



Volume 30, Number 2 - Summer

Wild Silk: Keeping Communities Together in Northeast India

Karen Selk

Wild silk --tasar (tussah), muga, and eri-- is tightly woven to the ancient traditions and livelihood of the Adivasi (indigenous) people in the remote forests of central

(farmers) are out in the forest day and night using their sling shots, bows and arrows, and noise makers to protect the caterpillars from birds, snakes, lizards, and other predators. The silkworms are vulnerable to wind, rain, hail, fog, and a score of diseases. Even with round the clock dedicated care of the rearers, the mortality rate is 50-80%. Still, wild sericulture (raising of silkworms)



The natural colors of tasar, muga and eri are the essence of Mother Earth.

and northeast India. Village men and women unravel cocoons to make yarn and weave cloth in textured, rich earthy tones of beige, gold, umber, and papyrus.



Tasar rearer is pleased with his robust crop. Wild silk enables indigenous tribes to continue their traditional way of life.

Wild silkworms prefer to be on the go in search of their own food leaves outside in the forest, rather than being fed on trays like the white *Bombyx mori* silkworms that eat mulberry leaves. For the worms' lifecycle of thirty to forty-five days the rearers

continues to provide a sustainable, healthy lifestyle, preferred by many.

Cultivating wild silkworms has changed dramatically in the more than thirty years I have been visiting rearers. From an era of age-old beliefs in evil moths bringing disease, rearers now embrace scientific knowledge. It has taken patience and mutual trust, but the silk custodians can see the benefits of adopting scientific methods introduced by scientists from the

continued on page 9

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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Linda Temple, Editor

Send address
corrections to:

info@weavearealpeace.org

or mail to

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

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contributions to the
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Send articles and
correspondence for
the newsletter to:

Linda Temple
1230 NE 70

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

Information about an
organization or service in
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constitute an endorsement
by WARP.

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

On the Road to a Dream in SE Asia

Lynelle Barrett

I am fascinated by indigenous weaving and natural dye techniques, so I was thrilled to be able to travel for study again after the long Covid hiatus. I have been learning from weavers in SE Asia since my very first weaving lesson on a Lao foot-braced backstrap loom in 2015.

I joined ethnographer Dr. Genevieve Duggan on her first post-Covid visit to Savu, a remote island in Indonesia. My goal was to learn more about dyeing with

kudu, so there are no taboos that restrict me from using this colour.

When we arrived, a new community centre that had been built in Pedèro vil-



*Chopping the mengkudu roots
Mesara, Savu, Indonesia*

mengkudu (*Morinda Citrifolia*). The weavers of Savu are known for the rich brick reds they can achieve with this labour-intensive dye. The Savunese do not have rituals connected to dyeing with meng-



*Dyeing yarn with mengkudu, guided
by my teacher Mari Dope.
Mesara, Savu, Indonesia*



*Weaving workshop for village youths in
the new community centre.
Mesara, Savu, Indonesia.*

lage during Covid was ready for its opening ceremony. We had the first Tewuni Rai Weavers' Cooperative meeting in the



*Even the boys gave weaving a try!
Mesara, Savu, Indonesia.*

new space, and even had an upcycled plastic weaving workshop for the village children. Usually weaving is done by the women of the village, but even some of the boys turned up to see what the excitement was all about!

continued on page 8



WARP's Annual Meeting is Coming Soon!

Plans for WARP's 2023 Annual Meeting are being fine-tuned, and members who have attended previous meetings are eagerly anticipating another wonderful gathering. In fact, WARP was originally created just for this purpose—to gather with people who have similar interests, concerns, and plans, to share ideas and resources, and to network and support one another. With the advent of Covid and online programs, WARP has grown significantly, and has captured the attention of textile enthusiasts worldwide. But the in-person meetings are what really fuel us. Portions of the meeting will be available online.

