



Volume 26, Number 3 - Fall 2019

Mekong River Textiles: Supporting Weavers, their Families, their Communities

For more than 35 years, Susan McCauley has worked with handweaving communities in mainland Southeast Asia, marketing traditional textiles to seamstresses, quilters, fiber artists and textile enthusiasts in the US. Susan often explored Thai and Lao communities along the Mekong River while she was living in Bangkok in the early 1980s. She saw the extraordinary work of Thai weavers making ikat resist-dyed indigo phasin textiles. Through her travels to the rural northeast called Esan, she learned about weaving and traditions of the artisans handed down by generations of women. In that world of cultural richness and great poverty, Susan joined a group trying to reverse the migration of young girls to Bangkok's brothels by creating weaving jobs in the villages, training girls and women, and



Phutai woman from Mukdahan wearing her traditional costume including a "mudmee" tube skirt and indigo blouse shown here with the traditional shoulder cloth.

then marketing their wares to the expatriate community in Bangkok.

In 1986, Susan began her business, Mekong River Textiles. She has taken it to craft shows across the US, offering silk and cotton ikat and other handwoven fabrics, ceremonial wear, scarves and tribal needlework to American textile and fiber communities. Susan designs her casual-style jackets, tunics, blouses, and other garments made with Thai and Lao fabrics at her home in Silver Spring, MD, where she has a workshop and showroom.



Indigo dyed ikat cotton is shown here after the resist binders are removed and the ikat pattern revealed. These threads next go on an umbrella swift and are wound onto bobbins for the weaver.

Susan visits Thai weavers and dyes annually. On those trips, she also visits Laos, where she helps support numerous indigenous artisans in remote highland areas. There are more than 49 officially recognized ethnic groups in Laos producing unique and varied fiber works—communities that are among the poorest in the world that benefit from her purchases of fabric. Susan promotes the

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Creating A Connected Textile Community

MISSION

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

PURPOSE

Exchange information

Raise awareness of the importance of textile traditions to grassroots economies

Mobilize textile enthusiasts

Create conversations that result in action

CORE VALUES

Textiles are an important component of the human experience.

Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action.

Making connections between textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change.

Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives.





2019 Annual Meeting: One of the Reasons WARP was Founded

Linda Temple

In 1992, when Deborah Chandler dreamed of having a “conference” of people who are working with weavers throughout the world to “listen, share ideas, learn from each other, see how we can take some next steps together,” I think this Annual Meeting was exactly what she had in mind. This issue of the Newsletter is packed with information about the conference in June. The theme *Women and Textiles: A Path to Peace* was addressed in many ways.

Community Loom Weaving on Cynthia Alberto’s experimental warp-weighted loom; Kenyan Traditional Duom Palm Basket Weaving with Laura Lemunyete; Hand Spinning Cotton with Marcos Brown and Kalindi Attar of Khadi Oaxaca; and the Storycloth Project, with Lise Raye Garlock.

As always the Auctions were lively. Income from the Silent Auction (with over 250 pieces) was \$3423.00; the Live Auction garnered \$1210.

And there was more: book signings, fashion shows, the annual business meeting.

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The deadline for
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Winter issue of the WARP
newsletter is
October 11, 2019

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by WARP.

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



Chapuchi “Bobbo” Ahiagble

With over 100 participants from 28 states and five countries, the potential for fascinating discussions was endless. Scattered about in this newsletter are comments from



Yasmine Dabbous

The speakers at the meeting were superb: Yasmine Dabbous, Elka M. Stevens, Laura Lemunyete, and Cathy Stevulak.

To give a brief flavor of the quality of the speakers, below is a short excerpt from Yasmine Dabbous’ presentation. The full text is available on WARP’s website, and I would urge you to read it in full.

“I come to you from Lebanon, a tiny country on the Mediterranean Sea, five thousand eight hundred and twenty-four miles away from this conference room. I have traveled a long way to be here yet I feel connected to you, beyond distances, borders, and pre-assigned identities. We stand here together—all of us. One community; united by our love for textiles, and our heightened awareness of the role these delicate yarns and colorful fabrics continue to play in people’s lives.

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Laura Lemunyete

participants about their experiences. There were side trips to the Textile Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, and opportunities to visit other museums on our own. The ‘Around the World Demonstrations’ continued as in the past, featuring a Ghanaian Kente Weaving Demonstration by Chapuchi “Bobbo” Ahiagble; Interactive



From WARP's President

Susan Weltman

Sigh, relax, the Annual Meeting and all the planning is over. We've looked at the evaluations and, with more than 60% of attendees responding, the Meeting was a



great success. While for the organizers and Board, it's always easy to look at what didn't go as planned

(the construction at the Hotel was much more of a nuisance than we'd been led to expect), but no one got lost getting back from the Textile Museum to the Hotel, a perhaps absurd concern of mine.

This was the first WARP Meeting in a major city and there were advantages and disadvantages. We had the largest attendance ever (100 participants) which means many new members. We had an "activity evening" of **Around the World Demonstrations** with five textile artists, an extraordinary **Meet the Curator** morning at the Textile Museum where members brought items to be discussed (and I had the thrill of learning that a favorite saree was indeed double ikat!). We had a diverse audience and a diverse group of speakers from Kenya, Bangladesh, and Lebanon. We had two terrific scholarship students including one from Java, and Nigerian, Kenyan, and Bangladeshi vendors. A lot of new friendships were made; now it is our goal to retain those new friendships and new members.

This was the first time I had helped organize the Annual Meeting, and I'm filled with respect for those who have gone before me! The easiest part was having a vision of what we wanted; the hardest part, of course, was fulfilling this vision and the many details. (We successfully helped Yasmine get her visa from Lebanon but learned that our scholarship recipient from India had not applied early enough.) The Meeting could not have been accomplished so smoothly without Janice Knau-

senberger's efforts as the organizer in the DC area, with the Washington contacts. Janice's efforts to bring out local Guild members and organize volunteers was a large part of the Meeting's success.

