

# Weaving *for* Justice



*Photo of Ana Cristina Ruíz Pérez, Carol Vanier, 2018.*

## *MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS HANDBOOK*

(Revised November 2022)

**Weaving for Justice is a project  
of Sophia's Circle, a 501c3  
a women's art and cultural organization**

Weaving for Justice is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization working in solidarity with Maya women's weaving cooperatives in highland Chiapas, Mexico. We created our organization to assist the members of the cooperatives to continue living on their ancestral lands in sustainable ways that respect their lands, language (Tsotsil and Tzeltal), and traditions. We are working with the weavers to EDUCATE the public about these Maya women's lives, struggles, and contributions to a sustainable and just society.

We are guided by the principles of FAIR TRADE — paying a fair wage in the local context, working directly with the weavers, and bypassing middle persons — to offer the weavers a fair price for their work.

Weaving for Justice is run solely by volunteers. We send 100% of the money we take in from sales back to the weavers. Memberships and donations help us cover expenses such as booth fees at festivals, advertising through local media, our nominal rent at First Christian Church, educational and promotional materials, and other operational costs.



*Drawing by Christine Eber, 1987.*

**Steering Committee Members**

**Jean Bergs** – Founder of Sophia’s Circle and long-time supporter of women’s cooperatives.

**Lorena Cabatic** – Working for the State of Texas for 21 years. Previously volunteered for Casa Vida/ Recovery Alliance out of El Paso.

**Meghann Dallin** – Volunteer with Weaving for Justice since the late 1990s. Teaching health education in Albuquerque at the University of New Mexico. Meghann is also a lactation consultant and manages the Weaving for Justice Instagram account.

**Janet Darrow** – Retired professor and research biologist, turned videographer who is now focusing on the art of indigenous Latin American communities and the border region.

**Christine Eber** – Author, anthropologist, and co-founder of Weaving for Justice.

**Patricia Gonzalez** – Retired from the manufacturing sector and volunteer with Mesilla Valley Film Society at the Fountain Theater.

**Aurelia Holliman** – Many years as a volunteer in Guatemala in areas of education, social justice, and solidarity as well as fair trade artesanía design, support, and sales. Happy to be part of Weaving for Justice.

**Crystal Massey** – Human rights advocate and accompanist of asylum seekers.

**Kristi Smith** – Entrepreneur and business consultant, studied the intersection of microenterprise and social justice.

**Emerita members:** Melissa Copeland, Kit Elliott, Elaine Hampton, Mary Kerwin, Sally Meisenhelder, Sarah Murphy, Anita Rodriguez, Julie Steinkopf, Rebecca Wiggins-Reinhard, and Natille Zimmerman.



## Weaving in Highland Chiapas

Maya women have been weavers for as long as their people can remember. Weavers say that Moon taught women to weave sacred designs. Maya legends, describing how female saints gave communities their distinct designs, emerged as early as the 1500s when the Spanish invaded South and Central America. Today weavers encode in their creations a deeply held belief that people, plants, animals, Earth, and other spiritual beings must cooperate to keep the world in flower.

At the beginning of the 21st Century, Maya weavers still turn-to spiritual guides as well as to each other for help in weaving and in supporting their families and communities. Weavings are made on a back-strap loom using a process called brocade to create designs as they weave. Women still weave much of the family's clothing -- brocaded blouses for themselves and tunics for the men. A woman's family proudly wear her weavings to show respect for their ancestral ways and solidarity with fellow villagers. New designs are constantly appearing based on traditional ones. Young women are leaders in innovations.

Strident economic inequalities in Mexico have created intolerable conditions for indigenous people in Chiapas. Hunger and disease, high child mortality, scarce and distant water supplies, and minimal or non-existent health and educational facilities are the legacy of the unjust economic system in Chiapas. In the 1990s, paramilitary groups and drug cartels began to threaten communities and human rights defenders and are attempting to intensify their control.

For decades people have migrated seeking work to supplement their subsistence farming. Since the 1990s migration to other parts of Mexico and to the U.S. has increased dramatically. Weaving products to sell through fair trade markets provide women a means to support their families while staying on their lands and remaining part of their families and communities.

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## Weaving Collectives

We celebrate several decades of collaboration and solidarity with the following collectives of weavers:

**Tsobol Antsetik (Women United)** is a group of Tsotsil-speaking Maya women and girls from several hamlets in the township of San Pedro, Chenalhó, living on their milpas, small plots of land where they raise corn, beans, and squash. As of September 2022 they have 28 members.

