

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

December 2012

Presidents' Letter -- Hopefully celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday allowed us an opportunity to return to some sense of normal and appreciate a sentiment we heard frequently, "so many other people have lost so much". So the change of venue of our November Guild meeting for the second year in a row seems a small inconvenience. Communication of the change of venue was made difficult by the loss of telephone and computer due to the storm. For many of us our cell phones were the only communication available. If you have not listed a cell phone number on our members contact information, it would be helpful to give that information to Debbie Walsh.

Thank you to those who signed up to participate in "Get Hooked Up", new member program. Read further in The Loop for information about this effort.

While we worked on putting together the hooked trees at the last meeting, if anyone was unable to attend please bring them to the December meeting and we will help complete them. SHARING will be the theme of our December 14th meeting at our usual venue. As has been our tradition, we will celebrate sharing divine dishes and treats of the season for lunch. Saying "potluck" just does not do service to the efforts of all our members and our Hospitality Committee. Our show and tell will be sharing rugs of winter.

We agreed at our last meeting to once again support the efforts of "SAFE", a shelter for people in need of protection from domestic violence. We have been requested to donate unwrapped gifts of pajama bottoms, socks, and slippers. Additionally we decided to offer a raffle for a really fun winter hooked item so that we can include a monetary gift to further support the needs of the shelter.

And finally our gift exchange this year will be "sharing" a 1/4 yd of our most treasured wool. Please wrap a piece that you love and if it is dyed by you include the dye formula...a gift that will keep on giving! For our new members who do not have a "stash" there will be additional gifts provided. So we will be sharing our dishes, recipes, rugs, wool and bounty...perfect for this Holiday Season.... Cindy and Therese

December Meeting – Friday, December 14, 2012 -- Our December meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. **Please note that the meeting begins an hour later than usual at 11:00.** Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – The December meeting is the time of our highly anticipated holiday potluck luncheon. As in the past, the menu is not planned. Each member is asked to bring her/his favorite dish – salad, appetizer, hot dish, cold dish, dessert or whatever. HCRAAG members

are not only renowned rug hookers, but great cooks as well! This is a meeting not to be missed. (The recipes of favorite dishes can be shared in future issues of The Loop.)

Show & Tell – Our theme for December is appropriately rugs featuring some element of winter. Those who worked on the Christmas Trees for the Festival at our November meeting are encouraged to bring the completed tree to show, or the incomplete tree to work on. Works in progress are always welcome.

Those who participate in Show & Tell are eligible for a raffle prize. Last month's winners were:

Cindy Boults (bag holder)	Bernice Smith (note sheets)
Barbara Boyko (notebook)	Debbie Walsh (decorative candles)
Chris Coslet (current RHM issue)	Kay Weeks (stocking pattern)
Dee Rosebrock (book marker)	

Gift From the Heart -- Holiday Gift Exchange -- Exchanging gifts at our holiday luncheon is a long standing Guild custom. This year members who want to participate are requested to bring a ¼ yard of their favorite wool. This should be wool that you covet and save for a special rug. This “gift from the heart” will be exchanged for someone else's favorite wool. Join in the fun exchange!

Hospitality – We salute and thank all the Guild members who prepared refreshments for our meetings throughout the year. Their snacks and treats helped make our gatherings more enjoyable.

December Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Barbie Beck-Wilczek (12/15), Helen Buchanan (12/21), Carol Collin (12/21), Karl Gimber (12/19), Patty Mahaffey (12/8), Paula Patti (12/28), Agnes Wooden (12/2), and Karen Worthington (12/13). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

Membership – We welcome Cyndy Duade to our Guild. Cyndy is one of our favorite teachers who conducted the creative workshop on hooked masks at the Spring Fling earlier in the year. She will be returning next April for another workshop. Her contact info is shown below.

Cyndy Duade
PO Box 2472
New London, NH 03257.
eduade@aol.com.
603-763-4035

Sunshine – Please 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 Again Supports “SAFE” Holiday Collection -- Our Guild is again supporting the holiday clothing drive coordinated by The Consignment Shop in Flemington that donates their surplus wool garments to the Guild.

All proceeds from the Consignment Shop go to support "SAFE" (Stop Abuse for Everyone) in Hunterdon County. SAFE provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information on SAFE and its services, go to its website -- www.safeinhunterdon.org or call 908-788-7666.

