

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

February 2010

From the President's Corner – At the last meeting, I read “Up Time” by an unknown woman motivational speaker which I found on the internet. Several members suggested that “Up Time” was a worthwhile message for the entire Guild to hear. It is repeated below.

Folks, it's time for this country to experience a little 'up time', so America, Listen Up.
If you see injustice, stand up. If something needs to be said, speak up.
If you make an appointment, show up. If you're blind to your fault, wake up.
If you make a mistake, 'fess up. If you're overstepping, back up.
If you get behind, catch up. If they knock you down, get up.
If you're out of line straighten up. When your boss instructs, keep up.
When your elders speak, listen up. When your teachers teach, sit up.
When your preachers preach, wake up.
When your country calls, man up.....ladies too....woman up.
When the fight is over, make up. If you're being hard, ease up.
If your heart is closed, open up.
No matter how you feel, get up, dress up, and show up.
If you want to buy something, save up. It's not an entitlement, so shut up.
If you make a mess, clean it up. If you drop trash, pick it up
If a car is waiting for you to walk across the street, speed it up.
If you're broke and busted, give it up. If people fall down, help them up
Not the government, YOU step up. If idiots start fighting, break it up.
If the music is wholesome, turn it up. If the message is poisonous throw it up
If your words are vulgar, clam it up. If your words encourage, keep it up
If your pants are baggy, pull them up. If the belt is loose, cinch it up
If your fly is down, zip it up. If you're dressed half-naked, cover it up
If you can't afford it, pass it up. No bailout, folks, pony up.
If you made a promise, back it up
And you can take your whining and pack it up
It's called personal responsibility so take it up
This country was founded on it. You can look it up
It's the American way, people, so turn it up
If life gets boring you shake it up. If life is good you soak it up
If life's unfair, you suck it up. If life is funny you can yuck it up
If life is sad, just look straight up and life's too short, so live it up.
If you don't agree with all this stuff then you're just messed up!

Keep pulling those loops UP! -- Weezie

February Meeting – Friday, February 12, 2010 – Our normal meeting location is not available in February, so we will again meet at our alternate site -- the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the traffic circle outside of Flemington. For new members and guests, this is the circle on Rt. 523 a mile or so from our regular meeting location. (If you were leaving our regular meeting site, turn right onto Rt. 12. Go beyond the traffic light to the first traffic circle. The Raritan Township Municipal Complex is on the right just as you enter the traffic circle.)

Guild Program – Guild members, Lydia Brenner and Cheryl Halliday will present a program “Something to Warm the Heart – Pet Designs.” They will use their rugs to illustrate what they have learned about hooking rugs with pet portrait patterns. They will also discuss taking the animal from picture to drawing and then to hooking.

Show & Tell – Bring your rugs that include animal/ pet designs and any current hooking projects.

February Mat Swap -- We will be swapping mats at our February meeting. The mats should be 9” X 9” and the design should have something to do with Valentines Day or February. This is a chance to own another Guild member’s artwork! Even if you are new, your mat will be appreciated. You do not have to be a seasoned hooker to make a good mat. If you have any questions or need ideas, just contact Joyce Combs.

Hospitality – Susan Atwater, Carol Kindt, Kitty Platt and Dee Rosebrock are the refreshment volunteers for February. We thank them in advance for providing the treats that add to our meeting enjoyment.

Membership – We welcome Annie Edwards to our Guild. Annie became interested in rug hooking after seeing Rug Hooking Magazine in the Doylestown, PA Library. (The Guild provides the RHM subscription.) Annie’s contact information is shown below.

Annie Edwards
P.O. Box 262
Carversville, PA 18913
215-297-8494
anniechervinedwards@yahoo.com

Gail Ferdinando has a new email address – thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Sunshine – The last few months have been sad ones for the Guild with six members losing a loved one -- Sharon Ballard (her mother), Carol Collin (her son), Lois Grieves (her husband Hirshal), Jo Knobloch (her husband Earl), Margaret Lutz (her son John) and Bernice Smith (her sister). Our most heartfelt condolences are extended to them.

February Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to those celebrating their special day this month – Sharon Ballard (2/7), Lisa Blanco (2/25), Ingrid Cosmen (2/25), Janet Kovach (2/18), Joanne McIlmurray (2/4), Dee Rosebrock (2/8), Laurie Rubinetti (2/29), Bonnie Rusch (2/4), Lib Ryman (2/12) and Janet Santaniello (2/22). Happy Birthday to you all!

Olympic Challenge -- Eleanor Dunker learned from a knitting friend of a neat project to do during the two weeks that the Olympics are televised (February 12-28, 2010). It is called Ravelympics by their knitting group. The knitters are going to start a project on the opening day of the Olympics with the goal of having it finished by the Closing Ceremony. For rug hookers, we could each select a project of our own to try to start and finish during the two weeks of the Olympics. Another possibility is for a group to hook a 6" X 18" mat and swap them at the end. There are endless possibilities, but the point would be to do some marathon hooking for two weeks. Maybe it would be a way to get a project that has been just sitting around completed. It could be a group goal, an individual or just a few hooking friends.

March Madness – March 19-21, 2010 – The Hampton Inn in Flemington will be the site for our 2nd annual March Madness weekend. Participants can stay over night or commute. March Madness begins with a wine and cheese reception with the instructors on Friday night (March 19). Our favorite massage therapist, Joy Andrews, will be there Saturday afternoon to help relax any stiff muscles.

Purses, Pocketbooks, Handbags --. Whatever you call them, they are fun. And they are a great way to try something new. You do not need to be a master rug hooker or a professional seamstress to create a beautiful purse. You just need patience and a few special tricks.

Along with a few hooking and color-planning tips, you will go through all the steps required to create a one-of-a-kind handmade bag, including: pre-hooking preparations, choosing and sewing lining, trim, handles, attaching closures and final assembly. Hook an original design or add your own motifs. Then learn how to put it all together.

The patterns previously ordered will be available at the February meeting, but paid for at the workshop.

This workshop is currently full; however, a waiting list has been established.

Michele Micarelli – You now have two choices --- bring any project to work on or begin the pattern inspired by the fabulous Klimt painting, the Tree of Life. The change to an open workshop permits broader participation for those who want the experience of working with Michele Micarelli.

Those electing to work on the Tree of Life will find amazing geometric configurations hidden in the branches and underground. The shapes that just seem to appear as stylized flowers and seeds are fodder for color and texture as well as some mixed fabrics and yarns. Michele will be coming loaded with wool and other supplies for your hooking adventure. Laughter guaranteed. Patterns can be purchased from Michele.

The fee for members is \$150 and \$175 for non-members. *For those who have made a deposit, the balance is due on February 12.* You can send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber, P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or give it to Weezie at the February meeting..

Hook-in and Rug Show - March 20, 2010 -- The Woolwrights ATHA Chapter is sponsoring a hook-in and rug show on the first day of spring – March 20, 2010. It will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 (www.farmandhomecenter.com). There will be 15 vendors (including many of our

favorites), a guest rug show and a mat swap. Proddy and punch needle demonstrations will take place during the day. A gorgeous stand and frame from K's Creations will be raffled. A box lunch will be available. Raffle tickets for a hand crafted hooking stand and a 14" hexagonal frame from K's Creations will be available at our meeting.

The members of The Woolwrights are pleased to present this Hook-In and Rug Show as a fundraiser for the 2011 ATHA Biennial which will be held in Lancaster, PA. For registration, directions, vendor names, photo of raffle items go to: www.woolwrights.com.

14th Annual HCRAAG 2010 Rug Hooking Camp – August 9-13, 2010 – Our rug hooking camp is shaping up to be another stimulating week with three exceptional instructors -- Cherylyn Brubaker, Jen Lavoie and Diane Phillips. Two workshops will be devoted to specific subjects – landscapes (Jen Lavoie) and portraits (Diane Phillips) – and one open workshop (Cherylyn Brubaker). The workshop descriptions are shown below.

