



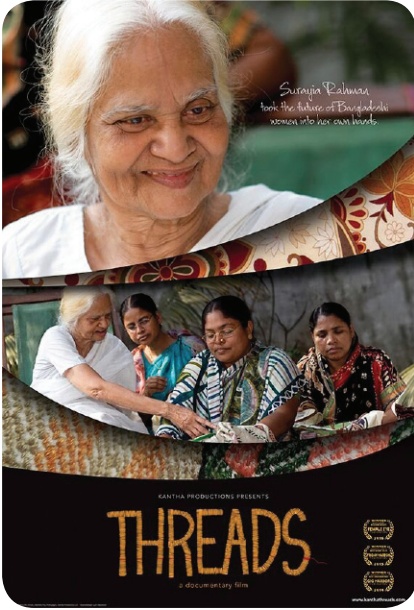
Volume 25, Number 1 - Spring 2018

THREADS: Changing Lives Stitch by Stitch

A new documentary by one of our members, now available on DVD

Cathy Stevulak

When I lived in Bangladesh and was introduced to artist Surayia Rahman, I was struck by her quiet dignity. Surayia lived in the home she had built for her family,



her story. THREADS is an intimate portrait of this 86-year-old Bengali artist, Surayia Rahman, who transforms the quilt-work tradition of kantha to create better lives for her family and hundreds of impoverished mothers in Bangladesh. Over three



Cathy shows film clips to artisan Rahima

decades, as their art becomes prized possessions of connoisseurs around the world, Surayia Rahman and the artisans have overcome their hardships with needle and thread, stitch by stitch.



Their stitches tell stories

continued on page 6

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.

an oasis of creativity midst multiple garment factories. She was surrounded by a group of women whom she had guided to embroider her original story-telling designs for almost thirty years. I was deeply moved by the vitality of Surayia's embroidered wall hangings -- the tones of the colors, the perfection of the stitches and the vividness of the human stories of Bengali life that emerged from simple threads -- but it was Surayia's humanitarianism that made the biggest impact.

I was inspired by Suriyia's life and talents, and decided it was important to tell



Reimagining Tradition

Anush Mirbegian

For the past fifteen years, I have worked in the fashion industry, in design, styling, and trend forecasting. I have learned the inside workings, from design to production to marketing, but also the context and significance of how dress communicates a zeitgeist of people, culture, place, and time.



My introduction to the artisan world came through a social route. I took a hiatus from NYC to visit my father's ethnic motherland, Armenia, where I volunteered in Gyumri, with a local NGO project that works with seamstresses. While the women were all from different social backgrounds, when they were together working with their hands, I felt the strong bonds that were forming. I was inspired by the potential of handwork. I felt building community through a shared experience had the potential to create social change and I began looking at textiles beyond their aesthetic appeal. I began working with artisans from Tanzania to Afghanistan, to offer consulting services and help market these techniques to a wider audience.

In 2015, I started Es Par Ta, a collection of artisan-crafted espadrilles (alpargatas) inspired by the heritage of this ancient technique. Alpargatas could provide me a blank canvas to work with different textiles. After much convincing, a workshop in Barcelona created a model with a handwoven ikat that

I had procured from Bibi Hanum, of Uzbekistan. We have worked with several weaving workshops in Mallorca and most recently, embroidery artisans in Sindh Pakistan.

The question for the future of artisan tradition is how do we respect the history but place techniques in a current context that introduce them to a wider audience that can appreciate, purchase, and sustain them? Design must answer this question. Traditional garments that reflect a culture are often not suited for more commercial appeal so how do we bring it to a new audience? What is happening at the moment to the customer and how do people yearn to feel? Consumers want a connection to their purchases, they want to know the story, share it, but comfort and wearability are also key. The potential for luxury artisan work is huge but it must fit into lives that are often so different from those that are creating the work.

Artisans have nuanced stories of their origins and the presentation should reflect this, through images and language. Everything matters, from the name of the brand to the language on the website. It must capture the authenticity of the work. Beautiful work, in the age of digital consumption needs to be ravishing, even on your iPhone.

I have been lucky with Es Par Ta because my industry connections have helped me get in front of buyers, but I knew I had to go to them with the right design and presentation that found a way to respect tradition but pushed it forward to appeal to a wider audience.

As we grow and deal with the perils of a small business, I am also working with small artisan brands in need of marketing direction. Recently, I collaborated with VEERO, a collection made in Pakistan and Guatemala. Always looking for potential projects and partners, I welcome anyone in the WARP community to reach out to continue any discussion this may have ignited.

