

# WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 16, Number 2

Summer 2009

## ArtisanWork.org: A New Resource for Artisans

*Submitted by Cheryl Musch*

SERRV, a nonprofit fair trade and development organization working with small-scale artisans around the world, recently launched a new web site for artisans—[www.ArtisanWork.org](http://www.ArtisanWork.org). The site provides a unique place for artisans and the people who work with them to explore issues important to their work. The site is an interactive space to share experiences, discuss challenges, discover answers, build connections and be inspired.



What does *ArtisanWork.org* offer?

- Learning modules which include exercises to put knowledge into practice on topics including product development, marketing, and production planning
- Hand-picked links, documents, and other resources to expand artisans' knowledge
- Videos and slideshows that illustrate best practices and share information
- Access to people with experience and expertise
- Discussion groups to connect with artisans and experts around the world

One of the most exciting things about the site are forums for artisan-to-artisan interaction, as well as artisan-to-expert dialogue. Participation by WARP members will keep the site dynamic and help those of you working with artisans. SERRV will be conducting a series of online learning sessions over the next year as well.

Selling artisan products in an increasingly competitive global marketplace is very challenging, even for the most sophisticated businesses. How can a small artisan group thousands of miles from the marketplace succeed in this environment? SERRV staff began to ask how to play a role in assisting low-income and marginalized artisans in improving market access and sales. How

*continued on page 11*

### *Mission*

*WARP serves as a catalyst for improving the quality of life of textile artisans in communities-in-need. We provide information and networking opportunities to individuals and organizations who value the social, cultural, historic, and artistic importance of textiles around the world.*

### *Core Values*

*Textiles are an important component of the human experience.*

*Providing support to textile artisans from communities-in-need gives them tools to shape their own destinies.*

*Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action.*

*Making connections among textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change.*

*Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives.*

## *From the WARP Office...*

*Judy Allen, Administrative Coordinator*

As the new Administrative Coordinator, it is quite exciting to write my first column. I have been reading this column for the past two years as a WARP member, but from an external perspective. For example, I was not aware that our membership was a calendar year, but I knew that I would receive a notice in the mail when it was time to renew. I also knew that my membership included a membership directory and four newsletters a year that were fascinating to read. I didn't know how all these things came about or who the people were behind the scenes that ensured that they happened.

Upon accepting the Administrative Coordinator position starting March 1, I am now viewing WARP in a different way; from an internal perspective and learning that some of the membership benefits will actually be made to happen by me! Cheryl Musch has been working with me via email and phone to ensure that my training is thorough and accurate. The absolutely most enjoyable part of training was going to the Annual Meeting where I met Cheryl and the other board members as well as the vendors and meeting attendees.

I look forward to getting to know all of you at least via email if not in person. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions, suggestions, or concerns. You may reach me at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org).

### *Introducing Judy Allen: WARP's New Administrative Coordinator*

Judy Allen is a textile enthusiast who has been fortunate to volunteer with Nilda Callanaupa Alvarez, Director of The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, to sell Andean textiles in the Northeast US, at Convergence in Grand Rapids, and the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe. Most of her craft time is spent in producing knitted scarves for a fund raising project for a local hospice. In the past she has been a weaver (4 harness and inkle), quilter, and she is presently learning to crochet.

In Judy's professional life she has held a variety of positions. Currently she is a Bereavement Consultant facilitating support groups for several area hospices. Prior to that she was a Career Counselor at Mount Holyoke College. Earlier in her career she was a Training and Development Consultant for LEGO Systems, Inc., the toy manufacturer. She began her career in a publishing house followed by stints in public libraries in Houston, Tulsa, and Springfield, MA.

Judy is certified in Thanatology (the study of death among human beings) from the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She earned her Master's degree in Organizational Psychology from Springfield College. She also holds a Master's degree in Library Science from Dominican University. Judy has been a speaker and group facilitator at local and regional professional meetings and conferences.

#### **WARP**

#### **Governing Board**

Deborah Brandon  
Pittsburgh, PA  
412/963-7416

[brandon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@andrew.cmu.edu)

Term expires 2011

Susan Schaefer Davis  
Haverford, PA  
610/649-7717

[sdavis@uslink.net](mailto:sdavis@uslink.net)

Term expires 2012

Kathryn Keegan  
Birchrunville, PA  
610/827-7975

[birchrunstudio@gmail.com](mailto:birchrunstudio@gmail.com)

Term expires 2012

Candy Meacham  
Bellingham, WA  
360/671-9079

[mchkee@earthlink.net](mailto:mchkee@earthlink.net)

Term expires 2011

Cheryl Musch  
Madison, WI  
608/244-7817  
[cheryl@yachana.org](mailto:cheryl@yachana.org)

Term expires 2010

Adrienne Sloane  
Watertown, MA  
617/926-1914

[aonels@yahoo.com](mailto:aonels@yahoo.com)

Term expires 2010

#### **Administrative Coordinator**

Judy Allen

[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)

## *2009 Alice Brown Memorial Scholars*

**September Krueger:** With memories of recent travel in Thailand fresh in my mind, the annual WARP conference was a great opportunity to engage with people actively pursuing change in the issues that confront textile artisans in Thailand and many other regions. WARP members are dedicated to imagining ways to build cultural bridges, preserving traditions, and bringing to market fine crafts at a fair wage. During our field trip to Ten Thousand Villages headquarters, we discussed these issues and even tackled the process of transforming traditional objects into Western products.

Rubia, with a staff of three, has brought jobs, improved literacy, and inspired alternative agricultural practices in Afghanistan through embroidery. Likewise, Suraya Pakzad shared her strong voice as an activist in Afghanistan. Among her many goals, she is trying to make education accessible to women and provide villages with the basic necessity of running water.