Cherylyn Brubaker You are invited to work on the pattern that excites you! All styles of hooking and pattern designs are welcome. Cherylyn particularly enjoys hooking in the primitive style with over dyed textured fabrics, but is equally at home with fine cuts. Achieving depth and richness in our rugs through value, texture and color is what she strives for. Discussions are planned during the week on topics such as color planning and background techniques.

Cherylyn resides in Brunswick, Maine and is the owner of Hooked Treasures. A former graphic designer and a certified teacher with the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia, she teaches at workshops in the Northeast and Atlantic Canada. Her work has been featured in Celebrations X and XVII. Most recently she was a contributor to the book "Pattern Designs for Rug Hookers". Her pattern designs and finished rugs can be viewed on her website -- www.hookedtreasures.com.

Jen Lavoie -- Jen Lavoie lives in Huntington, Vermont. She was featured artist at the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild's annual show at the Shelburne Museum in 2007. Her work can be seen in Anne-Marie Littenberg's most recent book, Hooked Rug Landscapes. She uses a variety of cuts and dye techniques, including painted wool, dip dye and gradation value dyes, to create landscapes and pictorials in a painterly style.

In class Jen will spend time with you problem solving and helping you find your own personal style and expression. Her focus is on discovering originality and true mastery of the medium. Class will consist of individual student sessions as well as short talks on process, wool as an art medium, dyeing and the principles of color, texture, line and perspective in rug hooking. Jen wants you to find inspiration to hook from your own personal experiences in life and even if you are working on a pattern, to discover what makes it truly your own artwork. All types of projects are welcome!

Diane Phillips – This workshop will focus on hooking faces, portrait style. The faces will be at least 8 inches from forehead to chin so that you can play with color and expression. An imaginary person, a family member, a national figure or YOURSELF- all faces are fair game. We will have individual lessons as well as daily demonstrations of hooking eyes, noses and mouths. We'll learn how many lovely colors can enhance skin and learn some techniques of dying unique shades of skin for all the world's people. Hooking hair gives us great opportunities for textures. Diane's personal style swings from very folkly to realistic,

so you can work in your own style or try a new one. All cuts of wool from 3 to 7 are fine – Diane believes in cutting the size one needs to get the look one wants. She will provide lots of samples and inspirational materials as well as a DVD she produced for the Home and Garden Channel. Come have fun and hook a portrait that will become a treasured rug!

Diane lives in Fairport NY with her husband, Bruce, and four dogs. For eight years she directed the rug school held by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont. In 2009 Diane was the Featured Teacher at the Sauder Village Rug Show and School in Ohio and will be a featured artist at the Hooked in the Mountains Rug Show in Vermont this November.

The fee for the week is \$150 for HCRAAG members who paid their dues by November 13, 2009. It is \$225 for others. To register, just send a \$25 nonrefundable deposit to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. Make your check payable to HCRAAG.

The Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship for attendance at our annual rug hooking camp. The scholarship can be used to recognize a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild, for someone who would not attend otherwise, to recognize a long time member, to welcome a new member, etc. In other words, the criteria are very broad. Nominations should be submitted to Weezie Huntington, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, by March 12, 2010.

Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is 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 have interest, let Camp Director, Dee Rosebrock, know.

Fundraising Auction a Huge Success -- Even though the snow storm reduced the number of members attending our January meeting, those who came were prepared to take advantage of the auction bargains. The variety of items donated by Guild members assured that bidders had a broad selection of desirable items to pursue. There was considerable interest in the large number of wool bundles donated by Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows) and Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip). Madeline Brightbill's fine cut mat donated by Margaret Brightbill drew the highest bid of the day. When Weezie's gavel fell for the last time, almost \$800 had been committed by active and aggressive auction bidders. Thank you to all who helped make our auction a success!

