

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

April 2010

From the President's Corner – The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild was formed on April 1, 1977. That means we will be 33 years old this month. There were 81 original members - - two of whom (Margaret Lutz and Virginia Sutton) are still active today. Our Guild was among several craft guilds organized by Jo Knobloch who was the Special Projects Coordinator for Hunterdon County Adult Education. We hope that Jo will be at our meeting this month and will help us relive those formative years of HCRAG.

Our success as a Guild is a direct result of dedicated members who worked to support the Guild for over three decades. There have been highs and lows during that time, as there is with any organization, but we have retained our vitality. Fortunately we are now enjoying a period of increased recognition and success. Again, this is due to the work of our officers and support of our members.

Our longevity also speaks to the enduring nature of the 19th century craft of traditional rug hooking. There is something to the process of pulling loops of colorful wool, whether it is new or recycled, up through backing that continues to appeal and fulfill the creative needs that live within us. The camaraderie and friendships formed through guilds and hooking groups allows us to connect with others in a meaningful way that is increasingly difficult in our fast paced technical world.

Our April meeting will be a birthday party complete with cake, ice cream and raffles. Several of our favorite vendors will help us celebrate throughout the month – more on that in the newsletter.

This will be my last President's Message as Joyce Combs and Dee Rosebrock assume the role as Co-Presidents next month. I have enjoyed my period of being the Guild's President and must express my profound appreciation to all who helped with the various programs, projects and initiatives we have enjoyed. I know you will support Dee and Joyce with the same enthusiasm.

Happy 33rd Birthday and keep on hooking! -- Weezie

April Meeting – Friday, April 9, 2010 – Our normal meeting location is not available in April, so we will again meet at our alternate site -- the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the traffic circle outside of Flemington. For new members and guests, this is the circle on Rt. 523 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 – Lydia Lewis will be showing vests and jackets that she has decorated with hooked designs on wool backgrounds and then attached to the pieces making them wearable art. The shape is controlled by the area on the back of the clothing. Some jackets have more than one design and she interchanges them for different seasons. Most designs center around holidays or events in Lydia's life.

Show & Tell – Bring your March Madness projects and rugs with a spring theme. Current hooking projects are always welcomed at Show & Tell.

Hospitality – Ingrid Cosmen, Lib Ryman, Bernice Smith and Debbie Walsh are the refreshment volunteers for April. We thank them in advance for providing the treats that add to our meeting enjoyment.

Hooking and Braiding Wool Available -- A Doylestown couple who braided rugs years ago, donated three boxes of great wool to the Guild. Some of the wool is already cut and sewn into strips. This will be an ideal time to acquire wool for those who plan to take Kris McDermet's 2011 camp workshop on combining braiding and hooking techniques. Plan ahead and take advantage of quality wool being available now.

April Birthdays – Susan Atwater (4/15), Tony Townsend (4/13) and HCRA (4/1) celebrate birthdays this month. Happy Birthday wishes go to Susan, Tony and to us!

Birthday Discounts for Guild Members – Friends of the Guild are helping us celebrate our birthday by offering discounts to members during the entire month of April.

- **American Color Woolens, The Blue Tulip & Two Old Crows** are happy to participate in your celebration by providing Guild members a 10% discount on purchases, except sale items, during the month of April.

American Color Woolens hopes to have our newest line of wools here by April so you can take full advantage of the discount. We hope that you take advantage of some of our in stock woolens, hand dyed wool and wide array of patterns available. Please visit us online at www.thebluetulipwoolery.com or www.twooldcrownsnj.com or feel free to visit us at our studios/shop locations. Happy Birthday! Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows) & Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip).

- **Michele Micarelli** congratulates the Guild on its 33rd Birthday by offering members with a 10% discount on purchases made during April 2010. Call Michele at 203-387-8690 or order thru michelemicarelli.com.
- Congratulations from Susan Feller's Designs at **Ruckman Mill Farm** to the HCRA on your 33rd Birthday! Visit www.RuckmanMillFarm.com and select a pattern, dye recipes, catalog, or even a gift certificate, place the order by mail to Ruckman Mill Farm, PO Box 409, Augusta, WV 26704 During the month of April 2010 receive 10% off the full order and no shipping !

In the case of a gift certificate, pay 10% less than the face value and indicate who you want it sent to. We will gladly forward it on with a message from you.