Visit our website at www.esparta.casa. I can be reached at Anushmirbegian@mac.com



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Send address
corrections to:
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or mail to

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East Lansing, MI 48823

The deadline for
contributions to the
Summer issue of the WARP
newsletter is
April 20, 2018

Send articles and
correspondence for
the newsletter to:
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Submissions may be
edited or shortened at the
discretion of the editor.



Exciting Plans for WARP Annual Meeting from June 7-10, 2018

The Annual meeting begins Thursday evening with a Welcome Circle at 7 pm. Plan to arrive in time for this event!

Lectures will be held on Friday and Saturday mornings, with local tours each afternoon. Our guest speakers include two presenters from Decorah: Laurann Gilbertson, Textile curator at Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American Museum. A representative of Seed Savers International will also speak to our group. Afternoon tours have been arranged for Seed Savers on Friday and a behind-the-scenes tour and reception at Vesterheim on Saturday.

Other invited speakers are listed below. Their bios will be posted on the WARP website.

Mary Anne Wise is co-founder of Cultural Cloth, a social enterprise established to support primarily women textile practitioners from around the world. Through online sales and sales at their store located in Maiden Rock, WI, Cultural Cloth promotes its stable of artists to a wider audience.

Diane Nesselhuf is founder of Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala which promotes fair trade with groups, mostly of women in Guatemala, to help them sustain their families. As of 2017 there are eight employees in Guatemala, a store in the US and many projects in Guatemala.

Elisha Renne is co-founder, along with Hassana Yusuf, of the non-profit women's embroidery group, Queen Amina Embroidery, which was begun in 1994. Since then, twenty-five women in Zaria City have been hand-embroidering bags, placemats, pillows, wall-hangings, and kaftans, which she and Ms. Yusuf have marketed in Nigeria and the US.

Mary Hark is Associate Professor, Design Studies, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin- Madison and founder of the Ghana Paper Project, which uses invasive plant materials to

create paper products which provide sustainable employment to the community of Kumasi.

We will also learn about the recent Tinkuy in Peru from Dorinda Dutcher and Teena Jennings and hear from our Scholarship students.

Friday evening will include a book signing reception for Susan Schaefer Davis's new book, *Women Artisans of Morocco: Their Stories, Their Lives*, hosted by Thrums Books. The rest of the evening is open for a series of 15- minute presentations by WARP members about their recent projects. To reserve a slot, please email Karen Searle, ksearleart@gmail.com.

Our vendor International Marketplace will be open on Friday and Saturday. Our *continued on page 9*



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Weave A Real Peace

Membership Information
www.weavearealpeace.org

2018 Annual Dues

\$50 - Individual in US/Canada
\$90 - 2 year special - Individual US/Canada

\$40 - International Individual
Simple living - Choose an amount you can live with

\$50 - Guilds/Organization
\$30 - Sister/Gift Subscriptions
\$75 - Business
\$75 - Supporting Individual
\$100 - Friend of WARP
\$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
c/o 6182 Pollard Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823

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



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Term expires 2019

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Term expires 2019

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Term expires 2020

Karen Searle
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Term expires 2018

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Term expires 2019

Rita Chapman
Administrative Coordinator
info@weavearealpeace.org

Where Networking Happens

Liz Gipson

Networking is the core of WARP's mission. Here is a short rundown of how WARP fosters conversations within its landscape.

Direct Emails WARP uses a membership management system called Wild Apricot to generate emails sent direct to your inbox regarding official announcements, meeting notices, registration information, and general membership information. These emails carry the official word from the organization. They foster a two-way conversation between you and the organization.

Newsletter The newsletter is an important method of communication and now available in a digital format.

Google Group A members-only forum, this group provides a way in which members can share resources, ask questions, and interact with one another. This is also a space for the organization to field questions from the membership in a group forum. *See sidebar on Page 8 about using Google Groups.*

Facebook (@weavearealpeace) Our window to the world, Facebook allows anyone to engage with the organization. The page is managed by a volunteer with the goal of posting news of interest relevant to anyone who is interested in the larger mission and vision of WARP and to moderate conversation. It is an extremely mobile-friendly platform and offers WARP a way to reach a larger audience.

Instagram (@weavearealpeace_warp): This is a new platform for WARP and another powerful tool to make the organization visible to a larger audience. WARP is still developing ways to fully utilize this app.

Annual Meeting Face-to-face is never to be replaced! No digital tool can replace the power of gathering together in a physical location. We hope you will join us at the next meeting. See page 3 for information about this year's meeting, and page 5 to read about a scholarship recipient who attended last year's meeting.



Whither Goest WARP?

