



Volume 27, Number 3 - Fall 2020

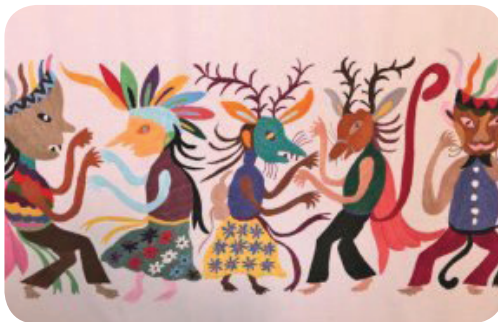
# Otomi “Tenangos”: Flowers, Birds, Animals, and Stories

*Stephanie Schneiderman*

The term “tenango” comes from the town, Tenango de Doria, located in the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains of Hidalgo, Mexico. This region is home to one of the branches of



Otomi people, known as the Eastern Otomi, or Ñah-ñu. They live in the mountains where Hidalgo, Puebla, and Veracruz meet, some-



times called the Sierra Norte de Puebla. It is this group of Otomi who create and are known for tenango embroideries.

These charming embroideries of birds, flowers, animals, and “stories” are often seen in stores in Mexico City. This specific style and textile art emerged in the 1960’s as a response to severe drought that put the region in a precarious condition. The people here

traditionally relied on small scale and subsistence agriculture. But given the drought, the community sought new ways to generate income. Considering their knowledge of embroidery, it occurred to them to sell their beautiful blusas in the market. This was unsuccessful, given the cost of material and time required to make them. But the need



was great, so they continued the search. In the town of San Nicolas, it’s said that Josefina Jose Tavera came up with the idea to make smaller, less expensive manta embroideries to sell in the nearby town of San Pablito Pahuatlan. Her daughter took them to the market and to her surprise, they sold! She made and sold more, causing a stir in the community! Others wanted to get involved, so Josefina began teaching others to draw (dibujantes)/or embroider.

This is how it started. A new or adapted form of embroidery based on known tech-

*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





WARP Newsletter  
published quarterly by  
Weave A Real Peace  
Volume 27, Number 3  
Fall 2020  
Editor: Linda Temple

Send address  
corrections to:

[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)  
or mail to

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

The deadline for  
contributions to the  
Winter issue of the WARP  
newsletter is  
**October 9, 2020**

Send articles and  
correspondence for  
the newsletter to:

Linda Temple  
1230 NE 70  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
[lgtempleok@gmail.com](mailto:lgtempleok@gmail.com)  
405/478-4936 (phone)

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.

# UPAVIM in the Time of Covid-19

Mary Joan Ferrara Marsland

UPAVIM (United for a Better Life), is a women's cooperative based in Guatemala City that I have worked with for over two decades. For over 30 years this well organized and successful project, based in a marginalized community on the outskirts of the city, has focused on community programs in income generation for women, healthcare, and education.



An UPAVIM seamstress

I retired last year from my job that I actually secured through my WARP network, as the US Distributor of UPAVIM's crafts, which provides income for approximately 65 women as well as money to support their Montessori school. I continue to work on the board of the foundation, UPAVIM Community Development Foundation (UCDF), based in the US that helps support several of UPAVIM's projects. Since the pandemic has hit we have been grappling with how to keep the vulnerable women afloat since they have very few craft orders.

The Guatemalan government has taken the coronavirus very seriously, shut down early on, and has updated protocols regularly. UPAVIM was able to open a few weeks ago with safety protocols in place but women only go in a few days a week, if any, and many pick up materials and work from home. The craft orders which provide income for the school and the women, have dried up. There are small orders from the US Distributor, Alisa Woofter. Masks are a

large part of her orders now. In an unprecedented move, one of the largest fair trade companies in the US has said apologetically they will order from UPAVIM if they can wait until the end of the year to be paid.

UCDF has been providing money each month for the women and we have had two generous donations of food. The women literally cry when paid. They are so grateful to get anything. Currently we have depleted our general funds used throughout the year to help support projects and are now using our emergency funds.

We also just discovered that two of the women's families have Covid spreading within their households and one death of a son. This woman still has two others sick, her daughter and son-in-law, as she cares for their baby. To make matters worse, not only is getting the coronavirus terrifying



Food donations

but you cannot let anyone know you have it. The gangs were burning down houses early on if they found out someone had a person infected in the house. Now they either chase you from the community or kill you. Everyone lives in fear and secrecy. It's a horrible situation to be in. Raising money to help their day to day survival is at least something we can do from here and our top priority now.

