



Volume 26, Number 4 - Winter 2019

Woven Air: Luxury Textiles of Bangladesh

Labiba Ali

One winter morning, my mother and I drove to Rugganj, a village near Dhaka. We took the backroads that meandered



Labiba Ali wearing a Jamdani sari, with Jamdani dresses in background

through the countryside, cutting across mustard fields and passing by the courtyards of village homes. Rugganj is the historic center for Jamdani weaving and we were there to visit our friend Mohammad Ismail, who is a Jamdani weaver and comes from a long lineage of weavers.

Bengal has been a center for textiles for over two millennia. Two of Bengal's luxury textiles were Muslin and Jamdani. Muslin was a handspun cotton so fine that poets described it as 'woven air' and 'morning

dew.' Once a Mughal Emperor asked his daughter why she was not wearing any clothes. She replied that she was wear-



Jamdani on the loom

ing seven layers of Muslin! Though Muslin production peaked during the Mughal period, subsequent British colonial poli-



Jamdani weaving

cies put an end to it. To this day modern Bengali weavers do not know how to replicate the Muslin of their forefathers.

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Creating A Connected Textile Community

MISSION

To foster a global network of enthusiasts who value the importance of textiles to grassroots economies

PURPOSE

Exchange information

Raise awareness of the importance of textile traditions to grassroots economies

Mobilize textile enthusiasts

Create conversations that result in action

CORE VALUES

Textiles are an important component of the human experience

Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action

Making connections between textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change

Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives





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Argentine Textiles: A Marriage of Cultures

Vanina Bujalter

Growing up surrounded by threads, wool, looms, a library on textiles, and in a place where I could feel, from a very young age, the love for Arts and particularly for Textiles, was fundamental when I decided that I would devote myself completely to this discipline. My mother, Mimi Bujalter, one of the outstanding figures of the Argentine Textile Art movement, gave me everything I needed so that I could establish the pillars on which I now develop my work.

Studying and research has been and continues to be, one of the most important starting points in my training as a weaver. So I discovered the history of textiles as an expression of different cultures and the endless possibilities offered by this art.

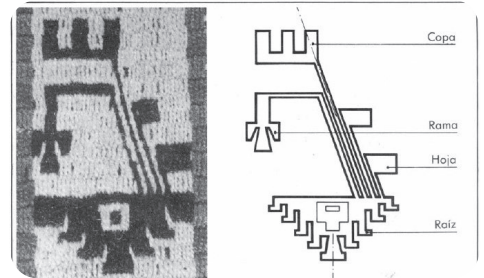
Textile art in Argentina draws on two aspects: the European one, introduced by artists who immigrated in the 30s and 40s, bringing their knowledge about Gobelins and modern tapestry techniques. And the Andean textile tradition one, which arises in the northern provinces of the country, and from the Mapuche communities in the south, in Patagonia.

We find the first immigration records of the Mapuche people from Chile to Patagonia, dating from the early 18th century. They bring with them their textile art, their looms and their variety of complex weav-

ing techniques. The fiber they used was guanaco hair (closely related to llama); the introduction of sheep's wool by the Spanish people was later used by this original culture.

with natural dyes: leaves, flowers, root fruits and vegetable barks. Vertical looms, built with four sticks that support the warp, and a horizontal rod held by a stick for the heddles, were used by women weavers. The fabrics they made are warp-faced. They used ikat techniques tied into simple warps, and also made supplementary warp fabrics and complementary warp or double-sided fabrics such as tubular technique and the "Laboreo" technique. Laboreo has no English translation but is a complementary warp technique to make different designs along the fabric.

The universe of fabrics was intended for three purposes: clothing, home, and fabrics to cover horses. The designs and symbology represented sacred trees, constellations of stars, birds, flowers, horses, and human beings in prayer rituals. The representation of figures and objects as



Drafting a three dimensional pattern

we see them (in their three-dimensionality); was obtained through a process of successive cuts in the plane: the object that was to be represented was submitted to vertical or horizontal cuts and then unfolded, transforming it into a flat figure which could then be woven. In the photo we can see the representation of a tree, (from top to bottom: tree top – branch – leaf – root)

In the study of the Mapuche culture, my interest was in the area of clothing and especially the warp face weave and the use of the feminine sashes. The design of the sashes, generally between two and three meters long and 6 to 10 cm wide, woven in colors like reds, browns, blacks, whites, greens, and blues, is made up of



Early photo of Mapuchi Weaver

The weavers spun by hand with spindle, doing the washing and then dyeing

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2020 Annual Meeting in Bozeman, MT

Dorinda Dutcher

Bozeman offers something for everyone. There is outdoor adventure in every direction, as well as art and cultural offerings in the vibrant historical downtown. The WARP meeting will take place from May 28-31 on the Montana State University (MSU) campus which is locally situated and easily accessible. Registration will open in January.