This year's meeting will be held on the Kent State University (OH) campus July 13-16. The 2023 theme is **Threads of Con-**



Reggie Meredith Fitiao

U'a, I'e, O'a ma isi – Bark, Beater, Brown dye & more: Making Siapo in Leone

nection: Exploring the Local to Global Textile Community. For this conference, WARP will host presenters from the local and international textile community. In addition to a great lineup of speakers, we have a number of great networking opportunities including the annual Welcome Circle, a WARP member exhibition reception, a live auction and fashion show, international vendor marketplace, an optional hands-on workshop, and a bus tour to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Throughout this newsletter, there is more information about many of these events. **Registration deadline is June 26.**

For full details, including information about the presenters, go to <https://weavearealpeace.org/2023-annual-meeting/>



Jessica Pinsky, Founder of Praxis Fiber Workshop

The closest airport to Kent is the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, just under an hour's drive. While there is not a public transportation option, we will email registrants about a month before the conference to help facilitate ride sharing for those who need rides. If needed, we will also set up a shuttle with local volunteers.

What's in this Newsletter...

Wild Silk.....	1
On the Road to a Dream	2
2023 Annual Meeting	3
WARP Insider	4
SAVE THE DATE - WARP 2024.....	4
Member Profile: Rocio Mena Gutierrez.....	5
WARP on Social Media	5
New Members	6-11
Annual Meeting Highlights	6
Annual Meeting Agenda	7
WARP Rebranding	8
Regional Textile Gatherings.....	9
Twenty Grants Given	10
Kakaw Designs to IFAM	10
Board Member Nominations.....	11
Thanks to Donors	11
WARP Auctions.....	12

Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

www.weavearealpeace.org

2023 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 the 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 Insider

Deborah Chandler

In the past, the newsletter has featured a column by Kelsey Wiskirchen, WARP's Executive Director, and a column by one of the WARP Board co-chairs, Deborah Chandler or Hedy Hollyfield. In the interest of space saving and prevention of redundancies, from now on only one column will be featured in each issue--alternating between the Executive Director and one of the Board co-chairs.

Recently I have heard that WARP is offering so many tantalizing options that people can't keep up! There are the monthly Zoom Continuing Textile Traditions Panel Presentations and Fireside Chats, a blog and this newsletter, a vastly expanded website with more than a dozen categories of exciting things to explore, and an ever-increasing online library of resources. Dizzying. And that doesn't even include the Annual Meeting, the bedrock of WARP for more than three decades! It is all very exciting, and sobering. My new mantra is, "We want to grow like a garden, not like a wildfire."

In July the board will have our annual full-day board meeting. We will be working on a five-year plan that will include a priority list of services we would like to offer. We have plenty of ideas ourselves, but we would also like to hear from you. Give it some thought, and please send your ideas to me by June 30 at 1992warp2022@gmail.com. What do you think WARP could be doing that would be useful and/or fun for members and textile communities? And are you willing and able to help?



I am happy to report that this year we have set up a rotating leadership system that means that there will be two co-chairs as head of the board, one changing each year. This year it has been Hedy Hollyfield and me, next year it will be Hedy and Rocío Mena. The year after that Hedy will step aside and it will be Rocío and someone new. Board terms are three years, so not being co-chair does not mean going off the board, it means sharing responsibilities. It's an exciting development that fits in well with us having an Executive Director, all steps in WARP's growth. We could not have envisioned this 30 years ago, but having survived and thrived this long, now we are thinking about WARP's next 30 years. 2053 – impossible to imagine (except for science fiction writers), but inspiring as a reason for long-range planning. So please send us your ideas, and we will do our best to incorporate them.

A final thought: when I look at the condition of the world today and the seeming scarcity of leadership working cooperatively and effectively, I am SO proud of WARP. We are on solid ground, getting good systems in place, and with a baseline respect that I believe will stand us in good stead for that next 30 years. Thanks to all who have helped make it happen.

Deborah can be reached at 1992warp2022@gmail.com

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

Save the Date for WARP's 2024 Annual Meeting in Colorado!

Mark your calendars! We already have dates set for WARP's 2024 meeting. We will be meeting May 16-18, 2024 at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, CO. WARP is teaming up with Colorado Weavers Day, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild. The WARP program will be the 16th and 17th, with the CWD program on the 18th. We are excited to already be gearing up for next year!



