



Volume 27, Number 4 - Winter 2020

Stitching Beirut Back Together: A Personal Experience

Yasmine Dabbous

"Your heart saved our lives," my student, Bettina, told me.

And she's quite right. On the fatal evening of August 4, 2020, I was supposed to hold a weaving class at my studio, four



Colorful, feel-good embroidery by Yasmine Dabbous

blocks away from Beirut's seaport. I cancelled the session a few hours earlier because I suffered an arrhythmia attack.

At 6:08 p.m. Beirut time, a massive explosion rocked the Lebanese capital, creating scenes of horror and havoc. According to the BBC, the blast was "one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history." In a split second, 190 died, over 6,000 were severely injured, and more than 300,000 lost their homes.

Since then, a cloud of sadness has hovered above Beirut. Most of the city--away from the explosion's epicenter--is already rebuilt, but our sense of normalcy is gone, and so are our joys and our dreams. It did not help, of course, that the blast came

amid the coronavirus outbreak and a severe economic meltdown, akin to 1929 US.

But four weeks later, we were already back to our weaving class (took a lot of energy, but we did it!). Two students dropped because they lost their homes, and had to focus on rebuilding, and two stayed. Invariably, their projects addressed the explosion. Rajaa expressed her anger, her fear, and the lingering, violent reflection of shattered glass. Bettina, on the other hand, went for an



Weaving by Rajaa Dabbous

out-of-the-box brooch that expressed her gratitude for all the love and support she felt after the explosion.

In the embroidery course, Hoda said that she wanted "to embroider in order to forget." She said she needed to "escape Beirut." By the end of the first session after the blast, the tense, agitated woman was



Weaving by Bettina Mahfoud

Creating A Connected Textile Community

MISSION

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

PURPOSE

Exchange information

Raise awareness of the importance of textile traditions to grassroots economies

Mobilize textile enthusiasts

Create conversations that result in action

CORE VALUES

Textiles are an important component of the human experience

Networking and sharing information creates an environment for constructive action

Making connections between textile artisans worldwide promotes positive social change

Interacting with people who have similar values enriches our lives

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WARP Newsletter
published quarterly by
Weave A Real Peace
Volume 27, Number 4
Winter 2020
Editor: Linda Temple

Send address
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The deadline for
contributions to the
Spring issue of the WARP
newsletter is
February 19, 2021

Send articles and
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the newsletter to:
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COVID-19: An inflection point for consumer habits and tourism-dependent economies?

Elena Laswick

Last August, (how long ago it seems!) I returned from Guatemala, after living there for four and a half years in the remote Maya Ixil region. That experience ultimately resulted in the creation of Ixil Collective, a small social enterprise promoting the textile heritage and artistry of the region.



Don Domingo, 85, beside his wife as he knots an Agave satchel (available on Ixil Collective) and recalls the introduction of plastic to the Ixil region. San Juan Cotzal, Guatemala

Come March, I felt myself reeling from loneliness and confusion as my launch plans for Ixil Collective seemed in shambles. So when Brooke Loving Bagwell, of Peruvian slow-fashion brand Artisans of Inti, reached out to me about collaborating from afar, I jumped at the opportunity. I would normally call myself a pessimist, but being part of the resulting cross-pro-



Naturally dyed thread for the "Rainbow Scarf" outside the Guatemalan cooperative Tlnte Maya drying after its last natural ikat dye bath.

motional social media campaign, "#TogetherForArtisans," amongst 15 small-scale Latin American artisan brands and organizations and online virtual bazaar via Zoom, uplifted me and showed me the value, even necessity, of collaboration as a way forward.

Meanwhile, in Guatemala, tourism and therefore local textile sales, ground to a halt. Places like the Ixil region, far off the trodden tourist path, were somewhat buffered from the fallout by their already largely local economies. But many designers, makers, and salespeople in places like Antigua and Chichicastenango, known for their textile markets, were and are feeling displaced. Speaking with a local K'iche' vendor friend from Chichicastenango, I learned of the disappearance of the



The world-famous Chichicastenango market, pre-COVID.

internationally-known textile market in that town. As a result, hundreds of textile vendors were left with no other recourse but to compete in their already-saturated local consumer goods economy.