Judi Jetson

Leading an organization of 350+ members spread across the country and around the world is a challenge. So to help, we have a strategic plan which takes a 3-year look at what we need to do; this helps us take a long view when our tendency is to get caught up in planning our annual meeting and forget what we're trying to accomplish as a networking and educational organization. A year ago, the Board held a retreat to renew our plan, and here are the major categories and what we've accomplished over the past year:

Evaluate Structure - 1) clarified our Administrator's (Rita's) responsibilities and developed a contract, 2) clarified Board responsibilities, 3) worked on travel policies, 4) formed a membership committee.

Foster Public Communication - 1) now publishing monthly blogs, 2) now have only one Facebook page to eliminate confusion, 3) encouraging more frequent

postings and conversation in Google Group.

Advance Leadership - 1) gave the website a facelift, 2) planned outreach at Convergence, 3) participated in Giving Tuesday and raised nearly \$2,000 for scholarships to the annual meeting, 4) reached out to like-minded organizations to form partnerships.

Here's what we'd like our members' help with over the next six months:

- more members posting articles and comments on Facebook page
- more members sharing information about WARP with friends and at guild meetings, hosting gatherings of WARP members in their area
- helping to identify and reach out to like-minded organizations

If you can help or would like more information, email judi@judijetson.com and I'll get you to the right person.



Member Profile

Nicole Giacomantonio: "Textiles provide a link between land, person, and culture"

Gloria Miller

Nicole Giacomantonio of Halifax, Nova Scotia became one of our newest WARP members



photo by Carol Ventura

when she received an Alice Brown Memorial scholarship in order to participate in the 2017 meeting in Oaxaca. She was so moved by the welcome and support she experienced,

as well as the inspiration she received from so many like-minded people, that she plans to continue as a member.

Taught to knit by her grandmother when she was seven, she has an insatiable curiosity about all things textile. She holds an interdisciplinary degree in Fine Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (NSCAD), where she focused on textiles and craft history. Nicole realized that the fibre arts were her calling when she took her first weaving course at NSCAD, and since then she has been keen to explore as much of the vast world of textile traditions and techniques as she can. Nicole has learned a great deal from work placements, internship opportunities, and self-taught explorations at weaving studios, museums, and during meetings of her local knitting club. She feels all these experiences have been equally valuable in her creative development.

Nicole's goal is to pursue a degree in art conservation with a focus on textiles, and she is currently in the process of applying to graduate programs. She will soon be undertaking a quilting project at the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design as an artist-in-residence. The quilts she is planning will be naturally dyed and are based on traditional Nova Scotia heritage quilt patterns.

She sees textiles as an important way of preserving history: "Textiles can tell the stories of their makers and of the cultural history of the place and time they were made."

Her practice is one of appreciation and preservation and she wants her work to emphasize the importance of the connection between artist, community, and landscape. In so doing, she finds a sense of calm and purpose, and approaches her work with fibre as a means of self-care. Nicole finds evidence of emotional and creative growth as she works through many levels of challenge, technical and otherwise, in each new project.

Nicole "loves to talk" and she hopes to continue connections through WARP. She can be reached by email at nicolegiaco@gmail.com or on Instagram: [nicoliogi](https://www.instagram.com/nicoliogi). The Instagram account isn't necessarily fiber focused but definitely has "high fiber content!"

Gloria Miller 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. She can be reached at gmillersm@gmail.com

Auctions!

WARP's major fundraisers are the auctions, both Silent and Live, that are held at the annual meeting. The Live Auction, which takes place on Saturday evening, will feature special items selected by the Board. The Silent Auction consists of items donated by members—gently used ethnic textiles and textile-related items. The Silent Auction will run throughout the meeting, ending Saturday afternoon. Please peruse your textile and textile-related treasures and donate generously so this can be a successful auction.

If you are attending the meeting, you can bring your auction items with you. If not, contact Linda Temple, lgtempleok@gmail.com, and we will make arrangements for sending items.

Those of you who are attending the meeting, please be sure to set aside funds for all those fabulous textile items you won't want to pass up.

Newsletter Copy Deadlines

V25N2 - Summer 2018 – April 20

V25N3 - Fall 2018 – July 27

V25N4 - Winter 2018 – October 19

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



Welcome to New Members

Krista Botsford
Wausau, WI

Rosalie Friend
Brooklyn, NY

Sharon Giles
Fleetwood, PA

Marilyn Godfrey
Rawlins, WY

Miranda Howard
Kalamazoo, MI

Joan Jacobs
Portsmouth, NH

Judy Lepthien
Denver, CO

Sheila Mayer-McCrary
St. Joseph, MO

Joanne Mills
Danvers, MA

Rebecca Shipman
Omaha, NE

Char Thompson
Madison, WI

Lynnette Van Epps-Smith
Rapid City, SD

Catherine Van Steen
Litchfield, CT

Shelley Wells
Danville, CA

Eric Weltman
Brooklyn, NY

The 2018 International Folk Art Market will be July 13-15

Many of you have had the opportunity to visit or volunteer at the International Folk Art Market, held in Santa Fe, NM. This year's Market is from July 13-15. Volunteer applications are being received after April 15, 2018. Volunteers provide their expertise, spirit of friendship, dedication, and resourcefulness to make this the largest folk art market of its kind. As a volunteer, you will work with over 150 master folk

