



AVISEN

ILLINOIS NORSK ROSEMALERS ASSOC

TEACHING NORWEGIAN
ART HERITAGE IN A
CONTEMPORARY WORLD

MESSAGE FROM THE INRA BOARD

Greetings fellow Rosemalers,

It was a cold day in January, road conditions were predicted to be bad for travel. The INRA board members took a chance and met at the home of Mary Smith. Her home was very cozy and inviting. She was preparing homemade soup, There was a crackling fire quietly playing on the TV screen. We had our first board meeting of the year. It was fun to see familiar faces again after the holidays. We went about planning the general meeting in March to be hosted by Winnie Stauffer, similar to 2019, and assigned roles and responsibilities for the events of the year.

Then came COVID-19. Illinois instituted a stay-at-home order and we had no choice but to cancel the March meeting. The INRA board started having on-line meetings. We were watching as the events INRA participates in were cancelled one-by-one. What is this year going to be like for INRA? We are going to adapt and try some new approaches. We are going to take advantage of resources available on the internet, of course!

Take a look at the class Mary has arranged in the Hallingdal style for you to take advantage of in the comfort of your own home/studio. There has been an e-mail has been sent to members with specifics, and you can also contact her. The project is a door crown made by Mike Lusk. The instructor is Lise Lorentzen, taught in acrylics. This is a unique opportunity – let's give it a try! Additional resources available via the internet (Pinterest and FaceBook) are also described in this newsletter.

INRA will continue to monitor the ability for groups to have gatherings in the state of Illinois. We are hoping that by August we can have an outdoor picnic to enjoy each other's company. In the meanwhile, let us know how you are doing. Contact us by email at: inrarosemaling@gmail.com. We would like to see your latest projects or your studio set up.

Joanne Bjerga

What an upside down world we find ourselves in these days. As we all attempt to navigate these entirely new circumstances this year. We discussed at our last board meeting how we can carry on our mission to educate and promote the beautiful art of Rosemaling.

In this newsletter you will find updates on events that were cancelled by an abundance of caution during the Coronavirus pandemic. You will also find a new and exciting on-line way for

Continued on page 3...



NEXT GENERAL MEETING



INRA Executive Officers

Vacancy	President
Ruth Haller ruthaller@wowway.com	Vice President
Sue Savage savagebrooks@yahoo.com	Secretary
Joanne Bjerga joannebjerga@gmail.com	Treasurer & Membership
Mari Smith mmsmith468@gmail.com	Education
Bev Gunderson artbybev75@gmail.com	Avisen Editor

The Illinois Norsk Rosemalers Association (INRA) is an organization with the purpose of promoting Norwegian Rosemaling through classes, exhibits, and general meetings.

Avisen

Published three times per year in DesPlaines, IL by the Illinois Norsk Rosemalers Association.

Publishing Editor..... Bev Gunderson
 Layout & Design.....Bev Gunderson
 Subscriptions & Membership....Holly Green

Avisen is sent to INRA members and sister rosemaling organizations. Subscriptions and/or membership is \$15.00 (US) per year.

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SAVE THE DATE !!

Summer Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020,
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: To be determined

11 a.m. – We will start our time with a General Meeting

If Illinois is in Phase Four of reopening the INRA will have an outside general meeting and picnic. More details will come after Phase Four is announced.

Let's get together and talk about INRA classes, events and activities for the coming year!



...continued from page 1

us to continue offering classe. Thank you to Mari Smith for sorting out the details. We have never presented classes like this before, so keep your fingers crossed that it will go well!

We look forward to the day we all can safely meet again 'face-to-face'. In the meantime keep in touch through our website and social media where we will post information and any updates.

Keeping a positive attitude. We encourage you to continue painting and learning during these unusual times. We wish you good health and most of all encourage you to stay well!

The INRA board



Rosemaling by Lise Lorentzen

Events that were cancelled in response to the Coronavirus

The Geneva Chamber of Commerce cancelled its signature **Swedish Days Festival** that was scheduled to take place from June 23 - 28. The decision to cancel the 70 year old event was made two months ago. The INRA was considering having a booth in conjunction with the event.

