

## THE LOOP

### **The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter**

December 2014

**Presidents' Letter** – This letter finds us somewhere between our holiday of thanks and December holiday celebrations. We do indeed have so much to be thankful for. Our November meeting was fabulous from the many wonderful rugs during show and tell to the informative and wonderful program of hooking through wool, provided by Kay Leisey from Homespun. There will be a few finished pillows for our December show and tell, no doubt. Many thoroughly enjoyed learning about hooking through wool and plan to do some more! Thanks again to Kay for providing the expertise and all those kits!!

We welcome seven new members this month (two of them were previous members). We are growing at a steady pace thanks to our ongoing efforts to have beginner classes available (thanks Cheryl Halliday) as well as our Mentoring Program (thanks Donna Kolznak). There were two new members at the November meeting who brought their log cabin squares that were started at the beginner class in October. They were wonderful and it was great to welcome two new members to our group.

Remember that our retreat in January is the weekend of January 16-18, 2015. As of this newsletter there are still four open spots. Please contact Weezie if you are interested. Diane Liberto is still taking names for Spring Fling, there are openings for both teachers. And please contact Eleanor Dunker or Anndee Byers for the most up to date information on summer camp. Eleanor was pleased to announce that everyone who signed up for camp got either their first or second choice. More detailed info on all these events are further on in The Loop...keep reading!

Remember to bring your holiday goodies and your donations for Victims of Domestic Violence in Hunterdon (formerly known as "SAFE") to our December meeting. We are back at our regular location but remember that we start an hour later than usual at 11:00. Weezie had hip replacement surgery in mid November so we are hopeful for her continued recovery and hope to see her at our holiday meeting! Also bring your show and tell and any items you may be making for the Festival. It's always encouraging to see these as they are made. So, come to eat, share, and hook in December...it's always an enjoyable time! Therese & Weezie

**December Meeting – Friday, December 12, 2014** -- 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although there is no street number on the building. **Please note that the meeting begins an hour later than usual at 11:00 and runs to 2:00.** Guests are always welcome.

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. HCRAG 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 – Bring your latest completed rug or current project to share with us.

**December Birthdays** -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Blanca Alvarez (12/13), Barbie Beck-Wilczek (12/15), Helen Buchanan (12/21), Linda Ehly (12/31), Karl Gimber (12/19), Paula Patti (12/28), Nancy Sears (12/16), Agnes Wooden (12/2), and Karen Worthington (12/13).

We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

**Membership** – We welcome Elizabeth Dey and Lisa Savino to our Guild. Both are “graduates” of our beginners’ workshop. Their contact information is shown below.

Elizabeth Dey	Lisa Savino
86 Hill Road	43 Ebersohl Circle
Allentown, NJ 08501	Whitehouse Station NJ 08889
<a href="mailto:esdsew@aol.com">esdsew@aol.com</a>	908-534-1517
	<a href="mailto:lisasavino55@gmail.com">lisasavino55@gmail.com</a>

Sally Jagoe and Laurie Rubinetti have new email addresses – [sallygJ@comcast.net](mailto:sallygJ@comcast.net) and [laurierubinetti@gmail.com](mailto:laurierubinetti@gmail.com).

**Sunshine** – We wish Weezie Huntington and Betsy Warner speedy recoveries from their recent surgeries. Weezie is recovering from hip replacement surgery and Betsy from a broken ankle.

Annie Edwards reports that she has fully recovered from surgery to the thumb on her right hand and is eager to begin hooking. Her busy work schedule has kept her from attending meetings this fall but she has been helping the Guild by taking photos for the Hooked Rug Festival website that is currently being updated.

Inform our Sunshine Chair Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com)), of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

## **Guild News & Events**

**Guild to Collect for Victims of Domestic Violence at December Meeting** -- Supporting the community holiday clothing drive coordinated by The Consignment Shop of Flemington has become an annual Guild tradition. The Consignment Shop donates their surplus wool garments to the Guild. All proceeds from the Consignment Shop go to support Victims of Domestic Violence in Hunterdon, which provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Members are being asked to donate flannel pajama bottoms, slippers, socks and sweat pants. Many who seek refuge arrive at the safe house without these basic items for themselves and their children. Donated items should be new and unwrapped.

