



Volume 27, Number 2 - Summer 2020

Weaving for Justice: Helping Women Stay in Chiapas, Continue Traditions

Christine Eber

Weaving for Justice, an all-volunteer organization based in Las Cruces, NM, evolved from my efforts to live out the charge given to me by Flor de Margarita Pérez Pérez, my host when I visited Chi-



Claudia Muñoz, with Weaving for Justice. She attended the 2017 WARP meeting in Oaxaca.

apas in 1988—to help the weavers sell their weavings for fair trade prices.

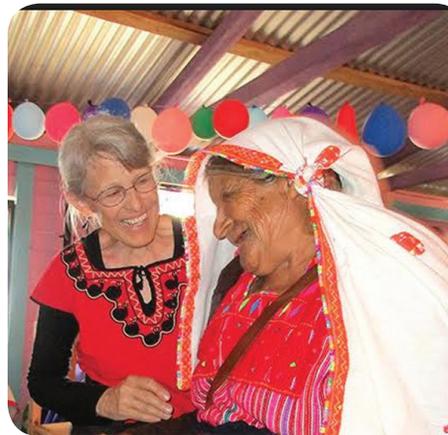
Goals are to help women and their families 1) avoid having to migrate to the US; 2) keep alive the art form that their ancestors passed down to them.

Sales of weavings from Chiapas occur at periodic fair trade sales at a Las Cruces gallery as well as items stocked regularly in stores. All proceeds are sent directly to the weavers in three cooperatives.

Weaving for Justice is part of a 501(c)(3) women's art and cultural organization, Sophia's Circle, so memberships and dona-

tions are tax deductible. Information about the organization including their newsletter is at www.weaving-for-justice.org.

A current project raises scholarships for Maya children and youth in Belize, Guatemala, and Chiapas by selling donated textiles that people have collected in Latin America. Weaving for Justice partners with the Maya Educational Founda-



Christine Eber and Angélica Pérez Medioof, one of the founders of Tsobol Antsetik, a weaving cooperative that Weaving for Justice assists.

tion in this project. Many folks from across the country have sent textiles that they or their children no longer want. WARP member Karen Sprenger donated many of her beautiful textiles as she downsized after retirement and was in the process of moving. Textiles are sold each year over

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Creating A Connected Textile Community

MISSION

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

PURPOSE

Exchange information

Raise awareness of the importance of textile traditions to grassroots economies

Mobilize textile enthusiasts

Create conversations that result in action

CORE VALUES

Textiles are an important component of the human experience

Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action

Making connections between textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change

Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives





WARP Newsletter
published quarterly by
Weave A Real Peace
Volume 27, Number 2
Summer 2020
Editor: Linda Temple

Send address
corrections to:

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or mail to

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5753 Hwy 85 North #3044
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The deadline for
contributions to the
Fall issue of the WARP
newsletter is
July 24, 2020

Send articles and
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the newsletter to:
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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.

Love of Moroccan Embroidery Inspires Book

Charity Kittler

When I first traveled to Morocco, I expected my month-long artist residency to be a restful transition between school and returning to work. I had just graduated

focused on writing the very book I'd hoped to find.

As there are many genres of Moroccan embroidery, I focused on five: *Fez* (left



L to R: Tadrees sampler, Fez sampler, original design in Rabat style (top), traditional Tetouan design (bottom), randa sampler (bottom), original Fez design (far right).



and was eager to start my new career as a textile designer. But the trip gave me more than I bargained for - I fell in love with Moroccan em-

broidery, taking seven lessons in three genres across four weeks. I tried to find a book of

bottom), *Tetouan* (below bottom), *Rabat* (left top), *randa* and *tadrees* (right top). *Fez* embroidery - sometimes called "math



embroidery" - uses counted stitch techniques to create reversible geometric patterns, exactly the same front and back. *Tetouan* embroidery, on the other hand, uses a flat shiny thread and what I call a "doubled" brick stitch to fill shapes of an abstract, hand-drawn pattern. *Rabat* embroidery uses the



same thread in primarily satin stitches to fill floral shapes. *Tadrees* and *randa* share similar knotting techniques, but differ in use: *tadrees* is decorative edging whereas *randa* joins two fabrics.