Member Profile: Rocio Mena Gutierrez

Gloria Miller

"We really need to feel the materials we're working with and while doing that, inner transformations always happen."

WARP Board Member Rocio Mena Gutierrez grew up in Mexico City and attended bilingual school where she became proficient in English. She studied fashion design in Mexico City then went on to earn her Masters at L'Université Lumière Lyon II in Lyon, France, that included a six-month internship at Couleur Garance Association in the South of France



Rocio Mena Gutierrez

with Michel Garcia and other natural dye masters. She later spent time in Aramatsu, Japan, studying Japanese indigo and shibori with Hiroko Harada Sensei.

Rocio was part of the Mayan Hands team for the Tintes Naturales Project in 2014 in which natural dyes were used on cotton yarn that was then sold as kits for various projects. She learned a great deal from the Mayan women there as well as from WARP members who helped facilitate and market the project.

She has reflected on the processes of working with fiber and delved into it from several perspectives and has come to realize that, much as she likes design, what she really loves most are the textiles, colors, and all the history, culture, traditions, and people who make them. She seeks to create products with a story and a soul.

She enjoys learning different natural dyeing and shibori techniques from around the world and wants to expand the use of these techniques, mixing them to produce singularly unique items. She sees working with natural dyes and textiles as an alchemical practice—a transformation that occurs on the raw materials as well as on the artist and those who appreciate the finished piece.

Rocio has a natural dye brand called ZIKURI. She gives natural dye workshops and makes bags and accessories in which she mixes various materials and techniques such as leather, vegan leather, natural dyes, embroidery, shibori, and woven fabrics. At this point in her fiber journey she would like to focus on making interesting art pieces in addition to functional items that mix the many techniques she has learned.

She holds a series of interviews on Instagram and YouTube called Caminos Alquímicos (Alchemical paths) where she interviews people related to fiber arts as a forum to tell of their passions, inspirations, and the paths they took to arrive where they are today. Some are in Spanish, others in French or English. Translations are usually available on YouTube. If you would like to be interviewed, send Rocio an email: zikuri.colors@gmail.com.

Her website: <http://www.zikuri.co> Instagram: [@zikuri](https://www.instagram.com/zikuri) YouTube: Zikuri Colors where Rocio is always posting interesting natural dye info.

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



@WeaveARealPeace



Weave A Real Peace
(Google Groups)



weavearealpeace.com/blog



Weave A Real Peace

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](https://www.instagram.com/weavearealpeace) and [#weavearealpeace](https://www.instagram.com/weavearealpeace) for reposting!)

Be a Social Media Volunteer

Interested in writing a guest post for our blog? Contact Deborah Chandler 1992warp2022@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



Annual Meeting Highlights

New Members

Yolanda Alcorta
Washington, DC

Sharon Allen
Bellingham, WA

Romy Anderson
Canton, OH

Les Borowsky
St. Louis, OH

Barbara Brophy
Cheyenne, WY

Michelle Bures Veatch
Skull Valley, AZ

Handmade by Friendship
Bridge®
Lakewood, CO

Veronique Canning

Kimberly Castro

Barbara Ciampa

Silvia Coca Córdova
MEXICO

Cheryl Conway

Mary Cooper

Kirsten Costello

Tina Davis
Philadelphia, PA

Ciara Draper

Nicole Eubanks
Lakewood, CO

Vendor Marketplace (members only)

The International Vendor Marketplace will be open throughout the weekend. We have space for 20 vendors at this year's meeting, and still have a few tables available, given on a first-requested basis. There is no up-front fee for vendors. We ask for a donation of 10% of sales at the end of the conference.

Book Table for WARP Authors

We will also have a book table this year, and authors are not required to be in attendance. If you are a WARP author and interested in having your book for sale, please send an inquiry to info@weavearealpeace.org.

