

WARP



WEAVE A REAL PEACE

Volume 17, Number 2

Summer 2010

Weaving Together Brings Sense of Unity and Pride to Nicaraguan Women

Ivy Blackmore

El Ocotal is a small village of 250 people in the mountains of Matagalpa, Nicaragua. For the two years of my Peace Corps service El Ocotal was my home, a place of great beauty and great hardship. Life is tied to the land; when it rains too much, beans and corn are washed down the mountainside and when it doesn't rain enough, seeds shrivel and die in the increasingly dust-like soil. Yet, people persevere, with faces of quiet, inspiring determination.

During my service I developed projects from soil conservation and community micro banks to chicken coops and improved cooking stoves. For the majority of my projects I worked with the same group of 28 women, the idea being to lessen their dependence on planting and harvesting and help them gain financial independence.

In January 2009, my mother Carol Blackmore, a rug weaver, visited and suggested weaving as an enterprise. In June, with a financial donation from the Triangle Weavers Guild of Chapel Hill, NC, she delivered a rug loom. Fourteen of the 28 women decided they wanted to learn how to weave using old clothes. In July I began giving classes every afternoon, two women per week. Through the seven week cycle the women

learned the basics of weaving, warping, and quality control.

Now, with over nine months of experience, all 14 women, sharing one loom, are producing small rugs and handbags, and selling them at regional retail craft outlets with profits providing for previously unaffordable health care, school fees, and basic tools. We have also sold rugs and bags at Open House events that have connected people in the US with these Nicaraguan women and their families. All proceeds are returned to the group, with a percentage of sales saved toward construction of an independent workspace.

In March 2010, my Peace Corps service ended but the weaving enterprise continues. We provide the women with feedback on materials and quality control, and are still learning small business concerns. We will soon deliver a second loom donated by the Art League School of Alexandria, VA, and will stay to offer instruction.



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.

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Project Artesanía Zona Andina (PAZA) Revives Traditional Natural Dyeing Techniques

Dorinda Dutcher

Thank you to everyone who attended the WARP annual meeting, and especially those who worked so hard to make it all happen. It was inspiring to witness the evolution of formal and informal meetings into solid plans of action in less than 48 hours. On a personal level, the meeting catapulted my weaving project into the next phase on the path to sustainability by providing heartfelt support on many levels.

Project Artesanía Zona Andina (PAZA) began in 2007 when a group of rural weavers asked me, a baby boomer Peace Corps Volunteer, about assistance to revive natural dye techniques and to help market their

Weaving is an integral part of a rural woman's subsistence lifestyle, thus an ideal



income generating activity. PAZA has demonstrated its potential over the past 1-1/2 years, by providing a steady trickle of cash directly into the hands of the weavers. Increased production by involving more weavers is the next phase but has been delayed



due to a lack of funds. The WARP meeting was a catalyst for PAZA fundraising efforts. My dread of fundraising disappeared during the meeting as the endeavor began in a collaborative effort with kindred spirits.

I encourage all members to put the WARP annual meeting high on next spring's "to-do" list. My commitment to WARP is to recruit at least two new young members and encourage them to attend next year's meeting.

Dorinda Dutcher is an "independent volunteer" in the Bolivian Andes. She is beginning an intern program to work with PAZA and a volunteer program focusing on youth development. dkdutcher@hotmail.com. Visit www.pazabolivia.org for updates on PAZA.

[See related article on page 12](#)



WARP Newsletter

published quarterly by
Weave A Real Peace
Volume 17, Number 2
Summer 2010

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



weavings. Having a passion for ethnic textiles, it was a dream come true. I settled in Independencia after Peace Corps to continue PAZA. The past 1-1/2 years have been spent reviving the natural dye techniques by experimenting with the plethora of Andean dye plants and marketing the weavings nationally. Due to a lack of resources it was partnerships which moved PAZA forward.

The first partners were the weavers. I don't spin, weave, or knit so my role is to link PAZA to the city and world beyond. The next partner was Doña Máxima Cortez, the PAZA Coordinator and a master weaver. She translates between Quechua and Spanish and provides a window into the rural world. The local government offered support in the form of transportation to rural communities until the administration changed. A Bolivian non-profit organization helps with the national marketing.

Welcome to the Annual Meeting issue of the WARP newsletter--with a new look, thanks to Cindy Lair's encouragement and research, and the Board's approval. The format is still evolving, so let me know what you think...

