



Volume 30, Number 4 - Winter 2023

## Praxis Fiber Workshop Serves Artists and Greater Cleveland Community

Jessica Pinsky

It's hard to believe it's fall in Northeast Ohio and our staff has just finished the last task in the indigo garden - harvesting seeds for next year! At Praxis Fiber Workshop, there is always something exciting happening, whether we are harvesting indigo, creating dye, preparing for a class or gallery exhibit, we are always engaged with our textile community and having a great time.



Jessica Pinsky, Founder of Praxis Fiber Workshop

Praxis Fiber Workshop is a non profit organization located in Cleveland, OH. The idea for Praxis came when the Cleveland Institute of Art (where I have been faculty since 2012) announced that they would be downsizing their fiber department and eliminating weaving from the curriculum. New to Cleveland with a huge energy for my new city, I proposed to CIA that they give me the looms and I would open a separate space where classes, exhibitions, and programs would be open to CIA students as well as the greater Cleveland community. They said YES! Praxis Fiber Workshop opened a few years later in 2015. We started with a few pillars of the organization - classes, memberships and exhibitions. To this day, these are the core makeup of Praxis. Each year we offer over 30 classes and workshops in all things textiles, but the most popular class is our introductory weaving class where students learn on one of the 27 looms in our main

workshop. We also have a full dye lab and offer classes in fabric surface design, yarn

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Painting Community Banners at Praxis (photo by Em Good)

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### 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  
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[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)  
or mail to  
Weave A Real Peace (WARP)  
PO Box 403  
Seagrove, NC 27341

The deadline for  
contributions to the  
Spring 2024 issue of the  
WARP newsletter is  
**February 16, 2024**

Send articles and  
correspondence for  
the newsletter to:  
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Information about an  
organization or service in  
this newsletter does not  
constitute an endorsement  
by WARP.

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

*Friends - Your support has been so appreciated following the death of my husband in August. As Cathy Joslyn wrote, I do "feel the warm blanket of the WARP community wrapped around [me]..." Thank you, LT*

## Maya Educational Foundation Seeks Support

Christine Eber

Weaving for Justice is deeply grateful for the support we have enjoyed over the years from WARP. For those of you who don't know us, we are an all-volunteer 501c3 organization that works in solidarity with nine collectives of Maya weavers in Chiapas, Mexico. We sell their textiles at once monthly sales in the Atrium of First Christian Church in Las Cruces, NM, on Instagram, and in our website store – <https://weaving-for-justice.org/2023/06/27/shop-with-us/>. All proceeds from sales go back to the weavers. We also sell donated textiles from Latin America that generous textile enthusiasts give us to raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth. We partner with the Maya Educational Foundation (MEF) in this endeavor – [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org). Our organization is sustained through annual memberships and donations.

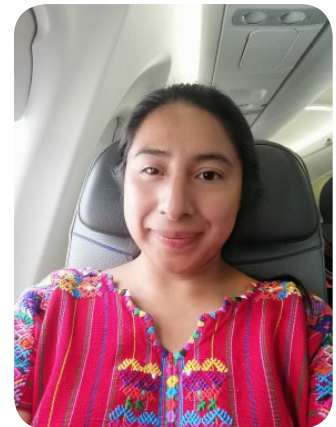
Both our sales of textiles from collectives and donors assist us in our mission to help Maya weavers and their families in Chiapas and youth in Belize, Chiapas, and Guatemala live dignified lives in their home communities, rather than be forced to migrate. Criminal organizations are a special threat to young people who have few opportunities to advance in their lives. These organizations pressure young people to work for them, promising them easy money. Under these conditions, more and more young people who want to live with dignity have no choice but to leave their communities and migrate to the US.

Recently we had a set-back in our work on behalf of weavers and students. On July 27th robbers broke a window in our store in one wing of the Church and took off with about \$12,000 of donated textiles and textiles from weaving collectives. The majority of our losses were in donated textiles, some of them gorgeous ceremonial huipils. The robbery remains a mystery, but with generous donations we've been able to reorder textiles from

the weaving collectives in Chiapas, so we're on our way to replenish our inventory of those textiles. Our textile donors, too, haven't lost faith in us and are sending more of their treasures.

Our 9th Annual Donated Textile Scholarship Fundraiser was held at the New Mexico State University Museum on October 27th and 28th. We were delighted that the public was finally able to meet a Maya student who benefited from a scholarship through our collaboration with MEF.

Norma Subuyuj traveled from Guatemala to attend our fundraiser. She speaks Kakchiquel, Spanish, and English and is from Santo Domingo Xenacoj, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala. With her scholarship, Norma studied business at University



Norma Subuyuj

Rafael Landivar in Antigua, Guatemala. After graduating, she went on to start her own textile business – Textiles Nakoj.

We also sell donated textiles throughout the year at our 3rd Saturday monthly sales and at other special events. If you have textiles from Latin America that you'd like to donate to us to raise funds for scholarships, please email Christine Eber at [ceber@nmsu.edu](mailto:ceber@nmsu.edu). We also welcome new members. Please go to <https://weaving-for-justice.org/membership/> to become a member for as little as \$15 a year.

