

# CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD

Number 102

Fall, 2010

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Guild is the hole in the marudai where our lives interlace. It's the loom that holds fast the threads of our essence as the weft of our work pulls us together; forming a strong cloth woven from the lives and learnings of us all, and stretching back into our forgotten times. We weave ourselves together. The cloth continues.

I am proud to be called to lead our guild through this time and into the next. Our excellent Executive Committee will no doubt make the job a joy. It's another year to present our work to the public, and to stretch ourselves along the way. Weave when you can, and try to write out what you've done and how you did it, so others can understand why.

The Study Group theme this year is "wearables", so the topic is wide open and should lead to some incredible diversity. Have grand fun and weave what you love. I can't wait to see it all on display.

This year we'll work toward the future by really working the website. I'd also like all the committee chairs to update and/or create the folder that explains their duties and responsibilities. We need to post that information so people can know what will be expected of them should they be asked. We will move the newsletter into the digital realm because we financially have to, but we'll work hard to make it as painless as possible. It'll be good. The future isn't such a scary place if we go together.

Expect a hug,  
Victoria

## DUES ARE DUE

Fall is coming and it's time to pay dues to the Guild. The cost is \$25. a year. If you cannot attend meetings and want to receive the newsletter your price is \$12.50 per year. Please use the tearsheet at the back of the newsletter.

## OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

President: Victoria Johnson-Parratt  
Secretary: Betty Adams  
Treasurer: Jean Jackson  
Membership: Sandy Jones  
Librarian: Victoria Johnson-Parratt  
Newsletter: Arlene Magar  
Victoria Johnson-Parratt

Hospitality: Sarah Berg  
Publicity: Leslie Alperin  
Darcy Prince

March Show at Beachwood Library Chairs:  
Ele Richardson  
Ellie Polster

Programs 2010-2010:  
Patty Hridel

Programs 2011-2012:  
Lynne Kilgore

## STUDY GROUPS

The topic for study Group for 2010-2011 will be "Something To Wear." We have left it very general but will be a wonderful contribution to our March show at the Beachwood Library. Study Group meets the first Thursday of each month in homes of members of the group. This is a return to the Thursday date as had been for years prior to this last year's change.

The first Study group meeting will be October 7, 2010, 9:30 am, at Rose Rubin's house, 27976 Belgrave Rd., Pepper Pike Please park on the street unless you can't walk. Just bring your ideas to help us start cooking! Everyone is welcome to join the Study Group.

Expectations are to weave the selected item and present sometime during the year. Other dates for Study Group are:

Nov. 4, Dec. 2, No meeting in January, Feb. 3, March 3, April 5, May 5, June 2, 2011

At the first meeting there will be a sign-up for locations for the year's meetings.

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## CWG PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

All meetings are held at the Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, unless otherwise indicated. Brown bag lunch usually starts at 11:30am (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.

### **Sept. 16, 2010**

11:30 Lunch and Meeting, Church of the Saviour

Summer Sharing of weavings and experiences.

View show hanging in the Church Lounge of our Guild's pieces.

### **October 7, 2010**

Study Group begins. See article

### **October 21, 2010**

Field Trip to the Croatian heritage Museum & Library in Eastlake to see the remarkable exhibit Maiden, Mother, Woman of Wisdom. This exhibit features hand worked folk dress that are embellished with hand done lace, embroidery, felted pieces. The exhibit is running until Nov 3 so we will be able to get into the last few days. We shall select a meeting place for car pooling and hear of a restaurant where we will have lunch at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Guild meeting.

### **November 18, 2010**

11:30 Lunch and meeting at the Church of the Saviour

12:30 Program. Guest will be Jerry Fistic from the Duralee Fabric company, who will present the current line of Duralee Fabrics including the new "Green" line of fashion fabrics for interiors.

### **December 16, 2010**

Noon: Holiday Lunch and Show & Tell. Potluck lunch at Jessie Adler's house, 262 Twin Creeks Dr., Chagrin Falls, OH 440-543-1885. A-L members bring main dish, salad or bread, M-Z members a salad or dessert.

### **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

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thrill and instruct us in history as well as for today.