After that initial marketing campaign, Brooke and I began envisioning the creation of a more tangible, longer-lasting, principled outlet for artisans based on the same concept of strength in numbers. The result is Amano Marketplace: a platform for Latin American artisans to tell their own stories and share their designs, cooperatively. Amano feels like something we can do while staying in "our lane." We provide the up-front investment, international shipping, English marketing, and US-based order fulfillment so that small-scale producers from across Latin America can interface more directly with their international clientele.

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2021 In-Person Meeting Cancelled

Kate Colwell

As the world turns and time ticks on, we are all adjusting in our own ways to the changes in our lives. The WARP Board is looking toward 2021 and due to the unknowns about COVID, we have made the tough decision to not have an in-person Annual Meeting. We are all very disappointed to have another year of not seeing each other, sharing ideas, visiting interesting textile venues, making connections and learning new things. The Annual Meeting holds such an important place in our social network.

But all is not lost! We're going to go virtual! Our survey showed that most people enjoyed the online Welcome Circle in 2020 and we will plan on another to kick

off our 2021 WARP Annual Meeting. We are hoping to line up speakers, events, and networking possibilities for this virtual reunion. We'll keep you posted as things develop! If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact Kate Colwell (see below). We'd love to hear from you!

Marcia Bellas is leaving the WARP Board for personal reasons. Her term ends in 2022 and we seek nominations for a replacement Board member for the next 20 months. This is a great opportunity for someone to help shape WARP events and activities, get to know new people and play a bigger part in our textile community.

Please email kolwell53@gmail.com with your suggestions for the Annual Meeting and Board Membership.



Thrums Books to Become Part of Schiffer Publishing Family

Thrums Books LLC, a Loveland, CO publisher, is pleased to announce the sale of its titles to Schiffer Publishing, a privately-held company in Atglen, Pennsylvania.

Thrums Books has been producing books celebrating traditional indigenous textiles and the artisans who create them for more than a decade. Its award-winning, highly-illustrated titles have featured artisans in Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Afghanistan, China, and more.

"Schiffer Publishing produces books that align well with ours in content and philosophy," says Thrums Books CEO Linda Ligon. "I look forward to our books and authors having an ongoing and fruitful home with Schiffer."

Schiffer published WARP member Deb Brandon's recent book, *Threads Around the World*.

Thrums Books LLC
4420 Roaring Fork Court
Loveland, Colorado 80538
Thrumsbooks.com

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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
Crestview, FL 32536

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



From the WARP Office

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Dear WARP Friends,

As we transition into fall, I am suddenly aware that 2020 is winding its way to a close. This has been a year of extreme and varied emotions. It was incredibly disappointing when we had to postpone the 2020 annual meeting, and even more so with the board's difficult decision to cancel the 2021 meeting as well. In contrast, our opportunities to connect have filled me with more joy than I could have expected – seeing WARP member faces on our Zoom Welcome Circle and at Deb Brandon's Zoom talk about her book *Threads Around the World*. These experiences have been energizing, and have given me the sense of togetherness and community that I always experience at the Annual Meeting. I am excited about the goal of expanding WARP's online engagement programs.



The board is working on a calendar of panels and presentations, and discussing ways of supporting members.

We will be designating this year's Giving Tuesday campaign to pay speakers and panelists for their time. We are also committed to creating an online meeting experience for 2021, and are learning from other organizations that are also going through the transition from in-person to online programs. The silver lining to all of this is that WARP members who have not been able to attend our in person meeting in the past can now attend, no matter where they live!

Since the beginning of the year, we have had nearly 50 new members join, and we want to make sure we are addressing your needs. If you have suggestions for how we can help you network, please reach out to me at info@weavearealpeace.org.

