

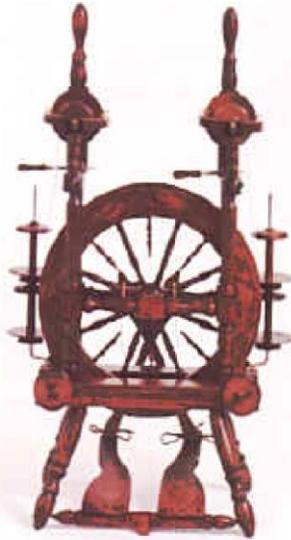
# THE GOSSIP WHEEL

---

## ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

October, 2017

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*



**1:00 PM, Oronoco  
Community Center**

**--Plus--**

**Noon Workshop for Temari  
Balls and Peace Cranes—  
Please Come if You Can!**

Come and learn the beautiful embroidery technique shown at right from guest instructor Carolyn Barsness. She stitched this mini-design from Rowandean Embroidery while at a fiber conference in England two years ago, (<http://www.rowandean.com/>), and will help us all recreate it using beads and yarns. **Bring:** *A small embroidery hoop, if you have one, along with small scissors and any other gear you like for handwork. Weavers' Study Group Meets at Noon. Treats: Sue Kahle and Sara Pruett.*



### ***November/December Meeting***

**Wednesday, December 6, 1 p.m., Oronoco Community Center.**

Our guest will be Janet Kelling, who has experienced the fascinating, centuries-old textile techniques that have made Bali famous: Tjap and tjanting batik, ikat weaving, indigo dyeing and other natural dyes. On her recent tour, she met the artisans and got right in on the design process with hands-on workshops. Imagine 14 days in a textile and tropical paradise! Janet will share her experience and show some of the wonderful textiles she created.

**Treats: ?**

## *Noel with Needle and Thread—A Festival of Trees Update*

The Guild's Festival committee asks that you **please bring your temari balls and peace cranes to the October meeting.** In case you haven't completed yours, or would like to learn to make one or both, or want to make more than you have already, there will be a Festival of Trees ornament work session at noon on October 25th in Oronoco before the meeting. (Our tree is titled "Noel With Needle and Thread".)

Here are the important dates you need to know about this wonderful project:

**November 20:** Tree Designer day. Doors open at 8:00 AM, and the tree must be decorated by 7:00 PM.

**November 21:** Opening night Gala.

**November 24-26:** Festival of Trees

Our Guild's important people for this event are:

**Chair:** Leslie Hall, [507-269-1172](tel:507-269-1172)

**Decorating Committee:**

Sue Kahle

Norrie MacIlraith

Anne Black-Sinak (will make a card explaining temari balls)

**Topper**

Norrie MacIlraith

**Skirt**

Carolyn Barsness

Gayle Holter

Thanks to all who have worked on this. It will be beautiful!



### ***Guild Well Represented at Art Splash 2017***

Guild members filled the city council chambers at Zumbrota City Hall for the September 16 Art Splash and spinner Sig Trimble even was pictured in the *Zumbrota News Record*. Visitors saw not just spinning, but a wide variety of fiber arts on display as well. Participants were: Nancy Ellison, Elsa Jo Ellison, Darrel Waters,

Laurice Johnson, Norrie MacIlraith, Leslie Hall, Sara Pruett, Susan Kahle, Sig Trimble, Marit Lomen, and Chris LaPlante. Thanks to all of you who helped people learn more about fiber arts and showed off some of the wonderful talent in our Guild. And a big thanks to Marit Lomen, who chairs the event for the Zumbrota Area Arts Council, for her hard work in making the Art Splash happen.

***Upcoming Events (Check our Facebook page to find local events, too!)***

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

- **November 24-26: Festival of Trees.** Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (These times are from last year—so double check hours before you go.)

## **Convergence® 2018**

**Save the date! Reno: July 6-12, 2018. Keynote Speaker: Jason Collingwood.**

### ***Looking for a Loom?***

Guild members Sara Pruett and Ellen Simon both have floor looms for sale. For more information, you may contact them. Sara has a LeClerc Nilus: 507-533-8328 [sara3wren@gmail.com](mailto:sara3wren@gmail.com). Ellen has a LeClerc Artisan: 507-258-4507 (Rochester) [Simonellen41@gmail.com](mailto:Simonellen41@gmail.com).

---

### ***Sett In My Ways***

*Dressmaking: Self Taught*, by Madam Edith Marie Carens, published in 1911, begins with this: “To all ambitious girls and women with a desire to improve their present conditions and make themselves independent and self-supporting, this little book is dedicated”. Over a hundred years ago, women both wanted and often needed to earn their own way, and dressmaking was one of the few avenues open to them. The book contains twenty lessons, and a scan of the table of contents tells us right away that dressmaking in 1911 involved a bit more than two side seams, two shoulder seams, and a few hems. One chapter covers “taking measures for a five gore walking skirt”. Another tells how to “make waists with different size tucks and plaits, frills, insertions, shaped designs, fancy waists, tailor and fancy finish”. Whew.

Chapter one, however, is simply entitled “Hand Sewing”. Reading the how-to for such things as ruching and ruffling makes one thankful for modern day online tutorials, for, truly, looking at a black and white drawing of a French seam is not all that helpful. The author, however, saves the best until last: Chapter 20—How to Make Money By Sewing! If a reader mastered every technique in Madam Carens’ book, she would certainly be well qualified to tackle almost any

project, but the labor intensive nature of the styles being sewn makes one realize immediately that making much money from the work would be very difficult. Interestingly, the book only supports the idea of women sewing for women. Men, presumably, sewed for men. A different time, indeed.

Although by 1911, when the book was published, sewing machines were in quite wide use, hand sewing remained the only way for many people to construct garments. Dressmakers were judged by the size, evenness, and variety of their stitches. In 2017, many people who use sewing machines try to do as little hand sewing as possible. I used to be one of them. I basted by machine. I blind-hemmed. Hand sewing was way too slow for me. Yet, even as I was speeding along with my Singer, I was often dissatisfied with my work. Sometimes I just couldn't get into a small area, or the wrong stitch length gave the wrong result, etc. Finally, I decided to go back to sewing by hand, and I surprised myself by how quickly I was able to accomplish some tasks, and I was almost always happy with the results. Lesson learned—and far less risk of sewing into one's finger!

At our October meeting, Carolyn Barsness will be teaching hand sewing--embroidery stitching techniques she learned at a conference in England a couple of years ago. We will, no doubt, be recreating some of the same stitches Madam Carens was teaching 106 years ago. Our goal may not be to use that knowledge to make money by sewing, but the techniques will be available to us for future fiber art projects that we may want to sell (or not). Selling a piece of one's work can provide the kind of validation that is needed to inspire future projects.

My thanks to Joann Ronningen, for her loan of Madam Carens' book. After perusing it, I've decided that a book is a valuable thing, a video tutorial is a good thing, and a live teacher is a great thing. Our Guild is fortunate to have so many teacher members, and we have a chance to learn from one of them this month. Move over, Madam Carens!

--Coleen Johnston

**Newsletter:** Contact Coleen Johnston if you have news you would like to share in the newsletter. [coleenlou@gmail.com](mailto: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!

