

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

April 2016

Presidents' Letter – I have just returned from 12 wonderful days in Iceland, taking a photo workshop which took us around the entire Island. Actually, we missed two peninsulas, so I guess I will have to go back.

When I go places, I always look for things to shoot (photo) that I can parlay into a hooking design. This trip was no exception. We saw stunted birch trees with beautiful colored bark, we spent a lot of time around ice, and there were crack patterns and trapped air bubbles that were neat. The blue of glacier ice really spoke to me as a color to dye. So in addition to the things we were supposed to be learning, I was also snapping up weird shots of these things. At one point I was running out of space on my SD card, so the instructor took my camera and started deleting the bad pictures (of which there were many). I had to yell at him to slow down because there were some he would not be able to figure out what they were, and I was afraid they would vanish. All was well, I still have them.

I have issued myself a challenge (like I need another challenge!): I want to hook a pillow that has the look of the ice we saw inside the ice cave. It was beautiful! This just has to get in line behind all the other projects I hope to accomplish. Do you ever do stuff like this? We should have a group discussion about inspiration and accomplishment. I think we would find it very interesting.

This also brings me back to a class that Cindy Boults and I took from Judith Dallegret from Canada. Her group did a one month challenge where you hooked what you saw or felt each day, into a predetermined space on a rug. We have a copy of the layout, and every summer we say we are going to issue this challenge to the Guild. Maybe this summer.

Speaking of this summer, have you signed up for school yet? Do you know what you are going to work on? We offer the least expensive school in the country, bringing in some of the best instructors in the country, so be sure to take advantage of the opportunity.

All of that being said, April will be Therese's last meeting as a sitting officer (she will have to stand from now on). It has been a real pleasure serving with her as a co-president. Her leadership and energy have been inspirational to us all. Thanks, Therese! I also look forward to serving with the Coles (two for the price of one). They will be bringing in fresh ideas from things they see and learn as they travel the vending circuit. I am so pleased they "volunteered," and I look forward to sharing their leadership.

For me, it has been two wonderful years—they fly by very quickly. I will say that I expect to do a fair amount of traveling in the next two years (I am at that season of life). There may be times when both the Coles and I will be gone, so we will call upon the "council of past Presidents" to help us through. We are very lucky to have a group of dedicated people who have served recently, who are still willing to chip in.

We have our "election" at the April meeting, where you get to vote for the one person whose name is on the line for a position. It is my hope that someday we will actually have two people who each want the

job. But I am very pleased with the names, and look forward to two more years, working with them. I do believe, however, that Programs is still open. Please, someone, please?

Yours in wool, Weezie

April Meeting – Friday, April 8, 2016 – Our April 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 for a GPS is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Program – Four Guild members have been tapped to share their expertise in a “round robin” on various techniques to finish hooked rugs, as follows:

- Pillow Fringe – Ellen DiClemente
- Doris Eaton Rug Finish – Nina Seaman
- Corded Rug Finish – Brenda Smith
- Corded Rug Finish (different from Brenda’s approach) – Sandy Denarski

During the program, members will rotate between the four presentations.

Show & Tell – Members who participated in Michele Micarelli’s embellished purse workshop at our November meeting are asked to bring their creations for a special Show & Tell. Of course, recently completed rugs or current projects are always encouraged.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Cindy Boult, Tracy Fetzer, Sarah Gerding, Brigitte Levine, and Bonnie Saunders, Our meetings are enhanced by their contributions!

Note: It was recently agreed that coffee will no longer be provided at our meetings. This will reduce the amount of supplies needed to be brought to each meeting and make it easier for those who pick up and return the supply tubs from the storage unit each month. Members are encouraged to bring their beverage of choice.

April Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Susan Atwater (4/15), Carol Chernack (4/1), Ida Kelleher (4/11), HCRAG (4/1), Kathryn Kane (4/5), and Marsha Moyer-Payne (4/27). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – Aggie Harris was a visitor at our last meeting and we are delighted that she has become a member of our Guild. Her contact information is shown below.

Aggie Harris
56 Scarlet Oak Drive
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-4256
aappelharris@verizon.net

Debbie Walsh, VP Membership, will be ordering name badges in the near future. She already has requests from Alma Coia and Linda Ehly. If you want to order one, just contact Debbie at debywalsh1@gmail.com or 908-272-7012. The cost is \$7.