They have suggested we collect new unwrapped flannel pajama bottoms, slippers, socks and sweat pants. Many who seek refuge at the safe house arrive without these basic items. **We will be collecting donated items at the December meeting.** (Tax receipts will be available.) Members have generously responded in past years. Let's keep that tradition alive.

Guild Establishes a Mentoring Program -- "Get Hooked Up" -- For some time the Guild has considered ways in which we can support new members and interested future hookers who we often encourage at our many demonstration events. The suggestion was offered that the transition into our Guild would be facilitated by a mentoring program that we are calling "Get Hooked Up". This organized outreach to someone either new to hooking or new to the area would certainly demystify some of the material sources, activities, events and hooking language.

We thank the following mentor volunteers for their very positive reaction:

Susan Atwater	Lynda Kling
Barb Boyko	Donna Kolznak
Joyce Combs	Margaret Lutz
Ellen DiClemente	Laurie Milne
Weezie Huntington	Kay Weeks
Carol Kindt	

Members who are interested in serving as a mentor or who would like to have a mentor should contact Cindy Boult. Mentoring does not have to be a long-term commitment, but rather meant to be a short term resource.

Hooked Rug Appraiser Sought for Festival Raffle Rug -- Members of the guilds organizing our Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill are hooking a rug that will be raffled off at the Festival. The Raffle Committee is looking for someone who could do an appraisal (hopefully for free) of the rug. If you know of an appraiser please let Debbie Walsh know. You can reach Debbie at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com.

Pearl S. Buck Fiberfest & Garden Show -- Guild Invited to Participate -- The HCRA display at the Bucks County Library in Doylestown, PA drew the attention of a member of the staff at the Pearl S. Buck House in Dublin, PA and resulted in an invitation to participate in its 2013 Fiberfest & Garden Show. The Festival will be held Wednesday June 26 to Friday June 28, 2013. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate their craft although that is not required. Exhibitors are also invited to give one of the presentations that are scheduled daily. Vending is an additional option.

Preliminary interest in participating was expressed at the November meeting. There will be a fuller discussion at our December meeting to determine if we have the volunteer support to participate.

The Pearl Buck House is located a few miles above Doylestown, PA. Visit www.pearlsbuck.org for more information about the organization.

Guild Returns to the Hunterdon County Library -- Every year or so our Guild has exhibited the work of our members in the display cases in the lobby of the Hunterdon County Library. The library is located in the same complex where we normally hold our meetings. Arrangements have been made to return in April 2013. Annie Edwards has volunteered to install the exhibit. More information will follow.

Members Invited to Holiday Open House – December 15, 2012 -- Guild member Pat Levin: has invited the Guild and her hooking friends from the Lancaster area guilds to a Special Holiday Open House at her house in Lancaster on Saturday, December 15, in the afternoon from 1-4 PM. If anyone has a hooking friend who is not a member, bring them along! Dress is casual and enjoying yourself is required! Drinks and food will be available. Pat's address is 1034 Lampeter Road, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Please RSVP to Pat at patfolk@comcast.net or 717-464-5716 by Dec. 10.

Brightbill Camp Scholarship -- The Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to allow a deserving member to attend the HCRAG summer rug hooking camp. This is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations and recommendations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking; or
- for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Cindy or Therese by January 18, 2013. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the February meeting.

Attend Camp Free! -- Do you want to come to the Guild's summer camp for free? All you need to do is provide housing for one of our instructors. The host is not expected to entertain the instructor. After a long day teaching, the instructors need time to relax, reflect on the day and get ready for the next day. They will welcome time alone at night. The host is requested to provide breakfast and dinner. Lunch is provided by the Guild. To sign up or to learn more, contact Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail) or Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com).

Name Badges Being Ordered -- You may have noticed the attractive name badges that members wear at our meetings. They are a convenient way to remember members and to introduce new members to the Guild. You can order one by sending your check for \$7.00 made payable to HCRAG to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce St. Cranford, NJ 07016. Include a note that spells out exactly how your name should appear.

January Hooking Retreat – Only Four Openings -- Our popular hooking retreat will be on January 11-13 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. After our monthly meeting, participants will move over to the Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday at 4:00. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 – the bargain of the year! Two meeting rooms have been reserved, but space is limited. **Only four openings remain**, Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Weezie Huntington, 1 Kings Path, Hopewell, NJ 08525. The fee is non refundable unless there is a replacement from the waiting list or from your efforts.

A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton In at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild.