The **Scandinavian Day Festival** at the historic Vasa Park in South Elgin has been cancelled for 2020. The festival provides a venue to honor and present all things Scandinavian. It has dance, crafts, food, music and Scandinavian merchandise. The INRA had a booth there last year and were planning on attending again. We hope to be there again in 2021.

Events (still pending)

Norsk Jul Market : This charming and unique holiday sale is held at Good Templar Park in Geneva as part of the 'Cottages in the Woods' art and craft fair. It is cautiously scheduled for October 17 & 18.

At this time Covid-19 and the guidelines set by the State of Il are determining what happens. The park is following the stages of reopening. The cottage association has only begun meeting to decide if the event will be held this year. The concerns are based upon vendors, crafters and customers being assembled in the small cottages. The use of tents has been discussed.

The INRA has enjoyed being part of this event for several years. It is a wonderful and fun chance to showcase and sell our Rosemaling. It may look different than it did in years past, but we believe the Cottages in the Woods committee will make every effort for it to occur and to be safe. We will keep everyone informed as we gain more information.



EDUCATION CORNER

Hallingdal Rosemaling Beginner Class (Virtual) - with Lise Lorentzen



Lise Lorentzen

July 17 - 19, 2020

Cost: \$75

+\$15 INRA membership (if not a 2020 member)

+\$20 Woodenware
T \$110

Place: In your own home/studio!

The Illinois Norsk Rosemalers Association is excited to have Lise Lorentzen teach a virtual Hallingdal beginner class July 17-19, 2020. This class will be taught online – through platforms such as Zoom, email, and YouTube. Class instruction will include online group class time with demonstrations and discussion, prerecorded video presentations, and individual feedback. The class will be taught using acrylics and be limited to 10 students. The project is a door crown similar to the one pictured but using an original design created for the class.

INRA members will have two weeks for preferred registration for this class! On June 29, 2020, a class announcement will be posted to the INRA Rosemaling Facebook page. Information about the class and an artist's biography can be found on the INRA website and will be published in the next Avisen.

If you have questions about registration, contact Joanne at **847-945-7874** or **joannebjerga@gmail.com**, and if you have questions regarding the class format or class details, contact Mari Smith at **mssmith468@gmail.com**.

Registration: Register online at
www.rosemaling.org

Supplies: List available upon registration along with instructions on how to set up your computer/phone/tablet to participate in the class.

To recap:

Beginner Hallingdal Class (Virtual)

Instructor: Lise Lorentzen

Medium: taught using Acrylic paints, students may use acrylics or oils

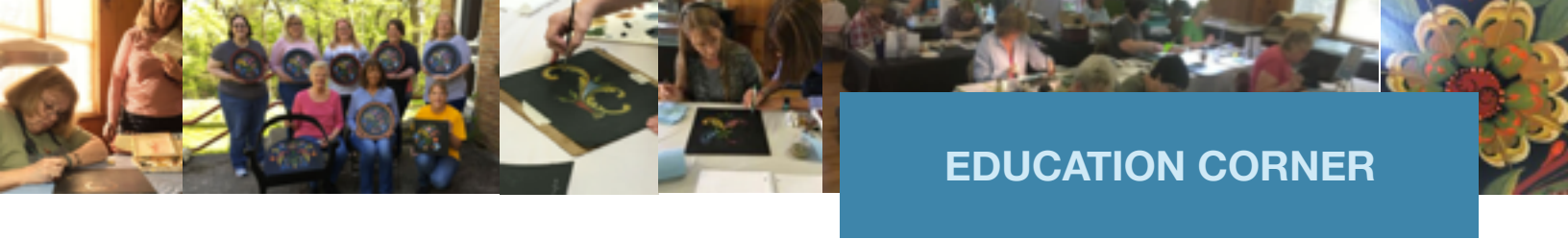
Dates: July 17-19

Cost: \$75 class fee + \$15 INRA membership (if not a 2020 member) + \$20 woodenware = \$110

Location: online via Zoom, YouTube, email and other platforms

Time: The class will last for 5 hours with a 1 hour lunch in the middle. Total 6 hours but the details are being worked out.

