



Volume 23, Number 1 - Spring 2016

Spinzilla Spinning Week in Bolivia Involves Many WARP Members

Dorinda Dutcher

Spinzilla, a global event where teams and individuals compete in a friendly challenge to see who can spin the most yarn in a week, is sponsored by the National NeedleArts Association's Spinning and Weaving Group (spinweave.org).



Spinzilla Spinning Week has become an annual highlight for the Bolivian team



Warmis Phuskadoras (Women Spinners). The spinners are members of PAZA (Project Artesania Zona Andina), a group of Andean weavers who are trying to revive their textile heritage. The median age of the 2015 team was 59, and they spun 68,511 yards. They learned as girls to spin

with a *phuska* (drop-spindle) so that the hours spent pasturing sheep were productive. Through the years their spinning and weaving skills became an intrinsic part of their self-identity. They never dreamed that those skills, honed over a lifetime, would be recognized.

The team's participation exemplifies how WARP members connect to transform ideas into action. During the 2014 WARP Conference Irene Schmoller, founder of Cotton Clouds, suggested that a Bolivian team be organized. She introduced Dorinda to Spinzilla organizer Liz Gipson who found the team a sponsor.



Thanks to Marilyn Murphy, ClothRoads co-founder and WARP member, the team will be sponsored for their 3rd competition this year.

Team Captain Doña Máxima worried up until the deadline about filling 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.





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The deadline for
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Summer issue of the WARP
newsletter is May 13, 2016

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From Love of Textiles to Shipping Containers: Scarves Inspire Syrian Aid

Susan Shaefer Davis, plus excerpts from article by Mark Matza in Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/19/2015

What began as a small group of women who loved textiles, in this case the heads-carves they wore for hijab (a modest head covering), grew into something much



Renata Alkurdi

bigger. Renata Alkurdi's husband is Syrian, and four years ago, she wanted to do something to help the refugees.

She had the idea of suggesting to her Muslim friends in their reading group that each bring a scarf she wasn't using to their next meeting. There, the scarves were put in a colorful pile on a table, and each woman chose one she would like to have—and donated however much she wanted for

In 2013, they began their own charitable group, The Narenj Tree Foundation <http://narenjtree.org/>. Although sparked by what is happening in Syria and across the Middle East, Narenj's supporters are not exclusively Arab or Muslim. A Jewish donor brought in a box of coats, said Renata. Christian supporters in Upper Darby collected donations through their YMCA.

"There is a Chinese couple so old they can barely walk, and they come here to pack boxes," she said. "Donations are coming like waves at us."

At last count they have sent 31 containers to Syria. Estimating each shipment's value at \$100,000, the nonprofit charity has provided about \$2 million in aid since 2013. "We would never have been able to send 20 containers in two years," said Renata, "if people were just sitting and crying."

While sending old clothes might not seem to be of much value, said Renata,



it, which could be \$2, \$10, or \$20—any amount. The money was sent to an organization that was buying heaters for Syrian refugee families.

The idea spread to groups of women from many mosques, and then people started to donate used clothing. At first it was stored at Renata's home, but there was so much that she and her husband rented a warehouse in Norristown, PA, near where they live.

the textile value of the goods is significant, especially given the extra-large sizes worn by many Americans. An enterprising Syrian tailor, she said, can repurpose

a double-X garment into two, she said. And given that so many Syrian families had to leave everything behind, and "the biblical proportions of this catastrophe," there is a substantial need.

You can donate online at the gofundme site of the Narenj Tree Foundation at <https://www.gofundme.com/narenjtree> or you can send a check to : Narenj Tree Foundation at 214 Drakes Drum Drive, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010



2016 WARP Annual Meeting: Visions of Change in Santa Fe - July 8-12

Our program goal for the 2016 annual meeting is to have an amazing group of researchers, scientists, anthropologists, artisans, and textile partners help us think broadly and deeply about what is it we are doing as an organization in order to help us increase our support of artisans through advocacy and collaboration.

Keynote speakers, Christine Eber and Jeanne Simonelli, will be discussing their work with artisans in the global market. Christine and Jeanne are both authors included in the new book, *Artisans and Advocacy in the Global Market: Walking the Heart Path*. Jeanne is also one of the editors of this volume which presents the latest social science research on interactive ethnographic encounters and how this work evolves into advocacy. One of the remarkable features of this book is each chapter offers advice on ways to do politically engaged ethnography built on collaborative partnerships.