One of the best parts of organizing the Meeting was the help of fellow WARP members: I will not list the names of all the members who helped in larger and smaller ways as the list would be too long. It's a great reminder going forward for all of us; we need volunteers to help WARP function at its best and we have to find the most effective ways to reach out to volunteers. Although I'll resist the temptation to "name names" I must thank Linda Temple for organizing the Silent Auction AGAIN! This year was a special challenge as we had an overwhelming number of wonderful items; many of you who were unable to attend the Meeting showed your support by sending things in the mail and the tables were overflowing with fascinating textiles.

And now, on to Bozeman, MT, with a stop in Uzbekistan for Steve and me in September.

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Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

www.weavearealpeace.org

2019 Annual Dues (USD)

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

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

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

Dues are used for printing, mailing, and office expenses. Weave A Real Peace (WARP) is designated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. All donations to WARP are tax deductible in the United States.

For membership or additional information, please send your name, address, telephone number, and email address with appropriate check, money order, or Paypal information in US funds payable to WARP to:

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

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



From the WARP Office

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Dear Friends,

It was a lively, vibrant annual meeting this year in Washington, DC, and as always after our WARP members gather, the air is full of the buzzing of new ideas and new connections being made. WARP is about community and connections, and this meeting displayed how effective WARP is in this way. We had over 100 attendees, from all over the country, and many international participants. It always strikes me how powerful the conversations are when this many perspectives come together. If you have a story of a



WARP connection, or a discussion pertaining to WARP's building blocks of textiles, community, activism, and empowerment, please do not hesitate to reach out. These conversations and connections are the fruits of WARP's membership, and we love when we are able to share them beyond the annual meeting. We have many avenues for sharing – the WARP Google discussion group, our Facebook and Instagram pages, the blog, and of course the newsletter. Please email me at info@weavearealpeace.org

We are already gearing up for next year's annual meeting in Bozeman, MT! We hope you will mark your calendars and join us May 28-31, 2020!

Warmly, Kelsey

Kelsey is WARP's Administrative Coordinator.



Marketplace Vendors at 2019 Annual Meeting

This year's Marketplace was extraordinary. Assistant Sheila Meyer coordinated the Marketplace and provided this report of participants.

Walking through the Marketplace at the Washington, DC conference venue was a delightful insight into the textile and crafts interests of WARP members worldwide.

Thrums Books (www.thrumsbooks.com) offered many titles, including Deborah Chandler's *A Textile Traveler's Guide to Guatemala*, Susan Davis's *Women Artisans of Morocco* and soon to be released Keith Recker's *True Colors*.

Sheila Meyer (www.etsy.com/shop/ButtonSandSewForth) displayed artisan made buttons from Armenia to Zimbabwe, unique needlecases and accessories crafted by Afghani refugees, Cambodian landmine disabled, and other NGOs from around the world.

Nigerian Lola Faturoti enthralled all comers with her laughter and light, as well as her array of Senaglese influenced embroidered cargo pants and recycled T-shirt dresses (www.lolalovescargo.com).

From teacher and author Wafa Ghnaim (www.tatreezandtea.com), we were offered the book *Tatreez and Tea*, the personal story of how embroidery unites her family and the Palestinian people, complete with embroidery patterns and explanations of the symbolism in the colors and designs.

Maren Beck introduced the intricate traditional Laotian silk and hemp weaving of various tribes with her Hilltribe Art (www.hilltribeart.com)

We heard the story of the evolution of the Kenyan Ngurunit Basket Weavers Group in Laura Lemunyete's presentation and then could purchase them at Laura's table. (www.nomadicbaskets.com).

Soft-spoken Chapuchi Ahiagable explained his work teaching Kente cloth weaving and sold examples of this Ghanaian weaving tradition. He is available for workshops or sales (bobbochapuchi@yahoo.com).

Bangladesh was represented by Labibi Ali (labibiali@gmail.com), textile historian and designer.

Herders, farmers, spinners, dyers and weavers of the Ayacucho region of Peru are well-supported by NGO Ayni. Hedy Holyfield, Ayni founder, sold small rugs, bags, and other textiles (www.ayni-usa.org)

The Widow's Friend (www.etsy.com/shop/TheWidowsFriend), staffed by Katrin van der Vaart, connected directly to the *Threads* film presentation on kantha stitching with wall hangings, bedspreads, and table runners designed and hand stitched in Bangladesh.

Hand dyers and weavers had access to a wide array of books, materials, and kits from Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser (www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com).

A constantly busy booth was Kathy McHenry's Azure Blue (www.azurebluetextiles.com), with conferees trying on apparel made from handwoven Guatemalan textiles.

Taproot Folkarts, (www.taprootfolkarts.com) offered DVDs, kits and manuals for making ornaments and crafts from around the world designed by Marilyn and Ranier Romatka.

WARP Governing Board

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Term expires 2022

Kelsey Wiskirchen
Administrative Coordinator
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Member Profile: *Marcia Bellas*

Gloria Miller

Marcia started sewing and knitting in grade school. Weaving became the logical if not surprising next step, when she happened to pass a yarn shop advertis-



ing weaving lessons. She enrolled without a second thought. Although work and other obligations have prevented her from doing more weaving, she considers fiber arts to be a central interest and became a member of WARP when the annual meeting was held near Cincinnati in 1999 and her local weaving guild was invited.

I was smitten! I appreciate fiber arts, as all WARP members do, and have learned a lot about them from attending annual meetings, reading the newsletter and some of the wonderful books written by WARP members. WARP's recognition of the importance of fiber arts to grassroots economies, and the activities of many of its members in assisting artisans, families, and communities, and a commitment to fair trade, align with my values. Lastly, WARP members are some of the most interesting and inspiring people I've ever met!

It was a great experience to share my interests of Indigenous weaving cultures with many WARP members and to see the variety of talented artists! Dakota Mace

Recently retired, Marcia spent most of the past 17 years as a research associate for a criminal justice non-profit and prior to that was a professor at the University of Cincinnati. She is now living in Worcester, VT and hopes to engage more in weaving, knitting, and quilting.

