

THE LOOP

SPECIAL CAMP EDITION

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

August

2007

From the Presidents' Corner – The highlight of our rug-hooking year is our Guild's summer camp. This year we continue the practice of providing Guild members the opportunity to work with nationally known instructors. Rae Harrell, Jule Marie Smith and Norma Batastini are among the most highly regarded and admired rug-hooking instructors in the country. Each has her own style and approach. It was difficult to decide with whom to work. We are privileged to have Rae, Jule Marie and Norma with us for the week.

A warm welcome to our new members and guests who are attending their first HCRAG camp. We are delighted to have you with us and hope you will come back again.

Enjoy the week! -- Heidi and Weezie

Camp Schedule - Camp begins at 9:00 on Monday, August 13 and ends at noon on Friday, August 17. The daily hours are 9:00 to 4:00 (Monday through Thursday) and 9:00 to 12:00 on Friday. The ESC School building will be open at 8:00 for anyone who wants to get an early start. We can continue to use the room until 4:00 on Friday for those who want to remain to work on their rugs.

Each participant needs to bring his/her own lunch. Refrigerators are available to keep our food cold. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be provided by Guild volunteers. We will have a potluck luncheon on Thursday. Please bring your favorite dish for this special event.

Our rug show will be on Thursday.

Camp Participants -Our participants are shown below by instructor. (Please note that there have been some late cancellations and pending replacements not shown.)

Rae Harrell's Class

Susan Atwater	Linda Rae Coughlin	Jennifer Larmour
Libby Greenfield #	Jacqueline Lee *	Laurie Rubinetti
Mary Henck *	LeeAnn Metropoulos	
Nancy Carman #	Weezie Huntington	
Claudia Casebolt	Roberta Smith	

Jule Marie Smith's Class

Lydia Brenner	Karl Gimber	Marilyn Robinson
Barbaro Calvo	Lois Grieves	Dee Rosebrock
Yvette Calvo	Tracy Fetzer	Janet Santaniello

Joyce Combs
Karen Gates

Brigitte Levine
Margaret Lutz

Gail Schmidt
Susan Woodworth*

Norma Batastini's Class

Barbie Beck–Wilczek	Kathy Donovan	Helen Nitzsche*
Madeline Brightbill	Phyllis Hamel	Carol Orlove
Margaret Brightbill	Amy Korengut	Emily Williams*
Connie Coleman	Barbara Lugg	Janet Williams
Sharon Ballard	Lisa Mims	Agnes Wooden

Janet William's Beginners' Workshop

Marie Collins (Lambertville) #	Marlene Kinkead (Lambertville) #
Natalie Funt (Pipersville) #	Maria Ludwig (Califon) #
Pat Hee (Ringoes) #	Carolyn Neighbor (Annandale) #

* new member # guest

Beginners' Workshop - On Thursday, Janet Williams will conduct a half-day rug-hooking workshop for six beginners. Others have expressed interest and may still register. Participants have been invited to stay for lunch, the rug show and the review of camp projects. We hope this introduction will encourage our beginners to continue rug hooking.

Massage Therapy Available - Do your muscles get stiff and sore after sitting at the hooking frame for a few hours? Reinvigorate yourself with a few minutes of relaxing massage. Joy Andrews, a certified massage therapist, will be at camp on Wednesday for those who want to take advantage of her services. The fee is \$1 per minute with a recommended minimum of 10-15 minutes to get real relief. We will have a raffle for someone to win a relaxing 15 minute message.

Rug Show -- Our popular show of rugs hooked by camp participants will be on Thursday, August 16. All participants (including the instructors) are encouraged to bring several rugs to share with the group.

You Are All Welcome -- Thursday is a special day. We have our potluck lunch, our Beginners' Workshop, a rug show and the review of projects worked on during the week. **All Guild members are invited to join us for lunch and spend the afternoon.** Price of admission – bring something for the potluck lunch, which starts around noon. Please join in on the festivities. The Star Ledger and The Bucks County Herald have expressed interest in an article on our camp and Beginners' Workshop and have indicated that they will send a photographer on Thursday.

Hospitality – We are thankful to Guild members who have volunteered to provide refreshments for our enjoyment at camp. The schedule is shown below.

