

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

April 2013

Presidents' Letter – Day light saving time, spring equinox, the celebration of Easter and Passover all claim that spring has arrived. We hope by the time The Loop arrives the weather also supports that hope! Many thanks to all who braved the last storm to gather for our March Guild meeting. The poor forecasting left us with no choice but to proceed and hope that all would arrive safely. What we did not expect was that the snow would continue to fall through the afternoon! However our meeting was well attended considering; and we were glad to catch-up at last, share the bountiful hospitality, send off rugs to special events and participate in a wonderful presentation by Weezie.

The presentation of Inspired by Nature was enhanced by the projection and creative computer manipulation of photographs Weezie had collected while attending a class at Hooked in the Mountains this past November. We were encouraged to look at the details of the natural objects and the inherently beautiful designs available to us in objects such as tree rings and bark, shells, seeds, and leaves to name a few of the items brought in by members to study and draw. Weezie's delight and enthusiasm for this new creative direction was infectious. And the rugs she has already created were truly inspiring. That pile of apple wood logs left from Sandy will perhaps enable a sad loss to be transcended by a rug capturing the story of those beloved tree rings!

Thank you once again to Annie Edwards for displaying our rugs so professionally both at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead, where members also demonstrated on Saturday March 16th and at our Hunterdon County Library through April. Perhaps we can make a "field trip" across the compound to view the display.

On the same March 16th weekend several members from our Guild participated in the Woolwrights Hook-in in Lancaster, PA where we had the opportunity to catch up with friends across the border, see wonderful rugs both on display and in the laps of hookers. Judy Carter, who will be teaching at our Camp this summer, attended along with Lenny Feenan who delivered incredibly rendered canvas for that workshop.

The search for the perfect "fur" gave the need to shop at the plethora of vendors -- great justification! And although the drive home was again a snow event, we all enjoyed the day.

Our program for April will be to finally assemble those chickens. Several of our members will be available to help with the process and hopefully you will be as delighted with Clara as the grandchildren who now are making nests and eggs for her to sit on. If you did not choose to make this project please bring a hooking project of your own or for our Festival Boutique. In May we are planning to collect those Boutique items completed for pricing and storage over the summer.

Prior to our next Guild Meeting we will have had our Spring Fling and will be able to share that experience and projects with the whole Guild. Cindy & Therese

April Meeting – Friday, April 12, 2013 --Our April meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting begins at 10:00 and runs to 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – The Clara Chicken project will be completed this month. Bring your hooked pieces and Ellen DiClemente will show us how to construct Clara.

Show & Tell – Our Show & Tell rugs this month will feature rugs with chickens in honor of Clara Chicken and rugs with a spring theme. Of course, works in progress are always welcomed.

Those participating in S & T are eligible for a raffle gift. Here are the raffle winners from last month:

- Cindy Boult (punch-needle pattern)
- Cheryl Halliday (kitchen towels)
- Weezie Huntington (skein of yarn)
- Donna Kolznak (notepad)
- Nancy Sears (candle)

Hospitality –Hospitality volunteers are needed this month. Please bring a snack if you can.

April Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Susan Atwater (4/15), Patricia Brennan (4/7), Cindy Gustafson (4/25), Tony Townsend (4/13), and HCRAAG (4/1) celebrate birthdays this month Enjoy your day! .

Membership – We welcome Deb Leshner and Cathy Heilferty to our Guild. Their contact information follows:

Deb Leshner
26 Bechtel Road
Boyertown, PA 19512
610-987-6260
deb.lesher@gmail.com

Cathy Heilferty
875 River Road
Yardley, PA 19067
267-879-5025
heilferty@comcast.net

Sunshine – Inform our Sunshine Chair, Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com), of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

Guild News & Events

Note from the Editor -- Beginning this month we will discontinue the practice of repeating lengthy articles on events such as camp and workshops that do not change much each month. The initial article will be repeated in two successive issues. Subsequent issues will make reference to any changes or updates with the basic information being available on the Guild's website. We hope this will make new information easier to spot.