Project: Door Crown (made by Mike Lusk)



EDUCATION CORNER

Lise Lorentzen currently resides in Bel Air, MD, after spending most of her life as a resident of Staten Island, NY. Lise grew up in a household with strong ties to the American Norwegian community, which included her church, Sons of Norway, and family back in the “old country”. She was a child that always played with paints, so it was natural for her parents to enroll her in a Rosemaling course that was given at her local Sons of Norway lodge.

Lise has been rosemaling since the age of 12 and her art covers over 30 years of experience, specializing in custom painting of woodenware, furniture, and home interiors. Lise has been fortunate to study under many renowned Norwegian and American artists. Before moving to Maryland, Lise completed the New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA) folk arts apprenticeship

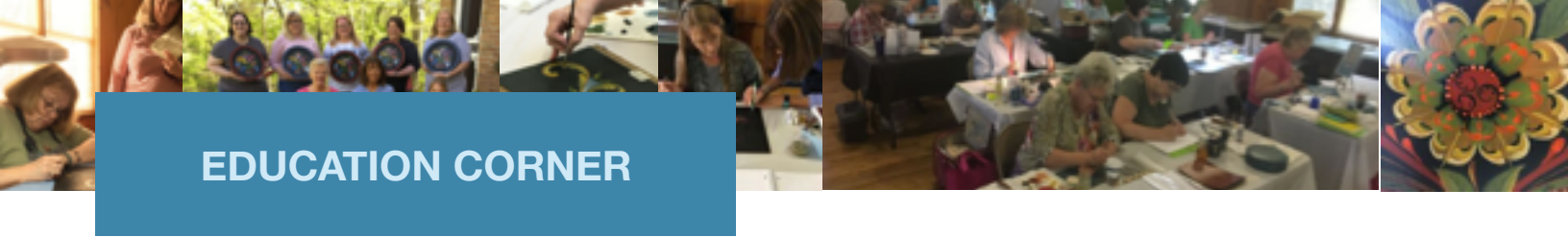
program studying with master artist Eldrid Arntzen, a National Endowment of the Arts recipient. She has also studied and taught Rosemaling at the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts in Ludlow, VT. for 20+ years.

Lise is a member of Vesterheim, a Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, IA, and competes in the museum’s annual folk-art competition. She has earned half of her points on her way to her Gold Medal with two third place, and a second place. She also has several honorable mentions, most recently in 2016. She has also taught and had her work on display at the Staten Island Museum as well as the Norwegian Seaman’s Church in NYC. In 2014, Lise received First place at the Sons of Norway Third District.



Some of Lise’s beautiful work.





EDUCATION CORNER

EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR EDUCATION CLASSES AND EVENTS

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check appropriate line(s):

Virtual Hallingdal Beginner Class: \$75.00 Member _____

\$90.00 Non-member (includes membership fee of \$15) _____

Registrant confirms they have a computer with internet access, microphone, and camera _____

Please call Joanne Berga at 847-945-7874 with the above and your credit card information to register OR Send registration form and check (**payable to: INRA**) to: Joanne Bjerga, 854 Knollwood Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015. If you have questions regarding the class format or class details, contact Mari Smith at mssmith468@gmail.com.

Items For Sale

Did you buy that piece of wood and now you don't want/need it and it's taking up space you could use for more wood? Or did you get extra supplies for a class you do not need? If you have new, gently used items like wooden ware, art supplies, books etc. that you would like to sell, this is the page. **ALL** arrangements are made between the buyer and seller.

Send pictures and item information to inrarosemlaing@gmail.com along with your contact information and it will be put in the next Avisen.

Wooden ware from Holly Green

920-823-2220 • Home

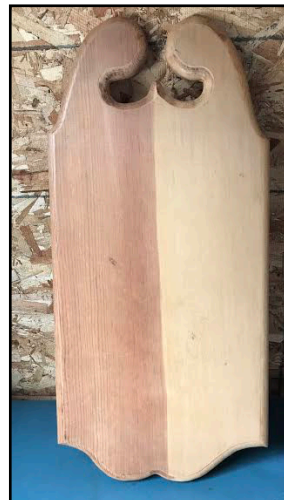
920-606-1872 • Mobile

hollystabbur@gmail.com



Sewing Chest - new
19W x 14H x 10.5D
Inside Tray - 16L x 9W
\$45.00

Lg Oval Plaques - new
12 x 20
\$4.00



Tavern Sign
24 x 11
\$5.00

Baby stool - new
11"w x 8 1/4"h
\$5.00



THE STUDIO

Welcome to my studio. My creative place.
My comfort place.