Hooking Retreat –The threat of bad weather did not deter the dedicated rug hookers who gathered at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ for the Guild's 4th annual retreat. Shortly after noon on January 8th, Guild members began to arrive and set up for the weekend. There was a nice blending of "regulars" who have attended every retreat with those who came for the first time. The three new members in attendance found the weekend to be a natural way to get to know Guild members.

Those staying overnight took a break for dinner and continued hooking until 11:00 PM Friday and Saturday nights. To the delight of the Hampton Inn's night crew, our determined hookers could not resist singing along to the music coming across the intercom. Perhaps the wine helped! By Saturday everyone was ready for a relaxing massage. Our favorite masseuse, Joy Andrews, worked her magic on the stiff muscles.

Retreaters took advantage of having others available to get ideas and suggestions on their rugs. The new hookers received an abundance of encouragement and advice. A listing of the type of rugs worked on could be used as the table of contents in a book on rug hooking. The patterns included geometrics, pictorials, primitives and animal portraits. Rugs were being hooked in fine and wide cuts and in the Grenfell style with strips of dyed hosiery. At the conclusion of the retreat, all agreed that the time went too fast and that we need to do this again soon.

Time to Start Thinking About Officer Elections -- Guild by-laws call for the election of officers in April. This is the time to begin thinking about how you can assist the Guild in the coming year. Weezie expects to move this year, so we will need a new president. Our by-laws provide for senior and junior roles. This allows for a period to be an understudy. Current officers are listed at the end of the newsletters. Seek them out to learn more about what is involved in their roles.

Fraser Cutter Blades Needed - Our newest member, Annie Edwards, just purchased a Fraser Model A Bliss wool cutter and needs #2, 3 and 7 cut blades. Please let her know if you have any for sale. Annie's contact information can be found in the Membership segment of the newsletter.

Guild Members Happe and Worthington Introduce a Line of Wool -- Guild members Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows) and Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip) have joined forces to introduce a new line of wool. They are designing their wools primarily with rug hookers in mind. They also hope to cater to quilters and anyone who likes to design with wool. Their wool will be approximately 58 " to 60 " wide and the weight for rug hooking. Both Jeannine and Karen are primitive rug hookers and therefore hook in a # 8 cut or larger but hope that the weight will be conducive to fine rug hooking as well. The wool is milled in the mountains of Uruguay and nearby South American countries. Jeannine and Karen note that "We would have liked to have kept with the made in America tradition but unfortunately there are very few, if any, working mills in the United States."

Their first color is a soft black with irregular creamy white dots producing the most perfect starry or snowy night sky. The wool is expected in early February and will be competitively priced at about \$18.50 a yard. A wider selection will be available shortly.

For a swatch or for more information, contact Jeannine at Two Old Crows (908-496-4870 or www.twooldcrownsnj.com) or Karen at The Blue Tulip (908-859-6350 or www.thebluetulipwoolery.com).

Jeannine and Karen would "love to get some feedback from our fellow rug hookers as to what they are looking for that cannot be found elsewhere." Let them know.

Judging Hooked Rugs -- There are philosophical differences within the Guild when it comes to rug hooking competitions. Some members feel that it is inappropriate to evaluate, compare and judge rugs since each one is a unique piece of art that stands on its own. Others are motivated and excited about entering their rugs in competitions just like it was done in early county fairs. Whatever your views, there always seems to be interest in what judges look for.

The winter issue of Mountain Fibers, the West Virginia ATHA Chapter newsletter produced by Susan Feller, outlines the scoring system to be used in the Morgan County Fair quilt and hooked rug challenge. The challenge is to use perspective to show depth, distance and/or dimension with

the 2 D techniques of quilting or rug hooking. In other words, hooking geometric patterns using values to create motion and dimension or pictorials which emphasize perspective or depth.

The following point system will be used to judge the rugs:

Represent Theme (possible 50 points)

- Perspective apparent (25 points)
- Perspective is demonstrated using multiple techniques (20 points)
- Piece appropriately named (5 points)

Workmanship (possible 30 points)

- Even tension on loops (5 points)
- Lies/hangs flat – well pressed (5points)
- Binding or finishing strong and neat (5points)
- Cleanliness (5 points)
- Work done solely by submitting artist (5 points)

Overall Appeal (possible 20 points)

- Color choices are well planned (10points)
- Design is well planned (10 points)

The quilting community has a long history of quilt competitions, so the scoring system outlined above reflects their experience.