I began my Fulbright journey last fall with two months of Moroccan Arabic classes in Meknes, before moving to

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instructions to take home, but to my surprise, it didn't exist. And so long story short, one year later I found myself leaving my job, my apartment, and my country to spend a year as a Fulbright researcher of Moroccan embroidery,



WARP 2021, July 22-25

Grassroots: Yarn and Tales, Bozeman, MT

Dorinda Dutcher

The WARP Board is pleased to announce that we have confirmed dates for the 2021 annual meeting to be held from July 22-25, in Bozeman, MT. We were able to reserve the one remaining weekend available at the Montana State University (MSU) campus, and we hope these dates will work for many of you who had planned to attend this year's meeting. There will be changes in the meeting programming, but another year of networking with the contacts made over the past year can only lead to a more profound meeting experience. In this current reality of a shared world-wide health crisis, it's comforting to escape to thoughts of a future gathering of kindred spirits sharing textile tales.

In July, Bozeman will be in full swing with its plethora of free outdoor summer events. Any family or friends traveling with you who are not registered for the meeting will not lack for entertainment, while you enjoy time and activities with new and old WARP friends. All of the roads, campgrounds, and visitor facilities will be open in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks if you choose to explore the Big Sky Country. In fact, why not drag out the atlas, dog-eared AAA maps, or start Googling to plan your 2021 Montana summer adventure!

Dorinda Dutcher, 2021 Meeting Planning Chair, Bonnie Tarses, Missoula Weavers Guild Liaison, Barb French, Bozeman Weavers Guild Liaison



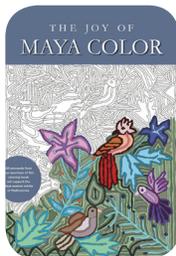
Thrums Books: Giving Back

Karen Brock

In these times of global pandemic, indigenous textile artisans around the world are struggling; tourism has essentially stopped, so textile sales have dropped. There's no safety net for so many of the weavers and artisans featured in our books. Wanting to give back, we have undertaken two projects to assist some of the artisans who have so generously shared the lives and their work with us.

First, while we've always donated back to Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC) and the weaving communities, we wanted to do more. During the month of April, half of all the money we received for sales of our Peru-related books, went directly to CTTC for an emergency relief fund for the weavers. Our customers have been generous, and we anticipate being able to make a helpful contribution.

Our second project involved publishing a coloring book based on the gorgeous hooked rugs made by the Maya women artists of Multicolores in Guatemala. Mary Anne Wise wrote about these artists and the founding of their



organization in her book *Rug Money* that we published in 2018. *The Joy of Maya Coloring* is available now through ThrumsBooks.com and all proceeds of the book will go directly to Multicolores to support the artists and their families. Thank you all for helping us help the artisans.

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Weave A Real Peace Membership Information

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



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Kelsey Wiskirchen
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From the Office

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Dear Friends,

We have members all over the world - and we know that everyone is affected during this pandemic. If you have an update on how you or your community are handling difficulties that you face during this time, we would like to hear from you. As a global networking organization, this is a time when our mission can be fulfilled. If you have a local outreach project, a community initiative, or a story to share, please do pass it on. Perhaps we can find new ways to support one another.

We have shared a number of WARP member stories on the blog, as well as some fantastic articles by guest authors. Please be sure to take a look at www.weavearealpeace.org/blog.

I am grateful to work from home, so that WARP business can continue as usual. My priority during this time is staying in touch with members. Please do write to me if there is anything I can do for you.

Warmest of wishes,
Kelsey Wiskirchen

info@weavearealpeace.org



Nominating Committee Report and Other WARP Business

Because the members of WARP were not able to gather this year, there are a few business details that still need to be attended to. A virtual Annual Meeting is being planned and all members will be notified via email and website of the date and time. Separately, a mechanism for voting on Board Members is being developed. Notification about that will be sent out in a month or so (this notice serves to meet the requirement in the Bylaws that members are notified of nominees 30 days before an election). Here is the report of the Nominating Committee.

Four board members' terms will end this June: Carrie Miller's three year term expires, Maren Beck was finishing up a one year term, and Marianna Mace and Dorinda Dutcher are each leaving the board, with one year remaining on each of their terms. As outlined in the Bylaws, the one year term nominees will be submitted to the Board for approval. The three year terms require a vote of the membership.

