

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

February 2016

Presidents' Letter – It seems we have finally received our winter...and in a big way as well! Winter is such a great season for rug hooking and we hope you are accomplishing what you'd like to as the weeks pass by. It will be spring before we know it, although you wouldn't think so based on January.

As we look ahead to the last couple of months under our presidency we have some great programs coming up. Of course this month will be Karl and Mary Jo Gimber who will help us to come up with ideas and show us methods for creating our own tavern signs. March is saved for Jan Cole who is going to show us how she marries and marbleizes her fabulous wool. We will have a rug finishing round robin in April which can't be missed and then what is shaping up to be a wonderful field trip to Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center will take place of our regular May meeting. So, it is against this wonderful program backdrop that we thank Ellen DiClemente for all of her hard work. After two years of being in charge of programs, Ellen will be stepping down after May and we truly thank her for all of the wonderful programs we've had!

Please be aware of the changes to our HCRAAG website. John Austin, our new webmaster, has been working closely with Karl to improve the member photo gallery as well as photos in general on our website. Read the update on page three of the newsletter. Thanks to the both of them for all that work.

And now, I must confess, that Weezie has written most of these Presidents' Letters over the past two years...and truth be told, Cindy Boults wrote them when she and I were Co-Presidents. I just don't write well; creativity does not speak to me through the written word! So, I just wanted to thank both of them for being willing to write this letter each month. It has been greatly appreciated by me (and most likely by you!)

And as we head into the spring months, with all the wonderful activities we have coming up, be thinking about the way you can best serve the Guild. Everyone needs to play a part in order to make it function as smoothly as it does. Stay warm, Therese & Weezie

February Meeting – Friday, February 12, 2016 – 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 – Mary Jo and Karl Gimber will share their approach to designing hooked rugs inspired by early American tavern signs. Their presentation will include ideas on shapes, images and wording frequently found on old tavern signboards. They will discuss how to adapt an actual old sign for a rug pattern and how to create your own original image. Tavern signs can have simple or complex images for new or advanced rug hookers.

If you have a specific question or a point that you would like covered, let the Gimbbers know in advance by contacting them at karlg12@verizon.net or 215-297-0803.

Show & Tell – Bring your latest completed rug or current project to share with us.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Blanca Alvarez, Barbara Boyko, Teri Dabrowski, Sonia Force, and Carol Mowaswes. 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), Janet Santaniello (2/22), and Bonnie Saunders (2/13). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Note: The birthdays shown each month are taken from the Guild's Membership Dues Form. Some members do not use the form when joining the Guild which may explain why their birthdays are not shown. To be included, just let Karl Gimber know the day and month of your birthday.

Membership – We welcome Sandy Brown to our Guild. Her contact information follows:

Sandy Brown
129 West Broad Street
Hopewell, NJ 08525
609-468-8545
sbrown@glorianilson.com
609-468-8545

Anndee Byers has a new email address – abyers@premierpremier.com.

Dolores Clark sends her regards to the Guild along with the exciting news that she is now a great grandmother!

An updated yearend membership list was recently sent to members. Please let Debbie Walsh, VP-Membership, know if changes to your information is needed.

Sunshine – Our warmest condolences are extended to Sue Schulz for the loss of her father and to Chris Coslet and Linda Miller for the passing of their father.

During the past month, several members experience health issues: Helen Trammell underwent cataract surgery, Ann Gagnon continues to recover from hip replacement surgery, Carol Kindt has had pneumonia, Annie Edwards suffered a concussion suffered as a result of a fall at home, and Amy Korengut had hand surgery. We wish them all a speedy and full 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 –

Guild's 2016 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 9 | Peter Wentz Farmstead (Worcester, PA) | Karl Gimber |
| May 7 | Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ) | Karl Gimber |
| August 6 & 7 | Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm) | Karl Gimber |
| August 25 | Hunterdon County 4-H Fair (Ringoos, NJ) | Open |
| September 9&11 | Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoos, NJ) | Amy Korengut |
| September 17 | Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA) | Karl Gimber |
| October 1 | Apple Butter Frolic (Mennonite.Heritage Center) | P. McDonnell |
| October * | Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA) | Lydia Lewis |

* Date not yet confirmed

Ellen Dolmetsch Awarded Susan Woodworth “Learning” Scholarship – This scholarship was funded by the sale of Susan’s hooking equipment, supplies and wool stash. Applicants were requested to identify what they wanted to learn by attending our Rug Hooking School. Ellen’s enthusiasm is captured in her scholarship application that is shown below.