**Mujeres por la Dignidad** - Women for Dignity - 70 Zapatista women and 9 men make up this collective with its headquarters in Oventic, the headquarters of the autonomous township in San Andrés Sakam Ch'en de los Pobres (within the official township of San Andrés Larrainzar). Members of Weaving for Justice have been working with this group since they formed in 1996, before we officially organized as Weaving for Justice.

The above groups of weavers are comprised of women affiliated with the Zapatistas or Las Abejas, two organizations dedicated to social and economic justice in Chiapas. They are in the resistance, that is they do not take government hand-outs which they see as a means the government has used to keep them submissive and unable to demand their equal rights as Mexican citizens and unique rights as the original people of Chiapas.

*The following additional groups we began to work with in 2018 through our intermediary with Mujeres Por La Dignidad who sought ways to help women who are either Zapatistas or sympathize with the movement.*

**Mujeres Artesanas de Chamula** - Women Artisans of Chamula. This group of women began to work together in 2011. Women in this township raise sheep and are known for felting their skirts and other clothing. They make all the felted animals Weaving for Justice sells, except the turtles, giraffes, cats and crocodiles which Mujeres Por La Dignidad make.

**Grupo de Santa Catarina Pantelhó** – Group of Santa Catarina Pantelhó. The seven women in this collective live in a township experiencing intermittent violence due to a drug cartel trying to insert itself into the township governance.

**Grupo de Mujeres Santa Cruz** – Group of Holy Cross Women – 20 women. This group formed in 2008 and is based in the township of **San Bartolomé Venustiano Carranza**. They make the guaze-like huipils as they live in what is called “hot country.”

**Grupo de Mujeres Nichim Rosa** – Group of Women of the Pink Rose (or Rose Flower). This is a Zapatista collective of 15 women in **Aguacatenango**. They began to work together in 2010.

**Group from Oxchuc** – The weavers in this collective make huipils that are inspired by designs the Aztecs left in this township after they invaded Chiapas prior to the Spanish invasion.

**Jalabil** – These weavers live in Yochib, Oxchuc and weave designs into a variety of products inspired by their own township as well as from Cancuc, a neighboring township. We are in the beginning stages of working with this group.

We are also in the beginning stages of working with a new collective based in **Tsabalhó, Chenalhó**, which has begun to form after splitting off from Tsobol Antsetik.

We also assist a group of single women based in the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas who make **nursing mother dolls** dressed in the clothing of different Maya townships. The dolls are available for purchase on our website store:  
<http://weaving-for-justice.org/online-store-books-for-sale/>



*Ancient Maya Cosmogram*

## **Ways to be involved with Weaving for Justice**

### **Become a member**

Your membership helps Weaving for Justice create fair trade markets for women's textile collectives in Chiapas, Mexico and educate the public about fair trade, human rights, and Maya women's work and lives. Memberships and donations help with our expenses, such as our nominal rent, advertising, event fees, and educational materials. All proceeds from sales go back to the weaving groups.

Your support also makes possible collaborations between women artisan groups in Chiapas and on the U.S-Mexico border. Together we can help create a sustainable global market for women's artisan work that is respectful and empowering. Memberships are valid for one year and you will receive a 10% discount on any purchases from Weaving for Justice at our store in Las Cruces, at our website store (<http://weaving-for-justice.org/online-store-books-for-sale/>) or on our instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/weavingforjustice/?hl=en>)

Additional benefits include: our annual newsletter, email updates, a membership card, announcements about upcoming sales, and our gift of a woven bookmark. We are a 501c3 organizations and for that reason your membership/donation may have tax benefits.

### **Three levels of membership are available:**

\$15 – Budget

\$35 – Basic

\$50 – Gold

See the membership application at the back of this handbook or you may donate on the membership page of our website or at the donate button on the homepage - [www.weaving-for-justice.org](http://www.weaving-for-justice.org) We especially welcome sustaining memberships. At the yellow donate button on the homepage of our website you'll find an option to donate monthly.