The 2020 WARP annual meeting will be a Celebration of Cloth. Cloth is woven in communities in need around the world by artisans who grow or raise the fiber and continue through every step of working with that fiber until a completed weaving is cut off of the loom. The Montana settlers brought west with them their weaving culture and the first full day of the conference will be spent visiting family businesses to learn about the successes and struggles of raising and breeding quality animal fiber and the processing of that fiber into yarn.

The meeting will kick off with the evening Welcome Circle, Thursday, May 28, and end at noon on Sunday, May 31, when the Roundtable Discussions and Marketplace wrap up. Friday Night – Bridging the Divide with Conversations About Cloth – WARP has rented the historic Ellen Theater in downtown Bozeman to show Marilyn and Rainer Romatka’s documentary, “Interlacements: Threads & Lives”, an event that will be promoted and open to the public. The lobby will be open 1.5 hours prior to the showing, and that is time for WARP members and the public dressed in their “Textiles that Tell a Tale” to start conversations. The documentary portrays the passion of makers of cloth and those who acquire handmade cloth. The event will serve as an opportunity to connect potential weavers and textile aficionados with local resources as well as WARP’s global perspective of the importance of handwoven cloth.

Saturday will be a day of presentations and continuing discussion to raise awareness of the grassroots efforts of the pro-

duction and creativity of handmade cloth and the passion it inspires. The presentations will end with a panel discussion and an opportunity for conversations to spill over into Sunday by means of informal roundtable discussions that will be open to the public.

Opportunities for the socializing and networking so vital to WARP members will arise in a variety of settings ensuring a memorable meeting. The 2nd annual Saturday Night Fashion Show will continue the “Textile Tales” theme, followed by WARP’s annual fundraising live auction.

WARP 2020 Meeting Committees: Dorinda Dutcher, Chair (dkdutcher@hotmail.com); Bonnie Tarses, representing Missoula Weavers Guild; Barbara French representing the Bozeman Weavers Guild; Mariana Burke, Auction Committee Chair; burkmace@peak.org; Maren Beck, Marketplace Chair, maren@hilltribeart.com

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Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

www.weavearealpeace.org

2020 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
5753 Hwy 85 North #3044
Crestview, FL 32536

or join online at
<http://www.weavearealpeace.org>



From the WARP Office

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Dear WARP Members,

It is a busy time in the WARP office! As summer turns to fall, we are gearing up for the holiday season. WARP's Artisan Textile Resource Guide has been fully updated so that our members can easily find artisan-made textiles to give as gifts. I try to give as many handmade textile gifts as possible during the holidays and throughout the year, and I would like to encourage you to do the same. I feel confident that there is something for everyone in the Resource Guide! (More information about accessing the Resource Guide on pg. 8)

The WARP Board is also preparing a Giving Tuesday campaign to fund our



Assistantship program, which supports our members that need help to attend the Annual Meeting. Last year, we raised almost \$1400 in support of the Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship fund, and this year we are planning for the proceeds from our fundraiser to support the Assistantship Program for the 2020 Annual Meeting in Bozeman, MT. Please keep WARP's fundraiser in mind as you plan your end-of the year giving. More about how to support the Giving Tuesday campaign below.

We appreciate your support and generosity!

Best Wishes from the WARP office,
Kelsey Wiskirchen
WARP Administrative Coordinator

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#GIVINGTUESDAY

WARP has no Borders – GivingTuesday Donations to Support Assistantships

December 3rd is GivingTuesday, and the board invites members to participate by donating to WARP. GivingTuesday is a global movement initiated in 2012 which encourages collective action to celebrate the generosity of individuals, organizations, and communities. GivingTuesday also harnesses the power of social media, so please let friends and family members know that WARP is important to you and encourage them to donate to WARP too!