We are pleased that, pending approval of the Board, Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland and Sara Borchert will fill the remainder of the one year terms. Pending approval by the membership, Kate Colwell has accepted the nomination for the three year term vacancy, and Maren Beck has agreed to serve an additional three year term.

Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland is familiar to many WARP members as a longtime member of WARP, a former board member, and through her long association with UPAVIM Fair Trade Craft organization.

Sara Borchert is an administrator and teacher in the Camphill Village Communities, intentional communities which serve adults and children with and without disabilities. She originally came to WARP as a weaver herself, but now finds her time divided between work and family, and whatever handwork she can fit into her busy days!

Kate Colwell is a retired physician who has been interested in and involved with both textiles and Latin America for the past six decades. She prefers to weave, but also spins, knits, dyes, and is always itching to learn a new fiber technique. Kate and her partner Heather live in Northern California (while their 26 year old son is riding out the Covid lockdown in Colombia).

Maren Beck and Josh Hirschstein, with their teen sons Ari and Zall, formed Above the Fray: Traditional Hill Tribe Art in 2007 determined to introduce the weaving traditions and cultures of hill tribe Laos and Vietnam to a broader audience. In 2017, they published their first book, *Silk Weavers of Hill Tribe Laos* (published by Thrums Books), which explains and celebrates the silk weaving art and culture of the Lao Loum and Tai Daeng people in Laos' Houaphan Province.

The nominating committee also welcomes nominations "from the floor", so to speak, at the Annual Meeting. Since this year's meeting will be virtual, we will have to consider how to do so. Any questions or nominations can be directed to Sara Lamb, lambspin@gmail.com



Member Profile: Christine Eber

Gloria Miller

"Social justice has been a valued part of my life since I was a young person. Over the years my commitment to working with others to make the world a more just and peaceful place has become intertwined in my solidarity work with women artisans of Latin America."

Most recently a professor of Anthropology at New Mexico State University, Christine Eber retired in 2011 and continues to follow her life-long passions for justice, women's rights, textiles, writing, and drawing. Although she never had formal education in fiber arts, from her childhood she enjoyed sewing and learned to appreciate the Swedish fabrics in her Michigan home woven by her grandmother and great aunts. She began to understand how textiles connect people across cultures, space, and time.

In the 1970s in Buffalo, NY, she assisted Chilean women living under the Pinochet dictatorship sell arpilleras (applied squares) with images of their lives that cried out for justice for their disappeared children. This and other experiences led to her eventual studies in Anthropology at SUNY Buffalo. She initially studied women's art cross-culturally but after volunteering at a hospital in the jungles of Chiapas, she shifted her focus toward the emotional lives of women centered around experiences of ritual and problem drinking. Most importantly, this was a topic vital to the women and was one that challenged the racism, sexism, and economic inequality that had shaped their lives.

In 1988 during her time of study in Chiapas she lived in the home of Flor de Margarita Pérez Pérez who was a weaver. Before returning to the US she asked Margarita how she could give back to their community. She responded that Christine could help them sell their weavings for fair trade prices. She appreciated how this

calling could be a bridge between the collectives of Maya weavers and people in the U.S. This project has evolved into Weaving for Justice, <http://weaving-for-justice.org/> an all-volunteer organization based in Las Cruces, NM, that promotes fair trade as well as education about the lives of Mayan women. (See accompanying article on page 1)

Christine learned about WARP from her friend Brenda Rosenbaum. Although she has not been able to attend many meetings she so appreciates connections through our newsletter and the networking she has been able to do. Since 2014 when the first surge of asylum seekers from Mexico and Central America reached Las Cruces, she has been involved in distributing clothing to families who have stayed in a church where she volunteers. "This experience of passing along used clothing to refugee families - some of it made by hand, has given me a new appreciation for how textiles can bring hope and comfort to people in need as they move across intercultural spaces."

Christine hopes to continue her projects and writing as long as she can. Her first novel *When a Woman Rises* about Tsotsil Maya people in Chiapas was published in 2018, and she is working on a second based on her experiences with asylum seekers in Las Cruces. Do peruse her website: christineeber.com which focuses on her writing and includes more of her story as well as solidarity connections with organizations like WARP. She can be reached at ceber@nmsu.edu

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.

Connect to the WARP Community!