If you would like to learn more and/or to donate please visit [www.upavim.org](http://www.upavim.org). You can also purchase products from our distributor so they have more orders at [www.upavimcrafts.org](http://www.upavimcrafts.org)

Mary Joan Ferrara Marsland is currently the UPAVIM Community Development Foundation President. She is also a new member of WARP's Board of Directors. Her email is [maryjferrara@gmail.com](mailto:maryjferrara@gmail.com)



## WARP 2021, July 22-25 Grassroots: Yarns and Tales

Dorinda Dutcher

Hope springs eternal! Planning for a 2021 gathering of the kindred spirits that is WARP is progressing. However, it's become second nature to consider how the meeting components can be communicated virtually if necessary. All the speakers, including Valarie Lee James, Friends of Artisans Beyond Borders, who planned to speak in 2020 have expressed an interest in presenting in 2021. Valarie is updating her commentary to share how their cross-border initiative is thriving despite COVID-19.

Last year while setting up the 2020 excursion to LaVonne Stucky's Wool Mill she expressed interest in starting a Montana fibershed. She'd taken the steps to affiliate with [FiberShed.org](http://FiberShed.org) which was founded by Rebecca Burgess who presented at the 2015 WARP meeting in Burlingame, CA. The conversation continued and has attracted like-minded individuals. The first step was to connect LaVonne with Judi Jetson, a WARP member with experience in establishing fibersheds. Barb French, WARP member and a 2021 meeting planning committee member, joined in the discussion as did others from outside the Bozeman area. The current volunteers are gathering and compiling information to build a strong foundation for a grassroots economic development effort that will connect and make the most of the enormous potential of Montana's fiber supply chain. A date has been set for a public launch of the Montana Fibershed, and that will be a Farm to Fashion Show on July 23, 2021. It will be part of the WARP meeting's Friday night activities! It's exciting and timely to talk about and develop local fiber economies. The WARP meeting will allow for numerous interactive opportunities so that everyone attending the WARP meeting should walk away with ideas that could very well lead to action in their own communities.

Dorinda Dutcher, 2021 WARP Meeting Planning Chair ([dkdutcher@hotmail.com](mailto:dkdutcher@hotmail.com)), Bonnie Tarses, ([bonnie@bonnietarses.com](mailto:bonnie@bonnietarses.com)) Missoula Weavers Guild Liaison, Barb French, ([barbarafrench27@gmail.com](mailto:barbarafrench27@gmail.com)) Farm to Fashion Show Coordinator, Bozeman Weavers Guild Liaison.

## Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantships

Submitted by Marcia Bellas

WARP member, Susan Davis, is credited with creating the Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship program, which began in 2018. Susan proposed that a fund be established and named in memory of her friend and fellow textile-lover. The Assistantship program now helps defray the costs of attending the Annual Meeting for attendees in exchange for helping with meeting tasks.

Gloria Davis was an anthropologist by training, who did her Ph.D. research on Balinese culture in Indonesia. There she fell in love with and collected ikat and batik fabrics. After teaching at Yale, she became the first anthropologist ever employed by the World Bank. She ended her career as the World Bank's Director for Social Development. Gloria was an enthusiastic rug hooker who would have loved WARP. Sadly, she died of breast cancer before having a chance to join. Her widower donated her fabric collection to support a group that loved textiles as much as she did. WARP has benefited from the sale of these textiles and WARP members who purchase them have continued to enjoy them.

Textiles from Gloria's collection will be on sale at WARP's annual meeting in Bozeman next year, with funds going to the Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship Fund.

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

Otomi "Tenangos".....	1
UPAVIM in the Time of Covid.....	2
WARP 2021.....	3
Gloria Davis Assistantships .....	3
From the Office .....	4
WARP Survey Results.....	4
Member Profile: Cathy Stevulak.....	5
From WARP's President.....	6
New Members .....	6
Book Review: <i>Clothing Poverty</i> .....	6
Book Review: <i>How to Weave a Navajo Rug</i> .....	7
2019-2020 Annual Report.....	8-9
Thanks to Donors .....	10
Costumes to Tell Stories .....	11
Maintaining Community .....	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>



## WARP Governing Board

Philis Alvic  
Lexington, KY  
[philis@philisalvic.info](mailto:philis@philisalvic.info)  
Term expires 2021

Maren Beck  
Eugene, OR  
[maren@hilltribeart.com](mailto:maren@hilltribeart.com)  
Term expires 2023

Marcia Bellas  
Worcester, VT  
[mlb489@gmail.com](mailto:mlb489@gmail.com)  
Term expires 2022

Sara Borchert  
Hudson, NY  
[sara@camphillhudson.org](mailto:sara@camphillhudson.org)  
Term expires 2021

Kate Colwell  
Kensington, CA  
[kcolwell53@gmail.com](mailto:kcolwell53@gmail.com)  
Term expires 2023

Mary Joan Ferrara Marsland  
Great Cacapon, WV  
[maryjferrara@gmail.com](mailto:maryjferrara@gmail.com)  
Term expires 2021

Sara Lamb  
Grass Valley, CA  
[lambspin@gmail.com](mailto:lambspin@gmail.com)  
Term expires 2022

Susan Weltman  
Brooklyn, NY  
[sweltwoman@gmail.com](mailto:sweltwoman@gmail.com)  
Term expires 2022

Kelsey Wiskirchen  
Administrative Coordinator  
[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)

## From the Office

Kelsey Wiskirchen

Dear WARP Friends,

We have exciting things in the works here in the WARP office! I am thrilled with how much response we have had to our online engagement initiatives. WARP is doing our best to embrace this time of change, and focus on how we can help our members connect from afar. It was so fun to see many friends and new members on our Zoom Welcome Circle, and I look forward to the upcoming events we

are planning. Thank you to those who have contributed beautiful items to our online silent auction! If there is anything WARP can do to help you or your organization connect, please do send me a note!