Sunshine – Eleanor Dunker is recovering from pneumonia. Kathy Kane fell recently and fractured her wrist. Terry Dabrowski is under the weather. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

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 –

Second Request -- Information Sought on Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Last month we received a request from a member for information about informal rug hooking groups that might exist in the area. There is a specific interest in Warren County, NJ. Since no one responded, it is not clear whether the request was not noticed, no groups exist or they do exist but are not open. The initial request is repeated below.

We occasionally get requests for information on informal groups that meet locally for an afternoon or evening of hooking. This is especially of interest to members who are not able to attend our weekday meetings. Information on the Mercer Hookers that meet at the Mercer County Library and “The Gathering” that meet at Longstreet Farm in Holmdel is listed in our newsletter.

We are seeking information on other groups that meet in the area to which Guild members can attend. If you know of any such group, please send the following information to Karl Gimber, our newsletter editor, at karlg12@verizon.net:

- Name of group (if any)
- Location
- Meeting day and time
- Name of contact
- Contact information (phone or email)

Election of Officers/Chairs -- In accordance with our by-laws, officers and committee chairs will be elected at the April meeting. The transition is a healthy process of renewal that provides for new energy and fresh ideas. It is encouraging that members have been responding to the need to step forward and contribute to our Guild. At the present time, we still need someone to take over the role of Program Director. The “slate” shown below reflects a nice blend of existing and new officers/chairs.

President – Jan Cole/ Fred Cole/Weezie Huntington
Vice President/Membership – Ellen DiClemente
Director Communications – Karl Gimber * & Mary Passerello*
Rug Hooking School Directors – Lydia Brenner & Debbie Walsh
Historian – Sonia Force *
Hospitality – Deanna Kinney*
Librarian – Kathy Donovan*
Mentoring – Amy Korengut*
Programs – Open
Secretary – Jane Anderson
Special Events – Chris Coslet*
Spring Retreat – Gail Ferdinando & Diane Liberto
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando*
Treasurer – Jean Laurence * & Dee Rosebrock *

*incumbent

Guild to Demonstrate at the Peter Wentz Farmstead – April 9, 2016 – Juliana Kapusta and Pat McDonnell will represent the Guild at the spring ritual of sheep shearing at the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA on Saturday, April 9. They will be demonstrating traditional rug hooking and exhibiting rugs they have hooked. Reenactors and other traditional craftspeople will add to the activities. The paint decoration in the Wentz home and summer kitchen is unique and can be seen in books on 18th century Pennsylvania German architecture. Visit the Farmstead's website (www.peterwentzfarmsteadsociety.org) for more information.

The staff at the Farmstead goes out of their way to make volunteers feel welcomed. Snacks and beverages are provided throughout the day; lunch featuring 18th century recipes is prepared on the open hearth and shared with volunteers. It is a fun day.

Pat McDonnell is now a member of the Farmstead Board and is coordinating our demonstration effort. You can reach her at 610-584-8844 or drpmcdonnell@aol.com if you want to be involved or have questions.

Guild Demonstrations Continue with Sheep Shearing at Howell Living Farm –May 7, 2016 – The Guild returns to Howell Farm on Saturday May 7 to help celebrate the spring ritual of sheep shearing. Sheep's wool and rug hooking go hand in hand! Howell Living Farm is located off of Route 29 just below the Golden Nugget Flea Market, Lambertville, NJ. Our demonstrators will be set up in the barn annex adjacent to the Visitors' Center. Lunch is provided.

New members are encouraged to join our demonstrators for a fulfilling and relaxing day. It is important to recognize that even if you have only been hooking for a short period of time, you know more about rug hooking and pulling loops than those who come out to these events. The feedback from visitors is gratifying and reassuring. Demonstrators are welcome to come for a couple of hours or the entire day.

Contact Karl Gimber at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net if you want to help.

Website Traffic Analysis – John Austin, HCRAAG Webmaster, recently analyzed the traffic on our website and shared some interesting data that shows that our site has a reach well beyond Hunterdon County. In February over 500 people visited the site mostly in the US and in Canada with a few from Europe and South America. The table below reflects the traffic in February:

United States --	506
Canada --	37
China --	3
Argentina --	2
Germany --	2
United Kingdom --	2

John is also able to study the number of visits to each of the website pages. The data will be a great resource to help raise awareness and to watch the impact of various initiatives. For example, a concern has recently been expressed that the Guild's extensive library is a much underutilized resource and ideas are being sought on how to increase its use. The data from February shows that the Library page ranked # 12 in pages visited. The impact of any library initiatives can be followed by watching future traffic.