*Christine Eber is an author, anthropologist, and co-founder of Weaving for Justice.*





# WARP's 2024 Annual Meeting Preview

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be here before we know it! The meeting will take place at the American Mountaineering Center (AMC) in Golden Colorado, May 15-18. We will be staying nearby at the Denver Marriott West, with transportation provided to and from the AMC. Registration for WARP's 2024 Annual Meeting will open in January. Below is a program preview:

**Wednesday, May 15th:** Afternoon check in and Annual Welcome Circle in the evening.

**Thursday, May 16th and Friday, May 17th:** 2-day WARP program including our vendor marketplace, live auction, annual business meeting, discussion groups, and confirmed speakers:

- Keynote speaker: Lynda Teller Pete, 5th-generation Navajo tapestry weaver, author, and teacher
- Julia Gomez, Colcha embroidery artist
- Donna Brown, founder of the Janice Ford Memorial Dye Garden
- Marilyn Murphy, President of Andean Textile Arts and managing partner of ClothRoads
- Doreen Beard, Director of Op-



## Call for Submissions for Panel Discussions

WARP's program committee welcomes suggestions for panel discussion topics for 2024. The monthly virtual programs are a wonderful educational resource for the WARP community. Since the panel discussions are free and open to all, they are able to reach a wide audience, and recordings are accessible on WARP's website ([weavearealpeace.org/events/previous-events](http://weavearealpeace.org/events/previous-events)). If you know of a great community organization or international group that is doing work related to WARP's mission, please send ideas to our Panel Discussion Chair, Hedy Hollyfield: [hhollyfieldwarp2022@gmail.com](mailto:hhollyfieldwarp2022@gmail.com).

erations and Engagement at the Avenir Museum of Design & Merchandising, and Jill D'Alessandro, Director and Curator at the Denver Art Museum

- Presentations by 2024 Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship Recipients
- Presentations by 2024 Marketplace Vendors

**Saturday, May 18th:** Colorado Weavers Day (CWD) will take place at the American Mountaineering Center. The CWD program is extremely aligned with WARP's interests, and we are excited to have the opportunity to attend their event following WARP's program days. WARP Vendors will be able to continue doing sales during CWD, and we will provide transportation to the AMC. Colorado Weavers Day presenters include:

- Keynote Speaker: Karen Selk, author of **In Search of Wild Silk: Exploring a Village Industry in the Jungles of India**
- Jane Levene, owner of Jefferson Farms alpaca farm
- Ceil Lambert, artist, entrepreneur, and educator at Colorado State University
- Mountains & Plains Fibershed

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## Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

[www.weavearealpeace.org](http://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

Kelsey Wiskirchen

*Cloth metaphors echo from many parts of the world, both today and in the past. Social scientists and laypersons regularly describe society as fabric, woven or knit together. Cloth as a metaphor for society, thread for social relations, express more than connectedness, however. The softness and ultimate fragility of these materials capture the vulnerability of humans, whose every relationship is transient.*

-Annette B. Weiner and Jane Schneider, *Cloth and Human Experience*, 1989

Dear WARP Members,

As 2023 draws to a close, I am reflecting on all of the important work we have done, and always, on all there still is to



do. The excerpt above has been with me for over a decade, and I find myself revisiting it in the context of WARP. We are a network of individuals in this world, fragile by nature, but intimately connected and stronger due to our belief in the power of collective efforts.

With present conflict(s) in the world, I know we all have much heaviness and concern in our minds and hearts. As members of WARP, we are all invested in the mission of being a catalyst for improving the quality of life of textile artisans worldwide. We are always oriented toward thinking of our community - which, truly, includes the world as our community-at-large.

Please take a look at the list at the end of this column (page 6). This is a list of the places that members of WARP's direct network currently live, and includes our members, virtual event attendees and presenters, and recipients of grants and scholarships. As you can see, we are spread across the globe. In reviewing this list, you can probably also understand the weight of our collective community responsibility.

I want you to know that WARP's Board of Directors is engaged in constant dialogue about our role as a global organization. Our Board is currently holding a series of strategic planning meetings for the future of WARP, discussing how we can serve our community. In the past few years, coming out of the Covid pandemic, we have developed many wonderful new programs and resources, significantly expanding our reach. WARP's Board is, once again, spending focused time considering priorities and goals for WARP's future, the structure of our organization, and the impact of our work.

We continue to consider our role in creating an environment of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. We are committed to supporting the international textile community again in 2024 through our grants program, which provides direct assistance to artisans and artisan groups.

We will continue hosting our monthly virtual programs so that WARP members from around the world can come together for education and dialogue. We look forward to gathering in CO next May for our Annual Meeting, where we often

*continued on page 6*

## WARP Governing Board

Maren Beck  
Eugene, OR  
[maren@hilltribeart.com](mailto:maren@hilltribeart.com)  
Term expires 2026

Deborah Chandler  
Guatemala City, Guatemala  
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Term expires 2025

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Term expires 2024

Kelsey Wiskirchen  
Executive Director  
[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)

## Newsletter Copy Deadlines for 2024

- V31N1 - Spring 2024 - February 16
- V31N2 - Summer 2024 - April 19
- V31N3 - Fall 2024 - July 12
- V31N4 - Winter 2024 - October 25

Save these dates and send your contributions to the Newsletter!  
Contact me at [lgtempleok@gmail.com](mailto:lgtempleok@gmail.com) for a copy of the Author Guidelines,  
or if you have questions. Thanks!



# Member Profile: Katy Clements

Gloria Miller

*"Fiber art has felt like a wonderful, constant companion that keeps me challenged, engaged, soothed, and productive"*

As a child in central Illinois, Katy Clements was surrounded by fiber arts. The seventh of nine children of a very creative mother, she and her five sisters all learned to knit, crochet, sew, and embroider. Knitting supplies were most always available and the sewing machine was in



frequent use in clothing construction. Through early exposure, she feels like she always knew these crafts yet she considers herself self-taught in the way she has made many things over the years. She took knitting and crochet classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC, and when in 2016 one of her sisters invited her to join her in a weaving class in Washington State taught by WARP member Madelyn van der Hoogt, Katy began weaving and returned a number of times. She has also attended various weaving conferences where she has learned a variety of techniques.

In 2023 she won the HGA Award at the Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association for her piece "We Interrupt the Program". She lives in Brooklyn and has been doing commission work weaving large portraits using a loom with a shaft-switching system. A woven portrait she did of Shirley Chisholm has been recently acquired by the Brooklyn College Library Art Collection. She donated a wall hanging of a peace dove to the WARP auction.