I hope this finds you healthy and safe,  
Kelsey Wiskirchen  
WARP Administrative Coordinator  
[info@weavearealpeace.org](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.org)



## WARP Survey Results

Submitted by Marcia Bellas

In June, WARP members had the opportunity to respond to an online survey to vote on whether or not to approve the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting, and the nominations of Kate Colwell and Maren Beck to three-year positions on the Board. The survey also assessed members' interest in various types of online engagement opportunities. Thank you to the 132 WARP members who responded to the survey, and provided thoughtful suggestions!

Respondents approved the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting in DC, and unanimously approved the appointment of Kate Colwell and Maren Beck to the Board. Kate is a retired physician who lives in California. She has been interested in and involved in textiles and Latin America for the past six decades. Kate enjoys spinning, weaving, knitting, and dyeing. Maren, her husband and two sons formed **Above the Fray: Traditional Hill Tribe Art** in 2007, a business through which they lead tours to and sell textiles from the hill tribes of Laos and Vietnam. In 2017, Thrums Books published the family's book, *Silk Weavers of Hill Tribe Laos*.

The survey asked how likely respondents would be to participate in various types of on-line engagement opportunities for members. Respondents showed

the greatest interest in hearing from members who have been involved with projects designed to assist communities with grassroots economies. Respondents also expressed considerable interest in presentations by members who lead textiles tours, presentations by members who do not lead textile tours but have traveled with a focus on textiles, as well as specific fiber arts techniques. Respondents showed the least interest in additional Welcoming Circles to introduce themselves and learn more about the interests and experiences of other members (WARP offered an online Welcoming Circle in May).

The survey also asked if those who have a business related to WARP's mission are interested in promotional activities. Applicable respondents expressed great interest in this possibility. A small number of respondents have interest in sharing their experiences dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents made many wonderful additional suggestions for online engagement, and many volunteered to serve as presenters. Based on interest, suggestions, and the availability of presenters, the WARP board will schedule online opportunities to members in the near future!



# Member Profile: Cathy Stevulak

Gloria Miller

*"It has been my privilege to live an international life and be able to come to know people of various cultures. To be with artisans in their home villages and workshops, and to hear from them about their lives and work has enriched me beyond telling. They teach me about what is essential, and the words 'peace' 'slow' 'connection' 'beauty' 'hope' all come to mind as I think of them."*

As a child in Canada, Cathy came to appreciate the crafting as well as quality of fabrics. Her mother would often buy fine used clothing, carefully take it apart at the



seams, then use the fabric to construct lovely clothing for Cathy. Visits to her grandmother in a small coalmining town always meant time to snuggle into a feather comforter covered with soft scraps of pieced fabric as well as explorations in the hope chest full of brightly colored and intricately crocheted cloth.

Her mother taught her to knit, embroider, and sew most of her clothing. She was imbued with an appreciation for quality: it was better to have a few items that are beautiful and durable than to have many things. Cathy furthered her skills through Girl Guides of Canada, home economics classes, and an embroidery workshop with Kathryn Blackmore Borel, an insightful teacher who brings meaning into each stitch.

Cathy has lived and worked internationally for organizations including CARE, Canadian International Development Agency, NATO and United Nations Development Programme. When she and her husband lived for two years in Bangladesh she came to know a nation of resilient and creative people, that includes thousands of women who are part of the "quiet revolution" of Bangladesh, who find a way forward work-

ing with their hands to revive traditions that are part of the land and soul of the region.

She came to know artist Surayia Rahman and was struck by her quiet dignity. Surayia lived modestly, surrounded by a group of women she guided to embroider her original designs. "Though I was deeply moved by the rarity of her embroidered wall hangings -- the tones of the colors, the perfection of the stitches and the vividness of the human stories of Bengali life that emerged from simple threads -- it was her humanism that touched me."

When learning to weave in Nova Scotia, a conversation with her instructor, Lesley Armstrong, led to the idea of making the film THREADS about Surayia and her work with the women. Cathy and her husband returned to Bangladesh to make the film—their first endeavor in the field. WARP members at the 2019 annual meeting had the opportunity to view this film and Cathy hopes to expand its reach even further to people and educational institutions worldwide. THREADS story is a universal one with themes of connection, inclusion, and promise.