In 2018, WARP raised \$1400 for annual meeting scholarships. Our goal for this year is \$2,500—all of which will be used to support Assistantships. Assistantships help defray the cost of attending the annual meeting for members who might not otherwise be able to attend (the meeting registration fee is waived and room and board covered). In return, recipients provide reliable and invaluable help at the meeting, making it run more

smoothly, thereby benefitting organizers and attendees alike. Assistantships may also be awarded to artisans residing in countries where WARP holds an international meeting in exchange for participation in the program, enriching the experience for attendees. Finally, Assistantships may also involve working on longer term projects for WARP.

You can donate in advance of December 3 online at our website (weavearealpeace.org) by clicking on the "contribute" button, or by mailing a check to WARP at 5753 Hwy 85 North #3044, Crestview, FL 32536. Please note that your donation is for GivingTuesday. You can also donate via the WeaveARealPeace - WARP page on Facebook, starting on GivingTuesday (December 3rd) and for the following week. Thank you for caring about WARP and its members, and thank you for sharing on GivingTuesday!



Member Profile: Kate Colwell

Gloria Miller

"Keeping traditional arts and crafts alive is so important and I love being part of this community of wonderful people"

Despite a "D" in art in second grade that led Kate to shy away from anything called art, she has developed her skills



in fiber since childhood: first hand sewing, then knitting and later learning to make her own clothes. She grew up in San Francisco then moved around some

and for the past 24 years she has been living in Kensington CA with her partner. In 1981, ten years after seeing "big looms" in Ohio that planted in her a desire to weave, she took lessons in San Francisco and acquired a floor loom. Since then she has continued weaving, almost entirely self-taught relying on resources from *Handwoven Magazine*.

For nearly four decades she has enjoyed weaving functional gifts for her large family to celebrate landmark occasions, knitted tops and socks for herself, and has learned to spin and dye. All this was done alongside parenting and a career in health care that started out as a staff worker, then nurse and finally as a physician for the past 32 years. She recently retired from practice but still does some teaching for community clinic staff.

In 2009 Kate went on a tour to Guatemala with Mayan Hands. Later, director Julio Cardona asked her why she isn't a member of WARP. When she realized that she didn't have to be actively involved with a project she was happy to join and so appreciates the camaraderie of special people dedicated to the preservation of traditional arts and crafts.

Since 2016 she fortuitously has been an online tapestry student of Rebecca

Mezoff, a practice which has gotten her through these difficult years. She has entered several of her tapestries in exhibits and has been thrilled to see them on display leading to a budding (delayed) sense of herself as an artist despite her second grade teacher's assessment. Her hope is to weave every day for the next 20 years and improve her tapestry skills so she will have an outlet to respond to life through her tapestry.

For the past four years Kate has done some work with Mayan Hands and other groups in Guatemala to try to address complaints of "hand pain". (See her article in WARP newsletter Winter 2017 "Query: Is artisan work sustainable if it causes pain and disability?") As a physician and weaver she is acutely aware of the issues the artisans face, especially when economic need can push them to weave for long stretches at a time paying more attention to output than to self-care. Kate has developed a curriculum and would really like to further connect with WARP members who work with and may be in a position to work with them on issues of self-care.



Kate is happy to connect with other members by email at kcolwell53@gmail.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.

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!



@weaveareal-peace_



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://twitter.com/weavearealpeace) for reposting!)

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? Contact Lola Faruroti lolalovescargo@gmail.com

Interested in helping with the blog or Facebook? Contact Carrie Miller, Social Media Volunteer Coordinator carriemiller24@gmail.com



From WARP's President

Susan Weltman

Having just returned from three weeks in Uzbekistan, I am writing this letter in the midst of jet lag and trying to remember in which country and city I find myself. It is disorienting to leave our apartment and find a city full of people speaking English (or Spanish or French) but definitely not Uzbek or Russian.



Steve and I were fortunate to travel on what was largely a textile tour with WARP member Marilyn Romatka, who first visited the country in 2017 having become interested in ikat weaving and Uzbek textiles while volunteering at the Santa Fe Market during the 2017 WARP Meeting.

It was interesting to visit a country in which silk spinning, dyeing (both natural and chemical), weaving and embroidery are very much a part of many families' lives. We saw the devastating effects of both climate change and disastrous policy-making as the former Soviet Union used Uzbekistan (a largely desert country) as their cotton growing field for the whole country, with water being diverted to the fields and soil rapidly deteriorating. So sad to see this man-made disaster and its after-effects (like the drying up of the Aral Sea).