Monday – Barbara Calvo, Yvette Calvo, Phyllis Hamel, Dee Rosebrock and Roberta Smith.

Tuesday – Madeline Brightbill, Margaret Brightbill, Lois Grieves, Janet Santaniello, and Gail Schmidt.

Wednesday – Lydia Brenner, Brigitte Levine, Lisa Mims, LeeAnn Metropoulos, Janet Williams and Susan Woodworth.

Thursday – Lydia Brenner, Joyce Combs, Kathy Donovan and Amy Korengut.

Friday – Jacqueline Lee, Margaret Lutz and Carol Orlove.

Membership – Our program year begins in September. That means Guild dues are now payable. A membership renewal form is attached.

Connie Coleman has a new email address – connie_powell@verizon.net.

Let the Sun Shine – Let Dee Rosebrock know if there is a member who needs a cheerful note or message of sympathy.

August Birthdays – Four Guild members have birthdays this month – Brigitte Levine (8/2), LeeAnn Metropoulos (8/12), Marilyn Robinson (8/6) and Janet Williams (8/6). Happy birthday to Brigitte, LeeAnn, Marilyn and Janet!

Hunterdon County 4-H Fair – August 22-26, 2007 – We have been invited once again to participate in the Hunterdon County 4-H Agricultural Fair that will be held from August 22nd to 26th. The Fair will be opened daily from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except on Sunday when it will close at 6:00 p.m. Our rugs will be displayed in several locked cases that measure 8' by 8' with a shelf in the middle. Due to these space limitations, the rugs that we display should be on the smaller side (roughly 2' x 3' or 3' x 4'). Mats and small three-dimensional items can be displayed on the shelves.

This year ribbons will be awarded to rugs in the following categories: Traditional/Fine Hooking, Primitive, Mixed Media/Three-Dimensional, Mini- Punch Needle and Wearables. Guild members who would like to exhibit items should complete the attached rug registration form and bring the form and your item(s) to camp on Thursday, August 16th. They will be returned at the September meeting. Dee Rosebrock and Gisele Meader are coordinating this effort.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our Guild members to share the art of rug hooking with the public by displaying our hooked items. We will also be demonstrating rug-hooking throughout the duration of the Fair. Please contact Dee Rosebrock (609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com) if you are willing to participate. Our Guild has been asked to cover all day on Thursday and your assistance and participation would be greatly appreciated. We will also need a few volunteers to break down the exhibit on Sunday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. The break down will go quickly. All volunteers will receive a free parking pass for the day.

September and October Meeting Dates -- The dates for the September and October meetings have changed. The September meeting will be held a week later on Friday, September 21. The October meeting will be at our regular scheduled time on Friday, October 12.

Guild Exhibit – Hunterdon County Library - September 1-30, 2007 - The Guild will be exhibiting at the Hunterdon County Library during the month of September. The Library is in the same complex as where we hold our meetings. Please bring items for display to camp. We will be displaying hooked items in the locked glass cases. Because of concerns members had about

security, we will not be hanging rugs on the display wall. We plan to exhibit the Guild's Hook-in auction rug and the mats we have exchanged related to the theme "Home Sweet Home for the Holidays." Size is a concern. Please submit whatever you wish remembering that we do have space constraints. Guild members who would like to exhibit items should complete the attached rug registration form and bring the form and your item(s) to camp on Thursday, August 16th. You can display an item in the 4-H Fair and again at the Library.

Rug Hooking Retreat – January 11-13 2008 – Kitty Platt and Dee Rosebrock are working on our second annual retreat to be held in January. After our meeting on January 11, 2008, participants will move to the Flemington Hampton Inn. The retreat will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 11th and end at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 13th. Due to space constraints, participation will be limited to 25 HCRAAG members. A registration fee of \$35 must be paid in advance and is non-refundable. Please make your check payable to HCRAAG and mail it to Dee Rosebrock. Since the 2007 retreat was sold out, we encourage you to register early.