### **Become a Volunteer: Multiple Opportunities**

1. Selling at sales and other programs throughout the year. This is one of the most important tasks with which we need help. It involves setting up, selling, and packing up with other volunteers.
2. Preparing weavings for sale by putting on tags and prices. We receive boxes of textiles every couple months and we could use your help. We also welcome help putting tags and prices on the donated textiles we receive to sell to raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth.
3. Helping at our annual scholarship fundraiser for Maya youth around Days of the Dead at the NMSU University Museum.
4. Take photos of our events and sales and text them to one of our steering committee members so that we can have a record of our work.
5. If you have grant writing experience we might need your assistance. We are a 501c3 organization and eligible for grants.
6. Address envelopes to mail our annual newsletter to members (April).
7. Host a party and sale at your home to introduce the weavings to your friends. You will receive a gift of a textile as a thank you and help from one of the Weaving for Justice Steering Committee members.
8. Model huipils for us to post for sale on Instagram.
9. Visit the exhibit at the NMSU University Museum, "When a Woman Rises," about weaving in Chiapas, Mexico. Closing in May 2023.
10. Visit the weaving collectives in Chiapas. Let us help you plan your trip.
11. Encourage your friends to visit our website store and Instagram page to purchase a variety of items or to become a member. Our website store is a work-in-progress so please check back from time-to-time. Also please encourage becoming a member.

12. Help in other ways we may not have thought of!

*To volunteer with Weaving for Justice email us at  
[weavingforjustice@gmail.com](mailto:weavingforjustice@gmail.com)*

## **Symbolism in Tsotsil-Maya Weaving**

The **toad** symbolizes fertility of Earth, a sacred being in ancient Maya cosmology.



During the first Spring rains, cornfields are filled with toads mating and singing. Maya elders say that when the toads sing, they make the Saints happy and the Saints will send rain. In stories from San Pedro

Chenalhó, a toad called Antonia guards the Earthlord's house or cave – the entrance to Earth. (See our handout for more examples of symbolism.)



Images of Holy Cross above appears on the hem of huipils in San Pedro Chenalhó where it is one of three patron saints.

## **Learning more**

The best way to feel prepared to sell the weavings is to spend time with the textiles and our website and reading handouts and reference materials (see below). Talking with others who have been selling for a while or who have gone to Chiapas to visit the weavers, is also a good way to expand your knowledge about the weavers and their cultures. Members of the Steering Committee will also meet with you to talk



about your interests in volunteering and orient you to our work. Below are some references to get you started:

### **Documentary films:**

**“A Maya Celebration”** is a 20 minute film of the inauguration of the meeting house of Tsobol Antsetik produced by Janet Darrow. To view navigate to: <https://vimeo.com/176198628> and type in the password: ChiapasApril2016.

**“Maya Faces in a Smoking Mirror”** is a full-length documentary featuring eight young Maya men and women, two of whom are weavers in Tsobol Antsetik, one of the co-ops Weaving for Justice assists. The film is produced by Bill Jungels and Christine Eber, founding member of Weaving for Justice. It is available to view for free on youtube in English and Spanish (“Caras mayas en un espejo humeante”).

**Photo books by weavers.** In 2016, several weavers of Tsobol Ansetik created photo books in workshops with the Chiapas Photography Project ([www.chiapasphoto.org](http://www.chiapasphoto.org)). **“Women United Weavers”** (13 pages) explores weaving techniques, materials, and tools. **“Our Threads”** (6 pages) shows miniature figures of weavers and their husbands and daughters working with thread. **“Our Clothing”** (60 pages) tells the story of women's, men's and children's traditional clothing. Available from Weaving for Justice at our sales or at <http://weaving-for-justice.org/online-store-books-for-sale/>

### **References about women and weaving in Chiapas & Guatemala:**

**Eber, Christine. 2011.** *The Journey of a Tzotzil-Maya Woman: Pass Well Over the Earth*, the life story of Flor de Margarita Pérez Pérez, one of the founders of Tsobol Antsetik. The book has a section about the collaboration since the 1980s between the weavers in Margarita’s community and Weaving for Justice. Available on the internet or from UTPress, <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/ebejou.html>. A PDF of the Spanish translation – *Pasar bien por la tierra: El tejido vivo de una mujer maya-tzotzil* is available on the internet or to download for free at: <http://weaving-for-justice.org/online-store-books-for-sale/>

\_\_\_\_\_. 2003. editor with Christine Kovic. 2003. *Women of Chiapas: Making History in Times of Struggle and Hope*. New York & London, Routledge.

