

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

December 2016

Presidents' Letter – I have been staring at a blank word document screen for the last 50 minutes, trying to think of what to say in the Presidents' Letter, but my mind is a complete blank. Does that ever happen to you? In truth, it has been longer than 50 minutes. Karl told me several days ago that he wanted the letter early, so I have been thinking about it for maybe five days, but I have been sitting here for 50 minutes.

I often have the same problem when I finish a rug and do not have another one in the pipeline. If I have done a complicated, a detailed, or a drudge rug, I have most likely been fighting the rug, and have not planned ahead. I am just thankful to have it behind me.

A few suggestions for such a time as this:

- Keep on hand a couple of patterns you would like to do. If your taste in patterns changes, you can always flip them over and draw something new on the back.
- Keep a folder of ideas. The folder could be full of photographs, pages torn out of magazines, sketches, etc. You could continually be working on putting some of these together to make a new design.
- Cruise the internet sites like Pinterest, and other craft idea sites.
- Work on a hit or miss. Have a project that is always on the back burner, into which you work all your leftovers. I recently did some hit or miss pigs. I thought about calling it Hit or Miss Piggy. But it reminded me of the Tumbling Cats pattern, so I thought it could be Tumbling Pigs. But pigs don't tumble, they roll. Rolling Pigs. Then I thought about the grandchild rugs I have done for my two oldest. My youngest granddaughter is named Taylor, so being a good Jersey girl, I call the rug Taylor's Pork Roll. Sometimes I get as much enjoyment out of naming a piece as I do out of hooking it. However, what I noticed with Taylor's Pork Roll is that I was not able to make even a dent in the bin of worms. I think I will have to hook a room size rug in order to use them all up.

And look at that! I have done the Presidents' Letter without difficulty.

Thank you one and all for making our Guild such a great place. Wishing each of you and your families a great Thanksgiving, and wonderful, joy-filled December holidays, whatever they may be.

Yours in wool, Weezie, Jan, and Fred

December Meeting – Friday, December 9, 2016 – 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.

Holiday Luncheon -- 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 – Please bring and share your current projects.

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), Susie Simmons (12/18), Helen Trammell (12/22), Agnes Wooden (12/2), and Karen Worthington (12/13).

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

Membership – We welcome the return of two former members – Claudia Casebolt and Tillie Ren (see their contact information below.). Claudia will be traveling from her home in Washington State to be with us at the January Retreat.

Claudia Casebolt
15720 67th Ave. NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
junkforclaudia@gmail.com
253-314-3551

Attilia (Tillie) Ren
19 Davis Ct.
Matinsville, NJ 088936
tilliebean@optonline.net
732-356-2970

The membership renewal form is available on our website – www.hcrag.com.

Sunshine – Ellen Di Clemente’s husband, Mark, underwent major lung surgery last month. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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

Memorial Scholarship Nomination Deadline -- December 1, 2016 – The Guild’s Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of deceased members. It provides a full scholarship to a deserving member to attend the HCRAG summer rug hooking school and is awarded 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 Jan or Weezie by December 1, 2016. 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.

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 pajamas, slippers, socks and sweat pants. Many who seek refuge arrive at the safe house without these basic items for themselves. They normally bring clothing for their children but not for themselves. Donations are needed for adults of all sizes and should be new and unwrapped.

We will be collecting the donations at the December meeting. In addition, Weezie will conduct a mini-auction and Cindy Boult will oversee a silent auction of items desired by rug hookers with the proceeds going to Victims of Domestic Violence in Hunterdon.

11th Annual Christmas Market (December 3 & 4, 2016) – Three Pennsylvania German museums and heritage centers – the Goschenhoppen Historians, Mennonite Library & Heritage Center and the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – are collaborating for their 11th Annual Christmas Market that is a three-stop self-guided tour of Pennsylvania Dutch traditions. This is the tour de force for those who enjoy Pennsylvania German material culture, history, and food.

The Mennonite Heritage Center (Harleysville, PA) will feature special holiday exhibits (see article below on the quilt show) and their annual Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Art sale from the finest traditional artisans.

The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (Pennsburg, PA) is featuring sales of local art work and crafts as well as special exhibits -- From the Potter's Hand, Tavern Sign Hooked Rugs and the Christmas Putz (see article below).