We will be collecting donations at the December meeting. (Tax receipts will be available.) A “wool object” will offered for \$2 raffle tickets with the proceeds going to Victims of Domestic Violence in Hunterdon.

**Just a Few Days Remain -- Nominations for the HCRAAG Memorial**

**Scholarship Due by December 1, 2014** -- The Guild's Memorial Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to a deserving member to attend the HCRAAG summer rug hooking camp and is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations 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 Therese or Weezie by December 1, 2014. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting. One position in each teacher's workshop is being left open until the Scholarship is awarded so the winner can select the teacher of her/his choice.

**Hooked Rug Festival Update** – We are still in need of two rug collection coordinators for our Guild. Find a buddy, and consider helping out in an important way for the October 2015 Festival! We really do need you. Contact Therese Shick or Eleanor Dunker if you can help.

Also, be thinking about making items for the Boutique and/or Mini Raffle. If you need ideas or suggestions, either Sharon Ballard or Cindy Boults can help. Remember, for the Boutique you can either make items to sell (you get 80% of selling price) or you can donate item(s). And the more substantial items for the Mini Raffle would be a donation as all of those proceeds go toward the costs of the Festival. Be sure to check out the updated Festival website ([www.rugfestival.com](http://www.rugfestival.com)). Thanks to Karl and Laurie for accomplishing that.

The fabulous rug for the raffle is complete thanks to Debbie Walsh and her crew. We should have tickets available after the beginning of the year to begin selling. A big thanks to all those who have put in many hours already and a request to you all for more help. Please get in touch with Therese if there is any way you can lend a hand. Thank you!!

**Additions to the Guild Library** – Kathy Donovan, HCRAAG Librarian, reports that the following have been added to the Guild's library:

- Hooking Animals: How to Bring Animals to Life in Hooked Rugs by Judy Carter
- The Complete Book of Floorcloths by Kathy Cooper and Jan Hersey
- Rugs, Designs-Patterns-Projects by Mary Elizabeth Johnson
- Oriental Rugs in Colour by Preben Liebetrau
- Finishing Hooked Rugs by various authors under Rug Hooking Magazine.

These books will be available at our December meeting. An updated HCrag Library List is being sent to members along with The Loop. Please retain it for future reference.

Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. The full listing of books in our library can always be found on our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)). All you need to do to borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, 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 [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@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.*

**New Member Alert -- Mentors Available** -- Our Mentoring Program was created as a way to facilitate a new member's introduction to our Guild. Under the program a member is hooked up with a mentor who can provide advice and suggestions on hooking issues or help explain Guild programs, events or activities. For example, longer term members know what our January Hooking Retreat is all about. Someone new may not. A mentor can also be of assistance to an established rug hooker who is new to the area and not familiar with the resources available in the area such as open studios, suppliers, local teachers etc.

Anyone interested in having a mentor just needs to let Donna Kolznak know. Her contact information can be found under the Officer/ Chair listing at the end of the newsletter.

Additional mentors are needed. Please let Donna know if you can assist.

**"From Garden to Table" – Hooked Rug Exhibit at Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (November 15, 2014 – March 1, 2015)** – The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA is partnering with Susan Feller (Ruckman Mill Farm Rug Hooking Studio) on an exhibit titled "From Garden to Table," which will feature contemporary hooked rugs with fruit and vegetable themes and a wonderful group of related objects from their collection. The rugs include a Waldoboro fruit design by Jacqueline Hansen and a hooked and braided rug by Kris McDermet. Items from the Schwenkfelder collection include feather flowers, flowers made from milkweed seed fluff, a wool flower wreath, and a wax flower wedding bouquet. For more information, go to [www.schwenkfelder.com](http://www.schwenkfelder.com) and [www.ruckmanmillfarm.com](http://www.ruckmanmillfarm.com).

**Bargain of the Year -- Guild's Annual Hooking Retreat (January 16-18, 2015)** -- This year our retreat will be a week later than in the past, but the location remains the same -- the Flemington Hampton Inn. The monthly meeting will be a week later on January 16, 2015 with the auction following the business meeting. We do not yet know if our regular meeting room is available for the meeting, but since the Hampton Inn is going to charge us for Friday regardless, we could always have the meeting and auction there before the retreat begins. As soon as we know the location for the meeting, we will let you know.

