

# THE LOOP

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

December 2017

### **Presidents' Letter**

At the recent meetings, and in recent emails, we have asked you to read, review, and make suggestions on updating the bylaws. So far, we have only gotten a few suggestions, and several “things are fine” comments.

I do not know of a single volunteer organization that has people lining up, fighting to serve on the management board. It's the old 80-20 concept-- 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. This is a standard situation regardless of business setting, church setting, volunteer setting, committee setting, etc. We have that problem too.

The purpose of this particular letter is to put forth some of the suggestions made already, in an attempt to engage everyone in the discussion. YOU may not think your ideas are worthwhile, but we would like to hear them anyway. This is YOUR guild, and your opinion matters, as does your participation. And just because it is the HUNTERDON County Rug Artisans' Guild, doesn't mean you have to live in (or near) Hunterdon County to be a member or an officer.

A few of the suggestions made have to do with redefining the communication jobs since we no longer have Karl. While we have divvied up the jobs, we have not updated the descriptions. We are working on that.

But we also list a Special Events Chair—a position that has been vacant for a long time, so do we really need such a person? If we do away with that position, how do we handle any special event we want? Program Coordinator is also vacant, and has been for a while. Do we need such a person? If we don't fill that position, who will get programs for us? This particular title is ‘Coordinator’, which means others can do the work.... maybe it should be Program Committee Coordinator? Then how many people should be on the committee, or is that a floating committee for each program?

Are there some jobs that should change every 2 years? Some every 3 years? Some have a maximum of 2 terms? For example, the job of Treasurer requires a certain financial acumen and talent for accuracy. This job might be repeatable ad infinitum for a qualified person or pair of people, as long as that person is willing to serve. But the job of President, for example, might have a maximum of two consecutive 2-year terms, thereby eliminating the possibility of a “dictatorship”. New blood=new ideas=a fresh guild. Perhaps the job of Camp Director(s) has a staggered term, different from the other officers, so that the team that lines up the instructors for camp in year A finishes up with the conclusion of camp in year A, even though the next camp directors are already lining up instructors for year B before year A camp has taken place.

We hope that these ideas spark YOUR ideas, and that you will reach out to one of us to offer your suggestions. We are a strong guild because of our members. We need your input to stay strong.

We also need you to step up to fill the offices that will be vacant as of the May meeting....let's start with Co-Presidents, as Weezie is finishing 4 years, and Jan and Fred are finishing 2 years. There is a lot of untapped talent in our group. Please thoughtfully consider how you can help.

Yours in wool,

Weezie, Jan, and Fred

### **December Meeting – Friday, December 8, 2017**

Our December meeting will be our annual Holiday Luncheon, where we all gain about 5 lbs. It is potluck, with no categories. Bring whatever you want.

The Guild Hospitality committee will provide coffee this month! Bringing your own mug is welcomed.

#### **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 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, the guild will conduct a Tricky Tray; proceeds will go to this worthy cause. Please contact Cindy Boults if you want to contribute items for Tricky Tray.

#### **December Birthdays**

Agnes Wooden 12/2, Karen Worthington 12/13, Barbie Beck-Wilczek 12/15, Judy Carter 12/18, Roberta Olah 12/18, Susie Simmons 12/18, Karl Gimber 12/19, Helen Buchanan 12/21, Diane Keweshan 12/21, Helen Trammel 12/22, Paula Patti 12/28, Marjorie Anderson 12/30, Linda Ehly 12/31

**Membership** –We welcome the following new guild member:

Donna McTeigue

11 Wagner Rd  
Stockton, NJ 08559  
973-809-1958  
dmcteigue@ yahoo.com birthday 2/25

### **Changes of address!**

Eileen Koch is now at 1 Broad St #10  
Salem, MA 01970

Lee Good Hurford is now at Pine Cottage PO Box 433  
Pocono Pines, PA 18350  
Phone 908-902-5917  
Thecottages22@gmail.com

### **Sunshine**

Virginia Sutton, a founding member of the Guild, passed away recently at the age of 101. Until about 10 years ago, she was an active member of HCRAAG.