Katy is a member of NY Guild of Handweavers and serves as membership chair. She started a video series on YouTube interviewing Guild members, including WARP members Susan Weltman and

Fannie Lee (<https://www.youtube.com/@nyguildofhandweavers977>). Finding such a great community in the Guild encouraged her to seek a wider scope of community, and WARP fits the bill beautifully.

She has lived in New York City since 1986 and worked as a civilian employee of the Fire Department for 20 years. She was working there in 2001 when 343 department members were lost at the World Trade Center. Katy and her former co-workers continue to be saddened by cancer deaths due to the WTC exposure that have outnumbered firefighter deaths on 9/11. She has found that being surrounded by purposeful, resilient people has helped her to really appreciate life and live her potential as much as possible.



*Miles Davis weaving*

She very much enjoyed her time meeting many WARP members at the annual meeting and seeing how empowered and passionate members are about their careers that are built on the love of textiles and appreciation of the work that goes into them. Katy felt very connected to the group and enjoyed sharing with people who appreciate textiles with the mission to help others.

She hopes to meet more members in the future and is happy to connect by email: [clements11201@gmail.com](mailto:clements11201@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.*

## Connect to the WARP Community!



@weavearealpeace



Weave A Real Peace



@WeaveARealPeace



Weave A Real Peace  
(Google Groups)



[weavearealpeace.com/blog](http://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.facebook.com/weavearealpeace) for reposting!)

## Be a Social Media Volunteer

Interested in writing a guest post for our blog? Contact Deborah Chandler [1992warp2022@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:elenalawick@gmail.com)

Interested in helping with the blog or Facebook? Contact Kelsey Wiskirchen [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)





# WARP's Impact in 2023

*Kelsey Wiskirchen*

In the past year, we:

- Gave 17 development grants and three emergency relief grants to artisan communities in ten countries, totalling \$16,928.
- Hosted over 40 presenters from artisan communities worldwide during our monthly panel discussions and fireside chats, and shared these virtual programs with over 2000 people in at least 25 countries.
- Held our first in-person Annual Meeting since pre-pandemic in OH, engaging the local Cleveland/Kent community, and broadcasting presentations on zoom so those unable to attend in person could join.
- Welcomed five scholarship recipients to our Annual Meeting from Argentina, Guatemala, and the US.
- We held our first members' exhibition at Kent State University's Downtown Gallery, showcasing a diversity of artistic creations and traditions from WARP members from Argentina, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Laos, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Uganda, the US, and more.
- Published four newsletters and a monthly blog which powerfully document the stories of our members' work in textile arts communities around the world.
- Updated our Artisan Direct Connect to include 80 listings of WARP member organizations. The ADC is a directory of resources offered by our members, including retail and wholesale sales, consulting services, and textile tours. ([weavearealpeace.org/community/artisan-direct-connect](http://weavearealpeace.org/community/artisan-direct-connect))
- Conducted a rebranding campaign resulting in a new website launch to make WARP's resources more accessible.

## New or Re-joining Members

Dedie Baker  
St Peters, MO

Adria Bernardi  
Nashville, TN

MaryJo Bona

Barbara Cloud-Weisman  
Alachua, FL

Carlona Coker  
Novelty, OH

Mary Conto  
Huntingtown, MD

Mia Deno  
San Francisco, CA

Lori Froese  
Lake Oswego, OR

Flora Graham  
La Luz, NM

Lauren Haynes  
Chicago, IL

Susan Porcino  
Kennett Square, PA



## WARP Insider

*continued from page 4*

have our most connective conversations. As you will read on page 14, in 2024 we will be able to provide travel funding for scholarship recipients for the first time ever, increasing our important outreach.

As I reflect on the year, and on our work as an organization, I am grateful that WARP has a Board of Directors who are engaged, committed, and willing to spend time in dialogue. I am grateful for all of the WARP members who volunteer your time and resources to make our work possible. I am grateful for our committed membership, doing essential work in your local communities, and supporting textile arts communities worldwide.

Thank you all for being a part of WARP's network.

Sincerely, Kelsey Wiskirchen  
Executive Director

WARP's direct network includes:

American Samoa	Guatemala	Peru
Argentina	India	Philippines
Australia	Iran	Poland
Bangladesh	Iraq	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	Puerto Rico
Belize	Israel	Romania
Bhutan	Italy	Russia
Bolivia	Japan	Rwanda
Brazil	Kenya	Scotland
Cameroon	Laos	Singapore
Canada	Lebanon	South Africa
Chile	Lithuania	Spain
China	Mexico	Sweden
Colombia	Morocco	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Myanmar	Taiwan
Czech Republic	Namibia	Tanzania
Denmark	Navajo Nation	Thailand
Ecuador	Nepal	Trinidad and Tobago
Egypt	Netherlands	Uganda
El Salvador	New Zealand	Ukraine
England	Niger	United Arab Emirates
France	Nigeria	United States
Germany	Norway	Uzbekistan
Greece	Pakistan	
	Palestine	



# Discover the Magic of Fair Trade This Holiday Season!

Loren Hamilton

The holiday season is upon us, and it's the perfect time to embrace the spirit of giving, sharing, and supporting those who create beautiful, hand-crafted products with love and care. The Fair Trade Federation (FTF) has been a shining beacon of ethical and sustainable commerce for almost 30 years, and they invite you to join in the celebration of fair trade this season.

The FTF Annual Holiday Gift Guide is a treasure trove of handwoven, handcrafted, and artisan-made goods from around the world. From hand woven banana leaf nativity sets from Uganda to hand sewn quilted jackets from India, the Holiday Gift Guide offers an array of options to choose from. These are not just gifts; they are expressions of artistry, culture, and heritage. Each purchase provides opportunities for artisans to improve their lives, access healthcare, send their children to school, and build a brighter future.