@weaveareal-peace_



Weave A Real Peace



@WeaveARealPeace



Weave A Real Peace
(Google Groups)



weavearealpeace.com/blog



Weave A Real Peace

Post Your WARP Experiences

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

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

Be a Social Media Volunteer

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

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

Interested in helping with the blog or Facebook? Contact Carrie Miller, Social Media Volunteer Coordinator carriemiller24@gmail.com



From WARP's President

Susan Weltman

New Members

Kristine Brandel
Chicago, IL

Teresa Cordón Guzmán
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Annette Dalen
Whitefish, MT

Ella Goodine-Richardson
Brooklyn, NY

Amanda Thompson
Tuscaloosa, AL

Carolyn Urbanski
Oakland, CA

Patricia Young
Albuquerque, NM



Writing from the epicenter of the US pandemic we know that we're going through a very tough time. By the time our members receive this Newsletter, hopefully we (us personally, our homes and country, the world) will be in better shape. Although the news makes NYC sound very frightening, our neighborhood feels safe; very few people out and about, people careful about keeping a distance and wearing masks. Of course, many of us are facing serious economic consequences.

You've gotten used to me talking about the traveling my husband, Steve, and I have done since the last Newsletter. As you well know, there's not much on that front, unless you consider walking to the park or waterfront as a significant outing. We returned earlier than planned from California where we had a long-scheduled reunion of high school friends (celebrating 60 years of friendship) and our 75th birthdays. I was able to visit a few WARP members and had been invited to speak at the Southern Californian Handweavers Guild - but of course that was cancelled. We thought we'd better get home and shelter in place, as we've been doing ever since.

With the unavoidable decision to postpone the 2020 Bozeman Meeting to 2021, the Board has had an opportunity to take a needed rest as we've attended to our health and the health of our families and communities. We will be having changes in the Board, as we always do. Carrie is leaving the Board, having fulfilled one term; she has taken responsibility for Scholarship Students and also has helped with graphics. Mariana has served as Secretary and Vice President. Dorinda has been Treasurer and has put an extraordi-

nary effort into straightening out WARP's financial records. She and Kelsey have worked closely on this and she leaves us with procedures that will make going forward much easier. While we will miss those leaving we'll continue to see them at our gatherings, we hope. And we have a wonderful slate of new Board nominees (see page 4).

We are planning a rather informal web "WARP Gathering" later in May. Many of you have found a new way to "meet" with friends and family online and, if you're like me, it sure is better than not meeting at all! I've been to a Zoom birthday party and a large family gathering. Details (date, time, platform) will be sent out as soon as they are confirmed. It will be an opportunity to have a very brief business meeting, say goodbye to Board members leaving, and welcome and vote on new Board members. We also want to remind members that the Simple Living membership is available; in this time of economic uncertainty for many we hope you stay a member of the WARP community! No membership amount is too little.

I want to end on a positive note. In the midst of this incredibly difficult time, when we and our families and our country are facing such problems of health and economic insecurity, many communities are coming together. Our local "Buy Nothing Group," a sharing community, has renamed itself the West Brooklyn Mutual Aid Group. Recently a teacher requested a translator for a boy in her class whose family speaks Kaqchikel; he was in a Spanish speaking class and struggling. Within five minutes, a neighbor replied that her Guatemalan husband was a native speaker of Kaqchikel and available to help. That really warmed my heart.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our Web Meeting and in Bozeman in 2021. Stay in good health.

Susan can be reached at sweltwoman@gmail.com



Staying Home and Living Fair During COVID-19

Rachel Spence

As the world responds to COVID-19, fair trade enterprises are stepping up, from producing face masks to supporting their partners during stay-at-home orders. Though facing many challenges, the fair trade community is staying strong as they have never approached commerce as business-as-usual.

In March, Fair Trade Federation (FTF) member Global Mamas shifted from sewing clothing and accessories to face masks that are made from their colorful Ghanaian cotton. They hope to help Ghana become a success story in the prevention of coronavirus. Fair trade businesses Passion Lilie, Anchal Project, and Revy Fair Trade, among others, are sewing face masks here in the US to help with local needs as well as to generate income to support their partners who are unable to work in countries such as India and El Salvador.