2023 Fashion Show:

Share the WARP stage on Saturday night by being part of a fun and casual fashion show! Bring something wearable you've made, or a textile treasure you've brought back from around the world. When you register, we'll give you a 3"x5" card to write out 2-3 sentences about what it is, how it was made, who made it, and so forth. Humor encouraged but not required. Limit two pieces per person, and it's fine to recruit a model if you wish. Join us for this fun evening event and appreciate all our talent and taste.

Member Exhibition

This year, we were given the unique opportunity to host a WARP-member exhibition showcasing outstanding textiles by WARP members! We are extremely grateful to Kent State University for providing gallery space for our show at the KSU Downtown Gallery. The title of the show is **Threads of Connection**, which is also the theme of our Annual Meeting. The exhibition showcases 43 works, representing a diversity of artistic creations and traditions from Argentina, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Laos, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Uganda, the United States, and more. The show is open now until

the closing reception during the Annual Meeting, on July 15th. For those who will not be able to see the show in person, we will have an online exhibition catalog and virtual tour which will be ready to view mid-June. Keep an eye on your emails from WARP for the announcement!

Optional Hands-On Workshop: Fun with Lasers! In this workshop, participants will explore possible applications of the laser cutter in various fiber disciplines such as weaving, sewing, surface design, piecework, and embellishment. You will learn how a laser cutter works, build a digital file with free user-friendly software, and experiment with their design. Workshop cost is \$45.

Optional Bus trip to Cleveland Museum of Art: Another of our Friday afternoon options is a visit to one of the renowned art museums in the US, the Cleveland Museum of Art. Cost for the bus is \$30.

Optional May 4, 1970 Visitors Center Tour: As many WARP members will remember, Kent State University went down in history as where the National Guard shot and killed four students during protests on May 4, 1970. The university has responded in a magnificent way in the half-century since, and the May 4 Center and The School of Peace and Conflict Studies are very visible evidence of their efforts. The Center will be open 9-5 on Thursday and Friday of our meeting, and visiting the Center is another option for those open afternoons. They offer a self-guided walking tour any time, and have also offered a live guide if arranged in advance. If you are interested, please check that option on your registration. There is no charge.

For information about all Annual Meeting events, contact Kelsey at info@weavearealpeace.org



2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

(Subject to change)

Thursday, July 13

- 12:00 – 6:00 Attendee check in/Vendor Set up
- 2:30 pm Optional tours of the KSU May 4, 1970 Visitors Center
- 4 pm Optional tours of the Design Innovation Hub
- 7:00 – 10:00 Welcome Circle - Welcoming remarks and member introductions

Friday, July 14

- 7:00 Breakfast in dining hall
- 8:00 – 9:00 Vendor Marketplace
- 9:00 – 10:00 Opening remarks, followed by Praxis Fiber Workshop Presentation by Jessica Pinsky - Art Building Lecture Hall
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 12:00 Scholarship Recipient Presentations
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch in Dining Hall
- 1:00 – 5:00 Open time with optional activities
 - Charter bus option to museum
 - Workshop option on campus in Design Innovation Hub
 - Vendor Marketplace
- 5:00 – 7:00 WARP Member Exhibition Gallery Reception
- 6:00 Gallery talk
- 7:00 Dinner in Dining Hall
- 8:00 - 9:00 Vendor Marketplace Open (doorprize drawing at 8:30 pm)

Saturday, July 15 (programs will be broadcast live for Zoom attendees)

- 7:00 Breakfast in dining hall
- 8:00 – 9:00 Vendor Marketplace Open
- 9:00 Program begins in Art Building Lecture Hall
- 9-10:30 Janice Lessman-Moss and John Paul Morabito Presentation
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Rustbelt Fibershed Presentation
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch in dining hall
- 1:00 – 2:00 Sustainable Clothing Panel Discussion
- 2:00 - 3:00 Virtual Presentation: Regina Fitiao
- 3:00 - 4:30 Weaving Demonstration and Vendor Marketplace
- 4:30 – 5:30 Guatemalan Weaving for the Future Presentation
- 5:30 - 6:00 Break
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner in dining hall
- 7:00 – 10:00 Fashion Show and Live Auction (with cash bar)