Cathy loves to learn from lectures and reading, and surrounds herself with books about culture, color, design, and making.

Cathy makes it a point to wear something handmade every day. She loves to exchange ideas, to make presentations, and to collaborate. If she can help other members, please reach out: [cathy@kanthathreads.com](mailto:cathy@kanthathreads.com) Website: <https://Kanthathreads.com> To watch the film go to: <https://kanthathreads.com/watch-the-film/>

*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](https://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

I am writing from Brooklyn, no longer the epicenter of the Pandemic. While this is good news, the continued severity is of course a great concern to us all. We are faithfully



wearing our masks; oddly enough the Pandemic has been an opportunity for many of our members

to show off skills. I know that several of our members will be offering masks they've made at our upcoming online Auction. The new "normal."

We were pleased by the turnout for our Virtual Welcome Circle and welcomed many members, including those who had never been to a Meeting. It was exciting to be able to put faces to names. I do miss seeing people in real life, as do we all, I'm sure. More online meetings are planned.

I want to share an interesting and optimistic experience I had in February. Being retired, and having leisure time, I'm interested in gatherings with people who might resonate to WARP's mission. I found myself in a basement room in a neighborhood nearby with 20 people who had gathered to learn to MEND! They had replied to a message on In-

stagram with an emphasis on recycling and reducing consumer waste.

The participants were in their 20s and 30s, more men than women, an interracial gathering, largely strangers to each other. Most of them had never sewn anything before; I needed to explain to a young engineer that a knot at the end of the thread was a necessity. These men and women all had jobs with financial security (who knows what has happened since then) so finances were not their motivation for learning to mend and to "repurpose" clothing. Their motivation was concern about the environment and awareness of the exploitive nature of clothing production (see Carol Ireland's Book Review below). They were interested in WARP's message and mission. (At the end of the meeting I was able to convince a new friend that it was not wasteful to buy needles and thread rather than being given them via a sharing website.)

I've carried this memory with me in some of the six toughest months in the life of my friends and family. I'd like to think - and I sure hope - that this concern for each other, the environment, our country's racism, and our health, is the future we can and will have.

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



## Book Review: *Clothing Poverty*

Reviewed by Carol Ireland

I happened on a book *Clothing Poverty: The Hidden World of Fast Fashion and Second-hand Clothes* by Andrew Brooks inadvertently. After getting this book from the library I realized the one I really wanted was *Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale* by Adam Mintner.

Since I had the book in hand, I decided to read through *Clothing Poverty*. It offered a fascinating view of the history and current state of clothing production and what happens to our clothes when we are through with them. That journey looks something like this:

Fashion design —> "Global South" (i.e. China, Southeast Asia, Africa, etc.) manufacture —> shipped to Global North (i.e. North America, Europe) for purchase —> donated

clothing—> shipped to sorting warehouses (e.g. India) —> 45 kg used clothing bales shipped to Global South (especially Africa) —> "wholesaler" —> retailer/market —> the poor

At every step, profits are realized by the designers, manufacturing companies, shipping companies, sorters, "wholesalers", while the workers are paid low wages.

Some of the chapter titles are: *A Biography of Jeans*, *Cotton is the Mother of Poverty*, *Ethical clothing Myths and Realities*.

It's a difficult book to summarize, and the writing is quite academic, so quoting from an on-line review: "Using research from

*continued on page 7*

### New Members

Mary Adams  
The Annapolis Bookstore  
Annapolis, MD

William Landa  
free Sol co.  
Austin, TX

Elena Laswick  
Ixil Collective  
Arlington, VA

Kathy M'Closkey  
Windsor, ON  
Canada

Lynda Pete  
Denver, CO

Karen Rathe  
Threads for Tomorrow  
Kirkland, WA

Mimi Robinson  
Petaluma, CA

Christina Simões-Gaffney  
Brooklyn, NY

Stephanie Smagala  
Talent, OR

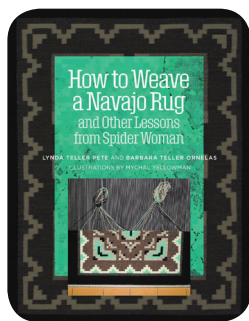
Susie Strauss  
Denver, CO

Catherine Thompson  
Tucson Handweavers and  
Spinners Guild  
Tucson, AZ



# Book Review: *How to Weave a Navajo Rug*

Reviewed by Kate Colwell



In this time when we are so polarized as a society and then asked to socially distance more, one thing we actually can do to make a better world is to learn to listen to those whose beliefs, perspectives or lives might not align with our own.

As WARP members we are used to appreciating textiles and people of other cultures and yet how often do we really understand the life views of our artisan friends?

As a tapestry weaver who has lived most of my life in California, I have long admired the textiles, ceramics, and other arts of the US Southwest. I was excited to read a pre-release copy of the newest book by Thrums Books: *How to Weave a Navajo Rug and Other Lessons from Spider Woman*.

