

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

February, 2015

Presidents' Letter – As we look to the month of February, another successful HCRAG auction has come and gone. Our thanks to Sharon Ballard for leading a lively auction with lots of bidding generosity, humor and fun. There were very few items left...thanks to all!

For many the auction meeting was followed by our famous annual retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington. Both rooms were full to capacity with many fabulous projects, conversations, delicious food items...and of course, laughing. Sore backs, shoulders, and muscles were relieved by our two capable masseuses, which was a retreat highlight as usual. And hopefully everyone made it home through the mini ice storm on Sunday. We missed Weezie, Karl and Ellen, but can look forward to the retreat in March that will be replacing our Spring Fling this year.

Speaking of missing Karl Gimber, the February program was originally scheduled to be about Tavern Sign Rugs led by Karl. Karl will be having heart bypass surgery in early February and therefore will be recuperating during February. The Tavern Sign program is now going to be replaced by a Festival Boutique program of sorts. Many Guild members are looking for ideas of something to make for the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill. We will have several members available with small projects to teach so that anyone who wants to make an item(s) for the Festival can have that opportunity. There will be more details to follow as we pull that program together. So bring your rug hooking supplies...even if you would rather not do something with the Festival group, you can continue a current project or one you started at the retreat!

There are still openings for the Spring Retreat & Hook-in on the weekend of March 20-22, 2015. Contact Diane Liberto for information and details.

So, stay warm and safe. We send our best wishes to Karl for his surgery and to Ellen DiClemente for healing from her fall. Therese & Weezie

February Meeting – Friday, February 13, 2015 -- 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Program – We will be having a Festival Boutique Program. It was suggested at the January meeting that we use a Guild meeting to demonstrate some items that could be created for the Boutique & Mini Raffle at the Festival. Members who have interest will move around the room and get hands on help from members on projects such as proddy, pin making, felting, and ornament making. Other members are encouraged to work on a current project or small ornaments for the Festival. Strips from our “noodle basket” will be available.

Show & Tell – Bring your latest completed rug or current project to share with us. Projects worked on at the Retreat will be of special interest.

During the January S & T there were a few members interested to know the patternmaker of the pillow Ellen DiClemente hooked. The pattern Majolica Pillow was designed by Karen Kahle (Primitive Spirit --- primitivespirit.etsy.com).

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Helen Buchanan, Ingrid Cosmen, Barbara Perry, Lynda Kling, Linda Reitz, and Dee Rosebrock. Our meetings are enhanced by their contributions!

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), Dee Rosebrock (2/8), Laurie Rubinetti (2/29), Lib Ryman (2/12) and Janet Santaniello (2/22). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Sunshine – Ellen DiClemente slipped and fell in her attic breaking an elbow and injuring her head. Bernice Smith is home after a brief stay in the hospital. Karl Gimber will undergo triple bypass surgery on February 3. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

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

Guild News & Events

Kudos From Our Founder -- Josephine Knoblauch founded our Guild in 1977. She receives our monthly newsletter and continues to follow our activities with much interest. Jo recently sent the following note:

“...Your recent press release ‘Rug Artisans Guild Support Victims of Domestic Violence’ is another informative article about community activities that the Guild is involved in, apart from its purpose for existence to preserve the cultural heritage of traditional rug hooking.

Historically, back in the 70s when I was coordinating the organization and existence of all the Guilds, I stressed serving the community because each township was so supportive when we originally started classes to teach Arts and Crafts under the PACHA Project. Facilities were opened up to use everywhere free of charge. Each township could see the positive value for its populace. Adult students wishing to learn from the entire county were involved. We continued to use a lot of those free facilities well past the funding from the Project.

Working cooperatively with the community is one of the finest ways possible to show appreciation for their past and continued support. Kudos to your Guild for your excellent work.”

ATHA Invites Guild to Participate in Upcoming Issue -- The Editor of ATHA's magazine invited HCRAAG members, who are also ATHA members, to submit photographs of "hit or miss" rugs for their next issue. Annie Edwards and Carol Kindt photographed rugs and collected the needed information at our last meeting and the retreat. We look forward to seeing our members' work displayed in the April/May issue..