Sunday, July 16

- 8:00 – 9:00 Catered breakfast
- 9:00 – 11:00 Annual Business meeting in breakfast room
- 11:00 – 12:00 WARP Member Closing Presentation: Norma Schaefer, Oaxaca Cultural Navigator
- Concluding Remarks
- Check out by 1:00 pm

More New Members

- Barbara Finucane
- Robyn French
- Kuldip Gadhvi
Bhuj, Gujarat
INDIA
- Dale Goad
Fenton, MO
- Cynthia Hale
Cincinnati, OH
- Olandina Hernandez
- Kathleen Hogg
- Manal Jaroudi
- Ashley Juarez Lopez
Falls Church, VA
- Jenny Juarez Lopez
Falls Church, VA
- Eve Kermit
Hummelstown, PA
- Sandra King
Crusheen Clare
IRELAND
- Mamonyake Kori
- Sopiato Likimani
Nairobi
KENYA
- Angelica Lopez
Washington, DC



More New Members

Florinda Lopez

Susan Magee

Pedro Marroquin

Kathleen M. McConaughy
Rocky River, OH

Harriet McLeod
Cleveland, OH

Alaa Mencke
Belleville, IL

Lebohang Mohololi

Kediemetse Mokomeng

Bohlokoa Molefi

Jean Moran
Mobtagha Mourad Bejaoui

Richard Myers
Doylestown, PA

Zola Ndimande
SOUTH AFRICA

Elizabeth O'Connor

Arlyn Orio
Cataman, Northern Samar
PHILIPPINES

Uru Oruro

On the Road to a Dream

continued from page 2

Hopefully this new space will help tie the weaving community together, as well as provide a place to promote weaving activities for the village youth, and to host tourists for workshops and textile sales.



Travel loom displaying Tenun Sung-kit ready for London Craft Week. Tun Jugah Foundation Weaving Gallery, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

This Spring, I could finally travel back to Borneo and start my second ikat project with the Iban weavers at the Tun Jugah Foundation. The foundation manages a museum, a research library, and a working space for

weavers. I am grateful to have been accepted as one of their weavers, even though I do not have Iban heritage. My goal is to eventually weave a Pua' Kumbu, a large ceremonial cloth covered with ikat motifs inspired by nature, the spiritual realm, and dreams.

When I was there, they were preparing to showcase at London Craft Week. They have even had travelling looms custom built for this event. They will be holding weaving workshops and demonstrations, as well as exhibiting traditional Iban textiles in 'Abstract Nature' at the High Commission of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, I have a homework assignment to design my own ikat motifs inspired by photos I took on a hike through the rainforest. If I am lucky, I'll have a dream to guide the way.

Tewuni Rai Weavers' Cooperative
Mesara, Savu, Indonesia
Representative: Ice Tededara
istededara@gmail.com
Genevieve Duggan, PhD
geneviveduggan.com/

Tun Jugah Foundation
Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
Curator/Librarian: Janet Rata Noel
tunjugahfoundation.org.my/

Lynelle Barrett is a weaver living in Singapore. Enchanted by the region's indigenous textiles, she has immersed herself in learning how they are woven and dyed, as well as the culture around them. She can be reached at lynellebarrett@gmail.com

WARP Rebranding in Process

WARP is getting a new look this year! We aren't straying too far from the logo we all know, love, and recognize, but it has been beautifully updated by WARP member volun-



teer Myra Wood. We have also been working on a newly revamped website featuring gorgeous member photos and WARP resources. The new website will launch mid-June, so keep your eye on weavearealpeace.org.



Wild Silk

continued from page 1

government Ministry of Textiles. They are now checking the mother moths with microscopes for deadly disease which wipes out a crop in one day and planting tens of thousands of food trees. The merging of traditional wisdom with a scientific ap-



Traditional tasar thigh reeling using filaments from five to eight cocoons to create yarn the size of a hair from your head

proach is revitalizing this once declining and important industry as silk workers profit from increased crops.