Warmest of wishes,
Kelsey Wiskirchen

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#GIVINGTUESDAY

WARP has no Borders – GivingTuesday Donations to Support Online Programs

For the past couple of years, WARP has participated in Giving Tuesday, a day that is dedicated internationally to charitable giving. In the last two years, we designated funds from Giving Tuesday to our scholarship and assistantship funds. Because we have had to cancel our 2020 and 2021 meetings, the WARP board has decided to use this year's funds from Giving Tuesday to offer a series of online programs. We are planning a series of virtual presentations to support our members and showcase their work. We hope to raise enough to offer a stipend to speakers, and we are hoping to use this as an opportunity to increase networking and learning opportunities for our members.

The Giving Tuesday fundraiser takes place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, which is on December 1. This event is hosted on Facebook, but we will also be taking donations by mail or through the donation page on WARP's website. (Please see details below.) If you would like to make a Giving Tuesday contribution to be used for our online programs, you can do so at any time through the end of the year.

For contributions by mail, please include a note stating "Giving Tuesday" and send to: Weave A Real Peace, Inc, 5753 Hwy 85 North #3044, Crestview, FL 32536

For online contributions, please visit <https://weavearealpeace.wildapricot.org/> Donate and enter "Giving Tuesday" into the comment box.



Member Profile: Mary Flad

Gloria Miller

After forty years living in a large Victorian house, Mary and her husband Harvey recently moved two miles to an apartment



on the edge of the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, NY. Now that she is “pretty much” retired from working for a variety of non-profit arts and human service organizations she continues to spend a lot of time and energy as a tapestry weaver. In the 1980s she was executive director of the Empire State Crafts Alliance and in the last three years she started a Textile Workshop project in Poughkeepsie which is now part of Fallkill Creative Works.

Even as a child she was drawn to fiber arts and began weaving about 50 years ago. Mary and Harvey share a special interest in ethnic textiles and they have collected and enjoy a number of items from their experiences abroad. In the mid 1960s Mary served in the Peace Corps in Thailand while Harvey served in Nigeria. Then in 1997 they lived in Kyrgyzstan when Harvey was teaching there as a Fulbright Scholar.

Mary’s education in fiber arts has been primarily through personal exploration. She has been deeply influenced by Swedish designer-weavers Margareta Grandin Nettles and Hans Krondahl as well as by Polish tapestry artist Barbara Falkowska. She has exhibited work in a number of settings through the years and has made a number of commissioned pieces for public buildings, churches, and private homes. Some of her work can be seen on the American Tapestry Alliance website. <https://americantapestryalliance.org/artist-pages/mary-m-flad/>

A highlight of her textile experience was the opportunity in 2017 to demonstrate tapestry weaving over a three-month period at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City during an exhibit of the 17th century Barberini tapestries made in Italy.

Mary’s introduction to WARP was quite serendipitous: her husband happened to meet Susan Weltman while walking on a trail in upstate New York and Mary followed



Mary Flad demonstrating tapestry weaving at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

up on the information Susan provided. She especially enjoys her connections with members and finds these interesting contacts to be a source of new inspiration and WARP meetings and newsletters to be invigorating.

She enjoys writing, building networks of people with common interests, and maintaining relationships with family and friends.

Here is a link to a YouTube interview with Mary on the development of the tapestry for the Fallkill Commons Apartments in Poughkeepsie. [flad/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J33qVpHeyfl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J33qVpHeyfl)

Mary is also a member artist at Queen City 15 Gallery in Poughkeepsie and some of her work shown on their website: <https://www.queencity15.com/mary-flad>

Mary very much enjoys her connections through WARP and welcomes communications by phone 845/471-5376 or email: maflad@verizon.net

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://www.instagram.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 Kelsey Wiskirchen info@weavearealpeace.org



From WARP's President

Susan Weltman

I hope you are all well, (meaning, these days, as well as can be expected). We know that members in the West have suffered through terrible wild fires, in addition to the pandemic - which is, of course, a terrible concern. We in New York are hoping that the second wave which is predicted does not appear. Our neighborhood feels safe as people are very conscientious about mask-wearing.