I am very grateful to the WARP Scholarship Fund which brought me to this year's meeting. The conference certainly fueled my studies this semester at East Carolina University, where I will complete the MFA program in fibers next spring. In addition to the lectures, I enjoyed conversations with fellow weavers and learned a great deal from the anthropologists, teachers, authors, and other fiber enthusiasts. I was able to connect with a passionate group of people who are all inspiring artisans in their own right.

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**Claire Nicholas:** I had the great pleasure of joining the WARP community thanks to the support of a student scholarship to this year's annual meeting. What struck me about the members of the organization, as introductions were made and in discussions over meals, was the genuine commitment to both individual action and mutual support in developing ongoing and future projects. The question of how one might make a sustainable difference in the lives of others through textiles is one that I struggle with as an anthropologist-in-training at Princeton University, both on the level of personal engagement, and as an object of study.

My doctoral dissertation research centers on contemporary Moroccan textile weavers, both men and women, who have recently been the focus of governmental and non-governmental development initiatives. My project considers how different kinds of expertise converge in the implementation of these projects, including technical knowledge drawn from economics, modern business practices, and local understandings of production and pedagogical methods.

While my fieldwork is still in the preliminary stages, it's easy to observe a fundamental disconnect between the expectations and understandings of the local community vis-à-vis development initiatives and the goals and plans of state and non-governmental actors. It's my hope that my research might eventually contribute to context-specific solutions to this problem, if only by shedding some light on the complexity of the circumstances and the difficulty of effecting real change, two issues with which WARP members seem eminently familiar.

*The ABM Scholarship Fund provides free registration for one or two young students to attend the WARP annual meeting. Donations to the fund are always gratefully accepted.*

### *You can help WARP by*

#### **...providing financial support for the:**

- Operating fund (includes staff salary, listserv and website costs, and WARP publications—the newsletter, brochure, and directory)
- Scholarship fund
- Sister Memberships
- Endowment fund

#### **...volunteering to:**

- Show the WARP slideshow in your community
- Write an article for the newsletter
- Help with annual meetings
- Solicit paid ads for the newsletter and/or membership directory.
- Encourage other textile organizations and guilds to link to the WARP website

If you are interested in any of these financial or volunteer opportunities, contact Judy Allen at [info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)



### **WARP Newsletter**

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Editor: Linda Temple

Send address corrections to:

WARP

3102 Classen Boulevard  
PMB 249  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
or to

[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)

The deadline for  
contributions to the  
Fall 2009 WARP newsletter  
is **August 14, 2009.**

Send articles and  
correspondence for  
the newsletter to:

Linda Temple  
1230 NE 70  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
[lgtemple@juno.com](mailto:lgtemple@juno.com)  
405/478-4936 (phone)  
413/622-1504 (fax)

Information about an  
organization or service in  
this newsletter does not  
constitute an endorsement  
by WARP.

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

## ***Member Profile***

### ***Kathryn Keegan:***

### ***Textiles Tell Our Stories***

*Editor Note: Pegi Bevins has been writing the Member Profile column for several years, and her articles have been an important part of the newsletter. Pegi has now "retired," and with this issue, we welcome the new Member Profile columnist, Candy Meacham. Thanks Pegi, and welcome, Candy!*

Kathryn Keegan, the newest WARP Board member, lives in Birchrunville, PA an hour outside of Philadelphia. She joined WARP in 2006 on the advice of a friend, and she has a heartfelt belief that she belongs with Weave a Real Peace. She feels that through grassroots organizations like WARP we can all help peace efforts by supporting those working on the ground, creating micro enterprises. "Communication and economics are the key to peace, and what better way than through textiles?"

Kate has worked as financial administrator for Camphill Village Kimberton ([www.camphillkimberton.org/home.asp](http://www.camphillkimberton.org/home.asp)) for many years. Camphill Village is a lush 432 acre farm, garden, and craft community that includes adults with developmental disabilities. Founded in 1972 and inspired by the work of Rudolph Steiner, the emphasis in Camphill is on providing a model for ecological living, a caring community where the land and people support one another. Camphill produces and sells organic vegetables and herbs as well as milk from its bio-dynamic dairy. There is a woodworking shop as well as a textile studio where residents spin, dye, and weave--producing rugs, table linens, and scarves for sale.

Kate is a fiber artist who has been weaving since she became involved in the wearable arts movement in the 1970's in Philadelphia. Although she has taken numerous workshops and classes and attended several sessions at Penland, she is primarily self-taught. After moving to Birchrunville and starting work at Camphill, she began to spin, dye, and eventually weave when a loom arrived unexpectedly on her doorstep.

These days she makes jewelry, paints, and has recently been working in painted cloth, especially floor cloths. Kate considers herself an artist working in textiles. Her earrings are either paper collages or needle weavings. She uses recycled 'junk' to make necklaces using weaving or crochet to hold them together. She finds the idea of including words in her artwork to be full of possibilities for future exploration. She notes that the word, 'textile' derives from 'text,' words, and that textiles contain our stories which in turn bear our culture. Her work has been included in numerous shows and exhibits.

She feels that working in textiles has introduced her to people who continue to be a rich source of inspiration. Kate also has a major crush on her grandson, and she enjoys writing poetry.

Contact Kate via email at [birchrunstudio@gmail.com](mailto:birchrunstudio@gmail.com)

She has a website coming soon.

***Candy Meacham is an educator, a weaver, and a WARP board member. She can be reached at [mchkee@earthlink.net](mailto:mchkee@earthlink.net).***



## Cook Islands: Tivaivai

The word *tivaivai* refers to the colorful cotton bedspreads made in the Cook Islands. Tivaivai-making is a social activity, where groups of women get together to cut and sew the designs, following a pattern created by an established designer. In addition to being used as bedspreads and wall hanging, tivaivai are also used in traditional ceremonies and celebrations such as weddings and funerals.