ATHA Biennial Pattern Book Added To Our Library – Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, has added Rug Art Past and Present to our extensive library. Compiled by members of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists (ATHA) for the 2015 Biennial, the book features a collection of 50 rug patterns both antique and new to reproduce. A clear line drawing of each rug is presented with a color photo of the completed rug. A DVD of all 50 rug patterns in JPG and PDF formats is included. Anyone looking for a project for the March retreat or our summer camp?

Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. The full listing of books in our library can always be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, 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.

Guild's 2015 Demonstration 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 11	Peter Wentz Farmstead (Worcester, PA)	Karl Gimber
May 2	Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ)	Karl Gimber
August 1 & 2	Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)	Karl Gimber
August 20	Hunterdon County 4-H Fair (Ringoies, NJ)	D. Rosebrock
September 12&13	Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoies, NJ)	Open
September 19	Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October 4	Apple Butter Frolic (Menn.Heritage Center)	P. McDonnell
October *	Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA)	Lydia Lewis
October *	Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ)	Carol Kindt

* Date not yet established

Note: We are grateful to Pat McDonnell for volunteering to be at the Apple Butter Frolic which falls on the first day of our Hooked Rug Festival.

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.

Hooking Animals by Judy Carter -- Hooking Animals: How to Bring Animals to Life in Wool Rugs by Guild member and past camp instructor, Judy Carter, is hot off the press. Judy shares tips and techniques on creating one-of-a-kind animal portraits including how to hook hair, fur, feathers and scales. Learn the secrets of hooking eyes, ears and noses. The book is published by Stackpole Magazines. Go to www.rughookingmagazine.com for details. Hooking Animals is available for loan from the HCRAG Library.

Journey of an Antique Rug's Restoration -- Guild member Eleanor Dunker is a dedicated volunteer at the Smithville Historical Society. She was recently helpful in having one of their special artifacts get professional hooked rug restoration. Eleanor has provided the following report on this rescue effort.

“While volunteering at an 1840’s Victorian Mansion in Smithville, Burlington County, I heard about a hooked rug that had been passed down through the Smith family. The Smith’s were owners of an industrial village located on the Rancocas Creek near Mount Holly. Of course, I had to examine it. At the time, I was organizing a rug show at the Mansion and knew this piece had to be in the show. Fortunately, it had been stored in a dark closet, so the colors remained true. Unfortunately, it had been folded instead of rolled and it had many L shaped cuts in the backing.

The story concerning the provenance of the rug that was passed down through the Smith family was that it was made for Elton Smith and hooked by his mother and/or sister. Elton was the first son of Hezekiah Smith. The worst problem was that someone had sent it to an Oriental rug cleaning coming and that process caused the burlap backing to become brittle and fragile.

I knew that this was a piece of art that needed attention and must be preserved. Immediately, I thought of Stephanie Krauss from Green Mountain Hooked Rugs in Vermont. I had attended her wonderful camp a few years prior to the discovery of the rug. While attending camp, I learned about their restoration business. Stephanie and her talented employees lovingly repair and stabilize damaged hooked rugs. After contacting Stephanie, I drove to Montpelier to deliver the rug. After she explained the process, I knew the rug was in the right place and in very capable hands. The tears were repaired, missing areas of loops were matched to the fabrics used and perfect color blends. The entire back of the rug had fine linen attached to the rug by invisible stitching. You could not see the stitches from the front. In addition, they carefully cleaned the rug and successfully rid the rug of stains.

I was so impressed with the quality of the rug and it looked pristine. She instructed me that the rug should never be hung due to its age and stability and it needed to be displayed where it would not be walked on. Currently, it lays on a bed and makes a colorful bed rug. We believe the rug was created in the late 1800’s.

Saving old and damaged rugs is time consuming and an act of love to preserve the history of family and this fiber art. The Green Mountain team has a huge reservoir of knowledge that guided this project. Stephanie and her team price their work extremely fairly. We all felt that the cost of this restoration was beyond reasonable, considering the amount of time and effort given to this project. I recommend Green Mountain services for your treasured rugs.