This is the first book on how to weave Navajo style actually written by Navajo (Diné) weavers. The authors Lynda Teller Pete and Barbara Teller Ornelas are sisters and their earlier book, *Spider Woman's Children*, was an introduction to their long lineage of weavers. Their new book includes the instructions and philosophy these experienced teachers and weavers share when they teach students to weave in the Navajo way.

Initially I approached this as a "How-To" book on Navajo weaving and it is that. The

instructions seem clear for warping and weaving a small Navajo style piece; there is a Troubleshooting section and a list of Resources. The authors' voices are reassuring, their suggestions practical and they write with a sense of humor. But the more I read and reread, the more I understood that this book is also something very different. Just as the history we learned as children about the Civil War or slavery or treatment of immigrants in the US is very different from the realities experienced by those groups, the books about Navajo weaving so far have been written by outsiders who have a very different understanding of history and world view than Diné who live their own ancient Navajo culture.

Lynda and Barbara make clear that their lives and weavings are steeped in their spirituality.

*"Navajo weaving is a complex art form, and to Diné weavers, it is a living art form that dwells in our families through songs, prayers, and traditions. Every step in the weaving process is a lesson..."*

They write of the integration of weaving and spirituality.

*"Weaving instills in us a quest for beauty, a balance of energy, harmony, and acceptance of our current state from birth to old age—the beauty of the circle of life..."*

*continued on page 10*



## Book Review: *Clothing Poverty*

*continued from page 4*

around the globe, colourful stories and hard data demonstrate how the clothing, textile and recycling sectors have played a major part in making different regions of the world rich and poor. *Clothing Poverty* uncovers how fast fashion retailers and charity shops are engaged in commodity chains which perpetuate poverty. Stitching together rich narratives from Papua New Guinean tribal people, Mozambican cotton growers, Zambian factory workers, American jeans markets, international charities, Nigerian smugglers, London's vintage clothing scene, and Vivienne Westwood's new ethical designer lines, [the

author] uncovers the many secret sides of fashion."

There is some discussion about "enlightened" vendors/programs like Toms Shoes, Patagonia, and Fair Trade. The author's conclusion is that these are "feel good" initiatives but they have minimal impact.

The book presents us, Global North consumers, with several dilemmas. Should we buy more, or less? Should we just make our own clothing? Should we donate most of our wardrobes? I'm hoping the Adam Mintner book *Secondhand* will provide more guidance.

Carol Ireland can be reached at [spinning-biker@comcast.net](mailto:spinning-biker@comcast.net)

## More from Thrums Books



If you haven't yet bought a copy of Thrums Books' award-winning *True Colors: World Masters of Natural Dyes and Pigments* by Keith Recker, you'll soon have another chance. In October, we're releasing a new paperback edition. New to this edition is a chapter about Heartwear, a collaborative of artists and fashion designers who have created and supported indigo-dyeing projects from Benin to Morocco to India and beyond. You can pre-order your copy today at [ThrumsBooks.com](http://ThrumsBooks.com)

## Threads of Life

Threads of Life, in Ubud, Bali, is celebrating their 19th Anniversary by relaunching their online store at <https://onlinegallery.threadsoflife.com/>

Jean Howe, co-founder of Threads of Life and a WARP member, says they are glad to ship anywhere.



# Special Section: 2019-2020 Annual Report



## *The Year in Review*

As we all know, this has been an unusual and difficult year for WARP, our families, country, the world. Through the fall, WARP carried on as usual, but then in March everything changed. Like every other organization, it took a while to realize that things were not going back to 'normal' quickly. We have adapted, yes, because we had to. The Board's creativity has been challenged to serve the members when we cannot meet in person. In the coming months there will be announcements of new initiatives building on our mission.

**WARP Board** – At the annual meeting in Washington, DC, June 2019, the full board met: eight members plus nominees, ex-officio member Linda Temple, and Kelsey Wiskirchen, Administrative Coordinator. Officers elected at that meeting were Susan Weltman, President; Mariana Mace, Vice President; Dorinda Dutcher, Treasurer; Sara Lamb, Secretary. Members included Philis Alvic, Carrie Miller, Maren Beck, Judi Jetson, and Janice Knausenberger. Retiring from the board at this meeting was Judi Jetson, after completing her three-year term, and Janice Knausenberger, who resigned effective immediately following the Washington DC meeting.

The board elected Maren Beck to replace Janice Knausenberger for the remainder of her term: one year, ending in June 2020. Marcia Bellas was subsequently elected at the Annual meeting by the membership for a full three-year term.

Board Committees include the Scholarship Committee (chaired by Carrie Miller), the Assistantship Committee (chaired by Marcia Bellas), the Membership Committee (chaired by Philis Alvic), the Nominating Committee (chaired by Sara Lamb), and the newsletter, edited by ex-officio board member Linda Temple.