- Margaret Lutz , **Hook Nook**, is pleased to offer HCRAAG members with a 10% discount on items purchased during April 2010. Visit www.hook-nook.com or call Margaret at 908-806-8083.
- Kay Leisey, **Homespun**, is providing 10% discount on all purchases, other than sale items, purchased by Guild members during April. It is worth the trip to Hereford, PA just to visit this delightful shop. You can reach Kay at 215- 541-0565.

Guild members are encouraged to patronize the vendors who so generously are providing discounts or donating raffle items. Please let them know much we appreciate their support.

Birthday Party Door Prizes -- Several of our favorite suppliers have generously donated door prizes to be raffled at the April Birthday meeting.

- Gift Certificate from the **The Wool Studio** (Rebecca Erb) – Visit www.thewoolstudio.com for information on the wool, hooking supplies and classes available or call 610-678-5448.
- Bundle of beautifully over dyed wool from **The Wool ‘n Gardener** (Jan Cole) – You can reach Jan at jantique@ptd.net or 610-967-5773.
- Jungle Table Runner Mola Series Kit from **Heart in Hand Rug Hooking** (Norma Batastini) – You can reach Norma at g_batastini@msn.com or 973-746-2936.

Birthday Wishes Recieved

“You're a rare group of women--with amazing creativity and enthusiasm for your gifts as rug hookers. I learned from you during my "teaching" experience, which is as it should be. Thank you and best wishes for your 33rd year together.” Sandra Brown, So'Journey Farm

“American Color Woolens, The Blue Tulip & Two Old Crows sincerely wish The Hunterdon Guild a happy 33rd Birthday.” Jeannine Happe and Karen Worthington

“Happy 33rd Birthday! What an achievement to keep the Guild going for such a long time. I am so proud to be a member of the guild and to have been able to teach for the Guild. You have such inventive programs and work so hard to spread the art of rug hooking throughout the area. My personal goal is to spread the art to as many people as I possibly can and it is a great match for me to be a member of your organization.” Judy Quintman, Wilmington, NC

“Congratulations to the Guild and 33 years! Rug hooking brings us together and keeps us together through the trials and tribulations of life. Here is to another 33 years.” Norma Batastini

“I was delighted to learn that Joyce and Dee have agreed to be co-presidents of HCRAAG. I know they will do a terrific job - the Guild is very lucky! Moving away has meant missing so many friends but the newsletter keeps us all so well informed that I still feel as if I'm part of the group. Here in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont there are many opportunities for hooking, and I am currently attending three different groups plus the Guild which meets every other month. We feel so fortunate to be up here in northern Vermont - every day is a beautiful day!” Roberta Smith, Lower Waterford, VT

“Happy Birthday!” Gail Dufresne, Goat Hill Designs

“To all my friends in Hunterdon County, HAPPY BIRTHDAY! “ Susan Feller, Ruckman Mill Farm, Augusta, WV

Membership – We welcome Judi Bailey, Ellen DiClemente and Loretta Scena to our Guild. Their contact information is shown below.

Judi Bailey 2 Harvest Hill Drive Stockton, NJ 08559 609-969-0883 Gucker2bailey@aol.com	Ellen DiClemente 11 Lottings Purchase Road Flemington, NJ 08822 908-284-9570 edalley1716@embarqmail.com	Loretta Scena 27 Leo Lane Deer Park, NY 11729 631-254-3930 rhet4134@optonline.net
--	---	---

Joan Shymko’s email address is incorrectly shown on the membership list. Her correct address is joanshymko@gmail.com.

Sunshine – Members on the Mend -- We were delighted to see Connie Coleman, Lee Hurford and Irene Pasternak at the last meeting and to learn that they are healing.

Officer Elections -- Our by-laws provide for officer elections in April. The following nominations have been received:

- Co-Presidents – Joyce Combs & Dee Rosebrock
- Vice President – Debbie Walsh
- Historian – Sonia Force
- Hospitality – Deanna Kinney
- Librarian – Kathy Donovan *
- Programs – Gisele Meader
- Publicity/Newsletter – Karl Gimber *
- Secretary – Lynda Kling
- Special Events – Open
- Summer Camp Director – Dee Rosebrock
- Sunshine – Janet Santaniello
- Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill *
- Webmaster – Laurie Rubinetti *

* incumbent

The position of Special Events Chair remains open. The Special Events Chair oversees a committee to consider and organize special events such as retreats, hook-ins, demonstrations, exhibits and fundraising. If you need additional information, please check with Carol Kindt who is currently in that role. Our by-laws provide for senior and junior roles, which allows for a period to be an understudy. Consider the possibility of having a co-chair working with you.

