

CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD

Number 103

Winter, 2010-2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The heat and humidity have passed and a chill is in the air. The gathering time is here; when harvest and feasts draw us together for celebrations. I've always felt the dynamics of our meetings paralleled the family reunions my mother hosted each Thanksgiving. There were elders and youngsters and the awkward in-between. A core group was in charge of preparing the feast, delegating and training the next generation in the fine art of working like dogs so that others could eat like pigs. Some were often seen and familiar. Others came rarely, stayed little, and remained strangers in every sense but one: They were family, and if and when they choose to attend, they were welcome.

But we didn't always like each other. Squabbles were minimized by the pre-holiday threat of severe retribution should we care to destroy the temporary illusion of the perfect happy family. Gathering a room full of artsy individualistic people on a monthly basis requires the same suspension of reality, but we've all grown up past the need for threats and are able to police our own behavior. In my decade of meeting attendance, I have only once seen our decorum dissolve into tears, and I have never witnessed bloodshed that wasn't self inflicted and wholly acceptable for the artistic goal of the day. I have met women through this group with whom I feel closer than kin, but we don't all like each other in equal degrees. We don't have to. We aren't all locked into a big love fest. Our energies don't always align. We only must accept each others eccentricities in trade for their acceptance of ours. There's enough here to find what you need to find and leave the rest behind.

I found comfort early on when I realized I could look left or right and find good folks that currently are, or historically have been, at least as weird as me. Here we care about cloth, all agree that weaving on people-powered looms is a logical focus for our free time and could care less about the possibility of monetary payback. We work privately; coming together to learn more, and take comfort that we aren't the only ones crazy enough to be doing this. Most of us would have never met but for this one commonality and our lives are enriched by additions. We all want to attend, we all want to belong and we all share an equal right in the process. We know how to behave and everyone seems able to work

with that. If we occasionally feel the need to roll our eyes, hold our tongues and take a deep breath, it's a small price to pay for such a great feast.

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

ROSTER UPDATE

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OUR NEWSLETTER

With the grace of an Olympic diver, Arlene has taken us into the pool of the future of publishing. For all the talk and worry, there was no big splash. I doubt it was effortless, but it certainly looked that way. I have only heard positive remarks about our new digital newsletter, and when the budget expenditure was announced at the meeting, all eyes widened with the pleasant surprise.

I personally found it extremely convenient to have the newsletter already on my computer in PDF form when I met a local weaver who knew nothing about us. Within the hour we had piqued her curiosity, informed her of our schedule and itinerary, and she hasn't missed a meeting since.

I was particularly fond of that issue for the variety of writers we presented, and how quickly that developed. I cheer everyone who came to my rescue when I put out my plaintive little cry for help. Thank you for understanding that I had to put the pen down.

Your swift step up made our offering interesting and substantial, and I relished every word. With our new

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publishing method, we can include lots and lots of articles and essays without worry about paper and postage costs, so everyone please write more.

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS 2011

All meetings are held at the Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, unless otherwise indicated. Brown bag lunch usually starts at 11:30 am (with coffee, tea and dessert provided), the program starts at 12:30 pm and the business meeting follows. All changes in meeting location, day and time are indicated below.

January 20, 2011

11:30 Lunch and meeting at Church of the Saviour

12:30 program will be guest Bill Franz of the Atlas Carpet Mills Company. Bill will show us weaving methods of carpets and explain some carpet constructions with samples.

January and February, 2011

We will have a show at The Gathering Place in Beachwood. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

February 17, 2011

10:00 One-Day Basket weaving Workshop at Church of the Saviour.

11:30 lunch and meeting during the workshop.

Liz Andrasco, basket maker/weaver for 30 years will conduct a one-day workshop where we will make our own basket. We will have a selection of baskets to choose from and there will be a materials charge. We will need a minimum of 8 people. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

March Show at the Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

March 17, 2011 St. Patrick's Day

11:30 Lunch and meeting at Church of the Saviour

12:30 Program. Guest will be Brenda Grauer, acclaimed liturgical artist, creator of "In

Stitches," the largest liturgical art center in the country.