These two women will present an overview of work with artisans in varying and difficult situations and discuss specific projects. Christine will tell the story of her work with weaving cooperatives in highland Chiapas, Mexico, as well as Weaving for Justice, a volunteer, non-profit organization based in Las Cruces, NM that works in solidarity with Maya women's weaving cooperatives in Chiapas.

A Sunday afternoon book signing will allow members to purchase *Artisans and Advocacy in the Global Market* and talk with the authors at leisure.

WARP member Marilyn Murphy will present an overview of the work she does as a partner in ClothRoads, particularly the collaboration with the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC). She will facilitate a special presentation by Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez, founder of CTTC and a participant in the International Folk Art Market.

Eric Mindling will present his photo documentary work on traditional fashion in Oaxaca. Traditions Mexico was founded

by Eric, who has worked with the people of southern Mexico since 1990. His work and that of Traditions Mexico is driven by a respect and admiration of deeply rooted people and the quiet wisdom of their ways.

And don't forget, Mary Littrell, author of *Artisans and Fair Trade: Crafting Development* is giving us an introduction to the International Folk Art Market when we arrive on Friday. She will describe the rigorously juried selection process, possibly introduce some of the new textile artisans, and help those of us who are first time visitors avoid being overwhelmed by the market experience.

The registration form for the meeting will be available on WARP's website, www.weavearealpeace.org, on April 27.

Tickets to the Market will be available for purchase on May 1. Don't wait until the last minute—last year the Market sold out and tickets were not available at the gate.

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Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

www.weavearealpeace.org

2016 Annual Dues

- * \$35 - Individual, U.S. and Canada
- * \$40 - Individual, international and sister memberships
- * Simple living - Choose an amount you can live with
 - * \$50 - Group/supporting
 - * \$100+ - Patron/donor

All memberships are based on the calendar year and expire on December 31. Members receive access to all publications for the year joined.

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



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From the WARP Office

Rita Chapman

It's been busy in the WARP Home Office! It's membership renewal season, plus I've been finding new ways to use our website. Most of you have visited our member services website, hosted by Wild Apricot. The online membership system offers many advantages. You can visit the website, update your profile, and pay for your membership and make donations with PayPal. PayPal allows you to pay with your credit card, so you don't need to have a PayPal account. We'll also be using the new system to register for the WARP Annual Meeting this year.



To access your profile: Simply go to <http://weavearealpeace.wildapricot.org> and click on Login. Your user name is your email address, which is already in the database. If it's your first time using the site, enter your email and then click on "Forgot Password". Then close that webpage tab. Next you will receive an email with a link to be able to set up your own unique password that you can use to login. I find the website very easy to use, but let me know at info@weavearealpeace.org if you have problems. Note that we are still

using our usual website for everything else, go to <http://weavearealpeace.org>.

WARP's Facebook Page and Google Group

- WARP members have a number of ways to network and communicate with each other, critical to how we are able to achieve our mission. If you have not yet been part of the WARP Google Group, you're missing a great conversation! In February, I sent a message asking our Google Group members to introduce themselves. So far, 30 of you have done, and it's been fun reading about who you are, and what you do. The neat thing is that we have an online archive, so you can go back to read past messages. With our future plans to find new ways to work together, the introductions help lay the groundwork. I urge you to join in! If you haven't yet done so, let me know at info@weavearealpeace.org. There are advantages if you use a Google account or a Gmail address, however any email address will work to participate.

WARP is on Facebook, too! Just go to your Facebook page, and search on Weave a Real Peace. With so many interesting posts and photos, it's easy to keep up with everything going on.



Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship Applications Available Online

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 35 years or younger to attend our annual meeting. This is a great opportunity for early career individuals to be impacted by what WARP has to offer.

I was an Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship recipient in 2010, and I am confident that having the chance to attend

the annual meeting that year affected the course of my career. I was a graduate student in fibers at the time, and the experience of meeting WARP members and engaging in the critical discussions at the meeting had a great influence on the work I have done since. That first meeting drew me into the fold and I now plan to be a lifetime WARP member.

Offering the scholarship each year is a way for WARP to expand the membership

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Member Profile

Virginia Davis: Weaving is Essential

Gloria Miller

One of my earliest WARP memories was meeting Virginia Davis at the 2006 WARP meeting outside Minneapolis/St. Paul. At that meeting Virginia invited this new weaver to visit her at her home studio in Berkeley, CA, which I did shortly after. It was quite impressive to be exposed to her amazing work when I was still stumbling my way through basic techniques, and I was so grateful. Around that time she also had an exhibit at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, so I was able to see her art in that context as well.