Only four spots remain, so you need to sign up now if you want to join in. The cost this year will be \$40 since we are charged for the rooms on Friday. This is a member-only event. Checks made payable to HCrag can be sent to Weezie Huntington, 69 Minuteman Circle, Allentown, NJ 08501. The Inn will be giving us a

group rate (approximately \$120 per night) on the rooms for people spending the night (half the fun of the retreat). If you plan to stay at the hotel, please call with your reservation. .

Arrangements have been made to have our favorite masseuse, Joy Andrews, at the retreat on Saturday to relax those stiff hooking muscles. She will be bringing her associate, Jennie, with her. If you are signed up for the Retreat and you would like a massage, please let Weezie know. Minimum time is 15 minutes, up to 60 minutes, chair and table available. Please let Weezie know who you would like, and for how long. Cost is \$1 per minute, plus tip.

You can reach Weezie at [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com) or 609-477-4339.

**Spring Fling Set for March 20-22, 2015** -- Cheryl Halliday and Loretta Scena will conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday evening March 20th to Sunday March 22, 2015.

Cheryl Halliday's Workshop – Tangle Art -- The latest craze in the art world is a form of tangled doodling called "Zentangle" (a copyrighted name for specific tangle artwork created by Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas).

Doodling is a relaxing art form in which segments of a shape are filled with repetitive patterns. If you like to doodle, this could be the next great way to express yourself in a rug of your own design. Not a doodler, but want to join the fun? There will be designs to get you started. Drawing materials will be provided for all to design for #3 to #6 cuts. Come and explore the possibilities!

Loretta Scena's Workshop – Spirit Dolls -- Participants working with Loretta have two choices – an “Open Workshop” or a “Spirit Doll” class.

Loretta offers six doll choices with faces and motifs that are interchangeable (Photos can be found on our website.). Each will be a one of a kind doll representing all things good in a hooker's world. She will teach embellishments like felting, free form crochet, beading and more. A full range of wool, embellishing supplies and an embellishing machine will be available for use. The spirit doll patterns can accommodate #2 -- #6 cuts. Those who want a more primitive doll can hook with #8 cuts. Doll patterns will be available for 25.00 and will have both a front and back which can easily be joined. Loretta will be sending a completed doll for us to see and additional information on the patterns available. This workshop promises to be a really creative and fun time.

Those who prefer the open workshop can bring their projects that need a bit of help or they can start a pattern that they have in their stash.

You can learn more about Loretta and her work by going to her website – [www.lorettascena.com](http://www.lorettascena.com).

Registration Process – The Spring Fling cost will remain at \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Openings exist in both workshops. Please contact Diane Liberto ([diane.mannon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.mannon@yahoo.com) or 908- 782-7563) indicating teacher preference. No deposit is required but full payment will be due by the close of the January meeting.

Checks can be made out to HCrag and mailed to Diane Liberto (8 Allens Corner Rd., Flemington, NJ. 08822) on or before the January meeting.

**HCrag 2015 Rug Hooking Camp (August 10-14, 2015)** -- Our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Rug hooking camp will take place from August 10 – 14, 2015 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. We will again have four instructors -- Cyndy Duade, Michele Micarelli, Kris Miller and Diane Stoffel. Class size will be held at 12. However, if needed, a teacher may be approached and asked if she would take 13 or 14 students. Classes will never exceed 14. Openings currently exist in Michele's and Cyndy's workshops.

**Cyndy Duade** lives and teaches in the New London, NH area. She is a McGown Certified Instructor and happily embraces all styles and cuts. She has been hooking for 20 years. Cyndy's rugs have appeared in Rug Hooking Magazine's Celebrations twice, and she was one of the artists to hook a piece for the "Eye See You II" project.

**Wide Cut Crewel Workshop** -- This class will focus on dying and wide cut (#6-#9 cuts) hooking techniques used to achieve the effect/look of crewel embroidery.

Prior to class students will choose one of four patterns and a color plan provided by instructor. The instructor will provide the wool for the motifs based on the color plan selected. Each color plan will be based on two dye formulas and the variety they provide. Cyndy will speak with each student before camp to work out a color plan and how to figure how much wool will be needed and its cost.