artists from 60 countries who share their authentic artistic traditions. New countries in 2017 were Tanzania, Argentina, Jordan, and Tajikistan. In addition, you receive free admission to regular Saturday and Sunday market, a volunteer t-shirt, snacks, a folk art gift, and dedicated volunteer parking and shuttle service. To volunteer go to www.folkartmarket.org and then to 'volunteer opportunities'.



THREADS: Changing Lives Stitch by Stitch

continued from page 1

THREADS is the result of five years of research, filming, and still photography in locations around the world.

"THREADS captures Surayia and the beauty of her art, presenting her story in all its different facets in a brilliant way -- through the women, through her history and place, her voice and her art. The film is balanced, yet shows the complexity of artisan enterprise and the human experience, with lots of layers of meaning to think about and take forward in some way." -- Roxane Shaughnessy, Curator, Collections and Access, Textile Museum of Canada; past President, Textile Society of America.

In December 2017 the Prime Minister of Bangladesh presented Surayia with the prestigious Begum Rokeya Award for her contributions to women and families.

I hope that audiences who see THREADS will be inspired by how each person can make a difference in the lives of many, and the power of textiles and sharing talents for a better world. Artisan enterprise is the second leading employer in the developing world, yet it receives scant attention. THREADS can also start more conversations about the impact of opportunity and dignity for global artisans -- particularly women. To broaden awareness, I invite WARP members to host a screening of THREADS around March 8 -- International Women's Day -- and discuss their own experiences.

THREADS won best short documentary and audience choice awards at film festivals in the U.S. and Canada. You can

learn much more about the history of kantha cloth and 'behind-the-scenes' stories of producing the film on the ClothRoads blogs and purchase the DVD at ClothRoads online. More ways to watch the film and to bring THREADS to your school, library, or community are at the THREADS website: kanthathreads.com

For more on this story and about kantha:

Cloth Roads: Kantha - Ancient Hand Stitch Revival (Nov 2017)

<https://www.clothroads.com/kantha-ancient-hand-stitch-revival/>

Hand Eye Magazine: Accidental Saint

<http://handeyemagazine.com/content/accidental-saint>

Textile Society of America Symposium

Surayia Rahman: The Refining of a Domestic Art

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/886/>

Mingei International Museum in San Diego (through March 25, 2018)

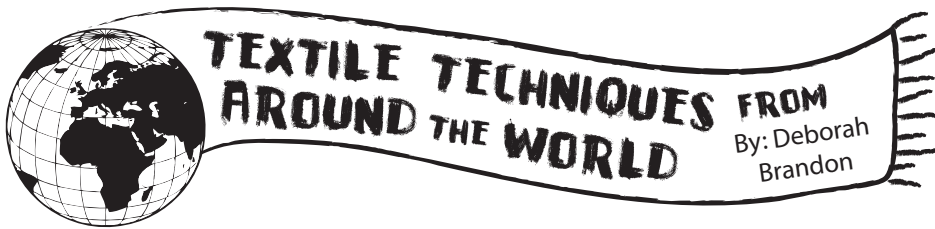
<https://mingei.org/exhibitions/kantha/> with catalogue by John Gillow

Philadelphia Museum of Art. Bengali

Kantha: The Embroidered Quilts of Bengal

Cathy Stevulak is a Canadian filmmaker whose interest in textiles goes back to early childhood. Prior to filmmaking, Cathy was Senior Governance Adviser with United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh and has lived and worked internationally for over 20 years. She can be reached at cathy@kanthathreads.com





Russia—Kaitag Embroidery

Whimsical beasts frolicked across the cover of the book—mouths agape, tongues lolling, curly claws bared. The stunning free form designs held echoes of Australian Aboriginal art, ancient Scandinavian art, abstract expressionist paintings, and the work of masters such as Matisse and Klee.

I only caught the title of the book, *Kaitag: Daghestani Silk Embroidery, An Italian Collection*, on my second examination.

Kaitag refers to a valley in the republic of Daghestan, part of the Russian Federation. Kaitag is also the name of the people of the region, who consist of more than thirty distinct ethnic groups and are of many different faiths, including Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Animists.

