

Weaving *for* Justice



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

MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS *HANDBOOK*

(Revised May 2026)

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

Weaving for Justice is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization working in solidarity with Maya women's weaving collectives in highland Chiapas, Mexico. We created our organization to assist the members of the collectives to continue living on their ancestral lands in sustainable ways that respect their lands, language (Tsotsil and Tseltal), 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 also raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth through selling vintage textiles and other items from Latin America donated to us by generous textile enthusiasts.

We are guided by the principles of FAIR TRADE — paying a fair wage in the local context, working directly with the weavers, and by-passing 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.

Our Mission has evolved over the years and currently consists of three parts:

1. We stand in solidarity with **Maya weavers** in defense of their right to live with dignity in their home communities and countries. We provide financial assistance through selling textiles for Maya weaving collectives in Chiapas, Mexico and through passing on donations from our supporters to their projects.

2. We stand in solidarity with **Maya youth** in Belize, Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemala in their pursuit of an education in their homelands in order to give back to their people. We raise scholarship funds through selling donated textiles and

other items from Latin America and pass these funds on to the Maya Educational Foundation to disburse to scholarship recipients.

3. We educate **the public** about conditions in the communities where the weavers and students live and also about the significance of their cultural traditions, social movements, and escalating violence from cartels and paramilitary groups. To keep informed about assaults on human rights in Chiapas we urge you to go to the webpage of the Center for Human Rights Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas (<https://frayba.org.mx>) Three other important sources of information about conditions in Chiapas are: Schools for Chiapas (<https://schoolsforchiapas.org>); Las Abejas (www.acteal.org); and EZLN (www.ezln.org.mx and www.enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx)



Drawing by Christine Eber, 1987.

Steering Committee Members

Guillermo Acosta – Guillermo has deep roots in the Rio Grande valley and lives in Mesilla. A research scientist by training and a craftsman by trade, he works on a variety of projects technical and aesthetic, creating and repairing using both metal and wood.

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.

Esperanza Uriarte - n

Emerita members: Susan Beck, Jean Bergs, Lorena Cabatic, Melissa Copeland, Kit Elliott, Elaine Hampton, Aurelia Holliman, Mary Kerwin, Crystal Massey, Sally Meisenhelder, Sarah Murphy, Anita Rodriguez, Julie Steinkopf, Kristi Smith, 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.

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. Weaving for Justice has had its longest association with this group.

Mujeres por la Dignidad - Women for Dignity - 24 Zapatista women make up this collective in the autonomous township of 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.

Jolom Luch Maya – Maya Weavers and Embroiderers – Artisan group of 24 women members of Sociedad Civil Las Abejas (Civil Society the Bees), from three communities in San Pedro Chenalhó.

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.

Luchom Jolom Antsetik - Women Embroiderers and Weavers - a collective of seven women and children based in **Tsabalhó, Chenalhó**, which formed after splitting off from Tsobol Antsetik in Fall 2022.

Jolom Mayaetik (Maya Weavers) is a cooperative of about 250 women, one of the oldest in highland Chiapas. Its members come from several municipalities, including Chamula, Zinacantán, San Andres Larraínzar, Magdalenas Aldama, and Oxchuc. We have sold for the group and participated in projects with them since the 1990s, but began to sell for them on a permanent basis in 2026.

Nursing Mother Doll group - We also have a long-standing relationship with 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. This group started in 1998 when one of the members sought ways to help relatives who were refugees in San Cristóbal in a camp on the grounds of the National Indigenous Institute (INI) after the massacre in Acteal. The dolls are available for purchase on our website store: <http://weaving-for-justice.org/online-store-books-for-sale/>



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 <https://weaving-for-justice.org/purchase-online/> 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 - <https://weaving-for-justice.org/membership/> or at the donate button on the homepage - 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.

Multiple Volunteer 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. Helping with our online store.

3. Preparing weavings for sale by putting on tags and prices. We receive boxes of textiles every few months and we could use your help. From time-to-time we need to pick up weavings in Chihuahua, Mexico and welcome volunteers to join us in going there to pick them up.
4. Helping at our annual scholarship fundraiser for Maya youth during the 3rd Saturday sale in October.
5. 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.
6. Join the team of volunteers who prepare donated textiles for sale to raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth through our partnership with the Maya Educational Foundation.
7. Help keep our literature up-to-date and engaging. Translate literature that is not yet in Spanish.
8. Join a team to address envelopes to mail our annual newsletter to members (February & March).
9. Visit the weaving collectives in Chiapas to help keep our connections strong.
10. Encourage your friends to visit our sales or online store to purchase a variety of items or to become a member. We have half-page flyers about our 3rd Saturday sales and business cards with our online store url which you can have on hand to hand out.
11. Help Christine Eber put together materials for the Weaving for Justice archive at the Rio Grande Archives at the NMSU Branson Library.
12. Host an open-house/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.
13. Help in other ways we may not have thought of!