In the Spring of 2020 there were two resignations from the board: Mariana Mace, and Dorinda Dutcher. They were replaced by a vote of the remaining board members, by Sara Borchert, and Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland. Mary Joan agreed to take up the Treasurer's position vacated by Dorinda Dutcher.

At what would have been the timing of the Annual meeting, Carrie Miller completed her three-year term on the board. Kate Colwell and Maren Beck were nominated for three-year positions on the Board. Voting confirmed the nominations through the online survey in July.

New officers were elected by the board at the July meeting: Susan Weltman, President, Kate Colwell, Vice President, Mary Joan Ferrara-Marsland, Treasurer, and Sara Lamb, Secretary.

**2020 Annual Meeting** - By the middle of March, it became obvious to the Board and the Bozeman Planning Committee that it would be necessary to reschedule the long-planned Annual Meeting. We greatly appreciate the work Dorinda Dutcher and her committee did to plan the Meeting and then have to work on rescheduling for 2021.

**Zoom Welcome Circle** – We knew we wanted an activity to bring WARP members together, though obviously at a distance. For those of you who joined us, the Zoom Welcome Circle was a wonderful experience enjoyed by over 60 members. We had many members "present" who had never been able to attend a WARP Meeting because of distance and expense. The Board is presently considering ways to follow up on this online event.

**2021 Annual Meeting** - Planning for the 2020 WARP meeting in Bozeman began in late 2018. As the unreality of the COVID-19 crisis became reality, the WARP Board made the decision in mid-March to move the meeting to 2021. Once the University of Montana's (MSU) events had been rescheduled, WARP was able to secure the last available weekend for event space on the campus. It is with high hopes that the gathering can take place July 22-25, 2021, but having to hold a virtual meeting will be taken into consideration during the planning.

**Membership** - WARP's current total membership is 356, which is an increase from the membership of 338 a year ago. There are 15 International memberships, 48 Professional (Guild, Business, Non-Profit) memberships, and 42 Simple Living Memberships. Five of the current memberships are Sister (Gift) memberships. Gifting a WARP membership is a great way to introduce someone to WARP. They will receive the printed quarterly newsletter, have access to our member database, and receive periodic communications.

**Administrative Coordinator** – Kelsey Wiskirchen was hired as WARP's Administrative Coordinator on August 1, 2018. Routine responsibilities of the Administrative Coordinator include communicating with members, processing membership renewals, handling WARP's bookkeep-

*continued on page 9*





# Special Section: 2019-2020 Annual Report



## *The Year in Review*

*continued from page 8*

ing, website updates, and assisting the Board of Directors in planning the Annual Meeting. This was a very different year for WARP, as for so many organizations. When WARP's annual meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19, we began efforts to do virtual outreach with our members. The Administrative Coordinator assisted in hosting WARP's first virtual Welcome Circle, and is working with the Board on plans to continue doing virtual outreach in the future.

Membership Committee – The committee did an outreach effort to the Fair Trade community, which unfortunately had to be suspended in March.

GivingTuesday - GivingTuesday is 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. GivingTuesday 2019 took place on December 3. WARP's campaign started in late October and by year's end donations totaled \$3,445! Donations will support Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantships, which provide financial support to attend the annual meeting in exchange for help with meeting logistics.

Artisan Textile Resource Guide - Last fall, Kelsey worked with Board member Maren Beck to do a complete overhaul of the ATRG. The reference section of the WARP site was updated and consolidated into just one link with all information about our members who have businesses – both retail or wholesale – to promote textiles woven by indigenous weavers, lead tours focusing on textiles, or have consulting expertise related to textiles. Members were asked if they wanted to participate and then updated profile information was gathered and updated.

If you haven't yet, please review the resources available in ATRG. <https://weavearealpeace.org/artisan-resource-guide/>

Newsletter – The newsletter that Linda Temple, editor, publishes quarterly inspires and provides a means for the membership to network and participate in creating a connected international textile community. Along with a heartfelt thanks to Linda, thanks are extended to her staff of proofreaders: Sarah Saulson, Karen Searle, Kathy McHenry, Beth Davis, and Cheryl Musch. Thank you also to columnists Gloria Miller and to Deb Brandon (who also volunteers as a proofreader).

Blog – Deborah Chandler is the Blog manager. She either writes the monthly editions or solicits others to contribute.

Treasurer's Report - Due to the generosity of WARP members with donations, the live and silent auction at the 2019 annual meeting, and the meeting fees exceeding the meeting costs, the year ended with a net gain. Membership fees were up and covered 69.3% of WARP's administrative and program expenses. The Endowment Fund continues to earn an interest rate of 2.15% in a CD. It will mature in October 2020 and at that time we will change banks to a North Carolina bank, closer to the administrative coordinator, Kelsey Wiskirchen. Mary Joan Ferrara Marsland stepped into the final year of Dorinda Dutchers' position as Treasurer in May of this year, in time to finalize the financial budget for the 2020 year.



