

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

April 2017

Presidents' Letter – Buddha once said “Learning is health.”

That’s a pretty neat way to sum up why we do some of the things we do with our hooking. You hook your first piece—you are learning how to hold the hook, how to pull the loops, a little bit about color, you hear some of the “rules,” and you finish your piece with whatever easy way the instructor shows you. If you like any aspect of what you did, you hook another piece. Maybe this time you draw your own simple pattern, or maybe you try your hand at color planning. Maybe your technique is a little smoother or faster (or both), your loops end up close to the same height. Maybe you saw something in your piece you did not like, so you ripped it out and redid it. That was better, so you kept going.

When you do your third piece, your loops are flowing off the hook, you can carry on a conversation while you are hooking, you try breaking a few rules, and maybe you finish it with a different method. Every time we design or hook a piece, we need to try something new—it could be putting together colors that we never tried before, it could be designing your own pattern, it could be translating a photograph into a rug design, it could be trying a geometric or an abstract when we usually hook flowers. It could be trying some shading in fine cut or wide cut; it could be trying a new finishing technique or hooking a circular rug when all you have ever done is rectangles.

Every time we try something new we learn something. We learn something about the creative process, we might learn something about technique or materials, and we learn something about ourselves. We also keep our minds engaged, and that keeps us young and vibrant. If you hooked the same pattern over and over, using the same colors, you might as well be a robot. I have only hooked the same pattern twice, and the second time was torture. And it was not very big. Learning makes new neurotransmitter connections in our brains.

So try something new—play with colors you don’t normally use—try dull if you always hook vibrant, or vice versa. Try wide ripped wool instead of a #4 cut. The piece does not need to be large, just large enough to see what you can learn by playing with it. Try dyeing your own colors. Try hooking something entirely in black and white. Try hooking something only using shades of one color. Try hooking something using nothing but plaids. The list of things we have not tried is far longer than the list of things we have tried. Henri Matisse once said “Creativity takes courage.”

Be brave and stay young. Weezie, Jan and Fred

April Meeting – Friday, April 21, 2017 – Please note that our April meeting is a week later than usual due to the timing of Good Friday. It 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although there is no street number on the building. The meeting runs from 10:00 -2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Program – Jan Cole will teach proddy flowers for the April Program – both on a stick and antique bedspring. She will provide written instructions and a template for the flower and leaf (at no cost).

The following supplies are needed to complete the April program project:

- ½ yard fabric – 2 or 3 colors/textures that go well together (to save time, individuals can tear 3/8 yard into 3” strips – the leftover 1/8 yard will be reserved for the back of the flower).
- Proddy tool – Jan will have some for sale at \$29/ea. If individuals think they want to purchase a proddy tool, they should notify Jan NOW (Home: 610-967-5773, Cell: 610-349-7585, or jantique@ptd.net) so that she has time to order more (from the UK).
- Scissors
- Backing
- 6” x 20” piece of dyed blanket wool for leaves
- Stick (for stem of flower) – One possibility is curly willow wood.
- Antique bed spring – Jan will bring her supply for sale (large and small).

Images of Jan’s proddy flowers will be posted on the website.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Cindy Boults, Sarah Gerding, Carol Kindt, Amy Korengut, Jean Laurence, Linda Reitz, and Jeanne Surdi, Our meetings are enhanced by their contributions!

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

Membership – Barb Boyko has a new email address and phone number – barb@bboyko.com and 914-588-7077 (cell). Her landline is being discontinued.

Lynda Kling has a new email address – Lkling48@icloud.com.

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

Guild Members Shine in Rug Hooking Magazine – The March/April 2017 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine includes two articles featuring current and past Guild members. “Rug Hooking Serendipity -- A Discovery of Parallel Projects” by Cathy Heilferty chronicles the evolution of her rug of the New York City subway map and how it parallels Weezie Huntington’s rug of the Paris subway map. It all started at the 2015 Hooked Rug Festival when Debra Smith, Editor of RHM, overheard the conversation between Cathy and Weezie discovering their similar projects. Members who attended our January Retreat had an opportunity see Cathy’s wonderful rug. Weezie previously shared her rug at a Guild meeting last year. Great story. Great rugs.