Tivaivai patterns are essentially symmetric and virtually all of them are inspired by local flora. There are four different styles of tivaivai. *Tivaivai taorei* (piecework/patchwork), *tivaivai manu* (appliqué), *tivaivai tataura* (appliqué with embroidery), and *tivaivai tuitui tataura* (embroidered squares of fabric pieced together).

*Tivaivai taorei* are patchwork bedspreads made from small pieces of plain fabric (no bigger than 1" to 1.5" across) of various geometric shapes (e.g. triangles, squares, hexagons) and colors. Because of the large number of pieces involved (10,000-60,000 pieces per tivaivai) it's crucial to ensure that there won't be any errors in the piecing. So the process starts with each woman threading the pieces for her section together in a predetermined order, and then the piecing is done following that same order. Once all the sections are pieced, they are sewn together to form the overall pattern, and finally, the resulting top is stitched to a plain backing material.

*Tivaivai manu* involve a form of appliqué consisting of two layers of plain fabric in contrasting colors, one for the pattern and one for the background. The top layer is folded into quarters, and then cut out snowflake style, in patterns that usually resemble flowers and plants. The cut out fabric is then opened and stitched to the background using an invisible stitch. Sometimes the edges of the pattern are covered with a zigzag stitch.

*Tivaivai tataura* refers to a combination of appliqué and embroidery. The pattern shapes are cut out of plain fabric and are either first sewn onto a plain background fabric and then embroidered, or they are first embroidered and then stitched onto the backing sheet. The embroidery consists of a rich variety of stitches, including feather stitch, fly stitch, stem stitch, chain stitch, and seed stitch.

*Tivaivai tuitui tataura* are formed by joining together large squares of embroidered fabric (American block-style), using either crochet or lace. The top is then sewn onto a plain backing fabric in a contrasting color, which stabilizes the top and also frames it.

### Resources:

#### ***The Art of Tivaevae: Traditional Cook Islands Quilting,***

by Lynnsay Rongokea, University of Hawaii Press

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tivaivai>

<http://www.ck/tivaevae.htm>

<http://www.atiu-fibrearts.com/tivaivai.php>

[http://www.atiutourism.com/fibre\\_arts.htm](http://www.atiutourism.com/fibre_arts.htm)

**Deborah Brandon can be reached at 412/963-7416 or at [brandon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:brandon@andrew.cmu.edu).**

### **Weave A Real Peace**

#### Membership Information

#### **2009 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 all publications for the year joined.

Members receive an annual Membership Directory, a quarterly newsletter, and can participate in the WARP listserv.

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, and telephone number with appropriate check or money order in US funds payable to **WARP** to:

Weave A Real Peace  
3102 Classen Boulevard  
PMB 249  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

or visit the website at [weavearealpeace.org](http://weavearealpeace.org)

## Another Extraordinary Meeting!

*Gloria Miller*

Many long time as well as new WARP members gathered from Guatemala and 18 US states amidst the flavor of the quilt tradition of Lancaster County, PA, for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Initial greetings took place as many perused the fresh lunch options in the Central Market adjacent to the Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum where we gathered for a special tour. Officially closed for the winter, the museum is housed in a former bank which was creatively renovated. We were introduced to some aspects of the Amish culture and the distinguishing marks of an Amish quilt as exhibited in the *Espirit* collection which is permanently housed there. A traveling exhibit of Navajo textiles was in the process of being installed and we were treated to some time with them, ever resisting our weavers' urge to feel as well as see the marvelous colors and textures.

The official meeting was held at the Mennonite Conference Center in Akron, just a few minutes north of Lancaster. The ambiance well reflected the international nature and mission of WARP in that each of the housing units incorporated the design and crafts of different continents and the décor of the entire facility expressed a global vision of justice and empowerment.

We began Friday by setting up our Marketplace and silent auction followed by introductions, all of which led the way for many engaging conversations and connections during breaks and meal-times which never seemed long enough. We welcomed our two student members who later shared with us the projects they are involved with as well as their own developing art.

Saturday morning took us to the headquarters of Ten Thousand Villages, just down the street from our gathering place. We were given an overview of their approach to product development which honors the local material and craft balanced with the marketability of products. We were then given a large basket for each table with samples of work from a country as well as pictures of best selling products and the color schemes for the upcoming season. Our task was to design a product that could be crafted in the country to fit in with collections of items from all over the world. Ideas were enthusiastically generated, many of which can be used in the work of some WARP members.

As always WARP was a time of sharing far-flung projects that benefit fiber artists not only financially but as conduits to preserve local handcrafts, thus improving their way of life as well as restoring pride in the traditions handed on to them.

The passion within the group was evidenced in the goods displayed in the Marketplace, many brought directly in suitcases. The silent auction also evidenced a wide variety of textiles—imported and made by members—which went to the highest bidder after being ably modeled by our student members and after much encouragement to keep checking our bids and not letting our favorite items get away. (*Note: The silent auction netted \$876 for WARP!*)

Members departed enriched by new connections and ideas and hopes of further enriching our lives as we focus on the projects of others.

### *What Others Said...*

For me the highlights of the weekend included staying in a wonderful setting that is sourced from and dedicated to supporting craft communittees around the world. It felt really good to meet up with old friends with shared passions in a place with a heart. Plus the Marketplace of weaving from around the world and the auction were super this year.

Candy Meacham

It was comforting, stimulating, and exciting. As I move forward with my project in Ghana, I learned an incredible amount by hearing about other projects - similar frustrations, new ideas, ways to go forward. I am so glad I went.