Plans Underway for 2011 HCRAG Camp -- Jane Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson have been confirmed as the instructors for our 15th annual rug hooking camp. Jane is known for her bold colorful flowers and Kris for her techniques of combining rug hooking with rug braiding. Iris will conduct an open workshop. The Educational Services Commission (ESC) School will again be the site for our camp that will run from August 15 to 19, 2011.

Featured Member –Patty Mahaffey -- In 2003 Patty was watching a show on the Home & Garden TV channel when a segment on rug hooking caught her attention. She was intrigued and went on line to learn more. It was there that she first learned about Vicki Calu, the well-known and admired rug hooking instructor from Bucks County. Patty lived only 15 minutes from Vicki and started attending her Saturday classes. At the time, Vicki was also the director of the Highlands Rug Hooking School, so attending Highlands workshops came next. It was there that Patty met Gail Dufresne. She liked Gail's wool and creative rug hooking technique. Patty has attended Gail's open studio sessions on Saturdays for the last six years.

Geometric and pictorial patterns using bright colors are what Patty tends to hook. She likes to mix cuts depending on the rug. Most of her latest projects have been done in a #6 cut although Patty is comfortable hooking in anything from a #3 to #8 cut. She will buy a commercial pattern if it is something that she likes, but enjoys designing her own rugs.

Right from the beginning Patty was committed to learning as much as she could. She is serious about improving her technique and knowledge about all aspects of rug hooking. Patty finds that the workshops sponsored by local instructors such as Norma Batastini and Gail Dufresne to be invaluable in her development as a rug hooking artisan. Local classes are augmented by regular attendance at Rugs by the Sea in Cape May where she has gone for the last five years and the HCRAG camp which she attended last year for the first time. She was also “a regular” at the

Highlands. Norma Batastini sponsored Patty's participation in the McGown Certification Program where she has completed the first segment. The list of instructors with whom Patty has worked resembles the "Who's Who" of the rug hooking world. The list currently includes 21 names! Patty states that she "has gained from every teacher and has learned from them all". Since Patty has attended Gail Dufresne's classes for so long, she credits Gail with being the most influential on her development and style.

Patty tries to hook after dinner every day, but when her schedule gets busy days or even a week can go by before she can sit down at her hooking frame. Weekends are the time when she can count on getting some serious hooking done. It is typical for Patty to have a couple of rugs that she alternates working on. She has about eight unfinished rugs, which is not that many considering the number of workshops she attends. Interestingly all of Patty's completed pieces are wall hangings. None are done for the floor.

When it comes to wool, Patty takes advantage of the wool she finds at her classes and from local vendors. "There is so much beautiful wool available" says Patty "that I prefer to work with it rather than recycled wool. It can be as is or overdyed." Finding time to do more dyeing is something she wants to do.

Patty was first introduced to our Guild when she participated in the hook-in held at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in conjunction with our rug exhibit in 2006. She met several members at the Highlands. Patty is also active with the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter where she serves as secretary. She says I enjoy coming to the meetings for both guilds because it's an opportunity to see people who I may not have a chance to see on a regular basis plus, it's always fun to see what everyone is hooking and catch up on anything new that is going on in the world of rug hooking."

In addition to rug hooking, Patty is an avid reader and enjoys knitting. She is also proficient in miniature punch needle. Patty lives in Perkasio, PA with her husband Dave, who is a police officer in Hilltown Township (PA) along with their 14 year old Bichon Frise named Muffin. They have two children, Matthew and Colleen. Matthew, age 24, followed his father into law enforcement and is a police officer in Towamencin Township (PA). Colleen, age 21, is a student at Millersville University. Patty is an administrative assistant and has worked for an electronics company in Lansdale, PA for the past 25 years.