Throughout this issue you'll read about some of the people who were at the meeting, and the projects they represent or are interested in. For me, Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship recipient Kelsey Wiskirchen's account below captures the spirit of the weekend. LT

Energy from WARP Annual Meeting Spreads Beyond Arizona

The first thing that struck me at the annual meeting was the intense, uninterrupted energy of the WARP members. On the first evening sitting together in a giant circle for introductions, I could feel a bubbling of excitement, curiosity, and energy. As the weekend progressed and more conversations were shared it was as though that initial bubbling had turned into a full-on boil. Now I understand why. At a gathering of authors, teachers, learners, artists, volunteers, and activists, there is no choice but to feed off of each other's positive energy. At the end of the weekend, I could only imagine the wonderful things that are bound to happen as a result of that energy being dispersed back into the world.

I am honored to have received the gift of the Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship. The experience of attending the annual WARP meeting could not have come at a better time for me. With one year completed in my fiber MFA studies at Arizona State University, and still very much a student, I feel as if my life could be about to go in any direction. Exposure to the focus and dedication of the WARP members had a huge impact. I met so many people who have made it their life's

priority to engage with others and effect change through education, research, and action. After hearing about these experiences, I know that this type of work must be in my future.

I left the WARP meeting feeling inspired. Energized. Feeling as if there is no moment to waste. In the past few weeks, my mind and my hands have been going full blast. I have been telling everyone about WARP, and the amazing work that the members do. I have been reflecting on the conversations, lectures, and presentations at the conference, and thinking about my place in the world's powerful textile tradition. I know that I have much to learn, and I am excited. I have been experimenting with the native Arizona plants as dyes, I have been learning how to use a drop spindle, and I have been working on building a new loom. I have so many questions, and a world full of answers to explore. I want to thank everyone who was at the conference for your conversation and encouragement. You have helped me expand.

Kelsey Wiskirchen is a graduate student in Fibers at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. She can be reached at kelsey.viola.wiskirchen@gmail.com

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Weave A Real Peace

Membership Information

2010 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
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Judy Allen

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From the WARP Office...

Judy Allen, Administrative Coordinator

A year ago I wrote my first "From the WARP Office" column and as I look back to that time, a time of learning, I realize that WARP and I have grown together. It seems to me that we are a comfortable pair. That doesn't mean that there are no longer things to learn or that WARP and I are getting bored with each other. We now can begin to think of useful extras. And indeed I came away from the annual meeting with too many to implement!

The annual meeting is such an energizing experience! I hope that all WARP members are able to attend at least once. For me, it was wonderful to meet a number of members with whom I had corresponded. It was very satisfying to have an in-person visit and hear what they are doing to forward WARP's mission. From other articles in the newsletter you will get a sense of the place as well as what the WARP Board planned to entertain and enlighten us.

The Board held both a "daylong" and a "long day" business meeting. I took copious notes, as there were a number of things

for the Administrative Coordinator to follow up. The action I was most pleased to make happen was an upgrade to our Access database. I now can send email messages to the entire membership. It will be possible for me to tell members to update their membership information before the publication date of the new directory. I can also remind those who have not paid dues by the end of the calendar year. I promise not to bombard you with emails, but for the occasional times that either the board or I need to reach all of you with a message this is an ideal way to do it. We have a very small percentage of members who are not on email. I can easily make a list of those members and will send the email to them by surface mail. As for communication among members, that will still happen through the WARP Yahoo Discussion Group which you may join by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com>

If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns, you may reach me at info@weavearealpeace.org.

Hand to Hand: A New WARP Initiative

Hand to Hand is a new program that WARP is beginning. WARP makes connections between textile artisans worldwide to promote positive social change. The idea behind this initiative is to link fiber-centered organizations in the United States and abroad for their mutual benefit and support. In the past, WARP members in the US or Canada have sponsored an international textile organization by funding a \$ 40.00 WARP sister membership which includes a subscription to the WARP Newsletter. The intent of **Hand to Hand** is to go deeper and to become more personal.

A weaving or knitting or basketry guild or group may, for instance, connect with a textile cooperative in Bolivia or a group in India, establish communication, exchange photos, and go on to decide how each might support the other.