## **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.

## MINI-SHOWS

The Guild has been asked to present two mini shows during the 2010-2011 year. The first show will be at our host church, Church of the Saviour, in September. It will open on September 12, 2010 at 9:30am-12:30. We will hang the show prior to the Sunday morning reception. We will have a demonstration at the reception. The timing of this is co-coordinated with the after-service timing when the members of the church will be able to visit our show. We will have another demonstration on the following Sunday, same times. During the week, if anyone wants to view our show, the room that would normally be locked can be accessed by asking at the office. We are delighted to be able to expose some of our weavings and our information through the church. This outreach is wonderful for our Guild and we are very grateful to the church for asking us to participate. An additional thank you goes to Ele Richardson for her unfailing volunteering to do the demonstrations.

The second Mini show 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. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

Patty Hridel

## FAVORITE LOOM

Victoria suggested a "Favorite Loom" series and while I really don't have a favorite, I do have a single unit drawloom which is nice if you want to make pictures. The basic loom is a countermarche ; I am using 5 shafts in the primary harness but behind the shafts (near the back beam) is a second harness, which in the case of a "single unit" drawloom consists of stationary rods on which are hung secondary heddles. In my case, I have the basic part of the loom set up for 5-shaft satin so my secondary heddles contain 5 adjacent ends in each pattern unit.

Each pattern unit has a weight attached at the bottom to return it to resting position when not used in the patterning. Each unit is controlled by a thread that runs from the top of the secondary heddle up over the castle then above my head as I sit at the loom and finally to a beam (up, over, and behind my head) that holds the other end of the thread. As my loom is currently set up, I have 140 pattern units (700 ends).

At the front of the loom in the primary harness, the ends are threaded 1 thru 5 repeatedly. When I wish to use a unit in my pattern, I reach over my head and pull the thread that controls the unit and hook it so that the unit will remain raised while I treadle my 5 satin picks. By using "long eye" heddles on the front shafts, (and raising the pattern units) ((and remembering that with a countermarche system some shafts can go up while other go down)) one creates the effect of a reverse satin (mostly weft) for each pattern unit raised while at the same time creating a regular satin (mostly warp) for each unit not raised -- and thus a picture can be developed. It is of course possible to insert wefts of random color here and there, or to create patterned stripes, or to use warp and weft of the same color and let the reflected light display the picture, but I find I almost always use a single contrasting weft and am content with a two color picture.

Susan Langell

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## MY FAVORITE LOOM

It's rather a joke to write about "My Favorite Loom," when it's just about the only one I have. Of course there is a table inkle loom, which my daughter gave me long ago, wrapped upside down to look like some strange animal. And there are two little metal Structo looms, one of which actually belongs to my granddaughter, and both of which, I believe, are temporarily at the homes of other weavers. But none of these are ones I've used for serious weaving or very often. There's really only one.

When I decided I wanted a loom many years ago I was referred to Ruth Thompson, one of the founders of Cuyahoga Weavers Guild. She said she did have a little loom for sale. It had only four harnesses and was basically a table loom that sat on a stand to provide foot pedals. It worked pretty well, she said, but I would find that I had to get up and move around the loom whenever I wanted to move the cloth forward. She sold it to me for a very small amount (\$35, I believe) and gave me a series of lessons as well. I soon learned how to deal with my new loom (without getting up to move the cloth) and the basics of weaving on it. I have been happy with it all these years. There are an unlimited number of things that can be done with four harnesses, and I have no desire to weave great tablecloths, coverlets, or rugs. So I have stuck with my one loom.

I found out that what I have is an "Anliot Loom." There are several in this area, and also one that I bought for my daughter (who actually prefers quilting). All were made by Sara Anliot's husband, Sture Anliot, carved from different types of wood from a design he developed. His idea was to make looms that could be used by patients in hospitals or therapy situations that might have various physical limitations. So the looms can be either table or floor looms. Some have fittings so that the levers can be moved to the left side of the loom for someone without the use of his right hand. The castle slants forward a little (maybe this was to make it easier to see for a bed patient) and the cloth

beam is in the back (to make room for a patient's knees?). The floor looms use only a direct tie-up.

Sture and Sara's son, Fred Anliot, wrote, "He designed a loom which could be used in various positions, particularly in bed. He encouraged patients in need of physical therapy to take up weaving. These patients would not only get exercise, but have something creative and useful to do. I remember as a child that kissing Dad goodnight was also a trip to the basement where he was making these looms."

My little loom has served me well many years, doing whatever I asked it to do. It sits in the corner of the living room, almost like another member of the family, and I expect it will be there for many years to come.

Ele Richardson

## BIG BANG TRANSPARENCY

Several years ago, we had a workshop based on Swedish techniques. One of the options was to weave a transparency wherein we created a filmy fabric resembling a window screen but with other yarns inlaid to create a picture. One may fill in all the "web" with inlaid yarn, or merely insert the inlay to create a sort of free-standing picture. The project is best accomplished by placing a "cartoon" under the fabric as you are weaving as a guide for patterning.