Home to gather the threads of WARP. One of the best consequences of having the 2019 Annual Meeting in DC for me is the development of a real New York City community; Labiba Ali has invited me to several events that she, as a Bangladeshi designer, has been organizing. I was at the screening of Cathy Stevulak's movie at the Fashion Institute of Technol-

ogy, and Sheila Meyer and Labiba and I were able to spend time with Cathy and Yasmine Dabbous who traveled with her husband from Lebanon for the occasion. I've seen Lola Faturoti around town too. I can't keep up with Cynthia Alberto's activities which include a new weaving store and school (when does she ever sleep?). They keep me aware of how much thinking about sustainability has pervaded the fashion, design, and artisan world. So, from having almost no presence in New York, we now have a young and multi-cultural little community here. Please, keep this in mind if you're planning a trip to New York!

The Board is continuing to work on clarifying our record keeping and policy making. As years have gone by and membership has grown, and leadership has changed, there have been policies that are passed on as almost oral history; some make a lot of sense, some are less sensible, and some seem like folklore. Led by Dorinda Dutcher, with help from other Board members, we are working on the Board Handbook, recording and voting on policies that will make WARP work more efficiently for all of us.

As usual at this time of year, our major focus is the Annual Meeting in Bozeman in May 2020. As is our commitment, we maintain the goal of meeting around the country, both to make meetings accessible and to provide members an opportunity to see other parts of our large country. Having visited Montana two years ago, I encourage you to attend the Meeting and to stay to visit the nearby National Park. We're going to have a great time! It sure doesn't look like Washington, DC.

Susan can be reached at sweltwoman@gmail.com

Travel Opportunities

Guatemala/Textile Travels

Full of workshops to exchange creative ideas, benefitting artisans and international participants alike.

March 12-20, 2020
Antigua and surroundings,
Lake Atitlán. Lots of
workshops.

March 19-25, 2020
Antigua, Cobán and sur-
roundings. Rural villages,
markets, home visits.
Lead by Mari Gray and Aiko
Kobayashi
For more information,
[email mari@kakawdesigns.com](mailto:mari@kakawdesigns.com)

**San Miguel de Allende,
Mexico Tour**
October 2 - 10, 2020
for the town's Patron Saint
Festival
For more details, contact
Sharon Giles at gileshopp@gmail.com or 610/781-4345

There is no beauty in the finest cloth if it brings hunger and unhappiness.

Mahatma Gandhi



Ask Me About WARP!



Wear the 'Ask Me about WARP' 2-1/4" button to fiber-related activities and then tell people who respond about our wonderful

organization. WARP membership numbers are creeping up, but we need you help to spread the word.

To request WARP buttons, postcards, and brochures – or to volunteer to be on the membership committee, send an e-mail to philis@philisalvic.info

Membership Committee – Philis Alvic, Carol Baugh, & Teena Jennings



Gifts of Meaning: "Choose Artisan" for Better Futures

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second-largest employer in the developing world after agriculture. Furthermore, international trade in artisan goods more than doubled between 2002 and 2012, with over 65% of artisan activity taking place in developing economies. Yet, artisan businesses are rarely acknowledged as engines of economic opportunity and growth.

So, how do we create greater awareness of the social and economic benefits of artisanship?

The upcoming holiday times provide particular opportunity to spread the word. Imagine if each person in this world would give at least one gift made by themselves or by an artisan - either from our local community or the world at large. What an impact this could have!

Textiles, textile-related books and film DVDs - or a combination of these - are all great gifts, and much is on offer from WARP members. Here are a few resource guides:

Weave a Real Peace Artisan Resource Guide - <https://weavearealpeace.org/artisan-resource-guide/>

Aspen Institute Artisan Alliance Member Network - <http://www.artisanalliance.org/member-network>

International Folk Art Market Artist Profiles - <https://folkartmarket.org/events-programs/international-folk-art-market-santa-fe/2019artists/>

Other ideas for simple actions that can make a big difference are:

- wear at least one piece of clothing or an accessory made by an artisan each day
- bring artisanship and "handmade" into daily conversations in some way
- express the joy that we have of gifting and owning artisan-made clothing and decor
- circulate the **WARP Textile Artisans Resource Guide**, or other artisan resources, to friends and on social media
- Request to see handmade offerings while shopping for garments, accessories, and décor

As David Brooks of **Weave: The Social Fabric Project** says: "When we love across boundaries, listen patiently, see deeply and make someone feel known, we've woven [the social fabric] and reinforced generosity." In this same spirit, gifting the work of textile artisans helps to connect us to others and their cultures and brings dignity to the makers. It is an act of reciprocal generosity that can change lives for generations.