Patty Mahaffey was clearly "hooked" when she first learned about rug hooking. When asked what it was that grabbed her, she said: "I love the fact that rug hooking can be tailored to whatever style you want whether it is primitive, traditional, whimsical, large, small, etc. and that you can either design your own rug or choose from the hundreds of patterns that are available. You can choose not only the beautiful colors and textures of wool, but also any kind of embellishment (i.e., felting, yarn, buttons, etc.) to make the rug your own. I remember being so amazed when I first started rug hooking by the whole network of teachers, workshops, and classes that are out there and, especially, the fellow rug hookers with whom I have become friends. I find it so inspiring to see other people's work and I have met so many interesting people whom I never would have met if it wasn't for rug hooking."

HCRAAG Library -- Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, will be bringing a selection of books to each meeting. 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. She can be reached at 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net.

From Joyce Combs' Dye Pot – Overdye to make your wool more interesting. If you dye bright wool with its complementary color, it will calm the color down and make the wool more interesting to use in your rug.

Primary colors (red, blue and yellow) are absorbed into wool at different rates. The order of absorption is red first, blue second and yellow third. For example: when a dye formula using red, blue and yellow is added to the dye bath, and several pieces of wool are dipped in the dye pot one at a time, the wool that is dipped last may differ greatly from the wool dipped first. Much of the red and blue dye may have already been absorbed leaving a stronger yellow dye for the last piece.

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Lydia Lewis) – February is the month of LOVE! Years ago making a hooked rug was a labor of love despite its discomfort. Great Grandmother had to use flour sacks, rags or burlap and a hook fashioned by hand which was rather rough, and a crude frame. The materials were recycled clothing perhaps those damaged by the sparks from the open fireplace. Her designs were probably those of nature- trees, flowers, animals, etc. Those living near the sea might have had ships and seafaring motifs. Today hooked rug making is a little easier with our materials, fancy hooks, good linens and delicious wools. Our frames are designed for comfort and flexibility. These modern conveniences have not changed the old time charm of our craft but they do help us sit longer and help us create with ease. We LOVE our craft, our creations and appreciate all our talents.

From the Archives -- In the years following our founding in 1977, the winter months were active ones for our Guild. Here is a sampling of some of the programs.

- January 1979 – Lecture/Demonstration of “Rug Braiding” by member Ruth Kamen.
- January 1980 – Demonstration on “Creating a Primitive Pattern and Getting it on Canvas” by member Ruth Kamen
- January 1981 – Lecture on “Leaves” by member Evelyn Lawson
- January 1982 – Lecture on “Rag Rug Weaving” by Betty Oldenburg of Oldebrooke Spinnery
- February 1982 – Trip to “American Hooked Rugs Exhibit 1850-1957” at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and “George Wells Ruggery” on Long Island
- January 1983 – Book Review
- January 1983 – Trip to “American Rugmaking Art and Techniques” at Goldie Paley Design Center

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

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 28, 2009 to April 24, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. Susan Feller is the Guest Curator for an exhibit of contemporary hooked rugs that were inspired by Pennsylvania German fraktur drawings. The rugs are on display with fraktur and redware pottery items from the Heritage Center’s collection. For more information, contact the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or www.schwenkfelder.com.

Exploring Molas with Norma Batastini – March 8-10, 2010 – The Kuna Indians of the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama are known for their beautiful hand stitched molas. Layers of brightly colored cottons are cut away to form intricate designs inspired by their flora and fauna. Norma has designed several rugs reflecting the styles and themes of the traditional molas. The class will explore the techniques, colors and subjects of traditional molas and how they translate into rug hooking. You may choose one of Norma’s designs or she will work with you to design your own. For more information, contact Norma at 973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com.