April 13, 14, 15, 2011

Hamlet Village Club House, Chagrin Falls Spring Workshop with Nancy Hoskins from Eugene, Oregon. She is the author of three weaving books, a video and fifty articles and has taught weaving in colleges as well as for international, national & regional guilds. Her longstanding love of Coptic weaves and weaving will be translated for us in a round robin style workshop with much emphasis on the Egyptian weaves she has recently seen on travels to Egypt. The weft faced structures will thrill and instruct us in history as well as for today. Only 10 spaces left in class. \$110. per person. Call Patty Hridel, 440-708-2525 or send an email hrideljerpat@aol.com

May 19, 2011

11:30 Lunch followed by a business meeting
Church of the Saviour
Yarn/equipment Exchange/Sale
during/after the meeting.

June 16, 2011

Noon: Summer Pot Luck Lunch and Show & Tell at Parlin Meyer's house, 104 Ridgewood Rd, Chagrin Falls, OH. 440-247-8964. A-L members bring a salad or dessert, M-Z please bring main dish, salad or bread.

FIBER HAPPENINGS

February 4, 5 and 6, 2011. Events to celebrate Betsy Bruce's tenth "From Yarn to Garment" winter term class/group project at Oberlin College. To celebrate a decade of teaching college students and others to weave and then construct wearable garments, there will be a full weekend of lectures/workshops/trunk show/Style Show/hands-on activities for interested community members and others. For info: betsy.bruce@oberlin.edu

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WEAVERS' SHOW IS LOOMING AHEAD

Our 2011 show will be held at the Beachwood Library during the month of March, 2011. Do you have some woven creations ready to show? Or something special you've been thinking of starting? Now is the time! Our previous shows have garnered rave reviews, so let's make this one special too.

The dates are as follows:

Take in: Monday, Feb 28 9-10am

Set Up: Monday Feb. 28 10am-1pm

Reception: Sunday, March 6 2-4pm (the library is open from 1-5pm)

Demonstration and Activities Day: Sunday, March 20 1-5pm

Take Down and Pick up: Friday, April 1 9-11am

Hours of the show--Regular library hours Mon through Thurs. 9am-9pm,

Friday and Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 1-5pm

Victoria Parratt-Johnson will make labels and take pictures of items to be featured in the flyers that the library will print. Ele Richardson and Victoria will be in charge of the Demonstration-Activities afternoon. Patty Hridel will be in charge of installing the show.

Please plan to help in any way that you can. A volunteer signup sheet will be circulated at the January meeting, or call Ellie Polster or Ele Richardson to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Entries will be done electronically. Please submit your entries to Victoria stating your name, type of item, title, technique and either price or value if NFS (for insurance purposes) by Tues. Feb.1, 2011.

Please bring your woven entries to the library Monday, Feb.28 from 9-10am. If you cannot do so at that time, arrange with another member to bring your entries. Please have a label fastened to each entry stating your name, type of item, title, technique and either price or NFS and value (same information as provided on previously submitted entry form).

The library is not permitted to sell anything, but Friends of the Beachwood Library can make sales, taking a 10% commission. The Beachwood Library carries insurance with a \$250 deductible, so anything valued below that amount will not be insured by the Library. Everything valued over that amount will be covered by the Library.

Ellie Polster

OUR 2011 BEACHWOOD LIBRARY SHOW

When you go planting acorns, there's little concern that no one will know you planted that tree. It's the little nut that might remember you.

This March, we have a chance to really plant a seed into the weavers of the future. The entire month, our work will hang in display on the walls and in the cabinets of the Beachwood branch of the Cuyahoga Public Library for the enjoyment and education of their patrons. We will have our usual open house the first weekend, undoubtedly packed with people who love us and know of our ability to fill a table with a wide variety of delicious bite sized snacks.