The Goschenhoppen Historians (Green Lane, PA) will transform Red Man's Hall into a Christmas wonderland with displays and tree decorations, a Moravian Putz and a standard gauge train and village. They will have a mouth-watering selection of Pennsylvania Dutch treats including baked goods, candies and chow-chow to take home.

To learn more about each organization, call the phone numbers provide below or go to their websites.

- Mennonite Heritage Center – 215-256-3020 or www.mhep.org.
- Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – 215-679-3103 or www.schwenkfelder.com.
- Goschenhoppen Historians – 215-234-8953 or www.goschenhoppen.org.

January Hooking Retreat (January 13-15, 2017) -- Our popular January rug hooking retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ is now fully booked. However, event coordinator, Weezie Huntington, is maintaining a wait list since there are frequently last minute cancelations.

Let Weezie know if you wish to be placed on the wait list or if you have questions.

Participants can commute or stay overnight. The cost for the weekend is \$45 – a real bargain!
Participation is limited to members.

A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community – Quilt Exhibit (November 19, 2016 -- March 2, 2017) – The Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA invites the public to view the new exhibit: “A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community.” The exhibit features numerous colorful pattern and scrap quilts from the Mennonite communities of Bucks and Montgomery Counties and will be on display until March 2, 2017. Enjoy the variety of patterns and riotous color combinations that reflect the Pennsylvania Dutch culture of early to mid-twentieth century southeastern Pennsylvania Mennonite women. The Mennonite Heritage Center is open from 10 am to 5 pm from Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday. For information about the Mennonite Heritage Center exhibits and programs, see mhpc.org.

Pennsylvania German *Putz* Tradition on Display (November 19, 2016 – March 4, 2017) – *Putz* visiting was a popular holiday activity in Lehigh and northern Montgomery Counties and other areas in the early 20th century. *Putz* makers would construct elaborate Christmas gardens in the homes, often with automated features, and would open their doors for the general public to visit. The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA has an extensive collection of *Putz* with different themes depicting different time periods, such as you might have seen visiting neighbors’ homes in the early 20th century.

For those not familiar with the *Putz* tradition, we quote from the Moravian Christmas in the South by Nancy Smith Thomas:

“From the earliest days the Moravians enjoyed embellishing and adorning their churches with added beauty for special occasions, and that beloved custom was also brought into the homes....At no event did the Moravians embellish more than at Christmas. Their decoration was called a *Putz*, from the sixteenth-century Saxon-dialectal word *putzen* meaning ‘to decorate.’ At Christmas the nativity was the focus of the *Putz*....Greenery was an essential part of the *Putz*, certainly because it dispelled the gloom of the winter....”

A young Moravian girl “remarked on the *Putz* of her memory from the early 1800s:

‘The beautiful custom of Christmas decorations was no doubt inherited from our German ancestors so that in every house in town children were made happy by having a *Putz*. Some were on a very extensive plan representing landscape scenery with hills and rocks and fountains. Then there was the well-known shepherd dressed in Oriental costume with his flock and faithful watchdog before him and familiar Noah’s Ark from which animals known and unknown issued in pairs. There was also sometimes a cave or little house representing the place of the Nativity with the mother and child, a manger, etc. It was a happy time for children to go from house to house, to see and admire the various decorations, and every door was thrown open for them.’”

The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center is located at 105 Seminary Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073. For more information on the *Putz* exhibits go to www.schwenkfelder.com or call 215-679-3103.

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

At the present time there are openings in Cammie Bruce's and Cindy Irwin's workshops.

Still an Opportunity to Attend Rug School Free – Housing is currently only needed for one of our instructors. Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice as long as an opening still exists in that class. All that is required is to provide housing (private room and bath), breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

Spring Fling and Hooking Retreat (April 21-23, 2017) -- Plans are underway for a special rug hooking weekend event held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ during the weekend of April 21-23, 2017. One of the meeting rooms will be used for our regular retreat and the other for a Spring Fling Workshop on "Standing Wool" conducted by fiber artist Mary DeLano.

Mary DeLano is a multi-lingual fiber artist who loves color, texture, and recycling. Mary devotes most of her time to making wool rugs and embroidered wool applique pieces, and continually learns new techniques to integrate into her work. She mixes techniques and materials across the fiber arts to create magnificent, one-of-a-kind pieces that make a statement! Mary has a "what if" perspective that gives her the freedom to venture into uncharted territories and she takes her students along for the ride. She also enjoys knitting and creating wool applique with lots of embellishment. Some of her standing wool pieces will be included in Tracy Jamar's new book Coils, Folds, Twists and Turns: Contemporary Techniques in Fiber.

