Fe, NM

Prerana Choudhury
Kolkata, West Bengal
INDIA

Jean S. Clark
Brookhaven, GA

Rabe Cogsil
Stuart, FL

Maya Colop-Morales

Marney Cullen
Foristell, MO

Gigi Dann
Gainesville, VA

Karen Droegeheimer
Denison, TX

Carol Eaton
Westminster, CO

Manasi Eswarapu

Nancy Fullerton
San Antonio, TX

Amalia Galdona Broche
Providence, RI

Marta Gentry Munger
Santa Fe, NM

Jane Glidden
Fenton, MO

Leigh Grench
Moab, UT



2022 Covid Relief Grant Recipients

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More New Members

Mark Grigalunas
Millbrook, NY

Rocio Guillen
Carlsbad, CA

Carl Heaman-Warne
Winnipeg, MB
CANADA

Frances Irvine
Concord, NH

BA Johnston
Boulder, CO

Liz Keefe
Kensington, CA

Julie Kipp
Hastings on Hudson, NY

Andrea Kuettel
Buffalo, NY

Bianca Kuttickattu

Jennifer Kuyper
Portland, OR

John Laswick
Chicago, IL

Shaun Levi
Hershey, PA

Kate Lieber
Madison, WI

Iris Luo
Red Hook, NY

Elisa Lutteral

Christina MacLeod
Westcliffe, CO

Nancy Magyar
Conifer, CO

Meena Mansharamani
New York, NY

Nancy Martin
Santa Barbara, CA

Julia McClure
St. Louis, MO

The most intriguing outcome we have seen this year is how the funds were spent.

In 2021, over 50% of the grant monies were spent on food or food crops, followed by 19% for artisan supplies or crops, 11% for rent/mortgage/utilities, and the rest for medical, alternate businesses, and



ACEPA (Action for Environmental Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Uganda) used their grant monies mostly for weaving supplies, and also for food and seed for food crops.

other miscellaneous expenses based on artisan-specific needs.

In 2022, the top reported expenses are 41% for artisan supplies and crops, with food and seed for food crops reduced to a combined 14%. Rent/mortgage/utilities rose to 12%, while the remainder was used for dependent care, school fees, alternate businesses, medical and other artisan-specific needs.

While most expenses stayed constant, the need for food as a percentage of the use of grant monies decreased, and the need for investment in artisan supplies and crops increased. It appears that arti-

sans, on the whole, have been able to meet basic needs, and are now looking to grow their business as indicated by the greater investment in artisan supplies. Additionally, two groups invested in photography sessions to create catalogues and a more professional social media presence, two invested in artisan training, and one spent 100% of their grant in purchasing product from their artisan suppliers - all indicating a positive investment in their future as artisans.

Up to now our grants have focused only on COVID relief so no other needs could be considered. This year, however, several applicants focused exclusively on development grants. Although we could not consider these applications because they did not meet our stated criteria, there seems to be a clear need for development support. For 2023, the Grants Committee will look at the option of shifting or expanding the focus of our grants program to include artisan business growth and development. The Committee's goal in making a recommendation to the Board on how to shape the 2023 Grants program will be to make sure the program best meets the changing needs of the worldwide artisan community.

Thanks to ALL for your support of the WARP COVID-19 Grants Program. If you have any questions, please contact me at maren@hilltribeart.com.

The next issue of the WARP Newsletter will focus on TRAVEL!

We want to know why you travel, where you travel, and how you travel.

If you provide travel services, please tell us about it. When and why did you start? How has the business changed over the years?

If your submission will be more than 150 words, please get in touch with me ahead of time (Igtempleok@gmail.com).

Copy deadline for the Winter issue is November 11.



From WARP's Co-chair

Hedy Hollyfield

What is that you say, co-chair? Who are the co-chairs, and why?

