

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

April 2009

From the President's Corner – The robins are back, forsythia bushes are about to bloom and spring bulbs are up. The warmer days bring a sense of renewal and anticipation as we move into a new season. So it is with our Guild. This month we elect officers and with that act of renewal come feelings of enthusiasm as new officers/chairs develop their programs and ideas. We are excited about what lies ahead.

While we look forward, we salute outgoing officers, chairs and committees for a job well done! Under their leadership, our Guild has enjoyed a very successful year. Members continue to acknowledge the stimulation and inspiration gained when we come together each month. (As noted in last month's newsletter, many hands contribute to a successful meeting.) Long standing traditions such as our annual rug hooking camp have been joined by more recent traditions such as our hooking retreat. Past activities such as bus trips have been revived and joined by new initiatives like our Spring Fling. Our activities are well reported in the press which in turn brings increased interest in rug hooking and HCRAG. The growing number of requests for us to demonstrate at community events bears witness to our increased visibility. We thank all who help make our Guild successful.

Keep on hooking! -- Weezie

April Meeting – Friday, April 3, 2009 – Our normal meeting date conflicts with Good Friday, so we will be meeting a week earlier. The meeting location will also change to the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt.12 Circle outside of Flemington. For new members, this is the circle on Rt. 12 a mile or so from our regular meeting location. (If you were leaving our regular meeting site, turn right onto Rt. 12. Go beyond the traffic light to the first traffic circle. The Raritan Township Municipal Complex is on the right just as you enter the traffic circle.)

Guild Program – The April meeting will include our annual election of officers and a brief presentation by member Joyce Combs on cleaning and processing a fleece to the roving stage. Joyce will follow with a demonstration of some projects that can be done using roving. She will assist anyone who wants to work on a roving project. Supplies needed are: felting needle, roving, scissors and a foam pad to protect you from injury! Bring your own supplies if you have them. Needles, roving and foam pads will be for sale at the meeting. Those not working on the roving project are encouraged to bring their current rug project and work on that.

Show & Tell – Members should bring anything they have made using roving, rugs with a spring time theme, Spring Fling rugs and current projects. Our “Show & Tell” is a much anticipated portion of the meeting.

Hospitality – Jamie Gartelmann, Lib Ryman and Bernice Smith are our refreshment volunteers for this meeting. Thank you in advance! Having coffee and snacks at our meetings makes such a difference.

Membership – We are pleased that Annie Lee has renewed her membership. Her contact information is as follows:

Annie Lee
200 East Fourth Street
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-788-3053
annie-lee@verizon.net

Helen Dowling has a new email address – hdowningdc@patmedia.net. Sharon Ballard has a new email address – stancot@comcast.net. Former members Phyllis Hamel and Kim Kagan send their regards. Phyllis has found a local rug hooking group in her new community and Kim has a new email address – kaganupnorth@gmail.com.

Let the Sun Shine – Bonnie Rush reported at the March meeting that former member Georgeann Faller recently underwent successful surgery for the removal of a benign brain tumor. We all join in wishing Georgeann a speedy and full recovery. Get well cards can be sent to her at 75 Pine Hill Road, Stockton, NJ 08559.

April Birthdays – Happy Birthday wishes go to Susan Atwater (4/15), Cynthia Covino (4/23) and Tony Townsend (4/13). Celebrate your special day!

Officer/Chairs Elections – We now have a slate of officers. They will be confirmed at the April meeting. New officers and committee chairs assume their responsibilities in May, 2009.

President – Weezie Huntington

VP – Irene Pasternak

Program Director – Kitty Platt/Lynda Kling (Team – Nancy Carman and Kay Weeks)

Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill

Secretary – Debbie Walsh (Senior) and Gail Ferdinando (Junior)

Camp Directors – Tracy Fetzer, Brigitte Levine and Dee Rosebrock (Lead)

Special Events – Connie Coleman, Carol Kindt, Dee Rosebrock and Nina Seaman

Historian – Marion Michel

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan (Team – Deanne Kinney, Barbara Lugg and Aggie Wooden)

Librarian – Kathy Donovan

PR/Newsletter – Karl Gimber

Sunshine – Susan Woodworth

More on Hooking Animal Eyes -- Those who attended the March meeting got a glimpse into how a pro approaches hooking animal eyes. Gail Dufresne provided examples of several different animal eyes she hooked using diverse wools. She emphasized the need to look closely at images of eyes and mentioned two children books to which she often refers. The books are Let's Look at Animal Eyes by Wendy Perkins, Capstone Press (www.capstonepress.com) and Eye See You Story published by Storey Publishing (www.storey.com).