Guild Invited to Demonstrate at Mercer Museum -- The Mercer Museum in Doylestown, PA has invited our Guild to participate in activities scheduled for the weekend when their Folk Fest is normally held. This year the Folk Fest will not take place because of a major construction project underway. Instead, the Museum plans a series of smaller events. HCRAG members will demonstrate rug hooking and share information on the history of traditional rug hooking on May 8, 2010. Let Karl Gimber know if you can help.

The possibility of the Guild participating in a "First Friday" event is also being explored. The Museum is open free to the public the nights when the Doylestown business community sponsors First Fridays.

Guild's Demonstration Activities Begin This Month – Members will be demonstrating rug hooking at The Bouman Stickney Farmstead and the Peter Wentz Farmstead. Let the event coordinators know if you can help or just stop by to say hello and enjoy the activities of the day.

April 11, 2010 -- Open House at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead in Readington Township, NJ from 1 PM to 4 PM. Carol Kindt is the Event Coordinator.

April 24, 2010 - Sheep Shearing at the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA from 10 AM to 3 PM. Joanne McIllmurray and Karl Gimber are the Event Coordinators.

HCRAG Rug Exhibit at Howell Living Farm – May 1, 2010

In addition to demonstrating at Howell Farm's annual Sheep Shearing Day, rugs hooked by members will be on exhibit for the day. The new barn attached to the Visitor's Center is an ideal location for our activities. Since rug hooking fits into the period of time reenacted at Howell Farm, their staff is pleased to have HCRAG involved with their activities. Of course, sheep's wool and rug hooking go hand-in-hand too.

We will need about 20-25 rugs for the exhibit. Members are encouraged to bring rugs to the April meeting for the exhibit. They do not need sleeves. There is a special space for three large rugs. Rugs can be picked up at the end of the day at Howell Farm on May 1 or at the May meeting. Contact Karl Gimber if you can help demonstrate or if you need more information.

14th Annual HCRAG 2010 Rug Hooking Camp – August 9-13, 2010 – Our rug hooking camp is shaping up to be another stimulating week with three exceptional instructors -- Cherylyn Brubaker, Jen Lavoie and Diane Phillips. Two workshops will be devoted to specific subjects – landscapes (Jen Lavoie) and portraits (Diane Phillips) – and one open workshop (Cherylyn Brubaker). The workshop descriptions are shown below.

Cherylyn Brubaker You are invited to work on the pattern that excites you! All styles of hooking and pattern designs are welcome. Cherylyn particularly enjoys hooking in the primitive style with over dyed textured fabrics, but is equally at home with fine cuts. Achieving depth and richness in our rugs through value, texture and color is what she strives for. Discussions are planned during the week on topics such as color planning and background techniques.

Cherylyn resides in Brunswick, Maine and is the owner of Hooked Treasures. A former graphic designer and a certified teacher with the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia, she teaches at workshops in the Northeast and Atlantic Canada. Her work has been featured in Celebrations X and XVII. Most recently she was a contributor to the book "Pattern Designs for Rug Hookers". Her pattern designs and finished rugs can be viewed on her website -- www.hookedtreasures.com.

Jen Lavoie -- Jen Lavoie lives in Huntington, Vermont. She was featured artist at the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild's annual show at the Shelburne Museum in 2007. Her work

can be seen in Anne-Marie Littenberg's most recent book, Hooked Rug Landscapes. She uses a variety of cuts and dye techniques, including painted wool, dip dye and gradation value dyes, to create landscapes and pictorials in a painterly style.

In class Jen will spend time with you problem solving and helping you find your own personal style and expression. Her focus is on discovering originality and true mastery of the medium. Class will consist of individual student sessions as well as short talks on process, wool as an art medium, dyeing and the principles of color, texture, line and perspective in rug hooking. Jen wants you to find inspiration to hook from your own personal experiences in life and even if you are working on a pattern, to discover what makes it truly your own artwork. All types of projects are welcome!