### **Guild News & Events**

Weezie is taking reservations and money for the January Retreat. The retreat, held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, Jan 12-14, begins at the end of our January auction. 48 lucky people get to hook for the entire weekend, with lots of snacks, wine, laughter, massages; the works. It is a great time to get to know other members of the guild, and to start a new project. It is a great way to start the year!

The cost is \$45 (a bargain at any price), and we get a discount if we stay overnight at the Inn. Contact Weezie to reserve your spot, and send your check (made out to HCRAAG) to her at 69 Minuteman Circle, Allentown NJ, 08501.

You should contact the Inn directly for your room reservation. Mention that you are with the Rug Artisans. If they don't give you the discount when you make your reservation, don't worry about it. Sharon, at the front desk when we are there, always gives us the discount.

When you email Weezie, let her know if you want a massage, and how many minutes (\$1 a minute plus tip). This way she won't have to bug you later.

Ellen DiClemente is asking for donation of men's 100% silk ties that you want to get rid of; ties will be used for a future guild program on dyeing wool with silk ties.

## **Rug School 2018**

Instructors Announced for 2018 Rug Hooking School -- Next year is our 22nd year and we are excited to announce that the teachers will be Pris Buttler, Carrie Martin, Sharon Smith, and Ali Strebel, (see bios below). Rug School will begin on Monday, August 6, 2018 and run to Friday, August 10, 2018. The registration form can be found on the website under School Info.

The fee is \$200 for those who are Guild members at the time of our November 2017 meeting (November 10, 2017). A registration deposit of \$100 is required (\$50 is non-refundable).

Non-members (fee \$275) can register if there are any openings after January 1, 2018. If someone joins the Guild between November 11, 2017 and December 31, 2018, they will be able to register before January 1st but will have to pay the \$275 fee.

Registration forms and deposit checks can be sent to: Debbie Walsh, 51 Spruce St., Cranford, NJ 07016. If you have any questions, Debbie can also be reached at [debywalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:debywalsh1@gmail.com).

There are currently 2 openings with Pris Butler, 3 with Carrie Martin, 1 with Ali Strebel, and Sharon Smith's class is full with a wait list. We often have cancellations and changes so feel free to add your name to a wait list if a class fills.

The following information is being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them.

### **ALI STREBEL**

Ali has been teaching fiber arts nationally and internationally since 1986. Her business, Ali Strebel Designs for Kindred Spirits, is located in Dayton, Ohio where she sells her line of books and patterns she has published as well as hand dyed wool, yarn, roving and other fiber art supplies. Her work has been featured in Rug Hooking Magazine, Wool St. Journal, and numerous other publications. She specializes in incorporating different techniques and fibers into her work and teaches others, inspiring them to do the same. Ali will have an open class, teaching different techniques and the use of different materials. Her website is [alistrebeldesigns.com](http://alistrebeldesigns.com)

Blog [alistrebel.blogspot.com](http://alistrebel.blogspot.com)

Ali's Pinterest Page "my work"

### **PRIS BUTTLER**

Pris Buttler is a professional oil painter as well as a rug hooking artist. She has been featured in RHM and Celebrations, Jesse Turbayne's book Rug Hookers from the Deep South as well as an upcoming book by Tamara Pavich (to be released during this next year, she believes). Her work is in the Tarot Card traveling show that is currently circulating through the U.S., and she currently has 2 rugs on display at the Ker Museum in Onancock, VA.

Pris is a fine artist and approaches rug hooking with these skills. She has designed workshops around Gustav Klimt, John Nieto of NM, Thomas Hart Benton, Georgia O'Keeffe and illustrator David Galchutt. Dyeing is a tool she has mastered, again from her painting experiences, and she has created a line of dye recipes, currently with 3 dye

books on the market. She has also written *Easy Lettering Tips for the Rug Hooker* and *Basic Design Techniques for the Rug Hooker*

For this workshop, Pris is holding an open class but students may designate if they would like one of her designs or even design their own pattern, one of her specialties. Pris gives a lot of leeway to what can be accomplished, before the workshop, each student will be in contact with Pris to talk about their project. Anything goes. Pris encourages students to bring their own wools if they want and she will also supply wools for sale.