Fair trade businesses are working to continue to pay their artisan and farmer partners' salaries through online sales and

fundraisers. Small-scale artisans and farmers around the world, the heart of FTF member supply chains, are very vulnerable to COVID-19's impacts as they rely on their income for basic necessities and will strongly feel the long-term economic repercussions. FTF member Kahniwalla x Pebble's artisan partners in Bangladesh are currently unable to work; their only source of food is what they can grow themselves and small handouts from local authorities, which is not enough to sustain them. Kahniwalla x Pebble and other fair trade businesses have created pandemic response funds to help support their artisans' basic needs along with income generated from online sales.

To learn more about how you can support fair trade communities during this time as well as how FTF members are doing business differently, visit the Fair Trade Federation website at <http://www.fairtradefederation.org/>

Rachel is the Engagement Manager at the Fair Trade Federation. She can be reached at rs@fairtradefederation.org.



In Memoria – Michele Wipplinger

submitted by Karen Selk

Michele died on February 24. She shared her vast knowledge of natural dyes with the textile community through workshops, presentations and her publications: *Color Trends and Natural Dyes for Artisans of the Americas* and notebooks that accompanied her workshops.

She became a board member for the Color Marketing Group and helped companies like Aveda, Origins, Esprit, Martha Stewart Living, Terre Vede, LL Bean, and Nature Conservancy, develop products that could bring awareness of the value of natural colours to a larger world.

Michele's passion for tinting the world with natural colour has touched so many lives throughout the world with her enthusiasm and heartfelt connection to the people she taught and learned from. Her husband, Andro, continues her legacy through Earthues, a business working in partnership with artisans to fulfill their dreams

There will be a memorial on May 9 at Sunset Hill Community Centre, 3003 NW 66th Street, Seattle, WA



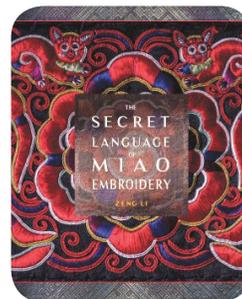
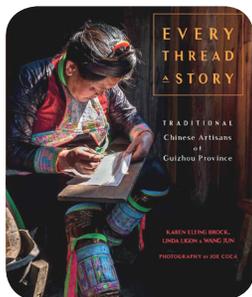
New From Thrums Books

Thrums Books presents its two newest books available together in a gorgeous boxed set: *Every Thread a Story: Traditional Chinese Artisans of Guizhou Province* and *The Secret Language of Miao Embroidery*.

Ethnic minority textiles of Guizhou Province China are vanishing. Modernization and tourism impact the future of skilled artisans and their ancient craft traditions. *Every Thread a Story* provides a deep cultural experience of Guizhou's dominant ethnic minority, the Miao and their related tribes, the Dong, Gejia, and Shui. The book takes you deep into the countryside and into the homes of 17 traditional artisans whose exquisite embroidery, wax resist indigo-dyed fabrics, handmade paper, and silver jewelry

uphold ancient traditions. No other book about traditional Chinese textiles highlights the individual stories of the artisans themselves, their hopes for the future, and their place in the long lineage of craft traditions of their people.

Every Thread a Story's companion book, *The Secret Language of Miao Embroidery*, reveals the hidden meanings in the intricate, elegant motifs that have served in place of a written language for the Miao for centuries. Author Zeng Li has traveled among the Miao since her childhood, learning to understand and interpret their folkways, and presents a unique understanding of Miao symbols and patterns. Available from ThrumsBooks.com.



Annual Update 2019 Financial Report



WARP Financial Activities, 1/1/19 – 12/31/19

Revenues

Income

<u>Annual Meeting</u>	
Auction	\$ 4,703.00
Fees	\$22,537.15
Marketplace Fees	\$ 1,291.95
Total Annual Meeting	\$28,532.10

Donations

Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$ 507.00*
Amazon Smiles	\$ 11.01
Annual Meeting	\$ 0.00
Endowment Fund	\$ 0.00**
Giving Tuesday	\$ 4,495.53
Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship Fund	\$ 665.00***
Non-Designated	\$ 4,446.00

Total Donations **\$10,124.54**

Interest Income

CD Interest, Endowment Fund	\$ 553.00
Checking Interest	\$ 15.34
Savings Interest	\$ 12.60

Total Interest Income **\$ 580.94**

Memberships

Dues, Checks	\$ 1,985.00
Dues, PayPal	\$ 10,736.00

Total Membership Fees **\$12,721.00**

Special Projects

Sales, Deborah Brandon's Book	\$ 981.20
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Total Income **\$52,939.78**

Total Revenue **\$52,939.78**

*The Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund transfer to that account in January 2020 brought the total to \$5,363.06

**The Endowment Fund contribution of 10% (\$1,272) of 2019 membership fees will be transferred into the next CD in October 2020

***Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship Fund received \$3,545 in donations during the 2019 Giving Tuesday. The total in the Fund as of March 31, 2020 is \$4,241.63.