Diane Phillips – This workshop will focus on hooking faces, portrait style. The faces will be at least 8 inches from forehead to chin so that you can play with color and expression. An imaginary person, a family member, a national figure or YOURSELF- all faces are fair game. We will have individual lessons as well as daily demonstrations of hooking eyes, noses and mouths. We'll learn how many lovely colors can enhance skin and learn some techniques of dying unique shades of skin for all the world's people. Hooking hair gives us great opportunities for textures. Diane's personal style swings from very folksy to realistic, so you can work in your own style or try a new one. All cuts of wool from 3 to 7 are fine – Diane believes in cutting the size one needs to get the look one wants. She will provide lots of samples and inspirational materials as well as a DVD she produced for the Home and Garden Channel. Come have fun and hook a portrait that will become a treasured rug!

Diane lives in Fairport NY with her husband, Bruce, and four dogs. For eight years she directed the rug school held by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont. In 2009 Diane was the Featured Teacher at the Sauder Village Rug Show and School in Ohio and will be a featured artist at the Hooked in the Mountains Rug Show in Vermont this November.

The fee for the week is \$150 for HCRAAG members who paid their dues by November 13, 2009. It is \$225 for others. To register, just send a \$25 nonrefundable deposit to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. Make your check payable to HCRAAG.

Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you have interest, let Camp Director, Dee Rosebrock, know.

Learn to Hook Rugs -- The Guild's popular Beginners' Workshop will again be offered during our annual rug hooking camp at the ESC School. Connie Coleman and Kay Weeks will be the instructors for the workshop on Thursday, August 19, 2010 from 9-12. All supplies and tools are provided for the \$50 fee.

More on Judging Hooked Rugs – Last month we shared the approach to be used by the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild (OHCG) for judging rugs hooked in the traditional manner that will be submitted at their 44th Annual Meeting in 2010. They have a different scoring system for “alternative techniques” (i.e., hooking with loops, sculpting, proddy, punch needle and 3-dimensional shapes), as follows:

Impression (25 points possible)

- Overall visual impact
- Artistic expression (makes a statement, evokes emotion)
- Uniqueness of design

Composition (50 points possible)

- Effective use of color (complements or enhances each other)
- Effective use of movement of color around the piece
- Effective use of alternative materials and/or stichery/hooking techniques
- Appropriate use of textures (if applicable)

Finishing (25 points possible)

- Neatness
- No raw edges showing
- Appropriate to the piece (does not detract from piece)

We are indebted to Susan Feller for providing these insights.

Featured Member – Karen Worthington -- Karen’s mother was an antiques dealer, so Karen grew up in a home surrounded with old things. She was also exposed to various handcrafts from her mother who was always working on some project. Quilting and sewing were favorite activities. As a result, Karen developed a strong appreciation for the warmth of handmade furniture and decorative objects. It was love at first sight when she discovered her first hooked rug in a shop. At that point she knew that she wanted to hook rugs.

Karen is basically self-taught. She found books at the library and started to teach herself rug hooking. Eventually she learned of Gail Dufresne and drove down to her studio in Lambertville where she bought some wool. Karen has not taken any formal classes, but did sit in on a few open studio sessions. She does not have an arts background, but describes herself as “crafty” and was a fast learner.

The feel and look of primitive style rugs appeals to Karen.. She works mostly with a #8 cut with #6 cuts used for detailing. Wider cuts such as #9 have been tried, but do not work for her. Karen’s projects are not restricted to one type of design. She recently completed a pictorial rug that “was a lot of fun”.

Karen designs all her own patterns and draws on many sources for her inspiration. Books magazines, catalogs, wallpaper, old quilts, cross stitch samplers, houses and pets provide images that find their way into her rugs. While the designing aspect comes more naturally to Karen, color planning is another matter. She notes that she “has to work on it to get it right.”

Dyeing wool is another element to rug hooking that Karen enjoys. She finds it “lots of fun”. She started using Cushing Dyes because of their muted colors and the convenience of the small packets. More recently, she has started to use ProChem dyes because of the larger containers. Karen is learning how to mute the stronger ProChem colors. Karen is also a fan of Wanda Kerr and looks forward to her dyeing articles in Rug Hooking Magazine.