Jackie Abrams

Brian Gross gave the meeting a big thumbs up!

I am so amazed and inspired by everyone and I wish I could have spoken with each person individually. I'm glad I have been able to be a part of this great gathering for the last three years and hope to be able to continue to see you all. Thanks! Sara Borchert

## Special Section: 2008 Annual Report/ 2009 Annual Meeting



### 2008: The Year in Review...

**Membership** - In 2008, there were 236 members of WARP. Between 2005 and 2007, membership grew. In 2008 we saw a downward trend in membership, with a number of former members not renewing their memberships.

**WARP Board** - In 2008, board terms ended for Deborah Brandon, Sarah Saulson, Adrienne Sloane, and Linda Temple. In order to reestablish better board rotation, board members nominated for reelection accepted staggered terms, with Linda being elected for a 1-year term, Adrienne a 2-year term, and Deborah a 3-year term. Candy Meacham was also elected to the board for a 3-year term. Thank you to Sarah Saulson who served for two 3-year term with perseverance and grace.

**Administrative Coordinator** - This year, WARP had two interim administrative coordinators. Administrative work was done from January-March by Ann Rubin, and from April-December by Cheryl Musch.

**Annual Meeting** - Members from 15 states and three countries gathered from March 7 to 9 on Whidbey Island, Washington, for our annual meeting. We were pleased to have scholarship recipient Bo Choi, MFA fiber arts student at University of Washington, join us. As always, the program was wonderful, including visits to Michelle Wiplinger's dyeing studio in Seattle and Madelyn van der Hoogt's studio in Coupeville.

**Newsletter** - When members renew, they often comment on how much they enjoy WARP's newsletter. This year we had four wonderful issues of this publication. As editor, Linda Temple is its driving force, and we thank her for her commitment and many years of producing an outstanding and inspirational newsletter.

**Convergence** - Thanks to Deborah Brandon and Linda Bowden, WARP held an introductory meeting in June at Convergence in Tampa Bay, FL in order to increase our visibility. They showed WARP's slide show and were joined by other members to talk about the benefits of joining WARP.

**Slide Show** - The revised WARP slide show was on the move this year! Thanks to Carole Pierce who keeps the slide show traveling, it made 14 appearances in 2008 in the US and Canada.

**Thank you** to all of the members of WARP who volunteer their time to serve on the board, keep our website and e-list going, contribute articles to the newsletter, coordinate our newsletter mailings, and offer their gifts and talents to make everything WARP does possible!

Special Section: 2008 Annual Report/  
2009 Annual Meeting



*Weave A Real Peace*  
**Financial Report - 2008**

**WARP Checking Account - 2008**

1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008

**Income**

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2008 Annual Meeting.....           | \$ 5,695.65 |
| Bank Refund .....                  | 29.00       |
| Interest Inc .....                 | 22.54       |
| Memberships/Donations .....        | 10,762.14   |
| Sales - Mission Fish .....         | 8.00        |
| Silent Auction .....               | 774.00      |
| UPAVIM-MH Sales .....              | 3,485.57    |
| Vendor Fees - Annual Meeting ..... | 179.00      |

Total Income ..... \$20,955.90

**Expenses**

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Uncategorized .....                 | 295.19   |
| 2006 Annual Meeting.....            | 153.99   |
| 2008 Annual Meeting.....            | 4,336.33 |
| 2009 Annual Meeting.....            | 150.00   |
| Bank Charge (returned checks) ..... | 105.00   |
| Contract Payments (Staff).....      | 7,850.00 |
| Directory .....                     | 1,284.88 |
| Dues (HGA) .....                    | 50.00    |
| Newsletter .....                    | 2,256.63 |
| Office Supplies .....               | 54.65    |
| Postage .....                       | 79.90    |
| Brochure printing.....              | 681.97   |
| Slide Show .....                    | 94.25    |
| Website .....                       | 15.95    |

Total Expenses ..... \$17,408.74

**Income/Expenses ..... \$ 3,547.16**

**2008 Income, all accounts**

(except Endowment)

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1/1/08 Balance .....               | \$30,282.40 |
| Checking Income vs. Expenses ..... | \$3,547.16  |
| Money Manager Interest .....       | 65.11       |
| CD Interest .....                  | 265.53      |
| 12/31/08 Balance .....             | \$34,160.20 |

**Account Summaries**

Checking

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 12/31/07..... | \$14,680.87 |
| 12/31/08..... | \$18,228.03 |

Money Market

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 12/31/07..... | \$8,954.07  |
| 12/31/08..... | \$ 9,019.18 |

CD

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 12/31/07..... | \$6,622.46 |
| 12/31/08..... | \$6,887.99 |

(renewed 11/08/08)

Savings

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| 12/31/07..... | \$25.00 |
| 12/31/08..... | \$25.00 |

**Total Account Balance - 12/31/08 .....**

**..... \$34,160.20**

**Endowment Fund - 1/1/08-12/31/08**

Income

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Interest earned ..... | \$ 370.56 |
| Deposit .....         | **        |
| Net Income .....      | **        |

1/1/08 Balance ..... \$20,449.56

Net Income ..... 370.56\*\*

12/31/08 Balance..... \$20,820.12\*\*

**Cumulative Totals for FY2008, 12/31/08**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Account balances ..... | \$34,160.20 |
| Endowment balance..... | 20,820.12** |
| Total.....             | \$54,980.32 |

\*\* 10% of member dues are to be added to the Endowment Fund annually. This was not done in 2007 or 2008. Ten percent of member dues for 2007 and 2008 will be moved from the checking account to the endowment fund in early 2009.