On March 20th, we have a chance to feed new minds with a proper show and tell. The library is sponsoring us on their educational calendar for a weaving day. As much as the library budget has been torn to shreds, they are willing to cut out a small piece of it for fliers to promote our day. We need to provide our own photography up front, and promotional information for the exhibit. On the demonstration day, we focus on the children. We will need to gather colored construction paper for the beginners and small bits of thick cardboard and large plastic needles for the intermediate group. I can bring an inkle or two for the real go-getters. One or two harnessed looms should keep the taller ones occupied. If we each throw in an old cone or two, our fiber needs will be covered, and I'm happy to donate that stash of construction paper I've been saving for the day when I finally thought of a good use for it.

On March 20th, we will need people to docent the exhibit for the parents while others work with the children. It would be very helpful if we could each have choked out a paragraph or two on what we did and why so things are easier to explain. We should be warping and weaving and showing as much as we can to whomever stands still long enough to look. Hopefully enough of us will participate so that we can move about the room and really have fun and enjoy our day. This is going to require many people playing together nicely. There's lots to be done between now and then. Ask what you can do.

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

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MINI SHOW

Our second Mini show of the year will be in January and February, 2011 at the Gathering Place in Beachwood. Again we are delighted to spread our talents and create interest in the weaving process.

Patty Hridel will be collecting items for the show at the end of December so call her with what will be entered...440-708-2525 or email hrideljerpat@aol.com

RUG WEAVERS POEM

When I was a girl, my mother
tore suits and dresses into strips
and wound them up into balls.
Wool and cotton, silks and satins,
dark rainbows that couldn't be clouded
by the dust that rose in that destruction,
geological hues tied with a zeal,
the cat chased those tails endlessly.
When all this was done,
my mother descended with her baskets
to the loom in the basement,
that big creaking frame
threaded with string sunsets and
daybreak brilliance, with foot pedals
bigger than a piano's and rhythms
that were like shifts in the heart
or quakes underground.
She threw the shuttle and pounded the bar
against the rags of the past
so rugs came reeling out,
all warp and weft and her breathless.
Even now I feel her rhythms
in the everyday disasters,
feel the need to tear my clothes, get down
to the most basic elements.
I want to - somehow in the heartbeat
of the dark and in the lap of great effort -
take the threads of the past
and bring up something new.

By Duluth, Minnesota Poet Laureate Sheila
Packa

COLLOQUY

October 3-8 was a picturesque October week. St. Meinrad's Archabbey sits on top of a hill surrounded by the many buildings of the Archabbey and fields of green grass and autumn leaves. 15 members met for a day with Martha and Gregory Richard, the main speakers and owners and operators of The Weavers Corner.

The Richards' started out with 4 looms around 1979 and now run 14 looms and have 4 employees. Decorators ask them to weave rag rugs up to 60" wide and 10' long in certain colors. Curtains in coordinating colors are often chosen to go with the rugs. They use new wool cut 1 1/2" wide for the "rag" strips as the law requires that only new wool be used. Kitchen towels are a big item as they produce for several catalog companies. A representative will call and ask for 250 blue plaid towels and 250 of a particular striped towel. The towels are all in unmercerized cotton. Most of their products are in colonial colorways. The Richards' welcome visitors to the shop--- The Weavers Corner in Boston, Kentucky near Louisville, KY.
www.weaverscornerinc.com

One day Brother Kim arranged for the group to travel to Bloomington to visit the Textillery which had been so popular when the Midwest Conference was in Bloomington. It has changed a lot and most of their production is now for decorators and catalog sales. Another day several members reviewed their own weaving related travels or work.

St. Meinrad's maintains a guest house which is much like a motel and a cafeteria -- not fancy but very nice. They host various groups for classes or retreats. The monastery owns and operates The Abbey Press.

In 2011 the group will meet the last week in September. For information and registration; kmalloy@saintmeinrad.edu or kfoneal@sbcglobal.net or 219-938-2936

Uarda Taylor

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

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THE CHICKLET THEORY

I'm having fantasies of my next velvet rug in chenille over carpet warp. Maybe a nice polyester pile. Material choices have rarely seemed so important as when I committed to 18 yards of supplementary wool on wool. I had more than enough Harrisville of the prescribed size to sett the ground warp with the confidence that comes with written instruction. My confidence was premature. Words I had used at purchase like pretty and strong, changed to clingy and sticky and a few phrases I cannot print. Every pick requires a long embrace; in close and up to my elbows, clearing the shed from either end and inching closer and closer to a full hug as each bunch of threads give up their preferred attachments. I would have thought it the stickiest wool in the world, but then there was my choice for the supplementary warp. As much love and attention the base warp required, the supplement needed more.