"Like all creative endeavors, fiber arts can fill an inherent need for self-expression. Fiber creations may result from and elicit emotions among those who create them and those who view them. Fiber arts can express love when made for someone else, and when techniques are taught to others, a respect for and a desire to preserve cultural traditions. Fiber arts can also fill an important functional role, both in the type of objects created, and by providing income to individuals, families and communities. Shared interest in and appreciation of fiber arts can bring people from different cultures together. Although fiber arts aren't a huge part of my life right now, they are part of my identity and a source of comfort each time I return to them."

Her making endeavors are only limited by time and by her nine resident cats who can easily sabotage a warp on the loom. For 15 years she trapped, neutered, socialized, and placed semi-feral cats, some of whom found a home with her.

Marcia has just begun a term on the WARP board—a service she has done for us in the past. She is happy to connect with members by email at mlb489@gmail.com

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.

Connect to the WARP Community!

-  @weaveareal-peace_
-  Weave A Real Peace
-  @WeaveARealPeace
-  Weave A Real Peace (Google Groups)
-  weavearealpeace.com/blog
-  Weave A Real Peace

Post Your WARP Experiences

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

(Tag posts with [@weavearealpeace_](https://www.instagram.com/weavearealpeace/) and [#weavearealpeace](https://twitter.com/weavearealpeace) for reposting!)

Be a Social Media Volunteer

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

Would you like to be featured on our Instagram? Contact Lola Faturoti lolalovescargo@gmail.com



New Members

Chapuchi Ahiagble
Labiba Ali
Karen Anadol
Kalindi Attar
Anastasia Azure
Mary Balzer
Ann Berman
Shani Chambers
Arushi Chowdhury Khanna
Randi Cohen
Yasmine Dabbous
Donna Dana
Barbara Dickason
Vanny Diserbeau
Thembi Douglas
Wafa Ghnaim
Radhika Goel
Carol Haarmann
Caroline Harlow
Tara Hernandez
Lucionne "Shawnee"
Holmberg
Elizabeth Hurtig
Jeanne Jennings
Donna Johnson Brown
Caryn Maxim
Jan Miller
Rachel Miller
Margaret Orloff
Tziporah Salamon
Victoria Sanders
Alexander Sebastianus
Karen Selk
Becky Vanderslice
Elizabeth Vierling
Paula Zitzman

Scholarship Student Reflects on WARP Meeting

Mari Gray

Thank you for having me at the annual meeting in DC. It was wonderful to connect with all the textile lovers and artisan tradition appreciators there. It was also encouraging to hear that many of us face similar challenges all around the world when it comes to supporting textile traditions. I have gained a boost in motivation and energy, knowing that others have faced and continue to face obstacles, and that we are all together in these struggles. I feel deep gratitude for this sense of community I found at WARP.

I am Guatemala-bound as I write, and though will be working on my master's thesis research on climate change mitigation projects there, I am also eager to get back into the textile world. Connecting creative souls with talented rural artisan groups, and making beautiful things together - this space is not only where I feel most of use, it is also where I feel personally fulfilled in the role I am able to play, with joy and calmness.

Thank you for trusting me with this opportunity to attend the meeting. I hope to maintain the connections made over the weekend, and see you all next year in MT.



Annual Meeting Assistants Provide Feedback

WARP offered several Assistantships this year for members willing to help with Annual Meeting tasks. Lola took photos during the meeting; Dakota arranged for a tour of the Great Inka Road exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI); Sheila Meyer coordinated the Marketplace (see page 4).

Lola Faturoti

This year was my first time at the WARP meeting, and as a new member I had no idea of what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised from the first introduction night, when I walked into the beautiful conference room with over 100 women of different ages all seated in a circle. My first impression was of coming home. I

Annual Meeting Assistants Provide Feedback, cont'd

felt safe and at home immediately. I was blown away when each woman stood up to introduce herself. They are all scholars in different aspects of traditional textiles from weaving, dyeing, embroidery, knitting, etc. Most have traveled the globe working with traditional textiles artisans—everything I aspire for in my new creative endeavor. The weekend flew by, with tons of things to do. We went on several museum visits, there were demonstrations, screenings, talks, and panel discussions from members working with traditional people. Yasmine Dabbous gave a very powerful speech on empowering refugee women from Syria living in Lebanon. There were tons of wonderful treasures to buy at the Marketplace. The Silent Auction and the fashion show at the close of the conference were both amazing and entertaining. What I took with me from the conference apart from the knowledge of textiles that I acquired and connections made was a great sense of love and togetherness.

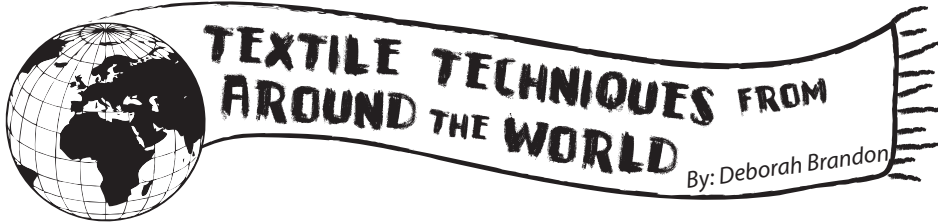


Dakota Mace

It was an amazing honor and opportunity to share my interests of Indigenous weaving history and cultures with many WARP members at the 2019 WARP meeting in Washington, DC. It was great to see the variety of talented artists at the Marketplace and to share a bit of my culture at the NMAI tour. The NMAI tour focused on the exhibition titled The Great Inka Road: Engineering an Empire and highlighted early trade routes of many Indigenous communities within South America. This opened a window into understanding the complexity of many Indigenous communities and it was great to share this moment with WARP members. It was an honor to help lead the tour, introduce Native cuisine from the café located in NMAI, and to be part of a great group of individuals. I hope to see you all at next year's meeting!

One of many memories... Hope Thomas and I sitting next to each other at breakfast, discovering we are both wearing indigo T-shirts dyed by Gasali Adeyemo! Molly Martin





Central Asia: Ikat

When my friend Cindy suggested we fly out from CO to Los Angeles for a day trip to attend an ikat show, I responded with alacrity. I did not regret my decision—the exhibit was fabulous.



