

# THE MOTHER OF ALL

Newsletter of the Arizona Desert Weavers & Spinners Guild, Inc.

April 2023

Volume 51, Issue 7

*From the President Desk*

*Caroline Yeryomenko*

[adwsg.president@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.president@gmail.com)

Dear Guild Members,

I would like to sincerely thank the nominating committee for taking time to contact each member, even our visitors who have not yet joined. Thank you so much to nominating committee chairperson Virginia Glenn, Trish Boone, Brittany Burbank, Sara Jenkins, Sue Garber, and Maria Conti.

A big thanks to those who have volunteered to take a position next year and move our guild forward, including our fantastic nominating committee. If you are still considering a volunteer role, we need you. Please think about volunteering at just one event! We appreciate members who can set up for the Holiday event or make a few phone calls.

Speaking of art, I want to put out an advertisement for Cottonwood, Arizona. This is a beautiful little downtown only about an hour and a half from here. I wish I could drive up there this morning and have a big cinnamon roll with lots of cream cheese frosting. One of the lovely shop owners in Cottonwood told me that it is the Sedona of 20 years ago. The street is quiet and navigable, but the restaurants are full of happy breakfasters, many from Phoenix on a Saturday morning. So many of the shops carry local artists, including a co-op with art exclusively made in Verde Valley. Where are some of your favorite places to road trip in Arizona? I think it would be fun to share at our April meeting. Please don't forget to bring treats to share, and we would love to see your recent work for show-and-tell!

*See you soon,*

*Caroline, President*

## ***APRIL 1st Guild Meeting***

***Will Be In Person And on ZOOM***

***Presentation by:***

**Kelsey Wiskirchen, of Weave A Real Peace (WARP)**

Weave A Real Peace (WARP) is an international organization with the mission of improving the quality of life of textile artisans worldwide. WARP's Executive Director, Kelsey Wiskirchen, will share stories of connection and empowerment for women in weaving communities around the world. In Guatemala, India, Bolivia, Sardinia, Ghana, and many other countries, WARP members work to promote an appreciation of handwoven textiles, and a living wage for the weavers who make them. The program will be an inspiring look at the work done to support the future of handweavers and textile artisans in communities around the world. Kelsey will also share information about WARP resources that may be of interest to guild members, including WARP's artisan resource guide, emergency relief grants, and free monthly virtual programs. You can learn more about WARP at [www.weavearealpeace.org](http://www.weavearealpeace.org).

Kelsey is a weaver, embroider, and indigo dyer. She has been involved in many different volunteering and outreach programs, incorporating weaving in her work with coops in South America and educational youth programs that provide for underserved communities.

### **Demonstrations**

**Jody Dozer**

[adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com)

## **IT'S COUNTY FAIR TIME !**

County Fair Demonstrators needed.

The Maricopa County fair is happening in April. We have demonstration opportunities Friday April 14 10-4 pm and Saturday April 15 10-4 pm. Maricopa County fair is taking place at the fairgrounds in Phoenix.

If interested in demonstrating please contact [adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com)

**2023-24  
Election for Board Officers**

**The election for Board officers for the 2023-24 Guild year will be held electronically, using ElectionBuddy, which is the same platform as we used last year. The slate of nominees is below. An email will be sent with details about how to vote and a link for casting your vote.**

**Slate of nominees for 2023-2024 election:**

**President: Caroline Yeryomenko  
Vice President Workshops: Open  
Vice President Programs: Open  
Secretary: Roxanne Eklund  
Treasurer: Sue Carneal**

**Nominations will be taken from the floor for the Vice President Workshops and Vice President Programs**

Our VP Workshops and VP Programs positions are open for 2023-24. Yes, the guild needs your help. We want to continue the fascinating programs we've had over the last year and that takes just a little work! The fun part - reaching out to artists and teachers that you would like to see and hear. Since we are using Zoom, we can draw on teachers and artists from all over the country. The jobs are to contact these people and find out if they would like to teach or speak to our guild. There is a volunteer in the guild ready to assist you! And there is a slate of proposed officers for the coming year and lots of help available. Please consider helping. Afterall, a year without speakers and workshops would be a terrible thing to consider.