So, as you embark on your holiday shopping journey, consider the Fair Trade Federation and their Annual Holiday Gift Guide. By choosing these handcrafted treasures,

you become part of a global movement dedicated to social responsibility and sus-



*Martina basket from Mayan Hands*

tainable commerce. Your purchases have the power to uplift communities, empower artisans, and ensure that the true spirit of giving shines through.

Go to <https://www.fairtradefederation.org/gift-guide/> to learn more about how you can shop fair trade during the holiday season. Happy holidays from the Fair Trade Federation!

*Loren Hamilton is the Engagement Manager at the Fair Trade Federation. She can be reached at [lh@fairtradefederation.org](mailto:lh@fairtradefederation.org)*

## More New or Re-joining Members

Myrna Pula  
Philippines

Deborah Robson  
Fort Collins, CO

Paula Scott

Mary Sturdevant  
Springfield, MO

Elizabeth Van Gelder  
Arlington, MA

Julia Weaver  
Madison, WI

Melanie Wilder  
Swannanoa, NC

Christine Wilson  
Saint Charles, MO

Laura Wilson-Gentry  
Ocean City, MD

Nellie Ziegler  
Tucson, AZ



# #GIVINGTUESDAY

## WARP Celebrates #GivingTuesday to Support Scholarships

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement; a day that encourages people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. During GivingTuesday, WARP focuses on expanding our impact in textile communities, and harnessing the power of our own community to create positive change in the world.

GivingTuesday is November 28th, and we invite you to donate to our Giving Tues-

day fundraiser any time before the end of the year. You can donate to WARP and help us reach our GivingTuesday goal of \$2500 by donating on our website at [weavearealpeace.org/donate](http://weavearealpeace.org/donate) or you can mail a check to: Weave A Real Peace, PO Box 403, Seagrove, NC, 27341. Please specify that your donation is for Giving Tuesday.

Thank you for joining us in the work we do!



# WARP Provides Twenty Grants to Artisans

## Gift a WARP Membership

Do you have a friend you'd like to introduce to WARP?

Why not gift them with a year's membership for the holidays? You can purchase a gift membership at <https://weavearealpeace.wildapricot.org/Join-WARP>. Email us at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org), and we will send you two of this year's printed newsletters and a WARP postcard with a welcome note that you can wrap up as a gift!

WARP's 2023 Basic Needs/Development Grants program has wrapped up, and we have received reports from most of the 20 grantees.

As a reminder, this program started in 2021 as emergency funding for artisans suffering from the effects of COVID-19 and was restricted to applicants who were either WARP members or had a working relationship with a WARP Member. The 2022 program was also restricted to COVID-19 emergencies, but applications were accepted from any artisan or artisan group regardless of WARP affiliation.

During the 2022 cycle, the Committee noticed that funding requests were more focused on business growth than on emergency support, indicating that the hardships caused by COVID-19 were probably receding. Therefore, the 2023 program was adjusted to include both Basic Needs and Development grants. Basic Needs were no longer limited to COVID-19, but could also include other hardships such as drought, extreme heat, or floods.

As the Grants Committee anticipated, artisans this year indeed sought more funding to develop their businesses than to address emergency needs. Out of the 63 total applications received, 12 were for Basic Needs and 51 were for Development. In addition, the total number of applications increased 50% over 2022!

Thanks to the generous support of our members, 623 artisans benefitted from our grants this year. When family members are included, that number increases to approximately 1,700 people! This is an accomplishment that WARP can be very proud of!

Below are a few examples of grants given in 2023 and what the grantees said about them in their final reports.

The 20 members of **Tejidos Cotzal** in Guatemala used their \$500 Basic Needs Grant to purchase corn, beans, and oil,



Members of Tejidos Cotzal

which they divided among each of them. Here's what they reported:

*"This help is a benefit to the community, and the families of each weaver. Thank you to WARP for all of the support that you have given to the ladies this year. It was a joy for the women; we are very happy to receive this support. It is the first time we have received it, but we receive it with much love and affection. It helps us so much because we live in a rural area of Guatemala, eight hours from the capital which makes it very difficult to sell our weavings. There aren't many ways to sell in Guatemala. We thank you very much. Thank you WARP!"*

**Doña Lidia de Lopez** of San Antonio Aguas Calientes, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala, received a \$500 Development Grant to transition her weaving practice to using cotton that she dyes with natural botanical dyes and mordants.



Doña Lidia de Lopez

*continued on page 9*





## Grants Provided by WARP

continued from page 13

Lidia writes:

*"I am happy to report that I was able to purchase a set of stainless steel pots and one enamel pot. I also picked up a digital scale for weighing my materials, some alum, some baking soda, and some raw undyed cotton. My sisters, who are also weavers, have been helping me set up the pots and stove outside my home.*

*"When I return from IFAM in Santa Fe, I am looking forward to building my natural dye practice with my community. My brother-in-law works at a local weaving school started for little kids during the pandemic, and he wants to come to learn so they can teach the students there how natural dyeing is done.*

*"I know this is just the beginning. For at least two generations before me, our town has not used natural dyed cotton. We have relied on imported synthetically dyed cotton. Now, I have the means to do things differently. I look forward to bringing back this tradition which I know will leave a healthier legacy for my grandchildren and their children.*

*"Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity."*

**Stitch Buffalo** is a textile art center located in Buffalo, NY, that seeks to "empower refugee and immigrant women



Members of Stitch Buffalo

through the sale of their handcrafted goods, inspiring creativity, and inclu-

sion through community education, and stewarding the environment through the re-use of textile supplies."