We are grateful to John for his providing his expertise with us.

Wool Request – Beginners’ Workshop – Cheryl Halliday has prepared a great basket of flowers pattern for the beginners attending the summer rug school in August 2016. It has been our practice to ask members to donate wool for the kits so that we can reduce the expenses associated with offering the workshop. For these new rug hooking students, Cheryl needs:

- Browns
- Golds
- Greens
- all colors for flowers in solids and plaids

Also, any selvages would be appreciated. This year she needs the wool cut in #6 thru #8 strips and tied in bundles if possible. Yardage will also be accepted. If you can donate any of the needed wool, please bring them to a future Guild meeting. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Kathleen Murray-Boyda’s Rug Featured in ATHA Magazine – Guild member Kathleen Murray-Boyda’s special rug, Mariah Mermaid, is featured in the April/May 2016 issue of ATHA’s magazine (see pages 16 and 17). Kathleen provides an insightful look into the development of her favorite rug which relates to the Guild in several ways -- pattern from Kris Miller, recent HCRAAG workshop instructor, and wool from Mary Henck, past Guild member, and Jan Cole.

Spring Retreat Follows April Meeting – The retreat will be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ on April 8-10, 2016 following our April Guild meeting. The room will be available by 3:00 Friday afternoon. We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose. Joy Andrews, our favorite massage therapist, will be there to help relax stiff muscles. Participation in the retreat is limited to members. The retreat is fully subscribed, but Gail Ferdinando is maintaining a waiting list in case there are any cancellations.

To sign up for massage time, to be placed on the wait list or to raise a question, contact Gail Ferdinando at gqferd@gmail.com or 908-735-6720.

Field Trip Planned for May Meeting -- A field trip to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA is planned for our May 2016 meeting. The Schwenkfelders are a protestant religious sect that migrated to Pennsylvania from southern Germany and lower Silesia in the 1700s. They are one of the groups known as the Pennsylvania Germans. The Heritage Center has a major collection of Schwenkfelder decorative arts such as fraktur and textiles. For additional information, visit the Heritage Center’s website at www.schwenkfelder.com. The fee for the day is \$5 and includes:

- entrance to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center.
- a presentation by fiber artist Susan Feller (Ruckman Mill Farm – www.ruckmanmillfarm.com).
- attendance to the Penn Dry Goods Market (antique show that features antiques and vintage textiles plus things that might have been found on the shelves of an old dry goods store.)

- visit to Kay Leisey's Homespun Shop.

Ellen DiClemente is compiling the car pool arrangements and schedule.

2016 Rug Hooking School – Our 20th Rug Hooking School is scheduled for August 8-12, 2016 with instructors Norma Batastini, Nancy Jewett, Iris Simpson and Ali Strebel. There are currently openings in the workshops of Ali, Iris and Nancy.

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is \$200 for *members with dues paid by November's meeting*. Non-members will pay \$275 if there is available space after January 30th. A deposit of \$100 will be required with registration with final payment due by April 10th. If you need to cancel after April 10th, \$150 will be refunded only if a replacement is found. \$50 is non-refundable if canceling before April 10.

Registration Process -- Registration forms are available at our meetings and on our website. All registration is by mail. The registration form provides for a selection of your first, second, third or fourth choice of an instructor.

Additional information can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. 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 chose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know.

Guild Library – The full index of books in the Guild's library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). 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 other members.

HCRAg Website -- Our Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug, as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Rugname. Without this identification protocol, we cannot assure that rugs will be uploaded to the site. Members who cannot attend meetings now have an opportunity to share their rugs.

Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website.

Featured Member – Sally Jagoe -- Sally credits Barbara Boyko for introducing her to rug hooking in 2013. At the time they lived on the same road in Solebury Township, Bucks County. Sally noticed Barb's name in an announcement about the new officers for the Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter in the Bucks County Herald. When she congratulated her, Barb invited Sally "to come down and see what I am doing" and encouraged her to give it a try. Shortly thereafter, Sally registered for the Beginners' Workshop held at the 2013 Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills. While waiting in line at the Mill, Sally met a woman from Canada and was impressed that someone would come all that distance to attend a hooked rug event. "I was all thumbs at the workshop," she recalls "but Barb insisted that I find a pattern that I liked and work on that." The next step was to join our Guild. Sally thought that she would have to pass a proficiency test first; Barb quickly removed that concern.