Smithville Mansion is open for tours from May through October on Thursdays and Sundays at 1, 2 and 3:00 pm. During the month of December, garden clubs and historical societies decorate the mansion to a theme. Last year is was “Heaven and Earth.” It is open almost every day in December and there are nine Candlelight tours. We also host Victorian Teas with a tour included. H.B. Smith was a wonderful character and the many stories we tell about life at Smithville are based on facts but seem like a soap opera, at times. Was he a bigamist? Come and find out. He did find a young bull moose and trained it to pull a carriage through towns as he campaigned for votes to win a Senate seat in Washington D.C, while his brass band played Dixie. Since the Civil War had just ended, it caused quite a stir. Also, a long family feud resulted in Elton leaving home and never seeing his father for over 40 years. He succeeded in breaking the will and taking over Smithville after his father’s death. Elton had his revenge, however. So many fantastic stories are shared during our historical tours.”

The website for the Mansion is www.smithvillemansion.org. Stephanie Allen-Krauss’s website is vtpansy@GreenMountainHookedRugs.com.”

Hunterdon Cultural Arts Commission Exhibition -- On January 6, 2015 our Guild participated in the ceremonies for the reorganization of the Board of Chosen Freeholders at the 1828 historic courthouse in Flemington. HCRAG was invited by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission in the effort to underscore the importance of continuing support for cultural arts and was joined by Moorland Studios Sculptures, Patricia Lang Sculptures and Pamela Becker’s Baskets.

Our rug display presented the full spectrum of techniques from fine cut landscape to whimsical folk art. Especially appreciated by attendees were the rugs that depicted farm preservation, historical locations, the beauty of Hunterdon County, and our very coveted Festival Raffle Rug! We thank Sharon Ballard, Cindy Boults, Kathy Donovan, Gail Ferdinando, Barbara Lugg, Dee Rosebrock, Debbie Walsh, Kay Weeks for providing their rugs. Cindy Boults coordinated our participation.

Bus Trip Being Explored -- The possibility of a bus trip to the Cloisters was discussed at the January meeting. There was enough interest to explore the idea further.

The Cloisters museum and gardens, the branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe, was assembled from architectural elements, both domestic and religious, that largely date from the twelfth through the fifteenth century.

The building and its cloistered gardens—located in Fort Tryon Park in northern Manhattan—are treasures in themselves, effectively part of the collection housed there. The Cloisters' collection comprises approximately two thousand works of art. For more

information, go to <http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-museum/history-of-the-museum/the-cloisters-museum-and-gardens>.

Ellen DiClemente and Sharon Ballard are looking into such a trip for the May meeting. Stay tuned!

Contemporary International Tapestry Exhibit -- The Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton has curated a show of Contemporary International Tapestry. The artists are from many countries and have works displayed in major collections, embassies and museums. It was reported that the show is extraordinary and should be of interest to any and all interested in fiber arts. The narratives accompanying the wide range of themes are fascinating and like so many of our hooked rugs "tell a story". The show runs through May 10th and the cost is \$5 with a reduced senior rate! Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday 11am-5pm. The museum is across the river from the Red Mill, in the heart of Clinton, NJ.

Charter Member Virginia Sutton Sends Regards to Guild -- We believe that Virginia Sutton may be our oldest charter member. She is not able to attend meetings but actively follows our activities through The Loop and visits from her longtime hooking friends like Ingrid Cosmen. Virginia recently gave Ingrid a batch of wool strips for our "Worm Basket" maintained by Ellen DiClemente. Virginia was renowned for her narrow cut projects. Thank You Virginia!

Ellen brings the Worm Basket to meetings and hooking events for members who need specific colors or cuts for their projects. Additions to the basket are gladly accepted. Ellen airs them out and then freezes them (room in the freezer permitting) to help prohibit moths.

Newspaper Article on Sergeantsville Rug Found -- When Ellen DiClemente was going through the wool strips donated to the Guild by Virginia Sutton (see above article) she discovered a newspaper article on the room sized rug hooked by Boletta Morris that depicted Sergeantsville in 1915 – 1920 as she remembered it growing up. This was the same rug on display at the Guild's 300th Hunterdon County Celebration. The article will be donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society. Look for it on our website.

Spring Retreat & Hook-in (March 20-22, 2015) – Spring Fling is now a super bargain....three full days for \$40! The weekend will be a Hook-In/Retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington. This is a great opportunity to catch up on projects and perhaps spend an hour or two creating items for the Festival. So welcome spring celebrating with hook & wool.