“Ever since I learned to hook five plus years ago, I have been completely obsessed with learning how to improve every aspect of my hooking, from unleashing creativity to the more demanding (for me) technical aspects. I have come to every camp, taken classes with many teachers, and am in the McGown Certification Program, but I feel like it is all about finding the most inspiring and talented teachers, and in working to improve and learn from each one. This is specifically why I signed up with Iris Simpson. She is supposed to be an amazing teacher, with great technical skills and I want to learn whatever she has to teach in that area. Hooking is not a hobby for me, but a means of artistic expression that I feel blessed to have discovered finally.

“I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to apply and for HCRAG, in general! Living far away and still working full time, it is difficult to attend meetings, but I am a loyal member of the Guild!”

Congratulations Ellen!

Website Enhancements – The Members Gallery segment of our website is being expanded to include images in a slideshow format of completed show & tell rugs from our meetings and for other completed rugs members wish to post on the site. We will also be able to display photos from Guild events such as the Rug Festival, hooking retreats, monthly meetings, and rug school. The Gallery will be organized in the following slideshow categories:

- Artisanship – Members can submit photos of completed rugs (see instructions below). This will provide an opportunity for members who cannot attend meetings to share their rugs.
- Featured Members – Rugs completed by our monthly Featured Members will be posted. After 12 months, the images of the art work will be moved to the Artisanship category.
- Hooked Rug Festival – Photos from the Festival will be shown.
- Events – This category is for photos from various Guild events such as rug hooking

- demonstrations, retreats, rug school, and meetings.
- **Show and Tell** – Completed “show and tell” rugs shared at our meetings will be posted here for 12 months and then moved to the Artisanry category.

Our plan is to introduce the new Gallery with the February website update. To enjoy the slideshow, just click on the directional arrows in the upper right corner. The name of the artisan and rug appears in the bottom right corner. Members can share the Gallery through email, on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media through the links that are provided in the bottom left corner.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug, as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Rugname. Without this identification protocol, we cannot assure that rugs will be uploaded to the site.

There is growing sensitivity about protecting artisans from unlawful use of images of their work. A notice appears on the Gallery page that the images shown are copyright protected. Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website by signing and returning the authorization form that accompanies the newsletter.

We are grateful to John Austin, our webmaster, who contributed the software to allow these enhancements and for his design ideas.

Spring Retreat (April 8-10, 2016) – An informal survey of members confirmed that there was interest in having another spring retreat instead of Spring Fling workshops. This alternative was discussed at the January meeting. Gail Ferdinando and Diane Liberto have volunteered to serve as event coordinators.

The retreat will be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ on April 8-10, 2016 following our April Guild meeting. We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose. Joy Andrews, our favorite massage therapist, will be there to help relax stiff muscles. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The retreat is a super bargain -- three full days for \$45! New members are encouraged to attend. The retreat is a perfect setting in which to meet other members and to learn from more experienced rug hookers. Our retreats are always a time of sharing ideas and getting advice on current projects. This is a great opportunity to catch up on projects and to get some serious hooking done. Participants can stay overnight or commute. Members reserving sleeping rooms will get a reduced rate of \$115 plus tax (figure \$130 per night) up to the date of the retreat as long as rooms are available. Mention the Rug Retreat when reserving rooms.

Questions can be directed to Gail at thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com or 908-735-6720. To reserve a spot, give your check made payable to HCRAG to Diane Liberto at a meeting or send it to her at 8 Allens Corner Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Let's welcome spring by celebrating with hook & wool!

Rug Backing to be Available at Guild Meetings – In addition to the various-sized pieces of serged linen offered at monthly meetings, the Wool'n Gardener (Jan & Fred Cole) will also offer the linen cut to your specifications. The linen is unbleached and from Cushing and is 72" wide –

the thread count is 14 x 14 per inch and \$37 per yard (36 x 72). There is no charge for serging. Cushing states that the linen is suitable for a #6 cut and below; however Jan uses this linen for hooking a #9 cut and above with no problems. If you want a specific size, email Jan at jantique@ptd.net. Include your name, the size you need, and if you want it serged. The cost for specific pieces, whether larger or smaller than one yard, will be calculated at the rate of \$37/yard (e.g., a 40" x 60" piece would cost \$34.25).