A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate. Let Weezie know of any other ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

Guild Exhibit at Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (March 16, 2013) -- The Guild will be exhibiting the work of our members on March 16, 2013 from 10-4 at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead which is maintained by the Hilltown Historical Society in Sellersville, PA. In addition to the display of our rugs, Guild members will be demonstrating rug hooking throughout the Homestead.

Karl Gimber is coordinating our efforts. Please let him know if you can assist. You can reach Karl at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net.

Spring Fling Workshops With Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa – April 5 - 7, 2013 – Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning by popular demand to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 5, 2013 to Sunday April 7, 2013. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Cyndy’s workshop is currently full, but a waiting list has been established. There are still a few openings with Lucille. Cindy Boults is handling registration.

“Door People” Workshop (Lucille Festa) -- If you like fun quick projects, then you will love this class. Door People are designed for your door or door knob. Hook- Finish - Hang a door person. Lucille will walk you through the entire process demonstrating each step. Please visit her website www.americancountryrugs.com to see the entire “Door People” collection (look under small things).

Colorful Leaves Workshop (Cyndy Duade) -- The workshop begins with a “casserole dye” demonstration on Friday night followed by group participation. Each student will dye a piece of wool using this technique. All equipment and wool will be provided. On Saturday students receive kits, choose wool colors, and begin to hook in the leaf veins. Cyndy will present methods and situations for using this dying technique. On Sunday you will continue hooking the leaf. There will be a demonstration and discussion on how to finish the mat by applying hand dyed wool and a ribbon yarn whipped edge.

Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 20, 2013

The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 20, 2013. Holding the event in a museum setting is one of the attractions.

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

- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hook Nook (Margaret Lutz)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Wool’n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)
- Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb’s wool)

In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have two mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. We are planning for about 50 people in addition to the beginners' workshop. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to register early.

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

Registration is required as participation is limited. The event fee of \$45 (non-Heritage Center Member) and \$40 (MHC member) includes a full lunch and coffee/snacks. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020. Visit their website -- www.mhep.org -- for more information on their programs.

The planning group for the hook-in currently includes the following Guild members:

Annie Edwards	Pat McDonnell
Cheryl Halliday	Joanne McIlmurray
Juliana Kapusta	Sue Schulz
Margaret Lutz	Therese Shick
Patty Mahaffey	Betsy Warner

Please let Event Coordinator, Karl Gimber, know if you can help by contacting him at karlg12@verizon.net or 215-297-0803.

Beginners’ Rug Hooking Workshop (April 20, 2013) – Our plans for the hook-in include offering a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking. The workshop has been fully subscribed in the past. Joanne McIlmurray has volunteered to be one of the instructors. A second instructor is needed so that we can finalize the arrangements and begin to publicize the workshop. Helping to conduct the workshop is

an ideal way to gain teaching experience. Please contact Karl Gimber if you can help or need more information.

HCrag 2013 Summer Camp --Our Guild's 17th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors have been recruited. Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Please note that Cynthia's and Sarah's workshops are currently full; there are three openings in Judy's workshop. Waiting lists are being maintained. Cancellations often occur, so you are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list.

Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2013.

Camp Workshops

Judy Carter -- This will be an open animal class. Judy will have Leonard Feenan patterns available such as Giraffe, Mothers Comfort, Tiger, Elephant, Flamingo, etc. You can view Leonard's website at www.theburningartist.com for examples of some of his patterns. Judy will also do custom patterns (she will need the information well in advance of class). Judy can also have patterns made of a single eye or group of eyes from her recent Eye See You project.

Sarah Guiliani -- This will be an open class. Students are free to work on any design in any cut and in any style. Sarah enjoys hooking in a variety of styles; however she specializes in people portraits and animals. She loves the challenge of working with each student individually to create the look they want. The class will include lectures on current rug hooking topics. Sarah strives to create a caring, fun and creative classroom environment.

Sarah owns and operates New England Rug Hooking Studio in South Portland, Maine. Her website is www.uhookrugs.net. Sarah has been hooking and teaching for over 25 years and she is director of ATHA Region 1 South School in Litchfield, CT.

Cynthia Norwood -- This will be primarily a primitive and wide cut class. Cynthia is comfortable teaching all types of hooking and loves to work with unusual textures and paisleys. She tries to get students to push their own comfort zones. Cynthia will work with you on a pattern of your choice. Her class will include lectures, demonstrations and class discussions.

Cynthia's strong suits include color planning and creating great backgrounds. Cynthia is the author of Creating the Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs; she is an active member of ATHA (and serves as their Advertising Manager) and is McGown certified.