Speaking of mask-wearing, many of our members have turned to making masks to meet the new community need. I've purchased masks for myself and family and friends from Mayan Hands, KaKaw Designs, and UPAVIM. (Interesting to see that UPAVIM is sold out and cannot meet the demand.) We have gotten many compliments on our masks from Lola Faturoti in NY. Recently, traveling outside NYC to High Falls, NY, I admired the mask of a woman in the grocery store. In the middle of our mutual admiration, identifying ourselves as weavers, we discovered that we were both WARP members! Thank you, Kate Banner (a member since 2018) for this wonderful treat!

In the midst of our worries for our families and the fate of our country, I'm heartened by the enormous number of activities available on the internet for those of us who are weavers/spinners/

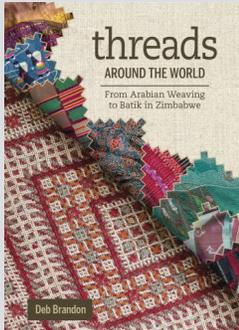
knitters/dyers or with textiles and fibers in our hearts. We are finding that being online makes access increasingly available (for those who have access to computers and reliable internet, which we know is not always the case). At WARP's Welcome Circle, we had members present who have not been able to attend an in-person meeting due to distance and cost.

It's of interest that the NY Guild of Handweavers has grown in membership by 100% (now 130 members) even before the pandemic. To my surprise, most of these new members are not new to the craft but have had looms hidden away and are pulling them out. WARP is also growing with a wonderful increase in younger members. They are attracted by the opportunity to network (and socializing online is second nature to them!) and our international presence.

I'm in touch with members around the world by email and FB and Instagram. Some are making much better use of their time than I am! Jackie Abrams, Adrienne Sloane, Cynthia Alberto, Cameron Taylor-Brown all have been wonderfully productive after a fallow period of sitting down to figure out what comes next (and how to adjust to the Zoom world). I'm sure I'm leaving out many members. Check out their websites to keep current about their inspiring work. Remember, you can easily get in touch with us all by using the WARP Google Group which all members are subscribed to automatically. We love to hear from you!

Susan can be reached at sweltwoman@gmail.com

Threads Around the World: From Arabian Weaving to Batik in Zimbabwe



A great holiday gift, for yourself or anyone else who loves textiles!

Threads Around the World, by Deb Brandon, is available from Weave A Real Peace with a donation of \$30.00 or more.

To make your contribution, please visit our donation page at <https://weavearealpeace.wildapricot.org/Donate> and specify that your donation is for Deb Brandon's book.

Contact Kelsey Wiskirchen at info@weavearealpeace.org with any questions.

Do you have a friend you'd like to introduce to WARP? Why not gift them with a year's membership for the holidays? You can purchase a gift membership at <https://weavearealpeace.wildapricot.org/Join-WARP>. Email us at info@weavearealpeace.org, and we will send you two of this year's printed newsletters and a WARP postcard with a welcome note that you can wrap up as a gift!



WARP Annual Auction a Success!

After the disappointment of canceling our annual meeting, the WARP board has been committed to virtually recreating as much of the meeting experience as possible. After a wonderfully successful



This traditional Lao Shaman Cloth, donated by WARP member Above the Fray, was high selling item. Detail below.

Zoom Welcome Circle (member introductions which always begin the annual meeting), we decided to host our popular Annual Auction online. This was a learning curve for us but with the help of our webmaster and teamwork we created the "2020 WARP Online Auction," which was hosted on WARP's website.



From September 17-20th, we auctioned nearly 90 amazing items repre-

senting at least 17 countries. They were donated from 40 generous businesses and individual donors and over 100 people registered to bid from the US, Canada, and the UK. The majority of items were textiles, but also included were interesting books, fascinating documentaries, a custom weaving of the buyer's choice, assorted looms, a clever hand-knit wire sculpture, beautiful accessories, and more, ranging in value from \$20 to \$400. And to top it off, the winning bidders paid their bills right away and the wonderful donors shipped the items promptly. The efforts by all helped make it a great experience for everyone. This was truly a group effort.

When the dust settled we realized we had raised over \$6000 from the auction, which exceeded our goals. Additionally, we raised even more income through book donations and new memberships during the auction. A huge success!

