



Volume 27, Number 1 - Spring 2020

# Artisans Beyond Borders: Embroidering Hope at the US Border

Valarie Lee James

As we wash and hang embroidered mantas made by asylum seekers on our clotheslines in our yards in Tucson, I think about how far “Artisans Beyond Borders,” our creative arts initiative at the Arizona-Mexico border, has come in the past year.



*Embroidered mantas from Mexico, washed and hanging on the line in Tucson*

As “Friends of Artisans Beyond Borders,” my colleagues and I assist asylum seekers in the most personal and direct way—doing whatever we can to support and promote the making of heritage crafts honed through generations.

The Artisans Beyond Borders initiative grew in large part out of a trauma-informed Arts & Activities program developed in 2018-2019 at Tucson’s Casa Alitas short-term Welcome Center for asylum seekers. Our volunteer facilitators learned how to best respond to the needs of our

guests from Latin America by listening to and observing what was most comfortable and healing to them. Culturally-aligned handwork—embroidery, crochet, and weaving—brought about calm, respite, and more resiliency to make it through another day of forced migration and family displacement.



*Artisans Beyond Borders signing their completed work and picking up donated supplies on the street in Nogales, Mexico.*

In summer 2019, we brought Arts & Activities to a resource-poor shelter on the other side of the border in Nogales, Mexico, where families waited for months

*continued on page 10*

## Creating A Connected Textile Community

### MISSION

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

### PURPOSE

Exchange information

Raise awareness of the importance of textile traditions to grassroots economies

Mobilize textile enthusiasts

Create conversations that result in action

### CORE VALUES

Textiles are an important component of the human experience

Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action

Making connections between textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change

Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives



All photos courtesy of Valarie Lee James



# The Himroo Revival Project: Handloom 2.0

Arushi Chowdhury Khannar

The handloom sector in India is unique in the world not only by virtue of the myriad techniques of handweaving that are still

is an ornate brocade fabric that was born out of the interaction between Persian weavers and local cotton weavers.

Himroo had always held great mystery and romance for me and, as a textile professional, I always wanted to work with it.

But when I landed in Aurangabad in January 2018, I discovered that all the Himroo looms had shut down, most of the weavers had passed away and there seemed to be no record of the original fabrics. The situation was bleak.

However, daunted but not defeated, I embarked on a sort of treasure hunt, with

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The deadline for  
contributions to the  
Summer issue of the WARP  
newsletter is  
**April 24, 2020**

Send articles and  
correspondence for  
the newsletter to:

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*It took us many iterations and experiments until we were able to weave a traditional two-coloured Himroo design known as Lal Phool (red flower)*

practiced here, but also by sheer volume. We produce over 95% of the world's handwoven textiles. There are approximately 11 million weavers in India.

But despite these impressive numbers, the harsh reality is that 47% of our weavers live below the poverty line. Simply put, their hard work just doesn't pay.

However, over the past five years, thanks to the internet boom, handloom work is experiencing a sort of renaissance. Weavers in areas like Banaras have been able to leverage WhatsApp and social media to reach out to thousands of customers globally.

But there are still many crafts that continue to languish. One of them is Himroo. This article looks at the story of our revival of the ancient technique of Himroo in today's digital world.

Marco Polo described Himroo as the finest fabric of the Deccan (the Southern part in ancient India, south of the Satpura and Vindhya ranges). It originated in Aurangabad, in western India in the 13th century. It



*This is a Himroo fragment over 30 years old woven on a draw loom. From Imran Qureshi's collection, it is known as the Ajanta design inspired by the historic Ajanta Buddhist cave paintings close by.*

one clue leading to the next until I finally met the historian Mrs Dulari Qureshi.

Her father-in-law Haji Abdul Hameed had been a national award-winning Himroo master weaver. Mrs Qureshi shared that her nephew Imran had fought hard to keep some of the looms running and might be of help.

So I went to meet Imran. And found the treasure trove I had been looking for. Imran had meticulously filed many of the original Himroo swatches from the looms run by his grandfather. As I went through each little fragment, the craft—its colours, its complexity, its grandeur—came alive.

*continued on page 8*



# WARP 2020: Grassroots: Yarn and Tales

## Tentative Agenda, Bozeman, MT, May 28-31

Dorinda Dutcher

This year's meeting will combine the annual opportunities for WARP fellowship with sharing WARP's mission with Bozeman's lovers of handmade textiles (maybe even making a few converts).