Registration/Instructional Fees – Registration began at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2012. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2013. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be

paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2013, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Guild Exhibit at Doylestown Library Attracts Attention – Hooked rugs, mats, ornaments, pins and three dimensional items were displayed at the Bucks County Library in Doylestown during November. According to the library staff, our creative display received many very favorable comments. The exhibit resulted in an invitation for the Guild to participate in the Fiberfest & Garden Show sponsored by Pearl Buck International in June 2013. (See separate article above for more information.)

We thank the following Guild members and friends who contributed items for the exhibit:

Margie Briggs	Weezie Huntington	Marion Michel
Kathy Donovan	Juliana Kapusta	Dee Rosebrock
Annie Edwards	Annie Lee	Sue Schulz
Mary Jo Gimber	Lydia Lewis	Therese Shick
Karl Gimber	Patty Mahaffey	Joan Strausbaugh
Cheryl Halliday	Gisele Meader	Betsy Warner.

The Guild benefited from Annie Edwards’ professional skills in installing the exhibit. She was assisted by Karl Gimber and Laura Robinson. Annie was moved by the experience – “The rugs are so beautiful it fills me with happiness and pride that I know these women and men who make such beautiful art!”

The items displayed will be returned at the December meeting.

Guild Members Travel to Vermont for Hooked in the Mountains XVI -- Each fall the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild hosts the highly popular Hooked in the Mountains hooked rug and fiber arts exhibit at the Shelburne Museum. Three day workshops are held and over 20 vendors are on site during the week. Several members of our Guild regularly make the journey north to enjoy the extensive exhibit (over 450 works of hooked art), to shop the vendors, to take classes and to reconnect with friends.

Weezie Huntington is one of the “regulars” and has provided the following report:

“This is the 7th (?) time I have gone to Shelburne for the hooked rug show and for taking classes at Hooked in the Mountains. Both experiences are always wonderful and inspiring. I am always blown away by the size of the rugs--some measuring 8x10 feet--and by the detail achieved, even in the wider cuts. I am also very pleased to see the inclusion of beginner pieces in a show that clearly has a lot of experts. Every year that I have taken a class there, I look at the show with different eyes--if the class includes a section on borders, as this year's class did, I pay particular attention to looking for

what I have learned, and seeing who got it right. This year, as I wandered through, my eyes were drawn to a row of rocking chairs on a rug. I looked closer and I also saw hooking items portrayed. My first thought was that it looked like the Chalfont Hotel in Cape May, and I thought someone had copied Debbie Walsh's Azeri. I was taken aback that someone would do that! It wasn't until I read the label that I saw that it was Debbie's rug. Totally out of place, in my mind (having only seen it in NJ), it looked wonderful in the show. It was the best Azeri there.

“The last two shows have included featured artists, who each get their own space. At some point during the show each featured artist gives a short talk (very informal) on their work. One of this year's artists was Elizabeth Guth, who hooks ignoramus geometrics without drawing a line on her backing. Unbelievable. And unbelievably beautiful. The show also has a schedule of speakers and demonstrators who talk about their specialty for a few minutes. These little talks are primarily for the viewing public, but I have always gotten something out of them too.

“Having taken many classes at Hooked in the Mountains Rug School (run at the same time, but a different entity), it is neat to see rugs in the show that were started the year before in a class. I also follow the progression of rugs done by fellow students several years ago. I have gotten to know lots of people in the Green Mountain Guild, and always feel at home when I go there. It has also been a great place to scope out potential instructors for our August camp, and to visit with instructors we have had already.

Not to mention that there are about 15 vendors with a huge variety of wools. I am ashamed to say that I am very proud of myself for not having spent hundreds of \$\$ on wool (we all need to support the vendors so they will continue to provide us with luscious fabrics). That is not to say that I did not shop! I shopped.

“Everybody needs to go to Shelburne at least once!!” Weezie

Guild Library -- 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.