## Special Section: 2008 Annual Report/ 2009 Annual Meeting



### WARP Annual Business Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2009 - The Welcoming Center, Akron, Ohio

Adrienne Sloane called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved.

2008 programs and activities were reviewed (see 2008 Year in Review, page 7). Of special note was the hiring of Judy Allen as WARP's Administrative Coordinator. Read more about Judy on page 2.

Sarah Saulson discussed the Scholarship Program, which was started in 2006 with a generous donation from Alice Brown, a long-time WARP member. Sadly, Alice died this past year, and the Board voted to change the name of the scholarship program to the Alice Brown Memorial (ABM) Scholarship Fund. Because of the monies available from the Fund and generous member donations, WARP was able to sponsor the registration to this meeting for two students—September Krueger and Claire Nicholas (see their comments on page 3). It is hoped that this program will be a permanent part of WARP's efforts to allow young textile students to attend the annual meetings.

Linda Temple presented the Financial Report for 2008. It was noted that deposits to the Endowment Fund (10% of membership dues) had not been made for 2007 or 2008. This oversight will be corrected immediately. Linda explained that staff changes in 2008 made it difficult to track membership payments vs. donations. This, too, will be corrected for 2009. It was moved and seconded to accept the Financial Report. All approved.

Election of Board Members: Deb Brandon and Sarah Saulson presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Linda Temple's board term expired this year, and Kathryn Keegan was nominated to fill that position. Susan Schaefer Davis's first term expired this year, and she was nominated for a second term. Nominations were requested from the floor. There were none. It was moved and seconded that the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee be accepted by acclamation. All approved. The Nominating Committee was congratulated for their good work.

#### **Plans for 2010:**

From the Board Meeting: Cheryl Musch expressed appreciation that Judy Allen has accepted the position of Administrative Coordinator. She and Judy have been in close contact by phone and email and most of the Coordinator's duties have been transferred.

The Membership directory will be published this Fall, and thereafter on an annual basis in the Summer.

The Board has decided to begin the conversion process of the slide show into a digital format. Because many people still use the slide show format, it will continue to be available until slides deteriorate or are lost. In the meantime, efforts will move forward to make the slide show available in digital format as well.

Candy Meacham has volunteered to coordinate an update of WARP's website. The goal is to have a stronger web presence.

In other discussion, we explored possibilities for making WARP more visible to communities that would be interested in the organization. Efforts will be made to recruit past members,

*continued on page 11*

## Fair Trade Day and FTF Conference

Carmen K. Iezzi, Executive Director, Fair Trade Federation



Each Spring, two keystone events help Fair Traders mark the changing of the seasons: World Fair Trade Day and the annual Fair Trade Federation conference.

From March 27—29, more than 165 entrepreneurs, NGO leaders, advocates, students, and others interested in Fair Trade gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, OR for FTF's annual conference. Celebrating FTF's 15th birthday, the event sought to help participants take their big ideas for the future and learn how to put them into action.

The conference combined broader discussions about the Fair Trade movement with practical workshops to improve business operations, such as marketing and branding, cultivating customer relationships, employee relations, building producer capacity, and managing cash flow. FTF also added a new element this year – speed networking sessions to give participants a chance to outline questions that they have, needs they have experienced, and services that they can offer. Participants circulated through the displays and responded to presentations that interested them.

During the conference, FTF launched a program to celebrate members' good work. Organizations were nominated in one of three categories and evaluated based on five criteria. Nominees were juried by the conference committee. Eight companies were nominated for *Best Product Design*. They were evaluated for the trendiness of their product, its tastefulness, innovative and responsible use of materials, and for the design and the design process met FTF's Principles and Values. **One World Projects** won for their recycled tire purses from El Salvador. Five candidates competed for *Best Public Education Program* in 2008. Programs were evaluated for their ability to generate interest in Fair Trade, accessibility to different communities, the ways in which they brought Fair Trade to new audiences, and the ways in which the programs met FTF's Principles and Values; **Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program** was selected. Four candidates were nominated for the *Most Positive Change Created in a Producer Community*. Their work was evaluated for the depth of their impact on a community, the FTF member's depth of commitment to that community, the number of people reached, the sustainability of the project, and the ways in which the programs met FTF's Principles and Values. **Global Goods Partners** was honored for their work with **Ikamva Labantu in South Africa**. A special award was also given to **SERRV International** for *Outstanding Service to the Fair Trade Community*.

Next year's conference is slated to take place in Boston in mid-Spring, while World Fair Trade Day will be celebrated on May 8, 2010 - Stay tuned to [www.FairTradeFederation.org](http://www.FairTradeFederation.org) for more details on how to catch both great events next year!

Carmen Iezzi can be reached at [cki@fairtradefederation.org](mailto:cki@fairtradefederation.org)

To learn more about the organizations and events discussed, please consult the following websites:

- **Fair Trade Federation Conference website** – [www.FairTradeFederation.org/conference](http://www.FairTradeFederation.org/conference)
- **One World Projects** – [www.OneWorldProject.com](http://www.OneWorldProject.com)
- **Equal Exchange** – [www.EqualExchange.coop](http://www.EqualExchange.coop)
- **Global Goods Partners** – [www.GlobalGoodsPartners.com](http://www.GlobalGoodsPartners.com)
- **SERRV International** – [www.SERRV.org](http://www.SERRV.org)
- **Fair Trade Resource Network's World Fair Trade Day Action Guide** – [www.FTRN.org](http://www.FTRN.org) - Tips and resources to rally "55,000 for Fair Trade" and break last year's record for the world's largest Fair Trade break.

### Ten Thousand Villages Seeks Media Relations and Promotions Coordinator

Interested persons should e-mail their resumes to [kim.vandonk@tenthousandvillages.com](mailto:kim.vandonk@tenthousandvillages.com), or fax to 717/859-8181. The job description for this position can be found at [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com), on the Careers page under About Us.