Meeting participants will inaugurate WARP 2020 on Thursday evening with the Welcome Circle. On Friday morning, WARP members will convene for the annual business meeting. The theme for Friday's tour is local fiber production and processing. The first stop will be a visit with Anne Gullion and her family at Sentinel Ranch Alpacas. Her knowledge and passion along with learning about shearing alpacas, with a backdrop of the spring's crias (babes) gamboling in the nursery pasture and a spectacular mountain vista, will make for a memorable morning. The next stop will be LaVonne Stuckey's Wool Mill. LaVonne will share her experiences, hopes, and the challenges of the cottage industry processing of local fiber. Upon return to the MSU campus there will be a few hours to relax, explore Bozeman, and dine before the evening's activity.

Friday night will be a "Celebration of Handmade Cloth" at the historic Ellen Theater. To begin conversations between WARP members and the public, all are asked to don or accessorize with a hand-made textile(s) that tells a tale. What an icebreaker for promoting WARP! The lobby will open 1.5 hours early so that WARP, Thrums publications and its WARP authors, and the Bozeman Weavers Guild can greet movie goers. The main event will be Marilyn and Rainer Romatka's documentary, "Interlacements: Threads and Lives" which conveys the passion for hand-woven cloth by the maker and/or recipient. Marilyn has observed that viewers' reactions tend to be, "where can I learn to weave?"

Saturday will be a day of presentations on the MSU campus. Elizabeth Tritthart will begin the day with her presentation of "Mary Meigs Atwater: An Unsung Montana Legend". Bonnie Tarses's fascination with hemp has led her to research her presentation, "Hemp in Montana and Beyond". From her global perspective, WARP Board

member, Philis Alvic, will speak on "Designing for the International Market". Additional presentations will include a continuation of Friday's theme of local fiber production and processing as well as the sustainability of textile heritages, and the textile industry and sustainability. The search for this year's three scholarship students is underway (see page 6), and those presentations are always inspiring. The presentations will end with the opportunity for interaction between the speakers and audience through a panel format.

The fun and laughter that marks the Saturday evening events will begin with the 2nd annual fashion show with the continuing theme of "Textiles that Tell a Tale". The Silent Auction will be open all day Saturday, and the day will end with the annual Live Auction.

Sunday morning is the Roundtable Forum and it will be open to the public. Some of the topics will be determined beforehand and others will become apparent by the end of Saturday's presenta-

*continued on page 11*

### What's in this Newsletter...

Artisans Beyond Borders .....	1
Himroo Revival Project.....	2
WARP 2020: Agenda.....	3
WARP Membership Information .....	3
WARP's Story .....	4
Member Profile: Mari Gray .....	5
WARP on Social Media.....	5
From WARP's President.....	6
Scholarships for Meeting Available ...	6
Travel Opportunities .....	6, 7
WARP 2020: Need to Know .....	7
Board Nominations Sought.....	8
New Members .....	8, 9
Assistantships Available.....	9
Attention Vendors!.....	9
Live and Silent Auctions.....	9
Thanks to Donors .....	10, 11
Limitless Horizons for Ixil Weavers..	12

### Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

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

#### 2020 Annual Dues (USD)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# For Those Who Haven't Heard the Story

Kelsey Wiskirchen

WARP has been around for 28 years, and for long-time members whose lives have been inextricably touched by WARP, it is impossible to imagine where we would be without it. One of our original members, co-

Annual Meeting, which has grown into a full-fledged conference, and has taken WARP members to Guatemala, Oaxaca, and to cities all over the United States.

According to our mission, "our purpose is to exchange information, raise awareness of the importance of textile traditions to grassroots economies, mobilize textile enthusiasts and create conversations that result in action." The WARP community is an incredible resource for anyone interested in our core values. These include: fair trade, empowerment for women, sustainability, community activism, humanitarianism (and the list goes on). We are authors, professors, designers, consultants, weavers, and much more. We have members working worldwide, as well as in our home communities. As a networking organization, we learn and grow from each other.

In the words of Deborah, "I tell people regularly that they will not meet a more interesting group of people than those at WARP meetings, and just the intellectual, social, spiritual, economic, and hard-working thrill I get from being around the WARP crowd has never been surpassed anywhere else. Tangible benefits abound, people helping each other to advance development or generate new ideas, and we are always trying to get members to share those stories, to inspire each other. But it is so much more than that, so much longer-lasting and more profound."

WARP is an especially incredible resource for early-career individuals. We have the Alice Brown Memorial scholarship to provide assistance for those under the age of 35 to join the annual meeting. Deborah writes, "Especially for first timers and young people it is a real eye-opening experience to see what is being done, especially by women, especially with miniscule budgets, even from home. It's also a lesson in how to create miracles instead of only waiting for them to fall on us."

This is the story of WARP. What was intended to be one gathering grew into an annual meeting, and an original network of about eight has grown to hundreds. We

*continued on page 8*

## WARP Governing Board

Philis Alvic

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Term expires 2021

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*The first WARP Meeting in Colorado after the hotel room meeting at Convergence '92 in Washington, DC. From l to r: Anne Murray, Linda Temple, Janice Downs, Deborah Chandler, Marji Rae, Beth Davis.*

founder Deborah Chandler, said recently of WARP, "After it being a part of me for more than a quarter of a century, I could no more separate it out than I could imagine life without my loom, even when I don't weave for long stretches."