Guild Website -- Visit the Guild's website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured members, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill -- HCRAAG is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. All Guild members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com)
- HCRAAG Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)

- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net)
- Door Prizes: Eileen Koch (570-992-7841 or efmk2003@yahoo.com)
Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net)
- Rug Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com)
Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com)
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or mmlutz@ptd.net)
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or smenges2072@comcast.net)
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net)
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net)

Featured Member –Susan Schulz -- We are always curious about how our Featured Member became involved in hooking rugs. In Sue Schulz' case, it started with signing up for a punch needle class at Homespun with Kay Leisey in the winter of 2009. As Sue entered Kay's charming shop, she saw the hooked rugs and knew that it was what she wanted to do. She borrowed a friend's frame and hook and was ready to learn, but Kay was away on vacation. She looked for other resources and learned of Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip). They quickly connected and soon Sue was sitting at Karen's kitchen table one Sunday afternoon getting her first class on the basics of rug hooking.

Next Sue got a copy of Rug Hooking Magazine and the ATHA Newsletter. She compiled a list of ATHA members in the area and sent out an email message expressing her interest in connecting with local rug hookers. It did not take long before Sue heard from Guild member Patty Mahaffey. Sue was looking for a hooking group, but acknowledges that she "dropped the ball" and did not follow up with Patty. Fortunately she finally met Patty at a Brandywine Guild hook-in. "Patty took me under her wing. It was wonderful" Sue notes.

Sue started hooking with an 8 cut and worked in the style commonly referred to as primitive. However, she states that she is drawn to more "classic" or fine cut hooking. Sue currently hooks mostly with #5, #6 and #7 cuts. Those cuts are not normally thought of as fine cut, but hooking with narrower cuts is the direction in which Sue is moving.

Right from the beginning, Sue was attracted to wool dyeing and she now dyes every week. Dyeing wool not only allows Sue to extend her wool budget, but also introduces an element of creativity in the process. Recycled wool makes up about 25% of the wool Sue uses in her rugs. Her favorite sources for new wool are the Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb) and Heavens to Betsy (Betsy Reed). She also knows a local 80 year old rug braider from Collegetown, PA who has great wool for hooking.

Sue works mostly with commercial patterns. She is attracted to designs by Sharon Smith. Common primitive motifs have limited appeal. Sue's daughter, Allyson, is a graphic design student who collaborates with her on their own rug patterns. They have designed three rug patterns with more in the planning stage.

The workshops, open studio sessions and camps available in the area have allowed Sue to study with very talented instructors without the need to travel a great distance. Gail Dufresne, Lucille Festa, Angela Foote, Kay Leisey, and Karen Worthington are among those with whom Sue has worked. Kay Leisey helped Sue understand the importance of color planning. Lucille taught her how to "have colors sink in" so that no one color

stands out.

Whenever possible, Sue will hook every day, usually in the evening. However, there are times when she will get up at 4 AM and work on her current rug before heading off to work. Sue is a real Philadelphia Phillies fan and jokes that she “is most prolific during the baseball season” when she may hook for three hours a night while watching a game on TV.

Patty Mahaffey and Betsy Warner helped to introduce Sue to the various guilds in the area. She is an active member of the Lamb Yankees, Wool Whisperers and HCRA. “I treat myself to a Friday off each month so that I can attend Hunterdon meetings”, she says with a smile. Sue likes the people she has met in the various guilds and is struck by the talent found in them and rugs created by their members. “The people are warm and welcoming. There are no cliques or stuffiness. People take you under their wing.”

In addition to hooking rugs, Sue is a disciplined runner and has participated in 5K and half marathon races. She also enjoys reading and cooking. Sue is an accomplished quilter who quilted for 20 years until rug hooking took over. At one time, Sue quilted sample patterns for a local quilt shop.

When asked why rug hooking had such a strong attraction, Sue noted that “there is the serenity that comes from pulling loops. Quilting requires too much precision. I also like what can be achieved with dyed wool. I love antiques and prefer old things to new. Hooked rugs just fit in.”

Sue and her daughter live in North Wales, PA. with Briar, a 120 pound Bouvier herding breed dog that Sue says “looks like big bear“. Allyson commutes to the Art Institute in Philadelphia where she is a student. Sue has worked at Foulkeways Retirement Community for 24 years and is currently the Activities Director.

Go to the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com – to enjoy some of Sue’s rug creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Greetings from Nova Scotia where it is bright and sunny, but beginning to be very cold! Will be returning to sunny New Jersey at the end of the week, and then on to Brazil for a month with son and family. How is that for a change in the weather, which is what prompted this note for the notebook!

There is frost on the grass, a chill in the air; winter is beginning to sneak in the door. It is time for gloves, scarves, hats, boots and heavy coats. The weather has been on our minds for many weeks. Hurricane Sandy came with destructive surges of water, winds blowing down trees and power lines, forcing us to live like our ancestors did, without all the amenities of the 21st century. Signs of the powerful storm are still around us. Our children and grandchildren will tell stories of this storm to their offspring many years from now.