Amy Korengut is our event coordinator for the Spring Fling and will share additional details on this special weekend as soon as the plans are finalized.

May 2017 Meeting – Felted Appliqué & Pictorial Hand Embroidery – Jeanne Surdi has arranged for Debora Konchinsky of Critter Pattern Works (www.critterpat.com) to present a three hour workshop on felted applique and embroidery at our May 12, 2017 meeting. Additional information on a kit that will be available and tools needed will be forthcoming shortly.

Guild Featured in November/December 2016 Issue of Rug Hooking Magazine -- The story of the Guild's support of Hunterdon County's 300th Celebration is featured in the current issue of RHM. The rugs of members who participated in the tavern sign challenge (Cindy Boults, Sandy Denarski, Gail Ferdinando, Karl Gimber, Therese Shick, and Martha Thieling) are prominently presented.

Mentoring Program Available -- We want to remind members, especially new members, that the Guild's 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.

Amy Korengut coordinates our Mentoring Program. Anyone interested in having a mentor just needs to let Amy know. Her contact information can be found under the Officer/ Chair listing at the end of the newsletter.

HCRAG Library –We wish to thank Karl and Mary Jo Gimber for their generous donations to our library. The following three publications have been added:

- 1981 and 1985 editions of Patsy Becker's catalogue Designs from Patsy.
- Anne D Mather's Creative Rug Hooking which features creating your own patterns, making those patterns personal and a sampling of projects and patterns.
- Ann Wiseman's Hand Hooked Rugs and Rag Tapestries. Written in 1969 it reflects the style of the time.

Kathy brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild's library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact Kathy by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or 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.

HCRAG Website -- Our Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug

Featured Member – Robin Nissenfeld -- Robin Nissenfeld is “an avid knitter” and it was through her knitting that she was introduced to rug hooking. Her husband, Mark, traveled a lot with his work while she was home raising their son. However, in 2006 Robin and her friend had a four day “get-away” and took a rug hooking class at the New York State Sheep & Fiber Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. She returned home with a kit for a pumpkin pillow and supplies from Heavens-to-Betsy. A customer at Pins & Needles in Princeton where Robin worked gave her a hooking frame so she was able to continue working on the pillow. Robin did not do much more for a while but returned to Rhinebeck two years later and took a more advanced class. She returned home and invested in additional supplies and equipment.

Shortly thereafter, Robin and Mark moved from Princeton to New Hope and she started working in the J. Jill Apparel store in Flemington where she met Dee Rosebrock who frequently shopped at the store following HCRAG meetings. Robin continued to hear more about rug hooking from Dee. A friend living in Tucson, Arizona who knew of Robin's nascent interest in hooking told her “she must come out” for a

wonderful local hook-in. Robin flew to Tucson and came back hooked! She bought a cutter, contacted Dee, met Weezie, and joined the Guild. Robin's rug hooking journey was now fully underway.

Prior to attending our Rug School last summer, Robin always bought kits (mostly of sheep) since she did not want to buy a lot of costly wool that might end up unused. She was attracted to Nancy Jewett's workshop because of Nancy's use of color and whimsy. Weezie advised Robin that if she was going to spend the money to come to rug school, she should consider designing her own pattern and doing the color planning "Talk about being intimidated!" Robin exclaimed. However, she decided to design a rug of her dog, Fido, and with Weezie's help put it on the backing. The rug is fairly large and Robin recognized that it would be a long term project lasting into the winter, so she selected bright colors to help liven up the dark winter days ahead. She recalls her reaction to seeing "the wall of wool and color" when entering Nancy's classroom. "I was blown away!" Robin bought all the wool required for her project including favorite purples and turquoises. "My rug school experience was so rewarding. It captivated me and gave me a feeling of accomplishment as a fiber artist," Robin notes.

Robin prefers to hook during the day when the lighting is better and when she is more alert and can better concentrate on her hooking. In contrast, Robin does her knitting at night while watching TV. "I have been knitting for so long, it is like breathing. I do not have to think about it, like I have to with hooking." In addition to the hooking she can do at home, Robin hooks with friends on Thursdays and with the "Mercer Hookers" at the Mercer County Library each month. There are times that her schedule limits her hooking to when she is with friends.