My “studio” has evolved over the years from the kitchen table, to the dining room table, to a corner in the family room and then finally to one of the kids bedrooms (that are now adults). I loved this space painted on a soft yellow, that is always bright even on cloudy days. This room has a skylight that makes a huge difference in the overall lighting and abundance of natural light. My bookcases hold my resources, supplies and display some of my pieces. A few years ago my husband made me some special shelves that are narrow and hold lots of plates and boards. I call these my wall of inspiration. I have several collectors pieces from teachers as well as a few of my favorites that I have done. There is rosemaling , landscapes and carvings.

My drawing/painting table is one I got from my father in law (he was also an artist). It is old and I have never seen another one like it. The base is very heavy and the board sits on a ball joint that you can move to almost any position. It is very handy when rosemaling different shaped woodenware. I also have a closet where I store some of my wood and, as you can see, there is also



shelves of wood on the one side of the room. Never enough wood, right? And yes, there is still more in the basement.

Do you see the extra chair? Come and visit. I'll put the coffee on!!

Since I wrote this article we have recently moved to Lodi, Wisconsin. We are looking for a house and I can't wait to set up my new studio.



FROM THE INRA PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

Telemark Porrige Ambar by Addie Pittlekow, VGM

Soon after the Illinois Norsk Rosemaling Association was incorporated in 1980, it began to purchase items rosemaled by established artists both in the America and Norway. Over the years this collection has grown to over sixty unique pieces.

The entire collection has been photographed and we have a digital record of the collection we can share in the Avisen. This collection may also be viewed at Norwood Crossing in Norwood Park, IL where it is on display in two museum cabinets.

Our collection piece this time is a traditional Telemark Porrige Ambar painted by Addie Pittlekow, VGM. Addie was from Minneapolis, MN and one of the first Vesterheim Gold Medalists. She taught classes for INRA on several occasions. She was known primarily as a Telemark rosemaler and had a beautiful signature style. This impressive and beautiful ambar has several elements that make it a great piece to study from.



CLOSE UPS OF ADDIE'S AMBAR



Traditional Telemark flowers

FROM THE ARCHIVES

This is a design and article that was in a Vesterheim publication in 1989 done by Ruth Haller. Ruth has served on the INRA board for many years. She is a very active member helping wherever she can.



Guest Artist: Ruth Olsen Haller

I have been Norwegian Rosemaling for the past 10 years. I started out taking a class through the community college in my area. I now teach that class. Since that initial class, I have taken numerous courses with Ginny Miller who now resides in Ohio. I have also taken classes from Karen Jensen, Addie Pittelkow, Irene Lamont, Judith Nelson and Sigmund Aarseth. The most difficult part of my painting career has been to gain confidence in my work to the work of the when I compare my work to the very talented people in my Illinois Norsk Rosemalers Association and then to be considered worthy of being referred to as a "rosemalar" when I think of the talent of the above mentioned artists. The fact that I have sent in a design for your newsletter shows how much confidants I have gained over the years.

I am a Telemark painter and love the freedom it allows. I have felt extremely blessed over the years to have been associated with this wonderful and beautiful form of art. I feel closeness to God's wonderful creation when I paint illusions of flowers and leaves using the colors originally derived from nature.

I feel my heritage is a rich one with all four of my grandparents having been born in Drammen, Norway, a small town south of Oslo. I pray my children benefit from this heritage. I have a son Ken, who just graduated from college with a communications degree, and a daughter Kristin, a sophomore in college who would like to pursue a social work degree with an emphasis in geriatrics. My husband Ken has been 100 percent supportive of my work. In fact, it was while vacationing in Solvang, California and watching a rosemaling demonstration that he said, "Maybe that is something you might enjoy doing." Ken has been helpful to me over the years in cutting out a lot of my woodenware and doing my background painting. I feel almost guilty when I admit his role in my painting and we often discuss ways in "getting a husband involved" in my classes. (It doesn't always work.)