Karen and her high school friend, Jeannine Happe, share a similar passion for rug hooking. For a while they explored the idea of establishing a business together, but it was too complicated to

work out. They each decided it was best for each of them to have their own business. In 2005, The Blue Tulip Woolery was established in Karen's home with two rooms dedicated to her studio. It is there where she greets the public on Fridays, conducts classes and sells her rugs, wool and hooking equipment. Karen also sells on the internet and at the better regional craft shows in York, PA, Newtown, CT, Waterford, NY as well as the Mercer Museum Folk Fest.

Fortunately Karen is a prolific rug hooker as she diligently works on rugs for her personal needs and for her business. Whenever possible, she will sit down by her hooking frame in the afternoon and hook until midnight. Hooking for six to seven hours a day is not unusual. She also creates smaller related items such as pincushions, punch needle, felted sheep and kits that continue to sell during the current slow economy.

Jeannine and Karen have recently joined forces and established a joint business venture – American Color Woolens. They are introducing their own line of woolens designed for rug hookers, quilters and other fabric artisans. The wool will come from South America since there are no longer any mills in the United States. Jeannie and Karen have established high standards for their products. In fact, the first shipment was rejected for quality reasons.

A Guild member, who visited The Blue Tulip, mentioned our Guild to Karen. She joined shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, monthly Guild meetings conflict with the day The Blue Tulip is open, so Karen has difficulty making meetings.

Those who know Karen are not surprised that she has many varied interests which keep her busy. Designing and completing antique looking cross stitch samplers is something that she has done for many years. She draws on old images for the designs. Tea dyeing provides the aged look that is so appealing. The entire process is time consuming and does limit how much time Karen can devote to a favorite craft. When Karen quilted, it was all done by hand -- no sewing machine. She finds quilting "OK", but not as enjoyable as rug hooking. Other fabric related interests include punch needle, felted sheep and pin cushions (flat and three dimensional). Karen "loves gardening" and is a graduate of the Master Gardener program. Growing up she did gardening work on a part time basis and still has a few gardening clients.

Karen and her husband, Bill, have been married for 27 years. They live in Harmony, NJ where Bill is a building contractor. They have two daughters -- Rebecca and Gretchen. "Becky" is 22 years old and a student at East Stroudsburg University. Gretchen, age 15, is a high school student. The Worthingtons love their pets – three dogs and two cats. Heidi is a German Sheppard, Ozzie is "a big mutt who walked up their driveway one day" and Wylie, a beagle mix. Their cats, Camie and Vinnie, are strays who found a loving home with hooked rugs to sleep on.

When asked what it was about rug hooking that she finds so compelling, Karen says "It is the warm and comfortable feeling I get from living with old handmade things. I like making and using the rugs. They are special to me."

Karen successfully juggles the varied demands of being a wife, mother, artisan and business owner.

See a sample of Karen's rugs by visiting our website – www.hcrag – and click on "Hooker of the Month".

Additions to HCRAG Library – Thanks to Marion Michel the collection of books in our library continues to grow. Marion's latest donations are listed below. They will be available for loan at the April meeting.

- Ketchum, William C. Jr.
Hooked Rugs: A Historical and Collector's Guide, How to Make Your Own
1976
- Turbayne, Jessie
The Hooker's Art: Evolving Designs in Hooked Rugs
1993
- Von Rosenstiel, Helene
American Rugs and Carpets - From the Seventeenth Century to Modern Times
1978

Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her 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 freyja2@verizon.net.

Members who borrow books are reminded that they need to be returned in a timely manner, so that the books will be available for others members.

From Joyce Combs' Dye Pot – Spot dyeing with just primary colors is great fun and the results are often surprising. Keep in mind that when working with the primary colors, yellow is at least twice as weak as red or blue. Working the dye into the wool in some manner is imperative for getting the dye to properly settle into the fibers. You can do this with a spoon, or a potato masher, or by hand. The dye sits atop the wool if this is not done, and may result in the core of the wool not being properly dyed.

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Lydia Lewis) -- Photos of our created rugs are a great idea not only for remembering what we have hooked but also for insurance purposes. When organizing the pictures remember to put the size of the rug, date, and any additional comments. It is fun to add the place you hooked the piece if traveling, vacationing or the event that triggered the rug. Such as the addition of a baby in the family, an anniversary or a job oriented rug. The designers name and pattern name should be indicated. It is important to do this for all the large pieces that sit around the house-displayed or stored, any donated piece or a piece that has been given as a gift

From the Archives – April was a month of trips and exhibits for the Guild in the late 70s.