One issue many nonprofits have is filling leadership positions. In response they are coming up with creative solutions to fill those gaps. In an attempt to make the job less daunting and more manageable, WARP decided to encourage members to step into board leadership roles by choosing two co-chairs to serve together rather than one person carrying the whole load of responsibility. This is the first year of trying this type of leadership, and we are hopeful that it will be a great success and give members interested in coming onto the board a chance to experience leadership with assistance. Deborah Chandler, a WARP founder, came onto the board a year ago as the board president to fill a 1-year gap. Deborah agreed to stay on the board for a new three-year term with the understanding that WARP would initiate a system of rotating co-chairs. Next year she will rotate out of the co-chair role, I will continue on for one more year, and



we will have a new co-chair to serve with me. I'm learning the ropes of being a chair under Deborah's capable leadership and only hope that I can live up to the expectations of you as members. And what an exciting time it is to be part of WARP and to have the honor of serving on the board! With all the hardships the pandemic has brought, it has enabled us to reach more broadly across international boundaries and now WARP has just over 500 members in 26 countries. With the wonders of the internet we have been able to have speakers from around the world bring us their stories every month. Also monthly, we have combined a way for members to meet each other on Zoom and begun our first bilingual programming at the same time. Our very successful virtual Annual Meetings (2020 and 2021) will now be carried forward into a hybrid Annual Meeting next year in Kent, OH. Hopefully the pandemic will be history by the time summer of 2023 rolls around, as I know that like me, many of you are anxious to once again meet in person, meeting old friends and making new ones. As you read through this issue of the newsletter you will see news of even more things coming up. Yes, an exciting time indeed.

Hedy Hollyfield can be reached at hhollyfieldwarp2022@gmail.com



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is a global movement encouraging collective action to celebrate the generosity of individuals, organizations, and communities. This year, WARP's focus is on expanding our impact in textile communities, and harnessing the power of our own community to create positive change in the world.

Please consider donating to our Giving Tuesday fundraiser and helping us reach our goal of \$5000! Giving Tuesday is November 29th, but you can donate any time before the end of the year. Contributions can be made through our website (<https://weavearealpeace.org/>), or you can mail a check to: Weave A Real Peace, PO Box 403, Seagrove, NC, 27341

More New Members

Lauren, McCraney
Fort Myers, FL

Katie Mead
Chicago, IL

Alaa Mencke
Belleville, IL

Anne Merrow
Fort Collins, CO

Anna Mullins
Weldon Springs, MO

Brenda Mulry
St. Paul, MN

Sarah Munday
Indialantic, FL

Kate Ohara
Philadelphia, PA

Kathryn Osborne
Parshall, CO

Beth Palmer
Vicksburg, MS

Bhavna Parasrampur
Ahmedabad, Gujarat
INDIA

Cristina Petrescu

Ann Pettit
Pacific Grove, CA

Carol Pritchard
Knoxville, TN

Mary Rand
St. Louis, MO

Anne Richmond
Victoria, BC
CANADA

Mary Rosell

Louise Schiller
Oakland, CA

Marion Scichilone
Snohomish, WA

Special Section: 2021-2022 Annual Report



The Year in Review

Membership – WARP’s current total membership is 503. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we typically had around 300-350 members. Due to our virtual programs, our outreach and online presence has increased significantly, leading to an increase in memberships. We currently have members living in 26 countries.

Board and Administration of WARP – On January 1, 2022 the 10 hour/week Administrative Coordinator contract labor job graduated into being a 30 hour/week Executive Director employee-with-benefits job, a significant change. The best news is that Kelsey Wiskirchen, who has been the AC for three years, continued on to become our first ED.

In addition to expanding Kelsey’s role, the Board of Directors also expanded from eight to nine members in the middle of 2021, all of whom have been working very hard ever since. For various reasons, the board changed not only in size but in composition, as six of the nine members were new. That is far more than usual to change all at once, but some of the new members had been on the board before, so at least there was some familiarity with the role. The board is definitely a working body, no in-name-only participants, all in an effort to serve WARP members in this post-pandemic-new-Zoom-world.