Lib Callaway Patterns – Business for Sale -- Guild member Margaret Lutz has announced plans to sell her Lib Callaway pattern business due to health issues. For more information, contact Margaret at 908-782-8389.

HCRAG Contingent Attends Woolwrights Hook-in -- The always popular hook-in sponsored by the Woolwrights Rug Hooking Guild was held on March 16, 2013. A large contingent of Guild members journeyed to Lancaster for the event and was not disappointed. The hook-in attracts over 200 participants from the area and provides an opportunity to catch up with friends and to see the work of other rug hookers. Of course, the vendors are always an attraction. The gathering also provided an opportunity to spread the word about the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill. An afternoon snow storm made the trip home somewhat tricky, but everyone returned home safely.

Our Guild Turns 36! – Our Guild was born in April 1977 with Jo Knobloch as the midwife. At the time Jo was responsible for establishing a series of craft guilds under the umbrella of the Hunterdon County Adult Education Program. Thirty six years later most of those guilds still exist – a real credit to Jo. From our humble beginning with just a few members, we have grown to over 100 members who live in nine states. Our programs and activities are known nationally; we continue to experiment and try different things. In the past year, we initiated a Mentoring Program and the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill. We are grateful to those who have gone before us who helped build and maintain HCRAG.

Festival News -- The raffle rug has been completed and we expect to have the raffle tickets available this month. Each Guild member will be encouraged to sell at least two books of tickets. The rug had its first public showing at the Guild's exhibit at the Hilltown Township Historical Society and attracted lots of attention.

The Boutique Committee is working diligently on a variety of items to be sold at the Festival. We have already had feedback from non-members who have seen the boutique page on the Festival website (www.rugfestival.com) that they plan to do holiday shopping at the Festival.

Festival postcard announcements have been printed and will be available at future meetings. Members are asked to look for possible distribution sites. The push to get the cards out will begin in June. Supplies are also being sent to regional camps, workshops, vendors, and teachers. Let Karl Gimber know if you are planning to attend any camps or workshops.

Therese Shick, Festival Chair, was interviewed on March 27 by the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce for its weekly radio show.

Cindy Boults has volunteered to organize the Festival admissions procedures.

The collection of rugs to be exhibited will begin this summer. Initially each Guild member will be encouraged to submit two rugs that have not been previously exhibited in any major rug show. Additional submissions will be accepted depending on the space remaining. Rugs to be exhibited will be limited to members of the three guilds sponsoring the Festival.

Rug Hooking Equipment For Sale -- Edith Prundeanu, a long time Bucks County rug hooking instructor, has the following items for sale:

1. Puritan Lap Frame (used)	\$80.00
2. Floor stand for Puritan frame (used)	50.00
3. Fraser cutter with single head (used) *	70.00
4. Fraser cutter with two heads (used) *	90.00
5. Roll of binding tape	10.00
6. Eight hooks	3.00 each
7. The Rug Hook Book	\$5.00

- #5, #6 & #7 cutter blades available

Contact Edith directly if you want to purchase any of these items or if you have questions. You can reach her by email at cprundeanu@verizon.net or by regular mail at 3892 York Road, Furlong, PA 18925.

Advance Notice -- The May meeting will be in our alternate site – the Court Room within the Police Station in the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Route 12 and Route 521 Traffic Circle.

Sheep Shearing Season Brings Rug Hooking Demonstrations -- April is the traditional time for local sheep to be shorn of their winter fleece. Since wool and rug hooking go hand-in-hand, demonstrating rug hooking at local farm museums has become a Guild tradition. Members will return to two of our most popular sites – the Peter Wentz Farmstead (Worcester, PA) and the Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ) on April 13 and May 4 respectively.

Joanne McIlmurray (610-287-0232 or josicat@aol.com) is coordinating our efforts at Peter Wentz Farmstead and Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net) is doing the same for Howell Farm. Both sites treat their volunteers very well and always make us feel welcomed and appreciated. These are fun events that attract large crowds. Let Joanne and Karl know if you can help.