The 90 active members of Stitch Buffalo used their \$1,000 Development Grant to purchase various supplies such as fibers and dyes, which they used to create products for sale. Thanks to these sales, over 200 people received indirect financial assistance from this grant. Stitch Buffalo concluded their report as follows:

*"Thank you again, from Stitch Buffalo and the artisans of the Refugee Women's Workshop. The support of your organization and members had a direct and lasting impact on the lives of refugee women living in Buffalo, NY."*

**El Colibri Amazonica** (The Amazon Hummingbird) is a group of 12 artisans



Members of El Colibri Amazonica

from eight families who live in the mestizo community of San Francisco on the Marañon River in the northern Peruvian Amazon. They make various woven handicrafts using the leaves of the Chambira palm tree. However, these palm trees had been over-harvested, and there were no longer enough leaves to weave and fold the bird ornaments for which they are known. They used their \$1,000 Development Grant to purchase 600 Chambira seeds which have been planted in a nursery specially prepared by the association.

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## Oldest Pants



For the makers of the world's oldest pants, produced in China around 3,000 years ago, the answer was apparently to use different weaving techniques to produce fabric with specific properties in certain areas, despite weaving the whole garment out of the same spun wool fiber.

The world's oldest-known pants were part of the burial outfit of a warrior now called Turfan Man. He wore the woven wool pants with a poncho that belted around the waist, ankle-high boots, and a wool headband adorned with seashells and bronze discs. The pants' basic design is strikingly similar to the pants most of us wear today, but closer inspection reveals the level of engineering that went into designing them.

See the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/hehydcfw>



# WARP Members Offer Textile Tours!

Maren Beck

COVID is calming down and you are itching to travel again. Being a WARP member, textiles are high on your list. Can you combine these two passions? You certainly can!

Textile tours visiting weavers in their own countries and villages is one of the best ways to learn about the textiles and how they are made in their own cultural context and environment. Additionally, any purchases in-country from the artisans is the most direct manner of support and can make a big impact on the individual artisans and their families.

There are many WARP members who lead textiles tours around the globe. Below are a few of the tours offered by WARP members:

## Maren Beck, Above The Fray Village Textile Tours, Vietnam and Laos

Maren Beck takes small group tours, maximum of eight people, to Vietnam and Laos to participate in textile workshops given by the artisans in their own homes. The artists visited are Black Hmong, Red Yao, Lao Loum, Red Tai, and Katu. Workshops include wax resist batik, indigo dyeing, hemp processing, two types of embroidery, silk reeling, natural dyeing on silk, cotton processing, and ikat tying using traditional hand-built tools, silk weaving, and backstrap weaving with beads on the weft threads. This is a cultural tour including homestays, eating local foods in the artisan's homes, as well as enjoying museums, historic sites, markets, and other fun local activities. There are always opportunities to purchase locally made textiles but purchase is not required. It is an enriching trip for those who have weaving and textile expertise, but experience is not required.

There is one space left on the 2024 tour (February 22-March 13), and the 2025 tour (similar dates) is open for registration. Please contact the tour group leader, Maren Beck, at [maren@hilltribeart.com](mailto:maren@hilltribeart.com), via the website at [www.hilltribeart.com](http://www.hilltribeart.com), or call Maren directly at 541/686-4285. You can also look at the FB page **Above The Fray:**

**Traditional Hill Tribe Art** for more photos and information about the artisans.

*"I just want to thank you so much for a truly wonderful trip. I have learned so much and been inspired by the people, landscape, and cultures beyond my expectations! You*



*Results of natural dyeing on silk classes with our master dyer teachers*

*have worked so hard to put a well-organized and original itinerary together – knowing and working with your (artisan) friends has made the whole experience so very special!"*

## Shila Desai of EYHO Tours, Gujarat-Kutch, Japan

Shila Desai will be leading a textile tour to Gujarat-Kutch, and to Japan, in Fall of 2024. The tours are both textile workshops teaching weaving and natural dyeing, and also textile appreciation tours. In the Kutch region the ethnic groups include Banni, Mutwa, Meghwal, Khatri, Bhujodi, and Tangalia, teaching and showing their textile skills of embroidery, weaving, natural dyeing, block printing, and resist tie and dyeing.



*A couple in Kutch with stunning embroidered outfits*

## Textile Events

Excerpts from the Textile Society of America website. For more information go to <https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/12413/fall-2023-textile-events>

Sarah Zapata:  
**So the roots be known**  
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art:  
Kansas City, MO  
Aug 17, 2023 – July 27, 2024

For Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art's eighth annual commissioned Atrium Project, New York-based artist Sarah Zapata (Peruvian American, born 1988) combines sculptural and textile techniques to create a vibrant and inviting site-specific installation.

**Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction**  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art,  
Los Angeles, CA  
Sep 17, 2023 – Jan 21, 2024

Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction foregrounds a robust if over-looked strand in art history's modernist narratives by tracing how, when, and why abstract art intersected with woven textiles (and such pre-loom technologies as basketry, knotting, and netting) over the past century.

*continued on page 11*





## WARP Member Textile Tours!

*continued from page 10*

To contact Shila about her tours, contact her at: email – [Shila@eyhotours.com](mailto:Shila@eyhotours.com), phone – 1-647282002, website [eyhotours.com](http://eyhotours.com).

### Sharon Giles of Tours By Sharon, Oaxaca Mexico

Sharon Giles leads textile and food tours to Oaxaca, Mexico. Participants will see demonstrations of the dyeing, spinning of yarn, rug weaving, and have a mini hands-on papermaking workshop. There are also visits to the markets to see the local rebozo (shawl) makers, the embroidered apron makers, a hands-on embroidery workshop with local blouse makers, and a visit to a backstrap

weaving c o - o p . Throughout there are visits to the local markets where the textiles are amazing and everywhere. Participants will



*Festival scene in Oaxaca*

visit local artisans, mostly Zapotec, some of whom speak both Zapotec and English.

Sharon's next tour is from March 26 - April 4, 2024. She usually leads 1-2 tours each year. To contact Sharon about her tours: email - [toursbysharon@gmail.com](mailto:toursbysharon@gmail.com), phone - 610/781-4345, website - [toursbysharon.com](http://toursbysharon.com).