Thank you to everyone that participated in this exciting event. We couldn't have done it without you! Start putting aside your treasures, because we already have another online auction planned for next year. We'd love to open it to more variety of items related to our love of textiles and handmade pieces.

WARP Auction Committee

Donations for Food Sought for Artisans in Chiapas

Christine Eber, Weaving for Justice, writes, "The 1st of each month we send food aid to the cooperatives we assist. Please consider donation through our webpage - www.weaving-for-justice.org - where you can enter a donation by clicking the DONATE button at the bottom of the home page. Or you can also mail a check made out to "Sophia's Circle" to Weaving for Justice, 1825 Myrtle Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001. While on our webpage you can learn about becoming a member of Weaving for Justice. We depend on memberships to sustain our all-volunteer organization.

Newsletter Copy Deadlines

V28N1 - Spring 2021 - February 19

V28N2 - Summer 2021 - April 30

V28N3 - Fall 2021 - August 27

V28N4 - Winter 2021 - November 5

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



Arcadian Brown Cotton - Reviving a 250 Year Old Tradition

Judi Jetson

My love of travel hasn't diminished during this time of Covid, but I'm avoiding airports in favor of roadtrips that I can make in one day or less. This fall and winter, and next spring, one I highly recommend is a trip to Lafayette, LA to visit the bayou, take in a little Cajun music, and see a top-notch exhibit that depicts an historical textile that's experiencing a re-awakening in the US thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, farmers, and craftspeople.

I first learned about Acadian Brown Cotton two years ago, when I received a call from Sharon Donnan, a Los Angeles-based documentary film producer. Sharon heard about me because of my work founding and growing Local Cloth,

to find an alternative to the declining oil and fishing industries.

Thanks to Sharon's persistence and skillful advocacy, there are now a number of farmers growing Acadian Brown Cotton, spinners spinning it, and weavers from nearby New Orleans and surrounding areas weaving it. You can learn about the history in a landmark exhibition at the Hilliard Museum at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette from now through next spring. It's a comprehensive project dedicated to the cultural traditions associated with the farming and weaving of brown cotton in Acadiana, celebrating and commemorating a vibrant 250 year tradition.

Acadian brown cotton blankets were taken for granted by past generations; today they are cherished for their artistic merit and cultural importance, as documented in the film. The exhibition has six sections that represent an ambitious synthesis of folklore, anthropology, economics, and art history. You can read more about it here. And if you make the trek, make sure to set aside time to go to nearby Avery Island and the Tabasco Factory. It was a lot of fun.

Both Acadian Brown Cotton and Local Cloth are part of an international network of more than 70 organizations affiliated through a California-based project called Fibershed. We collectively work to develop and redevelop regional fiber systems in a style similar to the local food movement. With global textile production being one of the most polluting industries on the planet, and growing concern about sustainability, we think this is the face of things to come.

Judi Jetson is Chairman of Local Cloth and former WARP Board member. She can be reached at judijetston.com



Master spinner and weaver Elaine Larcade Bourque at work near her fully stocked armoire. Photo by James Edmunds.

an Asheville-based non-profit working to re-energize a local fiber economy. She wanted some tips about how to grow a similar organization in Southwest Louisiana to oversee the re-introduction of a natural brown cotton. They called it Acadian Brown Cotton (ABC). She became fascinated with this fiber while antiquing with a friend of hers and discovering a treasure-trove of trousseau items made with it during the 18th and 19th centuries. She financed the making of a documentary film about it with an *indiegogo* campaign, and "Coton jaune – Acadian Brown Cotton – A Cajun Love Story," captured the attention of artists, farmers, culture-lovers, and local economic development officials anxious

New Members

Cael Chappell
Baskets of Africa
Albuquerque, NM

Ginny Doyle
Redwood Empire Fiber Guild
Santa Rosa, CA

Kathy Graham
Elizabethtown, PA

Marian Leishman
Bozeman, MT

Ali Tucker Lichtenstein
Sacramento, CA

Bob Miller
Loveland, CO

Nancy Moren
Bobbinwinders
Covina, CA

Lynn Novotnak
Wisconsin Handweavers, Inc.
Glendale, WI

Faith Perkins
Salem, NY



Books (and more) You Want to Know About

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versatile technique, that makes necklaces, bracelets, and anything else you can design.

