

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

February 2012

Presidents' Letter – January was a busy month for Joyce and me. We hooked and hooked and then hooked some more.

We are very fortunate to have a group of friends who enjoy getting together every Thursday to hook. Our time together allows us to share ideas and catch up with each other. This month, we were also lucky enough to hook with other Guild members for the weekend retreat at the Hampton Inn - we were in the “quiet room”. We had a lot of fun and shared a great deal of laughter.

Later in January, our Thursday group, Hook Some Chat More, held a week long rug hooking retreat. We were joined by friends from Oregon, Washington, Virginia, Vermont and Massachusetts who formerly hooked with us. It was wonderful seeing old friends and picking up where we left off the last time we were together. Thanks to all of this hooking time, we were able to get a lot of hooking done (or at least one of us was). One of us likes to chat more and hook less!

As January draws to a close and we reflect on the month's activities, we realize how lucky we are to be involved in rug hooking. It offers us an opportunity to be creative, see our ideas come alive in our rugs, and to share this wonderful art form with the amazing friends we have met along the way. It doesn't get any better than this.

Happy hooking in 2012! Dee and Joyce

February Meeting – Friday, February 10, 2012 -- The February meeting will be held at our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road. Our meeting begins at 10:00 and ends at 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Therese Shick will lead a workshop on completing a 3-D hooked sheep. The sheep should already be hooked, steamed, and cut out prior to class. We will concentrate on putting the sheep together at the meeting. Therese will have the legs and eyes for everyone who purchased them. She will also have some extra supplies, but the participants should look at the supplies list handed out with the kit to bring the items necessary to finish the sheep.

Show & Tell – February is International Friendship Month and National Cherry and Grapefruit Month. Have a rug that you made for a friend or received from a friend? How about a rug with fruit? We'd love to see them and have you win a prize! Current projects are always of interest too.

Remember there is a raffle ticket for those who show and tell with a chance to win one of our many prizes. Any member donations for raffle prizes are greatly appreciated. If you could send Cheryl, Gisele or Lydia an email or call to let them know you are bringing a prize, it will be helpful in planning the quantity of prizes at any one meeting. We thank you for your support!

The S & T raffle winners for January were:

Annie Edwards – Rug Hooking Magazine
Karl Gimber – Tree Ornament
Lois Grieves – Wool
Donna Kolznak – Wool
Jana Laidlaw – Decorated Box
Betsy Warner – Felted Pin

The prizes were donated by Joyce Combs, Karl Gimber, Lydia Lewis, and Dee Rosebrock.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks for the meeting – Susan Atwater, Jean Laurence, Joan Shymko, and Susan Woodworth. Your efforts help make our gatherings more enjoyable.

February Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Sharon Ballard (2/7), Barbara Boyko (2/25), Ingrid Cosmen (2/25), Janet Kovach (2/18), Robin Perelli (2/14), Dee Rosebrock (2/8), Laurie Rubinetti (2/29), Lib Ryman (2/12) and Janet Santaniello (2/22). Enjoy your day! .

Membership – We welcome Donna Kolznak to our Guild. Many of you had a chance to meet her at our last meeting. Donna's contact information is as follows:

P.O.Box 752,
Kresgeville, PA 18333
610-681-6357
dmk17@ptd.net

Linda Reitz' email address was incorrectly reported in the last newsletter. Her correct address is lindarz16@gmail.com.

Sunshine – Carol Kindt is recovering from knee replacement surgery. We hope to see her up and about at the February meeting.

Guild News & Events

Barbara Lugg Awarded the Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship – The coveted Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship has been awarded to Barbara Lugg. Barbara received the award in recognition of her long service to the Guild. She has been a diligent member of our Hospitality Committee, has given program presentations and willingly helps others with hooking related activities. Barbara has exhibited a long

standing commitment to the art of hooking and the Guild is delighted that her service and commitment can be recognized. Congratulations Barbara!

Members Gallery Being Updated -- Annie Edwards is working with Laurie Rubinetti to update the images of our rugs that appear in the “Members’ Gallery” Section of our website. For some time, Annie has been taking photos of the rugs brought to our meetings for Show & Tell. She is now in the process of gathering information to properly identify them. She needs the name of the hooker, the designer, the rug pattern, and permission to post the image on our website.