The Hampton Inn will continue to block rooms at our special rate. Please make payment at the February meeting or send check to Diane Liberto at 8 Allens Corner Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.

HCRAg 2015 Rug Hooking Camp (August 10-14, 2015) -- Our 19th Annual Rug hooking camp will take place from August 10 – 14, 2015 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. We will again have four instructors -- Cyndy Duade, Michele Micarelli, Kris Miller and Diane Stoffel. Openings currently exist in Michele's and Cyndy's workshops. However, cancellations normally occur before camp, so you are

encouraged to place your name on the waiting list if you wish to attend. Registrations are now being accepted from rug hookers who are not Guild members.

Cyndy Duade will be conducting a Wide Cut Crewel Workshop -- This class will focus on dying and wide cut (#6-#9 cuts) hooking techniques used to achieve the effect/look of crewel embroidery. Patterns will be available. The intent of this class is to understand how to translate methods used in fine hooking to the wide cut project, to learn about the crewel style of rug hooking, to use a simple color plan with multi-dye methods, have good discussions, and a good time.

Michele Micarelli will be conducting an Open Workshop -- This workshop is open to all levels, all cuts, patterns or originals. Requirements are an "OPEN" mind. We will explore using color in this open classroom with imagination. Please come prepared to open up your mind and hook something amazing!

Kris Miller will be conducting a Primitive Workshop -- Kris will focus on primitive style hooking for this workshop. It will be an Open Workshop so you may hook any pattern you wish. She will be bringing patterns and wool.

Diane Stoffel will be conducting an Open Workshop -- Diane will be teaching this as an Open Workshop, so hook with any pattern you wish. She will focus on making your rug colorful and pleasing to your color palette. Diane is high energy and will keep you working throughout the week to plan all elements of your rug.

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is \$200 for *members with dues paid by November's meeting*. Non-members will pay \$275 if there is available space after January 30th. A deposit of \$100 will be required with registration with final payment due by April 10th. If you need to cancel after April 10th, \$150 will be refunded only if a replacement is found. \$50 is non-refundable if canceling before April 10.

Registration Process -- Registration forms are available at our meetings and on our website (www.hcrag.com). All registration is by mail. The registration form provides for a selection of your first, second, third or fourth choice of an instructor.

Additional information on the instructors and their workshops can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

January Retreat – Following a successful auction meeting, 40 members headed over to the Hampton Inn to begin our annual January Retreat. There are quite a few members who attend each year and some who were there for the first time. Rugs were started, rugs were finished, food was abundant, and laughter was long and loud. Massages were available for those who wanted the soothing relaxation provided by our favorite masseuse, Joy. Those who stayed overnight enjoyed hooking well into the night with wine and snacks making the evenings more memorable. The crazy sock contest added to the enjoyment.

Most come loaded with all the equipment and supplies they might need during the weekend. Susan Atwater, one of our veteran retreaters, takes another approach; she traveled light and intentionally brought a small project to start. "I brought a hoop and left

the heavy Townsend Frame (and cutter) at home. I pre-cut enough strips to get started and a supply of uncut wool if I need it. In between hooking sessions I prowled the room learning new hooking techniques and fresh color associations, wowed by the diversity and originality of designs.” Susan uses the Retreat to meet new members and catch up with old friends. By Sunday she says, “I’m tired but inspired.”

Gisele Meader used the Retreat as a time to work on items for the Festival Boutique tables. Hooking in her favorite narrow cut (#3 and #4 cuts) style, Gisele created three dimensional chicken, snowmen and sheep ornaments that will surely be a big hit at the Festival. She noted that the “rooms were full and that there was a lot of socializing going on in addition to the hooking. Everyone had a great time!”

The Retreat is always a special time to see members who live a great distance from Hunterdon County. Jacqueline Lee traveled from her home on Cape Cod and combined the Retreat with a visit to her sister who lives in New Jersey. Jackie recently created a rug with a flag pattern that was hooked entirely with plaids. She used the Retreat as a time to follow up on that special rug with a 19” square Valentine Heart hooked with red plaids. Jackie likes to challenge herself and uses her projects to “push the envelope a bit.” The retreat also allowed her time to experiment with a rug hooked with complementary colors. “Red-Green, Yellow-Blue” is the working title of her developmental challenge.