Kathryn Rousso

<http://www.Kathrynrousso.com>

Maguay Journey: Discovering Textiles

in Guatemala. The University of Arizona Press, 2010. Chapters focus on maguay fibers in Guatemala and include history, botanical information, harvesting, fiber extraction, dyeing and patterns, spinning, and loom-woven (treadle, fixed-vertical, vertical and horizontal looms) and non-loom or hand-construction (looping, knitting, ply-split darning and braiding, linking, crochet, interlacing, sprang, braiding, macramé and plait coiling) techniques used to create bags, hammocks, rope, equestrian gear, tumplines and other products.

Guatemalan-Style Bags and How to Make

a Net Bag, Self-published, 2012 (updated 2014). This publication highlights Guatemalan bag techniques including loom-woven (treadle, fixed-vertical, vertical frame and horizontal looms), knit and crocheted, linked (single and two element) and looped or knotless netted (simple, hourglass, cross-knit and single-interconnected).

In addition I wrote chapters on “Morrales in Guatemala” and “Dress of Eastern Guatemala” for the *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion, Vol. 2;* Berg Publications, 2010, plus articles for *Revue*, an English language magazine published monthly in Guatemala, and *Strands*, the journal of the international braiding society. These articles include palm frond textiles such as hats, mats, brooms, and baskets; interesting net bag techniques of Mexico, Panama, and Colombia; and a couple of articles about gourds and wood-fired pottery.



Covid-19: An Inflection Point?

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Hopefully, COVID can be an inflection point for consumption, travel habits, and tourism-dependent economies. A silver lining of this pandemic would be if travelers and textile enthusiasts who already shop ethically found new ways to interface directly with Latin American makers and if more



A member of the Pich family adding finishing touches to the wild grass nesting baskets for display on Amano Marketplace.

mainstream consumers learned, while browsing the internet, about ethical ways to travel and shop more directly from artisans. That way, when tourists start traveling again, they might opt for a textile tour from a local NGO over buying an underpriced used textile. Amano is our contribution to the kind of change we hope to see moving forward. By enabling artisans to collectively expand their reach and connect with international customers during this time, Latin American textile economies could become both more resilient and more fair as they slowly re-emerge.

You may recognize Elena Laswick from the “new members” sidebar on the last WARP newsletter. She is currently based out of Washington, DC and can be contacted via the “contact” tabs on either ixilcollective.org or amanomarketplace.com or at elenalaswick@gmail.com.

More New Members

Bonnie Reese
Northridge, CA

Janice Schmidt
Goddess Rags
Weaverville, NC

Karen Seidel
Wisconsin Handweavers, Inc.
Milwaukee, WI

Brenda Shears
Santa Fe, NM

Hannah Sholder
Hasina & Hannah's Kantha
Enterprises
Silver Spring, MD

Amy Stewart
Los Angeles, CA

Terry Williams
Fiber Artists of Oklahoma,
Inc
Oklahoma City, OK



Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale

Submitted by Carol Ireland

Thanks to WARP Donors!

Constance Blackmon-Lee
Jane Brownlee
Diane de Souza
Sharon Denner
Iseilia Fisk
Ercil Howard-Wroth
John Laswick
Barbara O'Connor
Barbara Parman
Janet Pesek
Bonnie Reese
Leslie Rodier
Sandra Rosenstiel
Gail Shutiak
Mary Wegelin
Devik Wyman
Carlyn Yanda

A few months ago I reported on the book *Clothing Poverty*, which I got from the library thinking it was the Adam Minter book *Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale*. I've now read the Minter book, which nicely complements the first book.

I had thought, based on an NPR interview with Minter, that *Secondhand* was mostly about textiles. It's much broader than that. Minter gives a remarkable assessment of the life cycle of our "stuff," and how we should start thinking about the full life cycle of things we buy. Minter's recommendation is to not buy, or if you're going to, "buy quality" so things can be used, and then reused many times, before ultimately becoming trash.