If you are interested, please contact our ***NOMINATING AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS:***

Virginia Glenn - [ymatglenn@me.com](mailto:ymatglenn@me.com)  
Sara Jenkins - [jenkins37@aol.com](mailto:jenkins37@aol.com)  
Trish Boone - [trishyann@hotmail.com](mailto:trishyann@hotmail.com)  
Brittany Burback - [brittanyburback@gmail.com](mailto:brittanyburback@gmail.com)  
Maria Conti - [mariaconti@cox.net](mailto:mariaconti@cox.net)  
Sue Garber - [sue.garber@cox.net](mailto:sue.garber@cox.net)

# CHUSPAS: Small Bags with Big Cultural Significance

By  
Virginia Glenn

When I started researching this topic, I was merely focused on the one very old *chuspa* that I had in my collection, which I purchased in Peru in 1980. **Chuspa** is a Quechua word for bag or purse. Elaborate *chuspas* are used as part of dancers' costumes during festivals; every-day, smaller *chuspas* often carry money (these *chuspas* are also called *monederos*). I knew that *chuspas* also are used for carrying coca leaves, but I never thought about the significance of coca to the Andean culture. I had only been told that the Indigenous Quechua speakers would chew the leaves to help give them energy or to keep from getting hungry.

There is ample documentation from archeological research that *chuspas* have been used since pre-Hispanic times. And they are well displayed in the line drawings that accompany Felipe Guaman Pomo de Ayala's description of Inca customs written in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These drawings show *chuspas* being used by Inca kings and queens, local leaders, and healers. Nicola Sharratt, in her book *Carrying Coca* quotes explorer Sir Clements Markham as having written in 1862 that, "No Indian is without his *chuspa* or coca bag, made of llama-cloth, dyed red and blue in patterns, with woolen tassels hanging from it." From the many descriptions I've read and pictures I've seen of these early ubiquitous small bags, it's clear that they haven't changed much in hundreds of years.

They are seen all over the Andes region and both Quechua and Aymara-speaking people, primarily men, carry their coca leaves in their *chuspas*—or *huallqepos* in Aymara. Author and filmmaker Andrea Heckman in 2003 noted that "...men are rarely seen without their *chuspas*, which often are finely woven and often have a separate supplemental pocket for *llipta*—the lime ash catalysts that activates the alkaloids in coca."

*Chuspas* are predominately made on backstrap looms with handspun wool or alpaca. Designs and color will vary from region to region and village to village and from century to century, but the basic structure will be the same. Some weavers will add embellishments such tubular edges or embroidered motifs, but they are easily recognizable as bags specifically for carrying coca (recommend removing this). Nicole Sharratt's book, *Carrying Coca* is filled with specific descriptions of *chuspas* from many different areas. But I don't know if it would ever be as easy to recognize a person's community by their *chuspa* as it is by their hat or jacket style.

While *chuspas* are made using traditional techniques, the sacred substance they sometimes carry differentiates them from other everyday textiles. In the Quechua language the word for chewing coca is *hallpay*. It's sort of like our coffee breaks and users will sit together and chat with friends and family as they chew their leaves. Sharing the coca is an integral part of *hallpay*. While this is routine, it is also highly ritualized and will affirm existing social bonds and connect individuals in strong reciprocal relationships.

Coca also has a spiritual role. It's important to point out here the Coca is not cocaine. Wade Davis made this point several times in his recent presentation for the Andean Textile Arts organization. Offerings of coca are made to Mother Earth or mountain *apus* or gods. They can be part of ceremonies by local spiritualists or healers. Weavers might include coca leaves and invoke female saints in a blessing before starting a new weaving project. Farmers might include a coca leaf with the first seed or potato during planting season. Travelers will offer coca leaves to a sacred mountain to ensure a safe journey.

## CHUSPAS: Small Bags with Big Cultural Significance

By: Virginia Glenn

continued

Sharratt includes many more examples of the uses of coca leaves. Just as varied are the unique designs of the *chuspas* that carry the sacred leaves. Each is a piece of textile artistry and a small testament to the talent of the Andean artisan who created it. (This article first appeared in the Andean Textile Arts website - <https://andeantextilearts.org/blog/page/2/>)

### References –

1. Carrying Coca, 1,500 Years of Andean Chuspas, by Nicola Sharratt, Published by Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture, New York Distributed by Yale University Press, New Haven and London (no ISBN # or date of Publication)
2. A Textile Traveler's Guide to Peru and Bolivia, by Cynthia LeCount Samaké, Published by THRUMS Books, 2019
3. Woven Stories: Andean Textiles and Rituals, by Andrea M. Heckman, Published by University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, Copyright 2003



**CHUSPAS: Small Bags with Big Cultural Significance**

**By: Virginia Glenn**

continued



## WAYS & MEANS

Christine Hunt

[adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com)

Every month our raffle table offers something of interest! Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.

\*\*\*This month we also have 6 local, freshly shorn Romney fleeces for sale. Pictures and weights are posted on the guild Facebook page or email me for details. Asking \$25 (\$20 for the shearing, \$5 donation to ADWSG. Any extra-completely-voluntary donation will go to the shepherd against the rising cost of hay.)\*\*\*

Larger items the guild has for sale are listed on the guild website.