Recently I had occasion to find a gift for someone who is quite fond of the Cat in the Hat. I went to the library to see what this fellow looked like then drew a simple version of the said Cat. I had purchased a cone of the linen we used in the workshop for warp and main weft and warped. The fellow is just over 3 feet tall and quite cute, or should I say "was" as he now has a new home, but he got such a reception with people I showed him to that I have committed to making a couple more.

Susan Langell

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## MY FIRST TASTE

I was too young for a meaningful allowance, but had already developed an early addiction to chocolate. I remember standing on the sidewalk, imploring the drive-by shoppers to consider purchasing my beautiful potholders, draped in display on the conveniently located fire hydrant. So affordable at a nickel apiece, and any sale meant I could afford to support my own habit (chocolate was much cheaper back then). I cheerfully traded chores and my best behavior for more loops; working different patterns and color combinations on the little square. Eventually the potholder looms teeth started to break; mine started to rot and Mother confessed she couldn't use them as potholders without burning herself. My creations were too small and dangerous to use in any oven bigger than an "Easy Bake". I stopped---vowing to never again put my customers at risk of searing pain and long term scarring.

It took decades, but eventually I got bigger looms. Now with the right materials and incentive, I could make potholders big enough for a blast furnace. I won't, as life is short and I have other plans for my time. I still have a potholder loom. I will never use it for the same reasons, but I'll keep it sentimentally. It was the seed of my entrepreneurial spirit and my introduction to weaving,

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

## ADOPTION AND THE ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS

The announcement went out over email. Someone was giving away a Brown loom. Without knowing its size or condition, I called to offer it a safe home with lots of its sisters. If no one else stepped in for the rescue, I would. A week later, and mere days before Betsy moved south, I loaded the loom into the back of my little station wagon and welcomed it back to the place of its birth; Cleveland Heights. It's a gorgeous 33"; created later in the production line when A.D. Brown had realized the beauty

in the maple he crafted, and stopped applying the dark stain.

Betsy was happy to see it find a loving new home. She admitted she'd never woven on it. She was surprised to see how it folded and had no idea how locally it was produced. I saw a bit of remorse on her face as she recognized the jewel she was gifting, but there was just no room in their new little Florida house for it and she let it go with best wishes. As we pushed the cart toward the door, she gave me a small paper, folded and safe inside a plastic zipper bag, saying it was the only paper she got with the loom. I tucked it away in the storage box and promised to check it out when I got it home and found my glasses.

When my focus became clear, I had to call Jean. I knew she would understand and share in my excitement. I had what looked to be 2 typed copies of the original Brown loom instructions. It started with "to unfold loom" and worked through folding up, heddle removal and the removal of the warp roll. The second page was chock full of helpful hints and explanations; ending with "The Dix Loom is an engineered precision piece of apparatus. It is made of the best materials obtainable. It is designed to operate easily and efficiently and any time that this is not the case, it is out of adjustment and should be corrected."

As we laughed about how carefully Arling had worded the obvious, Jean looked for what she thought was a copy of the same thing. Bertie had sent her information when she wanted to write her article on the Brown Looms, and we were thrilled when we realized they weren't the same. Jean has the 1962 product offerings and price list; annotated and corrected by Bertie with a short history of the Browns written in her familiar hand. She also had a copy of instructions titled "How to Warp a Brown Loom". I thought I had warped every possible way, and yet the manufacturer had another suggestion. Warp from the front, stop when the reed is sleyed, fold the loom up and remove the easily removable warp beam with the twist of two wing nuts had I never really questioned before. The

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beam swings out of the way so the weaver can sit up close for heddle threading. That done, it's unfold, tie on and go. Amazing.

Betsy Tabac, you have given a great gift. Thank You. Have a great life in Florida and let us know how that guild you've started is growing.

Victoria Johnson-Parratt

## RUBY LESLIE WORKSHOP

When you sign up for a workshop titled "There Must be 50 Ways to Weave Your Color" you expect lots of color, but oh my!

First, there were the emails from Ruby about exactly what kind of loom we each were bringing to the workshop and how comfortable we are in our weaving. And she REALLY wanted to know what each of us thought – that was very obvious from the emails – it wasn't just the teacher trying to make sure that her contracted-for workshop would go well.