Instructors for 2010 Camp Confirmed -- Jen Lavoie, Diane Phillips and Charlotte Price have been confirmed as the instructors for our 14th annual camp that will be held from August 9-13, 2010 at the ESC School. Jen is back by popular demand after her exciting introduction to the Guild last year. Diane is known for her portrait rugs. Charlotte owns the rights to the McGown patterns and will conduct an “open” workshop. (See “Cathedral Enchantment” in the March/April/May 2009 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine for examples of Charlotte’s work.) More information on these workshops will follow in subsequent issues of The Loop.

Guild Reunited with HCRAG Banner/Rug -- In 1982 Guild member Sharyn Curtis hooked a large rug with the Guild’s name in the center. (Fortunately veteran Guild members Virginia Sutton and Margaret Lutz recognized the initials “SC” on the rug as Sharyn’s.) The rug was designed to serve as a banner for Guild meetings and events. While long term members knew of the rug’s existence, its location was a mystery until last month. It turns out that some time ago Judith Bebout, who lived in Stockton, NJ at the time, was given the rug by Sue Hesse when Sue sold her home on Broad Street in Stockton and was cleaning it out. Judith now lives in Sergeantsville, NJ and has had the rug for many years. She recently saw the newspaper notice of our Clinton Library exhibit and realized that the Guild was still in existence. She immediately decided to return the rug to the Guild and brought it to the library on March 7 when members were demonstrating rug hooking. Irene Pasternak invited Judith to make the presentation in person at the March meeting which she did. The timing of the rug’s return was ideal. A few months ago it was suggested that we hook a HCRAG rug that can be displayed when we are demonstrating at various sites. We are indebted to Judith Bebout for caring for the rug and for kindly returning it to us. Joyce Combs’ husband, “Skeet”, is an accomplished woodworker and has offered to build a portable stand that we can use to display the rug at meetings and Guild events. THANK YOU Judith and Skeet!

If the story of the rug’s return was not strange enough, it gets “stranger”. Three days after the rug was returned, Margaret Lutz got an email message from Sharyn Curtis! She and her husband, Jim, relocated to North Carolina five months ago and she wanted to purchase a special Lib Callaway pattern. Sharyn reports missing her “old hooker friends.” Talk about coincidence!

Upcoming Rug Hooking Demonstrations -- The Guild will be demonstrating at two events in April and May. The schedule is shown below.

| <u>Date/Time</u> | <u>Event/Location</u> | <u>Guild Coordinator</u> |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| April 25 | Sheep Shearing Day | Karl Gimber/Joanne McIlmurray |
| 10-3 | Peter Wentz Farmstead Worcester, PA | |
| May 2 | Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair | Margaret Brightbill |
| 11-5 | Washington Crossing State Park Titusville, NJ | |

Please contact the coordinators to schedule a time when you can help.

The Guild has been requested to participate in the Mercer County 4-H Fair held at the Howell Living Farm on August 1 and 2, 2009. The Howell Farm is located just below Lambertville and is an ideal site to demonstrate traditional rug hooking. After visiting our website, the event coordinator for Mercer County commented on “being excited in having the Guild at the Fair”.

Guild Supports Hunterdon County 4-H “Sew, Bake & Bloom Club” -- Guild members Joyce Combs, Lydia Lewis and Dee Rosebrock will be teaching the fundamentals of rug hooking to a group of 12 girls in Jamie Mirabito’s 4-H “Sew, Bake and Bloom Club”. The session will be held at the Extension Center on Rt. 31 (next to St. Paul’s Church) from 7-9 PM on May 7, 2009. If you want to help, just let Joyce, Lydia, Dee or Jamie know.

Jersey Girls Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 -- Sharon Ballard will be collecting rugs from Guild members (and friends) at our April meeting for the Jersey Girls Exhibit.

Considerable work is involved in planning the display and typing the show cards. Therefore, those submitting rugs are requested to complete and return the registration form by April 1st. The registration form is available on the website for the exhibit - www.jerseygirlchallenge.org. Download, print and fill out a form for each rug. Send your registration forms to Janet Santaniello, 101 Knollwood Drive, Watchung, NJ 07069.

In addition to the exhibit, there will be five vendors selling rug hooking supplies. Jersey Girl Chocolates and jewelry will be available for purchase. This will be a very special rug hooking event.