## ***ArtisanWork.org Provides Resources for Artisans***

***continued from page 1***

can artisans get the information they need to succeed in the U.S. market? How can they access market information to quickly adapt to changing consumer interests, develop new products, and locate new customers?

SERRV received an eBay Foundation Artisan Marketplace Development Grant in support of the development of ArtisanWork.org, which builds on years of SERRV's experience assisting disadvantaged artisans in developing business skills and overcoming barriers they have in accessing markets. Over the last year, SERRV has hand-picked the best resources available and pulled them together in ArtisanWork.org, one tool for aiding artisans facing immense challenges.

Support from the international fair trade community has been overwhelmingly positive. "How often have I heard the question from both small producers and from consumers: Where can I go to find out about colors, trends, appropriate technologies, contacts with experienced Fair Trade producers working in textiles, jewelry, wood, etc?" said Paul Myers, president of the World Fair Trade Organization and former CEO of Ten Thousand Villages. "I now have an easy answer, the ArtisanWork.org web site of SERRV, who has been practicing Fair Trade for 60 years. This is an extraordinary gift to all of us."

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## ***2009 Annual Business Meeting***

***continued from page 9***

as well as making WARP's presence known by way of providing brochures at local weaving/spinning/textile gatherings. Mary Flad suggested those who write for other publications with overlapping interests mention WARP in their articles.

The location for the 2010 meeting was discussed. There is a great deal of interest in the Southwest—New Mexico or Arizona. Possibilities will be explored, and members with contacts in those areas are encouraged to contact any WARP board member.

### **Other Business:**

Thanks were expressed to Sarah Saulson for her exceptional work to put the programming together for this Annual Meeting. Susan Davis and Adrienne Sloane did a fantastic job coordinating all of the logistics with The Welcoming Center and the registration process.

Sarah and Adrienne were also thanked for their work in reviewing and selecting recipients of the ABM Scholarship.

Sarah and Cheryl's outstanding work in reviewing applicants, conducting interviews, and overseeing the hiring of the Administrative Coordinator was recognized.

Appreciation was also expressed to Sarah for re-printing the WARP brochures this year; to Linda for editing the newsletter; and to Doug Davis and Blaise Temple for their above-and-beyond help with the database, website, and other technological needs.

### ***Manuela & Esperanza: The Art of Maya Weaving***

WARP members Paul and Kathleen Mossman Vitale have just released a new documentary from Endangered Threads that traces the work of two Maya weavers as they complete the weaving of a huipil in less than 90 days, from thread purchase to last stitch.

More information about ***Manuela & Esperanza*** is available at [www.endangeredthreads.com](http://www.endangeredthreads.com)

### **WARP Slide Show Available**

The WARP slide show is currently in Ontario at the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Biennial Conference. It will soon be going to Iowa and New York, but there are still plenty of openings if your guild or group would like to view it.

To schedule the slide show, contact Carole Pierce, [cpierce@mis.net](mailto:cpierce@mis.net)

### ***New Members***

Kerstin Brorson  
895 Sharon Street  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Lowell Greenwood  
631 Broadway  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772/299-7071  
llgrnwd@bellsouth.net

Jane A. Hahn  
Lohmuhlenst 1B  
52074 Aachen  
GERMANY

Anne Burns Johnson  
4048 Lake Shore Ave  
Oakland CA 94610  
annebumsjohnson@msn.com

September E. Krueger  
1805 Grace Street  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
910/762-2188  
sek0804@ecu.edu

Ruth Liberatore  
P.O. Box 1045  
Kimberton, PA 19442  
610/935-2483

Kathryn Price  
P O Box 17  
65 Welch Road  
Topsham, VT 05076  
802/439-6688  
kathrynp@tops-tele.com

Cindy Richardson  
3250 Sale City Rd.  
Camilla GA 31710  
229/336-5035  
lpillamas@surfsouth.com

## ***A Good Day to Dye!***

***Judy Newland***

Last summer I spent four days in the Window Rock, AZ area searching for Native dye plants, building large wood fires, and cooking up colors for the yarns I had spun on my Navajo hip spindle. The weather in Window Rock is very pleasant in August and it was a great escape from the heat in the Phoenix Valley. The small group that gathered came from all over the United States to immerse themselves in art of dyeing naturally.

Mary Walker, who owns Weaving in Beauty, organized the dye workshop. She restores and cleans Navajo textiles and offers a variety of classes and tours. Navajo weavers and dyers who live on the reservation teach Mary's classes. Rose Dedman was our dye instructor. Her dye knowledge was passed onto her from her mother and we were all honored that she shared that knowledge with us – biligana (white people).

The workshop began at RB Burnham and Company Trading Post in Sanders, AZ. We studied their rug inventory and discussed various styles including a new style that has been developed near Canyon de Chelly by the Spider Rock Girls. Burnham's has a strong relationship with Navajo weavers and dyers and the yarn room has a wonderful selection of yarns dyed with vegetable dyes. We drove on to Window Rock and spent the evening under the stars dyeing yarn with cochineal

We were off early the next day to pick up Rose, who would guide us during our gathering and preparation of the dye plants. On the high plateau we gathered sagebrush, chamizo, ground lichen, rabbitbrush, bee plant, cliffrose, coreopsis, Navajo tea and wild carrot. Much climbing, crawling, clipping, and digging was involved in the plant gathering. Rose told us how many buckets to fill with each plant. Only Rose knew the location of the ground lichen and wild carrot, knowledge that had been passed to her by her mother. We chopped the plant materials into small pieces and built wood fires under nine heavy cast iron pots. The water boiled and colors began to emerge from the plants. On Rose's signal, yarn samples were dropped into the pots to begin their transformation. Colored skeins were rinsed and hung on the fence to dry. It was a feast for the eyes and truly a good day to dye! I am currently weaving a small tapestry with the yarns we dyed and reliving the experience again.