Join the Guild at the Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair – May 11, 2013 - Joyce Combs is coordinating our demonstration efforts at the Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair that will be held at the Washington Crossing Park in Titusville, NJ on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 11-5. We will be set up on the lawn outside the Johnson Ferry House. Demonstrators need to bring chairs. We would love to have some of our demonstrators in period dress although this is not required. The event draws large crowds, so it is an ideal event at which to inform the public about rug hooking and publicize the Guild. Let Joyce (609-737-9282 or fjcombs@verizon.net) know if you would like to participate.

HCRAG Website Resources Page – List Your Services -- The Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) has a page devoted to identifying rug hooking resources. This page is especially helpful to new rug hookers or experienced hookers who have moved into the area and need information on local resources. We want to remind members who teach rug hooking, sell wool and equipment, design patterns or repair rugs that they can have

their information included on the Resources Page. If you want to be added to the website, just provide Karl Gimber with 1) your studio/shop name, 2) brief description of services/products offered, and 3) contact information (email, phone, and website).

Last Chance to Sign Up for Spring Fling Workshops -- On April 5-7, 2013 Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn. There are still a few spots available in Lucille's workshop. For details, go the Guild's website ---www.hcrag.com – and click on “Calendar & News”.

Here is the schedule for the week-end:

Friday, April 5 -- 5:00 - 8:00 (pizza and drinks provided)
Saturday, April 6 – 9:00- 4:30
Sunday, April 7 – 8:30-3:30

Follow up information will be sent to attendees.

Still Time to Sign Up for Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 20, 2013 -- Later this month the Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in. Holding the event in a museum setting is one of the attractions.

Shopping is always a fun aspect of every hook-in. We are pleased to have “regulars” from previous hook-ins as well as “new faces” --

- Dyeing for a Change (Weezie Huntington)
- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hook Nook – Lib Callaway Patterns (Margaret Lutz)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Wool'n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)
- Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb's wool)

In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have two mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. Cheryl Halliday and Betsy Warner have arranged for great door prizes.

The museum exhibits that will be on display make the Mennonite Heritage Center a special site for our hook-in. Their exhibit of Pennsylvania German fraktur is quite extraordinary and an ideal location for our exhibit of rugs hooked by participants. In addition, there will be a special display entitled “Remembering the Farm” which has historic farm photographs, artifacts and small farm equipment as well as the newly renovated exhibit on Mennonite history entitled “Work & Hope” which has some interesting textiles.

Registration is required as participation is limited. The event fee of \$45 (non-Heritage Center Member) and \$40 (MHC member) includes a full lunch and coffee/snacks. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer,

Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020. Visit their website -- www.mhep.org -- for more information on their programs.

Beginners' Rug Hooking Workshop (April 20, 2013) – Our plans for the hook-in include offering a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking. Joanne McIlmurray is the instructor.

The fee for the workshop is \$45 (non-Heritage Center member) and \$40 (MHC member) plus \$25 for the kit. Participants need to provide a 14" embroidery hoop and a pair of sharp scissors. The workshop will be limited to 12 participants. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020.

HCrag 2013 Summer Camp --Our Guild's 17th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. Nationally recognized instructors Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. For more information visit the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) and click on "Calendar & News".

Cynthia's and Sarah's workshops are currently full; there is one opening in Judy's workshop. Waiting lists are being maintained. Cancellations often occur, so you are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list.

Volunteers will be needed during the camp to help the teachers set up, to clean up at the end of the day, to bring lunches for the teachers and to provide snacks. You can sign up at the meeting or just let Gail Ferdinando know how you can help by contacting her at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Guild Displays Rugs – In spite of a cancelled meeting in February and unexpected snow on the day of our March meeting, Guild members responded to the call for rugs to be exhibited at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead, home of the Hilltown Township Historical Society, on March 16. Over 90 hooked items – rugs, mats, pillows, wall hangings, sheep, and bunnies –were collected.

The circa 1840 Homestead provided an ideal backdrop for the exhibit. Our rugs were creatively displayed by Annie Edwards on the floors though out the six room brick farmhouse along with antique furniture and household utensils. Small bouquets of spring flowers added a warm decorative touch. Juliana Kapusta and Martha Thieling demonstrated in the central hallway on the second floor. Karl Gimber was set up in the first floor living room.