Virginia became interested in the fiber arts in 1972, after seeing work by Neda alHilali at the Museum of Craft in New York City. Her studies in fiber arts were very self-driven leading her to take many workshops and to read extensively. She first learned spinning and dyeing from Mary Chesterfield at Riverside School of Craft in NY then found herself with so much yarn that she became interested in weaving, which she studied with Sandra Harner at Riverside. Sandra also got Virginia started with ikat which has become a hallmark of her work and which she continues to explore.

Virginia's connections to WARP grow out of her philosophy of the role of fiber arts and the fact that WARP is helping various cultures enter the global culture. In her words: "In many contexts weaving

is essential for basic needs for clothing and functional cloth. Cloth also can be sacred and can have spiritual significance. The role is variable, complex and deserves consideration and study. Contemporarily, weaving can be a source of income and personal satisfaction. This is important."

She continues to pursue new ideas and hopes to contribute more to the field by lecturing and giving workshops. Virginia has been working with Hillary Steel documenting the art of Don Evaristo Casas, a Master Weaver in Mexico who weaves jaspe (ikat) rebozos in the traditional manner on a backstrap loom. For more information on this project: <https://rjohnhowe.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/hillary-steel-on-the-endangered-mexican-rebozo/>

Do pay a visit to Virginia's website www.virginiadavis.us. She says it is not up to date but there is a rich variety of her art to explore using a range of techniques, primarily ikat.

She is happy to connect with members to share interests, discuss techniques and share information at 510/848-8475 or via email at Virginia@eipye.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.



Mary B. Kelly, a longtime WARP member, passed away on March 17. In her own words, "I am a textile artist, teacher of textile arts and writer of articles and books about textiles. I create pieces made from sheep wool, which I spin, dye, and weave. I lecture and demonstrate textile arts. Books include *Goddess Embroideries for Eastern Europe, Goddess Embroideries of the Balkan Lands and Greek Islands, Making and Using Ritual Cloths, Goddess Embroideries of the Northlands*, and *Goddess Women Cloth*."

<http://m.legacy.com/obituaries/islandpacket/obituary.aspx?n=Mary-B-Kelly&pid=178107094&ref=error=2377&preview=True>

Fabulous Volunteer Opportunity

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, PA USA, is looking for someone interested in being a full-time resident volunteer to maintain the weaving workshop with approximately 12 weavers with special needs. Currently, the workshop is open four days a week.

Food, housing and a small stipend are provided. Further inquiries to craig@camphillkimberton.org. Visit the website at www.camphillkimberton.org

2016 Newsletter Copy Deadlines

V23N2 - Summer 2016 – May 13

V23N3 - Fall 2016 – July 29

V23N4 - Winter 2016 - November 11

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

Visions of Change

2016 Annual WARP Meeting Agenda

IFAM Info

From the IFAM website (<https://www.folkartalliance.org/events-programs/international-folk-art-market-santa-fe/>):

“The International Folk Art Market | Santa Fe celebrates the humanity of the handmade and empowers communities through the opportunity to develop year-round income.

- Enjoy international food and music, artists demonstrations, and unique folk art from throughout the world.
- In the past 12 years, artist sales have exceeded \$21 million and impacted over one million lives in the communities they represent.
- Artists take home 90% of their earnings, giving them the opportunity to serve as catalysts for positive social change in their communities by improving employment, healthcare, education, and well-being.”

Tickets to the Market will be available for purchase on May 1. Don't wait until the last minute—last year the Market sold out and tickets were not available at the gate.

For more information about the Market, go to <https://www.folkartalliance.org/events-programs/international-folk-art-market-santa-fe/> This site will also be posting information about volunteering if you want to help at the event.

Friday, July 8, 2016

1:00 pm to 4 pm - Check-in

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm -

Exploring the International Folk Art Market - Mary Littrell helps us understand and explore this grand market experience we are embarking on over the next few days. She will help us find our way through the maze of amazing artisans with tips and sage advice

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - WARP Welcome Circle & Individual Introductions – Cindy Lair

Saturday, July 9, 2016

7:30 am to 8:30 am -

Breakfast and/or Early Bird Market Entry

8:30 am to 5:00 pm - Explore IFAM

Lunch on your own

6:00 – 7:00 pm - Dinner

7:30 pm - WARP members at light speed... (5 minutes). Sign up with Katie Simmons

8:30 pm - Scholarship Presentation(s) (15 minutes)

Sunday, July 10, 2016

7:30 am to 8:30 am- Breakfast

8:30 am to 4 pm - Explore IFAM

4:00 pm - Outdoor Reception

- Share your market experiences and treasures
- Book signing for Christine Eber and Jeanne Simonelli