<https://adwsg.org/rentals-and-sales>

We continue to accept donations of equipment, fiber, etc. for future fundraising events. Please get in touch to arrange drop off at a meeting, the guild storage unit or a pick-up at your house. Thank you for thinking of us!

Available For Rental:

Loom- Baby Wolf 4H, 6T - 10, 12 dent reed

Spinning Wheels - Ashford Traditional single treadle, Louet S-10 single treadle

Drum Carder - Fricke/Strauch

## Website

Anna Akridge

[adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com)

Join the tech team! We are looking for the coolest of volunteers to help us herd computers each month to make our hybrid meeting format happen. The tech team plays the critical role of making sure that guild members that cannot attend in person are still able to participate in guild meetings.

We are looking for folks with a good sense of humor and a bit of patience. If you have a WiFi-enabled laptop with the Zoom application that you can bring in for the meeting, even better! We can provide "on the job" training and promise to make things as easy as possible. Whether you are interested in helping at one meeting or at all the meetings, in-person or being our "person in the room" on Zoom, please contact Anna Akridge ([Anna.L.Akridge@gmail.com](mailto:Anna.L.Akridge@gmail.com)) or

## NEWS FROM THE GUILD LIBRARY

Beki Welsch

[adwsg.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.librarian@gmail.com)

On the sale table this month I will have a good number of out-of-print books. These will include several *Shuttle Craft Bulletins* from the 1950s, an inspirational book called *Grau-Garriga* about the work of Jose Valverde, and Peter Collingwood's *The Techniques of Rug Weaving*. Also included will be 15 of *Handwoven's Design Collection* publications, *Rag Rugs* by Ann Davies, *Finishing Touches for the Handweaver* by Virginia West, *Handwoven Laces* by Donna Muller, *Gifted: Lovely Little Things to Knit + Crochet* by Mags Kandis, *A Handweaver's Pattern Book* by Marguerite Davison, and *Sixty Scarves for 60 years* by the Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore.

I always welcome suggestions for books to purchase for the library.

## WONDERFUL WEAVERS GROUP

Ann Ormiston

[adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com)

If you are interested in a brief summary of various hand weaving software currently available, Handweaving.net has a list online at [Handweaving.net: Weaving Software List](#) . You do not need to be a member to access this information. I believe each one has a free demo version available. Fiberworks is a popular software and has three proficiency levels. Some weavers use multiple programs because they find useful functions. I personally use WeaveIt on an ipad to track threading. I use WeavePoint for all my design and final work, and I use Fiberworks periodically to try a different approach. I have found very thorough training for WeavePoint through the AVL workshops, which are now also virtual, ([Workshops – AVL Looms Inc.](#) ) Make certain to verify the operating system needed for each program. Each of the programs should be able to read WIF's (Weaving Interchange Format) and they should be able to convert their file type to a WIF. A WIF file is a pattern file saved in the **Weaving Interchange Format** (WIF) and used by weaving software. It contains a draft pattern of a weave which consists of cells that can be used to mark positions and fill with color.

Our "Wonderful Weavers" Group has been meeting year-round on Zoom the Third Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm. We will begin a new study starting in May, using the book "Weave Classic Crackle & More" by Susan Wilson. We read through each chapter during the year, weave samples and have a discussion on Zoom. We discuss the book we are studying, share our weaving projects, ask questions and share/research answers to help each other in our weaving passion. If you are interested in weaving, you are welcome to join us, just send an email to [adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com) to be added to our notification list. Happy Weaving - - Ann





## **SPINNING/FIBER GROUP**

**Paula Rudnick**

[adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com)

Meets the third Wednesday of the month (all year long). FOR THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE MEETING ON ZOOM- please be sure you are on our email list so you get the email invite) If you have Show & Tell it is best to RSVP so we know how much time to allow. We love to chat, learn what events are happening, see what everyone is working on, and exchange ideas and get help with questions or problems we might be having with our projects. Our Zoom **opens at 9:30 and we love to chat and talk.**

The group chair is Paula Rudnick - [adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com)



## **IN PERSON SPINNING GROUP**

**Nancy Moore**

[rayandnancy@comcast.net](mailto:rayandnancy@comcast.net)

We have a new group forming based in the West Valley. I moved into my new home in Sun City Festival in 2020. It was hard to meet other fiber artists while avoiding strangers and mostly staying home for two years. For me, this is now the time to join up with other guild members to share spinning experiences and get some wheel time in.