**Morris, Walter F. Jr.** 1987 *Living maya*. New York: Harry N. Abrams

\_\_\_\_\_. 2011. With Alfredo Martínez, Janet Schwartz, and Carol Karasik. *Guía textil de los altos de Chiapas/A Textile Guide to the Highlands of Chiapas*. Loveland, CO: Thrums.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2015. With Carol Karasik and Janet Schwartz. *Maya Threads: A Woven History of Chiapas*. Loveland, CO: Thrums.

*Nuestros tejidos son los libros que la colonia no pudo quemar*, a book about the Maya weavers' movement in Guatemala published by Asociación Feminina para el Desarrollo de Sacatapéquez (AFEDES). It will soon be available for purchase in English on the Mayan Hands website. It is currently for purchase in Spanish at <https://www.mayanhands.org/products/nuestros-tejidos-son-los-libros-que-la-colonia-no-pudo-quemar?variant=39376705159271>

**Simonelli, Jeanne**, editor with Katherine O'Donnell, and June Nash 2015. *Artisans and Advocacy in the Global Market: Walking the Heart Path*. U. of New Mexico Press. **Note:** Christine Eber has a chapter in this volume about the work of Weaving for Justice with collectives in Chiapas. "Weaving Cooperatives and the Resistance Movement in the Highlands of Chiapas: Pass Well Over the Earth,"

**Rosenbaum, Brenda**, 1999. "Mayan Women, Weaving and Ethnic Identity: a Historical Essay" in *Mayan Clothing and Weaving Through the Ages*, pp 157-169. Guatemala: Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena.

**Additional references and information** are available in the handouts at our sales. These include a list of references about weaving in Mesoamerica, a symbol brochure, a description of the meaning of Maya huipils (blouses), and information about fair trade and the weaving process.

For current and historical information on **the movement for indigenous rights and economic and social justice in Chiapas** these websites provide a starting point:

**Center for Human Rights Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas** -<https://frayba.org.mx>

**Civil Society The Bees (Sociedad Civil Las Abejas)** – [www.acteal.org](http://www.acteal.org)

**EZLN** - [www.ezln.org.mx](http://www.ezln.org.mx); [www.enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx](http://www.enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx)

## **TIME-LINE OF WEAVERS & THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT IN CHIAPAS**

**1950s-1980s** The National Indigenous Institute (INI) organizes indigenous women weavers into government cooperatives in Chiapas.

**1974** First diocesan assembly in San Cristóbal de las Casas at which time the Catholic church makes it's official work "to work for the poor."

- 1978** Sna Jolobil (House of the Weaver) the first independent weaving co-op forms in San Cristóbal. Soon more independent cooperatives form in the highlands of Chiapas.
- 1989** Coffee prices fall to an historic low.
- 1989** Anthropologist Christine Eber returns from Ph.D. research in San Pedro Chenalhó, Chiapas and begins to work with friends in Buffalo, New York to assist weavers in Chenalhó to sell their weavings in the US through fair trade
- 1990** Weavers in a few neighboring communities of Chenalhó come together to create Tsobol Antsetik (Women United), at that time a cooperative of about 20 women and their children.
- 1992** Civil Society The Bees (Sociedad Civil las Abejas), a Catholic social justice organization is formed in Chenalhó.
- 1994** **January 1st** NAFTA is implemented, to the detriment of peasant farmers.
- 1994** **January 1st** The Zapatista Army of National Liberation rises up to protest NAFTA and the marginalization of indigenous people. One third of the Mexican Army occupies indigenous communities sympathetic with the Zapatistas.
- 1995** Followers of the Zapatistas begin to form autonomous townships throughout Chiapas. Their centers are called “caracoles.” In San Pedro Polhó in Chenalhó women weavers begin to organize a collective, Mujeres Por La Dignidad (Women for Dignity). Collectives become a major means through which the movement develops alternatives to the government’s neoliberal economic model.
- 1995** Members of the Las Cruces and NMSU communities begin to organize in solidarity work on behalf of human rights in Chiapas holding talks, weaving sales, and fundraisers for people displaced by military and paramilitary violence.
- 1996** **February 16.** Representatives of the Zapatistas and the Mexican government sign the San Andrés Peace Accords.
- 1996** Las Cruces supporters of the weavers and the social justice movement in Las Cruces begin to assist Zapatista cooperatives, including a baking co-op, a general store co-op, and the weaving collective, Mujeres Por La Dignidad.
- 1997** **December 23** 45 members of the Bees, 36 of them women and children, are massacred while fasting and praying for peace in a

chapel in Acteal, Chenalhó, in the same township where the women of Tsobol Antsetik live.