## **Maintaining Community**

*continued from page 12*

Federica is also a knitting and a crochet designer; you can find her on Ravelry as [Federicaknits](#).

If you plan a visit to Torino stop by at Wool Crossing. You will find a nice environment and as Federica speaks very good English, she will be able to suggest you the best yarn for your project. On Fridays there is also a knit café from 16:00 to 18:00 where you can meet other knitters and have a relaxing time after your visit to Torino's beautiful museums, squares,

and parks. Once a month Wool Crossing hosts a Knit Night.

Wool Crossing is a brick and mortar shop located in Via Giovanni Boccaccio, 59 - Torino (Italy) and an online shop at [shop.woolcrossing.it](http://shop.woolcrossing.it).

*Cathy Peppers, a student of textiles, can be reached at [peppersinfo@yahoo.de](mailto:peppersinfo@yahoo.de)*



# Otomi Tenangos

*continued from page 1*

niques, was created. And, what started as a local sale in Pahuatlan, became regional, moving to Hidalgo, then nationally to Mexico City and beyond, and now even internationally. Today these embroideries that started as a family enterprise, are part of regional Otomi identity and source of family and community income.

Otomi communities of the Sierra Oriental have a long legacy of traditional beliefs and customs. Rituals establish harmony and order in the universe: in the natural, supernatural, and human worlds. A pantheon of gods and spirits guide them in all aspects of their lives, including agricultural cycles, family events (birth, marriage, death), and illness. In San Pablito Pahuatlan, the shaman, or “curandero,” uses paper cutouts from handmade amate paper (a type of bark paper) to represent and manipulate these forces and spirits. They conduct cleansings, healings, and ritual ceremonies to protect the villagers. These figures are representations of these spirits.

According to Elena Vazquez y de los Santos, in *Los Tenangos: Mitos y Ritos (Los Tenangos: Myths and Rituals)*, she says, “The curanderos, healers, shaman, have supernatural powers they inherit from their ancestors. They are intermediaries between man, deities, and ancestors. They use paper cutouts as an integral part of healing ceremonies, rituals, prayers, petitions, chants, and dances, as these figures represent different divinities, each having a specific power. These cut papers of divinities were one of the most important tools used in Otomi rituals, and among the most ancient. From folded paper, a series of 40 “muñecos” (8 x 5) are cut and laid on the floor. Copal incense is wafted over them; candles are lit, prayers of petition are chanted and called out. The cut-

out deities begin to take on power. At the end of the ceremony, the paper cut outs are taken to the foothills to await the reply of the gods, hoping the petitions are heard and answered. Eventually, the paper will perish, taking the illness along with it.”

Why mention spirits and cut out figures from amate paper in the context of colorful embroideries? According to Vazquez, these cut papers, used in healing rituals by the Otomi, “informed” and influenced the drawings of Otomi embroidered tenangos. The designs look different, but the meaning and symbolism behind them come from the same place.

Both the curandero and the dibujante, perpetuate the history of their communities. Beings that have inhabited their world, mythical and real, including birds, are symbols or messengers with specific characteristics that float in harmony on tenango embroideries.

Vazquez concludes, “While the curanderos may have disappeared or gone underground, their visions, messages, and petitions remain alive in the bordados (embroideries) of the tenangos. It is they, the dibujantes, who preserve the symbolic world of the curanderos of San Pablo el Grande and San Nicolas. It is now up to each one of us, knowing something about its history, meanings, and symbols, to care for this legacy of the Otomi communities.”

As we can see, tenango designs are not just pretty images to print digitally onto everything from dishes to fabric, or to copy in a “maquila” industrial setting. These images are the inheritance and living heritage of the Otomi people.

*Stephanie Schneiderman can be reached at [tiastephanie@gmail.com](mailto:tiastephanie@gmail.com)*



## Book Review: *How to Weave a Navajo Rug*

*continued from page 7*

They offer the book to Navajo and non Navajo; to weavers and non-weavers:

*“We hope you use this book in whatever way best suits your needs and interests: to create your own Navajo-style weaving, to appreciate its heritage and future, and to find commonalities between cultures. Hózhó ǫ.”...*

I highly recommend this book, not only for the weaving instructions, but also as another step on the path to a more just, interconnected, and cooperative society.

*Kate Colwell can be contacted at [kcolwell53@gmail.com](mailto:kcolwell53@gmail.com)*

### Thanks to WARP Donors!

Dale Fairbanks  
Nancy Merritt  
Judith MacKenzie

### Newsletter Copy Deadlines

V27N4 - Winter 2020  
October 9

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 [Igtempleok@gmail.com](mailto:Igtempleok@gmail.com) if you would like the author guidelines or have other questions. Thanks!