Before learning of our Guild, Robin relied on Rug Hooking Magazine and the ATHA Magazine for rug hooking information. "Rug hooking is a somewhat underground activity. There are no brick and mortar stores close-by so I relied on the magazines for supplies." She credits Dee Rosebrock for "getting me into the local network of rug hookers."

Robin and Mark live in New Hope, Pennsylvania with their son, Sam, who is a junior at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts and their dog, Fido, and two cats – "Tummy" (short for "Autumn") and "Gumpert." Fido is a Bernese Mountain Dog. Tummy is a 25 pound Maine Coon cat. "She is bigger than many dogs," Robin says with a smile. On the other end of the spectrum, "Gumpert" is a rescue cat that barely weighs five pounds. Mark owns a market research company specializing in the pharmaceutical industry. Both Mark and Robin have advance degrees. He has a PHD from Penn and Robin has two Master Degrees – social work and public administration. Robin had a long career in health care marketing with a major nursing home company. After taking a break when starting her family, Robin went back to hospital social work with major emphasis in trauma counseling. The final six year phase of her career was in retail sales as Assistant Store Manager for J. Jill Apparel in Flemington.

As previously noted Robin is an avid knitter and often knits two to three hours a day. She also enjoys doing needlepoint that she learned from her days with Pins & Needles. "I needed to know needle-point so that I could better serve our customers," she notes. Gardening is another favorite pastime. "I do less now that we live in a townhouse, but I still can garden in the three sides of our unit." "I also get satisfaction from homemaking."

Now that she has retired, Robin can devote more time to her creative pursuits. She has become an active Guild member by participating in our hooking retreats, rug school and demonstrations. Robin marvels at the "invaluable help and support" she has received from Guild members. "The Guild is open and so inclusive, not 'clickish.' I have been made to feel included and accomplished. It all keeps me motivated!"

Robin is looking forward to meeting Guild member Barbie Beck-Wilczek who will be traveling from New Hampshire for our January retreat. Barbie, our Featured Member for November 2014, is known for

beautiful hooked rugs featuring her Burnese Mountain Dogs. “Barbie’s rugs are exquisitely hooked and capture the individual expressions of each of her dogs. Her rugs influenced my Fido pattern but I realized that I could not replicate Barbie’s wonderful work.”

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina’s Notebook -- December is here with all its busyness, demands, occasions of fun and play as well as days and nights filled with obligations we would like to shed -- truly a mixture of happiness and dread. How will I fit those twelve people around my dining room table for Christmas dinner? What special gifts can I give my children and grandchildren - something unique just for them?

When it comes to gifts, my first thought is always of hooked items. What is new for this year? I look around at what the HCRAG artisans have created and there are many. Snowmen, Christmas trees, ornaments, owls; the list is long and varied. One of the websites I visited had a series of words painted on small canvases which could easily be adapted to hooking. Words such as joy, kindness, love, could be hooked on the linen and then stretched over a small frame. You can match the word to a characteristic of the receiver.

Deanne Fitzpatrick this year hooked a number of small landscapes and attached them to a small canvas and hung them in an artistic cluster (Her website is www.hookingrugs.com). If one of your gift receivers has a special place such as a lakeside house, a series of two or three scenes would be appreciated. Michaels has small wooden frames for sale for only a few dollars which would suit this project. Trace the frame onto the linen, draw on the design, hook it, cut away the excess and staple to the frame. Cover the back with colored paper on which you have written the name of the piece and your signature. --- VOILA! A splendid gift!

I wish for each of you a joyous holiday season filled with family, friends and times of peaceful rest. Happy Holidays! Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman.

From the Dye Pot – Colonial Home Dyeing – The Forgotten Art of Growing, Gardening and Cooking with Herbs by Richard Bacon provides “instructions and recipes for herb planting, growing, harvesting, and drying and for gardening, housekeeping, decorating, dyeing, cooking, and eating with herbs.” A portion of the segment on traditionally successful and colorfast plants for dyeing is provided below:

“Reds

- Bloodroot – Dig this plant in the summer and use 8 ounces of chopped root with alum-mordant wool. Boil 30 minutes. Enter wool and simmer until the desired color is obtained.
- Lady’s Bedstraw – Treat like bloodroot but boil only 15 minutes. Watch carefully, for it is delicate and the color will boil away if boiled too long.