An unexpected snow storm arrived mid-day and did affect the turnout. However, those who did come were motivated to see the rugs or to learn more about our 19th century art form. There was considerable interest in our upcoming hook-in, beginners' workshop and the Hooked Rug Festival. Our Festival raffle rug was on display in public for the first time and attracted lots of attention.

We are thankful for the strong support provided by the Guild. The rugs provided will be returned at the April meeting.

Hunterdon County Library Exhibit – Our Guild will be displaying works by our members at the Hunterdon County Library in April. The Library is located in the same complex where we meet each month.

Examples of items hooked with different techniques such as proddy, fine cut, Waldoboro, and wide cut help tell the story of contemporary rug hooking. Hooked masks, sheep, trees, pins, and ornaments illustrate the range of rug hooking projects possible and the creativity of our members.

Annie Edwards installed the library exhibit. Her creative and professional expertise are evident. Stop by the Library after our meeting and enjoy the exhibit.

Guild Library -- Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. A complete listing of items in our library can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want to borrow, contact Kathy 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 frejja2@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 other members.

Guild Website -- Visit the Guild's website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured members, 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!

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill – HCRAAG is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. Visit the special Festival website (www.rugfestival) for more information. All Guild members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com)
- HCRAAG Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net)
- Admission: Cindy Boult (908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com)
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net)
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or smenges2072@comcast.net)
- Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com)
Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com)
Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Door Prizes: Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net)
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or mmlutz@ptd.net)
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net)
- Carol Kindt (908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net)
- Beginners' Workshops:
Patty Mahaffey (215-453-0174 or mcmahaffey@comcast.net)

Cheryl Halliday (215-672-2629 or havewenewool@Yahoo.com)
Juliana Kapusta (215-721-4327 or juliana_kapusta@hotmail.com)

Featured Member – Meet our Co-President Cindy Boults -- Cindy grew up learning the importance of handwork and recalls a treasured piece of embroidery that her grandmother brought with her when she emigrated from Germany. Her childhood was a time when parents lived in the fear of their children developing the dread disease of polio. Her mother, who was a nurse, believed that it was important for children to rest in the afternoon. Those periods of rest were creatively used by Cindy to do embroidery and crewel work. She traces her inability to be idle to those childhood days.

Cindy was living on Long Island when she was first introduced to rug hooking. Her cousin's wife is Cyndy Duade with whom she shares a strong interest in gardening attended a rug hooking camp that was held for many years in Greenport, Long Island. Cindy visited the rug show and "loved the rugs". Cyndy taught Cindy the fundamentals of rug hooking by leading her through the steps of creating an original design, color planning and dyeing the necessary wool for the project. Now Cindy was truly hooked and her first post retirement activity was to attend the Long Island Rug School.

Shortly after retiring, Cindy and her husband, George, moved to New Jersey. "You are moving to rug hooking Mecca", Cyndy declared when learning the news. Looking for a way to meet people in her new community Cindy used her interest in gardening and joined the Chrysanthemum Club, a popular local gardening group. It was there she met Guild member Sharon Ballard who invited Cindy to participate in her informal hooking group.

All aspects of rug hooking appeal to Cindy. "I do not see myself hooking in any specific style. I like to do it all", she notes. Wool cuts ranging from #3 to #8 are routinely used in her hooking projects. When attending workshops, Cindy intentionally selects instructors from whom she can learn. "I have an eclectic style. I love it all!"

Cindy is frustrated by what she claims is an inability to draw her own patterns. "I am not an artist and need to rely on patterns drawn by others. Fortunately there are beautiful patterns out there." However with help from her artist daughter and using computer images, she has designed some original works. Recently she was inspired by art work created by her granddaughter.

Our Guild's summer rugs hooking camps and spring workshops have allowed Cindy to work with many of the best instructors available today. The teachers she has worked with are impressive. They include the following:

Norma Batastini	Jen Lavoie
Sandra Brown	AnneMarie Littenberg
Judith Dallegret	Michele Micarelli
Gail Dufresne	Iris Simpson
Jayne Hester	Cynda Duade

In addition to HCRAAG camps/workshops, Cindy has journeyed north to the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild's programs on two occasions. She also enjoys attending regional hook-ins.