Yarn making for all three types of silk is done by women. The traditional method of unraveling the tasar cocoon is done by thigh reeling. Women have devised a two-person method of forearm reeling to coax the delicate silk from the muga cocoons. Eri silkworms spin an open-ended cocoon which cannot be unraveled. Its short fibers are teased into a cake and spun on a takli drop spindle in between other chores.

In tasar regions, men do most of the weaving on pit looms dug into an earthen floor. In the villages of Assam where both muga and eri are raised, women do the weaving on simple frame looms on their verandas.



The most common color of tasar silkworms is green. Blue and yellow tasar caterpillars are rare. Rearers feel it is a good omen when they appear.

Raising wild silk, centered around family and community with a deep connection to the land, is labour-intensive and boosts employment for millions of rural Adivasi people.

Increased income means the younger generations are remaining in their communities rather than migrating to overburdened urban areas and preserving their culture.

*All things silk have provided Karen Selk with a thread that binds together travel, research, writing, artwork, educating, and managing a successful silk business. Her passion to learn about everything silk has led her throughout Asia and the wild silk forests of India in particular for more than 30 years. The culmination of her field research has just been published in her new book **In Search of Wild Silk: Exploring a Village Industry in the Jungles of India**. She lives on Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada, and can be reached at karenselk@yahoo.com*



Represent WARP at a Regional Textile Gathering this Summer

In addition to WARP's Annual Meeting in July, there are many regional textile gatherings happening this year! If you are interested in hosting a regional WARP meeting in your area, please let us know at

info@weavearealpeace.org. We can generate a list of WARP members in your region, and help facilitate communication and planning.

More New Members

Geraldine O'Sullivan

Maria Pacheco
Buffalo, NY

Pamela Palma
NC

Maria Partington
Key West, FL

Sharon Patchak-Layman
Oak Park, IL

Jacqueline Peery
O'Fallon, IL

Carol Perenchio
Batavia, IL

Maren Peterson
Minnetonka, MN

Reyna Pretzantzin

Linda Preuss
Santa Monica, CA

Helena Richardson
Cleveland Heights, OH

Aine Riordan

Julia Sanchez

Andrea Small
Schoharie, NY



WARP Provides Twenty Grants to Artisans

Beth Davis and Maren Beck

The WARP Grants Committee is pleased to report that the 2023 WARP grants have been awarded to textile artisans (individual or group) and/or programs that support textile artisans, such as textile arts education or fiber producers.

This year we offered two types of grants:

- **Basic Needs:** This option is for applicants who are still experiencing hardship due to continuing effects of COVID or other circumstances such as drought, extreme heat, or floods. Basic needs could include but are not limited to: food or seeds for food crops, medical care/medicines, clothing, utilities, dependent care, education, or housing.
- **Development:** This option is for applicants who are seeking to grow their business coming out of COVID. Development needs could include but are not limited to: artisan supplies (dye garden, wood for loom, fiber), equipment (sewing machines, looms, etc.), marketing materials (camera, product photography), technology (cell phones, computer, etc.), training, and travel (to attend trade fairs, markets).

We received a total of 62 applications from 22 countries. We were excited to see WARP's outreach extend to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Peru, Philippines,

Tajikistan, Thailand, South Africa, Uganda, and the United States.

- 12 applicants from eight countries for Basic Needs grants
- 50 applicants from 21 countries for Development grants

Each member of the Grants Committee read and individually ranked each application. Then, through many multi-hour meetings and intense discussions, the committee combined rankings, discussed differences of opinion, and made the difficult decisions about which applicants would receive the grants.

- Three grants were awarded from the Basic Needs applications for a total of \$2,000 going to two different countries.
- 17 grants were awarded from the Development applications for a total of \$14,928 going to 11 different countries.
- A total of 20 grants were awarded in the 2023 grants year for a total of \$16,928 – representing 11 countries.

In addition, a WARP membership was offered to each of the 2023 WARP Grant applicants. Some of the applicants were already WARP members, and as of this writing, we are delighted to report that 14 new members from the total grant applicant pool have joined WARP.