6:00 – 7:00 pm - Dinner

Monday, July 11, 2016

7:30 am to 8:30 am - Breakfast

9:30 am - Keynote Speakers

Christine Eber and Jeanne Simonelli

10:15am - Break

10:30 am - Discussion Groups

11:00 am - Regroup for sharing ideas/ themes/experiences

11:30 pm – 1:30 pm - Lunch

1:30 pm - Afternoon sessions (times pending)

Marilyn Murphy – ClothRoads
Nilda Callanaupa - CTTC

3:00 pm - Eric Mindling
Traditions Mexico

4:00 pm - WARP Annual Meeting

6:00 – 7:00 pm - Dinner
Decompression

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

7:30 am to 8:30 am - Breakfast

Bon Voyage or Explore Santa Fe



Alice Brown Memorial Scholarships Applications Available Online

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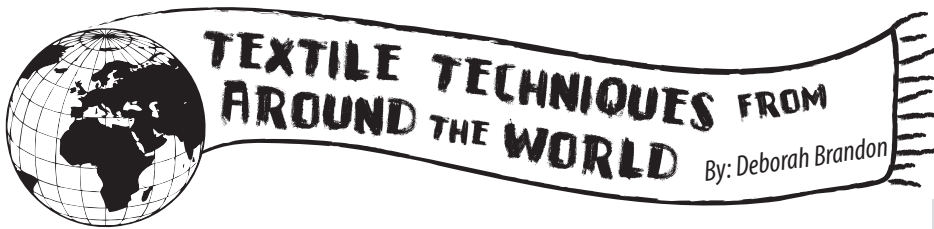
while making a huge impact in a young person's life. Alice Brown's original donation was the seed, but the fund now relies upon the ongoing generosity of WARP members. Please consider helping to sustain the fund by making a donation this year.

This year we hope to award two scholarships to cover the costs of attending our meeting in Santa Fe, NM from July 8 to 12. The scholarship covers conference registration and room and board. Please help

spread the word about the scholarship to interested young people and professors, especially in the Southwest region.

The scholarship application can be found as a PDF at weavearealpeace.org/warp_scholarship/ and the deadline to apply is April 15. Applicants can complete the form digitally, save it, and email it to me at kelsey.viola.wiskirchen@gmail.com. Please contact me with any questions you have about our scholarship program.





South Africa—Shweshwe fabric

A young Xhosa woman is walking down the street, wearing brightly printed dress that swishes with her every move. Her dress is indigo blue with repeats of a medallion pattern. When she is mere feet away, you see that the medallions are in fact images of Nelson Mandela. You identify it as a shweshwe dress, though this Xhosa woman would probably refer to it as *ujamani*.

Shweshwe is a discharge-printed cotton fabric made in South Africa. Originally, it was made of all natural indigo-dyed cotton fabric, but in time, the natural dye was replaced with synthetic, and later still, chocolate-brown and vivid red dyed fabrics were added to the collection. Nowadays, a wide variety of colors is available.

To this day, authentic shweshwe is factory-made using a discharge technique as it was done back in 18th century Europe. Unlike modern printing methods where dye is added to the surface of a white fabric, in shweshwe printing, the process begins with a pre-dyed cotton fabric. The fabric passes between rollers, the one etched with designs, the other to apply pressure.

The large variety of repeated designs are etched onto the surface of the rollers with tiny pin sized dots, resulting in extreme accuracy. The resulting patterns are both intricate and have depth. When the etched copper roller makes contact with the fabric, it imprints a bleaching solution to the surface of the fabric to remove color in the shape of the designs.

The process is expensive, which is why Da Gama Textiles of South Africa is the only known textile manufacturer in the world that still uses it.

There are several tell-tale signs that differentiate authentic shweshwe from

its cheaper imitations—the intricate patterns, the Da Gama seal on the plain back of the textile and the 90 cm width of the bolts of fabric. Also, new pre-washed shweshwe is stiff with starch, a tradition left over from colonial times when textiles were manufactured in Britain and starched for protection from exposure to the elements on the voyage to South Africa.

Apparently, the fabric is named after King Moshoeshoe I of Basotho (1786-1870), who received a gift of indigo printed fabric from French missionaries in the 1840s, after which the fabric gained popularity. It became a symbol of African pride, especially among the Xhosa and the Sotho people.

Da Gama Textiles is continually introducing new designs for their shweshwe line. The patterns include florals and simple geometric shapes such as zig-zags, waves, diamonds, squares, or circles. Some of the patterns are made for special occasions like royal births and weddings. The image of Nelson Mandela is not the only figurative motif available, though I suspect it is one of the more popular.

