

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

April 2018

From the Presidents:

Spring is coming—honestly. I have it on my calendar! This is the time of year when there is new growth, regrowth, lots of color, and lots of energy. How do those things show up in our hooking?

Having just gotten back from Guatemala, I can say that what I am working on has all of that. But what will happen in my next piece? I have no idea. Just as I have no idea if the bulbs I planted will come up again this year, or if my tree will show new growth or die, as the last one in that spot did. We all need to challenge ourselves periodically to do something out of our comfort zone—that is new growth—doing something new. Regrowth could be refining something we tried last time and it wasn't quite right. We now know how to dye with neckties, but what other kinds of dyeing do we want to learn? How can we add more color to our rugs (as well as our lives)? Do your rugs have any energy to them? Do you feel as energized halfway through your rug as you do when you start? Is it still fun to work on, or has it become drudgery? How can we reinvigorate the process? We all need to think about these things.

Be sure to come to the April meeting, when Amy Korengut and I will be presenting our amazing trip to Guatemala. We will show pictures, rugs, other stuff we bought, and will discuss the Multicolores project. We will also take you through the process the Mayan women use (this will be hands on for you—you need to bring your hooking stuff, including a small piece of backing and your fattest hook. See the article about the meeting).

We will have some of the Mayan rugs for sale, so bring your checkbooks. We will have things from coaster size (\$8?) to rug size (up to \$350?). This will be a trunk show, and all the money will go back to Multicolores. This is your opportunity to own a fabulous piece of art and help them as well. Prices are ridiculous cheap.

As our term of office comes to a close, we would like to thank all of you for your support, your efforts, and for trusting us to lead this wonderful guild. It has been fun, and now it is time to pass the torch to a team in which we have every confidence. Mary and Robin will be great leaders, and we see the Guild continuing to thrive under their leadership.

Yours in wool,
Weezie, Jan and Fred

April Meeting – Friday, April 13, 2018

Program: Be sure not to miss the April meeting!! April 13, Weezie and Amy will talk about their trip to Guatemala to visit the Mayan women who have been taught rug hooking. You will learn a little bit about Guatemala and the history of Multicolores. They will show slides, pieces they purchased, and pieces you can purchase, and you will experience "the Mayan Way" of hooking (using recycled Tee shirts). Bring an open mind and a willingness to play. You will need your frame or hoop, a small piece of backing, a sharpie, your fattest-shaft hook, big scissors (not just the sideways ones for trimming ends), and if you have an old tee shirt with rips or tears or stains, that you are willing to sacrifice for the cause, bring it too--any color is fine. You will draw a Mayan pattern and start to hook it. It should be great fun. Plan on staying awhile, so bring your lunch.

The refreshments for April will be brought by Anne Penkal, Diane Keweshan, Kathy Donovan, Robin Nissenfeld, Marge Anderson, Mary Lou Green.

April Birthdays

Kathy Kane (4/5), Susan Atwater (4/15), Connie Bateman (4/23), Marsha Moyer-Payne (4/27)

Guild News & Events

Reminder for New Members!

We would like to make sure that you are aware of the existence of our mentoring program, which was created as a way to facilitate a new member's introduction to our guild. This program will match you with a current member who will be able to help you out with most things related to rug hooking, from providing advice and suggestions regarding a rug that you are working on, to helping explain Guild programs, events or activities. New and experienced rug hookers alike can also benefit from a mentor providing information regarding local resources, including open studios, suppliers, teachers, etc.

We hope that you will opt to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity!

Those interested should contact Amy Korengut, the Mentoring Chair, at (908) 221-9061 or at akorengut@gmail.com.

Member Items For Sale

Members are encouraged to bring rug hooking equipment they wish to sell to monthly meetings. This will allow current and new members to see equipment in person prior to purchase. A table will be set up for display. All items are to be labeled as to what it is, brand name, current owner, contact info, and price. Remember, there is a classified section in our newsletter. To place your item in the classifieds, email Brenda before the 20th of the month. Bss45@cornell.edu.

Newsletter Contributions Requested

Reminder from the editor--- this is YOUR newsletter! Please contribute to it! Are you a veteran hooker? What do you wish you knew when you first started? Please share that. Have you picked up a neat tip from rug school or a teacher? Let us know! New to the guild? Introduce yourself! Can you describe yourself in 5 sentences or less? Please share! Beginner hooker? What attracted you to hooking? Share your enthusiasm! Email your contribution to Brenda at bss45@cornell.edu. Thanks!!!!

Member Suggestion

Kathy Kane suggests that as we spring into the warmer months, many stores are offering winter clearance on clothes. These clearance sales may offer excellent values to stock up on the items we donate to the women's shelter in November! Keep your eyes out for the clothing basics (socks, underwear, pajama pants)!