Board Committee Work – With so much organizational growth, the WARP Board somehow accumulated 25 committees between 2021-2022. For efficiency, after our July 2022 strategic planning meeting, we have reorganized these into the following umbrella committees:

- Communications Committee includes any activities that involve communicating with our members, including the newsletter, monthly blog, and social media.
- Fundraising/Finance Committee includes work on the annual auction, Giving Tuesday, the annual appeal, the raffle and any other fundraising activities we undertake.
- Membership Committee includes outreach to communities of interest, membership retention, recruitment and tracking, working on diversifying our membership, and overall impact.

- Grants, Scholarships, Assistantships – These are all programs through which WARP gives money or meeting credit to other groups or people who have been carefully chosen.
- Program Committee, which includes all our zoom programs: the panel discussions, Fireside Chats, Business Networking Group, and in the future, mentoring. Annual meeting planning and vendor events fall into this category as well.

Programs: Panel Discussions and Fireside Chats – With the advent of the pandemic, along with many other organizations, WARP began offering opportunities to connect virtually with both members and crafts people from around the world. The first virtual programs offered were panel discussions, and they have had a huge impact on our community. Since their inception in November of 2020, the average number of registrants has been 220, with about 30 of those registrants from countries beyond the US. Most panelists report an uptick in sales or donations after their presentations. The programs are free and open to all; donations for WARP are given on a voluntary basis and our monthly average for donations is over \$400. We have had featured speakers from and/or representing India, Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, the Navajo Nation, Dubai, the Netherlands, Morocco, Palestine, and other countries, nations, and areas.

In addition to this impact, we also did a special fundraising panel for Ukraine in April that had donations over \$10,000 with almost 500 registrants, of whom 69 registered from countries outside of the US. All of these funds were donated to Razom (razomforukraine.org), a volunteer-run non-profit currently focused on shipping the most urgently needed humanitarian aid to save lives in Ukraine.

With the success of the public panel discussions, members began asking for membership-focused opportunities to connect. The board heard their concerns and responded by creating monthly “Meet a Member Fireside Chat” Zoom programs. If you have not attended one, consider doing so. It is a great opportunity to get to know other members from the comfort of your own home.



Special Section: 2021-2022 Annual Report



The Year in Review

continued from page 10

Annual Meeting(s) – As most WARP members know, our last planned live Annual Meeting was to be in Bozeman, MT, in 2020. That year we just had a big blank space where the meeting was supposed to be (like everyone else in the world). By 2021 the amazing people who were helping WARP’s transition to a Zoom world managed to put together a fully virtual meeting, WARP’s first, and a tremendous success. As the pandemic continued to evolve, we opted for safety and a second virtual meeting, which was an even greater success. In 2022 we had some 250 participants from 26 countries passing in and out of programming that lasted from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. While the meeting was free and open to all, we received donations of \$2,670 and 26 new members. Presenters came from and/or were representing textile artisans from many ethnic groups in the countries of England, India, Nigeria, Namibia, the African continent, the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, and Argentina.

Our joy at the international reach that Zoom gives us has led to the determination that future Annual Meetings will be hybrid, to have the benefits of both worlds – being able to get together and have two-way connections with the world afar. Our 2023 Annual Meeting is set to be held in Kent, OH, south of Cleveland, in June. Stay tuned for the dates and program details.

Scholarships – In 2021 and 2022, we held our annual meeting as a virtual gathering. For both meetings, we offered four Alice Brown Memorial Scholarships to wonderful young professionals and students. The scholarship recipients each presented about their work during the Annual Meeting, and because we gathered on zoom, we were able to host scholarship recipients from around the globe, including Brazil, Mexico, India, Nigeria (now US based), and Argentina (now US based). These eight scholarship recipients are all invited to join us at the 2022 in-person Annual Meeting, with their conference costs covered, which is the typical scholarship award.

Assistantships – For the 2021 Annual Meeting, we had three assistantships to help with various aspects of the virtual program, including video editing, Zoom tech-

nical assistance, and social media promotion. In 2022, we opted to save the Assistantship Funding for future in-person meetings, and these tasks were done by WARP’s Executive Director, with volunteer assistance.