Resources:

Private communication with Coralee Craddock of Cowie Tarding (Da Gama Textiles) of South Africa.

<http://www.mdantsaneway.com/>

African Textiles Today by Chris Spring, Smithsonian Books, Washington DC, 2012

deVillemarette, Cynthia "Shweshwe: A True Blue Passion." *The Country Register of Tennessee & Kentucky*, July–August 2010.

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

20th Annual Sheep is Life Festival

June 17-19, 2016
9 am - 5 pm
Diné College Campus
Tsaile, AZ

Hosted by Land Grant Office
of Diné College

Sponsored by
Diné Be' Iiná, Inc.

Diné be' iiná means the way
that we, the people, live.

We promote a
sustainable livelihood
through the Navajo Way
of Life. Traditionally, this
has been sheep, wool, and
weaving and whatever
comes from that.

Sheep is Life, *Dibé bé liná*,
is a celebration of
traditional Navajo
shepherding and weaving
culture. Enjoy educational
workshops, Navajo cuisine,
vendors booths, Navajo-
Churro sheep and wool
shows, and much more.

More more information,
go to
www.navajolifeway.org,
or call
505/406-7428 or
928/724-6947



Bylaws Revisions to be Considered at Annual Meeting

Philis Alvic

Summary of Bylaws Changes

The changes to the Bylaws will be voted on by the general membership at our Annual Meeting this summer. Below is a summary of the proposed changes. The full text can be viewed in the Members Only section of our website. If you would like to comment or suggest changes to the Bylaws, please contact Philis Alvic at philis@philisalvic.info.

Most of the changes and additions to the Bylaws are a matter of neatening to reflect what we are actually doing. WARP recently went through a process to reword our Mission Statement and instead of goals added 'Purpose' and 'Core Values.' So, this rethinking will be in the Bylaws.

The current Bylaws state that we will have an Annual Meeting in the Spring. We've added 'Summer' to allow more flexibility in planning.

The section on the Nominating Committee now defines the committee as being composed of one Board member and two members drawn from the general membership. Instead of notification being 'mailed,' the wording is now 'communicated,' which allows more flexibility in methods of delivering information. And this notification is now to take place a month before the meeting. This makes more sense for an international organization rather than providing only two weeks.

In the section referring to meetings of the Governing Board, there is an addition stating that staff or members may be invited to attend in a non-voting capacity. Under the Staff section wording is added that staff may not serve on the Board.

The Tax Exempt Status is revised to state that WARP is now identified as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS. The notification for Bylaws changes has been also been increased to one month.



Project Update: Njabini Wool Crafters in Kenya

Janice Knausenberger

I want to share some very good news. The Njabini Wool Crafters, at the base of the Aberdares Mountains in Kenya, should be moving into their new workshop this December. They were informed three years ago that they needed to move from their current facilities. Fortunately, they were allowed to stay, during which time they formed a cooperative, solicited help, and finally, through the help of others, particularly one donor in the UK, they bought land on a well-traveled road and the workshop is now nearing completion.

Njabini Wool Crafters have tremendous hope and understand how sacrifice is part of moving forward. They have worked without running water and electricity for 11 years, earning very little but believing in what they are doing. They buy wool from sheep raised sustainably so the native grasslands are not overgrazed, thereby helping preserve the habitat of

the endangered bird, Sharpe's Longclaw, which exclusively nests in these grasslands in Kenya.

The workshop is gearing up now to increase production. They are very much in need of supplies for their work. Specifically, they need carders and drum carders. They also need new spinning wheels and another floor loom. I have searched in vain for a large sturdy tapestry loom on which they could weave rugs.

I am traveling to Kenya to work with this group in May. If you have any of the above equipment or wish to contribute funds towards the construction of a local floor loom, everyone would be most grateful.

Please feel free to contact me and to go to Njabini's Website to learn more. <http://www.njabiniwoolcrafts.org/>

Janice G Knausenberger can be reached at 240/429-2126 janice@jgkdesigns.com

WARP on the Web - <http://www.weavearealpeace.org> features WARP history, annual meeting information, member access to the directory, and past newsletters. You can join or renew your membership online.

Facebook - Find 'Weave A Real Peace' in the search bar on your personal Facebook account to follow what WARP members share and to make posts to the page. Click 'Invite Friends to Follow' to promote WARP to other Facebook friends.