Cathy Stevulak, a WARP member, screened and discussed at the WARP Annual Meeting the documentary film **THREADS** that she directed and produced. **THREADS** tell a touching story of the impact of artisanship and of sharing skills for the good of community. You can purchase **THREADS** DVD for personal viewing or as a gift at www.kanthathreads.com. You can reach Cathy at cathy@kanthathreads.com

What's Missing?

For the first time since 2003, Deb Brandon's *Textile Techniques from Around the World* column has gone astray! Don't despair. She'll be back next issue with more great information about a wonderful textile technique. Teaching responsibilities, as well as commitments related to her new role as award-winning author, are keeping her busy. Check out her books, *Threads Around the World*, and *But My Brain Had Other Ideas: A Memoir of Recovery from Brain Injury*, at your local bookstore.



Updated 2019 *Artisan Textile Resource Guide* Available Online

New Members

Warren Aldrich
Las Angeles, CA

Geri Forkner
Sweetwater, TN

Damon Katz
San Francisco, CA

Margaret MacSems
San Sebastian Rio Hondo
Oaxaca, Mexico

Eric Mindling
Ashland, OR

Anush Mirbegian
Barcelona, Spain

Smita Paul
Oakland, CA

Elizabeth Seward
Van Nuys, CA

Claudia Wieland-Randall
Rapid City, SD

Alisa Woofter
Ft. Collins, CO

WARP's updated 2019 *Artisan Textile Resource Guide* is now published and online. The guide is a fantastic resource for WARP members to support one another. It includes listings of member retail and wholesale textiles sales, international textile tours, as well as textile conservation, restoration, and consultation services. We have many new additions this year – Thank you to all of the new members who chose to share your business in the ATRG!



Endangered Threads Documentaries

When you are doing your holiday shopping this year, we hope you will consider using the ATRG to purchase from WARP members who sell artisan made textiles. You will be guaranteed to find meaningful, ethical gifts and your purchases will directly support artisans. In the retail section of the guide, there are members selling everything from rugs to baskets, to clothing, scarves, and jewelry, to instruments, books, and more.

If you are planning to travel in the coming year, the Tours section of the guide is a great resource for textile enthu-



Marrakesh Express

siasts. We have members who organize textile-focused tours in Peru, Laos, Morocco, Guatemala, and Mexico.

You can also help us by sharing the ATRG with your personal networks. We would like to advertise the Resource Guide as widely as possible this season, to support our members who are listed. You can email the link to friends directly, or share the page on your social media sites, such as Facebook and Instagram. Please join us in helping support our members in their important work!

The direct link to the 2019 Artisan Textile Resource Guide is online at: <https://weavearealpeace.org/artisan-resource-guide/>

Newsletter Copy Deadlines

V27N1 - Spring 2020 - February 14

V27N2 - Summer 2020 - April 24

V27N3 - Fall 2020 - July 24

V27N4 - Winter 2020 - October 9

Save these dates and send your contributions to the Newsletter!
Contact me at lgtempleok@gmail.com if you have questions. Thanks!



Jane Ellis Nichols Spragg, MD, Dies

Excerpted from *The Concord Monitor*, June 4, 2019

Early WARP member Jane Ellis Nichols Spragg MD, 97, died on Saturday, June 1, in Cambridge, MA. Dr. Spragg graduated from the University of Chicago, BS '43 and MD '48. She was one of a quota of three women in her entering class at the University of Chicago medical school.

Dr. Spragg worked in clinics for Public Health agencies and for Planned Parenthood. She lectured on population dynamics, sex education, reproductive choice and civil rights. In 1956, Dr. Spragg immunized over 1600 children with the Salk Polio Vaccine for the Department of Public Health after the Westfield Medical Society had refused. In 1964, Dr. Spragg received the B'nai B'rith Citation for Meritorious Service.