Guild Library Grows with Member Donations – In the past month our Guild has benefited from donations to our Library by dedicated members.

- **Margaret Brightbill's Photo Albums** – Margaret Brightbill was a consummate rug hooking artisan and was known within the rug hooking community for her exquisite narrow cut rugs. One of her masterpieces, a computer carrying bag with an Oriental rug pattern, was donated to the Guild for our January auction. It was among the top auction earners. Over the years, Margaret collected photographs of hooked rugs that she filed in several photo albums which served as a reference and research source for her. The photo albums have been donated by Tracy Fetzer and are now available to members.
- **Michener Museum Rug Exhibit Catalog** -- Sharon Ballard donated a booklet on the "Art Under Our Feet" an exhibition of 19th and 20th century handmade American Rugs showcased at the James A. Michener Arts Center. The show took place from June 30 through September 9, 1990. The booklet contains copies of articles about the exhibition and photos of rugs exhibited.
- **Pearl McGown DVDs** -- Cyndy Duade donated a two DVD set titled "Pearl's Collections." It is a photographic review and commentary of North American hooked rugs from the 20th century taken from Pearl McGown's private collection. The set was prepared by The National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Hookrafters, Inc.

Also added is "Pictorial Hooked Rugs" by Jane Halliwell Green. This is Edition XV in Rug Hooking's Framework Series.

Thank you to all for your generous donations.

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.

Exciting Field Trip Planned for May Meeting -- A field trip to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA is planned for our May 2016 meeting. The Schwenkfelders are a protestant religious sect that migrated to Pennsylvania from southern Germany and lower Silesia in the 1700s. They are one of the groups known as the Pennsylvania Germans. The Heritage Center has a major collection of Schwenkfelder decorative arts such as fraktur and textiles. For additional information, visit the Heritage Center's website at www.schwenkfelder.com.

Fiber artist, Susan Feller, will provide a special presentation for our Guild. Susan relocated from New Jersey to West Virginia several years ago where she now maintains her studio, Ruckman Mill Farm (www.ruckmanmillfarm.com).

The timing of the trip coincides with the Penn Dry Goods Market that will take place at the Heritage Center. The Market is a special kind of antique sale and show. It features antiques and vintage textiles plus things that might have been found on the shelves of an old dry goods store.

After the visit to the Heritage Center, we will travel to Kay Leisey's Homespun that is about 10 minutes away.

The Heritage Center entrance fee of \$5 includes admission to the Penn Dry Goods Market, Susan Feller's presentation and the Schwenkfleder exhibits. It was agreed that a bus will not be needed since a sufficient number of members are willing to car pool. Members who can take two other members from New Jersey will be reimbursed \$25 (\$15 from Pennsylvania). It was previously ascertained that members preferred to bring a brown bag lunch instead of going to a restaurant.

A timetable for the day is being developed.

2016 Rug Hooking School – Our 20th Rug Hooking School is scheduled for August 8-12, 2016 with instructors Norman Batastini, Nancy Jewett, Iris Simpson and Ali Strebel. There are currently openings in the workshops of Ali, Iris and Nancy.

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. 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 can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you chose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know.

January Retreat – A Good Time Was Had by All – Following a successful auction meeting, 40 members moved 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.

Sharon Ballard used the retreat as a time to complete work on her French Urn pattern. 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!” Karl Gimber put the finishing touches on his Bolton’s Tavern sign that is in the form of a rebus and started his next project – a butcher’s trade sign.

The retreat is always a special time to see members who live a great distance from Hunterdon County. Ellen Dolmetsch journeyed from her home in Wilmington, DE for the weekend and was thrilled to learn that she was selected to receive the Susan Woodward “Learning” Scholarship (see separate article). Jacqueline Lee traveled from her home on Cape Cod and combined the retreat with a visit to her sister who lives in New Jersey. Last year Jackie used the retreat to experiment with a rug hooked with complementary colors that she called “Red-Green, Yellow-Blue.” She returned with the completed rug and shared it during the Show & Tell portion of the January meeting.