History Repeats with Bus Trip to Winterthur Museum on April 29, 2009 -- At the March meeting Charter Guild member, Virginia Sutton, read notes from the Guild’s very first meeting in April 1977 at which time it was agreed to take a bus trip to Winterthur. Thirty-two years later, we will be doing it again! On Wednesday, April 29, 2009, Guild members and guests will depart at 8:30 AM from the library parking lot at the Hunterdon County Complex (same location where we hold our meetings) to travel to Delaware to visit the Winterthur Museum. The scheduled return is 6:00 PM. Connie Coleman will serve as our “Trip Director” to make sure no one is left behind!

The fee is only \$20 for members (\$30 for guests) since the Guild is covering the cost of the bus rental. This is a real bargain and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the museum’s collection of American decorative arts spanning the two hundred years from the seventeenth century through the early nineteenth century. In a great country house surrounded by a private park of striking beauty are examples of domestic architecture, furniture, textiles, silver, pewter, ceramics, paintings, and prints almost unmatched in quality, and in numbers and variety the most extensive collection of its kind.

Only 12 seats remain. Reservations are now being accepted from non-members, so encourage family and friends who enjoy early American decorative arts to join us. To reserve a place, just send your check made payable to HCRAG to Kitty Platt (34 Everitts Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551) or bring it to the April meeting. The nonrefundable fee includes museum admission, a one hour tour, access to all exhibits, a tip for the bus driver and incidental expenses. Husbands who have assisted with past Guild events can participate at the member rate.

Visit the museum’s website at www.winterthurmuseum.org for information on current exhibits.

Need Professional Quality Photos of Your Rugs? -- Members who attended the March meeting had the opportunity to meet Cindy MacMillan who was assisting Gail Dufresne. Among her many talents, Cindy is a part time photographer who produces professional quality images of hooked rugs. The editors of Rug Hooking Magazine and the ATHA Newsletter have complemented her for providing images ideal for their use. The photos accompanying Gail

Dufresne's article in the March/April/May2009 issue of RHM are an example of Cindy's work. Anyone who has been successful in having a rug accepted in Celebrations always states that the quality of the images submitted is paramount. Cindy took the photos of member Gail Schmidt's rug that was accepted for Celebrations this year! For more information on what is involved and her rates, you can reach Cindy at cmacmillan9@comcast.net or 215-504-2658. You may want to keep Cindy's information for future use.

HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – August 10-14, 2009 – It is not too late to sign up for camp. There are still a few openings with Norman Batastini and Sandra Brown. A waiting list is available for Judy Quintman. We anticipate that all workshops will be fully subscribed.

The fee for members whose dues were paid by November 14, 2008 is \$150. The non member rate is \$225. To register for camp, just send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAG to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. The balance is due in May. The deposit is non-refundable.

In addition to our regular camp features, a pizza night is planned for Tuesday or Wednesday. The ESC School has given us permission to stay late. We will also have a daily mini rug exhibit featuring the rugs of one or two camp participants each day. The rugs will be displayed on the portable racks that were built for the Guild several years ago. Sleeves will not be needed on the rugs.

Connie Coleman and Kay Weeks will conduct the beginners' workshop on Thursday, August 13, 2009.

Spring Arrives with the HCRAG Spring Fling! –Jayne Hester and Michele Micarelli arrived early Friday afternoon to set up. When participants arrived for the wine and cheese reception they were greeted by a magnificent display of wool. Each instructor brought wool that represented the work for which they are so well known. Jayne had her soft, warm, muted tweeds and textured wools. Michele's tables were alive with many brightly dyed pieces.

After the opening wine and cheese reception, a group gathered for dinner at Weezie's favorite local restaurant, the California Grill. Twenty guests and members spent the week-end starting new rugs, finishing projects already underway and learning from the instructors and from each other. Many worked well into Saturday night. Masseur Joy Andrews worked her magic on the stiff muscles. The early workshop evaluations are very positive. Several have said they look forward to coming again next year!

Guild Exhibits Members Rugs at Clinton Library North Branch – March 2-30, 2009

Twenty-two rugs hooked by Guild members were on display at the North Hunterdon County Branch Library in Clinton, NJ. during March. The rugs were provided by Joyce Combs, Sharon Ballard, Cindy Boults, Lynn Burtis, Karl Gimber, Weezie Huntington, Deanna Kinney, Joan Lucas, Margaret Lutz, Irene Pasternak, Lee Ann Metropoulos and Therese Schick.

