

# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • May 2007 • Vol. 52 No. 9

---

## May Guild Meeting .....

**When:** Thursday, May 10, 2007, 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** South Valley Unitarian Church,  
6876 South Highland Drive  
**What:** Evening with the Wasatch Woolpak

For our May Guild meeting, members of the local spinner's guild, called the Wasatch Woolpak, will be joining us. Luli Josephson and several other spinners will talk to us about characteristics of yarn that can help us understand the yarns that we weave and knit with. For example, Luli will discuss and demonstrate

the amount of twist that is put into yarns and help us understand how twist affects the suitability of yarn for warp or weft. The spinners will bring yarns and projects they have made, and those of you who don't know much about spinning are welcome to try your hand at a spinning wheel! Please bring any handspun yarns or projects that you have made so that we can share those with each other as well. We look forward to this evening of sharing fiber information with our friends in the spinner's guild.

## President's Message .....

Hello Weavers!

I have just returned from my second Conference of Northern California Handweavers trip and I have been thinking a great deal about the experience. First of all, this year was a retreat format at the beautiful Asilomar, a California state park on Monterey Bay. This was the first time I had seen this section of coastline and I highly recommend it as one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. Each time I have gone to this conference, I have been greeted with a graciousness that makes me feel truly welcomed. This has made me question if I, personally, and our guild, in general, is as open and welcoming to new members and even to new ideas. As a weaver and fiber artist, it is easy for me to get caught up in my work and only come up to breathe occasionally, so I plan to make a concentrated effort to extend that gracious welcome to all of our members so that when people leave us they feel as valued as I did at CNCH. I hope that all of you will think about it and make this effort also.

One of the highlights of the trip was getting to room with Barbara Cabrol and Mary Helen Binger, both former Utahns and MMAWG members who have moved to California. They both look great and

are getting settled in. Barbara is doing some wonderful samples with a silk wrapped stainless steel from Habu and I was privileged to get to sleep in her studio! Barbara and Judie Eatough were in a computer class with Alice Shlein learning how to use Photoshop

*continued on page 2*

## 2007–2008 Guild Officers

The following people have agreed to be nominated for the following elected positions.

### 2007–2008 MMAWG Elected Guild Board Nominees

President .....Susan Hainsworth  
Vice President .....Kathleen McMaster  
Secretary .....Sonya Campana  
Treasurer .....Julie Schwartz  
Grants .....Marty Nielsen  
Grants .....Teri Jo Mauch (Continuing)

Voting will take place at the May Guild meeting, Thursday, May 10th.

## President's message *continued from page 1* .....

with weaving to create structure. I am looking forward to seeing what they will create. Mary Helen's class was cotton spinning and Connie Denton studied basketry with Flo Hoppe. My class was indigo with Karen Urbanek. Karen is a wonderfully generous teacher who also made me start thinking about the dyes we use and their impact on our environment. She has worked in many foreign countries to help establish a system of natural dyeing that meets industry standards and doesn't impact water supplies as much as synthetic dyes. She delivered a paper last month on indigo dyeing at a Unesco Conference in India. It is on the Unesco website if you are interested. On top of being a great teacher, she even brought her students treats—candied almonds and chocolate!

The only downside of this class was the realization that I am not equipped to do indigo dyeing as a program in June. Because indigo is a "touchy" vat and with no way of planning for numbers of people dyeing, the June program will be changed. Susan and I discussed a day of inkle looms in Kathy Wright's meadow and working on some of the passementary design ideas from Robyn Spady's speech. We hope this sounds fun to you.

Kudos are in order for Connie Denton, who was chosen as an invited artist at the Utah Arts Festival. Connie is a wonderful basketmaker and artist and it is great to see her work get the recognition it deserves.

Our next meeting is with some of the spinners from the Wasatch Woolpak, who will talk about how the twist in yarn impacts our weaving. Luli Josephson will be leading the conversation and if you have some handspun or commercial yarn you are wondering about or if you used some handspun with surprising results, this will be just the program for you. We will also be electing our officers for the new year and this is an important meeting for our guild. Please attend.