Here are the patterns Cyndy will be using for her class and their cost:

- Colchester bed rug 43 x 56, pattern on linen \$115
- Colchester vase (center of bed rug) 21 x 34 \$56
- Ense's runner 20 x 72 \$79
- Ense's bed rug block 19 x 19 \$38

A list of the patterns can be found at <http://rughook.com/>. Search for patterns: 1543, 1544, PR1330, PR 1331.

During the week the instructor will cover hooking techniques for each motif on the patterns. Students will benefit from this even if they are not hooking that motif. The dye techniques and resultant color plan will be discussed. Each day one of the dye techniques used will be demonstrated. Participants will also learn about crewel and its relationship to hooking.

The intent of this class is to understand how to translate methods used in fine hooking to the wide cut project, to learn about the crewel style of rug hooking, to use a simple color plan with multi-dye methods, have good discussions, and a good time.

**Michele Micarelli** lives in New Haven CT and is a certified rug-hooking teacher whose main objective is to unleash creativity. The classes she teaches are full of storytelling, imagination exercises, and laughter. She has been a rug hooker since 1991 and prefers using 4 and 5 cut wool and linen for lots of detail.

Michele is past President of the Northern McGown Teacher's Workshop. She served as a judge for 15 years of Craft's Adventure in New England and is pleased to have had her rugs appear in several editions of The Celebration of Rug Hooking and has also been a judge. Her rugs appear in books by Linda Coughlin, Jessie Turbayne, Mary Sheppard Burton, Amy Oxford and Rae Harrell. Michele has been in several issues of Rug Hooking Magazine with articles that featured her dying skills and rugs made with imagination.

**Open Workshop** -- This workshop is open to all levels, all cuts, patterns or originals. Requirements are an "OPEN" mind. We will explore anything you wish in an open classroom with imagination exercises and stories. Please come prepared to open up your mind and hook something amazing!

**Kris Miller** is a self-taught rug-hooking teacher and designer who specializes in primitive designs with an emphasis on textured wool and wide cuts. Roving, sheep curls, and paisleys are also some of her favorite hooking materials. She is the owner of Spruce Ridge Studios, featuring original primitive rug hooking patterns, hand-dyed and as-is wool, and a wide variety of rug hooking supplies. Kris has won many awards for her rugs, including three appearances in the prestigious annual competition, Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs. She writes for Rug Hooking Magazine and teaches at many workshops and rug camps across the United States and England. Kris lives in Howell, Michigan with her husband, two sons, and an assortment of angora goats, sheep, alpacas, dogs, and a cat.

**Primitive Workshop** -- Kris will focus on primitive style hooking for this workshop. It will be an Open Workshop so you may hook any pattern you wish. She will be bringing patterns and wool. Kris will share many techniques that she likes to use to make your rug one of a kind. Her website is [www.spruceridgestudios.com](http://www.spruceridgestudios.com) where you can look and see many of her beautiful patterns and wools.

**Diane Stoffel** lives in Brewster Mass. She is a certified McGown teacher and has taught at camps and workshops across the country. Diane loves all types of hooking including oriental, florals, tapestry, portraits, and pictorials. She has a love for color and uses all the beautiful colors that make a magnificent rug. She is an expert in all facets of dyeing marvelous colors. Diane is happiest when placing color around a rug. She is well known nationwide for her rug hooking expertise and enjoys making class a fun and friendly environment.

**Open Workshop** -- Diane will be teaching this as an Open Workshop, so hook with any pattern you wish. She will focus on making your rug colorful and pleasing to your color palette. Diane is high energy and will keep you working throughout the week to plan all elements of your rug.

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

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

There are openings in the workshops for Cyndi Duade and Michele Micarelli.  
Cancellations normally occur before camp, so you are encouraged to place your name on the waiting list if you wish to attend.

**Brandywine Hook-in** -- There were over 20 Guild members who made the trek out to Wagontown, PA on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> for the Brandywine hook-in. It was a gorgeous fall day and the event was very busy as usual. It has become so popular that Brandywine President Jeri Livingston mentioned they may need to look for a larger venue to accommodate everyone.

In addition to hooking the day away, there was lots of shopping going on at the fabulous vendors. Many hookers brought rugs to put in the mini rug show during the day. There were lots of door prizes handed out and the Brandywine Guild sponsored a charity raffle. The raffle tickets were sold during the hook-in and the money is going toward the charity, Pets for Vets. There were many awesome donations for this tricky tray event from teachers, suppliers, ATHA Guilds, and individuals, and all of the 2014 vendors!