Attending the HCRAAG Spring Fling in 2014, Sally added to her early rug hooking experiences by working with Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy). She continued to learn with Diane Stoffel who stayed with her during our 2015 Rug Hooking School. "I have benefited from the wonderful instructors who teach at our workshops. Of course, Barbara Boyko continues as my mentor and has been so influential in my progress."

Sally likes the naive qualities of primitive rug patterns. "Many people think that primitive means easy, but that is not the case" she observes. "I look for patterns that 'talk to me' and always have a place in mind for the completed work." Her current project is "Mrs. Rabbit," a Sharon Smith pattern that is being hooked for the headboard in a guest bedroom.

When it comes to wool, Sally has gravitated to new wool. She tried recycled wool when she started but found that she was buying worsted wool that was too thin and did not hook well. "I then became focused on the rugs and now buy wool specifically for each project." Sally buys most of her wool from workshop instructors and from Jan Cole.

Sally's husband, Harvey, was a Naval Academy graduate (Jimmy Carter was a classmate!) who worked with companies that manufactured military equipment after he retired from the Navy. When he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Sally needed to spend time at home with him. She found that she could hook and be with him at home. After Harvey passed away in December 2013, Sally sold her home in Bucks County and moved to Stockton, NJ just across the road from Prallsville Mills. "I like being in a small town and being able to walk to the post office with Cole, my black standard poodle."

In 1794 a general store was located in one of the front rooms of her new home. "We still refer to it as the general store instead of the living room," Sally notes. A corner of the general store is where the hooking is done. "I like to keep the frame set up so that I can sit and hook when the mood sets in or I get inspired to try something." Sally's favorite frame was custom made by Joyce Combs' husband, Skip.

Sally comes "from a family of knitters" and "loves living with old things." Among her various collections are architectural artifacts such as transit windows that are creatively displayed. She also has a collection of samplers that are on display in one room. "I think they look better when hung all together rather than one here and one there. That way someone may be attracted to a piece and can walk over to look at it more closely." Old oil lamps are another favorite collection. "We use them all the time," she notes. There is new paraffin oil that burns without giving off smoke and fumes. "The lamps give such a warm glow to the room." When she lived in Bucks County, Sally had a shop where she sold garden antiques, shade plants and a highly effective deer repellent that was in demand in Solebury Township. Over the years,

Sally was active in community affairs, serving on the Solebury School Board, Planning Commission and the Historical Society. Her work outside the home always involved sales.

“What you can do with strips of wool when hooking is sheer magic and such a creative process; it is like painting with wool. I am fascinated to see how things happen,” Sally observes. She recalls that Harvey used to say that “it was important to associate with people who raise your horizons.” Sally has found that to be the case with members of our Guild. “They are so helpful; not competitive. It is like a sisterhood.” Sally has quickly become immersed with the Guild by attending workshops and demonstrating at local community events such as the Mercer County 4-H Fair at Howell Living Farm.

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Sally’s hooking projects.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina’s Notebook – Spring is here! Daffodils, tulips, flowering trees, red buds soon to become green leaves, yellow green willows weeping over the greening grass....WELCOME! Gentle rains and even snow showers come accompanied by gusty winds but the days seem brighter and our thoughts turn to gardens and plans for the summer. Some of us exchange our hooks for garden tools, happy to dig into the earth rather than a pile of strips.

Fortunately there are those days when the cool winds and torrential downpours force us to stay inside. My favorite Nova Scotia folk artist said, "when the weather gets bad, I goes inside and paints me some fine day." What is your definition of some fine day? Does it focus on a garden full of flowering plants and blooming bushes? Then let that become the focus of a new hooking. Or perhaps make one large flower in your favorite color.

For me some fine day is a day on Bell Island, my summer home in Nova Scotia. The small, wild rugosa roses that grow in my yard in various shades of fuchsia, pink and red are often found in my hookings as well as the very large rose bushes that grow in the dunes of Crescent Beach where I walk on those fine days. The houses and fish stores of the Island have been hooked by me more times than I can remember.

Some fine day may be a place you have visited while traveling here or abroad. Remember those towering mountains, the waterfall, Northern lights, wide expanses of beach or the structure of a building; something you have caught in that special photograph that unleashes hours of memory. A great subject for a mat!

Whatever you choose for the subject of your mat, let it be something you are passionate about. Mats hooked from an inner passion are almost always your best pieces. The hooking of it is easy, the loops fly out of your fingers. You can feel the excitement and pleasure rising as you hook. And then when it is finished and on display, you smile and know that you have connected with the artist that lives within each one of us.