In 1990, after she returned from the Peace Corps, Deborah began working for the fair trade organization **Pueblo to People**. Through this work, she found herself in conversations with many women who work with artisan groups throughout Latin America and she hungered for more. Deborah says, "Finally one night in a flash of revelation I had the idea that we should have a conference, or a weekend, or a meeting at some other conference, or something, a gathering at which we could talk to our hearts' content."

Just like that WARP was born; from idea to action, which is how so many of WARP's members operate. Deborah wrote letters to everyone she could think of, and the time the most were able to gather was at the 1992 Convergence conference in Washington, DC. That same summer, a small group gathered again in Colorado to continue the conversations they had begun. These gatherings have continued every year at WARP's



# Member Profile: Mari Gray

Gloria Miller

*"I believe that fiber arts can be one important form of building economic and social resilience in rural communities, so that people can improve their livelihoods and keep cultural traditions alive."*

Born in Guatemala to a Japanese mother and American father, raised in Tokyo and California and spending summers in Guatemala, Mari Gray very much identifies as a "Third Culture Kid". She is delighted to be back



Mari Gray

living in Antigua, Guatemala after working for two years in Austria and the Netherlands on her master's in Sustainable Development.

Mari was born into the fiber world where her mother is a career fiber artist, and she remembers taking naps on heaps of yarn and learning the basics of weaving, knitting, and embroidery alongside reading and writing. This early immersion and some workshops are the sum of her fiber arts studies. She sees her contribution to be in the area of design: she develops and helps others plan culturally appropriate and technologically feasible products that honor the local culture and can be produced within the limitations of the Guatemalan context.

Mari makes a modest living with her small business Kakaw Designs (pronounced "cacao" like the chocolate tree). Despite her previously looking down upon the "middleman" role in working with artisans, she has come to realize the importance of someone communicating designs, overseeing quality, and facilitating logistics such as payments and shipping which help to maintain long term relationships with the buyers. She also works with retailers and designers that cover the gamut from runway shows to local markets.

Her focus is on facilitating custom design work which she has come to realize is a big gap in working with artisans. The fact that she is able to facilitate the combining of various regional techniques helps to capitalize on the strengths of various crafters, and

she helps them focus on designs that honor traditions, are of consistent quality, and are marketable.

She is grateful to Kathy McHenry who gifted her with a membership in WARP. Kathy had seen Mari's posts of textile mystery images while cataloging Latin American works at the Textile Research Centre in Leiden, Netherlands, and thought some WARP members might be able to help her out. As a 2019 scholarship recipient members also had the opportunity to meet Mari and experience her enthusiastic commitment to creatively preserving traditions.

Her website [www.kakawdesigns.com](http://www.kakawdesigns.com) sells

original products designed by Mari and handmade collaboratively among different artisan groups (backstrap and floor loom weaving, natural dyes, ikat, pik'bil, hand embroidery, leatherwork, ceramics, and silverwork). Custom orders can also be developed. There is also information on Textile Travels which feature rural artisan workshops where both locals and international visitors can share and exchange their textile experiences and creative ideas. Mari is happy to connect with more WARP members and is eager to hear more new ideas, [mari@kakawdesigns.com](mailto:mari@kakawdesigns.com)

*Gloria Miller, the Member Profile columnist, is a Sister of Mercy and has been working with a knitting group in Peru for many years. She became connected with WARP when she started weaving in 2006 and continues to enjoy weaving and her weaving connections all over the world.*



Francisca Hernández and Mari modeling their indigo shawls

## Connect to the WARP Community!

-  @weaveareal-peace\_
-  Weave A Real Peace
-  @WeaveARealPeace
-  Weave A Real Peace (Google Groups)
-  [weavearealpeace.com/blog](http://weavearealpeace.com/blog)
-  Weave A Real Peace

## Post Your WARP Experiences

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

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

## Be a Social Media Volunteer

Interested in writing a guest post for our blog? Contact Deborah Chandler [weavingfutures2012@gmail.com](mailto:weavingfutures2012@gmail.com)

Would you like to be featured on our Instagram? Contact Lola Faruroti [lolalovescargo@gmail.com](mailto:lolalovescargo@gmail.com)

Interested in helping with the blog or Facebook? Contact Carrie Miller, Social Media Volunteer Coordinator [carriemiller24@gmail.com](mailto:carriemiller24@gmail.com)



# From WARP's President

Susan Weltman

It's been a busy time for me since our last newsletter! Thanks to Marilyn Romatka, I spoke to the Seattle Weavers' Guild in December. What fun that was! As an invited



speaker, my plane fare was paid for, with an honorarium contributed to WARP. The Seattle Guild is large, maybe the largest

in the country and turnout was terrific. I brought copies of Deb Brandon's book (**Threads Around the World**), and gave one as a gift for the Guild library. In March I'll have the opportunity to speak briefly at the Southern California Handweavers' Guild thanks to an invitation from Cameron Taylor-Brown.