If you missed the January Retreat, you will have another opportunity to join the fun at the Spring Retreat and Hook-in on March 20-23, 2015 (see earlier article).

Featured Member – Marian Hall -- Marian Hall has had a longstanding interest in needlework and the fiber arts. Her first experience with hooked rugs took place in 1995 during a Christmas house tour in New Hampshire. One of the houses had “wall to wall rugs everywhere you looked,” she recalls. “There were at least five room sized hooked rugs!” The owner of the house sat in front of a large fireplace hooking a rug during the house tour. All the rugs in the house were hooked by her, her mother, and grandmother. “I was so new, it did not occur to me to ask her name or about the rugs,” Marian laments. After seeing the rugs Marian “went on the hunt” for more information. “This was before Google existed” and she had difficulty finding information.

Eventually Marian learned of Joan Moshimer’s Studio in Kennebunkport, Maine and drove up one weekend from her home in Connecticut. Marian was disappointed to learn that the shop was only open during the week. “I guess they were definitely not oriented to those who worked during the week,” Marian muses. She then learned of Mary Klotz’s Forestheart Studio in Maryland. It was there that Marian found the supplies and equipment she needed. She returned home with a Puritan Frame, cutter, linen backing, a basic “how to” book, tools, dye, and wool. Marian eagerly delved into the book from which she learned the fundamentals of hooking rugs.

In 1998 Marian moved to Pennsylvania and soon joined the Brandywine ATHA Chapter after attending an exhibit of their members’ rugs. “Guild members helped me get over the snags I was experiencing in my hooking,” she recalls. Marian continued to learn of the resources available in the area and took some classes to help develop her technique. She continues to attend select camps based on the teachers. Marian has a preference for teachers who were artists first and then became rug hookers. Elizabeth Black, Pris Butler, and Trish Johnson are among her favorite

teachers. “I have learned something from them all.”

Marian recalls that Elizabeth Black, who passed away last year, helped her look at “every nuance of color and hints of color here and there in the photo or visual aid. Attending a few camps each year is still part of her rug hooking journey. “I select the camps based on teachers I have heard of or know. I also want a comfortable setting and lodging.” One of her favorites is The Shaker Retreat at the Pleasant Hill Shaker Museum in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. She also likes the programs offered at Sauder Village in Ohio. Hooking retreats are increasingly a favorite venue; Marian enjoys hooking with others from whom she can learn and share ideas.

Marian tends to hook with “finer cuts.” While she hooks mainly with #3 to #5 strips, Marian does some shading but not what would be considered McGown shading. “I guess you can say that I do fine cut primitive hooking.” Marian designs most of her rug patterns. However, she will buy a commercial pattern if she finds one she likes. Three of Marian’s rugs have been recognized in Celebrations. In 2007 her rug, “Three Skyes,” featuring three Skye Terrier dogs won Third Prize for Original Design. In the 2008 she had a Pennsylvania Fraktur rug, “1821 Fraktur,” in the Honorable Mention section. She also won a place for “One Wild Flower” in the 2010 Celebrations in the Commercial Designs section.

Processing recycled clothing was too time-consuming for Marian, especially while she was working, so she tends to use new wool. Having done some weaving starting in college introduced her to dyeing wool so she was comfortable dyeing her hooking wool right from the beginning. Marian prefers a darker palette and tries to achieve a “blotchy” look with her dyed wool. Bright colors have a limited appeal. Marian has shared her knowledge with two Dye Pot articles for The Loop.

Her extensive dyeing experience led Marian to the decision to establish her new business, Wooly Dye Works. She devoted extensive time dyeing color swatches for the Prisms 1 Dye Book as the books are readily available but there are no color swatches available to accompany them. There are a limited number of sets of the swatches for Prisms 1, each with 167 swatches, and she is currently selling them, but it is limited to this one time effort. When they are all sold it is done.

While Marian likes to hook at home, she often finds that there are too many distractions. She prefers to hook at guild meetings and at retreats where she can get more done. Marian retired last June and “went crazy. I attended hook-ins, workshops, and retreats nonstop for four months going to Canada, Vermont, Maine, Kentucky, New York, and Ohio.” She now looks forward to being able to settle into a hooking routine at home. Becoming active in rug hooking guilds is part of her retirement plan. Marian has a niece that lives close by so she hopes to combine visits with attending HCRAG meetings and events. She also looks forward to attending meetings of the Mason Dixon ATHA Chapter on a regular basis. “Guilds allow me to meet other hookers and learn what is going on,” she notes.

