

THE GOSSIP WHEEL

ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

January, 2017



January 25, 2017

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Oronoco Community Center

Wednesday, January 25, 9 AM-3 PM, Oronoco Community Center. We will have our usual all-day get-together with the business meeting at 1 p.m. There will be a table set aside for people who want to learn how to make peace cranes. We hope that this will kick off our Hiawatha Festival of Trees project (decorated with the cranes and temari balls), but we are waiting for further information about the 2017 show rules.

Bring your own lunch. Coffee/tea makings available, as usual. **Attic Yarn Sale** items are welcome, too. Items for sale should be marked with the owner's name and the price. Weavers' Study Group members are welcome to meet as they wish. **Treats: Ray Phelps Bowman and Darrel Waters.**



Wednesday, February 22, 1:00 PM, Oronoco Community Center. The topic is "Crafting Temari Balls" (Japanese thread balls). We will learn a technique that is new for many of us, and if we master it we can make temari balls galore for the Festival of Trees 2017. Come and join the fun. Treats, Sue Eggenberger and Sally Bystrom

Treat List and Proposed Meeting Topics 2017 (Note: Still looking for July treats)

March 22—Reenactment Costume Design/Construction; Treats, Mary Wulf and Marit Lomen

April 26—Drop Spindle Weaving How-To; Treats, Judy Stevens and Ruth Jacobsen

May—Field Trip

June 28—Color Trends Talk by Ginny's Fabrics; Treats, Leslie Hall

July 26—Explore Slow Stitch Movement; Treats, ??

August—Dyepot at Lands Church; Potluck

September 27—Hand Embroidery Presentation; Treats, Laurice Jahnsen and Carolyn Barsness

October 25—Saori Weaving and Color Challenge; Treats, Sue Kahle and Sara Pruett



Katie Manduca Finds Fiber Artists Around the World

What do fiber arts and tourism have in common? Katie Manduca of Rochester discussed that question, along with many other fiber topics, at our December meeting. Recipient of a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship at Middlebury College in Vermont, Katie traveled for a year collecting information about craftwork, computers and tourism. She found a greater revival of ethnic craft traditions in areas with more tourist traffic, and was delighted to find that fiber artists everywhere were welcoming and willing to teach their methods and specialities. Thanks, Katie, for sharing your wonderful experiences with our guild.

Upcoming Events (Send your event news to coleenlou@gmail.com)

February 16-19, 2017: What could be better than a weaving retreat in the middle of winter? Northern Fibers Retreat at the Northwoods Folk School, Grand Marais, MN. Check out the details: <http://www.northhouse.org/programs/events/northernfibersretreat.htm>

March 3-5, 2017: Weekend Spinning Retreat, Newton, Iowa. All are invited to join in this relaxing spinning weekend. For more information, check the website spininiowa.com.

March 8-12, 2017: Fiber Art; Creating Ties that Bind: Textile Center in Minneapolis will hold five days of events, workshops & activities. This series of events is designed to spark conversation, inspiration, and learning. Check it out at textilecentermn.org.

March 3-7, 2017: Guest instructor Leuko Uchiyama will be instructing two different workshops on felt making at the Textile Center.

April 22, 2017: The 16th annual world's largest textile garage sale at the Textile Center of Minnesota on Saturday, 9-4, admission \$2. Bring your own bag. Are you an artist, crafter, guild or just love a bargain? Individuals and businesses donate fabric, yarn, thread, notions, kits, patterns, magazines, books, beads, buttons, sewing machines, tools, looms, and specialty equipment. These treasures are the resold at garage sale prices to you. It all benefits the Textile Center.

May 12-14, 2017: Shepherd's Harvest. <https://shepherdsharvestfestival.org/>

Recipe Request

*Several people asked for this recipe after the December meeting, and I'm happy to share. I took it from the **Minneapolis Star Tribune** a few years back when it was the winner in their holiday cookie contest. –Coleen Johnston*

Almond Triangles

2 c. (4 sticks) unsalted butter at room temp, divided
¾ c. granulated sugar, divided
1 egg
¾ tsp. almond extract
½ tsp. salt
2-¾ c. flour
1 c. packed brown sugar
⅓ c. honey
¼ c. heavy cream, at room temp.
1 lb. (about 5-½ c.) sliced almonds (I've used a little less)

Line 15" jellyroll pan with aluminum foil, shiny side up.

Dough:

In bowl of electric mixer on medium speed, beat 1 c. (2 sticks) butter until creamy, about 1 minute. Gradually add ½ c. granulated sugar and beat until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg, almond extract and salt, and beat until thoroughly combined. Reduce speed to low, add flour and mix until just incorporated. Press dough evenly into pan and push dough up sides. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 30 minutes. Preheat oven to **375 degrees**. Using a fork, prick dough in 20-24 places all across and bake 10 minutes. Remove from oven and transfer to wire rack to cool.