- April 1977 – Bus Trip to Fairfield, Connecticut to 18th Annual Hooked Rug Exhibit by United Methodist Women of Fairfield. -- See note below *
- April 1978 -- Exhibit at the First Festival of Guilds. Approximately 130 pieces displayed.
- April 1979 – Exhibited rugs at the Myrtle Tomlinson's Rug Exhibit in Monroe, Connecticut by invitation.

* Note -- The 50th Anniversary of this show takes place on April 17, 2010 – See announcement in Rug Hooking Events segment of [The Loop](#).

March Madness Weekend -- Twenty five students and two instructors spent a wonderful weekend at March Madness.

Jen Manuell's purse class was a raging success. Students arrived with projects in various stages of work, from no loops pulled, to ready to assemble. Therese Shick completed her bag (and it is

STUNNING!!!) with one minute to spare before cleaning up on Sunday. Others are well into the assembling part. Everyone said that the workshop was above and beyond what they had expected.

Michele Micarelli's class was also great. Half the class worked on the Klimt Tree of Life, and the other half was "open". The Tree of Life patterns that Michele had drawn were all different, and all fabulous. Several people from Jennifer's class also ended up buying them. Michele brought considerable wool with her, as well as her expertise in how to use it. This was a very creative class, with plenty of mixed media being hooked into the trees.

The weekend was full of laughs, and all the evaluations were very positive.

Guild Members Represent HCRAG at Woolwrights Hook-in -- Annie Edwards, Karl Gimber, Cheryl Halliday, Juliana Kaputsa, Pat McDonnell, Paula Patti and Betsy Warner journeyed to Lancaster, PA to participate in the hook-in sponsored by the Woolwrights Guild. The hook-in was a fund raising event for the 2011 ATHA Biennial Conference that will also be held in Lancaster. The day was full of exciting raffles, delicious home made snacks, a rug show, a map swap and vendors. Oh the vendors! Many of our favorite suppliers of wool, patterns, kits and equipment were represented and did a brisk business throughout the day. Those in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones. The Woolwrights are to be congratulated for a successful event.

HCRAG 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 Rubineti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 28, 2009 to April 24, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. Susan Feller is the Guest Curator for an exhibit of contemporary hooked rugs that were inspired by Pennsylvania German fraktur drawings. The rugs are on display with fraktur and redware pottery items from the Heritage Center's collection. For more information, contact the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or www.schwenkfelder.com.

Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 1 – April 30, 2010 -- There will be a show of hooked rugs created by the Mercer Hookers at the Mercer County Library, in Pennington, N.J. during the month of April. The Mercer Hookers are also members of HCRAG. For more information contact Joyce Combs at fjcombs@verizon.net or 609 737-9281.

At the Sign of the Hooked Rug: Historic Rug Designs Exhibit– April 6 – July 11, 2010 -- *At the Sign of the Hooked Rug: Historic Rug Designs* by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber will be the first exhibit of the 200th Anniversary season of the historic Red Mill Museum Village and will be on view from Tuesday, April 6 through Sunday, July 11, 2010. There is an opening reception on Sunday April 11 from 5-7. The Museum is located at 56 Main Street, Clinton, NJ. For more information contact Melissa Mohlman at 908-730-7626 or matmohlman@yahoo.com.

Hook-in and Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 17, 2010 – The Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church (1089 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT) is sponsoring a hooked rug exhibit on April 17, 2010 from 9: 00 AM to 2:30 PM.. To mark the exhibit's 50th anniversary, this event will

include an all day hook-In. Exciting vendors will have everything for your rug hooking needs including rug designs, hooks, books and more wool than you can imagine. At 1:00 PM Michele Micarelli, Vivily Powers and Loretta Scena will have a panel discussion covering such interesting topics as dyeing, rug schools, finishing techniques, and trends in this fiber art. You will not want to miss this event! Contact Pat Jurgielewicz at prj@discala.com or 203.445.8896 for information.

Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 to May 2, 2010 – The Monmouth County Park System is sponsoring a hooked rug exhibit at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ from April 24 to May 2, 2010. The hours are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is free. The Longstreet farm rug hookers will be exhibiting their handiwork. The exhibit will feature work from ATHA members along with novice rug hookers showing off their artistic talents in primitive and fine cut traditional hooked rugs. For more information call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

Rugs by the Sea – September 12 – 24, 2010 -- The popular rug hooking school returns to Cape May, NJ for its 23rd season. The instructors for the first week (September 12 -17) will be Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Kris Miller and Judy Quintman. Week two (September 20 - 24) features Cheryl Brubaker, Bev Conway, Lucille Festa and Cindi Gay. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-946-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com or Linda Woorbury at 973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Hooked on New Jersey Exhibit – September 24 – October 24, 2010 -- Rugs initially hooked for the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter's 2009 Jersey Girls Challenge will be on display at the Barron Art Center in Woodbridge, NJ. An opening reception will be held on September 26. For more information, contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

ATHA Biennial Conference in Lancaster, PA – October 19-22, 2011 -- 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 9, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting -- Back a Jacket (Lydia Lewis)**

May 14, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

June 11, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting - - Annual Picnic*

August 9-13, 2010 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

August 12, 2010 – HCRAG Beginners' Workshop – Educational Services Commission School

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in 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, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington.

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

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net

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

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

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

Special Events – Carol Kindt 908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net

Sunshine – Sue Woodworth 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

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

Dee Rosebrock (Asst. Treasurer) – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com

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

Guild's Email List Policy - The HCRAE 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 (HCRAE). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg@nni.com. by the 20th of the month.

Hunterdon Country Rug Artisans Guild Meeting Minutes March 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Weezie Huntington. Weezie introduced our new members.

Old Business

- March Madness – There are currently 5 positions open in Michele Micarelli's class. If you have not already paid in full, give your check to Karl. There will be a wine and cheese reception Friday night from 5 – 7 p.m. We will meet with the instructor to see what we'll be doing. Let Weezie know if you are interested in going to dinner afterwards – she will reserve tables at the California

Grill. Joy Andrews, the masseuse will be at March Madness on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$1 per minute plus tip.

- New Officers – The new officers were announced. There are still 2 open positions: Historian, who collects articles about the Guild and its members and puts them in the scrapbook. Also open is Special Events Coordinator, who coordinates people to run each of the Guild's events. Sonya Force volunteered to be historian.
- Camp–There are still openings in all three classes. Cherylyn Brubaker will teach an open class, Jen Lavoie will teach a landscape class, and Diane Phillips will teach a portrait class. There will be an ad about camp in Rug Hooking Magazine. Karl will send camp information to the local ATHA groups.
- Events – A sheep shearing event will take place on May 1 at the Howell Living Farm and include hooking in the barn. Karl is in charge and needs volunteers so see him if you can help out. In April the Mercer County Group from Pennington will have an exhibit of their work in the library where they meet. We will be demonstrating rug hooking at the Bouman Stickney Farmstead in Readington Township on Sunday April 11th from 1:00 – 4:00. See Carol Kindt if you can help out.
- Library – Kathy Donovan asked that library books be returned after a month or two.
- Connie Coleman will have an exhibit of the last 25 years of her computer graphic work at the University of the Arts in Downtown Philadelphia. It will be on the 15th floor of the Mednick Gallery on the corner of Broad and Walnut St, across from the Bellevue. There will be a reception on March 25th from 5 – 7:00 p.m. All are invited.
- Weezie received a donation of 2 cutters, a Rigby and a Fraser, which the Guild will be selling. See her if you are interested. She is also selling a serger.
- Karl thanked all who purchased tickets for the Woolwrights ATHA Chapter fundraiser, which is a fundraiser for the Lancaster ATHA biennial.

New Business

- The Mercer Museum in Doylestown wants our Guild to participate in a May Folk Festival. They won't be holding it this year, but will have some smaller events. On May 8th we will demonstrate and talk about the history of rug hooking. If you are available to help, let Karl know. The museum will be open and free the first Friday night of the month during the summer – maybe we can also be there then.
- Programs – Giselle volunteered to be program coordinator for next year. She set up a round robin for today's program, with 5 tables set around the room and a speaker at each table discussing a different aspect of rug hooking.

The meeting ended with show and tell, and the Round Robin program, which was enjoyed by all.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Debbie Walsh