Ikat is a resist-dye technique, where the pattern is designed and applied to the warp and/or weft threads before weaving. The art of ikat is practiced in countries across the globe, including Guatemala, India, Indonesia, and Japan. Single ikat, where either the warp or the weft are resist dyed, is more common than double ikat, where both warp and weft are resist dyed. Central Asia is known for its traditional warp ikats.

After Ikat artisans stretch silk warp under tension, a master designer marks the pattern on them to indicate where to wrap the threads tightly with string (to prevent dye penetration).

Next, dyers dip the tied bundles of warp in different colored dye vats. Between vats, depending on the placement of colors in the pattern, some ties are removed, others left undone, and new sections are bound.

The Central Asian name for ikat is *abrandi* (cloud binding)—reflecting the (cloud-like) blurry borders between colors, a consequence of the inevitable slight variations in the tension of individual warp threads. The more skilled the ikat weaver, the more even the tension across the width of the warp and the less blurry the boundaries between colors.

Though Central Asian ikats are very distinctive, there are clear signs of influences from different cultures. The Silk Road, passing through Central Asia, brought international trade to the region, which, in particular, had a strong impact on local textile techniques.

The red dye from the madder root, so pervasive in ancient Central Asian textiles, came from China, as did silk thread. Ram's horn motifs are found in Turkey as well as Mongolia. Pomegranates, symbolizing fertility, are prevalent in cloth made in both India and Iran. Similarly, artisans commonly use geometric shapes, such as paisleys, octagons, and diamonds to hold similar meanings in traditional textiles across Asia.

Ikat textiles were used for wall hangings and dividers as well as for traditional attire. In my mind, ikat is practically synonymous with the gorgeous unisex knee- or ankle-length robes, called *chapan*.

Ownership of ikats transcended socioeconomic rank, but finer ikats were a mark of wealth. They were commonly used in trade, commerce, bridal trousseaus, divorce settlements, wills, and more.

To minimize waste in the making of clothing out of the costly ikat, strips of fabric were often sewn together. The unavoidable misalignment of the patterns at the seams added charm and richness to the overall textiles.

Walking through the glorious ikat exhibit at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, I had to strain forward to peer at the stunning pieces. It wasn't easy to resist the temptation to reach out and fondle them—the weaver's handshake.

Resources:

Esguerra Clarisa, *Power of Pattern: Central Asian Ikats from the David and Elizabeth Reisbord Collection*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2018.

Larsen, Jack Lenor, *The Dyer's Art: Ikat, Batik, Plangi*, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1976

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

Power of Pattern: Central Asian Ikats from the David and Elizabeth Reisbord Collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art



photos by Deb Brandon



Special Section: 2019 Annual Update



WARP Annual Report - 2018 - 2019

Judi Jetson

The Year in Review

Membership – WARP's current total membership is 338, which is an increase from the membership of 293 a year ago. There are 40 International memberships, 36 Professional (Guild, Business, Non-Profit) memberships, and 30 Simple Living Memberships. Six of the current memberships are Sister (Gift) memberships. Gifting a WARP membership is a great way to introduce someone to WARP. They will receive the printed quarterly newsletter, have access to our member database, and receive periodic communications.

WARP Board – At the 2018 Annual Meeting, Philis Alvic was re-elected for a second 3-year term. The membership voted on and welcomed two new Board members, Mariana Mace and Dorinda Dutcher for 3-year terms. The Board voted to confirm Carrie Miller and Janice Knausenberger for two-year terms to fill Board vacancies.

The Board roles this year were: Susan Weltman – President, Annual Meeting Chair, Assistantship Committee; Sara Lamb – Vice President and Annual Meeting Committee; Mariana Mace – Secretary; Dorinda Dutcher – Treasurer, 2020 Annual Meeting Chair; Philis Alvic – Chair of Membership & Nominating Committees and Newsletter Liaison; Judi Jetson – Marketing and Development; Carrie Miller – Social Media and Scholarship Committee; and Janice Knausenberger – Annual Meeting Committee.

Susan Weltman and Sara Lamb are running for re-election for a second 3-year term. Judi Jetson declined to serve a second term. The Nominating Committee has put forth Marcia Bellas as a Board candidate. Janice Knausenberger announced that, having finished her wonderful work on the DC Meeting, she would not be able to commit to another year. As outlined in the By-laws, the Board appointed Maren Beck to replace Janice for a one-year term.

Administrative Coordinator – Kelsey Wiskirchen was hired as the Administrative Coordinator on September 1, 2018, and received a month of training from departing coordinator, Rita Chapman, before taking over full responsibility for administrative duties. This year's major administrative tasks were an internal financial review, moving bank accounts from Florence Bank to Great Southern Bank (researching WARP's investment options to find the best CD and interest-bearing savings account rates), and working with Dorinda Dutcher, Board Treasurer, to re-organize WARP's accounting system. Additional routine tasks included monthly GnuCash accounting data entry, management of the Wild Apricot membership database, communication

with members, website updates, and involvement with the annual meeting coordination.

Membership Committee – A new committee composed of Philis Alvic as Chair, Carol Baugh, and Teena Jennings was created to develop a membership plan for the WARP Board entitled – Recruitment, Retention, and Rejoin. This plan outlined ideas they brainstormed to increase WARP's membership, to hold on to the current members, and to encourage lapsed members to again support WARP. The Board began reaching out to lapsed members on a monthly basis, and will continue to implement the plan after input from the membership at the annual meeting.

Marketing/Fundraising/Social Media – Preliminary conference information was posted on the WARP website in October of 2018. An interview with President Susan Weltman was published in the Fall *Handwoven Magazine*. Ads were traded with *Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot*. The WARP ad was designed by Carrie Miller, and used in WARP's 2018 Giving Tuesday campaign, which raised \$2,246 for scholarships to the 2019 annual meeting. After several years as blog editor, Judy Newland retired. The future of the blog and recruitment of an editor is pending discussion at the 2019 annual business meeting.