At Easter, my husband and I visited Capitol Reef for the first time and spent some time at the Gifford House, an early settlement house which is now part of the park. There was a loom there and in the course of conversation about the loom, the woman who was working there asked me if there was a possibility that

one or more of our guild members would be interested in helping to warp and maintain the loom. I gave her my information, and today, Shirley Torgerson of the Museum of History called me about helping them at their Spring Celebration by demonstrating weaving, spinning, or anything fiberly on May 19th from 9am–5pm. They used to have a woman, named Kathy Powers, come to help them with the looms, but she has died and they would love to get some help from us. I think that this is the same weekend as the Snake River Fiber Festival, so it may be a conflict for some of you, but if you are interested, please call me or speak to me at the meeting. 2008 is the hundredth anniversary of the Gifford House and they would like to have some interested people on board for the big celebration then. ❀

## Lorna Tayler .....

*This is Sharon Alderman's story of her friendship with Lorna Tayler as told to Patti Pitts. Lorna Taylor was an important Guild member in the early days of the Guild, and we give an award in her honor at each of our Guild shows.*

Sharon Alderman met Lorna Tayler in September of 1972, at the first guild meeting that Sharon attended. At that time, the guild met in members' homes and Sharon did not know anyone at the first meeting she attended. Lorna Tayler came and sat beside Sharon and it was clear to Sharon that Lorna was well-liked and respected by other members of the guild. Lorna was about 68 years old at the time and Sharon found her friendliness to be emblematic of who Lorna Tayler was. Lorna's mother was born in Denmark and came to the USA with her mother and settled in New Harmony, Utah. Missionaries had come to their home in Denmark, but although her grandmother wanted to emigrate, Lorna's grandfather did not want to go to the United States. Both grandparents thought to stand firm and the other would give in, but when Lorna's grandmother left, she never saw her husband again. Lorna's grandmother came to Utah with her children and ended up hiring out Lorna's mother to work for another family in return for room and board. This

*continued on page 4*

## Volunteers needed.....

### Lamb and Wool Festival

**When:** May 25–26

**Where:** Thanksgiving Point Farm  
Country

An engaging and unique event in Farm Country showcasing the working practices and cultural traditions of people in the lamb and wool industries. Come for entertainment, spinning and sheep dog demonstrations, distinctive handicrafts, and delicious food. We have been asked to participate in the festival by demonstrating weaving. Judie Eatough will have a threaded loom there; you can use it if you would like and/or bring your own, bring an inkle loom, etc. The spinners' groups

have been contacted by the festival coordinators, so we do not need to demonstrate spinning.

If you are interested, contact Judie Eatough, 801-375-5535 or [judie@eatough.net](mailto:judie@eatough.net).

### Senior Expo

**Conference Date:** Saturday, Oct 20, 2007, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Salt Lake County Aging Services is in the preparation stages for the October 2007 Senior Expo. Each year we hold a Caregiver Conference in conjunction with this Expo. Our theme this year is "Threads of Our Lives."

We are writing to see if any of you might be interested in helping us add

texture and flavor to the setting of our conference. We are looking for a weaver or two who would be willing to set up her loom, large or small, and work off and on throughout the day of the conference. We are also looking for display pieces. We would even be willing to let Guilds display artwork with sale prices should a caregiver wish to purchase a piece to remember the conference.

Contact: Kathy Nelson, Salt Lake County Aging Services Training Specialist, Caregiver Support  
2001 South State Street S-1500  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84190  
[ksnelson@slco.org](mailto:ksnelson@slco.org)  
(801) 468-3480

## Call for Entries.....

### Living with Beauty: Handwoven Textiles for the Home

Don't miss the December 15, 2007, postmark entry deadline for this juried exhibit of handwoven textiles for the home, titled "Living with Beauty: Handwoven Textiles for the Home." This unique exhibit is jointly sponsored by the Pikes Peak Weavers Guild and the Business of Art Center (BAC) in Manitou Springs, Colorado, and will be hung in the BAC's Hagnauer Gallery from June 13 to July 26, 2008. \$4000 in cash awards will be presented at the juror's discretion.

Entries must be handwoven, for use in the home interior, be an original design, and be finished objects (not

yardage). Traditional and non-traditional fibers, structures, and designs may be used to weave both decorative and utilitarian textiles, including but not limited to wall pieces, rugs, table linens, towels, and baskets.

Download a prospectus from [www.pikespeakweavers.org](http://www.pikespeakweavers.org)—  
<http://www.pikespeakweavers.org> or receive one via email by contacting Susan Bowman or Beverly Weaver at [LivingwithBeauty@aol.com](mailto:LivingwithBeauty@aol.com) mail to: [LivingwithBeauty@aol.com](mailto:LivingwithBeauty@aol.com).  
Written requests may be made to Susan Bowman or Beverly Weaver c/o Pikes Peak Weavers Guild, P.O. Box 8104, Colorado Springs, CO 80933.