Dr. Spragg gave the first televised demonstration of contraceptive devices in 1970 on Channel 13. She started the first Planned Parenthood clinic for teenagers in NJ. A year before Roe v. Wade, she was a litigant in the case that overturned the NJ statute prohibiting abortions. She was an early member of NARAL. In 1976 she was awarded the Alan Guttmacher medal for her work in family planning.

She practiced office gynecology and family planning in Hillsboro, MA for five years and worked in the Student Health Department at Keene State College. She closed her office in 1987 to travel with her husband Howard who died in 1991. She moved to Concord, NH in 2002.



Argentine Textiles

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two sectors, a border area and the central area. On the edges we usually see combinations of geometric figures, and the center is intended to represent symbolic figures related to their culture. These figures are or-



ganized into patterns that are repeated in series throughout the entire fabric.

Before stopping, it is necessary to mention that at the end of the 19th century the Mapuches were subjugated by Chile and Argentina through the military campaigns

known, respectively, as Occupation of the Araucanía and Conquista del Desierto. This meant the death of thousands of people and the loss of their territory, as they were displaced to smaller land called "reductions" or "reservations," and the rest of the land was expropriated and auctioned.

Today their weavings are subject to study, research, and rescue techniques. The Mapuche community continues to weave their beautiful pieces, in a permanent effort to protect their culture in the midst of a historic struggle to recover their usurped territories.

WARP member Vanina Bujalter was born and lives in Buenos Aires. She has been dedicated to Textile Arts and Crafts for more than 30 years. Initially learning from her mother, she has studied, taught, and exhibited throughout Argentina and internationally. Her work has won many awards, and can be seen in both public and private collections in numerous countries. She can be contacted at vbtextiles@gmail.com

Christmas gift membership. Do you have a friend you'd like to introduce to WARP? Why not gift them with a year's membership and an invitation to attend the 2020 conference in Bozeman.

More Travel Opportunities

Tia Stephanie Tours

December 10-17, 2019

Join a small group to meet the weavers, in the mountains of the Sierra Zongolica of Veracruz, Mexico. We'll spend two full days with them, learning about and experiencing their lives and daily rhythms of tending to their sheep, carding, spinning, dyeing, and weaving wool. And, we'll attend the Festival Textil in the Sierra Zongolica. The trip begins in Veracruz and ends in Tehuacan, Puebla. More information at <http://tiastephanietours.com/tour/meet-the-weavers-la-sierra-zongolica/>, or at info@tiastephanietours.com, 734/730-3729

Traditions Mexico Cultural Journeys

February 18-27, 2020

Frida's Wardrobe

In this journey we delve into the story and the human who was Frida Kahlo, exploring her metaphorical and real wardrobe, these layers of color and experience that dressed this outstanding human being. More information at <https://traditionsmexico.com/multi-day-tours/fridas-wardrobe/>



Woven Air: Luxury Textiles of Bangladesh

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Thanks to WARP Donors!

Susan Zepeda

Tom Cotter

Jane Brownlee

Jamdani, thankfully, did not suffer the same fate, as after independence efforts were made to revive it. Jamdani weaving uses a discontinuous supplementary weft technique. The motifs are geometric vegetal and floral shapes which are reminiscent of Persian and Islamic Art. Traditional Jamdanis were woven with Muslin but these days weavers use cotton, silk, or a combination of both.

It takes a village to create a Jamdani. When I visited Rugganj I noticed how each family collaborated and specialized in Jamdani making. One family may be experts in dyeing while another one works on a certain step of the yarn preparation. The yarn is prepared in several steps and is usually done



Jamdani fiber preparation

by women while the weaving is done by men. Jamdanis are woven on a pit loom as they require a certain degree of air moisture that is only found at lower levels. The master weaver finalizes the design which is then woven by two apprentice weavers sitting side by side.

Ismail, a master weaver, is well known for his exceptional Jamdanis. A self-made businessman, Ismail singlehandedly turned his family's fortune around. Now his clients include wealthy Bangladeshis and Bollywood stars. Weddings are his main market when he may be commissioned to weave 50 Jamdani saris for one wedding. Although there is no dearth of clients for

luxury Jamdanis, Jamdani weavers are in short supply. Ismail worries that within ten years there will not be any Jamdani weavers left.