Conference updates were posted to the website as received and a digital press kit was developed and posted on the website, to be cited in press releases and shared easily with Guilds and other organizations. Irene Schmoller designed a flier to be used at book signings and posted around the Washington DC area. Fliers were sent to area colleges and universities along with scholarship information. Instagram and Facebook posts were done on a regular basis throughout the spring by Lola Faturoti, a new member who has an Assistantship this year.

Alice Brown Memorial Scholarships - This year the scholarship committee members were Carrie Miller, Marcia Bellas, and Adrienne Sloane. They reviewed 11 applications. The recipients selected for 2019 are Mari Gray, Alexander Sebastianus and Arushi Khanna. Mari's home country is Guatemala, Alexander's is Indonesia and Arushi's is India. Unfortunately, Arushi was unable to get a visa and had to cancel her scholarship.

Assistantships – For many years, there has been an informal effort to assist members attending WARP's annual meetings when needed. In the past, word went out through the grapevine that someone wanted to attend, and members chipped in to pay for registration and lodging. In an

continued on page 12



Special Section: 2019 Annual Update



Weave A Real Peace (WARP) Annual Meeting Minutes

Georgetown University Conference Center,
Washington DC
Saturday, June 22, 2019

Board members present: Susan Weltman, President; Sara Lamb, Vice President; Mariana Mace, Secretary; Dorinda Dutcher, Treasurer, Judi Jetson, Philis Alvic, Carrie Miller. Not present: Janice Knausenberger.

Members present included: Linda Temple, newsletter editor; Kelsey Wiskirchen, administrative coordinator; Cynthia Alberto, Carol Baugh, Maren Beck, Marca Bellas, Kendra Biddick, Betsy Blosser, Carol Blundell, Deb Brandon, Edwina Bringle, Jane Brownlee, Deborah Chandler, Susan Cheever, Kate Colwell, Steve Csipke, Yasmine Dabbous, Virginia Davis, Susan S. Davis, Leesa Duby, Nancy Feldman, Mary Flad, Ellen Goldman, Mari Gray, Trisha Gupta, Carol Haarmann, Caroline Harlowe, Donna Harwood, Karen Holloway, Hedy Hollyfield, Carol Ireland, Lolli Jacobsen, Cathie Joslyn, Dakota Mace, Rosalind Macken, Diane Manning, Molly Martin, Louise Meyer, Rachel Miller, Gloria Miller, Gynnie Moody, Ruth Quah, Rainier Romatka, Marilyn Romatka, Katie Simmons, Donna Simms, Adrienne Sloane, Cathy Steulak, Dorothy Strasser, Hope Thomas, Elaine Todd, Susan Zepeda.

WARP Chair Susan Weltman called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM

Vice Chair Sara Lamb requested roll call self-reporting by each person present checking off his/her name on the roster.

Motion was made to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting in Decorah, June 2018, by Cathie Joslyn, seconded by Susan Zepeda, passed.

Committee chair reports:

- Susan presented the **Annual Meeting Report**. She commented that it is difficult to be both President and Meeting Chairman.

- Linda presented the **Newsletter Report**. She requested, as usual, that people submit articles. She would like to know in advance when an article is coming to make sure there is room in the newsletter. The newsletter will be going to all color photographs. A question was asked regarding adding pages but it is not possible now because it would be too costly. Linda commended the people who have regular columns: Gloria Miller for **Member Profile**, Deb Brandon for **Textile Techniques from Around the World**, Kelsey Wiskirchen for the **From The Office** column,

and Susan Weltman for the **President's Column**. She also thanked her proofreaders: Kathy McHenry, Sarah Saulson, Cheryl Musch, Deb Brandon and Karen Searle. She thanked Steve Csipke for taking on the indexing of past newsletter articles.

- Carrie Miller presented the **Scholarship Report**. Her committee included herself, Adrienne Sloane, and Marcia Bellas. There were eleven applicants, three recipients, and two people attended: Mari Gray and Alexander Sebastianus Iskandar. The third recipient could not make it due to visa issues. The goal for the scholarship committee is to increase applicants. Carrie requested information on new venues to search for applicants aged 35 and under.

- **Assistantship Report:** Susan reported on the three assistants we had this year: Dakota Mace, who led a tour of the American Indian Museum, Lola Faturotti who photographed the meeting and presenters, and Sheila Meyer, who handled details for the market and vendor area.

- Philis Alvic presented the **Membership Committee Report**. The Committee also includes Teena Jennings and Carol Baugh. They presented a report on Recruitment, Retention, and Rejoin, a copy of which is included at the end of these minutes (available on WARP's website).

- Dorinda Dutcher presented a report on the plans for the **Annual Meeting in 2020** in Bozeman, MT. Her committee includes Bonnie Tarses, and Athena Pallis. The theme is **Gross Roots: Fiber to Textiles**.

- Judi Jetson presented the **Marketing and Development Report**. There is a Group calling itself WARP II (Weaving Arts Resource Group) on Facebook to whom we can link: they are a resource and support group for weavers run by Jan Miller. She contacted us in that their name was quite similar, and offered to partner, refer, etc., which we thought is a good idea.

- Sara Lamb presented **unfinished business**: Following up on the Strategic Plan, she conducted a brief informal survey of member interests and profiles by a show of hands in seven categories:

- How many people have extensive experience in the field working with artisans?
- How many have a long history with this organization?
- How many are makers?
- Who is helping to develop markets for artisan goods or sourcing materials under fair trade practices?