One topic he describes in some detail is the rag industry — converting clothing to rags used by mechanics, cleaning people, etc. Here's one quote: The white sweatshirts "were likely made in South Asia, exported to the United States, and worn until they were donated to Goodwill, the Salvation Army, or some other thrift-based exporter. When they didn't sell there, they were exported again, to Kandla [India] most

likely (or perhaps Mississauga [Ontario], near Toronto, where there's a significant rag industry), en route to Kandla), cut up, and exported again—this time to Star Wipes in Newark, OH. Each step of that journey makes perfect economic sense, even if the totality of it sounds ridiculous."

Another industry that Minter describes is the shoddy industry. Shoddy is the name given to an inferior woollen yarn made by shredding scraps of woollen rags into fibres, grinding them and then mixing them with small amounts of new wool. The Southern California Handweavers Guild invited Adam Minter to give a Zoom presentation for a recent program. He shared pictures and talked about the shoddy trade in India. Thankfully, the guild recorded the presentation. I learned about this from the Fall issue of *Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot* which included a link to the presentation: vimeo.com/420883214#at=1.

A third book that seems to overlap with *Secondhand* and *Clothing Poverty* is now on my to-be-read list: *Fashionopolis* by Dana Thomas.



Stitching Beirut

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calmly smiling. "I love this," she said. "I cannot get enough of it. It feels like I traveled to a different world."

I do understand Hoda. After the explosion, I remained in a state of hypervigilance and disarray for weeks. Any loud noise sent me below the table or behind the door. The sight of glass made me nauseous. But, when I embroidered, I was in my own zone, tucked behind the tactility of my fabric. I created colorful things, which made me feel that the world was still beautiful. And I thought of many projects to express my hopes and my sorrows through fiber art.

Stitching, at once easy and fulfilling, also provided us with a sense of resilient normalcy. Maha, my embroidery student, was sitting home on her favorite couch when the blast occurred. She sustained severe injuries in her legs and her eyes. A few days later, she left the country but made sure to stop by her broken apartment and take her embroidery kit with her. Forty days and several visits to

the ophthalmologist later, she sent me a Whatsapp message of her work: "I'm back," she wrote with a sense of determination. "I'm still damaged, but I am lucky to be alive. And I have to finish my piece."

For more information about the Beirut blast: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-53668493>

For more information about my studio: www.espacefann.com

Yasmine Dabbous, PhD, is a visual culture artist and researcher. Formerly an assistant professor of journalism and cultural studies at the Lebanese American University, Dabbous left her position to pursue a degree in jewelry and textile design at the Fashion Institute Of Technology in New York. She is the founder of Kinship Stories, a line of tribal art jewelry displayed at galleries and select boutiques in Beirut, NYC, and Washington DC.



Especially Now - It's Important to Buy Fair Trade

Jonit Bookheim

Namaste WARP readers!

I'm writing from Mata Traders, a fair trade fashion brand partnering with small-scale apparel producers in India and Nepal. The inspiration behind Mata was the discovery of colorful Indian textiles on a backpacking trip



post-college with my two best friends back in 2003. To create our collections, we utilize handmade techniques such as hand block printing and screen printing, ikats, and embroidery. We love designing with a handmade aesthetic and being part of the continuation of craft traditions. You can shop the new Fall collection at matatraders.com.

With the holidays approaching, I wanted to share some ideas for fair trade gifts that, like Mata, incorporate fabrics from grassroots economies. The fair trade movement developed decades ago to increase market access to craft producers in a world that was quickly becoming mechanized and mass-produced. This year, many fair trade businesses are facing big challenges due to closures of retail stores and production facilities during the pandemic. More than ever, it's so important to support fair trade over the holiday season!

One of my favorite fair trade companies is MZ, a line of handwoven bags that bring the beautiful designs of Zapotec artisans to market in modern color palettes. These covetable, versatile bags are both super-classy and down-to-earth. Check them out at mzfairtrade.com.