Yellows and Golds

- Agrimony – Crush the dried flowers which appear in the early summer and simmer 25 minutes to extract dye; then simmer the wool for 30 minutes. Alum-mordant wool dyes buff; chrome, gold; alum-chrome-vinegar, khaki.
- Calendula – Flowers dye a clear yellow with an alum mordant; gold with chrome. The flowers of the garden marigold and the plant ops of St. Johnswort mordanted in alum will also give yellow.

Greens (soft yellow greens or gray greens)

- Tansy – Gather spring leaves before buds form. Use alum-mordanted wool.
- Sorrel – Pick in the spring and use alum.
- Lily-of-the-Valley – Gather in the spring and soak overnight. Simmer one hour, enter wool, and simmer another hour. Try adding one tablespoon or more lime (slaked lime or calcium hydroxide) at the end of the dyeing process to get a brighter green.

Violets

- Wild Marjoram – The flowering tops with alum mordant are reputed to yield violet. We have only died with the dried material, which gives a soft tan. Perhaps Wild Marjoram grown in different soil and used fresh would indeed yield violet.”

Tips from Heloise – How to Tell Good Wool – When buying wool either new or recycled, how can you determine whether it is good wool for hooking? Norma Batastini shared a simple technique with Heloise – simply hold the wool up to light and look through it. If you see light through the wool, it is too thin. No light means that the wool is thicker and ideal for hooking. Thank you Norma!

Recipes – Therese Shick’s Caramel Chip Chocolate Cookies (Hershey’s Kitchen) – Members who attended the November meeting enjoyed the homemade cookies prepared by Therese Shick. We thank her for sharing the recipe with us.

Ingredients

- 1 stick butter (softened)
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cups flour
- ½ cup cocoa
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 10 oz. package Sea Salt Caramel Chips

Preparation

- Beat butter, sugars and vanilla until well blended.
- Add eggs and beat well.
- Stir together flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt.
- Gradually add to wet ingredients.
- Stir in caramel chips.
- Bake at 350 for 9-10 minutes.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked Rug Exhibit – “Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” -- (November 19, 2016 to February 18, 2017) – An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA will feature the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbbers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community – Quilt Exhibit (November 19, 2016 -- March 2, 2017 -- The Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA invites the public to view the new exhibit: “A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community”. The exhibit features numerous colorful pattern and scrap quilts from the Mennonite communities of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Enjoy the variety of patterns and riotous color combinations that reflect the Pennsylvania Dutch culture of early to mid-twentieth century southeastern Pennsylvania Mennonite women. The Mennonite Heritage Center is open from 10 am to 5 pm from Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday. For information about the Mennonite Heritage Center exhibits and programs, see mhep.org.

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“Exploring the Tarot – 23 Artists Hook the Major Arcana” -- A hooked rug exhibit organized by Michelle Micarelli and Loretta Scena will be on display in Woodbridge, NJ at the Barron Arts Center from February 4-26, 2017. To view the newsletter listing this event go to website link <http://twp.woodbridge.nj.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1339> and for directions and hours of the Barron Arts Center go to link <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/150/Barron-Arts-Center>

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

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

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Barbara Boyko at 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St. Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

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

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.
- A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCRAG Calendar of Events --

November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Restoration (Cindy Comly) **

December 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Holiday Luncheon *

January 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Surprise Speaker -- Location TBD

January 13-15, 2017 – Annual January Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCRAG Auction -- Location TBD

March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in -- Location TBD

April 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Flowers (Jan Cole) – Location TBD

April 21-23, 2017 – Spring Fling & Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Felted Applique & Pictorial Hand Embroidery (Debora Konchinsky – Location TBD

June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Show & Tell Gift Drawing - Location TBD

August 7 –11, 2017 – 21st Rug Hooking School – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

August 8, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, 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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

- Co-Presidents** – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net
Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
- Vice President – Membership** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
- Director – Communications** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net
- Camp Directors** – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net
Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com
- Historian** -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
- Hospitality** -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
- Librarian** -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net
- Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com
- Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or lisasavino55@gmail.com
Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or ahtram1@aol.com
Monthly Program – Various members
- Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com
- Special Events** – Open
- Spring Hook-in** -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
- Sunshine** -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com
- Treasurer** -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

Guild’s Email List Policy -- The HCRAE Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the 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 by the 20th of the month.

HCRAE CLASSIFIEDS

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- Description of Item for Sale or Wanted
- Asking Price for sale items
- Contact Information