Marian lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania with her “spoiled” cat, Larry. She retired in June 2014 after working as an occupational therapist in retirement communities for the last 25 years, and in research programs 20 years prior to that.. Her other avocations include cross stitch, but has done needlepoint, spinning, and weaving. She also enjoys travelling especially on the canals in England, with two canal trips scheduled this year.

Visit our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Marian’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – FEBRUARY is a welcome reprieve in these cold winter days. January was filled with taking down the remnants of the holidays, paying those bills of overindulgence, bemoaning the pounds gained and the puffy waist from lack of trips to the fitness center. Even some of the fun things seemed more like obligations and New Year's resolutions.

Welcome FEBRUARY with your bright color, your hearts and flowers, expressions of love. Images of fireplaces with couples snuggled together on the couch dance in our heads. Cupid and his love arrows seem to be everywhere. Candlelight, roses, a warm inviting meal with bubbly drinks in long stemmed glasses seem to call out from every ad in the magazines. Wars, hunger, poverty, cold are all forgotten in our romantic Hallmark image. Even St. Valentine has had a remake, rather than the man who visited the prisoners in jail, he is now the handsome suitor with the bouquet of red roses coming to call and to whisk us off to a romantic evening. All of this is a welcome relief from the harshness of the cold winter.

The color of the year is Marsala, an earthy terra cotta red. How appropriate! It combines the brightness of red with an undertone of earth colors. When I looked at the Pantone.com website I found a long explanation for their choice. I also found a series of color combinations which I highly recommend. Any of the choices they show would be useful for color planning a rug that incorporates the color of the year, Marsala. A pillow of bright flowers, a small mat of circles and squares, an abstract wall hanging with these colors come to mind as just a few of the ways you could use this color.

The second item I would recommend is Deanne Fitzpatrick's new book Simply Modern, Contemporary Designs for Hooked Rugs. It will be available through Amazon in April or you can order it directly from her website Hookingrugs.com. You will find it helpful whether you are a new hooker or one who has many rugs to your credit. Her writing is simple, direct and easy to follow.

I leave you with a quote from the cover...

“Make room for joy. Make room for playfulness. Make room for thankfulness. Make a little room between you and the mat for something larger than yourself...Make room for your spirit.”

Happy hooking! Nina Seaman

Ideas From The Dye Pot – Marrying Colors With Onion Skins -- In a 1998 article in Rug Hooking Magazine Jeanne Fallier shared ideas on how to use onion skins to marry unrelated colors that did not work together. Her process went as follows:

- Gather several handfuls of dry white or yellow onion skins
- Soak wool in warm water
- Add a pinch of alum to help the fabric absorb the color
- Fill an enamel pot with enough water to cover the wool
- Add the onion skins
- Simmer the skins to release their color, skim and discard

- Add and stir the wet wool
- Remove the wool before it takes up too much color
- Steam the dyed wool in the oven in a tightly covered pan with enough water to cover the wool.
- Bake at 250 degrees for 45 - 60 minutes
- Rinse, cool and dry the wool.

The remaining dye water can be used to dye white wool or to over-dye plaids or tweeds that need their lightest spots toned down.

Tips from Heloise – Hooking on Wool -- Heloise took notes when Kay Leisey (Homespun) gave a presentation at a recent Guild meeting on hooking on a wool backing. Here is what she learned:

A wide shank hook should not be used when hooking on a wool backing. The wide shank opens up too much of a hole.

Use a silver Sharpie when transferring the pattern on dark wool. A black Sharpie will not show up.

Hooking with a #6 cut is best. A #8 cut will be too thick.

Use “tulle” to transfer the pattern onto wool. It works better than red dot.

Recipes – Debbie Walsh’s Cabbage and Radish Salad with Peanut Dressing --

Another favorite dish at our holiday luncheon was Debbie Walsh’s Cabbage and Radish Salad. She got the recipe from her local farm stand - Dreyer Farms – and believes they got it from Dishingupthedirt.com.