Retreaters rotated working on a rug that was unfinished at the time of Susan Woodworth’s passing. The rug is being completed by the Guild at the request of Susan’s husband.

New members attending their first retreat found it an ideal opportunity to get to know members and to benefit from the wealth of hooking know-how in the room. This year Carolyn Russo and Helen Trammell took advantage of the weekend to make progress on their projects and to learn more about the Guild by observing and listening to the various conversations. Helen noted that she was able to observe and learn about hooking techniques such as proddy and sculpting that she was just hearing about for the first time. “The Guild is so accepting and welcoming to us newbies.”

Report on TIGHR Triennial -- The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) celebrated its 20th anniversary with its triennial meeting held last October in Victoria, British Columbia. The three day meetings for this international guild are held in different countries every three years. Jackie Lee, our adventurous member from Cape Cod, took advantage of the meeting being in North America and decided to attend along with one of her rug hooking friends. “It was a somewhat spur of the moment decision,” Jackie reported with a smile. She shared a brief overview of her experience at our January meeting.

The triennial agenda followed a format seen at other large gatherings of rug hookers like the ATHA Biennial. There were workshops, lectures, featured artisans, site seeing trips and lots of time to meet attendees. The traveling arrangements (multiple plane connections) and distance involved were not conducive to bringing hooking frames and other bulky equipment. Many of those in attendance were from western Canada and northwestern America. (Former Guild member, Claudia Casebolt, who moved to Washington State several years ago, was in attendance and sent her regards to the Guild.) Jackie raved about the conference center – The Inn at Laurel Point. She could not say enough about the beauty of this very special family owned facility, especially the Japanese Zen Garden.

The next TIGHR Triennial will be held in England in 2018. To learn more about TIGHR, visit its website – www.tighr.net.

Featured Member – Helen Trammell – For Helen Trammell her introduction to rug hooking came at a low point in her life in mid-2015. She had recently lost her husband, Bob, to cancer and was recovering from breast cancer herself. Without any advance planning Helen was drawn to an exhibit of hooked rugs at the Art Center in her hometown of Daphne, Alabama. As she viewed the exhibit, Helen “felt a flutter of happiness and a feeling of coming back to life.” “I was entranced, stunned, enthralled, and amazed,” she recalls.

Stepping back in time, Helen and Bob met late in life after each of them had an unpleasant previous marriage. Helen is convinced that “the hand of God brought them together.” They knew each other for five years, but Helen was reluctant to remarry until a medical emergency changed everything. In early August, 2008 Bob was taken to the emergency room at Emory University Hospital with what at first appeared to be stress related issues. However, by mid-month Bob was diagnosed with dual lobe cancer. On August 14, 2008 Helen and Bob were married! “We honeymooned in the hospital,” Helen jokes. Fourteen rounds of one week hospital stay chemo-therapies followed with one year to recover. Bob was an artist and musician and soon was painting and playing the piano at nursing homes and other places around town. “He was an amazing example for me to live my life,” Helen says proudly. Bob passed away January 10, 2015. Three months later Helen underwent cancer surgery. Shortly thereafter, Helen walked into the Daphne Art Center and was introduced to the world of rug hooking.

Following her surgery, Helen traveled to Annandale, NJ to be with her daughter, Rebecca, while she was recovering from surgery and radiation treatments. She returned to Alabama for a brief period and returned to New Jersey in October 2015 where she continued to slowly recover and regain her strength. The 2015 Hooked Rug Festival took place before Helen was resituated, but knowing of it motivated her to go on line to learn of rug hooking resources in the area. She found our Guild’s website and contacted Weezie who invited Helen to attend our December meeting. Helen was unable to drive so she took a cab from Annandale to Flemington! “I was excited and delighted to find rug hookers and was nervous too,” she remembers. In addition to our traditional holiday luncheon, the December meeting also featured a mini auction of wool that had been donated to the Guild. Helen jumped right in and began to build her stash by actively bidding for the wool that Weezie had washed and organized in appealing bundles.

Separately, Weezie invited Helen to an informal day of hooking with several Guild members in the area. “I am still learning the names of Guild members, but I remember Cindy Boults and Sharon Ballard and how welcoming they were. I felt wrapped in a warm blanket of friendship and I needed it. Weezie has been so gracious and got me started with my first project – a Hunterdon Heart.”