If you know of an international textile arts group that could benefit from connect-

ing with a WARP-related group, please send complete contact information to info@weavearealpeace.org, including group name, contact name, mailing address,

email address, phone, and web site if available. A sentence or two about the group, and how you know them, would be helpful. The group will then asked questions about themselves and their work, which will be presented in the Newsletter and on the website, so WARP members and their related groups can consider working with them. If you are a member of a US-based fiber group that would like to participate in **Hand to Hand**, please contact Judy Allen at info@weavearealpeace.org for guidelines.

As **Hand to Hand** begins to function, we will feature these connections in the WARP newsletter and keep you posted and inspired by members providing long-distance support.



Member Profile

Judy Allen: WARP's Administrative Coordinator

Candy Meacham

The first thing you should know about Judy is that she is WARP's Administrative Coordinator, the "go-to" or maybe "talk-to" person at WARP if you want information NOW! And the next thing you should know is that she has a life-long interest in fiber arts, learned in the best possible way, at her mother's knee.



Judy Allen

Her mother was an excellent knitter, crotcheter, and embroiderer, and Judy was the fortunate recipient of her creations including finely made quilts, afghans, samplers, and table linens. Friend Margaret Zeps took Judy's fiber education to the next level, introducing her to weaving on an inkle loom, teaching her to knit, weave baskets, and dye. Judy continued to learn via workshops and most recently on a tour to Guatemala led by WARP member Karen Searle.

When Judy isn't pursuing her passion for fiber arts, she holds down three jobs in or near her hometown of Northampton, Massachusetts. She is a bereavement group facilitator and a bereavement coordinator at two separate Hospice facilities, and, of course, WARP's Administrative Coordinator.

The role of fiber in Judy's life is personal. Pieces provide warmth, comfort, and beauty for the wearer or the user. The scale is not grand but intimate, not public but private or perhaps familial. Several years ago, one of Judy's knitted comfort and joy scarves was accepted in the annual members' show of

the Fiber Art Center in Amherst, MA. The scarves are shaped like an ascot with beaded embellishments. They are intended to do what the name implies—give comfort and joy to the wearer.

Now, Judy's short-term goal is to finish an afghan that is a wedding present for her friend Margaret's daughter and to complete a baby afghan for Margaret's granddaughter-to-be, by June. Both afghans are patterns her mother made many times over, totaling over 100 in her lifetime.

For Judy, the making of fiber arts represents our humanity. Whether the creation is practical or esoteric, it says who we are as an individual and helps shape our culture and thus our civilization. The fiber arts have brought Judy immense pleasure as both a participant and a viewer. Color, pattern, texture—a feast for the senses, what's not to love?

Judy joined WARP because the goals and values matched her own. She has great respect for artisans who make their living from the beauty created by their hands, and she would like to see that recognized fairly in the marketplace. Judy became WARP Administrative Coordinator because she knew it was a job she really wanted to do. She enjoys the work and feels fortunate to regularly communicate with members around the world.

Please contact Judy via info@weaveareapeace.org

Candy Meacham is an educator, a weaver, and WARP board member. She can be reached at mchkee@earthlink.net.

Weaving Together Brings Sense of Unity and Pride

continued from page 1

The Weavers of El Ocotil continue to function as a self regulating unit, a big change for women used to male dominance and lives spent in relative isolation from one another. They have written about the sense of unity weaving has helped create and the pride they

feel in being able to provide for their children.

"Our goals are to learn more with more practice on the loom, to maintain our organizational conviction and unity in the group"

Trinidad Castro

The full story of my experience can be seen at http://www.warpandbytedesigns.com/Ivy_Blackmore.html Thanks to guild member Leslie Killeen of the Triangle Weavers Guild, who suggested I write an article. Rugs and bags are available for purchase. For more information or to support the project please email me at adelle12@gmail.com or call 919/382-8478.

Thanks... to WARP Donors

Blue Ridge Fiber Guild
Linda Bowden
Deb Chandler
Kate Keegan
Judy Newland
Adrienne Sloane
South Jersey Guild of
Spinners and Hand Weavers

Address Changes

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maren.qotc@gmail.com

Karen Searle
ksearlearart@gmail.com

Wendy Weiss writes "I hope you plan to attend the **TSA Conference in Lincoln, NE in October!** I have been a WARP member for years and have been working to make the conference diverse and exciting. In fact the keynote speaker is Sheila Kennedy who I first learned about via a WARP post on the portable light project." Wendy is Co-chair of the Textile Society of America's 12th Biennial Symposium "Textiles and Settlement: From Plains Space to Cyber Space" Oct. 6-9, 2010 Lincoln, NE. Go to <http://www.textilesociety.org/> for more information.