Something that has been on my mind and that of many members of WARP is the issue of sustainability. Big deal in the press for Jane Fonda who wore a dress to the Oscars that was originally worn to Cannes in 2014! In my neighborhood we have a "Buy Nothing" group with the express intention of buying less and decreasing shopping by mail order and of plastics.

(That's how I gave away the six extra spools of black thread that I had somehow accumulated!)

I spoke with some WARP members to learn more about how sustainability informs their work. Lola Faturoti ([lolaloves-cargo.com](http://lolaloves-cargo.com)) uses re-purposed t-shirts in her dresses (which sold out at the Meeting in DC), Mari Gray ([mari@kakawdesigns.com](mailto:mari@kakawdesigns.com)) searches the markets in Guatemala for damaged cortes (traditional wrap skirts) which she and her colleagues patch up and turn

into beautifully patched skirts or tea towels. Our newest WARP member, Ella Richardson ([ellagoodinerichardson.com](http://ellagoodinerichardson.com)) creates fabulous lingerie from repurposed silk.

Katie Simmons (who has a new job as Associate Director of the TechStyle LAB at Kent State) says that "sustainability is not just a trend, it is the future of fashion." Cynthia Alberto (who has opened a fabulous new shop in Williamsburg, Brooklyn) is working with designers on Zero Waste Weaving; scrap yardage is cut into strips and used as the weft material. This work has been on the runway in recent fashion shows.

Mayan Hands is using recycled denim and off-white cloth from industrial workshops, shredding them and adding virgin cotton which is then used by weavers. We have read in a recent Newsletter about Jackie Abrams' work with women at the dump in Guatemala City learning to make baskets from waste. And of course we know about Mary Anne Wise (a speaker at the Meeting in 2018) and Jody Slocum's work with rug hookers in Guatemala.

How about natural dyeing! Rocio Mena Gutierrez is doing amazing work with indigo. And Irene Schmoller of Cotton Clouds says consumers are increasingly interested in naturally dyed and organically raised cotton.

Please let us know how sustainability and the increased attention to (over) consumption is influencing and being reflected in your work. Please follow the work of those mentioned in this letter and apologies to members whose work I've left out. I know that WARP members are doing wonderful, important work around the globe.

Susan can be reached at [sweltwoman@gmail.com](mailto:sweltwoman@gmail.com).



## Scholarships Available for Annual Meeting

Applications for the 2020 Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship are due on March 31st. If you know of any potential applicants, please direct them to the Annual Meeting Financial Aid page at [\[ealpeace.org\]\(http://ealpeace.org\). Please also feel free to contact Carrie Miller \[carriemiller24@gmail.com\]\(mailto:carriemiller24@gmail.com\) with any questions or to obtain a scholarship flyer.](http://weavear-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

## Travel Opportunities

**Tours By Sharon** curates unique small group travel experiences that focus on local culture, regional crafts, textiles, cultural events, festivals, museums, archaeological sites, churches, nature and much more. For more information visit [toursbysharon.com](http://toursbysharon.com)

A portion of each tour is donated back to WARP.

### San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

October 2 - 10, 2020  
Experience the Patron Saint Festival, when the city comes alive with colorful parades, performers, and lots of fireworks. We visit museums, churches, art galleries, artisan shops (crafts and textiles from all over Mexico), an archaeological site and a winery with a tasting. In nearby Guanajuato, we explore the Diego Rivera Museum, churches, and more.

### Mexico City & Puebla

October 28 - November 6, 2020. In Mexico, Day of the Dead is a celebration of life and death, a reaffirmation of indigenous life. We will see private and community *ofrendas* (altars) that are meant to welcome spirits back to the world of the living. Highlights in Mexico City will be Frida's "Blue House", the Zocalo, Teotihuacan, and the Floating Gardens. In Puebla, a walking tour of the town, craft workshops, and visits to villages.



# 2020 Annual Meeting: What You Need to Know

Bozeman, MT is situated in the Gallatin Valley surrounded by six glorious mountain ranges. The weather during the May 28th to 31st annual meeting could be spring, summer, winter, or all three in the same day. The WARP meeting will take place on the Montana State University (MSU) campus which is a 25 minute saunter through a historical neighborhood to the heart of downtown. Much of Main Street's architecture dates to the 1880's when Bozeman was a boom town of the railroad era. Today the seven blocks of historic downtown are home to breweries, distilleries, tea shops, coffee houses, restaurants, boutiques, galleries, theaters, a hardware store, and the public library with its breathtaking 2nd floor mountain vista. Hiking trails wind through Bozeman and adventure for every level of comfort and ability lies beyond.