Topping:

In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine brown sugar, honey, remaining 1 c. of butter and remaining ¼ c. sugar. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sugar dissolves.

Increase heat to medium-high, bring mixture to a boil and cook for 3 minutes without stirring. Remove from heat and stir in cream. Stir in almonds.

Spread almond mixture evenly over crust. Return pan to oven and bake until bubbling, about 15 minutes. Remove from oven and transfer pan to a wire rack to cool. While bars are still slightly warm, cut into triangles (cut squares, then diagonally in one direction to make triangles).

Sett in My Ways

And so we begin a new year, having lots of good intentions. Maybe even some resolutions. My daughter sits down on New Year's Day and makes a list of 52 things she hopes to accomplish during the year (she did not learn this kind of organizational skill from her mother). I've tried following her example, and I have to say that it's fun to look back at that list on the next New Year's Day and see how much of it you can check off. Of course, there's also the occasional thing you don't even remember having had on your radar screen, much less putting on a list. Some unfinished goals will move over to be the beginning of a new list. (But 51? Really?!) Some will become thrums in the cupboard of life.

2017 is not one of the years that I've tried to make such a list, but when my daughter asked me what I was planning to accomplish this year, I knew one thing for sure: I wanted to warp the little floor loom I'd just repurchased, so that I would get back into the swing of weaving on it and maybe even use up a bunch of my stashed yarns (see November/December *Sett*). To that end (no pun intended), I rounded up three tubes of twenty-years-old linen rug warp from my yarn cupboard, along with a tube of seine twine which no longer contained its label or any form of ID. I looked up "seine twine" on Google, found that there are lots of kinds, but eventually found my way to The Lunatic Fringe, where different sizes of cotton seine twine were listed along with their yardages. I thought I found the size I had. It came in at 1230 yards per tube, which would have been enough to use with the 1200 yards of linen I had in an every/other warping arrangement.

Oops. I must have looked at the wrong line? Or not counted the ply(s) right? Or I had used a lot of this twenty+ years ago? Anyway, well before the end of my warping, I ran out. I am currently awaiting shipment of one of those tubes from Lunatic Fringe, which I am desperately hoping will be a similar-enough shade of "natural". If it isn't, I won't be able to continue winding onto my warping reel (or I would have a wide band of a different shade on just one side), but will have to make two narrow warps, so that the new color can be balanced on either side of the warp I already have on my warping reel.

Now, all of this might sound like a bad thing, but I'm coming to think it might actually be a good thing, because when I took a closer look at a rag rug I much admire, I realized that part of what makes it such a beauty are the inch-wide stripes caused by threading a closer warp sett (12 epip instead of 6?) about 3" from either selvedge. I may have forced myself to include what will be a nice design element—all by serendipity.

Life is in the details, they say, and though I agree with that, I'm famous for ignoring details. I'm one of those people who can stare at the "What's Missing" puzzles and never see that someone is missing an ear or a nose; I've looked at my rag rug for a couple of years and never registered its stripes. Hmm. It looks as though my second goal this year should be to pay more attention to details in my weaving. And I will. As soon as the seine twine arrives. Beyond that, no resolutions.

--Coleen Johnston

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**Minutes December 7, 2016
Oronoco Community Center**

The meeting opened with introduction and welcome to visitors.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,748.11 in Checking; \$2,044.57 in Savings.

Old Business:

The next meeting in January will be an all-day meeting. Bring a project to work on and lunch. The annual Attic Sale/Giveaway is also occurring at the meeting.

It was noted that all members present received the Gossip Wheel newsletter via email this month.

New Business:

None.

There will be a play at the Paradise Center of Arts in Faribault, MN on December 10, 2016. The play is about women of the Faribault Woolen Mill and the making of blankets for the War.

Katie Manduca presented a talk and slide show of her year of travel. Katie received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship and traveled the world studying Knitting, Technology and Tourism.

Show and Tell projects were shared.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris LaPlante, Secretary

Have you ever had the desire to own a Singer Featherweight sewing machine? A older gentleman is dispersing his hobby of tuning and repairing (playing with) the 221 Featherweight. These machines were manufactured between 1933-1969. These machines were very well made precision machines. All are tuned up with all accessories included. There are also several 222 Featherweights which are open armed, Please contact me at crbarsness@aol.com or [507 269 7074](tel:5072697074).

Newsletter: Contact Coleen Johnston if you have news you would like to share in the newsletter.

Website: <http://www.zumbroriverfiberartsguild.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656219207971338/>

Meeting Site and Time: Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of most months (a combined November/December meeting is held the first Wednesday in December, for example). All meetings are in the Oronoco Community Center, 115 2nd Street N.W, Oronoco, MN, 55960, lower level, unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$20 per year. New members are always welcome!