Transforming Our Global Community

Carmen K. Iezzi, Executive Director, Fair Trade Federation

It's hard to believe that less than 100 days remain before the Fair Trade Futures conference in Boston! WARP members can contribute their thoughts and enthusiasm for artisans around the globe in person from September 10-12 and online.

This event - expected to be the largest Fair Trade gathering in North American history - will educate and inspire participants about Fair Trade's holistic approach to trade and development. Not just for those who regularly participate or those who completely agree with the Fair Trade model, we will explore the successes of and challenges to Fair Trade in North America and generate ideas about solutions.

With 750+ people slated to attend from five continents, the conference offers WARP members and anyone curious about, committed to, and cranky with the Fair Trade model to learn and debate; to see, touch, taste; to strategize and connect. Conference sessions range from practical workshops on branding and marketing to debates on whether certification is compatible with Fair

Trade to brainstorming sessions to generate practical ideas to bring more Fair Trade to your community. An expo of 50+ Fair Trade Organizations will also show off the range of great products that are available.



Just as WARP serves as a catalyst for improving the quality of life of artisans, the conference organizers seek to catalyze the growth of the Fair Trade movement by connecting established and emerging Fair Trade supporters with the interesting and useful programs already underway.

Participation by WARP members will help to include the important perspective of those deeply connected to weavers and textile craftpeople in communities-in-need. Plan to join us in Boston from September 10-12, join our discussions online at FairTradeConference.Ning.com, and share your thoughts via Facebook (Fair Trade Futures Conference) and Twitter (@FTImpact) and be a part of this great event!

Carmen Iezzi can be reached at cki@fairtradefederation.org

New Members

Blue Ridge Fiber Guild
Attn: Wanda Hinshaw, June
K. Norris

4310 US Hwy 421 North
Vilas, NC 28692-9484

Des Moines Weavers and
Spinners Guild

Attn: Jane Adams
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Travel Opportunities...

The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC) invites you to participate in a *tinkuy*, or coming together, of weavers and spinners in the Sacred Valley of the Peruvian Highlands near Cusco on November 5-6. Two days of presentations will be followed by optional hands-on workshops on November 7-8. A tour that includes the *tinkuy*, the workshops, and visits to weaving villages and archaeological sites will also be available. To receive more information, send your e-mail address to tinkuy@textilescusco.org. As soon as the information packet is complete, it will be sent to you.

Guatemala Weaving, July 5-15. Three organizations who "know their stuff" have banded together to create a very special opportunity. **Harrisville Designs** has been offering weaving/textile classes in many techniques and at all levels for more than 25 years. **Mayan Hands** has been doing non-profit fair trade work with weavers in the High-

lands of Guatemala for 20 years. And **Textiles Indigo Artes** is a weaving school outside of Antigua, Guatemala, that offers classes in traditional Mayan weaving, contemporary weaving, natural dyeing, and more in a gorgeous setting in the midst of La Azotea, a beautiful old coffee plantation in Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez. WARP founder **Deborah Chandler** is now working with all three organizations to create a weaving experience that makes the most of everyone's strengths. For more information go to <http://www.harrisville.com/images/Guatemala2010.pdf> or call 603-827-3996.

Art Workshops in Guatemala: Backstrap Weaving with Lidia Tarton de Santos - July 22-31, 2010; Weaver's Textile and Craft Tour/Lakes Villages with WARP member Karen Searle - November 11 - 20, 2010.

Go to <http://www.artguat.org/> for more information.



Textile Techniques from Around the World

Deborah Brandon



Deb Brandon

Bolivian Jalq'a Weaving

The Jalq'a people are one of the many Quechua speaking indigenous groups in Bolivia. They reside in the mountains to the west of Sucre, the constitutional capital of Bolivia.

The Jalq'a are well known for their distinctive weaving, which is characterized by the predominance of figures and the lack of geometric shapes. Traditionally the background is black and the figures are red; on the reverse the background is red and the figures black.

The woven pieces are completely filled with a mass of figures facing in different directions depicting beings that are perpetually moving and reproducing, as a representation of the primordial chaos of the underworld, *ukhu pacha*. Weaving among the Jalq'a is a spiritual craft. The initiation of a young woman into the art of weaving involves drinking a potion and then spending a night in seclusion, meditating on pre-Hispanic cave paintings. During the night, the *supay*, the Quechua god of the underworld, possesses her, generating imaginary, often nightmarish, creatures in her mind, which will later inspire her weaving.