**Meeting Registration Fees:** The full meeting cost includes speaker fees, program facility fees, all activity fees, breakfast and lunch on Friday, 3 meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. For anyone interested in attending just Friday or just Saturday's program there is a Single Day Registration option.

- Full Meeting Registration is \$285
- Friday Day Registration is \$125 (includes breakfast, annual meeting, 2 tours with catered lunch, transportation for the tours, and movie admission; dinner is on your own)
- Saturday Day Registration is \$75 (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, presentations, fashion show, silent and live auctions)
- MSU Meal and Movie Package is \$63. (For spouses, partners, and/or friends who are sharing a room with a WARP meeting attendee, but will not be participating in the conference. Includes Friday breakfast, 3 meals on Saturday, Sunday breakfast, and admission to Friday night's movie. There are no refunds for skipping meals or the movie.)

**Meals:** Dining on the MSU Campus will be at the new Rendezvous Dining Hall that opened in 2018. Friday's lunch at the Sentinel Alpaca Ranch will be catered. All meals will be served buffet-style to accommodate special dietary needs.

**Housing:** Housing will be in a MSU residence hall. All rooms whether single or double occupancy are \$50 and there is no tax. If you wish to extend your Bozeman visit, the \$50/night rate is available to WARP meeting registrants one night before the meeting (May 27th) and the night after the meeting (May 31st). After you register for the meeting, **please reserve your room directly with MSU through the provided link on the WARP meeting registration page** (<https://weavearealpeace.org/2020-annual-meeting-bozeman-mt/>). If you reserve a double occupancy room please work out the split payment with your roommate. If you are looking for a roommate you can post your request on WARP's Google Group "Roommate Needed" thread.

**Financial Assistance:** WARP has a Scholarship Program for students and young professionals under the age of 35 to attend the annual meeting. WARP also offers an Assistantship Program for members who would benefit from financial assistance to attend the meeting in return for assisting at the meeting. Please see articles on pages 6 and 9.

**Tips** for planning your visit to Big Sky Country:

- Check out the Bozeman Convention and Visitor Bureau's website, especially the travel blog: <http://www.bozemancvb.com/>
- The scenic drive from Bozeman through Paradise Valley to the north entrance of Yellowstone, America's 1st National Park, is 78 miles. The Park roads open in late April as they are cleared of snow. Campgrounds have staggered openings, so research opening dates for campgrounds and the Park entrance if traveling from the northeast.
- There are too many lodging and tour possibilities to list, however, private tours and day trips may be arranged through Yellowstone Forever, the official non-profit partner of Yellowstone National Park: <https://www.yellowstone.org/> and operates out of Gardiner at the north entrance of the Park.
- Glacier National Park is 300 miles northwest of Bozeman along the Canadian border. The Going to the Sun Road will not open until June 22.
- Dress in layers, and bring a swimsuit because hot springs abound.

## More Travel Opportunities

Join the **International Folk Art Market** and tour leader Josh Schrei on two unforgettable trips in 2020.

**Gujarat and Rajasthan**  
| Passport to Folk Art Trip  
October 15th - 27th, 2020

**Brazil** | Passport to Folk Art Trip  
September 4 - 16, 2020

For more information, email Josh Schrei at [josh.schrei@gmail.com](mailto:josh.schrei@gmail.com)



## Traditions Mexico Cultural Tours

**A Journey to Morocco:**  
For Lovers of Textiles and Folk Art  
June 12-20, 2020

We're excited to be offering a collection of Beyond Mexico tours this year, and can't wait to dig into all the amazing things Morocco has to offer.

More information at <https://traditionsmexico.com/>



## New Members

Caitlin Garcia Ahern  
Thread Caravan  
Atlanta, GA

Sarah Beyer  
Rio Vista, TX

Janet Bruns  
Bainbridge Island, WA

Kathy Coache  
Westfield, MA

Barbara French  
Bozeman, MT

Laura Heck  
Bozeman Weavers Guild  
Bozeman, MT

Charity Kittler  
Gardner, KS

Barbara Lacey  
Portland, OR

Karen Lohn  
Annandale, MN

Linda McIntosh  
Textile Tours  
Luang Prabang 0600  
Laos

Addison Nace  
Madison, WI

## Nominations Sought For WARP Board of Directors

We are seeking nominations for the WARP Board, for a three-year term. The Board elects its own officers, so someone joining the Board can choose their own method of service within the organization, although at the moment WARP is in need of a board member with strong interest in financial record-keeping to be Treasurer. This is a working board, rather than a fundraising board (although helping to raise funds for the organization is important). Board members are expected

to attend the Annual Meeting, but some financial assistance is available, if needed. There are monthly Board conference calls to coordinate committee work. WARP works to have a Board that reflects the general membership, geographically, with older and younger members, and a mix of experience. You are invited to nominate a WARP member you have admired or yourself.