All in attendance had a great time and we look forward to the event next fall!

**Member Attends First Hook-in** -- Sandy Denarski was one of over 20 members who attended the Brandywine Guild's hook-in last month. This was her first hook-in and she shared the following reactions and observations:

“My first hint that this was going to be something special was the parking lot. Filled to the brim with cars, their doors and trunks flung open as the women pulled out large bags of rugs, wool and cutters. But nothing prepared me for what was inside. It was glorious controlled chaos very similar to a marketplace I had been to in Sicily. But instead of cheese, bread and vegetables it was rugs and wool.

“Everywhere I looked women were happily chatting as they worked on rugs, showed off their rugs and were busy buying wool and supplies to make more rugs. My friend Carol and I squeezed through the crowd and were able to find what seemed to be the two last seats in the place. Visually it was a feast for the eyes, all the colors and hustle bustle. You could feel the joy in the room. I was in awe and so overwhelmed by the hook-in that I was startled when I heard my name being called by a woman standing on a chair in the middle of the room. She had to yell over the din....."Sandy Denarski, who is Sandy Denarski? Everyone looked around and then I realized she was holding my checkbook. In my excitement over the hook-in I had left my checkbook at the sign in table. This retired accountant has never done that before. For an accountant to forget a checkbook tells you this was one exciting experience. I guess you can say I have become hooked on rugs.”

**Featured Member – Cindy Lott** – In 1993 Cindy Lott saw a small hooked rug in a Peddlers Village shop in Lahaska, Pennsylvania. She “fell in love with it” and wanted to buy a kit.

Unfortunately there was no kit and the shopkeeper was not aware of anyone who gave lessons. Cindy kept searching for information on rug hooking and by chance tuned in to a local Berks County TV show that had a brief program on rugs hooked by Rebecca Erb. Cindy was eventually able to reach Rebecca who at that time had made the transition to selling rug hooking wool. However, she was able to give Cindy what she needed – leads on rug hooking instructors.

One of those leads was Annie Harlin who lived in Leesport, PA which was not too far from Cindy's home in Reading. Annie was a locally established artisan known for her handmade teddy bears but she gave up the teddy bears for rug hooking! Cindy went to Annie's home for basic lessons on traditional rug hooking. She learned of Cushing & Company from which she then purchased what she needed to get started. Cindy "dabbled on and off" while she learned on her own. Limited information on hooking resources still held her back. That all changed when she purchased her first computer. Suddenly the world of rug hooking was open to her.

Cindy travelled to Maine in 2005 for her first rug hooking camp – Searsport Rug Hooking – where she worked with Jon Ciemiewicz. Jon is known for his narrow cut rugs featuring animals. Cindy worked from a photograph of her three pets. "I keep trying to develop my narrow cut skills, but am always drawn back to wide cut primitive folk art rugs," Cindy shares. She deserves an "A" for effort as Cindy has attended HCRAAG camps with two of the best narrow cut instructors – Judy Carter and Liz Marino. "I just like what can be achieved with wide cut textured wool. That's where my heart is." Cindy is a member of several area guilds (Brandywine, Hunterdon, and Woolwrights) which allows her to be exposed to some of the best contemporary rug hooking instructors such as Norma Batastini, Susan Feller, Michele Micarelli, and Cynthia Norwood.

"I have learned from all of these wonderful teachers. Cynthia pushed me to hook wider and to use more textured wools with a touch of paisley here and there. I have little faith in my color planning, but Cynthia insisted that I was better than I thought!" Cindy notes.

Cindy does a little wool dyeing using recipes from dye books. She has limited interest in developing dye recipes and doing a lot of dyeing. Her wool dyeing has included spot, mottled and dip dyeing. "I find dyeing ok, but it is not compelling."

"There are so many great patterns out there that I tend to work mostly with commercially available ones," Cindy says. Spruce Ridge Studio is one of her favorite sources for "Not Forgotten Farm" patterns by Lori Brechlin which have been adapted for rug hooking by Kris Miller. Cindy also loves fraktur and Pennsylvania Dutch type patterns that recall her Pennsylvania Dutch roots. Jon Ciemiewicz and Lenny Feenan have been called upon to draw patterns from photographs of her pets.