Happy Spring and Happy Hooking, Nina Seaman

From Jan Cole’s Wool’n Gardener Dye Pot – Marbleizing Wool -- At our last meeting Guild member Jan Cole gave an excellent presentation on the process she uses to dye wool without using commercial dyes. A summary of her presentation follows:

“I started using the marbleizing process to use up bright, solid, “uglies” or wools that were not the best quality for hooking (but good for their color value in the marbleizing process). I am pretty frugal with wool and never want to waste or throw anything away! For the most part, I use “as is” recycled wools. Once in a while, I use ¼ yard pieces of new wool.

The marbleizing procedure first bleeds the dyes from the wool. The colors that leach out of the wool are then absorbed back into the wool in a different pattern and produce, generally, more muted colors (one-of-a-kind pieces). Each piece of fabric will contain two different dye patterns – one on each side. You will always obtain a result that is unique and definitely a surprise. There are never any two that come out the same! The lighter wools will show much more variation in color; the darker wools have very subtle variation but definitely add more color to the dye pot.

Step 1 - Choose three (or more) colors – a light/med/dark value – sometimes in the same color family (e.g., all purples) or all different colors (e.g., orange/ yellow/brown, purple/pink/yellow, red/natural/burgundy). All wool is washed before marbleizing.

The pieces of wool selected are then placed in a layer. Generally, I start with one piece of wool the size of a skirt panel (front) on the bottom layer (two pieces will work also). If you want to use several different shades for one of the layers, it would be best to use them in the center section. Another option is to use three ¼ yard pieces. (I would not use larger pieces because the roll may become too bulky – see Step 2.)

Step 2 - Roll all the wools together like a jelly roll – fairly snug – then twist each end in opposite directions and bring ends together – wrap twine around the ends and secure.

The fabric on the outside of the roll will be the color to bleed the most into the dye bath so depending on which color you want to bleed most into the dye bath and be the dominant color, place that color on the bottom before rolling (one of the darker colors). Next the light color is placed in the center and another dark or medium color on top.

Step 3 - Soak the roll in hot water (enamel pot) with two tablespoons of liquid LAUNDRY detergent (I use Arm and Hammer) which helps wool to bleed and one tablespoon of Jet Dry (to help wool absorb water). Add enough water to cover the rolls. The pot should not be filled to the top.

If you have two similar rolls (using same/similar fabrics) you can put both in one pot. Most often, if rolls are using the same colors, I process them together; if different colors, I usually process separately. However, you can do two different color rolls together. Again, you will get something very unique, sometimes the greatest browns – NEVER to be duplicated! Remember – all dyeing utensils, pots, etc. are not to be used for cooking.

Soak wools anywhere from one hour to overnight. I soak wool longer rather than shorter to make sure wool is fully saturated to absorb the dyes.

Step 4 - Cook rolls (barely boiling) for at least one hour or until you see a substantial amount of color that has leached into the water. If lid is on the pot, be careful pot does not suds up and boil over.

Step 5 – When desired amount of dye has bled into the water, add about two tablespoons of citric acid or ½ cup vinegar and cook for another 20 minutes or until you see most of the color absorbed

back into the wool. Most of the time, there is dye left in the pot and the water will appear slightly colored.

After the mordant has absorbed the dyes, cool the pots outside. More of the dye is absorbed back into the wool. Most times, there is a little dye left in the water but you can clearly see the bottom of the pan.

Step 6 - When cooled, untie rolls, rinse in cool water and dry in dryer with fluffy towel and dryer sheet, voila!!!! Your one-of-a-kind piece of wool for your heirloom rug, pillow back, proddy flower or!”

Tips from Heloise – Use Surplus Strips Immediately -- No matter how well we plan, there always seem to be surplus wool strips remaining after a rug is completed. In the past Heloise has put the left over strips in small bags and stored them in a plastic tub. In retrospect, Heloise realized that the strips were not used often and a large supply developed.

Left over strips are perfect for “hit or miss” rugs. Heloise suggests starting a hit or miss rug and using the surplus strips right after the last project is completed, then putting the rug aside until strips are available from your next project. By using the strips immediately, building up an unmanageable supply of strips is avoided and a colorful rug can be created.

Recipes – Mary Passerello’s Carrot Cake -- Those who attended our March meeting were treated to Mary’s wonderful Carrot Cake with her special icing We thank her for sharing the recipe.