Social Media – We use a variety of platforms to help connect members and share announcements with the WARP community. Monthly blog posts can be found on WARP’s website (weavearealpeace.org/blog). We actively use Facebook (facebook.com/WeaveARealPeace) and Instagram ([@weavearealpeace](https://instagram.com/weavearealpeace)) to share program announcements and news related to WARP’s mission. Members are invited to send your announcements to info@weavearealpeace.org.

Discussion Forum – We now have a members only discussion forum located on the Members-Only page of the WARP website (weavearealpeace.wildapricot.org/members-only). This is for WARP members to share any news, announcements, or queries with the WARP community. There are a number of discussion topics, and when you log in you can create your own, and also post replies. Make sure you click the “subscribe” option to receive notifications when a new topic is created.

Treasurer’s Report – With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw an outpouring of support from WARP members. For example, many US-based members who did not suffer financially from the pandemic sent us donations from their government-granted stimulus checks. As a result of this generosity, the WARP Board of Directors decided to give one-time COVID-19 emergency relief grants to provide aid to textile artisans in 2021. In addition to a number of notable donations over the past two years, we received a substantial bequest in 2021, prompting us to establish Artisan Grants as an ongoing program. In addition to the grants program, we have been committed to offering our virtual programs at no charge for attendees, and we now offer an honorarium to every speaker.

*Kelsey Wiskirchen, Executive Director
Deborah Chandler, Board Co-chair
Hedy Hollyfield, Board Co-chair*



WARP 2022 Annual Budget

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Opening Balance	\$64,654.25	\$76,730.49	\$88,161.18	\$145,851.72
Fundraised Income Carried Forward from previous year			\$9,500.00	\$5,000.00
Income & Support				
Annual Meeting				
Auctions	\$4,703.00	\$5,675.48	\$11,057.00	\$13,000.00
Meeting Fees	\$22,537.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vendor Fees	\$1,291.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Annual Meeting Income	\$28,532.10	\$5,675.48	\$11,057.00	\$13,000.00

Donations				
Amazon Smiles	\$11.01			
Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,235.00	\$3,000.00
Assistantships	\$665.00	\$560.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
COVID-19 Relief			\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Endowment Fund	\$0.00			\$0.00
Giving Tuesday	\$4,495.53	\$3,575.00	\$5,675.68	\$5,000.00
Not Designated, (To Ops Fund)	\$4,446.00	\$7,118.00	\$56,284.00	\$5,000.00
Scholarships	\$507.00	\$345.00	\$125.00	\$0.00
Panel Discussion Donations			\$3,585.00	\$4,000.00
Total Donations Support	\$10,124.54	\$11,598.00	\$69,954.68	\$19,000.00

Interest Income				
Bequest Fund				\$50.00
CD Interest, Endowment Fund	\$553.00	\$471.00	\$74.73	\$0.00
Checking Interest	\$15.34	\$13.58	\$6.77	\$0.00
Savings Interest	\$12.60	\$13.95	\$5.47	\$0.00
Money Market Interest			\$11.65	\$0.00
Total Interest Income	\$580.94	\$498.53	\$98.62	\$50.00

Memberships				
Members Dues - Checks	\$1,985.00	\$2,385.00	\$1,865.00	\$1,500.00
Members Dues - Online	\$10,736.00	\$11,524.00	\$13,775.00	\$13,500.00
Total Memberships	\$12,721.00	\$13,909.00	\$15,640.00	\$15,000.00

Book Fundraiser	\$981.20	\$970.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Raffle			\$4,895.00	\$5,000.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$52,939.78	\$32,651.01	\$101,645.30	\$58,550.00
With opening balance	\$117,594.03	\$109,381.50	\$189,806.48	\$204,401.72

Expenses				
ANNUAL MEETING				
Activities / Excursions	\$2,631.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising (add category)		\$0.00	\$45.00	\$150.00
Assistantships (4)	\$1,225.08	\$0.00	\$1,496.36	\$2,000.00
Board - Financial Assistance	\$745.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Catering, all F & B	\$11,418.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contractor Expenses	\$1,930.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Facilities	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance, Event Liability	\$104.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00