“I am not a master dyer, but I do like to dye wool for my projects”, Cindy says. She claims to have trouble sticking to the recipes which can intimidate her. That notwithstanding, Cindy looks forward to doing more dyeing. She works mostly with new wool that is hooked “as is” or over dyed.

“Sitting down to hook for a half hour during the day is a real gift. I hook mostly at night.” Cindy cannot just sit and watch TV. She needs to be busy and finds hooking at that time allows her to be productive. Cindy also hooks on Tuesdays with an informal group in the area.

Our Guild was brought to Cindy’s attention by Sharon Ballard in 2005. She has been a regular ever since and currently serves as our co-president. Cindy has also run our Spring Fling workshops for the last two years and will be responsible admissions at the Rug Festival. Providing housing for our camp instructors has allowed her to build friendships and expand her rug hooking network. The generous and supportive environment found within our Guild has been responsible for Cindy’s ongoing involvement. “The genuine support and encouragement in our Guild are not often found in other art groups”, she observes. “The food at meetings is great too!”

Cindy and George bought a small apple farm in Annandale when they moved to New Jersey. Making apple cider, hard and soft, each year is a favorite family project. At one time, there were over 90 apple trees. Many were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy which devastated the area. The farm is also home to a flock of sheep, chickens, a goat, a duck, a miniature horse and two dogs. Before retiring in 2004, Cindy was an early childhood teacher for 20 years at a Quaker academy on Long Island. She taught kindergarten and first grade for three years. George is a representative for a food packaging company headquartered in Chicago. The Bouts have two children – Justin and Melissa. Justin lives in Brooklyn. Melissa lives in Three Bridges, NJ with her husband, Tim, and their two children -- Cassidy, age 9, and Charlotte, age 5. Living close to their grandchildren was one of the motivations for Cindy’s and George’s decision to move to New Jersey.

When it comes to hobbies and other activities, Cindy is a passionate organic gardener. No chemicals are use on the apple trees or elsewhere on the property. She also enjoys cooking and riding horses. (Cindy lived on a horse farm years ago.) Family gatherings are also a favorite. “We like to make events when the family gets together.” Traveling is another passion. She fondly recalls frequent trips to Ireland to visit her father. More recently, she and George traveled to Spain with their son. A knee injury curtailed Cindy’s winter ski trips.

“The translation of art into fiber” is one of the reasons Cindy is attracted to rug hooking. She likes how color can be translated in the creative process of hooking a rug. The feel of the wool and how textured wool hooks up is extremely satisfying. Cindy is always thinking of rugs in a series such as trees and roof tiles. Weezie’s presentation at the March meeting was especially inspiring. Cindy jokes that she hopes “to live long enough to do it all”.

Visit the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com –to see a few of Cindy’s creations

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – As I sit here thinking about April, it is snowing outside. I try to imagine the daffodils, crocus, early spring buds but all I see are leaden skies, brown earth and leafless trees. Where are those spring flowers, where are those birds chirping on the branches of the flowering trees? Alas, I will have to wait a while longer. Or perhaps I will go into my hooking room, pull down some yarns and wools the color of spring and have at it! Deanne Fitzpatrick says she often just starts pulling loops of various colors until inspiration comes and the mat takes on shape and form. Some examples of that can be seen on her website –www.hookingrugs.com.

Padulas are my favorite form of flowers. They can be any shape, form, size, color, whatever your frame of mind. You can create them to suit your every whim. Picture a large skinny vase filled with padulas of all your favorite spring colors. What about a basket filled to overflowing with those same flowers. One of my favorite spring items is a flowering tree. Done in a primitive style the blossoms can be a giant size almost larger than the tree. How about a field of golden or red poppies? In Texas there are red and blue bluebonnets which resemble small delphinium.