I am thankful for organizations as Vesterheim and my local organization, the Illinois Norsk Rosemalers Association. We just finished our annual Swedish Days Exhibit at the end of June and we are all amazed at the interest in rosemaling. We must all work to keep this art form alive as we educated prospective students and the public in general. Thank you for your part in this.

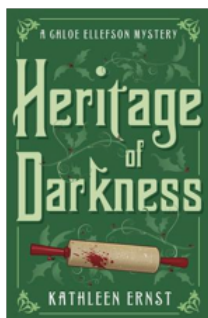
With appreciation to you and enthusiasm for rosemaling,

Ruth Olsen Haller

FROM OUR LIBRARY...



Library

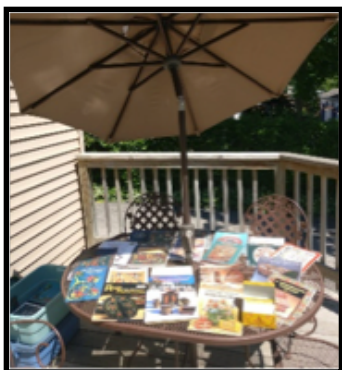


Join in a Rosemaling book discussion on Facebook! Using the Facebook Room feature INRA will have a book discussion of Kathleen Ernst's book, *Heritage of Darkness*, on June 29, 2020, at 10 am. The discussion will be one hour. Get the book or the ebook and join in the fun!

Here's a book summary to get you interested:

Chloe Ellefson returns with a new mystery rooted in Norwegian heritage. For curator Chloe Ellefson, a family bonding trip to Decorah, Iowa for rosemaling classes seems like a great idea--until they start driving. Chloe's cop boyfriend Roelke takes her mom's talk of proposal ideas good-naturedly, but it causes Chloe's emotional distress to increase with each passing mile.

After finally reaching the Vesterheim Museum, Chloe's efforts to remain positive are slammed shut when she and Roelke find Petra Lekstrom's body in one of the museum's antique immigrant trunks. Everyone is shaken by the class instructor's murder, and when her mom volunteers to take over Petra's class, Chloe is put in the hot seat of motherly criticism. As she investigates, Chloe uncovers dark family secrets that could be deadly for her mom--and even herself.



The INRA library is open by appointment! Call or text Mari, **847-913-3485**, or send her an email, **mssmith468@gmail.com**, to arrange an appointment to peruse the library materials on Mari's deck. We'll work out a day and time together so you can

check out or return materials.

The library is looking for donations of books and videos. Have you been reviewing your rosemaling

material collection and thinking of donating some of it? Bring those materials over to Mari's deck when you come to visit the library. Call Mari, **847-913-3485**, or send her an email, **mssmith468@gmail.com**, to arrange an appointment. Connection Questions

Are you looking to connect with other rosemalers but not sure how to start using Facebook or Pinterest? Want to keep up with INRA and other rosemaling groups and people? Our librarian, Mari Smith, will help you get started! Social media tools offer you opportunities to see projects others have completed, ask questions about all things rosemaling, and even watch videos on styles and techniques. You can contact Mari by phone, 847-913-3485, or through email, **mssmith468@gmail.com**, to get her help accessing these valuable resources.



Facebook

INRA is increasing use of our Facebook page, Illinois Norsk Rosemalers Association, to communicate club information to members as well as reaching out to nonmembers. Recent posts from the club include videos on beginning stroke work and the various styles of rosemaling. Posts from members include questions on tools and techniques' buy, sell, trade possibilities as well as Syttende Mai greetings.

Three new ways of using Facebook include:



...AND MEDIA

Watch Parties - Everyone in a Watch Party watches a video at the same time, connecting group members in a uniquely social way. Group members can watch, comment on, and react to the video while the video is playing. If anyone would like to suggest a video for a watch party send an email to Mari.

Interviews – This is a co-broadcast using the Live feature. Mari will interview members every so often in a ‘Live With’ event. Mari and the interviewee will work out a set of questions and answers to present together ahead of the Live With post. If you are willing to be interviewed about your style of rosemaling, setting up your studio, or your selling/competition experience, please email Mari at mssmith468@gmail.com.