The Fall WARP newsletter will include a summary of the outcome reports from all the grantees.

More New Members

LuAnn Stevens
Monrovia, CA

Nour Tannir

Ice Tededara
Mesara, Savu
INDONESIA

Shazia Thompson
Cincinnati, OH

Chad Troyer
Hartville, OH

Kay Twoig

Rajan Vankar

Sally Vikman
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Dublin
IRELAND

Kakaw Designs Invited to International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe

Kakaw Designs is participating at the International Folk Art Market! Two WARP scholarship recipients (Hellen Ascoli, 2018; Mari Gray, 2019) will be representing Kakaw's selection of naturally-dyed and ikat-patterned handwovens made in collaboration with artisan partners in Guatemala. We would love to see fellow WARP members! Please come visit us at Booth 92 if you are coming to the market in Santa Fe this July.

The International Folk Art Market began in 2004. Its mission is to "create economic opportunities for and with folk artists worldwide who celebrate and preserve folk art traditions." Over the years, several WARP members have been selected to participate, along with more than hundreds of artisans from around the world. This year the Market is from July 6-9. For more information go to <https://folkartmarket.org/>



Nominating Committee Presents Slate to Fill Board Positions

WARP board members serve three year terms and can be nominated to a second three year term. Two current board members have served three years—Maren Beck and Sarah Saulson. Maren has agreed to be nominated for another three year term, Sarah is retiring from the board. The Nominating Committee has named Maren Beck for a second term, and Diane Manning to fill the empty position. The election will be held at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, July 16. Additional nominations can be made from the floor.

Maren, traveling with her husband and two young sons in 2005, fell in love with rural SE Asian textiles and cultures, and transitioned from being a project manager in the health care field to being a businessperson importing personally selected handcrafted traditional textiles from Laos and Vietnam. She and her husband founded **Above the Fray: Traditional Hill Tribe Art** in 2007 in order to document, support, and introduce to the world the incredible traditional textiles arts and cultures of this region. She and her husband are authors of **Silk Weavers of Hill Tribe Laos**, published by Thrums Books.



Maren Beck

Diane writes "It all started when I was studying Spanish in Guatemala and spent a week in the highlands learning backstrap weaving basics from a Mayan weaver. This experience kindled an enduring passion for travel and collecting hand-made artisan crafts, especially textiles.



Diane Manning

Now retired from an international marketing career in high-tech, I leverage my management skills by working with non-profits that focus on my two main passions:

1) supporting the livelihood of artisans worldwide and helping to preserve the cultural heritage their craft embodies and 2) helping girls and women in underserved areas gain better access to education and technology.

She joined WARP in 2017 and most recently served on the Covid-19 Emergency Grants Committee. She is also on the Board of the Women's Alliance for Technology Exchange (WAKE), where social entrepreneurs collaborate with teams of tech advisors on projects to help advance their social justice work. Diane has an MBA from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, speaks four languages, and has lived in the Netherlands, Italy, and Guatemala.

Special Thanks

Jeanne Heifetz, an acquaintance of WARP member Susan Weltman, was a weaver for some years. About 10 years ago she stopped weaving but continued an artistic practice. A few months ago she decided to sell all her weaving equipment, and to contribute proceeds to WARP! And that's what she's been doing—several hundred dollars worth! Susan will bring unsold items to the Annual Meeting.



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Annual Meeting Registration Ends June 26 (see page 3)



Live Auction at Annual Meeting; Online Silent Auction in August

We are gearing up for our much anticipated annual auction! This year we will have a live auction during the Annual Meeting in July, and also an online silent auction in August. For both auction events, we are seeking gently used or new ethnic textiles and clothing. We also include books, baskets, handmade jewelry, textile related handmade pictures, and other items related to WARP's mission. Please check your drawers, closets, and studios for trea-

asures that you would like to donate. If you are attending the Annual Meeting, you may bring your auction donations with you. For those who are not attending in person, but would like to make a donation, we will be sending out a donation request form by email. In the meantime, if you have something you are ready to contribute, please contact us at info@weavearealpeace.org.