“A Love of Wool – An Artist Interprets American Primitives and Antiques” written by Chris Coslet features Jeannine Happe’s journey as a rug hooking artisan. Jeannine’s Two Old Crows Studio is a favorite of many Guild members.

Hunterdon County Guilds Celebrate 40th Anniversary – In 1977 under the leadership of Josephine “Jo” Knobloch a series of craft guilds were established by a cooperative effort between Hunterdon County Adult Education and the Office of Aging. Through this project, art and craft courses were taught across the County. This led to the creation of several guilds for rug hookers, bakers, quilters, knitters and embroiderers. (More information on the early history of our Guild can be found on our website by clicking on the Contact Us tab.) The guilds will join together to celebrate the 40th Anniversary with a day demonstrating their artisanship at the 2017 Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair in August.

Barb Perry is working on the 40th Anniversary celebration and is organizing a hooked mat challenge (12” x 12”) to do with Hunterdon County. Examples might be the covered bridges, mills, farms, animals, rock walls, barns, restaurants farmers’ markets, hotels, the famous Flemington Courthouse, or anything at all that might be important to you. The mats could be entered into the 4-H Fair show under the category 40th Anniversary Festival Viewers’ Choice.

Teri Dabrowski Scholarship Winner Selected – Congratulations to Linda Woodbury whose name was drawn as the winner of the special 2017 Rug Hooking School Scholarship.

Thanks to the generosity of Teri Dabrowski the scholarship was awarded to a member who was registered to attend Rug School. The drawing was made at the March meeting.

Guild’s Demonstration Season Begins – Volunteers Needed -- Supporting local community events by demonstrating rug hooking has been a long standing tradition of our Guild. It is one way we give back. Our demonstrations not only support the community but also help educate the community about our 19th Century craft and spread the word about Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild.

Each year our first demos often are part of the spring ritual of sheep shearing at local historic sites. The shearing of sheep’s winter wool coat and the wool we use in hooking our rugs go hand-in-hand. This relationship provides a natural platform to tell our story. Our first demonstrations for 2017 are at Sheep Shearing Day at the Peter Wentz Farmstead and Howell Living Farm.

Guild to Demonstrate at the Peter Wentz Farmstead – April 22, 2017 – We will begin at the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA on Saturday, April 22. 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 a member of the Farmstead Board and is coordinator of 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 6, 2017 – The Guild returns to Howell Farm on Saturday May 6. Howell Living Farm is a 130 acre living open-air museum (www.howellfarm.org) 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. Contact Karl Gimber at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net if you want to help.

Participating in our demonstrations is an ideal way to support the Guild for members who are not in a position to serve as an officer or chair an activity. 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.

Our event coordinators welcome your questions and can tell you more about what is involved. A listing of coordinators can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com). Just click on the Demonstration tab.

Brandywine Guild Sponsors Jen Manuell Workshop (May 4-6, 2017) – The Brandywine Guild has invited Jen Manuell to teach a workshop on her “Matrix Rug” (see photo on website). The workshop will be held at the Hankin Library in Chester Springs, PA. Details are available from Louise Tietjen at 484-524-8813 or ltjen200@aol.com.

Guild to Sponsor Hook-in (June 3, 2017) – Our first hook-in for several years will be held at the fire house in Three Bridges, NJ on June 3, 2017 from 9-4. The Three Bridges Fire House is located off the Three Bridges exit from Rte. 202 less than three miles north of the Flemington Circle. The registration fee is \$15. Participation is limited to 120 so early registration is encouraged.