Ingredients:

- 1 small green cabbage, finely chopped
- 1/2 head small red cabbage, finely chopped
- 1 medium daikon radish, cut into thin matchsticks
- 2 large carrots, cut into thin matchsticks
- 1 bunch red radishes (6-8), cut into thick half moons
- 1 bunch cilantro, diced
- 1 avocado, cut into 1/4 inch pieces

Dressing:

- 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon fresh minced ginger
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 3-1/2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 2-12 tablespoons Tamari sauce (or soy sauce)
- 1 tablespoon pure maple syrup (or honey)
- 1/4 cup water

Chop veggies (or buy chopped, bagged cabbage). Whisk dressing ingredients.
Taste, test and add as necessary
Drizzle salad with dressing and serve.

We thank Debbie for sharing her recipe!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

“From Garden to Table” – Hooked Rug Exhibit at Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (November 15, 2014 – March 1, 2015) – The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA is partnering with Susan Feller (Ruckman Mill Farm Rug Hooking Studio) on an exhibit titled “From Garden to Table,” which will feature contemporary hooked rugs with fruit and vegetable themes and a wonderful group of related objects from their collection. For more information, go to www.schwenkfelder.com and www.ruckmanmillfarm.com.

Common Threads Textile Conference (February 21, 2015) – The Goschenhoppen Historians, the Mennonite Heritage Center and the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center invite you to a one day Pennsylvania German textile history conference, scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Schwenkfelder Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. The cost of the conference is \$30 which includes lunch. Several speakers will lecture on local textile history, patchwork pillowcases, local 19th and 20th century quilts, Mennonite textiles, Victorian clothing, and townscape needle pictures. Register by calling Joanne Jalowy at 215-679-3103 or emailing joanne@schwenkfelder.com. More information can be obtained by going to www.schwenkfelder.com.

Woolwrights Annual Spring Hook-in (March 21, 2015) – The Woolwrights ATHA Chapter is hosting their spring hook-in on March 21, 2015 at the Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA. The event will include vendors, rug exhibits, mat swap and Judy Carter book signing (“Hooking Animals”). Registration limited to 200. Go to www.woolwrights.com to register or for more details.

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 10-15, 2015) – Retreat, workshops, exhibits and vendors will be part of this special rug hooking event at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. Visit www.saudervillage.org for details.

ATHA Biennial (September 9-12, 2015) – Join ATHA Region 9 for the 2015 Biennial in San Antonio, Texas. Go to www.atharugs.com for details on the classes, exhibits, vendors, tours, etc.

TIGHR Triennial Meeting (October 4-7, 2015) – The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) holds its 8th Triennial in Victoria, BC, Canada. Visit www.tighr.net for more information.

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at 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) 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 6, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

February 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Festival Boutique Projects (Members) *

March 6, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

March 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Tangle Art (Cheryl Halliday) *

March 20-22, 2015 – Retreat/Hook-in (Hampton Inn, Flemington)

April 3, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

April 10, 2015 – Monthly Meeting -- (Paul Deluca, ColorQuest) *

May 1, 2015 Casual Hooking Day **

May 8, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Cloisters Bus Trip (Tentative) **

June 5, 2015 Casual Hooking Day **

June 12, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Picnic or Luncheon *

July 3, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

August 7, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day**

August 10-14, 2015 – Rug Hooking Camp (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

August 11, 2015 – Beginners’ Workshop (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

October 3 & 4, 2015 – Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

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

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

Co-Presidents – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
 Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.
Vice President – Membership – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com
Director -- Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
 Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net
Camp Directors – Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com
 Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com
Historian – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
 Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net
Mentoring – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net
Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
Rug Festival -- Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.
Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
Special Events – Open
Spring Retreat & Hook-in – Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.
Treasurer – Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
 Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deeroosebrock@aol.com

Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAG 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.



The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG). 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.

HCRAG CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Folding Lap Frame (Never Used)

This comfortable frame measures approx. 14.5 inches x 11.75 inches outside. The inside hooking area is a generous 11.75 inches x 9.25 inches. The frame folds down to a height of only 1.5 inches with the knobs removed. See <http://www.iloverughooking.com/folapfrforru.html> for more details.

Asking \$90.00

Contact – Mary Passerello @comcast.net

WANTED

Worm Donations for the Guild – all sizes needed – especially primitive cuts (any color)

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

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