

THE GOSSIP WHEEL

ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

November, 2016



December 7, 2016

1:00 PM, Oronoco Community Center

Weavers' Study Group meets at noon.

For our November/December meeting, we are looking forward to a presentation by Katie Manduca. Katie will be speaking about her recent textile-related fellowship in Europe and Latin America. She sent us the following short bio to whet our interest (and it has):

My name is Katie Manduca, and I grew up in Rochester. I graduated in 2010 from Century High School and was a computer science student at Middlebury College. I was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to spend the twelve months following graduation traveling in order to pursue a personal project that explored the intersection of craftwork, computation, and tourism. Over those twelve months I studied different styles of knitting, crochet, and weaving in Northern Europe and Latin America, as well as seeking to understand the roles of textile work and folk costume in the modern cultures of these places. Already an avid knitter, this was an incredible opportunity to learn from a number of kind and interesting people about new styles of textile work as well as opening my mind to different ways of life. -Katie

After Katie's talk, we'll be doing our usual show and tell. If some of you have holiday projects to show off, bring them! If you've made something but have already mailed it off, bring a photo.

Treats: Coleen Johnston and Terry Erredge.

January, 2017, Meeting



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. In any case, bring your own lunch.

Attic Yarn Sale items are welcome, too. Items for sale should be marked with the owner's name and the price. **Treats: Ray Phelps Bowman and Darrel Waters.**

Magazine Discounts Once Again Available from Interweave

Carolyn Barsness has once again updated our guild's information with Interweave Press so that we are all eligible for discounts on the following magazines: *Interweave Knits, Quilting Arts, Drawing, Jewelry Artists, Cloth-Paper-Scissors, Spin Off', Crochet, Handwoven, Piecework, Knitscene, Beadwork*. Usually the offer runs through November.

[Web Version »](#)

2016 Offer for Guild Members

Exclusive Discounts for Your Guild!

Dear Guild Members,

We are pleased to announce that it's time for the Interweave Annual Guild Subscription Program! If you act NOW, you can get a full year of any of our 11 magazines for **only \$19.99 each!** This is the lowest price available. Click here to [Subscribe Today](#). Hurry because this exclusive offer expires soon.

Do you have a friend in a guild that didn't get this offer? Have them register at www.interweave.com/go/guilds. Then, forward them this email so that their members are able to take advantage of the savings too.

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Sett in My Ways

Okay, so I'm on a tear to live up to the old adage "use it up, wear it out, make do or do without"—not necessarily so much the last three as the first one: use it up. Last month I talked about using up bags full of long-stored yarns and warps to make some new rugs. This month, there's good news and bad news.



The bad news is that I had to sell my big Kessenich floor loom, since my back isn't quite up to all of that reaching and heft anymore. The good news is that I'm replacing it with a smaller, easier-for-me-to-use (I hope) Kessenich loom, a loom I once owned, then sold, and am now buying back again. Anyone would think I just enjoy the horse trading aspect of looms, but that's far from the truth. In fact, selling the big Kessenich was hard for me because it was an admission of defeat. It forced me to say that some of the old weaving juices are gone, that I can't physically run a loom the way I used to, that I will never weave a coverlet—at least not an eight harness one.

On the bright side, I might actually weave something again once I have my old friend the four-harness, 30" Kessenich with me again. This is the loom I plan to warp ASAP with my endspools of warp, and to weave with my stash (or at least part of my stash) of beautiful wool yarns. In watching the big loom go out the door, I realized that part of my problem with it was that I failed to warp it as soon as I got it home. The challenge to warp it, and then weave on it, grew larger and larger. My back got worse and worse (though now better) and so the dream of weaving a coverlet on it grew more and more like a nightmare. I'm going to try to do better with the new (re-purchased) loom.

We all encounter things that seem like hurdles too big to jump, don't we? The dropped stitches that can't be found? The dyepot that won't give the desired color? The wool fibers that make spinning a chore instead of a bliss? Sometimes we just have to seek out a simpler way, for, after all, our fiber art should be satisfying as well as productive. I have gone back again and again to Terry Erredge's discussion about one of her favorite fiber tools at last month's meeting. Terry held up a pair of knitting needles she had carved from branches she harvested from her apple tree. The needles were lovely and smooth, uniform in diameter and length, yet retained the natural not-so-straight nature of an apple branch. To me, they reduced the art of knitting to its most organic (no pun intended) level. To make your own tool, to preserve part of tree that has sourced countless apple pies, to knit a thing of beauty—all these are blessings beyond measure.

So we are now in the season of Thanksgiving. I am thankful for all of the people in our guild who see the value of the work of human hands (and in Terry's case, the fruit of the fields!) I am thankful for the creative energy that bubbles up when we get together for meetings. I am thankful for the good works we do by encouraging others, by doing Chemo Caps, by leading workshops, jurying shows, and all the rest. I hope that by next Thanksgiving I will also be thankful that I have woven some new rugs—but if I don't, I hope that I will have done some other good work during the year. I wish the same for you.

--Coleen Johnston

ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

Minutes October 26, 2016
Oronoco Community Center

The meeting opened with introduction and welcome to visitors.

The refreshment sign-up sheet was passed around. There are more slots available if anyone missed the sheet.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,656.11 in checking; \$2,044.38 in savings.

No corrections were noted for last month's minutes which were published in the October newsletter. It was noted that several people did not receive the newsletter via email.

OLD BUSINESS

The chemo cap project was explained.

Several events of interest were announced:

- Vogue Knitting (Twin Cities)

- Sewing Expo (Twin Cities)

- Mayo Employees Craft Show (Nov. 19, 2016 at Mayo Civic Center)

- Shop the Block (Nov. 18, 19, 2016 in Zumbrota)

- Crossings will sponsor Fabrications (December 2016 in Zumbrota)

A gift was presented to our past president in thanks for the exemplary work she has done leading the guild this past year.

NEW BUSINESS

The planned meeting topics for the coming year were presented and discussed.

Marit volunteered to contact Lands Church to request use of their property in August for the pot luck/dye pot meeting.

Rochester Community Education may be able to help sponsor a bus to Shepherds Harvest in May in 2017. Carolyn will coordinate with them.

Interweave Press offers to guilds reduced price subscriptions for a wide variety of fiber craft magazines. If interested call them to receive the code to use when ordering. Details will be in the next newsletter.

The Weavers Study Group announced a tote bag weave-along. More details to come.

Favorite tools were shared/described by members.

Inspiring Show and Tell projects were shared.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris LaPlante, Secretary

Treat List and Proposed Meeting Topics 2017

(Note: Still looking for June and July treats)

February 22—Crafting Temari Balls; Treats, Sue Eggenberger and Sally Bystrom

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, ??

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

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

November 28-December 31: Fabrications XIII at Crossings in Zumbrota. Artists' reception is Saturday, December 3, 6:00-7:15 p.m. Many guild members will be showing their work in this show, so you'll want to attend. (And for next year, why not think about entering? It's a great space to show/sell your work.)

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>

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

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

coleenlou@gmail.com**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!