*"Trips arranged by Sharon are the best. Over the last 13 years I have traveled with her four times. Her trips to Mexico offer immersive experiences that take you beyond the touristy beach resorts into the heart of this beautiful country with all its hidden gems. The itineraries that Sharon meticulously plans encompass all the high points of a city or region. Each trip is enhanced by the information that the knowledgeable local guides*

*provide about the art, culture, history, and customs of the area. At each destination the daily excursions enable the traveler to get up close and personal with the Mexican people. If you enjoy small group travel to exciting and unusual locations that combines sight-seeing with opportunities to truly delve into the unique features of a region, I highly recommend one of Sharon's tours. I am eagerly anticipating my next travel adventure with her."*

### Mari Gray at Kakaw Designs, Antigua and Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

Mari Gray leads tours in Antigua and Lake Atitlán, Guatemala. Her tours are very local experiences, spending five nights in a Tzutujil village and working side-by-side with master artists. The textile skills being demonstrated include

spinning local cotton (white and brown) with a traditional malacate spindle, warping for a backstrap loom, warp ikat patterning, harvesting local dye plants, visit-

ing a cochineal farm, dyeing, setting up a backstrap loom, and finally, plain weave on backstrap.

Her next available tour, "From Fiber to Fabric", is scheduled for April 7-14, 2024. Most travel itineraries are focused on workshops. She's particularly pleased with the one called "From Fiber to Fabric" which starts with spinning cotton and ends with a backstrap loom that was designed, warped, dyed, and put together by the participant (with help from master artisans, of course). She is also excited to be hosting the first trip specific to natural



*A teacher guiding a student's hands*

*continued on page 12*

## More Textile Events

### Weaving at Black Mountain College: Anni Albers, Trude Guermonprez, and Their Students

Black Mountain College  
Museum + Arts Center;  
Asheville, NC

Sept 29, 2023 – Jan 6, 2024

Weaving at Black Mountain College: Anni Albers, Trude Guermonprez, and Their Students will be the first exhibition devoted to textile practices at Black Mountain College (BMC). Celebrating 90 years since the college's founding, the exhibition will reveal how weaving was a more significant part of BMC's legendary art and design curriculum than previously assumed.





## WARP Member Textile Tours!

*continued from page 10*

*Ed. Note: When I read about the tours Wendy Garrity conducts in Bhutan, I was curious about the Thirteen Arts & Crafts of Bhutan. Here they are.*

### Thirteen Arts & Crafts of Bhutan

Zorik Chusum is the classification of arts, crafts and technological skills into thirteen different domains.

Specifically, the thirteen categories are: (1) calligraphy or yigzo, (2) painting or lhazo, (3) carving or parzo, (4) clay sculpture or jinzo, (5) metal casting or lugzo, (6) silver- and goldsmithery or trözo, (7) needlework or tsemzo, (8) woodwork/ carpentry or shingzo, (9) textile production or thakzo, (10) papermaking or delzo, (11) bamboo craft or tsarzo, (12) blacksmithery or garzo, and (13) masonry or dozo. In this classification, carpentry and woodturning are put together under woodwork whereas in another enumeration, blacksmithery and gold- and silversmithery are combined into one art of smithery and woodturning and carpentry are enumerated separately.

dyes, and there is another with an embroidery itinerary in the works. In Antigua, she hosts other workshops that can range from two hours to one week.

To contact Mari at Kakaw Design: email - [mari@kakawdesigns.com](mailto:mari@kakawdesigns.com), website - [kakawdesigns.com](http://kakawdesigns.com), or IG @[kakawdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/kakawdesigns).

*"Traveling with Kakaw was such a fantastic experience. I loved that the other participants were as excited as I was about really learning new skills. The individual instructors were master weavers, dye artists, and embroiderers, and being welcomed into their homes for meals and workshops was such a great experience. The whole trip was really thoughtful and well planned. I came away with a few new skills and a pronounced appreciation for the work that goes into the beautiful textiles of Guatemala."*

### Wendy Garrity with Textile Tours, Bhutan

Wendy Garrity leads tours to Bhutan that are a mix of textile workshops and appreciation. Skills always learned are Bhutanese backstrap weaving and natural dyeing. Participants also often have a chance to use the Tibetan horizontal loom, spin raw silk and take other opportunities as they arise and according to the interests of the group. Tours also always include the opportunity for demonstrations and hands-on learning from Wendy in any spare time (like a travelling workshop). Textile appreciation and



*Observing a Bhutanese weaver at work.*

education is an integral part of each tour, and workshops and appreciation feed into each other.

Several Bhutanese ethnic groups live along the route. Textile skills being viewed are tailored to the interests of the group as

much as possible. Weaving is very strong in Bhutan, so is always included, as is natural dyeing. We also include pottery, embroidery, applique, wood carving, carpet weaving, basket making, and other Zorig Chusum (**Thirteen Arts & Crafts of Bhutan**) when there is interest in the group (see sidebar).

To contact Wendy at Textile Tours about the dates for her next Bhutan tour, please go to [textiletrails.com.au/tours](http://textiletrails.com.au/tours).

*"...our amazing trip - two months later I am still dreaming of that wonderful country, the exquisite textiles and the welcoming people. There are so many superlatives I could put. Thank you Wendy for putting together such a very special trip."*

### Rikki Quintana of Hoon Arts, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

Rikki Quintana leads textile workshop and appreciation tours to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Workshops focus on simple weaving, beaded tassel making, sometimes felting silk (when tour includes visiting Kyrgyzstan). Opportunities to view and see demonstrations of textile arts



*Weaving class in Tajikistan*

include Suzani embroidery (with needle and with tambour hook), tassel making, ikat weaving, carpet weaving/knotting, perhaps felting. The ethnic groups visited include the Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Kyrgyz.

To contact Rikki at Hoon Arts: email - [rikki@hoonarts.com](mailto:rikki@hoonarts.com), phone - 505/235-5046, website - <https://www.hoonarts.com/>, Other: LinkedIn.