A full day of events is planned including the following:

- Hooking and sharing ideas with friends
- Popular vendors (see list below)
- Hooked rug exhibit – each participant is encouraged to share a rug
- Door prizes
- Book signing (Tavern Sign Hooked Rugs by the Gimbbers)
- Walk-ins (\$10 admission after 12:00)
- Lunch available

At the present time, the following vendors have been confirmed:

- Old Tattered Flag (www.theoldtatteredflag.com)
- Heart-in-Hand (Norma Batastini)
- Diane Pearce Baskets
- Wool 'n Gardener (www.thewoolngardener.com)
- Woolly Dye Works

Additional information and the registration form are available on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) by clicking on the Hook-in tab.

Guild's 21st Rug Hooking School (August 7-11, 2017) – Instructors *Maggie Bonanomi, Cammie Bruce, Capri Boyle Jones, and Cindy Irwin* follow in the Guild's tradition of inviting highly regarded and sought after teachers who will spend the week with us. Rug School will begin on Monday, August 7, 2017 and run to Friday, August 11, 2017. Workshop descriptions, teacher bios, and registration information are available on our website (www.hcrag.com).

At the present time there are one or two openings in each workshop. Registration is now open to non-members.

The final payment is due by the April Meeting. Checks can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Spring Fling Workshop Cancelled – There were insufficient registrants to support the Standing Wool Rug Workshop. As a result, it has been cancelled.

Hooking Retreat (April 21-23, 2017) -- We will gather at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our April meeting on Friday April 21, 2017 and work on our hooking projects until Sunday afternoon. The fee for the weekend is \$45 – a real bargain! Gail Ferdinando is coordinating this fun event. Checks made payable to HCRAG should be sent to Gail at 4 Bonnell Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867.

May 2017 Meeting – Felted Appliqué & Pictorial Hand Embroidery – Debora Konchinsky of Critter Pattern Works (www.critterpat.com) will present a three hour workshop on felted applique and embroidery at our May 12, 2017 meeting. We will be creating a 12-inch square New Flock of Sheep kit incorporating felted applique and embroidery. Jeanne will be distributing the Clover pens and items purchased through the Guild to members who missed receiving theirs at the March meeting. The class is at full capacity and is currently closed. Jeanne will take any new participant's name for a waiting list. Additional details can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). Questions can be directed to Jeanne Surdi (908-995-2142 or jsurdi2013@gmail.com) who has organized this special program.

Debora urges our participants to especially be mindful of the need for speed in choosing their background and roving items given the size of our class and our 3-hour time frame, that this is a practice piece to learn the technique. She is dedicated to providing an enjoyable experience for all which can only happen if we are ready to begin in a timely manner. If you are participating, please note the below items to bring to the May meeting.

Guild members should bring the following supplies or they may purchase from the teacher (see below):

1. Pins
2. Small scissors to cut out appliques
3. A felting tool
4. Piece of felting foam (6"x8"x2")
5. Embroidery pearl cotton #8 thread (DMC Floss is fine too) in the following colors: *natural outdoor colors of greens, browns, grays, flower colors.* (Debora carries 50 colors of Presencia size #8 to sell)
6. Embroidery needles (a variety pack of embroidery needles will work just fine.) The

threads need to navigate the hole easily.

Lucy Walsh to Demonstrate at Bouman-Stickney Museum (April 2, 2017) – Guild Member Lucy Walsh will be demonstrating rug hooking at the Bouman-Stickney Museum open house in Readington Township on Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 1:00-4:00. The GPS address for the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is 114 Dreahook Road, Lebanon NJ 08833.

Friends Visit Charter Member Virginia Sutton – Virginia Sutton, one of the founders of our Guild, recently enjoyed a visit by her rug hooking friends – Barbara Lugg, Mary Schenck and Karen Fides. Virginia will celebrate her 101st Birthday this year and “is fantastic!” according to her friends. We thank Barb Perry for sharing the photo that can be seen on our website.

HCRAG Library – Kathy Donovan brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild’s library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want from our library, 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 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.