Cindy tries to hook every day even if it may only be for 10 minutes. She enjoys hooking in her living room with her husband, Greg. She is best at night and may hook until 3:00 AM if she has trouble sleeping. Working on her current project at night is especially relaxing when the house is quiet.

Our Guild came to Cindy's attention by Joanne McIlmurray who met HCRAAG members at the Green Mountain Guild's exhibit and workshops held at Shelburne Museum, Vermont in 2006. Shortly thereafter, the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA, hosted a Guild sponsored hooked rug exhibit and day of hooking. Cindy hooked with the group and soon joined the Guild. Living in Reading, PA makes it difficult for her to come to monthly meetings; however, Cindy has attended our summer camps for the last two years. She stays in one of the

Flemington motels to avoid the long drive each day. “I love the HCRAAG camps! Members are all so friendly. It’s a really nice group and I’ve met and made some nice friends.”

Cindy and Greg live in Reading, PA with “Bruno” their adopted English Chocolate Lab. “He’s the love of our life” Cindy shares. Greg is a graphic artist who works in Reading with Energysys -- the largest battery company in the world. Cindy says that “It is not a name that most people have heard, but it is a huge company that does a lot of work with the military, NASA, and telecommunications and medical industries.”

Cindy was the office manager for two doctors in Reading before she retired. She suffered a brain bleed in 2002. During brain surgery she had a stroke and was clinically dead for three days on life support. Miraculously Cindy recovered! She remembers how much her life changed with this event but it also taught her so much. “It has made me so much stronger in my faith. I have learned to be thankful. A big lesson for all to learn, ‘Health is Wealth’.”

When she was very young, Cindy’s grandmother taught her embroidery and was responsible for her life-long interest in anything to do with fabric arts – except buttons. “I don’t do buttons!” Cindy exclaims. In addition to hooking rugs, Cindy’s artistic efforts include punch-needle, knitting, crocheting, wool applique, and cross-stitch. She is also an “avid reader of novels and dabbles in painting. “I want to do everything. There is not enough time in the day.” Cindy “loves the feel of wool and the look of rich muted primitive colors.”

Looking forward Cindy wants to “relax more and not be too picky about my work. I need to be realistic. Not everything has to be perfect.”

Visit our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)) to see some of Cindy’s rugs.

## **Hooking Information & Techniques**

**From Nina’s Notebook** – The world seems to have turned to pale blue and silver. The trees are like pieces of sculpture, silvery limbs reaching into a sky filled with fluffy clouds and birds flying south. It is time to think of the holidays. The Mall is playing familiar songs of the season and we are making plans for decorating our houses. Out come familiar ornaments, candle sticks, wreaths, figures of Santa, the nativity, snow globes...whatever has been with us through the years. Each piece comes with its own story and memory of times past and a promise for the future.

For rug hookers, I know that many of you have mats that come out at this time of the year. For my family, it is one that was hooked to show how the nativity would look if it happened on Bell Island, our Nova Scotia home. Joseph is shown as a fisherman in traditional boots and flannel shirt, the baby is lying in a dory or small boat typical to the Island, and the local folks have come with gifts of apples, bread and fish. (In the HCRAAG website gallery is a picture of the mat). In addition I have smaller mats of the wise men and even a partridge in a pear tree.

When Aunt Virginia was alive, I hooked a Santa mat for her each year. They hung in her house all year long because Christmas and Santa was her favorite time of the year. When she died, I distributed her collection among her children and grandchildren as a memory of her and the season.

So bring out your collection of seasonal mats and enjoy them. Take a look around and see what you would like to add to the collection. Do you need a Santa? Or do you need something to reflect your religious heritage? What about a simple Welcome Mat to greet visitors who come to your house? The possibilities are endless.

Enjoy the holidays; celebrate the joy of the season and the artist that lives within each one of us. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

**Ideas from the Gimber's Dye Pot -- Dyeing Gray Wool?** -- We needed wool for our current project, the Bonnel Tavern sign which has a central bee skep image. We decided to marry recycled gray herringbone wool for the skep. We used 1 Tsp. Pro-Chem Orange #233 and 1Tsp. Pro-Chem Sun Yellow #119. The results were better than expected and we learned a lesson – do not discard the grays, over dye them.