You are welcome to commute daily or stay overnight. A block of rooms has been reserved for participants who would like to stay at the Inn. A discounted rate of \$110 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated for all reservations made prior to December 11th. Please contact the Hampton Inn at (908) 284-9427 to reserve your room and mention HCRAAG to get the special rate. Each guest room has two queen-size beds. If you share a room, you'll double your fun and you'll reduce your costs. A Perkins Restaurant is connected to the Inn (a discount is provided for Hampton Inn guests) and there are numerous other restaurants nearby. Breakfast is included for participants who stay overnight. Coffee and tea will be available throughout the day. In addition, we can each bring a snack to share. Our emphasis for the weekend will be hooking with lots of laughs, some prizes and favorite videos to view.

A Memory of Grandmother's Mats -- The June 1925 issue of Antiques Magazine includes an article entitled "A Memory of Grandmother's Mats" by Gertrude DeWagner. That article is being reproduced in its entirety in The Loop. The third segment follows.

"A long story might be written on the ways and means which my Grandmother employed in making her dyes. She had learned the art from her mother, who was born in Eastham, Massachusetts in 1778. So, you see, her method really takes us back to ways and means of Cape Cod people of the eighteenth century.

Attar or otto, an irregular, delicate pink, or flesh tint, was made from pink dust obtained by scraping soft bricks. In Colonial times it was no uncommon task for women to scrape the inside brick walls of tombs to obtain this dust. With the dye made from it, they colored white homespun cotton cloth for quilt linings. A deeper pink was made from beet juice.

A beautiful rich blue was made from indigo, which, in earlier days, was brought by our sea captains from some far away country. It was the captains again who brought the log wood from Central America. From this last dye stuff, purple was made. In all dyes a bit of alum was dropped 'to make the color fast'."

Rug Hooking Demonstrations – Our busiest time for demonstrating rug hooking is this month and next. So far, we are scheduled to participate in five events.

Educating the public about rug hooking is one of the objectives of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild. Demonstrating rug hooking at local festivals and fairs is an excellent way to do this and have an enjoyable time too. We are scheduled to participate in the following festivals:

- . **Hunterdon County 4-H Fair (Hunterdon County Fair Grounds)**- August 22-26 (Dee Rosebrock is our coordinator)
- . **Holcombe- Jimison Farmstead Farming Festival (Lambertville)** – September 8 & 9. (Karl Gimber is our coordinator)
- . **Garden State Sheep and Fiber Festival (Hunterdon County Fair Grounds)** – September 15 & 16
- . **Market Day (Newtown, PA)** – Saturday, September 15 (Karl Gimber is our coordinator)
- . **“Laerenswaert” (Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA)** - Saturday, October 20th from 10am-3:30pm. A hands-on colonial crafts fair with demonstrations of domestic and agricultural skills “worth learning.” Also includes house tours by costume interpreters, military camp life, and open-hearth cooking. Our Guild is invited to demonstrate and sell our work (There is no commission.) (Karl Gimber is our coordinator)

Please plan to support the Guild in our rug hooking demonstrations. Sign up sheets will be available at camp.

Guild Members Teaching

Several members and past camp instructors are scheduled to teach at major rug hooking events.

. ATHA 2007 Biennial – September 12-16, 2007 (Gail Dufresne – Log Cabin Geometric) and (Kim Nixon – Beyond

Season’s Face). Trish Becker will speak on “Color and Creativity: Putting the YOU in Hooked Rugs”.

. Hooked in the Mountains XII (Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild) – November 10-18, 2007 -- Elizabeth Black (on the Wild Side), Jule Marie Smith (For People in Love with Hooked Art), Norma Batastini (Celebrating Pineapples), Rae Harrell (The New Adventures of Old Rae), Trish Becker (It’s Raining Cats and Dogs), and Susan Feller (Discovering Frakturs).

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Middlesex County Fair, August 5 –10, 2007. Carolyn Etsch of the Middlesex County Fair is looking for people to demonstrate rug hooking during the fair. The hours are Monday to Friday, 5 PM-10 PM and Saturday-Sunday 11 AM -5 PM. She will be paying \$100 per 5-hour period of demonstration. Contact Carolyn at 732-521-4158, if you have interest. The website for the fair is www.middlesexcountyfair.org

The Great Cover-up: American Rugs on Beds, Tables and Floors Exhibit will be at the American Folk Art Museum in New York City from June 5 through September 16, 2007. The exhibit

includes rugs from the Kopp book, American Hooked and Sewn Rugs: Folk Art Under Foot and 65 rugs from the 18th through mid 20th Centuries.