- 1997** Women displaced by the violence to refugee camps in San Cristóbal begin to make nursing mother dolls. Members of the solidarity community in Las Cruces visit them and begin to sell the dolls in Las Cruces. Weaving for Justice continues to sell nursing mother dolls for a women's group in San Cristóbal, comprised of relatives of the displaced women who eventually return to their communities.
- 1998** Many foreigners supporting the Zapatistas and other indigenous people involved in social justice movements are expelled from Mexico and are not allowed to return until President Vicente Fox rescinds the deportation orders in 2000.
- 1999** **September** The NMSU University Museum opens its first exhibit on weaving and daily life in Chiapas, Mexico – “Cooperating for their Lives.” **Rosalinda Santiz Díaz**, a Tsotsil-Maya woman weaver from Jolom Mayaetik, a Maya weaving cooperative in Chiapas, visits NMSU and Las Cruces in November.
- 2001** Jean McDonnell forms Sophia's Circle, a 501c3 women's art and cultural organization. Solidarity work with weavers in Chiapas becomes its primary project after Jean moves to Tularosa in 2004.
- 2002** **November** A grant from the Newman Center's Social Justice Committee – Corazón a Corazón - brings Flor de Margarita Pérez Pérez, one of the founders of Tsobol Antsetik to Las Cruces and NMSU to talk about weaving and social justice. She returns to the US twice after, once to attend the International Folk Art Market in 2005.
- 2003** **June** A women's delegation from Las Cruces goes to Chiapas to learn about women's rights and indigenous rights and upon returning forms “Las Cruces Chiapas Connection.”
- 2005** **April** LCCC collaborates with NMSU programs and the NMSU University Museum to host Dr. Patricia Greenfield, a UCLA researcher who studies the transmission of weaving skills and traditions in Zinacatanán, Chiapas.
- 2005** **April** LCCC cooperates with the Mexico Solidarity Network and the NMSU Center for Latin American and Border Studies to host The Women's Fair Trade Speaking Tour with Francisca Rodriguez López, a human rights defender in Chiapas, and Francisco Vásquez, a photographer and videographer with the Chiapas Media Project.

- 2005** **April** Las Cruces Chiapas Connection holds a fashion show and dessert smorgasboard to raises funds for Flor de Margarita Pérez Pérez to represent two weaving collectives at the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico, then in its second year..
- 2005-2007** Las Cruces Chiapas Connection holds three annual celebrations of women’s cooperative groups along the U.S./Mexico border and in Chiapas, Mexico on the patio of Milagro Café y Espresso, Las Cruces.
- 2006** Chiapas occupies the first place among Mexican states in the number of people migrating to the US in search of work. LCCC begins to articulate its mission in terms of assisting Maya families to sell textiles to avoid having to migrate. By this time textile and coffee sales have become two major means of supplementing farming.
- 2007** **July** Several LCCC members visit the weaving collectives in Chiapas.
- 2007** LCCC organizes its 2<sup>nd</sup> desert smorgasbord/fashion show of traditional Maya clothing from Chiapas at Peace Lutheran Church.
- 2007** **October** LCCC and the NMSU Center for Latin American and Border Studies present Cecilia Santiago Vera and Rachel Mehl speaking about human rights abuses in Chiapas, women’s weaving cooperatives, and the Other Campaign of the Zapatista movement.
- 2010** **July 17** Las Cruces Chiapas Connection receives a Sparkplug grant and organizes a gathering in Vado, New Mexico of women artisans on the border to talk about their projects, problems, and how to support one another.
- 2011** **November 18** Melissa Copeland, Treasurer and long-time member of Las Cruces Chiapas Connection, passes away.
- 2012** **August** The NMSU University Museum opens its second exhibit of Maya weavings. “Weaving Solidarity: Textile Traditions of Highland Chiapas” features photographs by Bill Jungels, Maya Textiles and the work of Weaving for Justice in solidarity with weaving collectives.
- 2012** **Fall** Las Cruces Chiapas Connection changes its name to Weaving for Justice.
- 2013** **April 7** Premiere of Bill Jungles’ documentary, “The Effects of Immigration on Maya Families in Highland Chiapas.” Co-sponsored

by Weaving for Justice and the Fountain Theatre. On April 6 Bill speaks about Mayan communities resisting exploitation at The NMSU University Museum.