In addition, Kaitag refers to the traditional silk embroidery of the Kaitag people. Kaitag embroidery is suffused with colorful figures and abstract motifs. Symbolic of the history, traditions, and spirituality of the multi-ethnic Kaitag people, the designs vary widely within the region.

Images vary from the naturalistic to the ritualistic often combined on the same panel. Thunderbolts and sun birds mingle with figures of men and babies. Elk and reindeer flank the cosmic axis, a horned totem. Serpents and dragons frolic among vines and pomegranates. And local amoeba-shaped eroded rocks accentuate a spinning pinwheel, the sun sign. Hieroglyphic symbols add to the richness of Kaitag embroidery—some resemble stylized Arabic or Hebrew letters and others look like versions of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Another aspect of these pieces that intrigued me was the nature of the filler stitches—an unusual variation on couching stitch. Aligned strands of silk floss were periodically anchored to the fabric with a running stitch, forming a very dis-

tinctive effect—parallel, slightly wavy bands. Among a wide variety of embroidery stitches, Kaitag embroiderers used stem stitch and chain stitch to outline the shapes, herringbone stitch and whipping stitch for frames and borders, and fagotting stitch and cross stitch for further emphasis.

Kaitag embroiderers were local specialists, who sold their finished panels for cash, to be used for ritual life events only—birth, marriage, and death—to cover babies' cradles, wrap brides' dowry jewelry, and cover the faces of the dead. Between uses, the villagers stored their pieces carefully, in time passing them on to the next generation.

The majority of documented Kaitags are from the 17th and 18th century. The earliest surviving pieces date back to the 17th century, and the most recent ones are from the beginning of the 20th century.

By 1929 the Soviets banned home industries as part of their persecution of rich peasants. Unfortunately, all the indications are that the art of embroidery has not resurfaced since then.

Is the traditions of Kaitag embroidery forever lost to us?

Resources

- Chenciner Robert, *Kaitag: Textile Arts from Daghestan*, Textile Art Publication, 1993
- Chenciner Robert, *Daghestan: Tradition & Survival*, Taylor & Francis, 2012
- Bozoglu, Ziya, *Kaitag: Daghestani Silk Embroidery, An Italian Collection*, Ziya Bozoglu, Perugia, 2007.
- Scaramuzza, Carlo and Chenciner Robert, *Kaitag: Art For Life, Embroidered Textiles from Daghestan*, Silvana Editoriale, 2011.

Deborah Brandon is a multi-talented mathematician and former board member. She can be reached at 412/963-7416 or at brandon@andrew.cmu.edu



2018 Member Directory Available

If you haven't had a chance to look at WARP's 2018 Member Directory, you're missing out on lots of fascinating reading. Available online at www.weavearealpeace.org (Members Only), it lists WARP members, along with their contact information and interests. This must be one of the most interesting groups in the world! I immediately downloaded and printed it (49 pages), and it has provided me with hours of entertainment. And I've contacted several members for more information. I strongly encourage you to check it out!

Linda Temple



From WARP's President

Susan Weltman

Tips for Using Google Groups

WARP has used the Google Group platform very successfully for close to three years. With 275 members now participating, we've had many terrific conversations, have gotten to know each other better, and working together, we've solved some interesting problems. This is networking at its best. Literally, through the wonder of the Internet, though we're in far-flung places, we can still communicate!

When a topic is consuming, the sheer number of resulting messages can become overwhelming to our inbox! To avoid this, we can apply several rules of thumb:

Feel free to introduce new topics that relate to WARP's mission. If you announce an event, invite responses to your personal email. If you respond to an announcement, don't "Reply All."

Be sure to use a subject line that describes the topic. If the topic shifts, change the subject line to match.

In replies, avoid simple one-line messages that don't move the conversation.

If you ask for help on something, and someone replies with good information, move that conversation to your private emails for follow-up. Don't keep using "Reply All."

Remember you can access the messages on the Google Group webpage, and avoid emails altogether.

You can change your settings, for example, to receive the messages in a bundle, etc. Learn more at [http://tinyurl.com/using-google-groups!](http://tinyurl.com/using-google-groups)

Greetings from chilly New York City. I've done some traveling since our last Newsletter and had a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our European WARP members, greatly enriching my trip to Germany and Britain. In Aachen, Germany, my husband Steve and I spent a delightful evening with Jane Hahn, a WARP member for many years (and a resident of Germany for most of her adult life). She learned about WARP at a Convergence meeting. Although she has never been able to attend a meeting, she greatly enjoys reading the Newsletter. Jane has generously contributed her basket collection to WARP for our fundraising! Jane has been an avid collector of baskets and I had great fun visiting her home and picking out the baskets; those of you who are at our IA meeting will have the opportunity to buy one.