The Art Rugs Playing Cards organized by Linda Rae Coughlin will be on exhibit at the Slater Museum in Norwich, CT from June 10 to September 3, 2007. There will also be 45-50 other original rugs on display.

FiberFest 2007 hosted by the Mountain State Fiber Artist ATHA Chapter will be held on Saturday, August 11 from 9:30 to 4:00. The event will be at the Capon Valley Ruritan Building located in Yellow Spring West Virginia. Registration is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For additional information contact Susan Feller rugs2wv@yahoo.com or 304-496-8073

Country Inn Rug Hooking School sponsored by Rug Hookrafters, members of the National Guild of Pearl McGowan, will be held September 9 to 14, 2007 at the Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH. Betty McClentic, Martha Beals and Gail Walden will be the teachers. For more information, contact Arline Bechtold-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Rugs by the Sea, a traditional rug hooking school in Cape May, NJ, invites you to join them for their 20th year celebration during the weeks of September 16 to 28. The instructors for the first week are Beverly Conway, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay and Nancy Miller. The instructors for the second week are Elizabeth Black, Beverly Conway, Gail Dufresne and Abby Vakay. Contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-5361 or g_batastini@msn.com for details.

The Third Annual Brandywine Guild Hook-in – October 27, 2007 from 9:30 to 4:00 at the Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Campus, Lebanon, PA. For more information call 610-273-1213 or marylynnelan@aol.com.

Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs Exhibition – Early November 2007 (no exact date yet) to December 31, 2008 at the Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum. For more information contact Kim Fortney, VP, Heritage Center of Lancaster County at 717-299-6440 or kfortney@lancasterheritage.com.

The Highland School of Rug Hooking Workshop features Norma Batastini, Susan Feller and Marie Sugar on November 2-4, 2007. For details contact Vicki Calu- at 215-249-0790 or vcalu@verizon.net.

The Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie.huntington@verizon.net) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

August 13-17 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp, ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

August 22 –26 – Rug Exhibit, Hunterdon County 4–H Fair

September – HCRAG Exhibit –Flemington Library

September 21 – Monthly Meeting -- Kim Kagan presents information on making a hooked doorstep *

October 12 – Monthly Meeting -- Program to be determined – a surprise from Sharon Ballard and

Cindy Boults *

November 2 – Monthly Meeting – Assembling Hooked Brick Doorstop (Kim Kagan)* – note meeting is

a week earlier just in case you are planning to attend the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild show.

December – HCRAAG Exhibit – Doylestown Library

December 14 – Holiday Luncheon/ Shoe Box Trade

January 11, 2008 – Monthly meeting – Auction and White Elephant Sale *

January 11-13, 2008 – Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 8, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Valentines' Day Hook-in/ Trade hooked Valentines/ Show rugs or hooked items with

hearts, angels ,candy, bow & arrows, flowers, diamonds, red ribbons, etc.*

March 14, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- How Do You Design Your Own Rug? (Panel) *

April 11, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- What Do Judges Look For? / Rug Critique*

May 9, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- Featured Rug Hookers*

June 13, 2008 – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic

Special Event: Hooking Faces with Janet Williams (Time to be determined).

* Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 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, it is the first building on the right.

Guild Officers -- Our officers are anxious to hear from you on ideas and suggestions on how we can make the Guild responsive to your needs. Feel free to contact them with your thoughts.

Co-Presidents – Heidi Blair -- 732-942-3743 or jenyjump@optonline.net

Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie.huntington@verizon.net

Fund Raising – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410

Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net

Hospitality – Ingrid Cosmen – 908-832-2215 or woodglen1@earthlink.net

Lydia Brenner -- 732-741-9313 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja@optonline.net

Programs – Mary Jo Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or mjg12@nni.com

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

Secretary – Gail Schmidt – 732-741-6620 or gks001@aol.com

Sunshine – Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com

Treasurer – Susan Atwater –908-439-3473 or susanatwater@earthlink.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 Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com. by than the 20th of the month.