Annie will be bringing to the February meeting photos of the rugs she has not been able to identify. She is also encouraging members to bring any of their other rugs to be photographed as well. Pictures of the rugs will be sent by email to their owners for their own files.

This is a big job and we are grateful to Annie for volunteering to do all of this work.

We are Invited to a Birthday Party -- Josephine “Jo” Knobloch, who founded our Guild in 1977, will be celebrating her 90th birthday in February. Guild members are invited to a special birthday party to help Jo celebrate this milestone. Jo was responsible for establishing several guilds as part of the Hunterdon County Adult Education Program. Most of those guilds continue to meet today. Jo has maintained a strong interest in HCRAAG and regularly attends our June picnic and holiday luncheon meetings.

Jo’s family (Karen, Vince, Shayna and Adria) felt that she would appreciate celebrating her birthday by being with the people whom she has worked with or who have touched her life in the last forty years in the New Jersey area. They have invited the Guild to join them for this occasion. Please, no gifts. A hug and your presence will be perfect. Here are the details:

Saturday, February 18, 2012
1PM - 4 PM
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton RC Church
105 Summer Road
Three Bridges, New Jersey

Please RVSP to Karen Marchese by February 4 so that adequate food can be prepared and no one finds the cupboard bare. RSVP by telephone: 973-267-9833; by cell phone: 973-219-6388 by e-mail: folkpainter@cs.com. Snow Date: February 25 1PM - 4PM (If weather is questionable, listen to message on 973-267-9833).

Officer Nominations – Three Positions Open – The election of officer/chairs will take place at our April meeting. A strong slate with both new and existing officers is being assembled. However, three positions remain open – Program Chair, Special Events Chair and Assistant Treasurer.

We are all familiar with the “80-20 Rule” – 20% of people in an organization do 80% of the work. Please take this opportunity to become one of the 20%. We have a great Guild with members who have considerable talents. Our continued success depends on active

participation by all. In recent years we have found that sharing Guild responsibilities with a friend is very workable and makes it easier to contribute to the Guild. If you are not able to do a job alone, find a friend and share the responsibility.

Members having interest in or needing information about the various positions should contact the incumbents or our Co-Presidents -- Joyce Combs or Dee Rosebrock. Their contact information can be found at the end of The Loop.

Our new officers/chairs will assume their responsibilities at the May meeting.

Guild Demonstration Schedule Shaping Up -- Our Guild's tradition of demonstrating rug hooking at local events continues this year with an active schedule.

Educating and informing the public about traditional rug hooking is one of the objectives of our Guild. Demonstrating rug hooking at local events is the major way in which we fulfill this objective. Our participation not only helps promote rug hooking and our Guild, but also helps support local organizations and historical sites. The current schedule is shown below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
April 14	Peter Wentz Farmstead (Sheep Shearing)	Karl Gimber/ Joanne McIlmurray
May 5	Howell Living Farm (Sheep Shearing)	Karl Gimber
May 12	N.J. State History Fair	Margaret Brightbill
July 28 & 29	Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)	Karl Gimber
August 22-26	Hunterdon County 4-H Fair	Dee Rosebrock
September 8 & 9	Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoos, NJ)	(Open)
September *	Holcombe-Jimison Farming Festival (Lambertville, NJ)	Gisele Meader
September 15	Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October 6	Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA)	Karl Gimber/ Margaret Brightbill
October 20	Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ)	Carol Kindt
November 3 & 4	Thanksgiving in the Country (Stockton, NJ)	Joyce Combs

* awaiting information on date

A coordinator is needed for the Sheep & Fiber Festival that is held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds in Ringoos, NJ. Let Amy Korengut know if you have interest.

Are there dates for events at which you participate that not shown? If so, just inform Amy Korengut, our Special Events Coordinator.

All members are encouraged to assist in our demonstration efforts. You can participate for an hour or two or for the entire day. It is a satisfying activity to share our commitment to rug hooking with others. Please contact the coordinators for information on how you can help.

Items From Library Exhibit -- Last year the Guild exhibited members' works at the main branch of the Hunterdon County Library. Gail Ferdinando who coordinated our exhibit still has three items from the exhibit – a three dimensional sheep pull toy, a pillow with a hibiscus flower and an embellished hooked Christmas tree in a hoop. Gail wants to return these items to their owners. Please let her know if they are yours and she will arrange to return them. You can reach Gail at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

4th Annual Spring Fling – March 23, 24 & 25, 2012 -- Two exciting workshops (The Magic of Masquerade and Exploring Color & Hooking) will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, March 23, 2012 to Sunday March 25, 2012. Participants can stay at the Hampton Inn or commute. For a discounted room rate for those who want to stay overnight, call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

Instructors: The Magic of Masquerade with Cyndy Duade -- Let your imagination go out to play! Create your own magical mask to wear or be a wall display. Class includes a kit with the basic mask pattern, eye ribbon, and soft backing for the mask (\$15). You can embellish the basic pattern as drawn or transform it to your own creation. Combine wool, yarn, fabric, beads, feathers, and bling. Hook, sculpt, proddy, or embellish.

Class will cover mask design, choosing materials and embellishments, attaching special effects, backing application, finishing edges, and mounting for wall display. Lots of colorful wool, fabric, and embellishments will be available. Bring your imagination and creativity to this fun class and you can wear your mask home on Sunday!

Cyndy Duade lives in Springfield NH near lakes and mountains. She is an accredited McGown Teacher and attends Teachers' Workshop for continuing education. She has been teaching rug hooking for 12 years and enthusiastically embraces all styles of rug hooking.

Exploring Color & Hooking with Angela Foote -- Let the knowledge of color stimulate you to step outside your color box. Use your favorite color in a new way. Explore a variety of dyed wools, spots, dips, and sparkling marbled wools, swirling with color to enliven your rugs. Bring your love of color and hooking to class. Students may start a new project or spark up an existing project. All styles of hooking are welcome!

Students are contacted prior to class to discuss rug patterns, custom designs, color choices and any other hooking needs. Wools can be custom dyed for your project or as an addition to your wool stash. Angela travels with a large assortment of beautiful dyed wools.

Angela Foote is a passionate creative rug hooker who loves to work with color. She is well known for her beautifully dyed wools and unique wool garments. Whether over the dye pot, teaching classes, lecturing on color, or creating in her studio, Angela's 30 years of experience is evident in her works of art. She is a certified McGown teacher, member of ATHA and enjoys hooking in both fine shading and primitive styles. She has regular classes in her studio and teaches at guild meetings and workshops across New England. FABRICFOOTE is her hooking and dyeing business.

Workshop Size: 12 - 15 students each class

Meals/Snacks: We will provide coffee and tea. Participants may bring snacks to share.

Cost: \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required at the time of registration. The balance will be due at or before our February meeting. In the event you need to cancel after our February meeting, a refund less a \$25 cancellation fee will be made if we are able to fill the spot. If we are unable to fill the spot there will be no refund.

Schedule: Friday- Evening reception and meeting with instructors (5:00 – 8:00)
Saturday - workshop (9:00 - 4:30)
Sunday - workshop (8:30 - 3:30)

To register, send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAG, to Cindy Boult 1 Spring Hill Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801, with a note indicating the instructor with whom you want to work. If you have questions, direct them to Cindy at cboult@gmail.com or 908-730-0146.

HCRAG Hook-in/Clinic at the Mennonite Heritage Center – April 21, 2012 --

The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 21, 2012 from 9:00 to 3:30. In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have vendors, mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. Rose Moyer from the Heritage Center reports that “registrations keep rolling in.” Participation is limited to about 50 people. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to register early.

The museum exhibits that will be on display make the Mennonite Heritage Center a special site for our hook-in. Their exhibit of Pennsylvania German fraktur is quite extraordinary and an ideal location for our exhibit of rugs hooked by participants. In addition, there will be a special display entitled “*Milestones: Observances in Mennonite Family and Church Life*” as well as their permanent exhibit on Mennonite history.

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

Beginners’ Rug Hooking Workshop (April 21, 2012) -- Juliana Kapusta and Patty Mahaffey will be conducting a workshop for beginners at our hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center. It is already half full!

The fee for the workshop is \$45 (non-Heritage Center member) and \$40 (MHC member) plus \$20 for the kit. Participants need to provide a 10” embroidery hoop and a pair of sharp scissors. The workshop will be limited to nine participants. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020.

Help is needed in cutting strips for the kits that will be provided. Members are who have a #5 cutter blade are requested to bring their cutters to the February meeting. Juliana and Patty will have the wool that needs to be cut.

HCRAG Annual Summer Camp (August 13 -17, 2012) --Our Guild's 16th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 13, 2012 through August 17, 2012 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors – Arline Bechtoldt, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Jeanne Benjamin's class is full, but a waiting list has been established. The other classes are filling, so you are encouraged to register soon to be assured a place.

Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh will again run camp in 2012.

Our Teachers –

Jeanne Benjamin: Jeanne started hooking in 1971 and became McGown certified in 1979. She owns New Earth Designs, a pattern business of diverse designs, and also has a dyed wool mail order business. Jeanne has a loyal following and is known for her beautiful dyeing and color planning, often dyeing 50 yards or more of wool weekly.

Jeanne stresses good pre-camp communication and advance planning to maximize students' class time. She gives instructions in small increments which enables her to get around the classroom quickly. Class time includes question and answer periods so everyone can participate and learn, not only from individual instruction, but from group time as well.

Jeanne expects you to relax, keep an open mind, and enjoy this creative time! Jeanne often teaches an open class (she enjoys a large class with diversity) but her specialties are Orientals, making a primitive design look antique, folk art, and pictorials.

Arline Bechtoldt: Arline is an accredited teacher who enjoys teaching a student driven class. She recently gave a talk at the Alice Beatty Chapter of ATHA and showed her rugs which ranged from beautifully fine shaded faces, flowers, and antique designs, to whimsical and primitive motifs.

Before camp Arline discusses with each student their particular needs for their rug. She will help with color planning and can provide custom dyed wool as needed and/or work with wool already on hand. She will also bring a supply of wool to class.

During class time Arline will discuss technique, color planning, and finishing, and as the day is winding down, creative stitches, dyeing techniques, labeling, and any other topics of interest. Arline plans to ensure that your rug becomes the masterpiece you envision!

Lucille Festa: Lucille is a collector of antiques and a history buff especially interested in the American Civil War era and women's history. She started her

business, American Country Rugs, about seven years ago and sells patterns (including her “door people”) via her website.

She specializes in primitive style rugs and often incorporates old antique colors, textures, and wide cut wools as well as folk art images into her rugs. Lucille loves colors that evoke a feeling of antiquity and enjoys creating rugs with an aged look. She brings plenty of wool plaids, checks, tweeds, and herringbones to her classes. She will help you to color plan and hook a warm, antique style rug that will be passed down through the generations.

Registration/Instructional Fees –The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2011. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2012. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2012, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

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

Auction and White Elephant Sale -- A Barn Burner -- Our annual fundraising auction and white elephant sale was a blow out success! The funds generated were almost double what have been earned in past years. A former rug hooker donated bolts of excellent hooking wool that was eagerly pursued and produced about half of our proceeds. Auctioneer Weezie Huntington was ably assisted by Sharon Ballard and was able to coax extra bids from excited participants. Generous Guild members donated wool, patterns, books, frames, cutters, partially completed rugs, and household items for the event. There were some excellent buys. We are grateful to those who donated and who bought. The final tally will be reported at the February meeting.

Fun Retreat – Following the January meeting, members attending our 6th annual hooking retreat gathered at the Flemington Hampton Inn. There was so much interest this year that an extra room was required. The Hampton Inn has two adjoining meeting rooms that were perfect for our needs. One room became dubbed the “quiet room”; the other was the “loud room”. You can guess who was in which room!

We have a committed group of members who attend the retreat each year. This year they were joined by a number of first timers who had a wonderful time. The weekend is an ideal time to get to know members better and to get some serious hooking completed. Jacqueline Lee came down from Cape Cod and was able to “kill two birds with one stone”. She could visit with her sister who lives in New Jersey and catch up with her Guild friends. Robin Perelli, who is a relatively new member, was able to better get to know the other retreaters. Occasionally, other Hampton Inn guests would peep in to see what was going on and what the commotion was all about.

A significant number of participants extended their enjoyment and opportunity for camaraderie by staying overnight and working well into the evening. The wine and cheese made the “loud room” louder. Our favorite masseuse was there Saturday to help relax the muscles that stiffen up after a few hours at the hooking frame. Gourmet pizza was ordered Saturday night.

The following enthusiast message from Kathleen Boyda – Murray sums it all up. “I just want to say ‘what a great weekend!!!!!!!!!!!!!!’ Loved it. So, get ready as I’ll be returning next year. What a wonder group. With any luck, the Miss America pageant will be on again! Woohoo!”

A press release and a group photo have been sent to the local newspapers. Watch for it.

Susan Feller Publishes “Design Basics for Rug Hookers” -- Susan Feller, who is a good friend of our Guild and past camp instructor, has recently published Design Basics for Rug Hookers through Stackpole Books. With the book Susan will walk you through the basics a rug hooker should know about rug design. It provides a wealth of knowledge and guidance for beginning and intermediate hookers and is a wonderful refresher for the season hooker. From the design elements every hooker should know, to how to develop an appealing design, lessons on color and contrast, balance and movement, texture and patterning Design Basics covers it all.

Jacqueline Lee had a copy with her at our retreat, so others had a chance to glance through it. The book costs \$24.95 and can be ordered directly from Susan (Ruckman Mill Farm, P.O. Box 409 Augusta, WV 26704 or rugs2wv@yahoo.com or 304-496-8073) or from Stackpole Books (www.rughookingonline.com).

HCRAG Library – Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or 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.

Meet Our Member – Lois Grieves -- Lois Grieves’ mother, Irene, was an antiques dealer in Meyersville, NJ, so she grew up with an appreciation of old things. Her mother encouraged her to try rug braiding with a fellow antique dealer; she taught Lois the importance of handwork. Lois started knitting when she was 12 years old and subsequently learned counted cross stitch, embroidery, quilting, and needlepoint. Lois liked the look of rugs hooked with yarn by Nantucket rug hooker Claire Murray.

Weezie Huntington, who in the mid 1980s worked in the same real estate office as Lois, introduced her to hooking with wool strips. Weezie encouraged Lois to attend a workshop by Shelly Roe in Princeton, NJ. She was pleased with the result of the workshop and wanted to continue hooking. Shortly thereafter, Lois stopped by a local consignment shop and found all she would need to get started. The shop had a frame, a Bliss cutter, patterns, hooks, a tub of wool, and other various hooking items. She bought it all for \$100.

Lois was impressed by a rug that Weezie completed for a PTA auction and looked to Weezie for direction on how to continue learning. Weezie introduced Lois to Gail Dufresne who was teaching a basic rug hooking workshop as part of the Hunterdon County Adult Education program. After attending, Lois was hooked and continued to take classes with Gail. At that point, Lois discontinued knitting. "Everyone in the family had sweaters I knitted and my closet was full of them too" she recalls.

Hooking with #5 and #6 cuts appeals to Lois the most. She has no desire to hook with wide cuts or to do proddy. "I am a purist and have no interest in combining hooking and braiding." Lois confesses she "loves color" and is attracted to the work done by Gail Dufresne and Jule Marie Smith. "I especially like the feel of Jule Marie's work." Lois is drawn to flower patterns and designs with lots of color.

Lois was introduced to dyeing wool during her first HCRAAG Camp in 2001. This was the first of two workshops she took with Helen Woffel. Helen freely shared her dyeing techniques which led to Lois continuing to learn more by attending Gail Dufresne's dyeing workshops. "When I have the time, I love to play with dyeing." Lois notes. She continued learning more about wool dyeing in an Outer Banks workshop by Bev Conway.

"My production is not what I want it to be, but I have had the opportunity to work with some of the best teachers out there". Lois has attended workshops conducted by Elizabeth Black, Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Dick Labarge, Judy Quintman, Eric Sandberg, Jule Marie Smith, and Diane Stoffel. She notes that Gail Dufresne has been the most influential in her development as a rug hooking artisan. "Gail is so patient and her work is phenomenal. Of course, Weezie was instrumental in me getting started." Lois recalls buying 50 wool skirts from local thrift stores as a gift to Weezie for her 50th birthday.

Lois loves to seek out recycled wool for her rugs, although she also buys wool from her camp instructors. She thought that it was "nifty" that a hooking friend used her father's old coat as the background wool for one of her rugs. Lois has a tub full of white and off white skirts that she has collected for future dyeing projects. When the spirit moves her, she will dye a batch of wool with no particular project in mind. Like so many of us, Lois frets that "I have too much wool in tubs and must admit that I do not know what is in them."

Lois will buy a pattern if she sees one that she likes. Over the years, she has purchased patterns from Susan Feller, Margaret Lutz and Joan Moshimer. However, she prefers to design or adapt her own rug patterns. Lois claims that she "is not an artist, but can adapt things I like".

Gail Dufresne and Joyce Combs, who Lois met at Gail's studio, were responsible for introducing her to our Guild. She recalls sitting between Margaret and Madeline Brightbill at one of her first meetings and wondering "What in the world am I doing here? These people are so talented!" It was not long before it was the people Lois met at our meetings who brought her back. "Our members have a great outlook on life and you do not have to be a big producer to be accepted. I enjoy being with them at meetings, camps and the retreats." Lois is a regular participant at HCRAAG camps.

Rug hooking is more freeing than the other handwork Lois has done. "The others all have specific instructions and rules that need to be followed. With hooking you can get advice from others and change things as you go along. I am thrifty and like the recycling aspect too."

Lois lost her husband, Hirshal, two years ago due to heart surgery complications. They were married 48 years. Her life and routine are slowly being reestablished. She is concentrating on completing an addition to their home that she and Hirshal started years ago. Lois has served for many years as one of two treasurers for the Hopewell Presbyterian Church. She also works full time as a real estate agent in Weidel's Hopewell Valley office in Pennington, NJ. "I love working with people and solving problems" she observes. However, all of this does make it difficult for Lois to hook on a regular basis.

Lois lives in Hopewell, NJ with Sammi, her Golden Retriever. She has three children – Cindy, Jeffrey and Jennifer – and seven grandchildren. Cindy and her husband, John, are lawyers living in Raleigh, NC along with their four children – Addison (freshman at Old Miss), Natalie (high school junior who hopes to have a stage career), Carter (who is into computers) and Emery (who is highly involved in sports). Jeffrey and his wife, Amy, live in Richmond, VA. Their daughter, Sarah, is a recent graduate of Lynchburg College. Jeff has one year remaining before he will retire from Army Special Forces. Jennifer and her husband, Seth, live in Elkins Park, PA. Jen is a stay at home mom concentrating on raising their two daughters, Annabelle and Harper. Seth practices law in Philadelphia.

One of Lois' goals is to hook a rug for each of her grandchildren. Natalie's rug is almost complete. She also looks forward to being able to go Cape May for Norma Batastini's popular camp and to the Shelburne Museum in Vermont for a Green Mountain Guild Workshop.

Visit the Guild's website – www.hcrag.com – and click on "Featured Member" to see some of Lois' rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – The month of February brings many images to mind -- hearts and flowers, George Washington in his boat crossing the Delaware, Abe Lincoln in his stovepipe hat, snowy, blustery days, little newborn lambs, wobbly on their feet and bleating for Mom -- all good subjects for a mat.

In my family, February is the month of birthdays. I have the usual scramble for what to get for their birthday and on occasion one or more members will be gifted with a new mat. For my grandchildren, there was a birth mat complete with birth date either in the border or incorporated in the design. For one, it was a Noah's ark with his name on the bow of the ark, for another it was the Humpty Dumpty. I based the designs on drawings from a children's book because the lines of the images were simple and direct. The illustrations in children's books can often help you create a unique design for a special rug.

This week I saw two rugs which had the name of the child written in very bold letters across the center of the mat. On one rug, the border had a derivation of the name in several languages as well as a Latin phrase which used the name. On the other rug, the name was in a bold color with a neutral background and a large star. Simple, but striking and both mats would be appropriate for a child or an adult. A mat which I hooked for a friend's birthday shows an autumn tree with brightly colored leaves in oranges, golds and reds to remind her that even though we are in our "autumn years" we can still be bright and colorful.

A 70th birthday mat I saw being hooked, has a large heart with 70 in the center with bright leaves and flowers around it, as well as the name of the recipient. It is a small mat, one which can easily be hung in a special spot.

February with its snowy, blustery days is the perfect time for hooking. So gather up your strips, backing, frames and hooks and hook that mat that has been rattling around in your head waiting for the time when you can spend a few hours being the artist that you are!

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise – A perennial question for rug hookers is “How do you clean hooked rugs?”

Within the rug hooking community there are professionals who restore (i.e., bringing back to a former condition which include cleaning, repairing and sometimes reconstruction) rugs. Several years ago HCRAAG camp instructor, Jayne Hester, stunned her students when she mentioned that she routinely puts her rugs in the washing machine.

Heloise “reporter”, Annie Edwards, learned of a conservation/restoration firm that also washes hooked rugs. Ann Wright who was a guest at one of our meetings brought several Canadian antique rugs that she had restored by a firm whose client list includes the White House. She shared with Annie a “secret” -- the firm washes hooked rugs in a shampoo for horses called Orvis Paste Shampoo because it retains the oils in the wool. (See the Heloise article on our website (www.hcrag.com) for pictures of Ann Wright’s rugs.)

Have others heard of washing hooked rugs? Let Heloise know.

Recipes – Members who attended our holiday luncheon will recall Joan Shymko’s Blueberry & Peach Pie and Patty Mahaffey’s Wild Rice Salad. There were multiple requests for the recipes.

Blueberry & Peach Pie (Joan Shymko)

This was a blueberry pie filling and a fresh peach pie filling topped with a regular crumb topping. I made and froze batches of the peach filling this fall when I found some great peaches that actually ripened nicely.

Ingredients & Directions:

Blueberry:

10 cups (as in 3 lb bag Wyler's from BJ's) frozen wild blueberries, defrosted.

Juice of a lemon

Mix and stir into berries: 3 tbsp each flour and cornstarch and 1/2 cup sugar

Cook this until thickened. Easiest way is to microwave about 3 min. then stir, repeating until just starting to thicken. Time will vary depending on how frozen berries are. You can start with frozen berries.

Peach:

5-6 cups sliced peaches, 1-2 tbsp. lemon juice, 1/3 to 1/2 cup sugar mixed with 1/4 cup cornstarch

Cook until thickened. The reason for using thickened fillings is so that when you spoon them in alternate piles in the baking dish (9x13), they will remain somewhat separated. Also, the blueberries are very runny so the topping just sinks otherwise.

Topping:

Make crumbs with fingers or food processor of 3/4 c sugar, 3/4 cup flour, 1/3 cup chilled butter, 1/2tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp nutmeg.

Add a little more flour or butter if mixture is too sticky or too dry to make crumbs. I used about 1 1/2 half times this recipe this time.

Bake at anywhere from 325 to 375 degrees depending on whatever else you have in the oven or until crumbs have started to brown a little. I think I baked it at 375 for about 1/2 hour.

I use less sugar in the toppings especially if I am serving this with ice cream or yogurt with fruit. Made it more festive once by serving it with raspberry sherbet and fresh raspberry garnish, sprig of mint.

Wild Rice Salad -- Patty Mahaffey (shared by fellow rug hooker Deborah Jones)

This dish is even better when dressed a day ahead; cover and refrigerate, then bring to room temperature and garnish with almonds before serving.

Ingredients (Serves 8)

- 2 cups wild rice, cooked according to package instructions, then drained and rinsed under cold water
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 red apple, cored and cut into 1/4-inch dice
- Pinch of ground cloves
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small red onion, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 1 celery stalk, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 1 small carrot, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup dried currants
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons apple-cider vinegar
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Directions

1. Place cooked rice in a medium bowl. Melt butter in a medium skillet. Sauté apple with cloves, stirring, until golden, about 3 minutes. Transfer to bowl with rice.
2. In same skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium. Sauté onion, celery, carrot, and garlic, stirring occasionally, until onion is translucent and just beginning to brown, about 6 minutes. Transfer to bowl with rice mixture; add currants. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Add vinegars, lemon juice, and the water to skillet; heat, whisking, until reduced by half, about 2 minutes. Whisk in remaining 2 tablespoons oil. Drizzle over salad; toss to combine. Serve, garnished with almonds.

Hint: Toasting the almonds enhances their flavor. Spread nuts evenly on a baking sheet, and toast in a 350-degree oven, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a plate to cool (or just lightly sauté them on top of the stove).

Thank you Joan and Patty for sharing your recipes!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rugs All Marked Out and Hooked Rugs by Artists from the Maine Tin Peddler – Two Exhibits at Saco Museum, (January 14-March 24, 2012) Two related exhibits are being presented by the Saco Museum, Saco, Maine. One deals with Edward Sands Frost and his rug hooking pattern business; the other showcases contemporary rugs hooked by local hooking artisans. For information call 207-283-3861 or visit www.dyerlibrariysacomuseum.org.

Hook-in at Sauder Village – February 3-4, 2012 -- Historic Sauder Village is sponsoring a hook-in on Friday February 3 and Saturday February 4 from 10 a.m. on the 3rd to 5 p.m. on the 4th. The event is limited to 60 participants. Contact Dawn Hauter, Special Events Coordinator, at 800-590-9755, ext. 3076 to register or for more information.

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside (A Study of the Rugs of Magdalena Briner) – March 13, 14 & 15, 2012 – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering two workshop choices – a one day workshop on March 13, 2012 and a three day workshop on March 13, 14 & 15, 2012. The workshops will feature a lecture by Evelyn Lawrence who has researched the rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner. Contact Norma (973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com) or Linda (973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com) for more information.

Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – March 17, 2012 – The Woolwrights Rug Hooking Guild will be conducting their popular Spring Hook-in on March 17, 2012 from 9-4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Pre-registration is required. Visit the Guild's website – www.woolwrights.com – for more information.

Camp Wool Hook-in April -- 28&29, 2012 -- Camp Wool in Kennebunk, Maine is sponsoring a hook-in on April 28 & 29. For more information, go to its website -- www.campwool.net or call 1-866-938-wool.

2012 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 14-18, 2012 – Receive the most up-to-date information by going to www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp.

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.

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

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

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

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

HCRAG Calendar of Events

February 10, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – 3-D Hooked Sheep – Workshop by Therese Shick *

March 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking in Geometrics – Lecture & Workshop by Gail Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio) *

March 23-25, 2012 – March Madness Workshop – Flemington Hampton Inn

April 13, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin – Member Led *

April 21, 2012 – Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA

May 11, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Brick Covers – Workshop by Lydia Lewis *

June 8, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Annual “Picnic” & Paper Clipped Feet Chicken – Workshop by Debbie Adam *

August 13-17, 2012 – 16th Annual Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

August 14, 2012 – Beginners Workshop -- ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

September 14, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

October 12, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **

November 2012 – Guild Exhibit – Bucks County Library, Doylestown, PA.

November 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

December 14, 2012 Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon *

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

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

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

- Co-Presidents** – Joyce Combs – 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com
- Vice President** – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com
- Historian** – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
- Hospitality** – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
- Librarian** – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net
- Programs** – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com
Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net
Cheryl Halliday – 215-672-2629 or havewenewool@yahoo.com
- Public Relations/Newsletter** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
- Secretary** – Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net
Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
- Special Events** – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and
Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net
- Sunshine** – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com
- Treasurer** – Jana Laidlaw – 609-497-4576 or jana@fastmail.fm
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.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.