Send nomination and a brief bio to Sara Lamb at [lambspin@gmail.com](mailto:lambspin@gmail.com)

## How WARP Began

*continued from page 4*

operate under the principle that collective efforts are greater than solo enterprise. The lives and work of WARP members become so intertwined, that like a weaving itself is stronger than an individual thread, so are we as a community.

*Weaver, teacher, writer, reluctant administrator, and networker, Deborah Chandler agreed to be interviewed for this article. DC credits WARP's existence to the monumental ongoing efforts of WARP's other co-founder, our newsletter editor, Linda Temple.*

## The Himroo Revival Project

*continued from page 2*

I was extremely fortunate to find funding support for a pilot project from CANPAC industries, a Polish multinational corporation with bottle- and can-making plants in Aurangabad.

Their CEO Harsh Jajoo had a fascinating rationale. He told me, "With the growth of AI,



*Abdul Hamid, the one surviving Himroo weaver returns to his loom after nearly a decade*

all our processes are getting automated at an unprecedented pace. We will have to think out of the box to find new avenues for employment. Supporting traditional crafts like Himroo not only keeps alive our culture but also has the potential to mitigate the unemployment crisis rapidly heading our way."

We were successful in locating one remaining weaver, Abdul Hamid, and so began weaving. The biggest challenge we faced was finding the supporting web of technicians

we needed. Since the looms had shut, there was no local yarn suppliers, dyers, or warping agents. Some special loom parts like a 50 count reed were not available even in neighboring regions. However, we plodded on.

Today, after eight months, I am proud to say we have trained a small group of women in weaving and have our first batch of products. The design known as *Kaagaz ka Jaal* (Paper-Web) is being woven in Aurangabad with pure cotton and pure silk threads—after nearly 20 years.

The amazing part of being in this digitally interconnected age is that an online feature on us was seen by a USA-based high fashion brand and we are now weaving samples for them. In April, we will move to a larger space and have five new looms. Our aim is to train 50 women over the next two years in Himroo weaving.

*Arushi has been working in the field of Indian handlooms and handicrafts for nearly a decade. She set up LoomKatha two years ago with the mission to revive those crafts that are on the verge of extinction and bring them back to life through product and skill development programs. She can be contacted at [arushi@loomkatha.in](mailto:arushi@loomkatha.in).*

## Assistantship Applications for Annual Meeting due March 31

Interested in attending WARP's annual meeting but need a little help with the cost? Consider applying for a Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship! Assistantships help defray the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. The meeting registration fee is waived, and room (double occupancy) and those meals included with registration are covered. In return, recipients provide reliable and invaluable help at the meeting. This year, the WARP Board is particularly interested in individuals to help with the following:

- Marketplace (vendor) Assistant
- Photographer/Social Media Coordinator (work required before, during and after meeting)
- Live and Silent Auction Assistant
- Other (as yet unidentified responsibilities)

Apply on-line at <https://weavearealpeace.org/financial-aid/> Please address questions to Marcia Bellas, at [mlb489@gmail.com](mailto:mlb489@gmail.com)

The application deadline is March 31, with notification by April 8, 2020.



### Attention Vendors!

The International Marketplace will be open during our WARP meeting. The Marketplace provides an opportunity for WARP members to sell handicrafts from the communities where they work, and gives the rest of us a tangible way to support the artists' creative endeavors. The Marketplace opens Saturday morning at 9:00, and will stay open all day on Saturday until 6:00, as well as Sunday morning 9:00 until noon. Marketplace set-up and take-down times will be announced to vendors as the conference date nears.

The Marketplace will be situated in a room across the hall from the main meeting room and will be open to not only WARP members but also the general public. WARP will be promoting the Marketplace throughout the local community and plan for good exposure within the greater Bozeman area. We hope to provide an internationally diverse quality of items for all to see. The 2019 Marketplace included such vendors as Ngurunit Basket Group Society from Kenya, Anyi Peruvian Tex-

tiles, other handmade textiles and arts from Laos to Palestine, and Thrums Books. Marketplace vendors who are attuned to WARP's values are encouraged to participate.

Please contact Maren Beck ([maren@hilltribeart.com](mailto:maren@hilltribeart.com)) from now through April 20 if you would like to participate in the WARP 2020 Marketplace. When you contact Maren, send a photo representative of your art, and a couple of sentences about the art and artists you are representing for inclusion in promotional materials. Also notify Maren if you need to ship your merchandise ahead of time so arrangements can be made. Each vendor is responsible for pricing and labeling their items in advance, and for collecting all payments for their purchased items—no central payment facilities will be provided. WARP collects a 10% fee on all sales at the end of the conference. Each vendor will have one 8'x30" table (please note if you would like a second table if there is a cancellation).