WARP Blog - To subscribe to receive an email when a new article has been posted, click on 'Blog' in the main menu at <http://weavearealpeace.org>. Enter your email address where you see 'Subscribe to the WARP Blog Via Email!' To contribute an article to the blog, please email info@weavearealpeace.org

Google - You are invited to join our new Google Group. If you are interested in joining please email Katie at ktd26@hotmail.com or Rita at info@weavearealpeace.org and you will be invited. The Yahoo Group is no longer in use.

Katie Simmons also maintains a WARP presence on ravelry.com, the knitting networking site; and on Weavevolution, <http://www.weavevolution.com>. Please send her information at ktd26@hotmail.com.



Board Elections to be Held at WARP Annual Meeting

WARP board terms are three years, with the option for a board member to be re-elected for an additional three year term. Board members cannot serve more than six consecutive years. Leaving the board this year is Jackie Abrams, whose presence, after serving six years, will be sorely missed. Board terms for Kelsey Wiskirchen and Katie Simmons also expire this year, although both are eligible for a second term. Kelsey has declined that option, while Katie has accepted. In addition, the WARP by-laws allow for up to nine members, so the Board has decided to increase the number of members from eight to nine.

This year, the Nominating Committee—Teena Jennings-Rentenaar, Kelsey Wiskirchen, and Carole Pierce—have submitted recommendations for the 2016 WARP Board: Katie Simmons for a second term, and Sara Lamb, Judi Jetson, and Susan Weltman for their first terms. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting, which takes place at 4:00 on Monday, July 11. The election will also be held at that time.

Sara Lamb has been a weaver/spinner/dyer/maker for over 40 years, currently focusing on textile techniques from Central Asia: knotted pile, soumak, and twining. She lives and works in northern California, but has taught workshops throughout the US, Canada, Britain, and Australia. She has written three textile-related books: *Woven Treasures*, *Spin To Weave*, and *The Practical Spinner's Guide to Silk*, all published by Interweave Press, and numerous articles have been published in *SpinOff*, *Handwoven*, *Weaver's*, *Piecework*, *Knitting Traditions*, *Ply*, and *Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot* magazines. She is also currently learning to handstitch leather. A longtime member of WARP, she now feels it's time to give back, and help keep the organization working to best capacity. Blessed with a memorable last name, she

was destined for textile work from birth, or, perhaps, a job at a meatpacking plant. Fortunately, she chose the former.

Susan Weltman has been a member of WARP since 2005 when she attended her first meeting in South Carolina. She is a retired family therapist and began weaving almost thirty years ago. She lived for many years in central New Jersey and moved to Brooklyn nine years ago. Susan has thoroughly enjoyed all the WARP meetings and the friends she's made through WARP. She and her husband love to travel, and have been fortunate to travel with Sarah Goodman in Bali, Susan Davis in Morocco and, most recently, visited Dorinda Dutcher in Bolivia. Being part of an organization whose goals Susan believe in means a lot to her!

Judy Jetson writes that she is flattered and amazed to be invited to serve on WARP's board, and she hopes that her 30+ years of creative economic development experience in rural US regions can add some value in carrying out WARP's inspiring mission. Judy has been a knitter since she was five years old, tried lots of other fiberarts, then learned to love weaving at the Yarn Barn in her 30s. She has added some new aspect of fiberarts to her playtime nearly every year since. Judy is currently president and CEO of a small 5-year-old nonprofit called Local Cloth with a mission of growing the fiber economy in the southern Appalachian region around western North Carolina. She was director of small town revitalization for HandMade in America, special assistant for Rural Economic Development for the US Small Business Administration, and "matchmaker" for a couple of major universities (USF and KU) seeking to improve and increase community partnerships throughout their regions. Judy survived a near death experience with Guillain Barre Syndrome in 2013, and currently loves to teach and spin just about anything.

There wasn't room in this issue for more **Books You Want to Know About**—which turns out to be publications in all formats by WARP members—and look forward to the continuation of this feature in the Summer issue. LT

Travel Opportunities

Morocco

There are still some spaces on the May 28 - June 6 **Textile Arts of Morocco** trip. Led by Dr. Susan Davis, experience this exotic, welcoming country in these tours. Personal interactions with Susan's friends, colleagues, artisans. Visit major sites & cities, the Sahara, delicious cuisine, charming hotels, superb local guide.

For more information, contact Joan Noble at <http://www.noblejourneys.com/>

Guatemala

Karen Searle will be leading a tour in Guatemala July 24-August 2. The itinerary includes stays in Antigua, a Lake Atitlan village, and the ikat region of Quetzaltenango, with visits to the largest indigenous textile market in San Francisco el Alto and the famous market in Chichicastenango.