*To volunteer with Weaving for Justice email us at
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. For more examples of symbolism see our symbol pamphlet, our website - <https://weaving-for-justice.org/?s=symbols>, and two entries about symbolism on the webpage of Mexicolore, a teaching team based in London: <https://www.mexicolore.co.uk/maya/teachers/resource-20-traditional-maya-textile-symbols> and <https://www.mexicolore.co.uk/maya/teachers/recurso-20-simbolos-tradicionales-maya>



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:

Photo books by weavers. In 2016, several weavers of Tsobol Ansetik created photo books in workshops with the Chiapas Photography Project (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/>

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 collectives 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”).

“Maya Weavers: Envy in Times of Struggle and Hope. Challenges of Working Collectively in Chiapas, Mexico,” a talk by Christine Eber as part of the Aztlander Magazine presentations is on youtube at: <https://youtu.be/EyYtpA6aivA>

April 20, 2024 presentation about our work with Maya students and weaving collectives for Weave a Real Peace members and the public. To see the presentation, which includes a slide show of weavers and students, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5vGVcMyZ40>

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.

_____. 2018. *When a Woman Rises*, a novel about a friendship between two Tsotsil women from Chenalho', one of whom is a weaver. New York: Lee and Low Books. Also available in Spanish: *Cuando una mujer se levanta*.

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 are 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

EZLN - www.ezln.org.mx; www.enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx

Schools for Chiapas – <https://schoolsforchiapas.org>

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 cooperative forms in San Cristóbal. Soon more independent collectives form in the highlands of Chiapas.
- 1989** Coffee prices fall to an historic low.
- 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 U.S. through fair trade
- Weavers in a few neighboring communities of Chenalhó come together to create Tsobol Antsetik (Women United), at that time a collective 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 in Mexico.
- January 1st** The Zapatista Army of National Liberation rises up to protest NAFTA and the marginalization of indigenous people. President Salinas de Gortari sends a third of the Mexican Army to Chiapas to set up bases in indigenous communities sympathetic with the Zapatistas in order to crush the movement.
- 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.
- 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 which the government subsequently refuses to implement.
- Las Cruces supporters of the weavers and the social justice movement in Las Cruces begin to assist Zapatista cooperatives, including a baking collective, a general store collective, 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.
- 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 Bergs (formerly 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.
- .
- 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** **May** 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 María Luisa Ruíz Díaz.

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 Zinacantan, Chiapas.

April 13 LCCC co-sponsors visit to NMSU of Francisco Vásquez, a photographer and videographer with the Chiapas Media Project.

April Las Cruces Chiapas Connection holds a fashion show and dessert smorgasboard at Peace Lutheran Church 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.

May 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.

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.

May 5 Las Cruces Chiapas Connection holds a fashion show fundraiser at Peace Lutheran Church to raise funds for the construction of a meeting house in Chixiltón, Chenalho, Chiapas for the weaving collective, Tsobol Antsetik

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.

October Cecilia Santiago Vera a social psychologist and adherent to the Other Campaign visits NMSU facilitated by the Mexico Solidarity Network.

LCCC organizes its 2nd desert smorgasbord/fashion show of traditional Maya clothing from Chiapas at Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces.

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.

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.

Summer Weavings from Chiapas on display at Milagro Café y Espresso in Las Cruces.

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.

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.

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.

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.

2015-2017 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).

2015-2018 Weaving for Justice collaborates with several women's collectives in Chaparral, and Juárez and Palomas, Mexico to run La Frontera, an all-volunteer fair trade store at Nopalitos Galería in Las Cruces.

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."

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 with Christine Eber to Oaxaca to attend the Weave a Real Peace Annual Meeting

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

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.

July 14 Members of Weaving for Justice describe their work with weavers in Chiapas and present the film “Caras mayas en un espejo humeante” to parishioners at the Parroquia de Corpus Christi in Anapra, Juárez.

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 2nd Saturday of the month at The Center for Spiritual Living, Las Cruces.

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.

February Talk by Christine Eber to the Las Cruces Weavers Guild about weaving and weavers in Chiapas, Mexico.

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, Oxxuc, 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.

February 20th Christine Eber presents a talk and sells weavings at the Bisbee Fiber Arts Guild in Bisbee, Arizona.

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 3rd Saturday of each month in the Church Atrium.

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.”

August 1st “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 Coordinator. In August 2022 the exhibit is extended through May 2023.

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.

Paramilitary and drug cartel activity intensify in Chiapas leading to displacements and assassinations of human rights defenders.

2022

January 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.

Weaving for Justice partners with **The Border Servant Corps** to host Border Immersion groups to share the story of Maya weavers and students’ efforts to avoid having to migrate.