*"I feel sorry for the people who [don't have the chance to enjoy] the combined breadth and depth of the [HoonArts] tour. I wouldn't have missed it for anything... Most*

*continued on page 13*



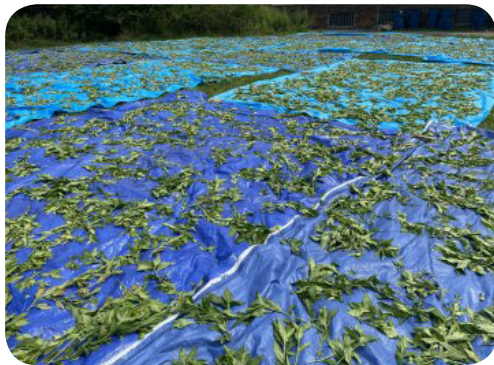
## Praxis Fiber Workshop

*continued from page 1*

dyeing, felting, spinning, and so much more.

Over the years, Praxis has expanded a lot! We think about educating under the full umbrella of contemporary textiles - everything from growing a seed to the most sophisticated technological equipment. Also under the umbrella is the fashion industry, sustainable practices, and historical context - all of which contribute to making our medium so relatable. Every person knows textiles. We sleep under blankets, wear clothing and walk across carpets every day. Regardless of our age or range of cultures, textiles are for everyone.

Our first expansion began in 2018 with the launch of our indigo garden. Over the past five years we have grown Japanese indigo on vacant parcels in our neighbor-



*Indigo flash drying in the sun after harvest (photo by Jessica Pinsky)*

hood. This is one of my favorite projects. We have become so deeply invested in the sustainable creation of indigo dye while educating about indigo's harmful past in our country. After years of creating

sukumo, the Japanese process for creating the dye, we have been extracting pigment and will soon have Praxis indigo for sale!

Last but not least, inspired by the rapidly growing interest in digital weaving, we purchased our first TC2 loom and the house next to Praxis to create our Digi-



*Praxis staff December 2022*

tal Weaving Lab (DWL). The DWL serves as a two week residency program for interested artists from all over the world to have exclusive access to the tool for the duration of the residency. This has grown so fast that we were able to purchase a second loom in June 2023 and now host two residents at a time! It has been an amazing experience to meet so many people and see how everyone approaches the tool differently.

Praxis Fiber Workshop has become a pillar in the Cleveland art community and is growing to become a global textile hub. It's been the most amazing journey of my life.

*Jessica can be contacted at [jessica@praxisfiberworkshop.org](mailto:jessica@praxisfiberworkshop.org)*



## WARP Member Textile Tours!

*continued from page 12*

*of all, I want to tell you how very impressed I was with you (Rikki) as a leader. Your presence, the sense of equanimity and calm you project (even though you may not have been feeling that way), your joy and laughter, greatly influenced the tone . . . of the group. I liked you*

*before the trip; now I both like and deeply admire you."*

Check the Artisan Direct-Connect on the WARP website for more tours, as well as listing of members selling textiles direct from the artisans

## 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@weavearealpace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpace.org)). Contact your Accountant to learn if your donation is tax deductible. Thanks!





## WARP Member Pledge Will Provide Travel Funding for Scholarship Recipients!



### Intense Competition for PAZA Spinners

The 10th annual Spinning Week resulted in 95,834 meters of yarn that was spun by 31 spinners on drop spindles (phuskas). Doña Narciza placed first by spinning 5,400 meters, beating her past record of 4,350 meters. It was the 2nd time that a spinner passed the 5,000 meter mark.

Doña Maxima commented that her older sis, Doña Narciza, called a few times after bedtime during Spinning Week to let Max's family know that she was still spinning.

All of you who have supported PAZA (in Bolivia) should know that Doña Narciza often expresses genuine appreciation for the opportunities to grow as a weaver and artist. Her actions illustrate her enthusiasm for learning through her experimentation with natural dyes, the color coordination of her weavings, and in rescuing traditional motifs from the abuelitas. To read the full blog post, go to <https://pazaboliviablog.com/2023/11/10/2023-spinning-week-wrap-up/>

WARP's Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship was established in 2008 to assist students and young professionals in attending our Annual Meeting. Many of you have had the chance to connect with scholarship recipients over the past 15 years, and have experienced first hand how much each scholarship recipient has added to the WARP community. The scholarship covers registration fees and room and board for the Annual Meeting. For many years, providing travel funding has been on our wishlist, and WARP member Betty Chambers Toguchi has made this dream a reality. Betty is establishing the Toguchi Family Fund and has pledged an annual donation to support travel for WARP's scholarship recipients. This is a huge step forward for the scholarship program, and we are deeply appreciative of this support!

Betty has been a San Francisco Bay resident for 45 years and a member of Rotary International. In 2015 as members of the Menlo Park Rotary Club, she and her husband Roger were asked to be a part of a fact-finding trip to Guatemala. (Rotary International wanted to donate funds to help the residents around Lake Atitlán recover

from Hurricane Stan.) She and Roger were part of a team selected to assess the needs of the Mayan people living near and around the lake. On this trip, she met a Mayan woman for the first time, who was working in her home on a backstrap loom, weaving material for a traditional Guatemalan blouse. This experience near Santiago introduced her to the beauty and variety of Mayan textiles. Betty subsequently purchased the book, **Traditional Weavers of Guatemala**, co-authored by Deborah Chandler and Teresa Cordón. Betty wrote Deborah about her vision to promote Mayan women weavers from different parts of Guatemala. In addition to her support of WARP's scholarship program, Betty is the sponsor for the Friendship Bridge Master Weavers Huipil Collection. (Learn more about this project at [www.handmadebyfriendshipbridge.org](http://www.handmadebyfriendshipbridge.org).)

Betty's pledge to WARP is a contribution from her IRA to satisfy her Required Minimum Distribution. Betty encourages WARP members to consider pledges to WARP that will support our work as a catalyst for improving the quality of life of textile artisans worldwide.