Extras include visits with local weavers and cooperatives and with experts on Mayan astrology and spirituality. Information: www.artguat.org, ksearleart@gmail.com



Re-visiting Bolivia

Katie Simmons writes...It was six years ago to the day that I first went to Bolivia. I am looking at my passport with my expired Visa. So much has changed in my life in that amount of time but I smile because I am still returning to Shangri-La or, as it's called, Independencia, Bolivia. This is not Shangri-La to most people: you can't drink the water, the bus trip alone is 7-20 hours (a record), and there isn't reliable Internet, but to those in my WARP tribe it is. Dorinda Dutcher is a wonderful host and many WARP members have visited. Just a week after I left this time, WARP member Susan Weltman was there for a visit, and she took naturally dyed, spun, woven yoga straps back with her to help sell in the US. While I was there a friend and I danced for Carnival in Huancarani, a village high in the Andes. I wore traditional dress and drank chicha (corn beer). There is much to the story that will not fit on these pages. Please follow the Weave A Real Peace blog for the rest of this story.

WARP Raffle to Feature Artwork from Board Members

Keep an eye out for the official announcement of the WARP Raffle. All of the WARP Board Members have donated pieces of art work that they have created. In the Raffle will be items by Jackie Abrams, Philis Alvic, Teena Jennings-Rentenaar, Cindy Lair, Judy Newland, Karen Searle, Katie Simmons, and Kelsey Wiskirchen. Photographs of the items offered will be available on the WARP website and through a variety of social media sites.

To participate members—and friends of members—can buy a raffle ticket for \$5.00 and select which of the pieces they would like to take a chance on winning. Five tickets can be purchased for \$20.00 (note the deal). One can put all the tickets towards a particular item or split them among several different pieces.

The drawing of numbers will be at the annual meeting in Santa Fe. Tickets can be purchased on the WARP website using

PayPal or at the annual meeting. (You can use PayPal even if you haven't signed up for it.) If tickets are secured before the meeting, they will go into the pot for the desired item and the ticket numbers will be e-mailed to the purchaser.

The lucky winners will go home from the annual meeting with their original art work. If the winner is not in attendance, the item will be mailed.

Proceeds from this Raffle will go to cover expenses of running WARP. Please 'share' the site announcing the Raffle with your social media friends. The more money we can generate for WARP the better.

Remember that one is not limited in the number of tickets that can be bought. The more you buy the greater the chance you have of securing the piece that you desire. This is an opportunity to own exciting art work by a WARP Board member—some have international reputations and others of us are aspiring for that recognition.



Spinzilla Spinning Week in Bolivia

continued from page 1

2014 roster. Team registration in 2015 was swift and enthusiastic. The awarding of 1st through 6th place prizes in 2014 led to problems and the spinners recommended that all receive the same prize. The response to the fundraising efforts of Constance Hall, the Spinzilla Team Captain Coordinator, and to ClothRoads allowed PAZA to buy sweaters as the 2015 prize. The spinners voted for frilly petticoats as the 2016 prize. The petticoats will be sewn in the PAZA workshop, thus providing income for the Club de Artesanas members.

Midway through Spinning Week the Team Captain, the social media volunteer, and Dorinda visited rural Huancarani to film, take photos, and check in with the spinners. Groups of spinners had gathered at convenient locations. Age lines etched into careworn faces seemed to soften as they fell into the habits of their youth—spinning, chatting, and laughing

together. The spinning and weaving skills they competed in so fiercely as teens are part of their culture they were not able to pass on to their educated daughters. Spinzilla has brought them joy by arriving in the nick of time to honor and celebrate their textile heritage.

Two volunteers are needed in Independencia during the October 3rd to 6th Spinzilla Spinning Week 2016. One volunteer will help with the social media and filmmaking. The other will be a team member. The Bolivian spinners extend the invitation to a foreign spinner because they want to see for themselves that foreigners spin.

Dorinda Dutcher lives in Independencia, Bolivia, continuing her grass roots volunteer work (PAZA) with the weavers that began as a Peace Corps project in 2007. Thank you PAZA supporters! Contact Dorinda for information about the volunteer opportunities. dkdutcher@hotmail.com View past Spinzilla highlights at www.pazaboliviablog.com.



Walking in her shoes...