We then took the Eurostar to the UK where I spent a morning with Callie Vandewiele, a graduate student at Cambridge, though from the US. She first heard of WARP at the International Market in Santa Fe, and attended our meeting as a guest. We hope that she will get a wonderful job in the US when she finishes her PhD so she can easily attend future meetings.

Later in the week I had lunch with Alisa Ruzavina, a scholarship student who we

met in Oaxaca. She is a bundle of energy and intelligence; I'm hoping she can relocate to the US too after she finishes her degree so we can have her enthusiasm closer to us! And, to cap off a wonderful week, I had lunch with Wendy Morris, another member who learned of WARP at Convergence. Among my plans this year are to continue outreach to members, including the many who have been unable to attend meetings. I already have plans to meet the WARP members who live in Brooklyn and will be traveling to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., where I hope to meet with members – oh, the pleasures of being retired!

There has been confusion and dismay at the profusion of messages from the Weave a Real Peace Google Group. I'd like to add my own 2 cents. This listserve, or any, has to be used judiciously and thoughtfully. But, I'll admit, the listserve is one of my favorite benefits of WARP membership. I would never have met our dear friend and fellow member, Vanina Buchalter, in Buenos Aires, if, years ago I hadn't asked if any member knew someone in B.A. And indeed, Deb Chandler sent me her contact information. I met the friend (and weaver) with whom we traveled to Mongolia through a question on the listserve answered by Sarah Saulson! So as we struggle through using it thoughtfully – keep that in mind please.



FTF Plans Annual Conference in March

Rachel Spence



Maggie's Organics and Mata Traders, two impactful and dedicated fair trade fashion brands, are sending keynote speakers to this year's 360° Fair Trade Conference and Expo. They will discuss fair trade business and real global supply chains, including the fair trade community's role in the organics sector. Their presentations will be infused with the ability of fair trade business models to successfully subvert standard fashion practice.

The annual FTF Conference and Expo is a unique opportunity for those deeply com-

mitted to fair trade to network and discuss trends in the marketplace. Attendees can view unique products from around 60 fair trade organizations at the lively and colorful Expo. Moderated sessions will cover a variety of topics for fair trade retailers, wholesalers, and partner organizations. Exciting highlights include a retailer intensive workshop by Kevin Natapow of Creative Retail Solutions and a 3-part workshop series on digital content strategy by Carrie Hawthorne of Carrot Consulting.

Join us in Westminster, CO from March 27-29. Visit www.fairtradefederation.org for fair trade resources and further information. We hope to see the WARP community there!



Nominating Committee to Select Board Nominees

WARP is seeking nominations to fill current and upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors. Judy Newland and Karen Searle will be completing their second three-year term, and Devik Wyman has resigned due to family and work responsibilities. Board terms are for three years, with a two term limit.

This is a working board, rather than a fundraising board (although helping to raise funds for the organization is important). Board members are expected to attend annual meetings and participate in monthly conference calls. They are also encouraged to lead committees involving other WARP members. WARP works to have a Board that reflects the general

membership, geographically, with older and younger members, and a mix of experience. The best way to achieve this is participation of members in the nominating process.

Judi Jetson (judi@judijetson.com), Deb Brandon (brandon@andrew.cmu.edu), Susan Weltman (sweltwoman@gmail.com), and Carol Ventura (tapestry-crochet@hotmail.com) are serving as the 2018 Nominating Committee. Suggestions, recommendations, or self-nominations can be sent to any of the committee members by April 2. A slate of potential Board members will be published in the next newsletter, with voting to be held at the Annual Meeting.



Annual Meeting Plans

continued from page 3

traditional Silent Auction will also be available during that time. Plan on bringing a donation for the Silent Auction. See pages 5 and 9 for more information about these two events.

On Saturday evening WARP will host a 25th Anniversary Celebration and brief auction of a few special items. Don't miss out on this celebration!

Our Annual Business meeting will be held during a Sunday morning breakfast brunch.

How to get there

Decorah, IA is located in the northeast corner of Iowa, near the border with MN and WI. It is located on IA State Route 9, near the junction with ISR 52.

Three airports serve the area: Waterloo, IA, (77 miles from Decorah), LaCrosse WI (56 miles from Decorah), and Rochester, MN (71 miles from Decorah).

Decorah is a three hour drive from Madison, WI (145 miles), and from Minneapolis (158 miles), and a five hour drive

from Chicago (287 miles), each of which have airports served by more than one airline.