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 Weaving for Justice and the Maya Educational Foundation.

October Luchom Jolom Mayaetik (Maya Embroiderers & Weavers) forms when several members of Tsobol Antsetik separate

off to form their own collective based in Tsabalhó, Chenalhó, Chiapas. Weaving for Justice begins to work with the group in January 2023.

October 8th Annual Donated Textile Fundraiser to raise scholarships for Maya youth at the NMSU University Museum in collaboration with the Maya Educational Foundation.

December 22 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.

2023 **February** Jazmin Celis, participant in NMSU's CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program), begins an internship with NMSU for the Spring semester.

Weaving for Justice launches **fundraising campaign** to assist Tsobol Antsetik to purchase the land they borrowed on which to build their meeting house and on which they plan to plant vegetables and fruit trees to address food insecurity.

March 4 Christine Eber gives talk about the work of Weaving for Justice with weaving collectives in Chiapas at the Branigan Memorial Library, Las Cruces.

March 17 Christine Eber gives zoom presentation for Aztlander Magazine, "Maya Weavers: Envy in Times of Struggle and Hope: Challenges of Working Collectively in Chiapas."
<https://youtu.be/EyYtpA6aivA>

April 20 Closing celebration of "When a Woman Rises: Maya Weavers Creating relationships," Maya textile exhibit at the NMSU University Museum. Exhibit officially closes at end of May.

May 5 Weaving for Justice submits a grant in cooperation with "Exhibit This" to create a textile museum and store in a building in Mesilla.

June 17 Weaving for Justice participates in the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum Fiber Extravaganza, Las Cruces.

June 19th Weaving for Justice co-sponsors the Corazón Collective Tour of Las Cruces, four Latinx poets from Texas and California.

July 27 Break-in at Weaving for Justice store in First Christian Church. A total of about \$12,000 worth of textiles from Chiapas and donated textiles stolen.

September 8 Weaving for Justice sells textiles at the opening of the NMSU University Museum exhibit of lowrider culture on the border, “Low and Slow.”

September 10th Weaving for Justice participates in an Opening of “She Rises,” a group women’s art show and Maya textiles from Chiapas at 2222 Avenida de Mesilla.

October 7th & 8th – Sale of Maya textiles at the Silver City Women’s Fiber Arts Collective annual holiday sale.

October 14 – Weaving for Justice participates in a Day of the Dead exhibit, sponsored by Exhibit This.

October 27 & 28th 9th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser featuring guests Norma Subuyuj, former scholarship recipient from Santo Domingo Xenacoj, Guatemala and Elisabeth Nicholson, Director of the Maya Educational Foundation from Cape Cod.

November 2, Holiday Sale at Lutheran Trinity Church, Las Cruces

December 22 Sociedad Civil Las Abejas commemorates 31 years since its founding and 26 years since the massacre of 45 of its members on December 22, 1997 while praying for peace in a chapel in Acteal, Chenalhó.

Throughout the year, criminal organizations and paramilitaries intensified their threats and intimidation of the pueblos originarios of Chiapas.

2024

January 1 The EZLN celebrates the 30th anniversary of the movement.

January 12. Benefit concert for Weaving for Justice and the Doña Ana Arts Council, featuring folk musician Joe Jencks. Sponsored by A Still Small Voice.

Archive of documents covering the history of Weaving for Justice from its roots in the fieldwork of Christine Eber in Chenalhó, Chiapas in 1987 becomes available to the public at the New Mexico State University Library Archives. The physical archives are available to

consult at the Research Room in the Archive in Branigan Library or through the [New Mexico Archives Online database. Q](#)
Photos will be added to the archive in 2024.

February 3-17. Four Weaving for Justice members, Christine Eber, Gail Forrest, Tom Potts and Carol and Peter Vanier meet in Chiapas to visit with weavers in several collectives and students receiving scholarships through the Maya Educational Foundation.

March 8th Weaving for Justice and Nopalitos Galería co-sponsor “Songs in Cello and Cajon,” a concert and Women’s Craft Market to celebrate International Women’s Day, through March 10th.

March 27-29. Weaving for Justice sells textiles for collectives in Chiapas at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meeting at Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, NM.

April 20th Members of Weaving for Justice give a Zoom presentation about our work with Maya students and weaving collectives for Weave a Real Peace members and the public.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5vGVcMyZ40>

May 23rd. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from Menlo Park, California.

June 3rd. Claudia Scheinbaum elected first woman president of Mexico.

June 4th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group of students from Norfolk Academy, Virginia.

June 20th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group of studen??

October 12th & 13th. Sale of weavings at the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective Fall sale in Silver City, NM.

October 20 Padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez, the first indigenous priest in Chiapas who dedicated his life to the defense of the rights of the original peoples of the state is assassinated after giving mass in a barrio Cuxtitali in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. Criminal organizations heighten their attempts to take control of municipalities in Chiapas.