### Grants Provided by WARP

*continued from page 9*

to individual artisan family plots. This project is directly helping 50 artisans and other family members. In their report they shared how these plants will benefit their community:

*"As the seeds germinate and grow, we expect to transplant the seedlings to the individual fields of the beneficiary families between November and December. During this crucial period technical assistance (will be provided) to each of the families to ensure successful and sustainable planting. Additional training will be organized to help families properly care for these seedlings once they have been transplanted to their fields. These activities aim to facilitate re-*

*forestation and to strengthen community capabilities and ensure the project's long-term sustainability."*

Thanks to the generous support of our members, 623 artisans from 11 different countries benefited from our grants this year. If you have any questions, or are interested in participating on the Grants Committee in the future, please contact Grants Committee Chair Diane Manning at [diane.warp@gmail.com](mailto:diane.warp@gmail.com).

Diane Manning  
On behalf of the 2023 WARP  
Grants Committee







## WARP's 2023 Online Auction raised \$11,000

In October, we held another successful and fun online auction, raising \$11,000! The auction is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and includes textiles, jewelry, weaving tools, textile books, and more, all donated by generous WARP members. Thank you to our auction volunteers Mary

Joan Ferrara-Marsland and Cheryl Musch, for their work writing auction descriptions. Thank you to everyone who participated by bidding, and especially to all of the members who donated your treasures to this year's auction! Auction donors were:

Marilyn Anderson	Katy Clements	Mary Lawyer O'Connor	Sarah Saulson
Mary Balzar	Kate Colwell	Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser	Ilana Schatz
Kate Banner	Cuyahoga Weavers Guild	Molly Martin	Karen Searle
Lena Bartula	Diane De Souza	Susan McCauley - Mekong River Textiles	Judith Sen - ONG DIMA
Maren Beck/ Josh Hirschstein	Debbie Durham	Kathy McConaughy	Adrienne Sloane
Above the Fray	Nicole Eubanks - Friendship Bridge	Kathy McHenry	Jim Spencer
Traditional Hilltribe Art	Harmony Weavers Guild	Nancy Middlebrook	Cameron Taylor-Brown
Marcia Bellas	Carol Hayman	Gynnie Moody	Linda Temple
Betsy Blosser	Carol Ireland	Friends of the Ixil Museum	Hope Thomas
Deb Brandon	Teena Jennings	Elisha Renne - Queen Amina Embroidery	Rinzin Wangmo
Central PA Guild of Handweavers	Victoria Johnson Parratt		Susan Weltman
Deborah Chandler	Cathie Joslyn		Virginia Westheider
Cael Chappell - Baskets of Africa			Laurie Wilkins
			Margaret Zeps

## Curious About How WARP News Started?

Some people wonder how things began, got started, from the Garden of Eden to the New York Times. If you have wondered about the history of this newsletter, the WARP newsletter that has been published four times every year for more than a quarter of a century, watch for the December blog post that will reveal all. Or some, anyway. If you are not yet subscribed to the WARP Blog (<https://weavearealpeace.org/blog/>), just go onto the website and sign up. Free, open to all, there are lots of good stories there. This one will be extra-fun, and will include the names of WARP members you may know and love.



## Thanks to Other Generous WARP Donors

Yolanda Alcorta	Carrie Burckle	Ann Fox	Kammy Johnson	Deborah Robson	Allison Tyler
Pamela Allison	Sara Burnett	Virginia Glenn	Tina Jollyschmidt	Yael Rosenfield	Gayle Vallance
Sharon Amastae	Babbie & Stu Cameron	Sherna Gluck	Darlene Lander	Barbara Sheffels	Elizabeth Van Gelder
Vicki Aspenberg	Sandra Cardillo	Deborah Graham	John Laswick	Michelle Simon	Jacquelyn Wesolosky
Karen Bartlett	Deborah Chandler	Elizabeth Hall	Sallye Mahan Cox	Andrea Small	Laurie Wilkins
Lena Bartula	Elizabeth Clow	Ellen Hansen	Susan McCauley	Eileen Smith	Virginia Stovall
Beth Benjamin	Claudia Cocco	Patricia Henderson	Mary Ellen McMurtrie	Virginia Stovall	Tai-Ling Wong
Adria Bernardi	Dana Connell	Catherine Herman	Kandria Olinger	Jeffrey Stovall	Gina Ziegler
Jane Bloom	Dr Cathy DeForest	Nancy Hoagland	Susan Peterson	Barbara Stucki	Anna Zinsmeister
Soozie Brendler	Susan Dignam	Valarie James	Elisha Renne	Dorothy Thursby	
Darla Brown				Gail Trotter	





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

## WARP Accomplishments of 2023 Highlighted in this Issue

### Regional WARP Meeting in the Bay Area a Grand Success

Bay Area WARP members gathered in Santa Clara on Friday, November 3rd, to share a potluck meal and get to know one another better. Kelly Manjula Koza, whom you



Back row: Shelly Wells, Kelly Koza, Betsy Blosser Louise Schiller, Kathy McHenry, Diane Manning, John Wells; Front row: Gloria Miller, Kate Colwell, Michele Hament

will recognize as the videographer of the Kent State 2023 WARP meeting, hosted the group in the social room of her apartment complex. Eleven WARP members attended. Each member told the group

about their interests and what drew them to WARP. That led to a lively conversation.



Gloria Miller and Betsy Blosser

We all had such a good time that we made plans to meet again, this time in Oakland on January 28th. (For more information, contact Betsy Blosser at [bblosser@sfsu.edu](mailto:bblosser@sfsu.edu).) Will this be a local chapter of WARP? We hope so! Stay tuned!



Left: Louise Schiller, Kathy McHenry, Shelly Wells, Kate Colwell, Diane Manning

Photos by Kelly Manjula Koza

