

**NEW ADVENTURES for Carol Leigh**

One is never too accomplished, nor too old, to continue learning and growing in knowledge. This year I've signed up for 3 classes to expand my knowledge, plus a new international conference being held right here in Missouri with natural dye emphasis.

In January I took a two-day workshop with **Nilda Alvarez**, a national treasure from Peru, on **Backstrap Weaving**, sponsored by the Kansas City Weaver's Guild. She founded the Center for Traditional Textiles in Cusco, and has helped indigenous people of her area keep their tradition alive and help support their communities economically. Nilda authored *Weaving in the Peruvian Highlands*, among other books. Denny and I hope to travel to Peru some day.



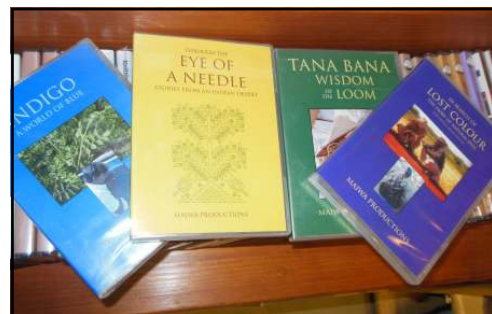
Bottom two straps woven by Carol Leigh  
Top woven by Peruvian weaver



Rug woven by Camilla Stege of Moosetrack Studio using shaft switching technique

I've signed up for **Rug Weaving** in June with **Jason Collingwood**, son of Peter Collingwood, the world renowned cultural weaving researcher and author of many books. We'll be learning **shaft-switching** techniques to weave complex patterns on a four-shaft loom. I became fascinated with the shaft-switching concept after commissioning a rug woven by a dear childhood friend, Camilla Stege, with whom I had lost contact for many years, and who, by chance, had been weaving 10 years longer than I have! I visited her Moosetrack Studio in Maine, and saw her Harrisville Rug Loom designed by Peter Collingwood using his shaft-switching devise, and her many impeccably woven rugs, table linens, shawls and more. I'm looking forward to learning this technique, as I have started weaving rugs with the fat wool "potholder loops". Chained together in interesting color combinations, they make wonderful rugs! I'm curious how they might look using this shaft-switching technique, or is it even possible? This workshop is being sponsored by the Springfield, Missouri Weaver's Guild.

Another exciting workshop for me is sponsored by Sarah Burnett, of Ancient Textiles, in upstate NY the end of August. She is hosting a **5-day natural dyeing workshop** with **Charlotte Kwon** of the **Maiwa** studio in Canada. Charlotte has studied natural dyeing around the world and offers several DVD's reflecting many dye practices in cultures around the world. I'm looking forward to getting acquainted with her and in picking up some new tips.



WARP (Weave A Real Peace) is an international organization working with indigenous peoples around the world in helping them develop income from their handmade textiles. Their annual conference is being held near St. Louis in Florissant, Missouri. And, their focus this year is on (what else?) natural dyes. I've just joined this organization, so will report more fully in my next epistle to you. ([www.weavearealpeace.org](http://www.weavearealpeace.org)) I'll be attending this conference Saturday, May 10, on my way to Florida to work on my dye book for three weeks with Rose (my photographer daughter) who has taken many of the pictures already.