On March 7 Cindy Boults, Gail Ferdinando, Irene Pasternak, Linda Reitz and Karen Worthington demonstrated rug hooking at the library. There was much interest in the Guild and what we do. There was also nice press coverage.

We thank Cindy Boults, Gail Ferdinando and Irene Pasternak for coordinating the event and those who provided the rugs. There are many advantages to Guild exhibits and demonstrations -- the

public learns about rug hooking, the Guild gains exposure, the sponsoring organizations are supported and those involved have fun. In this case, the exhibit resulted in the exciting return of a rug hooked for the Guild in 1982 (see earlier article.) Amazing!

Rugs may be picked up at the library after the exhibit on Tuesday March 31, 2009 between 9 AM and 9:30 AM. Gail Ferdinando will be at the library at that time. Those with rugs in the show should let her know by email at thebrownieexpress@att.net if they will be at the library for pick up or want their rugs returned at the April meeting.

Meet Our Sunshine Chair – Lib Ryman -- Lib Ryman is one of the charter members of our Guild. She started hooking in early 1977, just a few months before the Guild was founded. Lib was actually looking for an activity for her mother when she saw a brochure published by the Hunterdon County Adult Education Program. There was a write up on a rug hooking class that she suggested to her mother. Her mother agreed to attend as long as Lib came too. Penny Hayes was the instructor. Lib's mother hooked a chair mat and then stopped. Lib continued on her own and has been hooking ever since. Shortly after the workshop, Jo Knobloch, who was responsible for the adult education programs, established the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild in April 1977. Other than two periods of three year breaks when Lib and her husband lived in up state New York and Florida, she has been an active member. Over the years, she has held various Guild positions. In the past year, Lib served as our Sunshine Chair.

Hooking with #6 – 8 cuts is preferred, although Lib hooks with finer cuts as well. Wider cuts are often associated with primitive style hooking. That is not the case with Lib. She is “all over depending on the project.” For example, Lib hooked a deacon's bench seat cover for her daughter that included all of the six houses she lived in and the three churches she attended. Narrow cut wool was needed for the detail found in such a pattern. Initially, Lib worked with patterns she purchased. Now she designs her own. She has designed rugs and pillows with family houses and other familiar images. Rugs with “circles and odd shapes” are creative ways Lib uses strips left over from other rugs. Her next project will be a 19' hallway runner requested by her daughter! Lib estimates that it will take two years to complete.

“Using cast-offs to make something beautiful” appeals to Lib. When the Visiting Nurses have their rummage sale, Lib is there and “makes a beeline to the clothing”. She has accumulated enough wool to meet her needs and limits new purchases to “interesting colors or white for dyeing”. Lib has always dyed her wool, but does not do as much of it as she once did. When she gets the dye pots out, Lib tends not to follow formulas. She experiments and likes to surprise herself. “Look what I got!”

In the early 1990s Lib and her husband began thinking about moving into a retirement community. Moving was put on hold when her husband was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1994. Lib found that her rug hooking and painting kept her busy and “was the key to survival.” In 1996, Lib moved into the Fellowship Village Continuing Care Retirement Community in Basking Ridge, NJ. It did not take long before her enthusiasm for rug hooking spread within her community. . She started a small group that meets on Mondays to sit, talk and hook.

Lib hooks most days. Her hooking frame is up in the living room all the time. She “cannot sit and do nothing”. In the evenings she will hook while watching TV. Monday she hooks with her community group.

Over the years, Lib has attended hooking camps at Buckeystown, MD, Shelburne, VT and one in Nova Scotia. Her daughter Patti and son-in law Bill joined her one year when she went to Maine to hook with Marion Hamm. “Bill did his thing while Patti and I hooked.” He joined them for dinner in Marion’s home. Lib used a #9 cut for the first time when she worked with Marion.

When asked why she has continued to attend Guild meetings for all these years, Lib sums it up by saying “I get new ideas from what others are doing. I am inspired by what I see and enjoy seeing old friends. It is a nice thing to do. I always come home wanting to do something different after seeing what others have done.”

To say that Lib has multiple talents is an understatement! In addition to hooking, she is an active gardener, although her recent shoulder replacement surgery has slowed her gardening down somewhat. Painting is another passion. Lib works with watercolor, oil, pastels and pen/ink. She paints everything but portraits. Lib could not bring her piano with her when she moved into the retirement community, but did buy a keyboard. For a while she was a knitter, but stopped when a sweater for her husband turned out much too long. Lib says “I will die with a list of things I still want to learn and do.”