Rooms – We will be establishing Studio Rooms for members to chat about styles, projects, and all things rosemaling. Even those not on Facebook or Messenger will be able to participate. If you would like to moderate a Room or have a subject to chat about, send Mari an email, mssmith468@gmail.com.

It's definitely going to be important to keep an eye on posts on the Facebook page as upcoming events, both online and in-person, will be announced there, in addition to the announcements made through email and the Avisen.



Pinterest

If you are on Pinterest be sure to follow INRArosemaling. Our Pinterest boards are regularly updated with new images of project ideas, as well as resources on equipment, tools, techniques, and tricks of the art. We even have a board on VGM and historic rosemalers. If you have a rosemaler you think should be added to this board, please email Mari, mssmith468@gmail.com, with a web link to their biographical information.



FYI...

Great Introductory Link –

The NorwegianAmerican.com site's Barneblad blog has a great introductory article for kids on rosemaling, complete with a pattern: <https://www.norwegianamerican.com/discover-rosemaling-a-creative-norwegian-adventure/>

MEMBERSHIP

If you are new to INRA, *Welcome!* We are glad you have joined us and hope that you are learning about rosemaling. As a new member we hope you will join us in all the activities we offer such as the upcoming sales events, our general meetings and of course our classes. If you have questions or we can help you in some way, please check out our list of officers and email addresses in the Avisen. Feel free to contact the person who can help. To all of our members, please remember that **September of each year is the time when we renew INRA memberships.** INRA dues help pay for the Avisen newsletter, teachers, class and sale venues, and all the other bits and pieces that help keep our organization running. Thank you!

Holly Green

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Return to Joanne Bjerga

Membership Fee - Annual membership is \$15

Membership pin - \$5.00 (optional)

Fill out form and mail to: I.N.R.A. c/o J. Bjerga
854 Knollwood Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

E: inrarosemaling@gmail.com



Please make checks payable to INRA

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Check amount \$ _____ Check Number # _____

CALANDER OF EVENTS

Quick glance at what's coming up. Save these dates on your calander.

◆ **INRA General Meeting & Picnic**
August 8, 2020
Home of Mari Smith
Brookfield, IL (details inside Avisen)

◆ **Syttende Mai**
May 17, 2020
Hoges Park
Park Ridge, IL

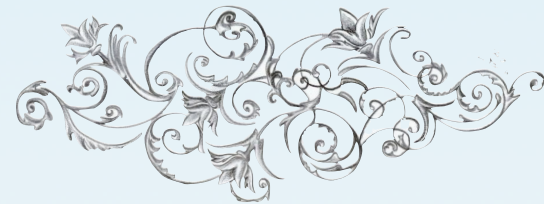
Cancelled

◆ **Scandinavian Day**
September 13, 2020
VASA Park
Elgin, IL

Cancelled

◆ **Jul Market**
October 17 & 18, 2020, 10a - 4p
Good Templar Park
Geneva, IL

Pending



INRA Executive Board and Board of Directors - 3 Committees

Executive Board*

President - *Vacancy (currently being handled by Joanne Bjerga)*

Vice President - Ruth

Haller.....ruthaller@wowway.com

Secretary - Susan Savage.....savagebrooks@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Joanne Bjergajoannebjerga@gmail.com

Member Education and Meetings

(Members' Services Team)

*Education - *Vacancy (currently being handled by Mari Smith)*

Hospitality - *Vacancy*

Membership - Holly Green.....hollysstabbur@gmail.com

Rosemaling Events and Collections

(Events Team)

*Norsk Jul Market - Jeanette Goodlow....nette4113@aol.com

Library & Historian - Mari Smith.....mssmith468@gmail.com
Perm. Art Coll - Ruth Haller

Communications and Networking (Communications Team)

*Avisen Newsletter - Bev Gunderson...artbybev75@gmail.com

Website - Joanne Bjerga

*Publicity - *Vacancy (currently handled by Joanne & Ruth)*

INRA FOV Delegate - *Vacancy*

INRA NNL Delegate - Tom Maxson....

* Attend Board Meetings

For INRA Information/questions email:

inrarosemaling@gmail.com