Susie Strauss, Life Coach, Fiber Artist

As we were waiting for the village women to prepare our meal of chicken,



couscous and vegetables, and before the musical instruments came out and the singing and dancing took place, I

wandered into the 'kitchen' to see what a Moroccan village kitchen looked like. As I stepped onto the wet tile floor with my bare feet, one of the women preparing the meal pointed at my feet as if to ask where were my shoes. Of course I had left them at the doorway with all the other street shoes—American walkers and Moroccan slippers. So she slipped off her indoor shoes and presented them to me as I looked around the kitchen area. I was walking in her shoes in her kitchen.

In the room was a big industrial sized pot with steaming couscous sitting on top of another large pot with the chicken and vegetables cooking. The stack of pots sat on a single propane burner with its feeder tank standing nearby. No refrigerator, sink, or cabinets were present and the window was open to the visiting neighbor. Yet what enticing smells came from that clean and rudimentary kitchen.

This was just another stop on our magical road trip through Morocco, a land of hospitality, spices and flavors, vibrant colors, craftsmanship and mysteries of the unknown.

Morocco is known as the country of 1000 contrasts. I like to think it is the country of 1000 layers. On last year's trip led by Susan Schaefer Davis <http://d2ssd.com/www-source/travel/travel.htm>, we were privy to some of those layers and mysteries as we were taken into homes in small rural villages, oases, seaside towns, deserts, and metropolitan cities. We met with women who were weavers, spinners, dyers, embroiderers, writers, lawyers, and

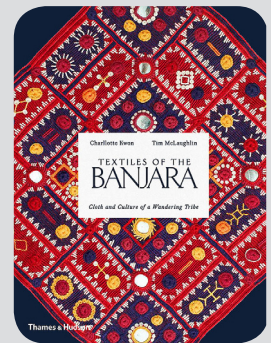
managers of inns. We visited with them in their homes, places of business, and our hotels. There were two women who make traditional djellaba buttons into saleable bracelets and necklaces. One of them had stepped out of the traditions of her family and learned to drive and had access to a car. There was the inn at the oasis where we devoured Berber Pizza sitting outside under a flowered trellis enjoying the breeze and view of the oasis at the foot of their road. There we met the stunning



woman we thought was our hostess's mother, only to find out she was really her older sister who looked after the family when the mother died. Our hostess shared that when they weave on their upright rug loom, they weave in community, sitting together, visiting, gossiping, and creating their handiwork. And how the threads in the weaving have special meaning. There are 'bachelor' and 'married ones' threads in the warp, and the loose piece of yarn left overnight so that the loom is "fed" and ready to be worked on the next day. This land is full traditions—from the hand washing before and after meals with someone bringing the basin and towel around, to the elaborate preparation and serving of the minted tea made from a green tea base and poured out of silver teapots, to the relationship with the traditions and beliefs of Islam. For the two weeks we were there, we just got a taste of the richness, flavor, and hidden depths of this mysterious country and a desire to venture back and dig below the surface for more.

Thanks to WARP Donors...

Susan Abouhalkah
Jane Brownlee
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Jacquie Vincent



Textiles of the Banjara:
Cloth and Culture of a Wandering Tribe
by Charlotte Kwon and Tim McLaughlin

The first book on the traditions and embroidery of the Banjara, an ethnic group composed of nomadic tribes found throughout the Indian subcontinent. Available now for pre-order at http://www.maiwa.com/home/books/books/Textiles_of_the_Banjara.html.





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

2016 Annual Meeting July 8-12 in Santa Fe!!

A WARP Inspired Collaboration

Bonnie Tarses

When Sara Lamb and I unexpectedly met at the 2015 WARP meeting, we were awed and humbled by the tireless efforts of members who have devoted their lives to helping



The un-knitting factory

weavers around the world. As we listened to the inspiring presentations, I turned to Sara and said "We should weave cloth that supports weavers in need so they can afford to reclaim their vanishing traditions

rather than encouraging them to tailor their weaving to keep up with fleeting fashion trends."

At that moment, there arose the perfect motivation, opportunity, and inspiration to collaborate.



Sara and I decided we'd each weave a scarf using repurposed cashmere yarn that my mother and I un-knitted from over 200 cashmere sweaters.

Sara would dye yarn from the white sweaters using reds, golds and blues of a sunset as inspiration.

I sent 16 skeins to Sara, and she divided the yarn in half. She wound her portion of the yarn to use as warp and left mine in skeins to use as weft. Dye, Dye, Dye...And then the exciting part for me, Weaving, Weaving, Weaving!

Sara and I are thrilled with the results! We hope you will be too.

These magnificent scarves are destined for the 2016 fundraising auction to generate support of WARP networked projects and, perhaps, inspire other weavers to join in next year.



Bonnie's cashmere scarf



Sara's cashmere scarf