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Special Section: 2019 Annual Update



WARP 2017 - 2019 Budgets

	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Opening Balance			\$55,686.24	\$64,654.25
Income & Support				
Members Dues - Paypal	\$11,335.00		\$8,985.00	\$8,540
Members Dues - Checks		\$12,500.00	\$3,020.00	\$4,270
Silent Auction & Raffle			\$4,831.06	\$2,250
Donations	\$0.00	\$2,000.00		
Donations - Endowment	\$5,107.00	\$4,000.00	\$100.00	\$100
Donations - Ops Fund			\$375.00	
Donations - Scholarship			\$473.00	\$2,500
Donations - Giving Tuesday			\$531.00	
Donations Not designated			\$2,635.00	\$2,000
Donations Annual Meeting			\$1,000.00	\$1,000
Donations Assistantships (formerly Davis Textile Fund)	\$1,647.62		\$0.00	\$1,000
Annual Meeting Fees	\$21,605.00	\$2,000.00	\$14,185.60	\$21,700
Vendor Fees		\$20,000.00	\$719.59	\$900

Interest	\$282.84	\$300.00	\$293.81	\$300
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TOTAL INCOME	\$39,977.46	\$40,800.00	\$37,149.06	\$44,560
With opening balance			\$92,835.30	\$109,214.25

Expenses				
ANNUAL MEETING				
Catering	\$4,131.18		\$5,684.93	\$12,749.00
Event Liability Insurance	\$0.00		\$104.24	\$150.00
Facilities	\$9,640.00			\$1,510.00
Lodging - Board, Staff	\$4,107.13		\$2,801.38	\$1,145.00
Misc. Expenses	\$545.56		\$825.63	\$300.00
Reimbursement for Travel	\$1,753.02		\$647.96	
Scholarship Recipients	\$200.00		\$100.00	\$2,212.00
Assistantships				\$1,500.00
Board - Financial Assistance				\$1,500.00
Speaker Fees	\$1,108.50		\$600.00	\$1,500.00
Conference Activities				\$1,870.00
Staff Travel	\$872.17		\$582.40	\$2,037.00
Total	\$22,357.56	\$20,000.00	\$11,346.54	\$26,473.00



Special Section: 2019 Annual Update



WARP 2017 - 2019 Budgets, continued

Expenses, cont'd

	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
CONTRACT SERVICES				
Accounting, Bookkeeping	\$0.00			\$900.00
Administrative Coordinator	\$7,150.00	\$8,450.00	\$9,400.00	\$8,700.00
Graphic Designer	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$425.00	\$250.00
Newsletter Editor	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Web Designer	\$81.00	\$500.00	\$211.50	\$265.00
Total	\$8,731.00	\$10,400.00	\$11,236.50	\$11,615.00
NEWSLETTER				
Blog Editor				\$600.00
Int'l Postage	\$398.27	\$600.00		\$600.00
Printing & Postage	\$3,448.01	\$4,000.00	\$1,726.08	\$2,000.00
Total	\$3,846.28	\$4,600.00	\$1,726.08	\$3,200.00
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Books, subscriptions, memberships	\$44.00	\$100.00	\$94.00	\$100.00
Communications - websites, blogs, etc.	\$100.99	\$200.00	\$1,009.92	\$200.00
FSB Bank Fees	\$118.04	\$100.00	\$160.97	\$100.00
Misc. expenses	\$87.96	\$100.00	\$104.03	\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$119.44	\$250.00	\$39.00	\$200.00
Operations - Printing & Copying	\$213.55	\$200.00	\$527.97	\$400.00
PayPal Fees	\$791.90	\$1,000.00	\$569.13	\$1,000.00
Postage, Mailing Service	\$250.04	\$250.00	\$666.16	\$600.00
Total	\$1,725.92	\$2,200.00	\$3,171.18	\$2,700.00
SPECIAL WARP PROJECTS				
Artisan Resource Guide	\$0.00			
Board Planning Retreat	\$2,717.61			
Brandon Book	\$3,117.50	\$700.75	\$700.75	
Membership & Marketing	\$0.00	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Donation from WARP	\$250.00			
Bank Fees	\$13.60			
Total	\$6,098.71	\$1,700.75	\$700.75	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,759.47	\$38,900.75	\$28,181.05	\$44,988.00
Gain/Loss	-\$2,782.01	\$1,899.25	\$8,968.01	-\$428.00

See Statement of Financial Position on Page 13



Special Section: 2019 Annual Update



WARP Annual Report - 2018 - 2019

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effort to formalize this process and make it available to all, the Assistantship program was started in 2017. Several young weavers from Chiapas benefitted by being able to attend the Oaxaca meeting, and it continued last year at the Decorah meeting, with two young members supported who in turn helped WARP at the meeting and beyond. This year, three Assistantships were awarded and the recipients received support for registration and room and board. The recipients are: Sheila Meyer (helping organize and coordinate the Marketplace), Lola Faturoti (posting on Instagram and documenting the meeting) and Dakota Mace (helping with registration and the Young Member Initiative). Thanks to long time WARP member, Susan Davis, her generous donation of the Gloria Davis Textile Collection provided the seed money through the sales of the textiles for the Memorial Assistantship Fund. Susan's friend, Gloria Davis, was an anthropologist and the Indonesian textiles were collected over her lifetime of work in her field. The remaining textiles are available for sale at WARP's annual meeting.

2020 Annual Meeting Announcement - In November of 2018, the Board voted to accept the proposal for the 2020 annual meeting to be held in Bozeman, MT. Event space and lodging have been reserved on the Montana State University campus for the May 28-31 meeting. The program committee is chaired by Dorinda Dutcher with support from Missoula-based WARP members Bonnie Tarses and Athena Pallis.

Newsletter - In January of 2019, the Board voted to increase the editor's contractor fee for the first time since 2013 when it was determined the position should no longer be voluntary. The newsletter that Linda Temple, edits and publishes quarterly inspires and provides a means for the membership to network and participate in creating a connected international textile community. Along with a heartfelt thanks to Linda, thanks are extended to her staff of proofreaders: Sarah Saulson, Karen Searle, Kathy McHenry, Deb Brandon, and Cheryl Musch. Thank you also to columnists Gloria Miller, Deb Brandon, Susan Weltman, and Kelsey Wiskirchen.

Deb Brandon's Book - *Threads Around the World: From Arabian Weaving to Batik in Zimbabwe* was published in January 2019 by Schiffer Publishing. It features articles

Deb selected from her years of writing the beloved "Textile Techniques From Around the World" column for the WARP Newsletter. The photos were taken by the estimable photographer, Joe Coca. The final payment of \$700.00 of the total \$5,000 of WARP's support for publication was paid last November. In return for the support, Deb donated 100 books to WARP. There will be a book signing and sales at the annual meeting.