Some of the figures represent real animals, such as birds, llamas, or goats. However, more often than not, these animals are stylized in a surreal way: a llama in profile may have both eyes facing forward, or may have multiple eyes.

Most of the figures represent untamed mythical beasts, or *khurus*. Khurus are often portrayed with offspring inside them. Khurus of one species are often pregnant with one or more beings of another species, a dog may be pregnant with a snake. Some of these beings are purely imaginary such as dragons or devils, others are based on real animals, such as winged horses, or four legged birds.



The most prevalent khuru is the *jobado*, a four legged creature with a triangular bump on its head and a hump on its back (pictured below left). Its tail is curved and it is often depicted baring its teeth. The winged- and spiral-tailed griffin can be either two or four legged. The *supay* usually appears once in a weaving. It is depicted as a small winged and horned figure, often carrying a walking stick.

The resulting pieces give the impression of a dark and chaotic world--writhing real and unreal creatures in constant motion, defying gravity. These weavings both baffle the eye and draw its attention.

Resources:

The Art of Bolivian Highland Weaving,

by Marjorie Cason and Adele Cahlander, Watson-Guptill Publications, 1976

Textiles of Central and South America,

by Angela Thompson, The Crowood Press, 2006

Traveling Bolivia Through the Wonders of Weaving, by Kathy Barth and Teresa

Oroza, Landivar SRL, 2001

[http://www.incapallay.org/files/](http://www.incapallay.org/files/Website%20in%20English/)

[Website%20in%20English/](http://www.incapallay.org/files/Website%20in%20English/)

[The%20Jalq%27a%20and%20their%20Weavings.htm](http://www.incapallay.org/files/Website%20in%20English/The%20Jalq%27a%20and%20their%20Weavings.htm)

<http://www.handicraft-bolivia.com/aguayo/buy-craft.php>

<http://www.candelariatours.com/?q=en/node/37>

[http://www.thefreelibrary.com/](http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Pride+in+the+warp+and+weft%3A+the+ancient+art+of+weaving+remains...-a0110473800)

[Pride+in+the+warp+and+weft%3A+the+ancient+art+of+weaving+remains...-a0110473800](http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Pride+in+the+warp+and+weft%3A+the+ancient+art+of+weaving+remains...-a0110473800)

<http://www.asur.org.bo/en/museo/salavi.html>

Deborah Brandon is a multi-talented mathematician and President of WARP's board of directors. She can be reached at 412/963-7416 or at brandon@andrew.cmu.edu

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Carole Pierce, who coordinates WARP's slideshow, is taking reservations now for 2010-2011 programs. Contact her at pierce@mis.net.

Special Section: 2009 Annual Report/ 2010 Annual Meeting



2009 in Review

Membership – At the end of 2009 WARP had 270 members. In Spring of 2009 we made a special offer to former WARP members from 2006 through 2008 which resulted in 23 renewals out of 247 contacted via email – a 9% return.

WARP Board – Board term ended for Linda Temple. Kate Keegan was elected to the opening for a 3-year term. The Board elected the following Officers: President–Deborah Brandon, Vice-President–Adrienne Sloane, Treasurer–Susan Davis, Secretary–Cheryl Musch.

Administrative Coordinator – January through March, Cheryl Musch continued in the role of interim Administrative Coordinator. WARP member, Judy Allen, was hired in March and by May had fully taken over the position. WARP owes much thanks to Cheryl who, after many years as Administrative Coordinator returned in an interim capacity for a year, providing a smooth transition.

Annual Meeting – Members from 18 states and Guatemala gathered in Lancaster County, PA at the Mennonite Conference Center in Akron from March 13 to 15. Among the attendees were our two Alice Brown Memorial Scholars, September Krueger, MFA student at East Carolina University, and Claire Nicholas, doctoral Anthropology student at Princeton. Among the many highlights was our tour of the Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum and Ten Thousand Villages headquarters.

Newsletter – The newsletter under Linda Temple's excellent editorship continues to be a key reason that members cite for joining WARP. The publication plays an important role in connecting members with people and projects of interest. In producing four issues a year, Linda devotes a tremendous amount of time to WARP and we owe her an equal amount of praise and thanks.

Slide Show – The WARP slide show was converted to a digital format to accommodate guilds who are using digital projectors. The show had seven showings in 2009. Carol Pierce continues to book and send out the slide show for which she deserves much thanks.