Our hearts are warmed by the outpouring of good will from people near and far. Spontaneous acts of kindness and generosity are in the news each day. Is there a hooked mat in all of this? How would you document some of your own experiences of Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath? I attended a Green Mountain Workshop with Rae Harrell this

past month and from it came a mat of Hurricane Sandy and its affect on me. It is an abstract mat which captures the emotions and feelings of the time.

The advent of winter also brings us to the Christmas season with mats of Santa, nativity scenes and all the other trimmings of the season. A friend gifted me with a small hooked mat of a pig she had donated through Heifer Fund in my name. This is the season when we look forward to a new year and plan for mats to be hooked to celebrate the events of the year past as well as ideas for new ones. My wish for all of you is a season filled with joy, love and happiness.

May the New Year bring recovery for all those whose lives were upended by Hurricane Sandy. And most of all, I wish you a new year filled with many hours of happy hooking!
Nina

Tips From Heloise -- Heloise recently had an opportunity to discuss the use of Wormwood as a moth repellent with hooked rug restorer Cindy Comly (see page 6 of the November 2012 issue of The Loop).

According to Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs, "Wormwood (Artemisia Absinthium) is an ancient herb and may be best known as an active ingredient in the alcoholic drink absinthe. It is among the most bitter of all herbs and not used much in cooking for obvious reasons, but is useful in many other ways. For centuries Wormwood was used as a worming medicine for men and animals. It was also used as an antiseptic, antispasmodic, sedative, tonic and stimulant. It has been given to those suffering from poor circulation, rheumatism, fever, colds, and jaundice, and to women in labor."

Fortunately for rug hookers, Wormwood is also an effective natural insect repellent and can be used to keep moths away. Cindy Comly discovered that it is a natural deodorizer too. She had an old quilt that had a musty smell. Cindy placed fresh springs of Wormwood on the quilt, rolled up the quilt, wrapped it with a sheet and let sit for two weeks after which the musty odor was gone. Cindy hangs springs of fresh Wormwood around her wool to repel moths. After the Wormwood dries, like most herbs, it begins crumble. Cindy then wraps the dried herb into hankies forming a sachet and then places them in her wool stash.

Heloise is grateful to Cindy for sharing these tips with us.

Recipes

Lynda Kling's "Impossible Coconut Pie" -- Whenever Lynda Kling brings her coconut pie to a meeting, there are multiple requests for the recipe. We thank her for sharing it with us.

Ingredients

2 cups milk
¾ cup sugar
½ cup Bisquick
4 eggs
¼ cup butter or margarine
1 cup Bakers Angle Flake Coconut

1 ½ tsp vanilla

- 1) Combine milk, sugar, Bisquick, eggs, butter, and vanilla in blender. Cover and blend on low speed for three minutes.
- 2) Pour into greased 9" pie plate. Let stand for five minutes, and then sprinkle with the coconut.
- 3) Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve warm or cool

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Old Kinderhook Winter Rug Camp – February 4-6 & 7-9, 2013 – Jayne Hester is hosting two rug hooking camps at her Hook & Chatter Studio at 1008 Kinderhook St. (Rt. #9) in Valatie, NY 12184. Janice Johnson (Wooly Woolens) from Independence, MO is the instructor. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Activities begin with an open house on Sunday, February 3. For more information contact Jayne at beansiejoe@aol.com or kinderhookb-b@berk.com.

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

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

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

Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

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

A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

- December 14, 2012** -- Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon with gift exchange *
- January 11, 2013** -- Auction & White Elephant Sale (hand out chicken pattern) *

January 11-13, 2013 – Annual Hooking Retreat (Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ)
February 8, 2013 – Assemble chicken *
March 8, 2013 – Festival Boutique Items – Ideas & Patterns *
March 16, 2013 – Hilltown Historical Society Rug Exhibit (Hartzel-Strassburger Homstead)
April 2013 – Guild Exhibit at Hunterdon County Library (Flemington, NJ)
April 5-7, 2013 – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 12, 2013 – Member Led Round Table *
April 20, 2013 – HCRAAG Hook-in (Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA)
May 10, 2013 – Program TBD *
June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *
August 12-16, 2013 – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
October 5 & 6, 2013 – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net

Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com

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

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net

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

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

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com

Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

Guild's Email List Policy - The 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, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.