Lodging	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meeting Expenses Board	\$1,212.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Misc. Expenses	\$704.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scholarship Expenses (3)	\$816.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Speaker Fees	\$1,415.61	\$0.00	\$652.12	\$2,000.00
Total	\$22,504.93	\$250.00	\$2,193.48	\$4,150.00

CONTRACTOR SERVICES

Accounting, Bookkeeping	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrative Coordinator	\$9,700.00	\$12,300.00	\$25,180.00	\$0.00
Graphic Designer		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blog Contractor	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$600.00
Web Designer	\$78.75	\$321.50	\$103.50	\$1,000.00
Total	\$9,978.75	\$13,221.50	\$25,783.50	\$1,600.00

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR				\$31,200.00
Payroll Tax				\$2,386.00
Accounting Fees				\$1,000.00
Health Care Stipend				\$1,400.00
Total				\$35,986.00

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor	\$1,500.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,775.00	\$2,000.00
Int'l Postage	\$311.39	\$66.26	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing & Postage	\$1,969.75	\$2,073.43	\$1,551.69	\$1,600.00
Total	\$3,781.14	\$3,839.69	\$3,326.69	\$3,600.00

OPERATING EXPENSES

Books, subscriptions,	\$101.47	\$96.00	\$97.00	\$200.00
Charitable Contributions			\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications	\$444.89	\$593.93	\$1,324.39	\$900.00
Fundraising	\$28.63	\$0.00	\$27.82	\$114.00
Marketing	\$200.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Misc. expenses	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$659.69	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payment Fees for Bankcards	\$982.71	\$1,065.39	\$1,408.43	\$1,500.00
Postage, Mailing Service	\$459.61	\$794.17	\$680.84	\$100.00
Printing, copying	\$351.44	\$5.07	\$0.00	\$400.00
SB Bank Fees		\$30.02	\$0.00	\$0.00
Software/Hardware - Wild	\$1,105.48	\$1,299.55	\$2,240.82	\$3,150.00
Travel		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$3,674.72	\$3,909.13	\$6,438.99	\$6,714.00

SPECIAL WARP PROJECTS

Artisan Resource Guide	\$924.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Endowment Contribution (10% of		\$1,290.00	\$1,564.00	\$1,500.00
Artisan Grants			\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Total	\$924.00	\$1,290.00	\$7,764.00	\$6,500.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$40,863.54	\$22,510.32	\$45,506.66	\$58,550.00
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Gain/Loss	\$12,076.24	\$10,140.69	\$56,138.64	\$0.00
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2022 Alice Brown Memorial Scholars Named

More New Members

Joanne Seyl
Gaithersburg, MD

Rebekah Shapiro
Redwood City, CA

Nancy Shelley
Sedona, AZ

Linda Sherwin
St. Louis, MO

Martha Shimkin
Alexandria, VA

Jeanne Simonelli
Bisbee, AZ

Keely Smith
Hudson, FL

Kai Solon
Cranford, NJ

Georgia Stevens
Lincoln, NE

Eliza Strode
Easthampton, MA

Polly Tagg
Indian Hills, CO

Gail Trotter
Lacey, WA

Stefany Truesdell
North Las Vegas, NV

Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood

Sara von Tresckow
Fond Du Lac, WI

Rinzin Wangmo

Margaret Welch
Baldwinsville, NY

Myra Wood
Haverford, PA

Pat Wrigley
Aldergrove, BC
CANADA

Barbara Zappulla
Port Charlotte, FL

The Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship is an award for students and young professionals who are invested in WARP's mission. Scholarship recipients are invited to the Annual Meeting to connect with the WARP community. This year's recipients shared their research and creative practices during our 2022 virtual meeting, then will join us for our next in-person conference in 2023. We are thrilled to welcome this remarkable group to WARP! The next issue of the WARP Newsletter will feature feedback from each of the scholarship recipients.