Lib has three daughters – Kathy (oldest), Gail and Patti (youngest). Kathy and her husband, Steve, live in Pennsylvania. Their son, Ken, and daughter-in-law, Leslie, have Lib’s first great granddaughter, Jaiden. Gail and her husband, Bill, live in Virginia with their children Justin and Nicole. Youngest daughter, Patti, and her husband, Bill, live in Tennessee with two adopted children, Vasy and Ivan, who were born in the Ukraine. All of Lib’s daughters have rugs hooked by their mother. Each grandchild has what Lib calls a “learning rug” -- rugs that include their name, birth date, the alphabet and numbers.

The spirit and enthusiasm that Lib Ryman brings to rug hooking and our Guild makes her special. We are fortunate that she helped form our Guild and continues to contribute in many ways.

From Joyce Comb’s Dye Pot – Question: Sometimes when I cut wool that I’ve dyed the color has not gone all the way into the wool. How can I make sure the dye penetrates to the core?

Joyce’s Answer: Dyeing needs the following: Heat, water, wool, dye and a setting agent. Wool repels water, so it needs to be thoroughly wet before dyeing. To get the wool to absorb water use a wetting agent such as jet dry or synthrapol and let the wool soak for at least an hour before you start to dye. If you use detergent, soak the wool overnight. Your wool should be steamed or cooked at a low boil for at least 30 minutes and then add either white vinegar or citrus acid to set the color and cook for another 15 minutes. Watch the water to see when the dye color clears from the water. Sometimes if you have used more dye than you needed or a very intense color the water will not clear entirely. If this happens first try a little more setting agent, if that does not work turn off the heat and let the wool cool in the pan. This extra step lets more dye absorb into the wool. Then rinse out the wool and dry. Hope this helps

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Barbara Lugg) – Question: Why do many instructional rug hooking books say not to use pure black wool?

Barbara’s Answer: My first rug hooking teacher, Hildegard von Tenspolde, was definitely against using plain black wool. She disliked it very much! After researching through books featuring early rugs, it is clear to me that early rug hookers did use plain black wool. Plain black wool can give you a harder and more intense look, but does tend to show lint and soil more readily. Using a mottled spot dyed black or working in another dark shade such as green or wine

at random creates a pleasing antique black look and adds life and interest to the rug. There are also many dye recipes for antique black. If you really like pure back wool and feel it works well for your rug, you should use it. It is your rug and your choice.

This Month in Guild History -- On April 28, 1977, the newly formed HCRAAG took a bus trip to Fairfield, CT to the 18th Annual Hooked Rug Exhibit by the United Methodist Women of Fairfield. Thanks to Charter member Virginia Sutton we can share this tidbit of Guild history.

HCRAAG Library -- To borrow an item from our library, contact Guild Librarian, Kathy Donovan, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freya@optonline.net.

Guild Events Included on Additional Website – The website www.EggZack.com features New Jersey news items from the local papers. Guild events carried by the local media will now be included on this website.

HCRAAG Website – Visit the Guild’s website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured member, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Out of the Loop: Innovations in Hooking – This exhibit sponsored by the Brookfield Craft Center and Newtown Hooked Rug Show runs through May 3, 2009. The 13 featured artists have created unique work by redefining the art form through their innovative use of alternative materials and sculptural forms. The show is free and open daily. For more information, call 203-775-4526.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Day of Hooking – The ATHA Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is sponsoring a day of hooking on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 10-4. The event will be held at St. Francis in the Fields Church, 689 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA 19355. Breakfast goodies, coffee, tea and water will be provided. Bring a bag lunch or lunch on your own. Bring a project to work on and something for “show & tell”. For more information, contact Allie Barchi at star-extra@comcast.net or 610-420-7859.

Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Spring Meeting – The GMRHG will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Holiday Inn , 476 US Route 7 South, Rutland, VT 05701 from 9 – 4. Lunch will be followed by speaker Jen Lavoie.

Rug Hooking Workshops at Lollipop Farm -- Lucille Festa is offering a series of workshops at her studio in East Rupert, VT. The instructors and dates follow -- Sandy Misreckon (April 6 & 7), Lucille Festa (May 19-21), Norma Batastini (June 8-10) and Jayne Hester (July 15-17). For information, contact Lucille at 802-325-2543 or lucillefest@hotmail.com.