My focus is to meet others in the West Valley area because I live 10 miles west of Surprise. We are starting out by meeting in individuals' homes. Seven people have expressed interest and we have set our first date. Judy Lukas volunteered to host on Thursday March 23 at 10:00. We will be discussing our future meeting locations at that time.

It is also possible to stay late after some regular monthly meetings since we rent the room until 3 pm.

Anyone with an interest in spinning may join in, even if you are currently working on something else. At our first meeting we will discuss the future schedule. Masks are optional.

Please contact me if you want to receive future email announcements.

**OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023**

<b>President</b>	Caroline Yeryomenko	<a href="mailto:adwsg.president@gmail.com">adwsg.president@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President Programs</b>	Vacant	<a href="mailto:adwsg.programs@gmail.com">adwsg.programs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President Workshops</b>	Devorah Green	<a href="mailto:adwsg.workshops@gmail.com">adwsg.workshops@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Carneal	<a href="mailto:adwsg.treasurer@gmail.com">adwsg.treasurer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Roxanne Eklund	<a href="mailto:adwsg.secretary@gmail.com">adwsg.secretary@gmail.com</a>

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2022-2023**

<b>Demonstrations/Publicity</b>	Jody Dozer	<a href="mailto:adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com">adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com</a>
<b>Federation Representative</b>	Lauren Goldfish	<a href="mailto:adwsg.federation@gmail.com">adwsg.federation@gmail.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Lisa Takata	<a href="mailto:adwsg.historian@gmail.com">adwsg.historian@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Julie Cattaneo	<a href="mailto:adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com">adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com</a>
<b>Interest Groups</b>		
<b>Spinning/Fiber Group</b>	Paula Rudnick	<a href="mailto:adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com">adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wonderful Weavers</b>	Ann Ormiston	<a href="mailto:adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com">adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Beki Welsch	<a href="mailto:adwsg.librarian@gmail.com">adwsg.librarian@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Trish Boone	<a href="mailto:adwsg.membership@gmail.com">adwsg.membership@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Assistant</b>	Elaine Rowles	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Ann Ormiston	<a href="mailto:adwsg.editor@gmail.com">adwsg.editor@gmail.com</a>
<b>75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary</b>	Vacant	<a href="mailto:adwsg.anniversary@gmail.com">adwsg.anniversary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Christine Hunt	<a href="mailto:adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com">adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com</a>
<b>Web Site</b>	Anna Akridge	<a href="mailto:adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com">adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com</a>

**Next Meeting:**  
  
**April 1st will be in person and on Zoom**  
**At**  
**Northtown Community Center**  
**Meeting starts at 10 am**

**MOA Submission**  
**Deadline**  
**The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month**  
**September through May**  
[adwsg.editor@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.editor@gmail.com)

## INTEREST GROUPS

### **SPINNING/FIBER GROUP**

Meets the third Wednesday of the month (all year long). FOR THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE MEETING ON ZOOM-please be sure you are on our email list so you get the email invite) If you have Show & Tell it is best to RSVP so we know how much time to allow. We love to chat, learn what events are happening online, see what everyone is working on, and exchange ideas and get help with questions or problems we might be having with our projects. Our Zoom starts at 10 am.

The group chair is **Paula Rudnick** - [adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com)

### **WONDERFUL WEAVERS STUDY GROUP**

Currently Meeting as a ZOOM Group - Meets the Third Sunday of each month, all year long. Currently we are meeting from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm as a Zoom Group. We discuss Hand Weaving structures, ideas, problems, and solutions and enjoy our show and tell. Come and join our group. The group chair is **Ann Ormiston** [adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com)

### ADWSG WEBSITE

<http://www.adwsg.org>

Follow us on

[FACEBOOK](#)

Join Us for Our Monthly Meetings:

10 am In Person and **ZOOM MEETING**

Northtown Community Center 2202 E.  
Waltann Lane,

Phoenix, AZ

Doors Open at 9 am

Come Early and Mingle!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**April 1st, 2023**

May 6, 2023

October 7, 2023

November 4, 2023

December 2, 2023

**BRING YOUR OWN CUP**

Thank you for bringing your reusable cups,  
mugs, and utensils to the meetings.

Let us take care of Our Earth

**CLASSIFIEDS**

HANDCRAFTED HEDDLE THREADERS AND ORIFICE HOOK: Orifice Hook: \$8.95 / 4pc Set (as shown) \$19.95 / 3pc Set (two size heddle THREADERS in storage case). FREE S & H! Place order at: [www.ebay.com/str/EklectikKish](http://www.ebay.com/str/EklectikKish)  
Thank You! David Kish

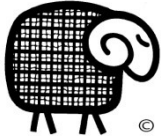


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c/o Ann Ormiston

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**FIRST CLASS**