When I heard that familiar pop of a breaking thread and started searching for the culprit, it positively volunteered its location by attaching its freshly opened ends to the palm of my hand. Months later, when the heat and humidity of the season had passed and my confidence had returned enough to resume, the ends were still tacky enough to latch onto me like a lamprey. I've never seen yarn sticky enough to actually stick to me. I would warn all away if I could, but it carried no identifying marks to reference. I fear it lies stashed, simply skeined and skulking, ready to reach out and draw weavers in like a siren song; entangling the good fiber folk and gluing them to the rocks.

Having taken time off and thought about it deeply, I developed what I call the Chicklet theory. Somewhere, a scientist is genetically crossing Correadales with Chicklet gum to produce wool with a springy hand and natural bits of blue and red to cheaply highlight that duller brownish gray. The lamprey effect is obviously just another sad unforeseen side effect.

Entirely unprovable, and not under any current known study, I can only take personal comfort in having my almost plausible explanation for what could possibly be the stickiest wool in the world.

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

A LITTLE HELP ON MY HOMEWORK

I feel like I cheated a little on my homework; maybe collaborated is a better word. I walked past that bolt of handwoven for more than three years; I knew it wanted to be a ruana, but it was Bertie's handwoven and I needed a real excuse before I could make the first cut. She wove 6 yards of 2/2 twill in grey and pink cotton floss for a purpose never realized. She was years past the possibility, and I needed to create something wearable for my home study presentation. A ruana is wearable. It was time.

The floss has a beautiful relaxed sett that raised deep concerns that just stitching together the edge might produce a tearful, torn disaster. I wanted pockets, so I cut off the first 12 inches and set it aside. I wanted fringe so I cut what was left in half and started taking out 7 inches of what had been from each end. I wanted the seam to hold and disappear, so I pinched the sides together and sewed a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch seam, ironed that open, folded it back on itself and sewed it down flat. The twill matched and continued. I did the same on the other edges purely for the aesthetics. I was so pleased with the outcome that I still debate which is the right and wrong side. I had to choose so I could put on the pockets. I used the thread I had so carefully un-woven to sew the new seams. It disappeared into the fabric like a black cat on a dark night.

My pride came just before the fall of my realization that I had sewn at least 2 inches too far up the neck and couldn't see the seams to take them out. The ruana would fit perfectly on Patty or Parlin, but on me it was going to hang funny and sweep the floor. I took the knots out of the back and started un-weaving again; inching my way up to a proper fit. I didn't start it, but I put my time in with the finishing. It's so nice to know Bertie can still help me with my homework.

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

FOR SALE

Nilus Leclerc floor loom for sale (4 shaft, 45" weaving width) in excellent condition with lots of extras (such as a sectional warp beam, open end loom bench, 3 different reeds, ALL weaving accessories including warping board, books, yarn and more). It is everything one would need to weave. \$975.00. Annie Peters, anniepeters@windstream.net

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Some of the many dresses, hats (*poculice*) and scarves(*peče*)worn in the different Croatian regions

The Croatian Heritage Museum

On a cool and, ultimately, rainy morning we carpooled and gathered for a filling lunch of Croatian-style food at Dubrovnik Gardens, in the large Croatian Heritage complex on Lakeshore Blvd. in Eastlake.

Adjoining to the Croatian Heritage Museum and Library we met Frances Babic for a tour of the exhibit "*Maiden, Mother, Woman of Wisdom*".

Although not Croatian by birth, after marrying a Croatian, Fran, a professional historian, dove into the history of women and their lives in what is now Croatia and we benefited as she shared her extensive research into the textiles and history of women's clothing with us.