Other highlights included attending the Crownpoint Rug Auction where many workshop participants acquired beautiful Navajo rugs to take home. Almost all of the proceeds from the auction go directly to the weavers who bring their rugs to the monthly auction from all over the reservation. We also visited Richardson's Trading Post in Gallup and tested our newly gained knowledge of Navajo dyes by looking at a large number of exquisite rugs.

More information can be found at [weavinginbeauty.com](http://weavinginbeauty.com)

***Judy Newland can be reached at [newland.judy@gmail.com](mailto:newland.judy@gmail.com)***

## Multi-talented Kente Cloth

### Weaver Adapts to Market Demands

submitted by Louise Meyer, [louise@africancraft.com](mailto:louise@africancraft.com)

Grandy, a son of Master Weaver Gilbert Bobbo Ahiagble, is in the US again this year to represent his company ELE AGBE that sells beauty products at the Natural Product Expos held in Baltimore, Los Angeles, and New York. Grandy is the Export Manager in charge of opening new markets. The original focus of the company, founded by his aunt in 1998, was to promote locally made craft products such as kente weaving, masks, drums, bronze casting, hand-made beads, and jewelry. Five years ago there was ever increasing demand for products made out of organic shea butter, so ELE AGBE switched gears and began to focus on organic beauty products: creams, lip and hair balm. With financial support from USAid, ELE AGBE was invited to the US trade fairs.



*Chapuchi at loom,  
Grandy and Louise  
behind him*

Last year Grandy was invited to exhibit at Pangea, a boutique located inside the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a part of the World Bank in Washington, DC. A representative from Ten Thousand Villages discovered that Grandy was a Master Weaver stemming from a long tradition of Ewe Kente weavers living in the Volta Region of Ghana near Togo. She arranged for him to set up his loom and give a weaving demonstration. The event at IFC served as a training session for the five other African artisans exhibiting their wares. There were two power point presentations on how to market products.

The next day, Grandy and his brother Chapuchi, who lives in Washington DC, met with buyers from Ten Thousand Villages. Today, one year later ELE AGBE beauty products are on sale at all Ten Thousand Villages shops in the US! It's their hope that one day their Ewe Kente weaving will also be on sale there. To view their beautiful Ewe Kente weaving: <http://www.africancraft.com>, click on 'Craftspeople,' then on 'Chapuchi Ahiagble'; and Ele Agbe Company Limited: <http://eleagbe.com/index.html>

### ***Maya Earth Coffee launches "Coffee with a Cause"***

***Felipe Gonzales***

For several years, Maya Earth Coffee, a joint project of Moonflower Enterprises and Maya Color, has been importing fair trade, shade grown, organic coffee direct from Mayan co-operatives located in the highlands of Guatemala. Our fair trade coffee is distinct from other Guatemalan coffees because we have a direct relationship with the coffee farmers.

In keeping with our business model, we recently launched our "Coffee with a Cause" marketing strategy. Maya Earth Coffee has taken co-marketing the extra mile - for every bag of coffee ordered we will donate 10% to WARP or to Guatemalan Mayan coffee growers.

Felipe can be contacted at [felipe@mayaeearthcoffee.com](mailto:felipe@mayaeearthcoffee.com) or visit [www.mayaeearthcoffee.com](http://www.mayaeearthcoffee.com) for more information.

### ***More New Members***

N. Tepas  
203 Colton Avenue  
Lackawanna, NY 14218  
[messa@roadrunner.com](mailto:messa@roadrunner.com)  
[nancyjodesign.com](http://nancyjodesign.com)

### ***Address Change***

Louise Majorey  
910 S. Michigan Ave. #1302  
Chicago, IL 60605

Syracuse Weavers Guild  
c/o Nancy Smothergill,  
President  
127 Circle Road  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
[www.syracuseweaversguild.org](http://www.syracuseweaversguild.org)

Western North Carolina  
Fibers/Handweavers Guild,  
Inc.(WNCF/HG)  
PO Box 9784  
Asheville NC 28778-0784

### ***Art Workshops in Guatemala***

is offering several textile-related tours this summer: *Backstrap Weaving and Mayan Culture* with Lidia Tarton de Santos, from July 19-28, and the *Textile, Weavers and Crafts Tour/THE SEQUEL* with Karen Searle, from November 10-19. For more information, contact Lisa Fourre, 4758 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419; 612/825-0747; [info@artguat.org](mailto:info@artguat.org); <http://www.artguat.org/>

## The Wrap on IKAT: Part I

Mary Zicafoose

The word ikat is derived from the Malaysian word *meningkat*, which means “to wrap.” Ikat is handwoven cloth whose warp and/or weft fibers have been selectively wrapped with a resist material, dyed, unwrapped, and then woven. The result are lengths of fiber literally pre-coded with markings that appear very random until the weaving process begins—which, if correctly calculated, creates order and images quite magically out of the mountains of dyed yarn.

We all know the hazy, jagged edged look of ikat dyed pattern on cloth, and are most familiar with it used in an ethnic context. Odds are that you have a pair of old drawstring yoga pants sewn from Guatemalan ikat fabric, or own an example of a warp and weft ikat fabric indigo dyed from Japan.

I began primitive attempts at implementing weft face ikat in my handwoven rugs in 1986. I recall naively zipping down to the library to pick up the latest book on “weft face ikat applications for tapestries & rugs.” I came home empty handed. Twenty three years later, that book has yet to be written.