Second, there were the packages in the mail with these perfectly tidy wound warps with wonderful graduated color play across the width. As we dressed our looms we commented on the nuances of the colors and how she had mixed them. (At the workshop we learned that she did all her warping without a paddle and did each one individually. We were in awe.)

And all this before the workshop really began!

After three days of weaving, having many ideas about color theory and the interplay of weave with color stuffed into our heads, seeing Ruby's amazing and very original scarves and lots of laughter we all have notebooks stuffed with swatches of glorious colors, new views on both old and new weaving patterns and a whole different view on playing with color and weave.

It will take a while for all that information to sink in but we were all inspired.

Members of the Medina Weavers Guild and the

Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers Guild joined us to help make up enough people for the workshop. They were a lovely addition to the group and we are looking forward to doing things with them again.

We also tried a new location, Hamlet Hills, courtesy of Elaine Levin and it was very nice. Just enough room for all our equipment, easy access (no stairs), lovely kitchen facilities, lots of light and the staff even brought us goodies. Patty tells me that we'll be going back there for our April 2011 workshop. Many thanks to Elaine for all her work in arranging and taking care of us during the workshop.

Lynne Killgore

## SPINNERS GUILD

This is schedule to the end of 2010 for our little sister Guild, the Cuyahoga Spinners. We meet at the Orange Public Library on the following dates:

September 24

October 22

November

December 17

Bring your lunch, your smile and your curious mind

Get well wishes to John,  
Victoria's husband

## FOR SALE

Glimakra Victoria 8 Shaft table loom on stand. Weaves 26" wide. Includes 10 dent reed, 500 texsolv heddles, lease sticks, 2 stick shuttles, and Debbie Chandler's Learning to Weave book. Glimakra no longer makes the 8 Shaft Victoria, only a 4 which sells for \$874 plus \$180 for the stand. I am asking \$700 or best offer for the 8 shaft. Call Kathy, 330-924-2353 for more info.

# CUYAHOGA WEAVERS GUILD

## WEAVING WITH THE BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of the USA are celebrating their 100th birthday this year, and in Cleveland the celebration took the form of a huge encampment and day of activities at the Berea Fairgrounds. A friend of mine was one of the organizers, and asked me if I would demonstrate weaving. The idea, I gather, was to show different creative occupations that the boys might like to try.

Niel and I arrived early in the morning, totally ignorant about what kind of an experience it would be. The fairground was teeming with boys and men in uniform -- 2000 was the estimate! One field was covered with brightly-colored tents where many of them had spent the night. We found the building where I was to settle, a huge barn-like place. We were directed to drive right in and, after setting up my loom, just leave the car there. And that's where I spent the day.

I had brought my loom and also a little rigid-heddle one belonging to my granddaughter. The loom was warped for tapestry weaving, so that colors the boys chose would show up clearly. I brought lots of colors.

All day groups of men and boys, and an occasional den mother, came past my table and loom. Most of them wanted to try weaving, and were excited about what they could do. One boy (maybe 10) really got the hang of it and wove very fast. At one point he looked up at me and said, "I'm a natural at this, aren't I?" He was. Another said, "I don't want to do that one (my floor loom)." He looked at it as if he thought it was much too grand for him. "I'll try this one," and he wove some picks on the little one. As a whole they were interested, respectful, and fun for me. My one regret was that I was stuck there (Niel bought us corn dogs for lunch) and couldn't see all the other things that were going on. It was an unusual experience, and maybe I spread the knowledge of weaving a little.

Ele Richardson

## ROSTER UPDATE

Corrections:

Uarda Taylor  
weaver77@roadrunner.com

## FIBER HAPPENINGS

February 4, 5 and 6, 2011: Friday evening through Sunday afternoon there will be 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 few assorted others to weave and then construct wearable garments, Betsy and friends are planning a full weekend of lectures/workshops/trunk show/Style Show/hands-on activities for interested others - Guild members, college community members and others. For info: [betsy.bruce@oberlin.edu](mailto:betsy.bruce@oberlin.edu)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name.....  
...

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Regular membership, \$25. ....  
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Please return check and this slip to:  
Jean Jackson  
2980 Washington Blvd.  
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

# 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.

Cuyahoga Weavers Guild  
A. Magar  
24758 Hawthorne Dr.  
Beachwood, OH 44122

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

Darcy Prince, our Website Manager, can be reached at [darxyanne@roadrunner.com](mailto: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](mailto:arveva@aol.com) or Victoria Johnson-Parratt, [victoriaparratt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:victoriaparratt@sbcglobal.net)