Web Presence – Work began on the updating of the WARP website. We created pages on Facebook, Ravelry, and Weavevolution. Our WARP Yahoo Discussion group continues as a vehicle for members to communicate with each other and WARP's way to share announcements and information between newsletters.

Thank you to all 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, make arrangements for our annual meetings, serve on the ABM scholarship committee, and so much more that contributes to the mission of WARP!

Redesigned Site! WARP on the Web - 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; on Weavevolution, <http://www.weavevolution.com>; and on Facebook.

Correction: In the last issue, Susan Schaefer Davis's article about the response she received from WARP members to plan her trip to Thailand should have read "Other WARP members also added to the trip. Susan Weltman had advice about places to go and how to travel – renting a car and driver/guide by the day is one good way. Carol IRELAND and her family lived in Thailand for a year when she was in high school, and since then she has organized trips for friends."

Member News: Miriam Leth-Espensen, owner of Miriam's Well in Santa Fe, writes that Misti Alpaca has purchased five of her knitting designs. The BC Cape will be in

the The National NeedleArts fashion show in June. See all designs at www.sfschoolofweaving.com under 'Miriam's Designs.' Also Miriam was chosen by National Geographic to represent The Fiber Place for their summer Santa Fe report in their travel section.

Artisanwork.org, SERRV's website for artisans, is hosting an online Quality Control forum from June 21-July 19, 2010. The overall goal of this discussion is to exchange ideas, systems and processes that artisans/producers have in place in order to achieve quality products. To join the forum go to <http://www.artisanwork.org/node/494>

Special Section: 2009 Annual Report/ 2010 Annual Meeting



WARP Annual Business Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2010 - Spirit in the Desert, Carefree, Arizona

Minutes by Susan Schaefer Davis

The Meeting was called to order by Adrienne Sloane at 9:05 am on Sunday, May 2, 2010.

The **Minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting** were read and approved, after correcting the site of last year's meeting to Akron, PA from Akron, OH.

2009 programs and activities were reviewed by Deb Brandon. One thing of special note was Judy Allen beginning as Administrative Coordinator. Cheryl Musch served as interim coordinator from Jan-March, and worked with Judy until May, when Judy took over completely; Cheryl was given many thanks for her help during the transition.

The **Annual Meeting** was held March 13-15 in Akron PA, with a focus on quilting. Members from 18 states and Guatemala attended. Activities included a visit to the Lancaster Quilt Museum with a private viewing of Amish quilts about to be displayed, and a hands-on workshop at the headquarters of Ten Thousand Villages in Akron; we also stayed at their Welcoming Center.

Susan Davis presented the **Financial Report** for 2009. While expenses exceeded income, she pointed out that there was an expense of \$5,419.43 for 2008 which appeared in 2009, related to the staff transition. This will not recur. Some of our savings and checking accounts have been consolidated and moved to a more convenient bank. It was noted that the planned 10% of member dues to the endowment for 2007, 2008, and 2009 were deposited in April 2010. The additional \$3,229 brings our endowment fund to about \$24,000. Deborah Chandler explained the reason for the endowment, saying she knew of many NGOs that failed because they had nothing to fall back on. The goal is to have enough endowment income to pay our administrative coordinator's salary. It was moved and seconded to accept the financial report and all approved.

Candy Meacham reported on a **new website** for WARP. Joan Fernbach will continue to maintain the new site. Candy began working on it last year, and it was nearly ready at the time of the Annual Meeting. It is now available, at <http://www.weavearealpeace.org>

Related to the website, WARP is planning to put our **membership directory online**. 2010 will be a transitional year, with it appearing both in hard copy and online. But after that, the directory will be online, in a print-friendly format. Printed copies will be available by request for \$5.00.

Carole Pierce is still managing the **WARP slide show**, and worked on converting it to digital format last year. However many of the slides did not scan well, so we are requesting members submit new photos, in digital format.

Many people were **thanked** for their work for WARP during the year: Linda Temple for producing our fabulous Newsletter, and Cindy Lair for mailing it; Adrienne Sloane for organizing this year's program, with help from Judy Newland; Teena Jennings for coordinating the Marketplace at the annual meeting; Candy Meacham for her work on the new website, and also for putting together a handbook for new Board members; Cindy Lair for rescue and revival of the too-silent auction, which raised over \$700 this year; Judy Allen and Kate Keegan for especially clear financial reports; Sarah Saulson for her work on the nominating committee, scholarship committee, and for handling our brochures; Carole Pierce for managing distribution of the slide show; Blaise Temple for his help with technology.