## Looms for Sale.....

Mr. Douglas Cheney, whose wife, Ann, died late last fall, is selling her looms. The looms are in Utah but Mr. Cheney is often in the Sacramento area, where they lived before moving to Utah.

Here is the list:

1. an 8-shaft loom built in the 50s by Jim Arens of tiger maple and a little bird's eye maple it is about 30" wide and is NOT a doobby.

2. a 36", 4-shaft Mighty Wolf (Schacht)
3. an 8-shaft table loom (Mountain Loom)
4. a home-made 4-shaft loom, four feet wide

If you are interested in more information or in buying any of these looms, please call Mr. Cheney on his cell phone. The number is 916-375-9381.

## Guild Show

*As a Guild, we want to extend a special thank you to Charlene Lind, who put in a great amount of time and energy to ensure that our Guild show was so successful. We appreciate all the coordination and trips to Salt Lake, and we are very grateful that she found the wonderful Cultural Celebration Center for us. Many people saw and appreciated our show, some of whom had not been exposed to weaving and other fiber arts before. We would like to thank each of you who contributed beautiful fiber pieces and extend a special thank you to the embroiderers who contributed their beautiful work. The show was a success in every way!*

## Taylor interview continued from page 2 .....

family was mean-spirited to the point of putting steel plates on her shoes to keep from having to buy her new shoes. Lorna's mother ended up with crippled feet and had to have some of her toes removed. In church one day, the bishop said that you might as well send your daughters to hell as to send them to Salt Lake City, but Lorna's mother decided that hell couldn't be worse than where she lived and she left the next day for Salt Lake City.

Lorna's mother married and Lorna and her brothers and sisters grew up in Salt Lake City. Lorna and one of her sisters never married and they lived together. Lorna's sister died before Sharon met Lorna. Lorna worked in the public school system as an art teacher and was on the State Board of Education toward the end of her life. She was active as a potter for 20–30 years and was involved with Little Theatre for over 30 years. Lorna was encouraging to Sharon in that she did things for a while and then moved on to something else. Lorna was always interested in new weave structures and ideas.

One day, Lorna let it slip that she was often lonely at around 4:00 pm because that was when she used to get home and see her sister. Sharon started calling her to visit at 4:00 pm after hearing this. While Lorna was alive, Sharon was weaving and finishing her COE in weaving. Sharon had also started writing for *Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot*. Lorna died a couple of days after Sharon autographed a copy of *Handwoven, Tailormade* for her at Intertwine on 9th and 9th.

In 1974, Sharon, her husband, Don, and their daughter, Susan, went to Denmark for Don's fellowship at the HC Oevsted Institute for six weeks. They had an apartment in a suburb north of Copenhagen and while Don was at work, Sharon and Susan would go to museums. One day as they got on the bus, Sharon saw Lorna getting on a bus going in the other direction. When Sharon returned home, she asked Lorna if she had been in Denmark and yes, Lorna had been there to visit her family.

Lorna didn't feel safe driving at night, so Sharon would pick her up at her home south of I-80 on Connor Street and take her to guild meetings. They made a deal that when Sharon brought her home,

Lorna would go inside and then flip the lights on and off to tell Sharon that all was okay. Lorna had many nephews and nieces and would take them out one at a time for lunch and a movie. Lorna told Sharon that one time, she took her nephew and his pal to lunch and then to see the movie *A Man and a Woman*. She hadn't realized what the movie was about and the boys were about seven or eight at the time. Lorna thought that perhaps the parents would kill her if they found out what the movie was and then her nephew turned to his buddy and said, "Well, that's the French for you." Lorna knew then that all would be okay. Within the last fifteen years, Sharon was an invited artist at the Utah Arts Festival and a man came to her booth and mentioned that his aunt used to weave. Sharon asked her name and he said Lorna Taylor. Sharon told him that Lorna used to tell wonderful stories about her nephews and told him Lorna's story about *A Man and A Woman*. The man said that he was that boy. Lorna would have the group in stitches over these stories.

Jan Giesler was another member of the guild and a friend of Sharon's and Lorna's. Once every summer, Lorna would invite Sharon and Jan and their children for a picnic. Lorna would grill hotdogs and serve potato chips, pickles and ice cream. She always said that they could get their vegetables another day. Whenever Lorna would take out her nieces and nephews or Sharon and Jan and their children, they just had fun. Lorna was good at just having fun.