Written travel directions by car from several locations can be found at: <http://www.visitdecorah.com/travel-directions>

Cost

Registration for the meeting will begin on February 28, on WARP's website:

Early Bird rate for current WARP Members is \$190; rate after April 11 is \$225. Early Bird rate for non-members is \$240 (which includes a WARP membership); rate after April 11 is \$275; one day fee for either Friday or Saturday is \$95.

Reservations for lodging and food will be made directly on Luther College's website after February 28. A single room is \$47.25 per night per person, and a double room is \$40.50 per night per person. All three meals for one day are available for \$24.10, prepaid and loaded onto a swipe card to use at the cafe cashier.

Marketplace!

Once again we will have an International Marketplace at the annual WARP meeting, June 7-10 in Decorah, IA. Debbie Durham began this wonderful tradition in 1996 at the annual meeting in Berea, KY and for the last two years it's been absent as we've shopped in the Santa Fe and Oaxaca international markets. Our WARP Marketplace provides an opportunity for WARP members to sell handcrafts from the communities where they work, and gives the rest of us a tangible way to support their creative endeavors. We hope for a high level of participation this year among both sellers and buyers as WARP celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. In the past, items for sale have included Guatemalan products from UPAVIM and Mayan Hands, ethnic clothing from India, baskets from Ghana and much more. Marketplace vendors who are attuned to WARP's values are encouraged to participate.

Vendors may bring their merchandise and set up displays when they arrive, or mail things in advance to a secure holding spot at the conference center. The Marketplace is scheduled to open on Friday afternoon, and will stay open Friday evening during the reception and all day on Saturday and Saturday evening during the social event.

Please notify Judi Jetson (judi@judijetson.com) if you plan to participate in our Marketplace so that we are sure to have enough tables for all vendors. Each vendor is responsible for pricing their items in advance. WARP collects a 10% fee on all sales.



Andean Textile Arts Kicks Off New Program: Peruvian Textiles in a Box--Textiles and Traditions of the Peruvian Highland Weavers

Marilyn Murphy

This past fall, Andean Textile Arts launched Peruvian Textiles in a Box: Textiles and Traditions of the Peruvian Highland Weavers, a self-contained program designed for fiber guilds or groups who want to learn about Peruvian indigenous textiles and the skilled artisans who make them.

Through a documentary video, *Peruvian Weaving Revival* by Janet Darrow, and actual samples of the artisan's work, you will meet the weavers, dyers, knitters, and spinners of the Peruvian Highlands who are cooperative members of the Center for the Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC). Hear the story about the vision of Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez, the founder and director of CTTC, whose mission has been to preserve and perpetuate the traditional textile arts of her village of

Chincheru, and the other Highland communities.

The full package of video, five presentation boards containing twenty actual samples of the unique textile techniques for a 'show and feel' along with accompanying text and images, and additional information books rents for \$100. The program is easily shipped and takes minimal set-up time. Please contact info@andean-textilearts.org for more information or to book the program. A trunk show of textiles for sale can also be arranged.

In addition to this program, ATA hosts an annual textile tour of the Peruvian Highlands; the next one is October 2018. Andean Textile Arts is a US 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to supporting the people and communities of the Andes in their efforts to preserve and revitalize their textile traditions.

Thanks to Donors!

Des Moines Weavers and Spinners Guild

Susan Abouhalkah

Jordy Bell

Beth Benjamin

Terry Blair

Lindy Brigham

Nancy Brown

Rita Chapman

Vivian Coles

Kate Colwell

Steve Csipke

Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland

Rosalie Friend

Peggy Greenwood

Alice Hickcox

Hedy Hollyfield
Ayni

Elizabeth Hurtig

Carol Ireland

Katharine Javian

Judi Jetson

Catherine Joslyn

Sara Lamb



Applications Sought for Alice Brown Memorial Scholarships

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Alice Brown was a generous WARP member who donated the funds to establish an ongoing scholarship program. Each year, WARP offers scholarships for students and fiber artists up to 35 years of age to attend our annual meeting. This is a great opportunity for early career individuals to be impacted by what WARP has to offer.

Offering the scholarship each year is a way for WARP to expand the membership while making a huge impact in a young person's life. Alice Brown's original donation was the seed, but the fund now relies upon the ongoing generosity of WARP members. Last year, because of member donations, we were able to offer three scholarships for the conference in Oaxaca. Please consider helping to sustain the fund by making a donation this year.

This year we hope to award two scholarships to cover the costs of attending our meeting in Decorah, IA from June 7 to 10. The scholarship covers conference registration and housing fees. Please help spread the word about the scholarship to interested young people and professors who can encourage their students to apply.