Even though Helen is still working on her very first hooking project, she is already being attracted to pictorial rugs. “I love the ones that tell stories,” she says. “Michele Micarelli’s rugs are stunning and traditional rugs are beautiful. I like the ones that are childlike with joy and laughter.” Helen’s sisters are artistically inclined, so Helen says “It’s in me.” She is already planning in her head future rug designs that will be abstract and incorporate images to remind her of Bob such as piano keys and artist’s brushes.

Attending the Guild’s January Hooking Retreat had special significance for Helen. The date of the retreat fell on the one year anniversary of Bob’s passing. It helped being with new friends “who have been so gracious and supportive.”

Helen’s plans are to return to Alabama to sell or lease her home and then come back to New Jersey to live with Rebecca and her granddaughter, Kara. Rebecca is purchasing a new home that will provide more room for everyone including space for Helen’s hooking activities.

Helen’s mother owned a hotel and restaurant in Fort Morgan, Alabama where Helen was introduced to the world of hard work before becoming, later in life, a Realtor for 30 years. She now looks forward to

enjoying time with Rebecca and Kara and her rug hooking friends. "I feel more centered and grounded with a sense of wellbeing than I have in a long time."

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see Helen's beginner's project and images from the Daphne Art Center Exhibit that got Helen started on her rug hooking journey.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook --It is snowing...big heavy flakes, piling up in drifts and bringing the day to a halt. The headline reads "In Case of Blizzard, Do Nothing!" For a rug hooker, it is a day of bliss. We can hook all day long and not feel guilty! We have already prepared for the snow day with lots of foods already cooked in the fridge or freezer; others are occupied with school work or shoveling....on to the frame, pick up the hook and enjoy!

February is a month with lots of holidays and themes for mats. In my house, it is a month of birthdays. If it is a significant or milestone birthday, this can be the basis of a design. For instance, a fiftieth anniversary can have blocks showing important events in a couple's life. My granddaughter, Kate is turning 17 and I can see her in a car heading out on twisting and winding roads with mountains, seas and deserts in the landscape.

Then there is Valentine's Day, always a special day with hearts, flowers and chocolates! But how about something different with those hearts? What about a geometric with hearts instead of circles or granny squares? What if the hearts were of alternative fabrics, like velvet, sari silk, yarn, tweeds, and plaids of wool? We are limited only by our imagination.

And then there is Ground Hog Day. I love those pictures of elderly, plump gentlemen with mustaches and beards, dressed in formal clothes and top hats while holding a wiggly fur animal who clearly wishes it was somewhere else. What a fun, folk art piece that could be for this curious holiday!

Chinese New Year which is celebrated on February 8 this year gives us a chance to explore the Chinese zodiac of animals for the twelve year cycle. This year is the year of the monkey according to the website travelchinaguide.com. The lucky colors are white, gold and blue and the lucky numbers are 1, 8 and 7. Surely there is a mat design in all that information!

Mardi Gras is another inspiration for a mat. Think of the colorful costumes, the beads, the symbol of Rex, King of the carnival who would be throwing strands of purple, green and gold beads to all the revelers in New Orleans.

These are just a few of the celebrations during the month of February. I can also mention Black History Month, Super Bowl Sunday, and Presidents Day. See the list on Google for more ideas. Whatever strikes your fancy is a resource for a design!

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

From the Dye Pot – Confederate "Butternuts" – "Butternut dye was prepared by boiling the inside bark and the nut rinds with the wool which was woven into homespun. Sometimes the brown was varied by adding walnut bark, with black as a result. This was one of the best known and most popular dyes and so many of the Confederate soldiers were dressed in homespun colored with the butter nut dye that the name "Butternuts" stuck to them for many years."

(Source – The Hooked Rug by William Kent, page 68.)

Tips from Heloise – Heloise enjoyed seeing Jackie Lee, our member from Cape Cod, at the January meeting and retreat. We always look forward to learning about her latest tips.

Jackie has discovered a reusable non-sticking ironing mat produced by Bo-Nash (www.bonash.com.) that she has successfully used to block her rugs. The mat allows steam to pass through without flattening the loops. Jackie reports that she sets her iron for linen and turns on the steam. She likes not needing to use wet towels in the blocking process. “It did a TERRIFIC JOB!” she reports, but Jackie was wondering if anyone had tried it or heard of any bad results from using it. Sandy Denarski noted at the meeting that she had successfully used a similar version of the product designed for applique quilts.