2019 Treasurer's Report

Dorinda Dutcher, Treasurer

The 2019 opening balances for all of WARP's bank accounts totaled \$64,654. The year ended with a net gain of \$12,076. Most of that gain was due to the generosity of WARP members through donations and the live and silent auctions. The annual meeting registration fees exceeded the meeting expenses (excluding the Scholarship and Assistantship expenses) by \$2,075. The membership fees totaled \$12,721 which was up \$716 from 2018, and covered 69.3% of WARP's administrative and program expenses. The year ended with a closing balance of \$76,730.

The bank transfers to the restricted savings accounts for the Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship Fund were made in January of 2020 and are not reflected in the 2019 Financial Position Statement. The Giving Tuesday (GT) donations are not received until the following year. The Alice Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund opened in 2019 with a balance of \$4,000 and after the bank account transfer totaled \$5,363. The opening balance in the 2019 Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship Fund's savings account was \$2,000, and after the bank transfer in 2020 totaled \$4,242.

The contribution of 10% of the membership fees into the Endowment Fund ended in 2011. Membership discussion at the 2019 annual meeting led to the reinstatement of the contribution. There is \$1,272 of the 2019 membership dues in WARP's checking account that is earmarked

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Annual Update 2019 Financial Report



Treasurer's Report

continued from page 8

for the Endowment Fund when the CD matures in October 2020. The 2019 opening balance of the Endowment Fund was \$28,000. The CD interest income rolled into the fund and brought the 2019 year-end total to \$28,546.

The WARP Board will be amending the 2020 budget to take into account the cancellation of this year's meeting as well as reconsidering other income projections. Due to the economic fallout ahead all non-profit organizations will struggle to survive. Increasing WARP's membership will be key to WARP's well-being. By gifting a WARP memberships you will be supporting WARP, while treating family or friends to the benefits of connecting with WARP's global textile community.

WARP Financial Position	
12/31/2019	
Assets	
Assistantship Fund, Savings	\$ 2,001.28
CD, Endowment Fund	28,545.60
Checking Account	25,697.84
Operations Reserve, Saving	15,009.66
PayPal	417.54
Prepaid Expenses	1,056.00
Scholarship Fund, Savings	4,002.57
Total Assets	\$76,730.49
Liabilities	
	\$ 0.00
Equity	
Opening Balances	\$64,654.25
Retained Earnings	\$12,076.24
Total Equity	\$76,730.49
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$76,730.49

Expenses

Annual Meeting

Activities/Excursions	\$ 2,631.50
Alice Brown Memorial Scholarships	\$ 816.73
Board Financial Assistance	\$ 745.60
Catering	\$11,418.97
Contractor Expenses	\$ 1,930.65
Facility Space	\$ 300.00
Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantships	\$ 1,225.08
Insurance, Event	\$ 104.24
Meeting Expenses, Board	\$ 1,212.46
Misc. Expenses	\$ 704.09
Speaker Expenses	\$ 1,415.61
Total Meeting Expenses	\$22,504.93

Contractor Services

Administrative Coordinator	\$ 9,700.00
Blog Writer/Coordinator	\$ 200.00
Web Designer	\$ 78.75
Total Contractor Expenses	\$ 9,978.75

Newsletter Expenses

Editor Fee	\$ 1,500.00
Postage	\$ 311.39
Printing, Copying	\$ 1,969.75
Total Newsletter Expenses	\$ 3,781.14

Operations Expenses

Books, Memberships	\$ 101.47
Communications	\$ 444.89
Fundraising	\$ 28.63
Marketing	\$ 200.49
Payment Fees, Bankcard Transactions	\$ 982.71
Postage	\$ 459.61
Printing, Copying	\$ 351.44
Software/Hardware	\$ 1,105.48
Total Operations Expenses	\$ 3,674.72