Whatever we thought we were going to see did not exactly match what greeted our eyes when the lights came on in a room of a little over 600 square feet. Passing out white gloves so we could touch and feel Fran turned a standard tour into a fiber feast! Our eyes were immediately drawn to the loom, spinning wheels and textiles arranged in the room of a "typical" Croatian home but Fran's tour started with a map of how and

why the styles of dress were distributed around the different regions.

She showed us how the ancient symbology of "*The Maiden, Mother, Woman of Wisdom*" was so well hidden in women's clothing with the coming of Christianity that today the old meanings have been lost and are just now being rediscovered.

It was a fascinating afternoon learning about how just a slight difference in color and shade told the village, history, current status and possible future of the woman wearing each piece of clothing. This is land that has been fought over and "owned" by many empires – Byzantine, Holy Roman, Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian to name a few. She explained how the ideas and techniques from all of the peoples that passed through have been used and adapted for the clothing of the "conquered".

The conquerors may have had temporary use of the land and the peoples but ultimately the women of what is now Croatia won with the use of color, texture, fabric, fiber, symbol and design to create a wide variety of beautiful clothing with deep meaning in every stitch.



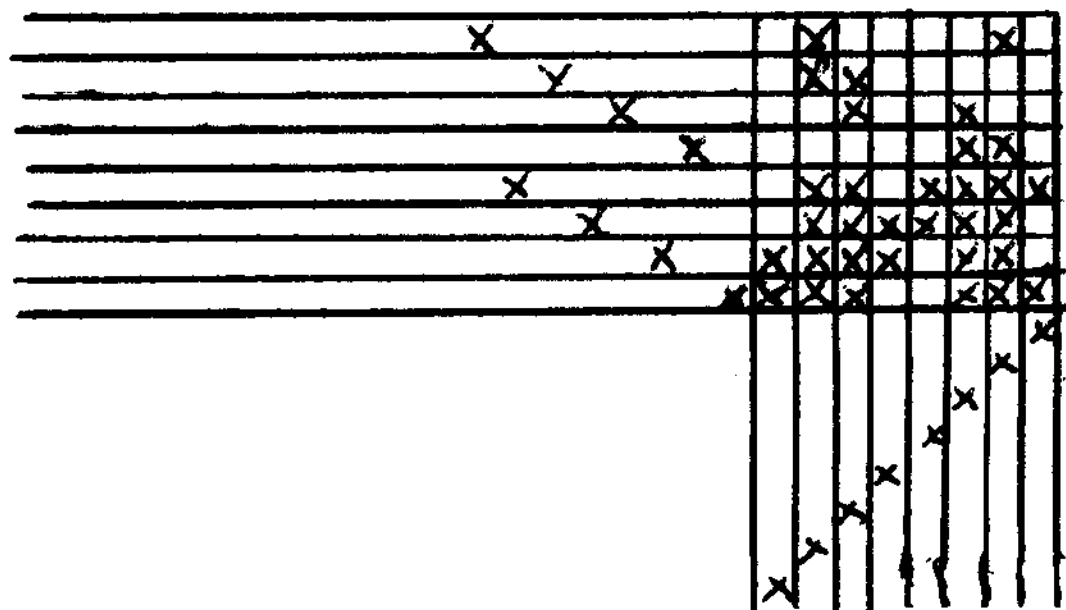
Fran tells us about the different styles of poculice (hats worn by married woman throughout most regions of Croatia)