A Yankee Rug Designer – The August 1940 issue of The Magazine Antiques included an article by William Winthrop Kent entitled “A Yankee Rug Designer” that explores the life of Edward Sands Frost, the first commercial designer of hooked rug patterns. The fourth and final portion of the article is reproduced below:

“A book of fifty-six crudely colored prints showing rug patterns was issued in 1891 by E. Ross & Company of Toledo, Ohio, and a pink folder (updated) showing sixteen designs, was issued by John E. Garrett of Burlington, Vermont. The Ross patterns, possibly by business arrangement with Frost, followed closely many of the latter’s designs. The Garrett patterns, which are printed in black, are largely of Canadian origin and do not follow Frost’s stencils. Of the Frost designs in the Ross book, that of the *Lion and Palms* (Number 7) has been most frequently reproduced, sometimes in caricature. One particularly fine specimen turned up ten years ago in B. Altman and Company’s New York store. I once regretfully left one lying before the parlor fireplace of a Maine farmhouse because the aged grandmother loved it.

“R.H. Gay of Waterville, Maine, has stated that H. Pond of Biddeford sold Frost’s patterns for a time after their maker had retired in 1876. I have been unable to find a trace of any pattern books that Pond may have published, and I doubt that he ever originated any designs. The late R. W. Burnham of Ipswich, Massachusetts, issued an interesting catalogue of old rugs and stenciled designs which are quite different from those by Frost, Ross, or Garrett.

“Frost has been criticized for imitating oriental rugs, which he termed Turkish. Doubtless he would have done better to hold to the sturdy, simple Scandinavian, English, Irish, American, and Acadian designs – the latter I consider the best ever made. What we owe to Frost is not his designs, some of which are superlative though others are quite ordinary. But thousands of rugmakers throughout the world are indebted to this Yankee designer and tinware peddler for his invention of the process of stenciling designs for rugs, and for keeping alight the torch of hooked rugmaking.”

Featured Hooker – Linda Ehly – Linda has been a quilter for many years and has always been attracted to “primitive looking stuff.” In 1996 she signed up along with two friends for a rug hooking workshop with Vickie Calu at the Highlands in Fort Washington, PA. They stayed overnight and had a fun weekend learning something that Linda always wanted to do. Before the weekend, Linda went to Vickie’s home studio to select wool and the pattern for the workshop. Her first project was hooked with #4 cuts but Linda quickly learned that working with wide cuts was more in line with the primitive style she admired. She bought a basic wool cutter jointly with her two friends but as it turned out the demands of her work and a long commute prevented Linda from doing much rug hooking. Even though she was not actively hooking, Linda’s interest was still there.

In 2013 she learned of our Guild’s 300th Hunterdon County Birthday celebration while attending the Sheep & Fiber Festival and signed up for the Beginner’s Workshop taught by Cherry Halliday. Soon thereafter, Linda joined the Guild with Cherry as her mentor. Work still prevented her from attending meetings until she retired in 2014. Linda now has the time to fully participate in Guild meetings and programs. Michele Micarelli’s Guild meeting program on creating a small purse introduced Linda to what could be achieved with embellishments and color. Nancy Jewett made a big impression when Linda met her at our 2015 Hooked Rug Festival – “she is a color wheel on steroids!” Linda found a kit that she used when working with Nancy at last year’s rug school. “With my preference for muted colors, working with Nancy Jewett was an experience!”

Looking back, Linda notes that she “has learned much from the formal instruction with Vicki, Cherry, Michele and Nancy.” However, she also credits Guild members for “being awesome and openly sharing ideas and techniques.” As an example, Linda recalls at the January Retreat sitting across from Ellen DiClemente who provided suggestions on how to hook the cat’s eye in her latest project. “I had been struggling to get it right. Members are so open with tips and help.”

Linda works with both new and recycled wool. Friends who know of her rug hooking provide wool clothing they purge from their closets. One friend gave her several beautiful highland kilts which she “hated to take apart.” Linda loves to “find great wools and mute them. I am attracted to dyeing wool, in part because I like to make a mess!” To get started Linda visited thrift shops to find enamel pots. “Right now I am not dyeing in a major way, just experimenting with little things” she notes. She is attracted to dyeing with natural ingredients and even grew indigo in her garden. “The indigo plants were so attractive that I hated to cut them down,” she recalls.