Election of Board Members. Board members Adrienne Sloane and Cheryl Musch completed their terms and were thanked for their service by Sarah Saulson. She and Deb Brandon as the Nominating Committee presented the slate of Linda Bowden and Jackie Abrams as candidates for these two positions. They requested nominations from the floor but none were presented. There was a motion and second for their acceptance as Board members, and their approval was unanimous.

Plans for 2010-2011: You will be seeing some **changes in the Newsletter**. Our Editor Linda Temple had requested them, and Cindy Lair researched the various options and presented the results to the Board. They agreed that the Newsletter should go from 16 cropped to 12 full size pages, which will be folded. This will allow inclusion of a similar amount of material, but will be less expensive to mail. The Board also approved new software for Linda, and the inclusion of four pages in color each issue.

The Board has come up with a **new initiative called Hand to Hand** that they feel will enhance our mission of networking. Briefly, the idea is to link fiber-centered organizations in the United States and abroad for mutual benefit and support. See the article with more details on page 4; it is also described on our web site. The board is very excited about this, and feel it will help many of our members be more actively involved. Judy Allen, Jackie Abrams, and Susan Davis will be the initial contact people.

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Special Section: 2009 Annual Report/ 2010 Annual Meeting



Weave A Real Peace Financial Report - 2009

WARP Checking Account - 2009

1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009

	Jan - Dec 09
Income	
Annual Meeting Fees	\$ 6,405.00
Bank Refund	159.85
Donations	2,649.00
Dues	10,765.00
Interest Inc	210.30
Scholarship Donations	145.00
Silent Auction	876.00
Uncategorized Income	120.00
Vendor Fees Annual Meeting	200.10
Total Income	\$21,530.25
Expense	
2008 Expense	\$ 5,419.43
2008 Newsletter Mailing	173.61
Annual Meeting Expense	6,173.89
Annual Meeting Refund	395.00
Bank Charge	164.85
Board Meeting Expense	1,113.10
Mail Service	944.90
Membership Directory	
Envelopes	47.78
Postage	557.91
Printing	837.38
Total Membership Directory	1,443.07
Newsletter	
Postage	493.74
Printing	1,236.93
Total Newsletter	1,730.67
Office Supplies	143.75
Postage	309.89
Slide Show Expenses	109.40
Staff Salary	7,600.00
Uncategorized Expenses	120.00
Web site	45.00
Total Expense	\$ 25,886.56
Net Income	\$ (4,356.31)

Account Summary

Checking - HCU & BOA	
12/31/2008	\$ 18,228.03
12/31/2009	1,612.06
MM Sav - HCU	
12/31/2008	9,019.18
12/31/2009	0.00
CD - HCU	
12/31/2008	6,887.99
12/31/2009	0.00
Savings - HCU	
12/31/2008	25.00
12/31/2009	0.00
Savings - BOA	
12/31/2008	0.00
12/31/2009	35,768.78
Total Balance - 12/31/09	\$ 37,380.84

Endowment Fund

1/1/09 - 12/31/09

Income

Interest earned	\$ 14.13
**Deposit	0.00
**Net Income	14.13
1/1/09 Balance	20,820.12
**Net Income	14.13
**12/31/09 Balance	\$ 20,834.25

Cumulative Totals FY 2009

Account Balances	\$ 37,380.84
Endowment Balances	\$ 20,834.25
Total	\$ 58,215.09

** 10% of member dues were not added to the Endowment Fund in 2007, 2008, or 2009. In early 2010, \$3,229 will be moved from checking to the Fund.

WARP Annual Business Meeting Minutes

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We noted that the SIGs or Special Interest Groups did not rouse much interest, so it will be left to the initiative of members if they wish to organize them.

There were many suggestions for the location of the 2011 Annual Meeting. They included Lowell, MA; Berea or Paducah, KY; California; and Morocco. Morocco was ruled out for 2011, but people were asked to consider the feasibility of having our 20th anniversary

meeting there in 2012. Suggestions from the floor included Toronto; Austin or Blanco, TX; FL; and the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in TN. Also mentioned were the John Campbell Folk School in NC; Burlington, VT; and the Rhode Island School of Design. Possibilities will be explored, and members with suggestions are encouraged to contact any WARP Board member.