2017 - 2019 Strategic Plan Update - WARP's Board adopted a plan in 2017 to help the organization grow following a Board retreat facilitated by Liz Gipson. The plan identified three areas for attention for the upcoming three years: 1) Evaluate Structure, clarify roles and improve internal processes, 2) Foster Public Conversations to create more dialog in public forums and among members, 3) Advance Leadership within WARP and between like-minded organizations. Progress has been made to improve internal processes and define roles. WARP now has a written contract with our Administrative Coordinator and conducts annual evaluations. An internal financial review was conducted and WARP's chart of accounts has been updated. Likewise, WARP is building relationships with like-minded organizations, such as offering both financial support and member attendance at Tinkuy in 2017, exchanging ads with HGA, and featuring museum visits as part of WARP's annual meetings in Oaxaca, Decorah, and Washington, DC. Work remains to be done to foster more public conversations.

Treasurer's Report - Due to the 2018 annual meeting coming in under budget and the generosity of the raffle and auction participants, the year ended with a gain in net assets. The Endowment Fund is earning an interest rate of 2.15%, but the rate will change when the CD is renewed in September. The 2019 financial support for the Assistantship Program has not yet covered the expenses for this year's annual meeting. Dorinda Dutcher stepped into the Treasurer's position in October in time to prepare the 2019 annual meeting budget and the annual budget. In November, the chart of accounts was reviewed in collaboration with the Administrative Coordinator who handles data entry. Changes were implemented in January to improve the reporting for annual meeting expenses and to separate program costs from administrative and general operating costs. The changes will be reflected in the 2019 end of the year financial reports.



Special Section: 2019 Annual Update



Weave A Real Peace (WARP) Annual Meeting Minutes

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- o Who is social media and electronic media savvy?
- o Is anyone in a fiber arts or international development program?
- o Who thinks of themselves as a supporter?
- Next item of unfinished business: **The Artisan Textile Resource Guide** will be updated. Kelsey Wiskirchen is heading this up, with Maren Beck assisting.
- Sara also talked about Deb Brandon's book, **Threads Around the World**. The collection originated as Newsletter columns and was expanded and compiled in a book published by Schiffer Press, with photos by Joe Coca. Copies were available to purchase in the Marketplace, and Deb participated in a book signing with Thrums books. Proceed from sales at the meeting go directly to WARP to offset the \$5000 advance given to Deb to develop her book. Sara made the executive decision on site to sell the book at the market for \$20 since we had not arranged for change or a charge machine for Deb, and \$20 bills come right out of the ATM. Kelsey assisted Deb with sales and credit card purchases.

• Philis presented the **slate of nominees** for open board member positions: Susan Weltman and Sara Lamb agreed to stand for another three year term. Marcia Bellas was nominated to begin a new three year term. Philis asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Philis made the motion to accept the slate of officers, Mary Flad seconded, motion passed. Maren Beck was appointed by the board to complete the term that was Devik Wyman's and then Janice Knausenberger's.

New Business: Judi Newland has requested someone take over the blog writing. It is a monthly post, with a stipend of \$50. Deborah Chandler volunteered.

Kelsey described how the Fashion Show would work, the taxi share lists, and offered brochures to anyone who might find a need.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 by Susan Weltman.

Note: These Minutes will be voted on at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Please send corrections to Sara Lamb at lambspin@gmail.com

The conference was a combination of empowerment, connectedness and joy. Thank you for inspiring me and enriching me educationally and spiritually. Yasmine Dabbous

WARP Statement of Financial Position	
12/31/18	
Assets	
Checking Account	\$13,018.07
Endowment Fund, 9 mo. CD	\$28,000.00
Assistantship Fund, Savings	\$ 2,000.08
Scholarship Fund, Savings	\$ 4,000.17
Operating Reserve, Savings	\$15,000.66
PayPal	\$ 111.27
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 2,524.00
Total Assets	\$64,654.25
Liabilities	
	\$0.00
Net Assets	
Opening Balances	\$55,686.24
Retained Earnings	\$8,968.01
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$64,654.25



2020 WARP Meeting in Bozeman, MT

The 2020 WARP Annual Meeting will be in Bozeman, MT, from May 28-31. Make plans now to attend. Board Member Dorinda Dutcher is on the Planning Committee, along with Athena Pallis and Bonnie Tarses. In the last issue of the Newsletter, Athena and Bonnie were incorrectly identified as living in Bozeman. In fact they both live in Missoula. More information about the meeting will be coming soon. Dorinda can be contacted at dkdutcher@hotmail.com

An unforgettable ambience. Poignant stories of hope, of how textiles change lives and connect us as a common humanity. I felt privileged to participate. Cathy Stevulak



The annual meeting is my yearly jump-start to get inspired and rekindle the fire. This year, I was particularly inspired by the speakers, connecting with old friends, and meeting new. I am grateful for this community of kindred spirits who care deeply about community activism and empowerment for textile communities. Kelsey Wiskirchen



Travel Opportunities

Traditions Mexico

Our classic "Crafting Day of the Dead" tour is coming up, taking place in the Oaxacan central valleys from October 29-November 3, 2019. For more information, email traditionsmexicotours@gmail.com

Maren Beck, owner of [Above the Fray: Traditional Hill Tribe Art](#), leads a select group of to visit with and learn directly from the independent silk, hemp, and cotton artists who live in their **traditional villages in hill tribe Vietnam and Laos**. The next trip begins on October 11. Find out more at <http://hilltribeart.com/tours>

Tia Stephanie Tours

Afro-Colombia & The Petro-rio Alvarez Music Festival: Cali and Medellin

August 15-23, 2019

Join us on an extraordinary journey to Colombia to learn about the heritage & traditions of African Descendants of Colombia. <http://tiastephanietours.com/>

Mayan Hands

Fair Trade Artisan Tour

January 21- February 1, 2020

Mayan Hands is excited to invite you to join us in beautiful Guatemala for an up-close and personal visit with our artisan partners! For more information, visit <https://www.mayanhands.org/pages/tours> or email info@mayanhands.org, or call 518/729-1900.

