**SUSTAINING TRADITION**

$2 a day but costs are as high as in Belgium (per Volere volunteers in 2008 ZEMS newsletter) and Tonga basket production is a welcome opportunity.

Another large, regional association, CACSA, the Central Asia Artisan Support Association, was formed in the 1990s when Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan became independent of the former Soviet Union. Linked previously by the Russian language and a controlled economy, hundreds of craftpeople had suddenly to learn how to survive. Learning to market their crafts was shockingly new, but intent on re-establishing their own cultures, the Kyrgyz group turned to wood felt and their nomadic tradition of yurts and sirdak placed felt rugs while the Uzbeks re-emphasized silk ikat weaving, embroidery and their unique glazed ceramics.

Bukhara, in Uzbekistan, a Sister City to Santa Fe, shares a sisterly affinity in its climate, crafts, spices and architecture.

Santa Fe is a UNESCO designated Creative City, a hubspot for art even without the Folk Art Market, with its Spanish Market, Indian Market, and dozens of fine art galleries as well as abundant turquoise & silver for local art collectors and thousands of visitors. The Folk Art Market brings its tents, music and crafts to Milner Plaza, where it's surrounded by museums, Native American, Spanish, and International and is sponsored by the city, the state, by UNESCO by foundations and numerous individuals. With ongoing music and dance performances the Folk Art Market is a festival unlike any other.

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**INSPIRED RETAILING**

**Text & Image:** Clare Breit Smith

**Above:** Making baskets in Zambia.

**Below:** A finished Tonga-style basket, available at ABC Carpet and Home, www.abchome.com