Lynne Killgore

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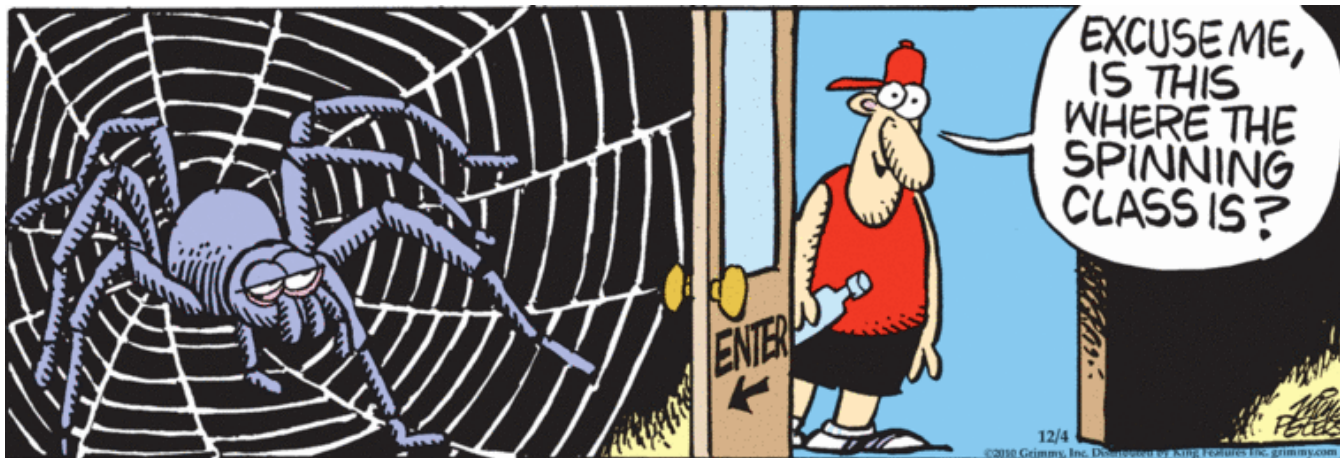
DOUBLEWEAVE CONUNDRUM

In trying to weave a doubleweave (for the width) blanket with a plain twill, I looked everywhere (including the net) for instructions on how to tie up the pedals so that the twill would be the same direction all the way across the blanket once it came off the loom and not look like a large chevron. After countless attempts with different pedal configurations, I finally figured it out. I've written it down so that I'll have it for the next blanket – this one was a Mackenzie Military or Modern tartan pattern. And here it is so that anyone else who wants to have a continuous twill for doubleweave will have it too!



Contributed by Parlin Meyer

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Contributed by Lynne Killgore

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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Regular membership, \$25.
Newsletter only membership, \$12.50

Please return check and this slip to:
Jean Jackson
2980 Washington Blvd.
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

INTERESTING FACT:

People used to believe that placing a ripe tomato on the mantel when first entering a new home guaranteed future prosperity. Since tomatoes were not available year-round until recently, families moving into new homes often substituted round balls of red fabric stuffed with sawdust or sand.

These balls were also used as pincushions, which explains-- if you ever wondered--why your grandmother's pincushion looked like a tomato.

FIBER HAPPENINGS

October 7-10, 2011. Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference at Chautauqua, NY. Small-scale, vendors, exhibits and close to home! Start your planning!

CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD



The Cuyahoga Weavers Guild

The Cuyahoga Weavers Guild of Cleveland, Ohio is an organization open to all weavers, spinners and any others interested in textiles and fibers.

The "weaving year" is September through June. Meetings are generally held the third Thursday of the month at the Church of the Saviour. Brown bag lunch usually starts at 11:30 am, the business meeting at 12:30 pm and the program at 1:00 pm. The Guild provides coffee, hot tea and cookies or other goodies.

The date, time and/or place may occasionally be changed. If this occurs, notice is given in the newsletter, by email, by phone, or by postcard.

Dues are \$25. per year, payable at the September meeting or by mail to the Treasurer, Jean Jackson, 2980 Washington Blvd, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118. People who are unable to attend any meetings or workshops but would like to receive the newsletters may subscribe for \$12.50 per year.

For more information about the guild contact the President, Victoria Johnson-Parratt at 216-321-6016 or victoriaparratt@sbcglobal.net. Look for us online at: www.cuyahogaweaversguild.wordpress.com or cuyahogaweaversguild.com

Darcy Prince, our Website Manager, can be reached at darxyanne@roadrunner.com

The newsletter is published 3 times a year--in the fall, winter and spring. Please send information to: Arlene Magar at arveva@aol.com or Victoria Johnson-Parratt, victoriaparratt@sbcglobal.net

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