- 2013** **Summer** Weavings from Chiapas on display at Milagro Café y Espresso in Las Cruces.
- 2014** **September 26** Forty-three male students disappear from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College after being forcibly abducted in Iguala, Guerrero. Weaving for Justice joins NMSU and other area organizations to welcome a caravan of relatives of disappeared students.
- 2014** **November** Weaving for Justice collaborates with the NMSU's Sociology Department, the Women's Studies Program, and the Mesilla Valley Film Society to present the film, "Black Gold," in an effort to raise awareness about fair trade and economies of solidarity.
- 2014** **March 7&8** Weaving for Justice joins with Rags to Britches, The West End Art Depot, and Crossroads Community Acupuncture to sponsor - "Arte Sin Fronteras" – an exhibit, sales of women's artisan work, panel discussions, and healing through acupuncture, all to benefit artisan and social justice organizations in Chihuahua and Chiapas, Mexico.
- 2014** **November** Nopalitos Galería and Weaving for Justice organize "Sharing Hope Through Art," a fundraiser and series of educational programs to benefit Guerrilla Prayer Flags in Juárez, The Southwest Asylum and Migration Institute, and the construction of a meeting house for Tsobol Antsetik in Chiapas.
- 2015** **October** Weaving for Justice collaborates with the Maya Educational Foundation and the NMSU University Museum to hold its first annual donated textile sale to raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth.
- 2015-2018** Weaving for Justice collaborates with several women's co-ops in Chaparral, and Juárez and Palomas, Mexico to run La Frontera, an all-volunteer fair trade store at Nopalitos Galería in Las Cruces.
- 2015-2017** Members of Tsobol Ansetik learn to take photos of their weavings and their lives from photographers in the Chiapas Photography Project and create three tri-lingual books about their weaving and the history of their clothing. (Our Threads, 2016; Women United Weavers, 2016 and Our Clothing, 2017).

- 2016**      **April** Tsobol Antsetik inaugurates its first meeting house in Chixiltón, Chiapas, built with help from donations to Weaving for Justice. Janet Darrow of Weaving for Justice produces a film about the inauguration, “A Maya Celebration.”
- 2016**      **July** Janet Darrow and Christine Eber present “A Maya Celebration” at the Weave a Real Peace Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2017**      **June** Two representatives of Tsobol Antsetik, Claudia Pérez Pérez and Celia Arias Pérez, travel to Oaxaca to attend the Weave a Real Peace Annual Meeting
- 2018**      **May** The National Indigenous Congress nominates María de Jesús Patricio Martínez (Marichuy) a Nahau woman from Tuxpan, Jalisco, Mexico as their independent candidate for the 2018 presidential election.
- 2018**      **March** “Maya Faces in a Smoking Mirror,” a documentary film in which two weavers of Tsobol Antsetik are interviewed, wins The Best Full Length Documentary Award at the Las Cruces International Film Festival. Produced by Weaving for Justice members Bill Jungels and Christine Eber
- 2018**      **December** Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador is elected president of Mexico, the first Mexican president from a left-of-center party.
- 2018 -2019** **March – May.** Weaving for Justice sells temporarily along with other artisan groups in Chihuahua on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at The Center for Spiritual Living, Las Cruces.
- 2018-2019** **May** Becks Roasting House and Creamery in Las Cruces presents an exhibit of Maya Weavings from Chiapas, created by Weaving for Justice.
- 2019**      Weaving for Justice rents a space at 5245 E. Lohman Ave. where it holds sales and other events, including talks, and an annual members brunch until 2021.
- March 21** Weaving for Justice hosts a talk by Dylan Fitzwater about his book, *Autonomy is in our Hearts* at its store on Lohman Ave., Las Cruces.
- Weaving for Justice begins to work with additional small weaving collectives in solidarity with the Zapatistas in Aguacatenango, Oxhuc, Chamula, Venustiano Carranza, and Pantelhó.