The Little Lakes Guild Workshop (April 20-23, 2009) -- Molly Colegrove, Bev Conway, Bea Grant and Jayne Hester are the instructors in a workshop sponsored by the new ATHA: Little Lakes Guild in the Finger Lakes Area of New York. For more information contact Sharon Lesio at 585-734-5866 or visit the website: <http://lovelylabs.tripod.com/rughooking> for details.

Jersey Girls Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 at the Firehouse in Oldwick, NJ. Go to www.jerseygirlschallenge.org for more information.

16th Annual Maryland Shores Rug Hooking School – This McGown School will be held in Ocean City, Maryland on April 19-24, 2009. The teachers are Nancy Blood, Vicki Calu, Gail Dufresne, Sarah Guiliani, Betty McClellent, Eric Sandberg and Cynthia Norwood. For more information, contact Janice Russell at 410-289-4110 or ocrug@aol.com.

Inspired Art: A Design Workshop for Rug Hookers– Sunday April 26, 2009 at the Brookfield Craft Center (in conjunction with the Newtown Hooked Rug Show). Instructor Peg Irish will assist you in finding ways to interpret the set of medieval tapestries “Lady and the Unicorn” to fit your personal style of hooking. Whatever that style—from wide-cut primitive to shaded floral to intricate geometrics—this workshop is right for all intermediate and advanced students. Advance registration required. For more information, call the Center at 203-775-4526.

Brandywine ATHA Guild Workshops with Elizabeth Black -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is offering two workshops with Elizabeth Black on August 1-3, 2009 and August 4-6, 2009. (The initial workshop will be filled first.) Elizabeth who is known for her animal hooking will teach all cuts including everything but geometrics and Orientals. The workshops will be held at St Francis in the Fields Church 689 Sugartown Rd. Malvern, PA 19355. Contact Jeri at jeri_liv@verizon.net for further information.

Rugs by the Sea – September 13-25, 2009 -- The 22nd year of Rugs by the Sea will be held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ for two weeks in September. The first week (September 13-18) will feature Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay and Charlotte Price. The instructors for the second week (September 20-25) will be Cherylyn Brubaker, Bev Conway, Nancy Miller Quigley, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay. For more information, contact Norma Batastini by phone at 973-746-5361 or by email at c_batastini@msn.com.

2009 TIGHR Triennial – September 20-23, 2009 In Louisville, KY just before ATHA Biennial. Make it a week in Louisville! Start with The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) then attend the ATHA Conference. Visit www.tighr.net for membership and conference information.

2009 ATHA Biennial – September 23 – 27, 2009 in Louisville, KY. Select classes from 21 notable rug hooking instructors and shop with 17 nationally known vendors. There will be two hooked rug exhibits and a keynote speech by Frank Bielec, star of TLC’s “Trading Spaces “. Go to www.atharugs.com/biennials.htm for more information.

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 11, 2009 to April 24, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. For more information contact Susan Feller, Guest Curator, at rugs2wv@yahoo.com with “Fraktur Rugs” in the Subject Line.

ATHA Woolwright Chapter Hook-in – March 20, 2010 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. The ATHA Woolwright Chapter is hosting a fund raising hook-in to support the 2011 ATHA Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster, PA. For more information, contact Mary Lynne Naples at marylynnelan@aol.com.

The Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington

(weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

April 3, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Felted Critters (Joyce Combs) -- note date and location change to the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex.

April 29, 2009 – Bus Trip to Winterthur Museum

May 8, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Computer Assisted Design for Rugs - Connie Coleman*

June 12, 2009 – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic*

August 10-14, 2009 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

September 11, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

October 9, 2009 – Monthly Meeting -- Program TBD*

November 13, 2009 Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

December 11, 2009 Holiday Luncheon Meeting*

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B at the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, it is the first building on the right.

Guild Officers -- Our officers are anxious to hear from you on ideas and suggestions on how we can make the Guild responsive to your needs. Feel free to contact them with your thoughts.

President – Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Open

Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749 & Barbara Lugg – 908-996-2562

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja@optonline.net

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410

Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com

Secretary – Joyce Combs -- 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net

Special Events -- Kitty Platt – 908-782-8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com

Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@att.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

Sunshine – Lib Ryman -- 908-604-9459 or libr21226@aol.com

Treasurer – Gisele Meader -- 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net

Margaret Brightbill (Asst. Treasurer) – 215-968-2711 or katie4rose@aol.com

Webmaster – Laurie Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net

Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the group not solicit the membership as a whole.



The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com. by the 20th of the month.