In 1974, at Convergence in San Francisco (only the second Convergence), a bunch from the guild went to San Francisco and needed an economical place to stay near the Mark Hopkins, where Convergence was held. Sharon and her family had stayed at the Hotel Bedford (3–4 blocks uphill from the conference). Sharon proposed the Hotel Bedford as an option and so Jan, Sharon, and Lorna had a room the first night and Jane Hartford joined them the second day. Sharon asked Lorna what she thought of the room and Lorna said that it was "okay, but it's not the Ritz." and that was the beginning of another Lorna story.

*continued on page 5*

## Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

May 2007 • Vol. 52 No. 9

Jane Ann Peters, editor  
14025 South 2200 West, Bluffdale, UT 84065;  
Phone: 801-446-8923  
e-mail: editor@mmawg.org

The newsletter is published 10 times a year. Any articles or information should be to the editor by the 20th of the month.

**To join the guild** send \$30.00 to Julie Schwartz, 1568 South Red Filly Rd., Heber, UT 84032

**To join the guild webpage:** MMAAWG-subscribe@yahoo groups.com

**Guild meetings** are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Unitarian Church, 6876 South Highland Drive (2000 East)

### 2006–2007 MMAWG Board

**President:** Patti Pitts, 801-582-0271 utweaver@comcast.net

**Vice President:** Susan Hainsworth, 801-292-1169  
shainsworth@net world.com

**Secretary:** Deanna Baugh, 801-966-3642;  
numlweaver@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:** Julie Schwartz, 435-654-0746; jdschwartz@aol.com

**Grants:** Terri Jo Mauch, 801-272-1344; tmauch@hsc.utah.edu  
Rebecca Raybould, 801-272-1344; peterbould@msn.com

**Past President:** Julie Schwartz, 435-654-0746;  
jdschwartz@aol.com

**Principal Agent:** Susan Hainsworth

**Hospitality:** Timmy Burton, 801-582-3550

**Library and Equipment:** Sara Lee Neill, 801-829-3703;  
sleNeill@xmission.com

**Newsletter:** Jane Ann Peters

**Website:** Judie Eatough, 801-375-5535 judie@eatough.net

**2007 Guild Show:** Charlene Lind, 801-375-7532;  
clind@juno.com

**2008 COE Weaving:** Judie Eatough, Charlene Lind

**HGA representative:** Sara Lee Neill

**IWC Representatives:**

Colleen Wood, 435-826-6445; colleen77@hotmail.com  
Jenny King, 801-731-5234; ewetah@aol.com

## 2007 Calendar

### Thursday, May 10:

The Wasatch Wool Pack, our local spinners guild, will teach us about various fibers and share some of the beautiful things they are making. South Valley Unitarian Church, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Kathy Wright's meadow in Park City.

Demonstration and fun with inkle looms, including trying some of the techniques taught by Robyn Spady. Bring your looms. Also bring a potluck dish for lunch.

*continued from page 4*

Lorna and her sister traveled together a lot and one year they went to Denmark and then onto the rest of Europe on a Euro Pass. They ended up in Paris on Bastille Day and all the hotels were booked except for one room at the Ritz. Since they had been traveling all day and did not want to stay up all night on the train, they decided to take the room at the Ritz. Lorna and her sister checked in and four people escorted them to their room. (The Ritz had a policy at the time of having two people to help every guest.) On the desk in their room was a card listing all the famous people who had stayed in their room, including Winston Churchill. The room was done in pale green moire silk and the sheets on the beds were pale green satin sheets. When the staff finally left, Lorna and her sister sat on the beds and roared with laughter and asked themselves, "What now, do we stay up to get the use of the room where so many famous people had stayed or do we go to bed and use those satin sheets?" Sharon asked Lorna what they did and Lorna replied that they used those satin sheets and that now when someone asked how she liked a room, she would say, "It's okay, but it's not the Ritz," with a twinkle in her eye.

Sharon and Lorna would talk and Lorna was adamant that she wanted to stay in her own home at the end of her life. She talked frankly about dying, and Sharon told Lorna that if Lorna went first, to tell them that Sharon would be along and wanting a loom. They used to talk that there might be something that follows our lives here that might be as wonderful as color is to Sharon's cat. Sharon told Lorna when she found out about it to think of her.

One afternoon, Sharon called Lorna and Lorna didn't sound right; she was not tracking, so Sharon contacted Lorna's neighbor and they got her to the hospital to discover that her electrolytes were off. They were able to rebalance them and Sharon told Lorna that next time she would just come there herself immediately Lorna did not want to live as a vegetable or totally dependent on others. Sharon hoped that Lorna would live a long time and was so sad when Lorna died at 78 in the spring of 1982.

Sharon Alderman considered Lorna Tayler a blessing in her life. ❀