2019 Int'l Folk Art Market Supports Artisans

The International Folk Art Market (IFAM) held from June 21-23 in Santa Fe, NM, was once again a magnificent success, with the participation of 178 artists representing 52 countries. There were more than \$3.1 million in total sales, with the average artist selling more than \$17,000. Two thousand twenty-six volunteers representing 39 states, 45 countries, between the ages of 12 and 84 filled 4,058 shifts. Since 2004 IFAM has generated more than \$34 million in earnings and has hosted more than 1000 artist participants from over 100 countries.

Plan now to attend the 2020 Market in Santa Fe, NM on July 10, 11, & 12. For more information, go to <https://folkartmarket.org>



Host a Mayan Hands Consignment Sale: Have FUN While Making a Difference!

Brenda Rosenbaum

WARP members have been hosting Mayan Hands' consignment sales for many years. These sales allow our artisan



partners to reach appreciative customers all over the US. Please consider hosting a sale whenever it is convenient to you, at any time during the year or for the holiday season.

Transform your place of worship, workplace, home, or school into a colorful Guatemalan market. The sales are fun, our products sell themselves, and you do your part in making the world a better place!

Having a sale you accomplish multiple goals:

Thanks to WARP Donors!

Francoise Bourdon & Clyde Kessel

Sandy Cahill

Deborah Chiarucci

K. Burke Dillon

Joan Ferguson

Bonna Harwood

Heidi Thumlert

The WARP Board, In Memory of
Judi Jetson's mother, Jean Crum.



A very interesting meeting. Of the lecturers and demonstrators, all good, I liked Laura Lemunyte the most. She is precise and gives proper credit to individual artisans. Onward.
Virginia Davis

- Empower Mayan women in Guatemala to build a better future for their families and communities
- Share beautiful and unique handmade products that are ethically made
- Increase awareness of fair trade and economic justice

As a consignee you are eligible to keep or donate 15% of total sales - or you can return all sale proceeds to create even greater impact for families in Guatemala struggling to lift their families out of extreme poverty.

Please contact Diane@mayanhands.org to discuss your plans. We will work with you to schedule your sale and send a box of merchandise your way. Please be sure to schedule winter holiday sales early as our calendar fills up quickly this time of year.

What we lose in intimacy with bigger groups we gain in new stories. Any WARP meeting has infinite inspiration - and fun!
Deborah Chandler



Annual Meeting

continued from page 2

My story is largely not mine. It is the story of a sizeable population of women from my part of the world. A population of women who have faced war and displacement, who have endured difficulty and trauma, but who have risen, a needle in one hand and a thread in another. These women have been pushed by extraordinary difficulties. They had to flee in all directions, sometimes apart from their families, and they have found themselves in a country they do not know. They have seen death and experienced hunger. But despite these testing circumstances, they have found stability, friendship, and well-being as they worked on textile commissions to make a living.

There is something magical and reassuring about textiles; they are this for-

midable guard—this shield—made with mere singular threads. If they break, they can always be sewn back together. They are always amendable. There is no point of no return. In this sense, they give you a solid impression, or even a certitude, that things will be fine after all. As I stitch my fabric together, I am teaching my brain, in a seamless and beautiful way, to stitch my life together.

I stand before you today to tell you the reassuring story of textiles and refugee women from Syria, and to relate my own story as it intermingles and intertwines with theirs."

The full text of Yasmine's presentation is available on the 2019 Annual Meeting page at <https://weavearealpeace.org/>



Mekong River Textiles

continued from page 1

work of weaving cooperatives and teams up with many producers such as the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center in Luang Prabang, a city of 56,000 in northern Laos. Through the center, Susan also advocates for ecofriendly production methods and fair-traded goods.



This NE Thai artisan under a teak house works on her loom when not in the rice fields. Supplemental income from her weaving helps feed her family and pays for her son's school fees.

Susan's efforts are dedicated to sustaining the textile arts by

supporting weavers, their culture, their families, and their communities. Over the years, Susan has creatively developed her

fabric collection, her clothing designs and patterns -- all inspired by Thai and Lao hand-woven textiles. See www.mekongrivertextiles.com to view her designs and a schedule of her shows.

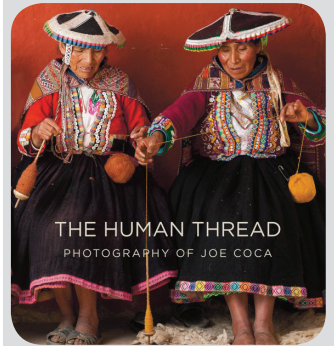
Skilled dyers in NE Thailand work the indigo into the fiber through agitating it in the pot and then lifting the threads for the oxidation or blooming where the color emerges. Up to 20 dips may be



necessary for the deepest inky indigo

Susan L. McCauley graduated from the University of Mary Washington in Virginia, where she studied art history. She became interested in handweaving, spinning, and dyeing and studied at the Penland School of Crafts in NC and at the Sheridan School of Design in Canada.

New from Thrums Books



<https://thrumsbooks.com/>



More Travel Opportunities

Passport to Folk Art: **Mexico 2020**

A very special journey to Oaxaca City, The Isthmus of Tehuantepec and Huatulco with the International Folk Art Market.

March 3 – 12, 2020

Please contact trip organizer, Peggy Gaustad, email:

canyonpots@aol.com

Threads of Life

Indigo and Mud Dye Workshop with Aboubakar Fofana and Threads of Life

November 14-19

More information at <https://www.threadsoflife.com>





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

The Annual Meeting Recap Issue



*Clockwise from top left: Marcos Brown of Khadi Oaxaca; Booksigning at Thrums books; Lee Talbot, Curator at the Textile Museum; Cathy Stevulak showing embroidery pieces from **Threads** documentary; Hope Thomas; Kathy McHenry modeling her jacket at the Fashion Show; Speaker Elka M. Stevens; meeting participants, Kelsey Wiskirchen and Deb Brandon at Deb's booksigning of **Textiles Around the World**. Left: Karen Brock with treasures from the Live Auction; Katie Simmons and Kelsey Wiskirchen modeling hats made by Adrienne Sloane at the Live Auction. Photos by Marcia Bellas, Mary Lawyer O'Connor, and Lola Faturoti*