The Textures of Africa with Linda Woodbury – March 12-14, 2010 – This class combines two of Linda’s loves, rug hooking and the animals of Africa. The class will explore the use of textured wool when hooking animals and flowers. Linda will discuss the ins and outs of recycled wool, the treasures that make her work unique. You may choose from five designs in the African Series: the elephant, lion, greater kudu, rhinoceros and zebra. You may also work on any other design suitable for textures. For more information, contact Linda at 973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – March 20, 2010 -- The ATHA Woolwrights Chapter is hosting a hook-in at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. This is a fundraiser to support the 2011 ATHA Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster, PA. For more information and to register visit www.woolwrights.com.

Hooked Rug Presentation at Longstreet Farm – March 27, 2010 -- “Tavern Sign Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” is the subject of a presentation by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber at Longstreet Farm from 1-3 on March 27, 2010. The Gimbbers will also use their 50 + hooked rugs to help discuss their journey as rug hooking artisans. For more information contact Ronnie Grothusen at 732-946-3758.

ATHA Biennial Conference in Lancaster, PA – October 19-22, 2011 -- For more information, contact Mary Lynne Naples at marylynnelan@aol.com.

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

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

HCRAG Calendar of Events

February 12, 2010 – Something to Warm the Heart – Pet Designs (Lydia Brenner & Cheryl Halliday) **

March 12, 2010 Monthly Meeting – Round Robin Demo (Connie Coleman, Gisele Meader and others) *

March 19 – 21, 2010 – March Madness – Flemington Hampton Inn

April 9, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting -- Back a Jacket (Lydia Lewis)**

May 14, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

June 11, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting - - Annual Picnic*

August 9-13, 2010 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

August 12, 2010 – HCRAAG Beginners’ Workshop – Educational Services Commission School

*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.

** 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.

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

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

Vice President – Open

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

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net

Programs – Kitty Platt – 908-782- 8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com

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

Secretary – Debbie Walsh 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

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

Special Events – Carol Kindt 908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net

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

Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill - 215-968-2711 or katie4rose@aol.com

Dee Rosebrock (Asst. Treasurer) – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com

Webmaster – Laurie Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net

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

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg@nni.com. by the 20th of the month.

**Hunterdon Country Rug Artisans Guild
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by President Weezie Huntington. Weezie wished everyone a Happy New Year and read a motivational story about “up time”. She would like members to think about what their contribution to the Guild will be for next year.

Old Business

- March Madness – If you are signed up for Jennifer Manuell’s pocketbook class, give Weezie your pocketbook order by January 22nd and she will have Jennifer send it for the February meeting. Final payment for March Madness is due by next month. The total price for members is \$150. Most people made a deposit of \$25.
- Camp–There are still openings in all three classes. Cherylyn Brubaker will teach an open class, Jen Lavoie will teach a landscape class, and Diane Phillips will teach a portrait class. We need people to house the three teachers. Anyone who does so goes to camp for free.
- The Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Fund – is a full scholarship to camp and is not need based. Anyone can nominate a member by writing down their name and the reason you are nominating them. A committee will decide who gets the scholarship.

Sunshine

- We received notes from Jo Knobloch and Lee Hurford thanking us for thinking of them. Cynthia Norwood was admitted to the hospital for blood clots on her brain.

New Business

- Camp 2011 – Two teachers are currently confirmed: Jane Halliwell Green, who is known for huge wide cut flowers and landscapes, and Kris McDermott, who is known for her rugs that combine braiding and hooking. Iris Simpson was asked to teach an open class, but is not yet confirmed. Doris Norman, who teaches Celtic designs, is not available for our 2010 camp but she will be teaching at the ATHA biennial in October 2011.
- The Woolrights Hooking group will be holding a hook-in this Saturday and are conducting two raffles – for an octagonal frame and for a stand. It’s a fundraiser for the ATHA biennial. See Karl Gimber for tickets.
- There will be a mat swap at the February meeting. It should be 9” x 9” and should have something to do with Valentine’s Day or February.

Treasurer’s Report

Margaret Brightbill announced that as of 12/31/09 our checkbook balance is \$8,195.57. A full treasurer’s report is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 for members to bid on silent auction items and have a snack. At 11:00 the live auction was to begin.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Debbie Walsh