The problem is that the younger generation, particularly men, do not have the patience to sit for hours on the loom. Mohammad Ali Khan, owner of Hand Touch,



Jamdani dyeing

a fair-trade handloom company in Dhaka, says that this has been a boon for women's empowerment. As younger men do not want to become weavers it has created a vacuum that is being filled by women weavers. Mohammad, however, warns that this only happens in villages that are farther away from big cities. Women who live close to cities have access to other job opportunities and do not take up weaving. Mohammad's weaving factory, for example, is in a remote part of Northern Bangladesh.

Nevertheless, weaver-entrepreneurs like Ismail and Mohammad are keeping the tradition of handloom alive in Bangladesh. It is because of their ingenuity that Bangladeshi women can continue to grow their collection of handloom saris and dance in exquisite Jamdanis at wedding parties.

Labiba Ali is a Bangladeshi textile scholar and fashion designer based in New York. She is the founder of independent fashion label, Naarifolk. Her Jamdani Dresses are available at www.naarifolk.com.



Fair Trade Federation: A Texas Fiesta to Celebrate 25 Years

Rachel Spence



On March 27 in Austin, TX, the fair trade community came together at a Texas-style fiesta hosted by local fair trade businesses Matr Boomie, Tula Hats, Raven + Lily, Ten Thousand Villages, and Noonday Collection. Guests enjoyed tacos, a food truck, margaritas, dancing, and friendship in honor of the Fair Trade Federation's 25th anniversary.



Admiring new products at the Expo

The fiesta took place during the 25th Anniversary FTF Conference and Expo, which gathered over 260 attendees and around 160 organizations from the US, Canada, and Europe. The event was the second largest in FTF history. Plenary speakers reflected on the history of the fair trade movement and current ethical marketplace. Molly Stillman of the *Business with Purpose* podcast inspired attendees saying, "I want to see a world where the term fair trade ceases to exist because I believe fair trade values need to be the norm."

Since its incorporation in 1994, the Fair Trade Federation community has supported committed fair trade businesses to expand markets for artisans and farmers around the world. The community traces its roots to the late 1970s and early 1980s,

when US- and Canadian-based entrepreneurs, who defined their businesses with producers at heart, began to meet regularly and exchange ideas. This informal group would evolve into the FTF, which continues to meet annually in this spirit.

The conference features an expo showcasing products that create opportunities for producers, use environmentally sustainable practices, celebrate culture, and sustain long-term relationships based on mutual respect. It is an opportunity for attendees and the public to connect in person with fair trade friends and experience beautiful, unique products, such as hammocks, rugs, home decor, accessories, and fashion items.

The FTF community will gather next in Lancaster, PA in April 2020. Lancaster is a vibrant and diverse city with a culture of makers and farmers as well as ties to the history of the fair trade movement. We



Mayan Hands baskets at the Expo

look forward to it and invite you to join us. In the meantime, we also encourage you to support artisans and farmers by shopping at fair trade stores and purchasing from committed fair trade brands, especially during the holiday season!

Rachel can be reached at rs@fairtradefederation.org
Visit the FTF website at <http://www.fairtradefederation.org/>

Consider WARP

when making your End of Year giving decisions. WARP has been designated a 501(c)3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service in the US. Donations are typically tax deductible. Contact Kelsey Wiskirchen for more information about WARP (info@weavearealpeace.org). Contact your Accountant to learn if your donation is tax deductible.

Thanks!

Mark Your Calendar - 2020 Annual Meeting in

Bozeman, MT from May 28-31, 2020

Registration information will be available on WARP's website,

<https://weavearealpeace.org/>, in January.





Weave a Real Peace
5753 Hwy 85 North #3044
Crestview, FL 32536

Revised Artisan Textile Resource Guide Now Available

Gifts of Meaning: “Choose Artisan” for Better Futures

Cathy Stevulak

I was privileged to attend the WARP Annual meeting and to be inspired by the great work that members are doing around the world to facilitate, learn from and cel-



brate the work of global textile artisans and to share the joy of making and appreciating textiles. The energy was infectious.

We, as WARP members, all believe deeply in the impact of artisanship. We have seen evidence of it, changes in lives. We have met makers, or are makers ourselves. We come together online and in person to share experience and stories. By “choosing artisan”, we make the world a more special place, bring greater understanding of cultures and our common humanity, and open doors of opportunity through economic and social development,



particularly for women and families. The Aspen Institute Artisan Alliance states that the artisan sector is the sec-

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