Has anyone one else had experience with Bo-Nash Ironing Mats?

Recipes – **Therese Shick’s Glazed Lemon Sugar Cookies (by Jessica Knott)** – Therese’s cookies were a big hit at our December holiday luncheon. We thank her for sharing her recipe with us.

Ingredients (Cookies)

½ cup butter, softened

1 cup sugar

½ t. vanilla

1 egg

1 T. lemon zest

1 T. fresh lemon juice

1 ½ cups flour

¼ t. baking powder

1/8 t. baking soda

¼ t. salt

Ingredients (Glaze)

1 ½ T. water (I replaced with fresh lemon juice to give the glaze a little more flavor.)

¾ - 1 cup powder sugar

Preparation (Cookies)

- Pre heat oven to 350 degrees
- Cream butter and sugar together.
- Beat in vanilla, egg, lemon zest, and lemon juice.
- Add all dry ingredients
- Stir well to combine
- Form into one inch balls and roll in powdered sugar (I skipped rolling in the powdered sugar so the cookies would be less sweet).
- Bake for 9-11 minutes or until set and slightly cracked
- Cool.

Preparation (Glaze)

- Mix water (or lemon juice) with powdered sugar to desired consistency ...drizzling type of icing.
- Drizzle over cooled cookies and allow to set.

Eat up!

2Note: There is an easier version using a cake mix. Go to www.swankyrecipes.com to search for that.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Blanket Statements: New Quilts by Kaffe Fasset (Exhibit at Michener Art Museum November 14, 2015 to February 21, 2016) -- The Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, PA is featuring an exhibit of new quilts by Kaffe Fasset and historical quilts from the collection of the Quilt Museum and Gallery, York, England. More information can be obtained by calling the Museum at 215-340-9800 or by going to its website –michenerartmuseum.org.

2016 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 16-20, 2016) – Outstanding vendors, extensive exhibits, exclusive “Celebration Rugs,” and creative retreats and workshops are all part of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village. More information is available by going to www.saudervillage.org/RugHookingWeek.

Rugs by the Sea, Cape May, NJ (September 11-16 & 18-23, 2016) – The popular rug school will feature instructors Cammie Bruce, Jon Ciemiewicz, Kay Leisey, and Michele Micarelli during the first week and instructors Lucille Festa, Jen Manuell, Kris Miller, and Diane Stoffel the second week. Visit rugsbythesea.wordpress.com for more information.

Hooked in the Mountains XVIII (October 19-23, 2016) – The Hooked Rug and Fiber Exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. The Featured Artists will be Davey DeGraff, Jackye Hansen and Liz Alpert Fay. Workshop information is available at www.hookedinthemountainworkshops.com.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School (November 11-14, 2016) – The rug school is held at the Hyannis Resort & Conference Center on Cape Cod. The teachers will be Nancy Blood, Betty McClentic, Angela Foote and Lucille Festa. Register by going to their website – www.oldecapecodrugschool.com.

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.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events --

February 12, 2016 – Monthly Meeting –Designing a Tavern Sign Rug (Karl & Mary Jo Gimber) *
March 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Marrying/Marbleizing Wool (Jan Cole) *
April 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Finishes Round Robin (Members) **
April 8-10, 2016 – Spring Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 9, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Peter Wentz Homestead, Worcester, PA
May 7, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ
May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Field Trip – Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – Penn
Dry Good Market – Susan Feller Presentation – Kay Leisey/Homespun
June 4 & 5, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)
June 10, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon *
August 8-12, 2016 – 20th Annual Rug Hooking School – ESC School
August 9, 2016 – Beginners Rug Hooking Workshop – ESC School
August 25, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ.
September 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – General Business *
September 17, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Historic Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA
October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center,
Harleysville, PA
October 14, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Program TBD*
November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Program TBD**
December 9, 2016 – 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 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 debywalsh1@gmail.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 abyers@premierpremier.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 – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.

Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Rug Festival -- Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Secretary -- Open

Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer -- -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

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

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

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

HCRAAG CLASSIFIEDS

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**