### Live and Silent Auctions Planned for Annual Meeting

Besides providing giggles to belly laughs, the Silent and Live Auctions at the Annual Meeting are the main fundraising events that keep WARP operational. WARP relies on the generosity of members to provide the auction items and to open their hearts and purses when it comes time to bid. This is more than just a chance to pass on some treasured textiles for someone new to appreciate. The auctions serve to create new supporters for world textiles and encourage students or other new members to become involved at a deeper level. In that spirit, please look through your collections and choose one or more treasures

that you would like to pass on. We are hoping for textiles, books, jewelry, etc. that will tempt the Bozeman attendees to some spirited, friendly, and splurge worthy bidding. If you can't join us in Bozeman, but want to be in on the fun, please send your auction item to Dorinda Dutcher, 1611 W. Koch #28, Bozeman, MT 59715 by May 21st. Please include a note with your contact information and the amount of the starting bid (minimum value \$10). Also, especially for Live Auction pieces, please tell us the story. Thank you.

Contact Mariana Mace [watersignfeb@gmail.com](mailto:watersignfeb@gmail.com) for information or questions.

### More New Members

Kathleen O'Neal  
Gary, IN

Mary Proudfoot  
Edmonds, WA

Lesli Robertson  
Textile Consultant  
McKinney, TX

Linda Shepard  
Milford, NJ

Joyce Shotwell  
Midlothian, TX

Jessica Singer  
Le Mondeur  
Brooklyn, NY

Jenny Stimac  
Toronto Guild of Spinners  
and Weavers  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada

Jessica Wiggins  
Houston, TX

Marie Wiskirchen  
Jefferson City, MO



## Thanks to WARP Donors!

Laura Akiko Kotani  
Philis Alvic  
Kate Banner  
Angelika Batsis  
Maren Beck  
Marcia Bellas  
Alice Boso Cohen  
Becky Boyd  
Jan Cannon  
Penny Coleman  
Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild  
Vivian Coles  
Kate Colwell  
Steve Csipke  
Susan Davis  
Thembi Douglas  
Shekere Creations by Thembi  
Penelope Drooker  
Leesa Duby  
Rough Bark Productions  
Robert Gall  
Nancy Gaus  
Sharon Giles  
Liz Gipson  
Ellen Goldman  
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Carollee Howes  
Elizabeth Hurtig  
Carol Ireland  
Katharine Javian  
Steven Jervis  
Judi Jetson  
Catherine (Cathie) Joslyn  
Sara Lamb  
Christina Lopez  
Mariana Mace  
Susan Mc Cauley  
Mekong River Textiles  
Kathryn McHenry  
Louise Meyer  
Barbara Meyers

## Embroidering Hope

*continued from page 1*

to interview for asylum in the US. The first time I took embroidery and crochet supplies to the shelter, 14 mothers knelt on their knees or sat cross-legged on the concrete,



*Asylum-seeking Artisans Beyond Borders selling their wares in Nogales, Mexico*

embroidering with singular focus, babies in their laps. Over the next few weeks, they became a committed group of embroiderers engaged in *bordando esperanza*—embroidering hope.

While staying true to the healing nature of slow craft so well suited to trauma care, we've also found a niche US market for the artisans' work. This helps meet immediate needs: food, medicines, and now travel to court dates in Texas.

As a non-profit arts ministry, we pay fair trade wages on the spot and then hope that folks on this side of the border will love and support their work as much as we do. So far, so good. Sales of the artisans' work along with donations on our website [www.ArtisansBeyondBorders.org](http://www.ArtisansBeyondBorders.org), plus packages of embroidery and crochet supplies we receive from supporters across the US, keep us going strong.

We now have upwards of 75 artisans from shelters across Nogales, embroidering

and crocheting while huddled curbside or waiting in line for something to eat at el Comedor, the local Jesuit soup kitchen. Young and old, women and also a few men now, share materials and techniques and solidarity.

A growing number of collectors across the border means friendship and respect across cultures. The artisans are deeply touched that people in the US value their work enough to buy it. For asylum-seekers in limbo, the dignity of work and purpose,



*Sunflower embroidery by asylum seekers at the US-Mexican border*

and the opportunity for personal agency is everything.

Recently, one embroiderer was overheard saying to another: "If only I could get more work like this, maybe I would not have to go to the US. Maybe, I could stay in Mexico."