Pris and her daughter Christy Fultz run Black Bear Rug Camp at Unicoi State Park Lodge in Helen, GA. and their website is [blackbearrugcamp.com](http://blackbearrugcamp.com).

### SHARON SMITH

Just a little introduction. I have a background in graphic design, working in the flat world of print design, versus drawing or painting. The emphasis in the field is on placement of objects: shaping a page with space, typography, and imagery; using dark color and light space for pleasing contrast; and balancing all of the elements in this one piece. In other words, it's all about design. With this graphic background, my attention is not on perspective in drawing, (from close range to middle distance, to horizon), nor is it about shading for a shadowy effect. It's about primitive or "naïve" art, along the line of Impressionism.

In teaching, I do mini-lectures, mini demonstrations, and mini show and tell. I allow one-on-one time to each student equally, spending many interactions with each individual over the course of the days. I try to answer all questions and offer help. My specialty is color, color, color—and making them work together.

I think my style began with what I call a contemporary primitive—rugs with a flourish of dynamic color and a feeling of whimsy. In my designs, I have evolved into a "roguish" method of hooking, using a full range of various textiles to create a painterly or impressionistic look. The painterly style is what I will be focusing on in class. This means:

- No straight line hooking; learning about other textiles and how to use them in rugs;
- When and how to combine textiles such as velvet and wool to create a unique look;
- How to use short worms to help blend or alter colors;
- Examining impressionistic paintings to encourage "different strokes" in your work.

I do bring a mini-store with tons of hand-dyed wool and just about any kind of textile you can think of. And my patterns. And some of my hand-made textile items. We won't run out of stuff.

I bring some of these to class as they help me explain my use of color, work on backgrounds, and my "painterly" style of hooking.

[www.offthehookwoolrugs.com](http://www.offthehookwoolrugs.com)

Please visit my website and see my work. Thank you.

## CARRIE MARTIN

### My start with hooked rugs

Hooked rugs have been a part of my life since I was volunteering for the Humane Society in the 1970's when a hooked rug came in as a donation. I purchased it and there began my love for rug hooking. Searching, using and repairing vintage hooked rugs became part of my life. Weekends were spent haunting thrift shops, flea markets and garage sales with an eye out for hooked rugs.

After moving to Louisiana and not finding hooked rugs in resale and antique shops, I decided that I would have to make my own. To the library I went and found a book on rug hooking with the most wonderful resource section in the rear of the book. Within weeks I was working on my first rug, receiving Rug Hooking Magazine and a Bliss cutter was on its way. As we all say, I was HOOKED.

My first rug Camp was "Castle in the Clouds" directed by Ramona Maddox. My first camp instructor and one of my greatest influences was Sharon Townsend, a friendship that I have valued ever since. If you have never been to a rug school, it is an experience not to be missed since you learn so much from your instructor and other students, seeing the colorful breadth of what they have created. Inspirations flow freely and you leave with a renewed sense of creativity. Many friendships have developed through this hobby.

### Consequences of rug hooking:

Catching the rug bug is easy and can be spread by sitting in a meeting, doctor's office, or at an outdoor concert and working on a project. Once caught, it is difficult to cure the lure this craft holds. It first starts with collecting a "stash" of wool in many colors, textures from yardage to tiny scraps bursting out of drawers, closets and even sometimes stored in unused showers. Next thing you know you have others who are infected coming to your home or meeting in churches, libraries and at times even dental offices to commune in rug hooking. I don't mean to alarm those of you reading this as there is a cure: just venture out as often as you can to Hook ins, rug hooking workshops, and suppress the symptoms by purchasing a little wool, a pattern, a hook and be inspired by what you can create.

Carrie counsels and aids those with this addiction at camps and private workshops, so if you suspect you have the condition, this is the class for you.

My classes are open, meaning you may bring any pattern of your choosing it may be one of mine, yours or any designer. I always bring plenty of wool. We will have lessons daily. My goal is to instill the confidence in you to design and color plan your own hooked pieces.

Carrie's website is [www.onerugtworug.com](http://www.onerugtworug.com).