Starlight Bucket Tote from MZ

Bunyaad hand knotted rugs are made throughout 100 villages in Pakistan and are available in myriad forms and styles, preserving a rich cultural heritage in classic and contemporary designs. Purchasing one is a se-



Mug Rug from Bunyaad

rious investment for your home, but the mini versions make for lighthearted "Mug Rugs," functional coasters with luxe boho style. At only \$15.95 each, they make great gifts! Mix and match a set of four at marketplace.bunyaad.com.

Mayamam Weavers is a cooperative of women in Cajolá, a Mayan town in the western highlands of Guatemala, designing for export to the US. Now, I know neckties can be a cliché gift for dads, but I'm absolutely enamored by their father-son matching sets in really cool colors! Super stylish!



Father-Son Tie Set from Mayamam

Get them at mayamamweavers.com.

Ta'na'na Wild Silk Markets produces unique, artisan textiles made of no-kill wild silk in northeastern Madagascar. By rearing native silk moths, farmers not only harvest commercially viable silk cocoons, they engage in environmental preservation in developing the moth habitat. The cocoons are then turned into seemingly angel-spun textiles, which are then used to create home decor in both natural undyed and deeply saturated colors. I suggest checking out their hand-dyed silk baskets in vibrant colors at tananasilk.com.



Silk baskets from Tanana

I could go on and on! If I had more space, I'd tell you about Cielo Hammocks from Yucatan, Mexico, Anchal Project in Ajmer, India, Yabal from Guatemala, Global Mamas from Ghana, and there are so many more to discover at the Fair Trade Federation, fairtrade-federation.org.

Happy shopping, Jonit

Jonit Bookheim is Director of Marketing and Sales at Mata Traders, which she co-founded. She is also on the Board of the Fair Trade Federation. She can be reached at jonit@matatraders.com

Consider WARP

when making your End of Year giving decisions. WARP has been designated a 501(c)3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service in the US. Donations are typically tax deductible. Contact Kelsey Wiskirchen for more information about WARP (info@weavearealpace.org). Contact your Accountant to learn if your donation is tax deductible.

Thanks!





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

Fostering Global Connections in the Covid-19 Era

Books (and more) You Want to Know About

Editor's Note: Several years ago, I asked WARP members to share their publications so other WARP members would know about them. As expected, the response was overwhelming. In the Winter 2015 issue of the Weave A Real Peace newsletter, the first of a series of articles about books, videos, and other media that have been written or produced by WARP members was introduced.

In the Winter 2015 issue, titles and brief summaries of publications by Philis Alvic, Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser, Deborah Chandler, Penelope B. Drooker, Liz Gibson, Carol Hayman, Mary B. Kelly, Anita Luvera Mayer, and Jennifer Moore were featured. The Summer 2016 issue featured works by Jackie Abrams, Marilyn Murphy, and Deborah Robson.

But then, the series lapsed. However, popular demand, and the fact that many of you have published books, videos, and more in the last four years, has convinced me that this series needs to be reinstated. Please send titles, with brief descriptions (as in the items below), and I will continue to print these lists of work by WARP members as space permits. Please don't send titles that you have sent previously. As you already know, WARP members are amazingly talented. And their publications show their desire to share their talents and knowledge.

*Originally titled "Books You Want to Know About," I've renamed this as **Books (and more) You Want to Know About.***

Marilyn Romatka
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Creative Crafts of the World, self-published in 2012

Creative Crafts of the World is a practical guide for teaching folk art to groups of children, young adults, adults, even yourself! From years of teaching real-life folk art classes, these lesson plans are tried-and-true. Perfect for all levels of skill. Just add students, mix, and create!

DVD, Bow Loom Weaving - 57 minute instructional video
This is my most popular class, in a box! The Ulo Akha peoples of Northern Thailand use these beaded bands to decorate their elaborate traditional headdresses, but the loom makes very nice bracelets as well. No previous weaving experience necessary. This is a great first introduction to ethnic weaving; simple enough for youngsters, lovely enough for fashionistas.

DVD Viking Knitting - 51 minute instructional video
This chain looks exquisite and complicated, but the process is simple and straightforward. Examples of these chains have been found in various archeological sites in Scandinavia dating back to the 8th century A.D. A truly

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