Olaitan Adeleke is a Ph.D. student in the Wearable Technology Lab at the Uni-



House of Noorie

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We are interested in creating textiles and fabrics in collaborations with independent brands, designers, organisations, concept stores, and more who are interested in supporting rural and indigenous communities of Assam. Business collaborations will also enable us to take our rich and diverse tex-

tile heritage to a bigger world, and bring both financial improvements and encouragement to our women weavers. We can be reached on by email at houseofnoorie@gmail.com; or on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/houseofnoorie/>

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The Story of Navajo Sheep

continued from page 1

Columbus, the first of a number of early explorers under the support of Spanish Royalty, did not bring any 'churras' to the New World. Thus, it was later when Spanish explorers like Cortez and Coronado brought thousands of 'churras' with them to North America. Most were consumed as a food resource and not many were given to the indigenous people and early priests who were left to convert Natives to Christianity.

It wasn't until 1598 that the Spanish Explorer, Don Juan de Oñate, who had thousands of sheep, goats, and cattle, decided to remain in the area of the Chama and Rio Grande Rivers. Most early Spanish explorers returned home after they completed

their explorations, but Don Juan de Oñate remained as a Governor of that region. Eventually, he established a village with a mission that became Santa Fe. Most of these 'churra' sheep and livestock were deployed among the Pueblo Indians of that region and to the missions as well. It wasn't long until the North American 'churra' sheep were given a new name as a 'churro', which was used as their name for the centuries that followed of their presence in North America.

Dr. Lyle G. McNeal, Carnegie Professor Emeritus; Livestock, Animal Fiber & Range Specialist; and Founder of the Navajo Sheep Project has graciously agreed to send the 'rest of the story' as requested. He can be reached at lyle.mcneal@usu.edu



Thanks to Generous Donors for WARP Programs

General Donations	Christine Galvin	Olana O'Connor	Sara Borchert	Virginia Glenn	Ngozi Okaro
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	Úna Ní Shé				Anna Zinsmeister

Travel Opportunities

Tours by Sharon - 2022

Best of Oaxaca - Mexico
Small Group Tour
March 11 to 19, 2023
Early Sign Up Discount

This small group tour has it all. Visits to weaving, woodcarving, pottery, glassmaking and papermaking workshops all of which are a very integral part of everyday life in Oaxaca.

Since the early 1990's, Sharon Giles has concentrated some of her textile, craft, and travel interests to the Oaxaca region of southern Mexico. As a fiber artist, collector of textiles, and an avid traveler to Mexico, she has been drawn to this area which is especially rich in traditional Mexican crafts and has many interesting mountain villages that are home to native craftspeople. This trip will be an opportunity to visit some non-tourist regions of Mexico.

EARLY SIGN UP DISCOUNT - 10% off if you sign up before October 1

For additional information or to sign up email Sharon Giles at toursbysharon@gmail.com





Weave a Real Peace
PO Box 403
Seagrove, NC, 27341

2021-2022 Annual Report and 2022 Budget (see pages 10-13)

House of Noorie Supports Rural and Indigenous Communities in Assam

Prerana Choudhury

House of Noorie is a micro handloom initiative working with indigenous communities of Assam, India to reclaim indigenous textile heritage and identities. We work with rural women and household weavers who weave on the rudimentary, traditional Assamese loom as a way of life. The structure of the mud loom and the manual loom is our primary design inspiration which influences the aesthetic of the clothes we make. (A mud loom is a direct translation of the colloquial Assamese term - 'maati xaal' - wherein 'maati' means mud/soil/earth and 'xaal' means loom.) Instead of 'employing' weavers in a static production centre comprising bigger looms, we take work to the weavers in their homes and villages, enabling women from the remotest of



Home-based weavers from the indigenous Rabha community of Lower Assam.

villages to create for House of Noorie. Needless to say, our work involves extensive travel to Assam's verdant rural geographies.

We also tell stories from the communities in an ethnographic spirit in order to study, preserve, and recreate lost design histories, which are primarily passed down from one generation of women to another orally. HoN comprises 15 weavers so far who work on projects/collections according to their availability and convenience. We encourage practices such as hand spinning, especially with the Eri silk yarn, along with natural dye practices. HoN is strictly plastic-free, and we refrain from using anything polyester either in the selection of yarns or packaging choices.



An artisan family creating naturally dyed Eri silk fabric from handspun yarn.

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