# Costumes To Tell Stories of Vietnam Veterans

Ella Goodine-Richardson

I began working with veterans in the fall of 2019 to pursue my growing interest in the stories of those who have seen the specter of the draft during the Vietnam War. I was drawn to the difference in position between the glory-bound war monuments of the past and the seemingly invisible population of US service



Details of smock samples in the planning process

people who had survived the terror of fighting a war without cause. It was only through initial research that I came to find that a large part of the history of the Vietnam War was the G.I. and veteran led anti-war movement. I began reaching out to anti-war veterans groups to propose a textile-based collaboration. For me, the next step to learning more about the US war machine was to speak and build relationships with veterans themselves.

There is a large disconnect between what I had been taught about the US wars in school and the lived experiences of veterans who still have stories to tell and time to tell it. Moreover, their convictions cast a long shadow over the more optimistic narratives of war that are strewn through our cities, schools, on television, and in the movies. In

media, war is portrayed with the heroism of the indispensable; the lives of US soldiers, fighting for necessary cause, are portrayed abstractly and obfuscated from reality. To the public, war is portrayed in terms of good and bad with a narrative evoking wolf and lamb run aground on a river's bank.

In January 2020, I was invited to conceptualize and construct a series of costumes for the Memorial Day Observance parade in Battery Park. The costumes were to be worn by members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, and the Metro NY Peace Council in May 2020. Much of what I had gathered by attending meetings and actions with the members of these groups and their allies was that there was a great need for the veterans' voices to be heard by the younger generation. I believe in the breadth of costume's ability to tell a story, and the power of textiles is nothing I take lightly. There is no conclusion or reasoning behind what cloth can do, or how inexhaustibly it gives. For this reason, I find it important to let the realities of veterans speak for themselves through many different avenues—garments being only one of them.

The Memorial Day Observance parade did not take place in Battery Park this May, and my plans to make costumes were replaced with large mask-making orders for the Borden Avenue Veterans Home, Interfaith Hospital, Harlem United/Bailey House, the Bronx and Manhattan V.A. I am happily still making costumes for Memorial Day 2021.

Here, I would like to make an open call for veterans wishing to commemorate a friend on Memorial Day. I have asked veterans from the VVAW, VFP, and the Peace Council to send me the person's name and information to be stitched into a commemorative smock. Each veteran will receive a unique smock. If you would like to support this project, or if you would like a commemorative smock for a loved one please contact me at [ellagoodine@gmail.com](mailto:ellagoodine@gmail.com).

*Ella Goodine-Richardson makes costumes and lingerie in Brooklyn, NY. Her website is [ellagoodinerichardson.com](http://ellagoodinerichardson.com) and her lingerie website is [leonide.design](http://leonide.design).*

## WARP News!

### Virtual Talk

You are invited to join our virtual talk by WARP member and author, Deb Brandon, on August 19 at 7 pm Eastern time. Deb will be talking about her award winning book *Threads Around the World: From Arabian Weaving to Batik in Zimbabwe*. To sign up for the talk, which will be held via Zoom, please send an email to [info@weavearealpeace.com](mailto:info@weavearealpeace.com).

### Online Auction September 17-20

We have received many beautiful handmade textiles and other donations for WARP's 2020 Silent Auction. Bidding will be open September 17-20 at the following website: <https://weavearealpeace.org/auctions/> Please join the fun to support WARP! Items from the auction will be shipped directly to your home.





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

## WARP's Online Activities (see page 11)

### Maintaining Community During the Coronavirus in Italy

*Submitted by Cathy Peppers*

Knitting lounge, knitter's meeting place, and creative laboratory...these are some of the definitions you can use



to describe Wool Crossing, a local yarn shop located in Torino, Italy.

Federica Giudice, a passionate knitter since the age of 15, established Wool Crossing in 2012 in order to pursue her passion for yarns and knitting.

Wool Crossing became more than just a yarn shop. Rather, it prospered as a community of knitting and crochet enthusiasts. By the time of the pandemic in Italy, each customer had become an important piece of the small world that revolved around Wool Crossing. In the words of Federica Giudice, "In addition to selecting beautiful yarns and experimenting with new techniques, what I care about most is being together, knitting in front of a cup of tea with my fellow knitters while we spend

pleasant hours chatting, enjoying one another's company, united by a passion for knitwork."

From the beginning of March 2020 onwards, all the shop's activities were interrupted by the general lockdown imposed on Italy by the government in an effort to contain the epidemic.

Federica explains "The passion for yarns and the desire to be together made us find new solutions allowing for us to continue by means of new ways."

So according to Federica, "By resorting to the online shop with home delivery, the enhancement of direct communication with customers through Whatsapp business and the publication of posts on Instagram, facilitating my knitting friends' participation in Wool Crossing activities, we have always remained in touch." She continues "On Thursdays, we never missed the evenings on Zoom (Knit Night) during which we knit and talk about everything."



*Orders ready to be delivered*

*continued on page 9*