*Long-time border artist, activist, and writer Valarie Lee James, a former art therapist and founder of the Casa Alitas Arts & Activities Program in Tucson, is currently writing her first book on art and faith on the border. Visit [www.ArtisansBeyondBorders.org](http://www.ArtisansBeyondBorders.org), to sign-up as a "Friend of Artisans Beyond Borders." Join the ranks of creators helping creators repair the world.*



## Giving Tuesday Raised \$3,545 for Assistantships!

December 3, 2019 was GivingTuesday, a global movement founded in 2012 to celebrate the generosity of individuals, organizations, and communities. It harnesses the power of social media and collective action by asking supporters to use social media to encourage family and friends to donate too.

WARP's Giving Tuesday campaign started in late October and by year's end donations totaled \$3,545! Donations will support Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantships, which provide financial support to attend the annual meeting in exchange for help with meeting logistics. Thank you to all of our donors for your support and generosity!



## WARP 2020: Grassroots: Yarn and Tales

*continued from page 3*

tions. It is an opportunity for individuals to form groups of shared interest to discuss the meeting's experiences and information and move towards plans for action.

The Marketplace will be open 9am to 6pm on Saturday and 9am to noon on Sunday. It will be locally advertised and open to the public.

For more information, or to register, go to <https://weavearealpeace.org/>

WARP 2020 Meeting Committees: Dorinda Dutcher, Chair ([dkdutcher@hotmail.com](mailto:dkdutcher@hotmail.com)); Bonnie Tarses, representing Missoula Weavers Guild; Barb French representing the Bozeman Weavers Guild; Mariana Burke, Auction Committee Chair; [watersignfeb@gmail.com](mailto:watersignfeb@gmail.com); Maren Beck, Marketplace Chair, [maren@hilltribeart.com](mailto:maren@hilltribeart.com)



## Limitless Horizons for Maya Ixil Weavers

*continued from page 12*

hit during the 36-year Civil War. Since 2008, our Artisan Program has offered up to 100 mothers of LHI scholars a fair, sustainable income through the sale of scarves, shawls, and other artisan products woven on traditional backstrap looms.

Ana remembers that before becoming part of LHI's Artisan Program, she sold huipiles to middlemen who bought Chajul textiles to sell at large artisan markets in other parts of the country. With little to no other sales options, weavers were forced to sell at low prices which often barely covered the cost of thread.

While huipiles and cortés (long skirts), are still worn by the vast majority of women in Chajul, fashion always evolves. Ana explains that now threads are lightweight and girls experiment with different necklines and a tighter style. She says that with innovation, traditional textiles belong very much in the contemporary world.

Now, her daughters crowd around as their older relatives weave, asking questions about Ixil cultural heritage. Ana's eldest daughter, Teresa Rocelda, is not only

an avid weaver, but also a Limitless Horizons Ixil Youth Development alumna and current university scholar. With LHI's support, she became the first in her family to graduate from high school.

Limitless Horizons Ixil is determined to continue supporting Chajul's women weavers, like Ana and her family. However, it is a constant struggle to successfully export and make sales from such a remote, mountainous region. We are now looking for distribution partners to ensure economic independence and stability for Ana and the twenty weavers who currently make up LHI's Artisan Program.

For more information or general enquiries, please contact [internationalcoordinatorlhi@gmail.com](mailto:internationalcoordinatorlhi@gmail.com).

*Catriona Spaven-Donn has been living in the Ixil Region of Guatemala since mid-2019, while serving as the International Coordinator for Limitless Horizons Ixil. She gained her Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of Cambridge in 2017, with a research focus on cultural heritage practices and Indigenous identity in the Peruvian Andes.*

## Thanks to WARP Donors!

Eric Mindling  
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## 2020 Annual Meeting: Everything You Need to Know!

### Limitless Horizons for Maya Ixil Weavers

*Catriona Spaven-Donn*

Ana Caba Sánchez expertly slaps corn dough into flat round discs of tortilla and lays them out on the comal, or traditional hotplate. Underneath burns the wood her husband carried back from the surrounding forest. Two of her seven children play barefoot on the dirt floor.



*Ana weaving on a backstrap loom*

“When I was very young, I taught myself to weave. I saw others doing it and then selling their huipiles, so I wanted to do the same,” Ana says, stroking the intricate threads of her traditional woven blouse. Ana’s mother died when she was a baby and her father while working in

the corn fields when she was only eleven. She grew up wandering barefoot around the town, thinking of how to earn

money for food. Eventually, she taught herself to weave. Several decades later, Ana is now one of the star weavers of Limitless Horizons Ixil’s Artisan Program.

Limitless Horizons Ixil (LHI) is a non-profit organization providing scholarships and wraparound services to Maya



*Limitless Horizons Ixil Weavers*

Ixil youth and their families in Chajul, a small community in the western highlands of Guatemala and one of the worst

*continued on page 11*