- 2020**      **February** As the Coronavirus Pandemic spreads Weaving for Justice suspends its once monthly sales and turns to Instagram to sell textiles from Chiapas collectives, as well as textiles donated to raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth. To keep in touch with its supporters, WforJ begins to email monthly newsletters, “Solidarity in the Time of COVID-19”, about the situation in Chiapas and its work with weavers and students there. It also begins to send regular donations to the weaving groups to help them buy food and other necessities.
- 2021**      **February** Weaving for Justice moves its store to Rooms 5 and 6 in First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Road, Las Cruces. Face to face sales resume on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month in the Church Atrium.
- 2021**      **May 3** Marking 500 years since the Spanish invasion of Mexico, a delegation of seven Zapatistas sets sail from Isla Mujeres to Spain on their “The Journey for Life, European Chapter.”
- 2021**      **September** The EZLN delegation – “La Extemporánea” - embarks on a plane to Europe on the second stage of “The Journey for Life.” A Zapatista friend of Weaving for Justice participates in the delegation.
- 2021**      **August** “When a Woman Rises”, an exhibit of Maya textiles from Chiapas, Mexico, opens at the NMSU University Museum, in collaboration with Weaving for Justice. It takes its name from the novel about the friendship of two women from Chenalhó, Chiapas by Christine Eber, Weaving for Justice Steering Committee member. In August 2022 the exhibit is extended through May 2023.
- 2021**      Paramilitary and drug cartel activity intensify in Chiapas leading to displacements and assassinations of human rights defenders.
- 2022**      Weaving for Justice begins to work with Jolom Luch Maya (Maya weavers and embroiderers), a group of women artisans who are members of Sociedad Civil Las Abejas (Civil Society the Bees). The women produce squares of cloth with words of inspiration about their struggle for peace with justice.
- 2022**      **September** After a three-year absence as a result of the pandemic, three Weaving for Justice representatives travel to Chiapas to visit the weaving collectives and students receiving scholarships through the Maya Educational Foundation.



- 2022 October** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Donated Textile Fundraiser to raise scholarships for Maya youth at the NMSU University Museum in collaboration with the Maya Educational Foundation.
- 2022 December** Civil Society Las Abejas of Acteal commemorates 25 years since the massacre of 45 of its members and celebrates 30 years since its founding in 1992.

## **Our Solidarity Connections**

Appalachian State University (Dr. Paul Worley, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures).

Bentley University Service Learning and Civic Engagement Center (Bria Milbery)

Bisbee Fiber Arts Guild, Bisbee, Arizona – <https://www.bisbeefiberarts.com/>

Border Servant Corps - <https://www.borderservantcorps.org/>

Colgate University (Dr. Rachel Newman, History Department, and Francisco Martinez Martinez).

First Christian Church, Las Cruces - <https://www.fcclc.org/>

Latin American Solidarity Network, Western New York Peace Center - <https://wnypeace.org/wp/task-forces/latin-american-solidarity-committee/>

Maya Educational Foundation – [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org)

New Mexico State University Museum - <https://univmuseum.nmsu.edu/>

Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective, Silver City - <https://fiberartscollective.org/>

Tucson Handweavers & Spinners Guild - <https://thsg.org/>

WARP (Weave a Real Peace), a catalyst for improving the quality of life of textile artisans worldwide. <https://weavearealpeace.org/>

## **Stores selling the Chiapas textiles in the Southwest**

**WEAVING *for* JUSTICE STORE**

First Christian Church, rooms number 5 & 6  
1809 El Paseo Road  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

We have sales in the church Atrium the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10-3. For appointments at other times please contact [weavingforjustice@gmail.com](mailto:weavingforjustice@gmail.com) or call (575) 621-5999. **Please note:** We do not receive mail at our store. Address all correspondence to Weaving for Justice, 1825 Myrtle Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001

### **BOWLIN'S MESILLA BOOK CENTER**

2160 Calle Principal  
Mesilla New Mexico  
(575) 526-6220

### **HIJOS del SOL**

2715 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Denver, CO 80204  
(open every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month or by appointment – (720) 353-2233)

### **PALABRAS BILINGUAL BOOKSTORE**

906 W. Roosevelt St. Unit 2  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 595-9600

## **Membership Form**

*Yes, I support Weaving for Justice in its work on behalf of weaving collectives in Chiapas, Mexico!*

Enclosed is my check, payable to Weaving for Justice (or Sophia's

Circle) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

***Please mail completed form and check to:***

Weaving for Justice

1825 Myrtle Ave.

Las Cruces, NM 88001



*Drawing by Christine Eber, 1990.*