Special Projects Expenses

Artisan Resource Guide Update	\$ 924.00
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Total Expenses	\$40,863.54
Net Income for 2019 Fiscal Year	\$12,076.24



Moroccan Embroidery

continued from page 2

Sefrou to study embroidery with a cooperative of women there. In November I focused on *Fez* embroidery with Zahara, and learned that “*msqina*” means “poor darling”, the response I often heard jokingly when I tangled my threads or missed a stitch and had to backtrack. In December I dug into *Rabat* embroidery with Fatima, gradually seeing my stitches transform from wobbly, uneven and prone to tangles into stitches that appeared relatively tidy and uniform. In January my ambition got the best of me and I tackled two styles of embroidery at once, *randa* and *tadrees*. By month’s end my hands were more than sore, but I had learned everything I needed and was ready to move north to study the final embroidery style for my book.

In February I arrived in Tetouan and managed to convince an embroidery teacher at the local artisan school to take me on. (One of my proudest achievements, pitching myself in Arabic.) I had a month of lessons before Fulbright was shut down abruptly and I returned to the US. Still, I am lucky to have finished so much of my research, and now hope to finish translating my scribbled field notes into a book of easily understood patterns, diagrams, and instructions by the end of the year.

Charity Kittler, a new WARP member, recently completed Fulbright research in Morocco where she studied five genres of Moroccan embroidery. A textile designer and graduate of FIT, she looks forward to returning to New York as soon as the virus abates. You can reach Charity by email, charity.kittler@gmail.com, or on instagram: @charitykittler

Thanks to WARP Donors!

Marcia Bellas
Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser
Deborah Chandler
Susan Davis
Leesa Duby
Geri Forkner
Bonna Harwood
Joshua Hirschstein
Catherine (Cathie) Joslyn
Barbara Lacey
Sara Lamb
Mariana Mace
Kathryn McHenry
Barbara Snios
Dorothy Strasser
Cameron Taylor-Brown
Rolly Thompson
Erica Tiedemann
Susan Weltman



Weaving for Justice

continued from page 1

Day of the Dead events at the Museum at New Mexico State University. At last year’s sale “Interlacements: Threads and Lives,” a film by WARP member Marilyn Romatka,

was shown. WARP members who would like to donate textiles to this project can contact me at ceber@nmsu.edu

The coronavirus crisis has arrived in highland Chiapas. The weavers tell us that price gouging is making it difficult to afford corn and other basic foods. In order to keep sending funds from weaving sales to the weavers, Weaving for Justice is offering items for sale via three remote alternatives. You can order on Instagram - Weaving for Justice - where we have pictured a variety of items for sale; visit our website store (<http://weaving-for-justice.org/>) where there are a few items; or email Christine to set up a virtual tour of our store in Las Cruces through Facetime or What’s App.

Newsletter Copy Deadlines

V27N4 - Winter 2020 - October 9
V28N1 - Spring 2021 - February 19
V28N2 - Summer 2021 - April 30
V28N3 - Fall 2020 - August 27
V28N4 - Winter 2020 - November 5

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



Alpaca Spinners in Peru Now Selling Yarn

Rolly Thompson

In 2006 I read an article in the newsletter of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for Bolivia and Peru requesting short-term volunteers to



Spinners of La Unión

help with projects of the Chijnaya Foundation in the Puno Region of Peru. I hadn't been back to Peru since 1990 and before that 1966 when I was a Peace Corps Volunteer. I told them that I raised alpacas and would be glad to do information collecting in alpaca communities that had requested assistance. That September I happily renewed my acquaintance with Peru.

Several years later and after I had been volunteering for Chijnaya Foundation, I suggested at a board meeting that perhaps a way for these alpaca herders to increase their income would be to sell their hand spun yarn. I knew that all children learned to spin, so it seemed natural that they would have yarn to sell. That meeting was the beginning of my involvement with alpaca yarn in Peru.

Since 2014 I have been working with the spinners to prepare their yarn for sale in the US. I worked with them to sell yarn to knitters and weavers in the US. The biggest ongoing challenge has been washing the yarn. All the spinners live in isolated areas in the puna (grassland) of the Puno region. They have no running water, except the creeks nearby. They are still working on better ways to wash the yarn before selling it.