Information about the scholarship, and the online application can be found at weavearealpeace.org/warp_scholarship/. We will be accepting applications from February 19 until April 1. Applications will be reviewed and the scholarship committee will notify applicants by mid-April. Please contact Kelsey Wiskirchen at kelsey.viola.wiskirchen@gmail.com with any questions about our scholarship program.

Read about one of last year's scholarship recipients on page 5.



Enjoy a Self-Guided Tour of Textile Artists in western Wisconsin After Annual Meeting

Cultural Cloth and the weavers, spinners, shepherdess', felters, and galleries of western WI invite you on a self guided tour of discovery following the Annual Meeting in Decorah. These shops, studios, sheep pastures, and galleries are situated between the tiny towns of Maiden Rock and Stockholm, WI on the Mississippi's



Jay Olson Goude's fall photo of the river road

Great River Road—a highway voted Most Scenic Highway in America by *Huffington Post* readers. Plan to arrive in the region on Sunday evening, June 10. Unwind and enjoy the many great restaurants and wineries located nearby. Friendly, quaint, quirky and picturesque B & B's will welcome you to WI (note the lodgings for Maiden Rock, Stockholm, and Pepin will be central to the sites on the self guided tour. <http://www.villabellezza.com/Visit/Places-to-Stay/>).

JUNE 11- The Self Guided Tour (map to be provided)

Kick off the day with breakfast ala carte at fellow WARP member Mary Ann Wise's **Cultural Cloth** shop featuring ex-

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Letters...

It's very exciting that the 25th anniversary of WARP is around the corner. I remember clearly when Deb sent me a note about her idea of getting a group of North American weavers interested in world-wide weaving. She invited me to the first gathering in TX, I think.

The impact of WARP on Mayan Hands (as an organization), on our artisan partners and all of us on the staff, has been enormous.

First and foremost, the friendships we've made with many WARP members through the years have been wonderful. These friendships have encouraged us, supported us in difficult times and been a source of inspiration for all of us who work with Mayan Hands.

The friendship with Deb led to our working together for many years. And she continues in her passionate and indefatigable way to help our Mayan Hands' artisan partners in any way she can. Right now, in a few days, she's traveling to Peru with Gilberta, one of our artisan partners, to participate in Tinkuy, the world wide gathering of weavers. Deborah wasn't

planning on going but offered to go when Gilberta was given the opportunity and the funding.

For many years, members of WARP have helped us sell our products by holding guild, home or church sales. Several of them have come down to Guatemala to share their skills with the women that we work with. These workshops have been a lifeline for the women we work with, improving their income and changing their lives.

Many members of WARP have participated in Mayan Hands tours, helped us expand our network of contacts and donated to the scholarships we offer to the daughters of our artisan partners.

I could go on and on but you wanted just a couple of lines! In one word, thank you Deb and Linda for founding this wonderful organization and thank you to its members for their loyal unfailing support. Keep up the wonderful work you do in the world!

Love, Brenda Rosenbaum
Mayan Hands

More Donors

Carol Lefelt

Kathryn McHenry

Barbara Meyers

Marilyn Murphy
Cloth Roads

Judy Newland
Cloth Conspiracy

Pat Offerman
Des Moines Weavers and
Spinners Guild

Carole Pierce

Karen Robinson

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Marjorie R. Van Steen
Memorial Fund

Eric Weltman

Susan Weltman





Weave a Real Peace
c/o 6182 Pollard Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823

Registration for WARP's 2018 Annual Meeting Begins February 28!

Self-Guided Tour of Textile Artists in Western Wisconsin

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traordinary home decor made primarily by women artists throughout the developing world. A collection of vintage Ralli quilts, collected in the field in western India, will be featured. (Breakfast highlights include baked goods from



Cultural Cloth

the world famous Smiling Pelican bakeshop). Mary Ann and co-founder Jody Slocum will discuss their global projects, including their work as founders of Multicolores, a Guatemalan non-profit, and the Maya women rug hooking artists. They will answer your questions about the tour, point out great wildflower and birding spots, and yes: where to buy some delicious cheese.

Follow the winding backroads and byways to **Black Cat Farmstead** in rural Stockholm. You'll meet shepherd-

ess Andrea Myklebust and her sheep, learn about her linen-growing project, see many examples of hand spun yarn, home-made looms, and more. At the **Purple Turtle Artisan Collective** in Stockholm, view a wide array of local fiber artists. At the **Stockholm Alpaca company** you'll meet llamas and find felted and knitted treasures and more sumptuous yarns to tempt your inner knitter. **Rush**



Processing flax

River Shetlands is located just upstream from Cultural Cloth and features gorgeous hand spun and natural dyed yarns from her flock of shetland sheep. More surprises to follow! We hope to see you in Wisconsin!