Meeting adjourned.

WARP Meeting Again Accomplishes Goal of “Networking and Sharing Information [to] Create an Environment for Constructive Action”

Gloria Miller

The beautiful courtyard of the Heard Museum in Phoenix (<http://www.heard.org>) was the site this year of WARP members’ initial greetings as we gathered for our annual meeting. We were treated to a tour of the textiles of the American



Indian community in the museum’s permanent collection which included new as well as old renditions of traditional patterns and themes.

From the museum we headed a few miles north to the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, AZ, which proved to be yet another nourishing environment in which to continue learning about local traditions, sharing projects, networking and just spending time with old and new friends.

Our Friday evening gathering and introductions set a welcoming tone as well as a springboard for endless connecting opportunities as we shared projects and passions. This year three members travelled from beyond the US: Dorinda Dutcher arrived from Bolivia where she works with fiber artists to promote traditional weaving and natural dyeing techniques (see pages 2 & 12); Janice Knausenberger (<http://test.jgkdesigns.com/outreach.aspx>) who arrived from Kenya where she works with several projects that enhance the skills of local weavers of fabric and basketry; and Deborah Chandler arrived from Guatemala City where she coordinates the many weavers of Mayan Hands (<http://mayanhands.org>). Thanks to Judy Newland, one of her Master’s students at ASU, Kelsey Wiskirchen joined us and brought her vibrant enthusiasm for creating contemporary textiles, especially in ways that honor the environment.

In between presentations on the art of contemporary American Indians, members’ projects, business meeting, shopping in the Marketplace and bidding at the silent auction (which spontaneously became live!), WARPers could be found in endless conversation, sharing meals and enjoying the desert scenery on walks along Nonchalant Avenue and Tranquil Trail or contemplatively walking the labyrinth. Desert flowers were in bloom among the towering saguaro and an occasional cochineal could be spotted by the experienced eye.

The local yarn shop on Hum Road had a few visitors which included a spontaneous lesson and personal draft developed for the owner by none other than “Your Weaving Teacher” Deborah Chandler, who left the shop incognito but certainly well appreciated.

As the weekend progressed, we discovered commonalities and complementarities as well as endless ways to help one another with projects in various stages of development. Suitcases went home either lighter or heavier with the exchange of



Current WARP Board Members: Linda Bowden, Jackie Abrams, Susan Schaefer Davis, Deb Brandon, Kate Keegan, and Candy Meacham, with Administrative Coordinator Judy Allen.

products auctioned, sold, bartered, or carried to new markets and special thanks were offered to outgoing and incoming board members, the planning committee, and Judy Newland, who helped in so many ways with the local arrangements.



Not-so-silent Auction Participants



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

The Annual Meeting Issue!

Irene Schmoeller, on the Cotton Clouds blog @ <http://cottoncloudblog.wordpress.com/>

Another WARP Connection: Excerpts from the Cotton Clouds Blog



Dorinda Dutcher, Irene Schmoeller, Bonnie Tarses at WARP Annual Meeting



Bolivian weaver

While at the recent annual meeting of Weave a Real Peace, I met Dorinda Dutcher, a former Peace Corp volunteer who is working with weavers in Bolivia. Her amazing story of determination, compassion, hard work and devotion to the Quechua women in the Bolivian Andes touched my heart. Was it because I saw myself in her, 20 years ago when I almost left everything behind to go into the Peace Corp? Was it because I had just written in my diary that I wanted to do more than Cotton

Clouds? That I wanted to “give back” somehow to women all over the world who made their sustenance living by weaving? Is that why I went to the WARP meeting in the first place? For crying out loud, my name means PEACE anyway and that’s all I want in this world!

So, after hearing Dorinda’s amazing story of how her initial Peace Corp project of helping with tourism in Independencia never materialized, because there were not tourists there, but developed into helping the women in the Cordillera Oriental of the Bolivian Andes learn more about dyeing their handspun wool using local plants on a very limited budget, Bonnie Tarses (<http://weavingspirit.blogspot.com/>) and I decided to donate a portion of the sales from Bonnie’s designs of the Cotton Clouds’ Horoscope Shawl & Baby Blanket kits (<http://www.cottonclouds.com/shopping/kits.asp?cat=Weaving>) to help Dorinda continue this project (read more on page 2).



One of Bonnie’s designs of the Cotton Clouds’ Horoscope Shawl