Over the years that I have been working with these alpaca herders and spinners, their yarn has steadily improved, due in part to their attention to details and to the assistance they have received from veterinarians and technicians who have helped them improve their breeding stock and to increase the health of their animals. One can see the improvement in breeding stock has led to higher quality yarn.

This year the five communities that I am currently working with have joined together to form

an association to market their yarn in Peru. It is called Wichay Pukara. Wichay is the Quechua word for altura/height or altitude. The reason for choosing this name is that it also implies high quality. Pukara is the name of an ancient



Spinners and Weavers of Sapanccota

civilization in the Puno district where all of these five alpaca communities are situated.

As any Peace Corps Volunteer or Returned Peace Corps Volunteer will tell you, the goal of any endeavor is to offer support and information to people and then to step back and let them pursue their goals. This is what Wichay Pukara has done. With their creativity and knowledge they have moved ahead to design an organization that will meet their goals of providing income for all participants and control over what they produce. Wichay Pukara is still in the beginning stages, but the goal is to expand their market to also sell yarn in Peru. It has been very encouraging to see how this association is developing, and I am enthusiastic about its success.

Rolly has raised sheep and alpacas outside of Eugene, OR for 29 years. Her experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru was the beginning of her love of Peruvian culture and textiles. In 2006 she began volunteering for Chijnaya Foundation, a non-profit organization assisting communities in the Altiplano of Peru. To contact her about buying yarn, email her at kusiwarmi13@gmail.com

Covid-19 Updates

Hedy Hollyfield who works with weavers in Peru through **Ayni-USA** reports that their big show, MD Sheep & Wool was cancelled so they have virtually no sales this year. They are having a virtual sale and hoping to have an online store up soon. The weavers are hurting. They have no outlets beyond tourists and Anyi USA. Anyone interested in helping can go to www.ayni-usa.org or they can email Hedy at hedyhollyfield@yahoo.com and the money will be passed directly on to the artists.

For the first time, **Porforio Gutiérrez** (and family) is offering wonderful natural dyed and handwoven Zapotec rugs for sale online at <https://porfiriogutierrez.square.site>. He's been pleased with the results, but continues to worry about the 100 people dependent on their sales.

For the past month, the **Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco** (CTTC) has been closed, as have all but essential businesses. The Center is the primary place where most tourists visit and where most textile sales occur. It has also lost its income to keep its staff employed. They're managing to meet payroll through the end of April but beyond that is unknown. There are no government payouts, no extra funds to buy materials for the 10 villages of weavers or their weavings—that's 650 people plus their families. But there are plans underway to assist CTTC and the weavers during this time. Go to **ClothRoads** (clothroads.com) and make a purchase of a weaving from the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco. Thru May, 100% of your purchase will go to the Center and on to the weavers





Weave a Real Peace
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Networking Continues Despite the Coronavirus

Update: Artisans Beyond Borders

Valarie Lee James

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, many asylum seekers with small children and few resources remain stuck in border towns, forced to wait on far-flung court dates.

The hardest thing for us to bear as Tucson's Friends of Artisans Beyond Borders, is how separate we are from them now that we can't cross the border into Mexico, how deeply we miss the families we've grown to love over these past months, and how little we can do to help them.

The trust they had gained in us: the fact that we showed up



Asylum seeker outside a shelter in Nogales, Mexico stitching a "recuerdo" in memory of the father of her children

when we said we would, that we furnished what they needed in order to create beauty and meaning when they had neither, and that we sincerely respected them as artisans and as human beings, was no small thing. For traumatized women and men escaping violence and extreme poverty, that kind of friendship and trust is hard-won.

"They work on their embroideries all the time until you return." we've been told. "They feel how much you worry about them."

With the help of intrepid partners at Voices from the Border in Mexico, plus Tucson's Salvavision Rescue and the Casa Alitas Welcome Center, we are finding strategies that continue to uphold the creativity and dignity of asylum-seekers and their families despite the separation of COVID-19. Donations to Artisans Beyond Borders enables this healthy cross-border program to carry on in spite of the odds.

Visit www.ArtisansBeyondBorders.org, to sign-up as a "Friend of Artisans Beyond Borders."