When Linda was working, spending time with hobbies and other interests was limited to evenings. That routine has carried over into retirement. “I am a late night person so I tend to do my hooking at night although light can be a drawback,” she notes. Linda is a “fiber arts person.” In addition to rug hooking, she enjoys knitting, quilting, crocheting, and decorative painting (still life oils). “Color theory carries through all of these interests,” she observes. Yarn from Linda’s knitting projects has found its way into her rug hooking.

Linda and her husband, Lee, live in Beverly, NJ along with four cats (three of which belong to family members). Before retiring, Lee was an engraver for a small signage company. He is currently recovering from recent surgery. Their son, Scott, lives nearby in New Jersey with his wife, Melissa and two daughters – Zen and Mia. Linda worked for Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ for 43 years before retiring in 2014.

There are several elements of rug hooking that Linda attributes to her “falling hook, line and sinker” with her new adventure. “I like folk art, especially the primitive end of it and value the recycling opportunities. It is a relatively easy craft to learn and it allows me to be around people with similar interests. I was excited to find a rug hooking group in Hunterdon County.”

Visit the Guild’s website –www.hcrag.com -- and click on “Hooker of the Month” to see some of Linda’s creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina’s Notebook -- Spring is Here. The lion and the lamb have done their thing throughout March. I don’t remember a year when 70 degrees was followed so closely by 32, and all in one week. The daffodils have gotten their dusting of snow as have some of the flowering trees. Now is the time for those sunny skies and continuous warm days to be the norm. And oh yes, I guess we need a few of the April showers to make it real. Welcome April with your budding trees and blossoming shrubs and flowers.

I grew up in the suburbs of Washington D.C. and I knew that spring had come when the cherry blossoms appeared in the Tidal Basin. The cherry blossoms were everywhere though, lining the streets of suburban Maryland and Virginia along with the azaleas which were in almost every yard. It was my favorite time of the year because after that it was all downhill with hot and muggy weather until late October.

Three years ago in April, I was struggling with a large mat which was a graduation present for my granddaughter. Now it is time for her sister to graduate and I need to come up with a design for her rug. And so I begin to think, what really represents her?

Is it her activities, her travels; how do I portray her spirit, her empathy, her work ethic? How do I show some of the milestones of her life? Many ideas are swirling in my head and soon they will settle into something meaningful. Some of the colors are obvious, others will need some tweaking.

Weddings, graduations, anniversaries, special religious holidays; all are in the mix for April. So are bunnies, painted eggs, flowering trees and bushes...the list is long and limited only by our imagination. So focus on one of these events, take out the linen, your hook and those bright colored strips calling to the artist within you and welcome spring with your own special gift of a new mat!

Happy Hooking! Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips from Heloise – Hooking Pictorials – Heloise recently discovered “hints and tips” for hooking pictorials distributed by Iris Simpson at our 2016 Rug Hooking School. With her permission we share the following tips:

Trees –

Establish the season you are going to portray and select your wool colors accordingly.

- Spring – fresh clear yellow, yellow-green
- Summer – green with sharper shadows
- Fall – yellow, bronze tones, orange, orange-reds and red-purples
- Winter – neutral color scheme with grays predominant

Evergreens – black watch tartan is excellent

Trunks – browns and grays

Skies –

The sky is darker overhead and is lighter at the horizon (blend in change of color)

It is usually hooked horizontally in straight lines. However, it is sometimes hooked in curvy lines.

Painted skies or skies dip-dyed for northern lights may be hooked vertically.

Clouds –

- Clouds are larger when closer and smaller when far away
- Clouds on the horizon generally have flatter bottoms
- Cumulus clouds usually have gray bottoms
- Colors other than pure white work best

Water –

- Experiment with colors other than blue as water reflects all the colors around it
- The horizon line in an ocean scene is usually hooked in a straight line
- The water is darker near the horizon
- In the foreground the water would be lighter
- In the foreground the size of the waves gets larger
- The swell appears to diminish near the horizon

Recipes – Barbara Lugg’s Bean Salad – We are again indebted to Barbara Lugg, one of the Guild’s favorite cooks, for providing us with the recipe for her Bean Salad.