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. Hosts are asked to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you choose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath. If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

**Guild Library** – The Guild maintains an extensive library to provide for your rug hooking reading. The listing of books in the library can be found on the Guild’s website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)). All you need to do to borrow books is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring them to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or [freija2@verizon.net](mailto:freija2@verizon.net).

Kathy will be bringing an assortment of the new additions to our library to each meeting for the next several months.

Be sure to come to the January auction as we now have several duplicate books which will be offered for sale at that time.

*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](http://www.hcrag.com)) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Patti Mahar at [patriciamahar@verizon.net](mailto:patriciamahar@verizon.net). The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

### **Nina’s Notebook**

Happy Holidays! It is that wonderful time of the year. No matter how busy or stressed we are, there is something magical about this season. Regardless of how we celebrate, or not celebrate, we are reminded of the many gifts that we have received through the years.

Many times we stress about gift giving. What really matters to the recipient? Is it the right color, the right size, the right style? If we are making a hooked piece, will they like my choice of subject, the design, will it fit in their decor? So many questions, so little time!

Let’s turn the subject around and talk about the many gifts that we have received through the

years. For me, one of the greatest gifts I received was when my friend taught me to hook. It is the gift that keeps on giving. The hours and hours of joy and yes, a few of frustration and despair, are countless. It has become my passion, an idea I know many of you share. For many of us, the gift of family and friends is one which can't be matched. Joining together around the holiday table, celebrating the companionship and memories of many years, is a joy in itself. And yes, there are moments of dysfunction and disagreements, but they pale in comparison to the deep seated affection we share with them.

I encourage you to think of some of the gifts that you have received and create a mat that celebrates that gift. Maybe it was a doll or toy that was long awaited. Maybe it was a visit with a favorite relative who came only occasionally for a visit. What was something you never expected which suddenly showed up under the tree? My father recalls his joy at seeing the family Christmas tree all decorated. It had been concealed from the kids until Christmas Eve and then the door was opened to the parlor and they were allowed to see it for the first time, all in its glory.

I wish for you a holiday season filled with rejoicing and feasting, good times with family and friends. Above all I hope you will celebrate the gift of creativity which lies within each of us rug hooking artisans. It is one of the greatest gifts of all.

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

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Barbara Boyko at [barb@bboyko.com](mailto:barb@bboyko.com) or 914-588-7077. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:lindarz16@gmail.com).
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:chris622@optonline.net).

### **HCRAg Calendar of Events** --

**December 8, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon \***

**January 12, 2018- Monthly Meeting- Annual Auction, followed by the weekend retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington\***

**February 9, 2018- Monthly Meeting-Cherry Halliday-basket lid-how to attach hooking to objects\***

**March 9, 2018- Hook In and Guild only flea market. Bring your new and used items in good condition to sell. Arrive early to set up your wares and hooking stuff\***

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

**May 11, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program Lettering\***

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

\*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

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

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

**Co-Presidents** – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or [jantique@ptd.net](mailto:jantique@ptd.net)

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)

**Vice President – Membership** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or [ergot53@embarqmail.com](mailto:ergot53@embarqmail.com)

**Newsletter** – Brenda Smith-201-317-0586 or [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu)

**Camp Directors** – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or [lbrenuva@comcast.net](mailto:lbrenuva@comcast.net)

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or [debywalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:debywalsh1@gmail.com)

**Historian** -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or [sojon@comcast.net](mailto:sojon@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)

Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or [diane.mannon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.mannon@yahoo.com)

**Librarian** -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)

**Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com

**Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or [lisasavino55@gmail.com](mailto:lisasavino55@gmail.com)  
Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or [ahtram1@aol.com](mailto:ahtram1@aol.com)  
Monthly Program – Various members

**Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com

**Special Events** – Open

**Spring Hook-in** --

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

**Treasurer** -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j\_laurence@verizon.net

Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

**Guild's Email List Policy** -- The HCRAAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the group not solicit the membership as a whole.

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

**HCRAAG CLASSIFIED SECTION**

**Please submit items to be included in "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 the month you want it included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads.**