Nina's Notebook

My daffodils are not waiting for the April showers that bring May flowers. They are pushing their way through the cold earth and the surrounding snow, and persist in thriving regardless of the weather. Their persistence is encouraging to me.

Sometimes we all get stuck on a problem we encounter while hooking a particular piece.

HELP! We call out to our hooking friends, how do I solve this? And almost immediately we have some suggestions. That is the beauty and joy of the hooking community. Often a simple thank you is enough, at other times we need to do more.

I have just finished Hooking a piece named Resistance Kitties. It is based on a painting by Meghan LeForte and was introduced to me at the Argyle Fine Arts Gallery in Halifax,

Nova Scotia. When I saw it, I immediately knew that I wanted to hook that scene!

And so I had Jane Steele of River House Hooking Studio in Petite Riviere draw it on linen for me. I had a grand time hooking it, combining wool strips, yarn, sari silk and other fibers to create a piece to put on the wall rather than on the floor. The painting and hooked piece also incorporated some of the elements used in the Maud Lewis folk art painting, Three Kittens.

When I had finished the piece I wanted to share it with the Hooking community but before I did that, I knew that I needed to consult with the artist Meghan LeForte to ask her permission, as well as to show her how her painting had been translated into a hooking pattern. Her very gracious reply was a YES! PS: she also works with hooking groups so can really appreciate the finished mat.

Now when I show the mat, I attribute the subject matter and format to Meghan LaForte, the drawing on linen to Jane Steele and the Hooking to me. It is important that we give attribution to those who helped create our hooked pieces. If it is not our own original drawing, we need to give credit to those who helped us. As rug hookers, we are sometimes guilty of borrowing without attribution. So let's end that practice and give credit to all the artists who helped us

create our beautiful mats.

The artist within each of us is calling. Spring is coming, the snow will disappear and we will be putting away the down coats and boots. Take out the linen, the sharpie and draw a fine spring day or something that reminds you of that time. Happy Hooking!

Nina Seaman

2018 Hunterdon Hook-in

We are having our second Hook-in on June 2, 2018 at the Three Bridges Fire Hall, 9am to 4pm. Registration is \$15 and the forms are available on the website. If you can't come for the day, walk-ins for shopping are welcome for \$10 after 12:00. If you didn't attend last year it is a day of good fun.... bring your latest hooking project to work on, catch up with old friends, meet new hookers from all over, win wonderful door prizes, and find great shopping. You can buy a Jersey Mike's lunch when you register or bring your lunch. Snacks are provided by Guild members and water is provided by the Guild. We are having a variety of vendors again so you can stock up on all your hooking and fiber art needs! A preliminary list of vendors is: The Wool n' Gardener, Wooly Dye Works, Diane Pearce (baskets), Two Old Crows, Susan Gonzalez Designs (wool applique), The Wool Farm (from Delaware), and MJ Miller (finished ornaments and applique work).

Rug School 2018

The balance of summer school payment was due March 15th.

Guild's 22nd Rug Hooking School (August 6-10, 2018) – Instructors Pris Butler, Carrie Martin, Sharon Smith, and Ali Streibel 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 6, 2018 and run to Friday, August 10, 2018. Workshop descriptions, teacher bios, and registration information are available on our website (www.hcrag.com.)

We currently have an opening in Pris Butler's class-Contact Debbie Walsh or Lydia Brenner to sign up.

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. Hosts are asked 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 choose 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 Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

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](tel:908-755-1670) or freija2@verizon.net.

There will be another selection of new books available next month. Please come and see what is available.

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 Patti Mahar at patriciamahar@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Workshop on a variety of Stitches

Spring Lake (NJ) ATHA is hosting a workshop with Benita Raleigh on April 16 and 17, 2018. This is Benita's Hooter the owl rug hooking workshop featuring the use of 10 different types of stitches. The workshop will be held at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Spring Lake, NJ. Please contact Lydia Brenner for more information @ lbrenuva@comcast.net or 732-687-2487.

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 13, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program will be Weezie, and Amy Korengut presenting their trip to Guatemala with Multicolores (hooking in Guatemala)*

May 11, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program Lettering*

June 8, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Annual HCRAG End of the Year Luncheon, show and tell drawing*

*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

Newsletter – Brenda Smith-201-317-0586 or bss45@cornell.edu

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 --

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 HCRAAG 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.

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Brenda Smith at bss45@cornell.edu by the 20th of the month.

HCRAAG CLASSIFIED SECTION

Please submit items to be included in "The Loop" to Brenda Smith bss45@cornell.edu or 201-317-0586 by the 20th of the month prior to the month you want it included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads.