

## THE LOOP

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

February 2013

**Presidents' Letter** -- Our annual auction at our January Guild meeting was a rousing success both financially and a fun kick off to the new year! The generous donations of hooking items, small treasures and wool enabled us to enjoy lively bidding that is always good natured and rollicking! Of course with Weezie and Sharon as our auctioneers we are always encouraged to "Give it up" with great humor. The wool donated by our vendor members is always highly coveted and hotly bid on. Thank you to all who make this event a highlight of our year. Again it is worth noting that the auction supports our hooking camp in August, Spring Fling and the scholarship we offer to one of these events.

Therefore it is with pleasure that we would like to announce the awarding of the Brightbill Scholarship this year to Margaret Lutz for attendance to the Spring Fling. This nomination was made by several members in recognition of Margaret's long support of our Guild. Margaret is a founding member of HCRAG and has served in many capacities, not the least of which has been sharing her generous knowledge and materials from her studio, The Hook Nook. Margaret has authored books on rug finishing and is the custodian of many treasured patterns. She continues to hear from people across the country in search of resources and is always willing to give advise and support to new and long time hooking friends. Despite her expertise, Margaret remains eager to attend new class, try a new direction and therefore we know she will enjoy another wonderful learning experience this spring.

As you will read further in The Loop the Hooking Retreat Weekend was another wonderful winter event. WE did NOT retreat from enjoying the huge basket of "treats" we bid on at the auction! Old and new friends gathered to either catch-up or get to know one another with the luxury of time and laughter. Thank you to everyone who hooked us a heart! The perfect way to get ready for February and our Festival...The hearts will be a group Show and Tell and we will happily provide an opportunity for more pink, purple and red creations to anyone looking for a small contribution to our Boutique.

While April still seems distant, the Spring Fling will be upon us and participants in Lucille's class should soon go online to choose a Door Person from her selection or perhaps another of her patterns. Her web page is listed further in The Loop under Spring Fling. We will begin to collect payment in February and March or the remainder can be sent directly to Weezie our treasurer. A few spots remain in Lucille's class.

Show and Tell should be a rich offering as we have had some time to finish projects and start some new year "resolutions". So come with rugs that surely will reflect the LOVE we hook into all our efforts! The program will be to put together Clara Chickens. Hopefully you will have such fun selecting color patterns a few extra will find their way into the Boutique Coop. And if you did not do a chicken please come with hook in hand and either work on a boutique item of your choosing or we can offer some small quick projects to pass around...make a heart

and get tickled pink... or just come with your own UFO and hook! And let's all hope for some CHOCOLATE for our treat table! Cindy and Therese

**February Meeting – Friday, February 8, 2013** -- Our February meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting begins at 10:00 and runs to 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program -- Ellen DiClemente will show us how to assemble our “Clara Chicken” project. Patterns were handed out at the last meeting. Bring you hooked pieces and learn how they go together. Clara Chicken is a fun project for your own use and an ideal item for the Festival Boutique.

Show & Tell – We always think of special people on Valentine’s Day. For S & T this month please share a rug you made for someone special in your life.. Works in progress are always welcomed.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks/treats to the meeting – Dolores Clark, Teri Dabrowski and Dee Rosebrock. The Hospitality Committee is requesting additional members to bring snacks to the meeting. Your snacks and treats helped make our gatherings more enjoyable.

**February Birthdays** – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Sharon Ballard (2/10), Barbara Boyko (2/25), Ingrid Cosmen (2/25), Shirley Hofling (2/14), Linda Miller (2/11), 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 Liz Muchmore to our Guild. Liz is an experienced rug hooker and was an active bidder at our auction at the last meeting. Her contact information follows below.

Liz Muchmore  
1 Shady Lane  
Green Pond, NJ 07435  
973-568-9525  
lizmuchmore@gmail.com

Annie Edwards’ correct email address is [anniechervinedwards@gmail.com](mailto:anniechervinedwards@gmail.com). It was shown incorrectly last month.

**Sunshine** – We understand that Lib Ryman will soon undergo planned replacement surgery. Details were not available at “press time”.

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

### **Guild News & Events**

**Festival Update** -- Now that 2013 is here, the Festival is well underway! On January 19<sup>th</sup> the Committee Chairs had their first meeting of the year. Be assured that there are a

lot of talented and committed folks working on this event. Our goal and mission is to open our craft up, not only to fellow rug hookers, but to the general public. We want everyone to know how great rug hooking is and what it is all about!

A postcard advertising the Festival has been approved and ordered. Very soon we will begin distributing these. Other advertising is being planned and underway. The raffle rug looks absolutely fantastic and is close to completion! The tickets will most likely be ready for sale by the beginning of March. We will be asking members to sell two books of raffle tickets each. There are seven confirmed vendors. Plans are being finalized for a process to collect all of the rugs for display. And, of course, work is well underway on some wonderful items for our Boutique.

Even with all this going on, we are going to need everyone's help going forward. I know many of us are working hard on items for the Boutique and they are looking wonderful! We are a talented group! But also, please be thinking about another committee area where you think you can help. Therese will be providing a more detailed update at the February meeting, so let's fill in those gaps where we need more help! It is a fun group to work with, and many of the decisions have already been made....we just need worker bees. Again, thanks to all for work already done, and commitments made going forward. We can do this and it's going to be great!

**Rugs Needed for Guild Exhibit at Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (March 16, 2013)** – We will begin to collect rugs this month for the Guild's exhibit at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead on March 16, 2013. This is an opportunity to display rugs of all sizes, including large ones that are often precluded because of space limitation at other Guild exhibits. Most of the rugs will be displayed on the floors throughout the Homestead, so sleeves are not needed. We estimate that upwards of 60 rugs can be displayed. The timing and location of the exhibit allows us to publicize the Hooked Rug Festival in an area that may not see our normal PR efforts.

Rugs will be collected at the February and March meetings and will be returned at the April meeting. Please pin a note with your name and the title of the rug on the reverse side of the rug. All members urged to provide a rug or two for this exhibit.

In addition to the display of our rugs, Guild members will be demonstrating rug hooking throughout the Homestead. Juliana Kapusta and Martha Thieling have volunteered to participate. Karl Gimber is coordinating our efforts. Please let him know if you can assist. You can reach Karl at 215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net).

Announcements about the exhibit can be found on the websites for Early American Life Magazine and Pennsylvania Museums ([www.pamuseums.org](http://www.pamuseums.org) -- click on upcoming events).

**Hunterdon County Celebrates 300th Birthday in 2014** -- Next year Hunterdon County will celebrate its founding 300 years ago. All community organizations are encouraged to do something special to recognize the birthday. Our Guild was established under the Hunterdon County Adult Education Program, so we have a special relationship with the County and will support the community efforts. Please let Cindy or Therese know of any ideas you may have on a possible program or event we can sponsor.

**Past Guild Member Joins Rug Hooking Magazine's Editorial Board** -- Linda Rae Coughlin has been selected to serve on the Editorial Board of Rug Hooking Magazine along with Cynthia Norwood, who is one of our camp instructors this summer. They join another past Guild member Gail Dufresne on the Board. Congratulations to them all!

**"Eye See You" Exhibit Update** -- Last month's article on Judy Carter's special "Eye See You" Exhibit mentioned that Guild members Patty Mahaffey and Janet Williams each had a rug in the exhibit. We failed to recognize Guild member Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar who also created a rug for the exhibit. Arline hooked the orangutan eye, which took 140 hours to complete. In addition to our talented members who worked on this project, several of our camp instructors -- Norma Batastini (chimpanzee), Cyndy Duade (giraffe), Sarah Guilani (cheetah), and Michele Micarelli (Fire Salamander) -- did too. We are fortunate to be exposed to such talented artisans.

**Meeting Program Revisions** -- Our Program Continues to develop exciting program ideas for our meetings. Several changes have been announced.

- March – Designing from Nature (Presentation by Weezie Huntington)
- April – Have Hook Will Travel (Member discussion of hooking schools, camps and resources)
- May – Hook-in (at our alternated meeting site)

**Location of May Meeting Changed** -- The meeting in May will be held at our alternate location – the Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. Our regular site is needed for a Freeholders Meeting.

**Auction and White Elephant Sale -- A Blow Out Success** -- Our annual fundraising auction and white elephant sale was a blow out success! 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, 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.

**Lebanon Township Museum Hosts Hooked Rug Festival Workdays** -- Sharon Ballard, Festival Boutique Chair, has arranged with Museum Curators, Joan Lucas and Deanna Kinney, to work on projects at the Lebanon Township Museum that will be sold at our boutique table at the Hooked Rug Festival. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-5:00. Guild members are invited to participate and to support our Festival efforts. Contact Sharon (908-236-7410) to learn the dates she will be at the Museum and what you need to bring.

**Spring Fling Workshops with Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa – April 5 - 7, 2013** – Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning by popular demand to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 5, 2013 to Sunday April 7, 2013. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175

for non-members. Cyndy's workshop is currently full, but a waiting list has been established. There are still a few openings with Lucille. Cindy Boults is handling registration.

“Door People” Workshop (Lucille Festa) -- If you like fun quick projects, then you will love this class. Door People are designed for your door or door knob. Hook- Finish - Hang a door person. Lucille will walk you through the entire process demonstrating each step. Please visit her website [www.americancountryrugs.com](http://www.americancountryrugs.com) to see the entire “Door People” collection (look under small things).

Colorful Leaves Workshop (Cyndy Duade) -- The workshop begins with a “casserole dye” demonstration on Friday night followed by group participation. Each student will dye a piece of wool using this technique. All equipment and wool will be provided. On Saturday students receive kits, choose wool colors, and begin to hook in the leaf veins. Cyndy will present methods and situations for using this dying technique. On Sunday you will continue hooking the leaf. There will be a demonstration and discussion on how to finish the mat by applying hand dyed wool and a ribbon yarn whipped edge.

### **Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 20, 2013**

The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 20, 2013. Holding the event in a museum setting is one of the attractions.

Shopping is always a fun aspect of every hook-in. We are pleased to have “regulars” from previous hook-ins as well as “new faces” --

- Dyeing for a Change (Weezie Huntington)
- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hook Nook – Lib Callaway Patterns (Margaret Lutz)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Wool'n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)
- Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb's wool)

In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have two mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. We are planning for about 50 people in addition to the beginners' workshop. 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 “Remembering the Farm” which has historic farm photographs, artifacts and small farm equipment as well as the newly renovated exhibit on Mennonite history entitled “Work & Hope” which has some interesting textiles.

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](http://www.mhep.org) -- for more information on their programs.

Please let Event Coordinator, Karl Gimber, know if you can help by contacting him at [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) or 215-297-0803.

**Beginners' Rug Hooking Workshop (April 20, 2013)** – Our plains for the hook-in include offering a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking. The workshop has been fully subscribed in the past. Joanne McIlmurray has volunteered to be one of the instructors. An assistant is needed to work with her. You do not have to be a teacher to assist. If you know how to hook, you can show others how to pull loops. Please contact Karl Gimber if you can help or need more information.

The fee for the workshop is \$45 (non-Heritage Center member) and \$40 (MHC member) plus \$25 for the kit. Participants need to provide a 14" embroidery hoop and a pair of sharp scissors. The workshop will be limited to 12 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.

Members are being asked to donate wool strips left over from previous projects that will be used for the hit or miss background. Wider cuts (#7 and #8) are preferred. Pieces of solid golds and reds can also be used.

**HCRAAG 2013 Summer Camp** --Our Guild's 17<sup>th</sup> annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors have been recruited. Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Please note that Cynthia's and Sarah's workshops are currently full; there are two openings in Judy's workshop. Waiting lists are being maintained. Cancellations often occur, so you are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list.

Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2013.

#### **Camp Workshops**

Judy Carter -- This will be an open animal class. Judy will have Leonard Feenan patterns available such as Giraffe, Mothers Comfort, Tiger, Elephant, Flamingo, etc. You can view Leonard's website at [www.theburningartist.com](http://www.theburningartist.com) for examples of some of his patterns. Judy will also do custom patterns (she will need the information well in advance of class). Judy can also have patterns made of a single eye or group of eyes from her recent Eye See You project.

Sarah Guiliani -- This will be an open class. Students are free to work on any design in any cut and in any style. Sarah enjoys hooking in a variety of styles; however she specializes in people portraits and animals. She loves the challenge of working with each student individually to create the look they want. The class will include lectures on current rug hooking topics. Sarah strives to create a caring, fun and creative classroom environment.

Sarah owns and operates New England Rug Hooking Studio in South Portland, Maine. Her website is [www.uhookrugs.net](http://www.uhookrugs.net). Sarah has been hooking and teaching for over 25 years and she is director of ATHA Region 1 South School in Litchfield, CT.

Cynthia Norwood -- This will be primarily a primitive and wide cut class. Cynthia is comfortable teaching all types of hooking and loves to work with unusual textures and paisleys. She tries to get students to push their own comfort zones. Cynthia will work with you on a pattern of your choice. Her class will include lectures, demonstrations and class discussions.

Cynthia's strong suits include color planning and creating great backgrounds. Cynthia is the author of Creating the Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs; she is an active member of ATHA (and serves as their Advertising Manager) and is McGown certified.

**Registration/Instructional Fees** – Registration began at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2012. 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, 2013. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

**Refund Policy** –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2013, 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](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com) or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com).

**Fun Retreat** – Following the January meeting, 45 Guild members drove the short distance to the Flemington Hampton Inn for our 7th annual hooking retreat. Interest in the retreat has grown to the point where both conference rooms at the Hampton Inn were needed again this year. The two adjoining meeting rooms are perfect for our needs. As in the past 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 and are joined by a number of first timers who had a wonderful time. The weekend is an ideal opportunity 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. New members Jan and Fred Cole along with Teri Dabrowski and our new sisters – Chris Coslet, Janet Ksiazek and Linda Miller -- were 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 Miss America Pageant again took place the Saturday night of the retreat and it is becoming a retreat tradition to cheer on our favorites and to hoot at the responses to the questions presented to the contestants. Each retreator had an opportunity to select the home state from which they thought the winner and runner-ups would come. Jan and Fred Cole (Wool n’ Gardener) donated wool that was awarded to those who selected states for the four runners-up. Weezie won the raffle prize with her selection of New York State and thrilled the retreat audience with her rendition of the Miss America walk (strut?). Plastic tiaras were donned for the group photo in the lobby. A young couple was checking in as the photo commotion took place and must have wondered what they were getting into at this Hampton Inn.

A press release and a group photo have been sent to the local newspapers. Watch for it. Also visit the Guild’s website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)) for additional photos.

**Guild 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](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net).

*Members who borrow books are reminded that they need to be returned in a timely manner, so that the books will be available for other members.*

**Guild Website** -- Visit the Guild’s website at [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured members, 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!

**Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill** – HCRA is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. All Guild members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or [etshick@gmail.com](mailto:etshick@gmail.com))
- HCRA Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com))
- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net))
- Door Prizes: Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or [dmk17@ptd.net](mailto:dmk17@ptd.net))
- Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or [flowjans@hotmail.com](mailto:flowjans@hotmail.com))  
Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or [eldunker@hotmail.com](mailto:eldunker@hotmail.com))
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or [mmlutz@ptd.net](mailto:mmlutz@ptd.net))  
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or [smenges2072@comcast.net](mailto:smenges2072@comcast.net))
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or [stancot@comcast.net](mailto:stancot@comcast.net))
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com))
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com))
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net))

- Beginners Workshops:  
 Patty Mahaffey (215-453-0174 or [mcmahaffey@comcast.net](mailto:mcmahaffey@comcast.net))  
 Cheryl Halliday (215-672-2629 or [havewenewool@Yahoo.com](mailto:havewenewool@Yahoo.com))  
 Juliana Kapusta (215-721-4327 or [juliana\\_kapusts@hotmail.com](mailto:juliana_kapusts@hotmail.com))

**Featured Member – Donna Kolznak** – Donna Kolznak and her husband, George, are volunteers at Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm located outside of Stroudsburg, PA. It was there during a short lunch break in the spring of 2009 that Donna saw Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows) demonstrating rug hooking. She was taken by what she saw and immediately knew that she wanted to learn how to hook rugs. The hooked rugs that Donna had seen at antique shows always seemed to be drab and dirty, but Jeannine’s rugs had wonderful colors. “I had to do it!” is what Donna recalls as her reaction.

She explored the idea of having Jeannine conduct a workshop for beginners at Quiet Valley. Tentative arrangements were made as long as there would be six participants. There was stronger interest than expected because 10 excited registrants were found with little effort. They worked on a log cabin pattern that was completed in three weeks when the group reconvened. All of the students bought a second kit and were on their way!

Nancy Sears and Donna attended a penny mat workshop together, but they spent a lot of time talking about rug hooking. They decided to visit Jeannine’s shop and learned of her open studio sessions on Thursdays. A serious car accident prevented Donna from hooking for about six months while she recovered from the injuries suffered in the accident. She could not drive, but Nancy gladly provided the transportation to hooking events. Donna used the time when she could not hook to be thinking about and color planning her next hooking projects. The process was very therapeutic.

The ATHA Biennial that was held in Lancaster in 2011 provided an opportunity for Donna to meet other rug hookers, vendors and teachers that she would normally not be exposed to. She took a workshop with Kris Miller who taught her students seven or eight hooking techniques on one rug. “It was a fantastic experience”, Donna recalls. She also attended workshops with Barb Carroll and Eric Sandberg.

Donna started to search for other rug hookers and hooking groups. There were no guilds in the Pocono area where she lives, but it was not long before Donna and Nancy learned of the guilds a little further away. Soon they were attending regional hook-ins sponsored by the Woolwrights, Brandywine and Hunterdon Guilds. Donna met Therese Shick at an open studio session at Two Old Crows and heard about the Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter. While attending a Lamb Yankees meeting, Donna was introduced to our Guild when Kathleen Murray-Boyda circulated a copy of The Loop. She has been a member of both guilds from that time and has not missed a meeting. Donna chairs the HCRAG Mentoring Program and Rug Festival Committee on Door Prizes.

Donna “loves antiques” and old things in general and finds herself attracted to primitive style rug hooking. The darker palette with which she likes to hook fits in nicely with her home and furnishings. An 8 ½ cut is what she currently uses although Donna wants to try wider cuts that she saw being used by Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) last year at a demonstration at the Sheep & Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. Betsy was hooking with ½” and ¾” strips of ripped wool.

Dyeing wool is something that Donna has tried on her own after attending a dyeing get

together at Janet Williams' home. She enjoyed the experience, but says that "I will not be a true dyer. I would rather use my time hooking. Also, there is so much great wool available." Donna is drawn to textured and plaid wool that she buys off the bolt. "I am not into spot dyed wool", she notes.

Donna's favorite time to hook is during the summer when she can sit on her deck in the back yard. "I wish I had a regular routine, but there are times when I will hook all weekend and then nothing for a week", she observes. She also gets hooking done at guild meetings and hook-ins.

In addition to hooking rugs, Donna is an avid reader of books on American history. She also does hand sewing and enjoys making penny mats and mug mats. She and her husband, George, have been married 15 years and live in Kresgeville, which is in the Pocono Mountains region of Pennsylvania. As Donna looks ahead, she wants to try hooking using the "ripping style" she saw with Betsy Reed. Eventually, she hopes to tackle a big rug.

Visit the Guild's website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) –to see a few of Donna's creations.

## **Hooking Information & Techniques**

**From Nina's Notebook** – February ... a month of hearts and flowers, valentines and love, chocolates and kisses, so many subjects for beautiful mats! Several years ago we had a Valentines swap and what fun it was to see the many designs that were created to celebrate the day. The artist in all of us calls out to sit down and see how many ways we can create a design to celebrate this special holiday.

Time also to get busy on those hooking projects that we have stashed away saying "I'll do this in the winter". Winter has come and it is time. Happy Hooking, Nina Seaman

**Tips From Heloise** -- At the past hooking retreat Heloise had an opportunity to visit with Jacqueline Lee who shared an idea she learned from her hooking guild back home on Cape Cod. If you want your lettering to really stand out, Jackie's tip is to first hook the letters with a strip of wool that is the same width as the surrounding background. After the background has been hooked, pull out the letters and re-hook them with a wider cut. For added emphasis, re-hook the letters a little higher than the background. They will really stand out!

## **Recipes**

One of the added benefits to attending the Guild's annual hooking retreat is being able to sample the wonderful treats and snacks brought by participants. Those who came early Saturday morning were treated by Gisele Meader's Cranberry Coffee Cake. It was gone by the time the late comers arrived, so Gisele was good enough to share her recipe with us.

### **Cranberry Coffee Cake**

#### **Ingredients**

½ C butter (1stick) softened	2 C flour
1C sugar	½ t – salt

2 eggs	1 C sour cream
1 t – baking powder	1 t – almond extract
1 t – baking soda	6 oz. Fresh/frozen cranberries (about ½ bag)
	½ C chopped walnuts

1. Measure flour, salt, baking soda and baking powder and set aside.
2. Cream butter and sugar, add eggs.
3. Add almond extract.
4. Alternate sour cream and dry mixture.
5. Add cranberries and walnuts.
6. Place batter in greased tub pan and bake for 50 minutes at 350’.
7. Done when toothpick comes out clean.
8. Cool in pan for 10 minutes.

Thank you Gisele!

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

Old Kinderhook Winter Rug Camp – February 4-6 & 7-9, 2013 – Jayne Hester is hosting two rug Michele Micarelli Workshop -- January 21 & 22, 2013 – Michele Micarelli is hosting a workshop at her home with guest teacher Eric Sandberg. He will be teaching her doily pattern, which comes in all sizes and shapes and has endless color possibilities. You must order your pattern ahead. Several sizes and shapes are available -- a rounded corner 2x3hooking camps at her Hook & Chatter Studio at 1008 Kinderhook St. (Rt. #9) in Valatie, NY 12184. Janice Johnson (Wooly Woolens) from Independence, MO is the instructor. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Activities begin with an open house on Sunday, February 3. For more information contact Jayne at [beansiejoe@aol.com](mailto:beansiejoe@aol.com) or [kinderhookb-b@berk.com](mailto:kinderhookb-b@berk.com).

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside -- Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering their 5<sup>th</sup> annual spring workshops on March 5, 6 & 7, 2013 or March 9, 2013 at historic Oakeside in Bloomfield, New Jersey. The theme for the workshops is “Birds of a Feather Flock Together”.

The workshop will open with an introductory lecture, a power point presentation and display of hooked samples. Activities to hone your identification skills and translate field marks to rug hooking will follow. During the workshop feather fundamentals, beak basics, talon tenets, perch parameters and nest necessities will be covered. You will learn how to create sheen and iridescence with wool and mixed-media materials. The three day workshop will feature an after class field trip to the Meadowlands, a premier birding spot in the Northeast with NYC as a backdrop.

Students may work on any design, any style, any cut. Norma and Linda can help you with pattern selection or design. After registration a brochure with our bird designs and a selection of new owl patterns will be sent to you.

Oakeside is a large mansion previously owned by the Oakes family that was donated to the town of Bloomfield to be used as a cultural center. It is conveniently located just off the Garden State Parkway and has ample parking. The solarium and the living room will be used as classrooms. In addition, a shop will be set up in the music room. Norma and Linda will be team-teaching the classes.

For more information, contact Norma (973-746-2936 or [g.batastini@msn.com](mailto:g.batastini@msn.com)) or Linda (973-743-6835 or [linda.woodbury@gmail.com](mailto:linda.woodbury@gmail.com)).

Woolwrights Hook-in (March 16, 2013) – The Woolwrights Guild 3<sup>rd</sup> annual hook-in is scheduled for March 16, 2013 from 9-4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. The vendor list and other information can be found at their website -- [www.woolwrights.com](http://www.woolwrights.com).

Rug Hooking Week At Sauder Village (August 13–14, 2013) – Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, features workshops, exhibits (over 500 rugs) and leading vendors. For more information visit [www.saudervillage.org](http://www.saudervillage.org) or call 800-590-9755.

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or [kathmb@hotmail.com](mailto:kathmb@hotmail.com). Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://www.lambyankees.weebly.com).

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

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

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

### **HCRAG Calendar of Events**

**February 8, 2013** – Assemble chicken \*

**March 8, 2013** – Designing from Nature (Weezie Huntington) \*

**March 16, 2013** – Hilltown Historical Society Rug Exhibit (Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead)

**April 2013** – Guild Exhibit at Hunterdon County Library (Flemington, NJ)

**April 5-7, 2013** – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

**April 12, 2013** – Have Hook Will Travel (member led discussion) \*

**April 20, 2013** – HCRAG Hook-in (Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA)

**May 10, 2013** – Hook-in \*\*

**June 14, 2013** – Guild Picnic \*

**August 12-16, 2013** – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

**October 5 & 6, 2013** – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

\*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on

Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for 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** – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or [cboult@gmail.com](mailto:cboult@gmail.com).

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or [etshick@gmail.com](mailto:etshick@gmail.com).

**Vice President – Membership** – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com)

**Director -- Communications** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net)

**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)

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

**Mentoring** – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or [dmk17@ptd.net](mailto:dmk17@ptd.net)

**Programs** – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or [stancot@comcast.net](mailto:stancot@comcast.net)

Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or [boykobarbara@yahoo.com](mailto:boykobarbara@yahoo.com)

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

**Secretary** – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or [srw0717@aol.com](mailto:srw0717@aol.com)

Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or [lkling@epix.net](mailto:lkling@epix.net)

**Special Events** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [gutvet@optonline.net](mailto:gutvet@optonline.net)

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

**Treasurer** – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)

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

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

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAE). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.