Spring cannot come soon enough to relieve the dreary days of winter. A note from a friend telling me of the birth of the twin lambs just born reminds me that spring too will be born again, but not just yet! Happy Hooking. Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise -- When hooking a rug has been completed, the next step is normally to look at the back of the rug to find small spots (often referred to as “holidays”) where loops have been missed. These spots are often frustratingly difficult to find from the front. Guild member Jacqueline Lee recently shared with Heloise a trick she learned in how to find “holidays” from the front of the rug. She inserts a tooth pick from the back which is then easily seen from the front. The needed loops are then pulled. Thank you Jackie!

Recipes

Guild members requested the recipes for two “treats” brought to the March meeting. We are pleased to share them below.

Therese Shick's Pecan Squares (Barefoot Contessa)

Note: I halved the recipe because it makes a lot!

Crust:

1 ¼ pounds unsalted butter at room temp
¾ cup sugar
3 extra large eggs
¾ t. vanilla
4 ½ cups flour
½ t. baking powder
¼ t. salt

Topping:

1 pound unsalted butter
1 cup honey
3 cups brown sugar, packed

- 1 t. grated lemon zest
- 1 t. grated orange zest
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 2 pounds pecans, coarsely chopped

Preheat oven to 350.

For the crust: Beat the butter and sugar in electric mixer until light, about three minutes. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Mix the dry ingredients into the batter on low speed until just combined. Press dough into ungreased 18x12x1 baking sheet, making an edge around the outside. (If you use this pan, put tin foil on bottom of oven because it can “cook over”. Because I halved the recipe, I used a 9x13 pan and didn’t have to worry about that.) The dough will be sticky, so sprinkle dough and hands with flour. Bake for about 15 minutes until the crust is set but not browned. Cool.

Topping: Combine butter, honey, brown sugar, and zests in large saucepan. Cook over low heat until the butter is melted. Raise heat and boil for about 3 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the pecans and heavy cream. Pour over the crust, trying not to get the filling between the crust and the pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes until set. Remove and cool. Cut into bars and dip half of bar into chocolate if desired.

Teri’s Taco Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground beef
 - 2 tb. chili powder
 - 1-2 tomatoes
 - 1 head lettuce, chopped (mixed in at very last minute)
 - 1 can kidney beans (drained)
 - 1 medium onion, chopped
 - 8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
 - 1 - 7oz. bag Doritos
 - 1 large bottle Catalina dressing
1. Brown beef w/chili powder, Drain and cool.
 2. Mix together res of ingredients. Add ground beef. Refrigerate
 3. Just before serving, crush Doritos and mix together.

Thank you Therese and Teri for sharing your recipes.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rug Hooking Spring Retreat (April 25-28, 2013) – The Woolen Willow Quilt Shop & Rug Hooking Spring Retreat will be held at the Blackwater Falls Lodge in Davis, West Virginia on April 25-28, 2013. For more information go to <http://woolenwillowspringretreat2013.weebly.com>.

Rug Hooking Week At Sauder Village (August 13–14, 2013) – Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, features workshops, exhibits (over 500 rugs) and leading vendors. For more information visit www.saudervillage.org or call 800-590-9755.

Rugs by the Sea (September 15-20 & 22-27,2013) – The 26th season of Rugs by the Sea held at The Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey will be held from September 15 to 20 and September 22-27, 2013. Bev Conway, Lucille Festa, Laura Pierce and Diane Stoffel are the instructors for the first week. Cammie Bruce, Bev Conway, Jen Lavoie and Judy Quintman will be teaching during the second week. **Michele Micarelli has been added as an instructor for the second week.** For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-2936 or G_batastina@msn.com or Linda Woodbury at 973-743-6835 or linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

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.

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com.

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 2013 – Guild Exhibit at Hunterdon County Library (Flemington, NJ)

April 5-7, 2013 – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

April 12, 2013 – Have Hook Will Travel (member led discussion) *

April 20, 2013 – HCRAg Hook-in (Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA)

May 10, 2013 – Hook-in **

June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *

August 12-16, 2013 – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

October 5 & 6, 2013 – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

*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. The street address for the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on

the road.

** 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. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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.

Co-Presidents – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboults@gmail.com.
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

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

Director -- Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

Historian – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net

Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net

Mentoring – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net
Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com
Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net

Special Events – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net

Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com
Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.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 karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.