Ingredients

- 1 can cut green beans (I like French cut)
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can yellow wax beans or corn
- 1 onion sliced thin
- 1 red pepper (cut in long strips)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 1/3 cup oil

Preparation

- Whisk sugar vinegar and oil together
- Drain beans and mix all together a day before serving
- Optional – salt and pepper to taste

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Tavern Sign Hooked Rug Exhibit Extended (April 30, 2017) -- An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA features the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

Lucy Walsh to Demonstrate at Bouman-Stickney Museum (April 2, 2017) – Guild member Lucy Walsh will be demonstrating rug hooking at the Bouman-Stickney Museum open house in Readington Township on Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 1:00-4:00. The GPS address for the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is 114 Dreahook Road, Lebanon NJ 08833.

Hooked on Nature: Hooked & Sewn Art Exhibit (Through May 7, 2017) – An exhibit of textile work by artists Alice Rudell, Tracy Jamar, Liz Alpert Fay, and Marilyn Bottjer is now open at the Wisner House Gallery of the Reeves-Reed Arboretum. The Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, NJ 07901. For more information, visit www.reeves-reedarboretum.org or call 908-273-8787.

Penn Dry Goods Market – Antique and Vintage Textiles Show & Sale (May 19 & 20, 2017) – Last May, the Guild took a bus trip to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. The Heritage Center is again sponsoring the Penn Dry Goods Market – a special antiques show and sale featuring antique and vintage needlework, quilts, buttons, linens, clothing, and Americana. A series of textile history lectures are offered as well. Admission to show and sale is \$6.00. For additional information call the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or visit its website at www.schwenkfelder.com.

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 14-19, 2017) – This major rug hooking event in Archbold, Ohio includes a hooking retreat, workshops, vendors and multiple exhibits. To get the latest information go to www.saudervillage.org/rughookingweek or call 800-590-9755.

Rugs by the Sea (September 10–22, 2017) – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury have announced the instructors for their popular rug hooking school held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ. The instructors for the first week (September 10-15) are Ingrid Hieronimus, Michele Micarelli, Kris Miller and Emily Silevinac. Cammie Bruce, Lucille Festa, Chizuko Hayami and Diane Stoffel are the instructors for the second week (September 17-22). Expanded information and photos can be found by visiting their blog – www.rugsbythesea.wordpress.com.

ATHA Biennial – “Play Hooky in Cleveland” (October 11-14, 2017) – ATHA’s Biennial gathering will be held in Cleveland this year. This is a major event held every two years and attracts rug hookers from North America and Europe. For more information go to www.atharugs.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 Barbara Boyko at barb@bboyko.com or 914-588-7077. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

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.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 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.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCRAG Calendar of Events --

April 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Flowers (Jan Cole) *
April 21-23, 2017 – Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 22, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA)
May 6, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Sheep Shearing at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ)
May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Felted Applique & Pictorial Hand Embroidery (Debora Konchinsky *
June 3, 2017 – Hook-in (3 Bridges Fire House, 3 Bridges, NJ)
June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Annual Auction *
July 29 & 30, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Mercer County 4-H Fair, Howell Living Farm)
August 7 –11, 2017 – 21st Rug Hooking School – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 8, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 24, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, Ringoes, NJ)
September 8, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
September 9 & 10, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes, NJ)
September 16, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Hilltown Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Quilt Day at Howell Farm)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA)
October 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
November 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **
November 25 & 26, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Vanderveer House, Bedminster, NJ)
December 8, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon *

*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 – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Membership -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

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

Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.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 frejja2@verizon.net

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

Programs – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or lisasavino55@gmail.com

Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or ahtram1@aol.com

Monthly Program – Various members

Secretary – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com

Special Events – Open

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 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 guild not solicit the membership as a whole.

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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.

HCRAE 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**