(Abraham Bonnel was granted a tavern license in 1764 and maintained it until 1797 when he was succeeded by his son Clement Bonnel. Abraham Bonnel served as Lieutenant Colonial of the Second Regiment of Hunterdon County Militia. The Bonnel Tavern still stands just beyond the Pittstown/Clinton exit of Rte. 78. The original sign has not survived.)

**Tips from Heloise – Shortcut When Dyeing Wool** -- After taking wool from the dye pot put it in the clothes washer to rinse and spin dry. This eliminates the interim step of rinsing and squeezing dry the newly dyed wool by hand. Then dry the wool in the dryer.

**Recipes – Deb Lesher's Spiced Pumpkin Dip** – One of the special snacks brought to our 300<sup>th</sup> Hunterdon County Celebration was a Spiced Pumpkin Dip prepared by Deb Lesher. We are indebted to her for providing the recipe.

#### Ingredients

- 1 block cream cheese (8oz) softened
- 2 c confectioners' sugar
- 15 oz. can solid pack pumpkin
- 1 T cinnamon
- 1 T pumpkin spice
- 1 t vanilla

The dip is easy to prepare:

- Cream the cream cheese and sugar together until smooth
- Gradually add pumpkin
- Add spices and vanilla and whip till totally blended

This dip goes very well with ginger snaps, sliced apples/pears or anything dip-able!

### **Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities**

“From Garden to Table” – Hooked Rug Exhibit at Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (November 15, 2014 – March 1, 2015) – The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA is partnering with Susan Feller (Ruckman Mill Farm Rug Hooking Studio) on an

exhibit titled "From Garden to Table," which will feature contemporary hooked rugs with fruit and vegetable themes and a wonderful group of related objects from their collection. For more information, go to [www.schwenkfelder.com](http://www.schwenkfelder.com) and [www.ruckmanmillfarm.com](http://www.ruckmanmillfarm.com).

Common Threads Textile Conference (February 21, 2015) – The Goschenhoppen Historians, the Mennonite Heritage Center and the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center invite you to a one day Pennsylvania German textile history conference, scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Schwenkfelder Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. The cost of the conference is \$30 which includes lunch. Several speakers will lecture on local textile history, patchwork pillowcases, local 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century quilts, Mennonite textiles, Victorian clothing, and townscape needle pictures. Register by calling Joanne Jalowy at 215-679-3103 or emailing [joanne@schwenkfelder.com](mailto:joanne@schwenkfelder.com). More information can be obtained by going to [www.schwenkfelder.com](http://www.schwenkfelder.com).

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 10-15, 2015) – Retreat, workshops, exhibits and vendors will be part of this special rug hooking event at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. Visit [www.saudervillage.org](http://www.saudervillage.org) for details.

TIGHR Triennial Meeting (October 4-7, 2015) – The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) holds its 8<sup>th</sup> Triennial in Victoria, BC, Canada. Plans include workshops, demonstrations, panel discussions, excursions and 19 international instructors. Visit [www.blueheronstudio.ca](http://www.blueheronstudio.ca) for more information.

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](mailto: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](mailto:kathmb@hotmail.com). Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.springlakenjatha.org) – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or [beedkay@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **HCRAAG Calendar of Events**

**December 5, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day \*\***

**December 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Gathering \***



**Sunshine** – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail).

**Treasurer** – Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net)

Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or [deerosebrock@aol.com](mailto: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 group 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](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## **HCRAE CLASSIFIEDS**

### **SALE**

**Gruber 14" dia. hoop swivel lap frame.** Perfect for rug hooking, punch needle and needlework. **Frame swivels 360 degrees while base remains steady in your lap. Brand new-never used.**

**Asking \$70.00**

**Contact- Sandy Francisco at [harryfranc@yahoo.com](mailto:harryfranc@yahoo.com)**

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**"Ergo" Hartman Hook**

**Asking \$30.00**

**16 inch Wool Christmas Tree with Metal Tree Stand**

**Asking \$ 40.00**

**Contact - Donna Kolznak...[dmk17@ptd.net](mailto:dmk17@ptd.net)**

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**Handwoven Rug Hooker's Companion Tote Basket (Various Accent colors available)**

**Asking \$45.00**

**Contact - Mary Passerello...[mpassere@comcast.net](mailto:mpassere@comcast.net)**

**Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at [mpassere@comcast.net](mailto:mpassere@comcast.net) or 908-782-1765 by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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**



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