Cake Ingredients

- 1 Pillsbury Carrot Cake box mix
- 2 heaping tablespoons of sour cream

Preparation

- Prepare as directed
- Add sour cream to the batter

Note: Any cake mix can be enhanced with the sour cream trick which makes the cake super moist

Icing Ingredients

- 5 Tablespoons of flour
- 1 cup of whole milk (2% can be used)
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup of unsalted or salted butter
- 1 cup of granulated sugar

Note: This icing is called many things like Ermine Icing, Boiled Icing and Whip Cream Icing

Preparation

- Over medium heat, whisk flour and milk in a small saucepan and heat to a simmer, stirring frequently until it becomes very thick and almost pudding like.

- Remove from heat, whisk in vanilla and salt. Pour into a bowl to allow it to cool completely. Put plastic wrap on the surface to keep a skin from forming.
- Use a mixer to cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy (about 5 minutes), scrape the sides of the bowl occasionally. Make sure all sugar crystals have dissolved.
- With mixer on medium, add the cooled flour mixture a little bit at a time. Continue to beat until the mixture becomes light and fluffy and resembles whipped cream.

If you are frosting a double layer cake with frosting in the middle, double the recipe.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Maryland Sheep & Fiber Festival (May 7 & 8, 2016) – This major fiber festival will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. For more information go to www.sheepandwool.org or 410-531-3647.

2016 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 16-20, 2016) – Outstanding vendors, extensive exhibits, exclusive “Celebration Rugs,” and creative retreats and workshops are all part of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village. More information is available by going to www.saudervillage.org/RugHookingWeek.

Rugs by the Sea, Cape May, NJ (September 11-16 & 18-23, 2016) – The popular rug school will feature instructors Cammie Bruce, Jon Ciemiewicz, Kay Leisey, and Michele Micarelli during the first week and instructors Lucille Festa, Jen Manuell, Kris Miller, and Diane Stoffel the second week. Visit rugsbythesea.wordpress.com for more information.

Hooked in the Mountains XVIII (October 19-23, 2016) – The Hooked Rug and Fiber Exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. The Featured Artists will be Davey DeGraff, Jackye Hansen and Liz Alpert Fay. Workshop information is available at www.hookedinthemountainworkshops.com.

“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons” (November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300th Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 2:00 pm. For further information, please check -- www.hunterdon300th.org -- or call 908-788-2030.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School (November 11-14, 2016) – The rug school is held at the Hyannis Resort & Conference Center on Cape Cod. The teachers will be Nancy Blood, Betty McClentic, Angela Foote and Lucille Festa. Register by going to their website – www.oldecapecodrugschool.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 Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@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.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events --

- April 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Finishes Round Robin (Members) ****
- April 8-10, 2016 – Spring Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ**
- April 9, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Peter Wentz Homestead, Worcester, PA**
- May 7, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ**
- May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Field Trip – Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – Penn
Dry Good Market – Susan Feller Presentation – Kay Leisey/Homespun**
- June 4 & 5, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)**
- June 10, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon, Show & Tell Drawing and Review of
Construction of Michele Micarelli’s Pouch ***
- August 8-12, 2016 – 20th Annual Rug Hooking School – ESC School**
- August 9, 2016 – Beginners Rug Hooking Workshop – ESC School**
- August 25, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ**
- September 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – General Business & Rug Hooking School Review***
- September 10 & 11, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ**
- September 17, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Historic Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA**
- October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center,
Harleysville, PA**
- October 14, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Presentation on the Sanitary Commission of the Civil War
(Dolores Higgins) ***
- November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Restoration (Cindy Comly) ****
- December 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Holiday Luncheon ***
- January 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Surprise Speaker -- Location TBD**
- February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCRAAG Auction -- Location TBD**
- March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in -- Location TBD**
- April 14, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – History of Rug Hooking (Kathleen Herbert) – Location TBD**
- May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Embellishments (Molly Colegrove) – Location TBD**
- June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon – Location TBD**

*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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** 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 for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

Guild Officers/Chairs -- Our officers and committee chairs 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 -- Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership -- Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com

Director – Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors -- Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or abyers@premierpremier.com
Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com

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

Hospitality -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.

Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Rug Festival -- Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Secretary -- Open

Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

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 (HCRAG). 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.

HCRAG CLASSIFIEDS

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- Description of Item for Sale or Wanted
- Asking Price for sale items
- Contact Information