Undaunted, I forged on and soon uncovered a garage sale treasure—a tattered how-to ikat book written by Lydia Van Gelder in the 1970s. Lydia instructed me to garner a two-by-four board, drive a long thick nail at each end, and stretch yarn between the nails. The next step was to cut up some black Hefty garbage bags into long 1" strips. This is what I would use as a dye resist, wrapping the stretchy black plastic randomly around the bundled yarn stretched between the nails. The next step was to remove the wrapped yarn hank from the nails and drop it into a dyepot. Once cooked, I removed the black plastic, dried the yarn, and loaded it onto a shuttle, with the intent of coaxing it into becoming one tiny, self-conscious, ill fitting ikat stripe on a huge handwoven rug.

Therein lies the sum total of my formal instruction in ikat. There was no sitting down at the feet of the Master, receiving ancient whispered secrets of over-dye recipes, stretching and wrapping techniques, or well guarded mathematical formulas for transposing contemporary ideas into workable ikat designs. All that happened in Uzbekistan in the 1800's, and I missed that workshop.

After my first attempt at capturing the ikat muse, I spent months laboring over my two-by-four homemade ikat board. Gradually, through trial and error, I learned to accurately calculate dye pot shrinkage, the subtle and sublime physics of over-dyeing, and how to design for ikat.

My first attempt at ikat was a hank of yarn tied with four lengths of a Hefty garbage bag. The piece I am currently working on for the 2010 Tapestry Triennial in Lodz, Poland consists of 40,000 wrapped and knotted ikat sections. Knot by knot, I have come a long way in my understanding of this classic ethnic technique and giving it my voice.

*Mary's experiences with ikat will be continued in the next issue of the WARP newsletter. You can learn more about Mary and her work at her website, <http://www.maryzicafoose.com/>*

### ***If you sell on eBay...***

You can designate a percentage of your sales to benefit WARP through the MissionFish program. MissionFish allows sellers to give proceeds from their sales to a favorite nonprofit. Nonprofits can also receive donations from eBay users through the Donate Now feature, which lets anyone with a PayPal account donate to WARP right away—without buying or selling anything.

### ***Mayan Hands seeks part-time Sales and Marketing Assistant in MD area***

Mayan Hands, a non-profit, Fair Trade crafts distribution business located in Ijamsville, MD, seeks a creative, outgoing, energetic individual with strong public speaking skills and refreshing ideas for marketing handmade fair trade textiles.

For more information contact

Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland  
Mayan Hands  
9607 Dr. Perry Rd. #114  
Ijamsville, MD 21754  
[info@upavim-mayanhands.org](mailto:info@upavim-mayanhands.org)

## ***Making Connections...***

*Cindy Lair*

Sometimes in life we connect with the most unlikely people. We are often constrained by language our cultural differences and our life experiences.

And yet, all that conditioning slips away in the presence of someone who needs our help or who can help us.

Habtezghi is an Eritrean immigrant to the US. We met when he asked Schacht Spindle Co., Inc. to make the wooden support pieces for a stool with a woven seat. As the Production Manager for Schacht this seemed like just another normal request, until I met Habtezghi.

Habtezghi has learned a reasonable amount of English as compared to my ability to speak Tigrinya, which is non-existent. We struck a fair bargain and so we began making the stool pieces for Habtezghi, who would call to place an order of twenty sets, every two or three months.

“Cindy, how are you?”

“You do for me?”

“Yes, Habtezghi, I do for you.”

“When you do for me?”

We would eventually settle upon a date about two weeks to a month away.

The first time he came in to pick up the pieces, I was astonished to see the man before me. He is a tall, ageless man, with a shock of white hair. He has one partial arm, missing above the elbow and one full-length arm with only a thumb and forefinger on his hand. At 16 he lost his arms to a land mine left over from World War II, he is now 76. The boxes he was taking away were heavy so I offered to help, but he refused. Before he picked up each box, he would place his hand over his heart and say, “Assalamu alaikum.” (Peace be with you.) Off he went. Our relationship went on in this fashion for several years.

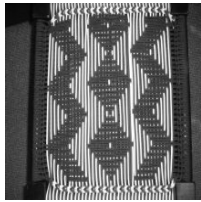
I had never seen the stools Habtezghi was making, until he asked me to deliver the parts to his home. I delivered the parts, finally getting to see the pieces assembled. The weaving caught my attention, a bold diamond pattern made with burgundy, brown and white parachute cord, not intricate, but well executed. He can complete a stool in an evening. Habtezghi weaves the stools to stay busy in addition to providing additional income to his family.

Recently, after another delivery of pieces, Habtezghi placed me in his life.

“You are my sister.”

“Yes, Habtezghi, I am your sister.”

Never have I had a prouder moment.



### **Jackie Abrams featured in SERRV publication**

WARP member Jackie Abrams was featured in the Spring 2009 issue of the SERRV newsletter for her work as a consultant with the weavers of Bolgatanga in northern Ghana. Under SERRV's sponsorship, Jackie spent a week last November helping the members of the Zorbisi Craft Center improve their weaving and dyeing skills.

SERRV staff were aware of Jackie's consultation skills through the WARP network.

### ***WARP on the Web***

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

***You can join WARP's  
Listserv from the  
'Contact Us' link on  
the website.***

***WARP also has a  
group on ravelry.com,  
the knitting  
networking site.***

### **WARP Brochures Available**

If you would like copies of WARP's brochure to distribute to your guild or at local conferences, please contact Sarah Saulson at [sfsaulson@twcnyc.nyrr.com](mailto:sfsaulson@twcnyc.nyrr.com)



**Weave a Real Peace**  
3102 Classen Boulevard  
PMB 249  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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