October 9th. Bentley University Fair Trade Event, Waltham, Massachusetts. Weaving for Justice sent a box to sell at the fair.

October 25th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group Michigan Refugee Hope.

November 1st & 2nd. Scholarship fundraiser for Maya youth. Fashion show of donated vintage clothing and thank you brunch for members and volunteers. All proceeds sent to Maya Educational Foundation in Antigua, Guatemala for scholarships for Maya youth.

November 29th. Columban Mission House, El Paso Alternative Black Friday sale.

December 7th. Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas sale.

2025

January 11th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group of students from Gettysburg College.

March 7-9. International Women's Day Event at Nopalito's Galería, co-sponsored by A Still Small Voice.

March 18th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from the University of Wyoming.

May 24th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from Menlo Park, California.

June 20th. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from Wilmington, Delaware.

August 3. Sale at Walatowa Festival at Jémez Pueblo, New Mexico.

August 25th. Christine Eber spoke about Weaving for Justice to residents at Northrise, Las Cruces. Weaving sale followed.

September 7th. Brunch for volunteers at Gail Forrest's home in Mesilla, NM.

October 3-5. Sale of weavings at Imagining America conference at NMSU.

October 11th & 12th. Sale of weavings at the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective Fall sale in Silver City, NM.

October 18th. Annual Scholarship Fundraiser sale, First Christian Church, Las Cruces. All proceeds sent to Maya Educational Foundation in Antigua, Guatemala for scholarships for Maya youth.

October 6-10th. A delegation of eight Weaving for Justice volunteers travel to Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico to assist representatives of

Tsobol Antsetik to sell and communicate with customers at the Feria Maestros del Arte.

November 28th. Alternative Black Friday sale at Columban Mission in El Paso.

December 10th and 11th. Christine Eber presents a powerpoint zoom talk in English and Spanish about her work in Chiapas and Weaving Justice to Weave a Real Peace members.

2026

January 17th. Weaving for Justice member, Meredith Ludwig, and friends from Missouri visit Tsobol Antsetik meeting house in Chixiltón, Chenalho'.

January 22. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from Augustana University.

February 4. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from Mexico City.

February 18. Pop-up weaving sale at Episcopal Church in Borrego Springs, California.

March 7th. International Women's Day event and sale at Nopalito's Galería, co-sponsored by A Still Small Voice and Patricia Gallegos of Nopalito's Galería.

April. Weaving for Justice begins to work again with Jolom Mayaetik, one of the oldest and largest artisan cooperatives based in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. Weaving for Justice has collaborated over the years in many projects with the cooperative.

April 4. Weaving for Justice vintage clothing modeled in the Finale of the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective Fashion Show, "Tapestry of Talent."

April 29th. Christine Eber speaks with Ancient Maya undergrad class at NMSU about contemporary Mayas of Chiapas and Weaving for Justice.

May 23rd. Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion group from Menlo Park, California.

June 19th Presentation to Border Servant Corps Immersion Group
from St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, San Francisco.

Our Solidarity Connections

A Still Small Voice, a non-profit based in Las Cruces and Upstate New York devoted to fostering the arts and community.

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

Bentley University Service Learning and Civic Engagement Center

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/>

Kinal Antsetik – A Mexican non-profit women’s organization that supports the rights of indigenous women. Works closely with Jolom Mayaetik in Chiapas.

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

Mexicolore - <https://www.mexicolore.co.uk/>

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

Singing Out Las Cruces - <https://www.singingoutlascruces.org>

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 3rd Saturday of each month, 10-3. For appointments at other times please contact weavingforjustice@gmail.com. **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

PALABRAS BILINGUAL BOOKSTORE

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

TOUCANS MARKET

TAYLOR-MESILLA HISTORIC SITE

Visitor's Center Gift Shop
Historic Mesilla Plaza, Mesilla, NM
(575) 202-1638

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 _____

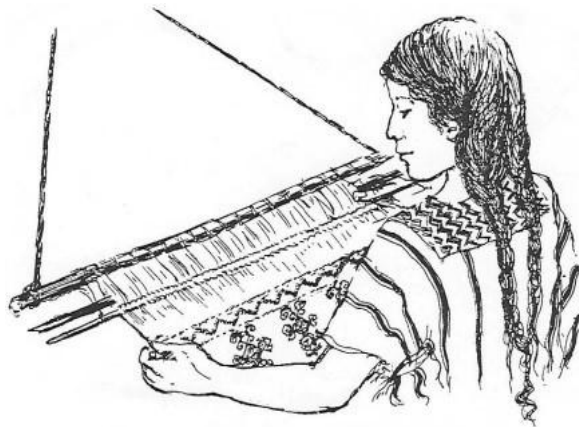
State _____ Zip code _____

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.