

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

February 2017

Presidents' Letter – Here we are – the beginning of February, 2017 already – my how time flies! Hopefully, the mild winter will continue! The New Year encourages us, personally, to put a new foot forward and leave those old, bad habits behind. However, for HCRAAG, it means another year ahead of rug hooking projects along with exciting events and opportunities to learn or experience something new!

As you will read further on in the newsletter, we had a wonderful “winter retreat” at the Hampton Inn. We were filled to capacity (and then some) and in addition to an abundance of goodies and wine, at least four individuals offered wool for sale. What could be better than hooking, being surrounded by good friends and much laughter, food and wool? My theory is, if you couldn't find the wool you were looking for, you don't need it! I always come away from a retreat energized and thinking about all the projects I want to begin. If you haven't attended an HCRAAG retreat, please consider attending the next one April 21-23, 2017 – you won't be disappointed!

As I mentioned earlier, HCRAAG provides exciting opportunities to learn or experience something new. The highly acclaimed 21st Rug Hooking School will be held in August featuring some of the best teachers in rug hooking – visit our website for more information and openings which still may be available! In coordination with the April retreat, a standing wool workshop will be offered for an additional fee. And the list goes on.....the return of an HCRAAG sponsored hook-in in June, monthly programs in a wide range of subjects but primarily featuring a specific fiber arts project or skill or demonstrating the art of rug hooking in the community at large.

Last, but not least, we all have the opportunity to help support the guild by volunteering! We could always use help whether it be programs, hospitality, demonstrating or being part of a committee for a special event! We are looking forward to seeing you all at the ever-so-popular auction in February which always proves to be a lot of fun. We are already anticipating going home with treasures!!!

To quote Weezie – “So much to do, so little time! And it is all so much fun!”

Yours in wool, Weezie, Jan, and Fred

February Meeting – Friday, February 10, 2017 – 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 there is no street number on the building. The meeting runs from 10:00 -2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Program – Our annual “January” auction will be held this month. This event is a major fundraiser for the Guild. Part of the auction will be silent and part out loud and raucous. Bring quality items you are willing to donate. They do not have to be related to rug hooking, although hooking things do sell well. Items hooked by Guild members are always valued, so consider donating one of your

earlier projects. Of course, bring your checkbooks so that you will be prepared and able to bid and buy enthusiastically. It will be a fun and lively event. Your participation is a great way to support our Guild - by recycling – by bidding -- by buying – by cheering on the bidders.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Sharon Ballard, Linda Ehly, Marian Hall, Cherry Halliday, Lynda Kling, Mary Passerello, Brenda Smith, and Debbie Walsh. 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), Nancy Phillips (2/28), 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!

Membership – We welcome Linda Hannemann to our Guild. Her contact information is shown below:

Linda Hannemann
14 Appletree Drive
Annandale, NJ 08801
908-730-0662
lindahannemann@icloud.com

Sally Jagoe has a new telephone number – 215-933-2070.

Sunshine – Teri Dabrowski stopped by the January Retreat with her two daughters and thanked the Guild for the 40+ notes and cards she received. We all enjoyed seeing her smiling face!

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

“Hand Work But Not Home Work” – Liz Alpert Fay Exhibit (February 16 – March 26, 2017) – Fiber artist Liz Alpert Fay will have a solo exhibit of her work at the H. Pelham Curtis Gallery at the New Canaan Library, 151 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 3:00 - 5:00PM. Liz will conduct a gallery talk and demonstration on March 11, 2017. For more information or to register for the gallery talk contact newcanaanlibrary.org.

Eleanor Dunker’s Rug Featured in ATHA Magazine – Recent issues of the ATHA Magazine have featured various themes with members encouraged to submit rugs reflecting the theme. The “Humorous Side of Aging” is the theme for the current issue (February/March 2017). Guild member Eleanor Dunker’s submission, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall” will be found on page 25 along the story associated with it.

Recent Publications Added to Our Library – The following have been added to the Guild's library:

Rug Hooking with Fancy Fibers Sparkle/ Shine/ Texture by Gail Dufresne. If you want to try a break from traditional rug hooking design and materials take a look through this

book, it can give you a whole new perspective from which to approach your work'

Coils, Folds, Twists, and Turns Contemporary Techniques in Fiber by Tracy Jamar.
Prepare to go outside the box when you look through this book which will give insight into our Spring Fling class. Looks like a lot of fun techniques to try.

Kathy Donovan brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild's library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact Kathy by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. 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.

Beginners' Workshop Planned – Vanderveer House (March 26, 2017) – Therese Shick is planning a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking that will be held the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum located in Bedminster, NJ on March 26, 2017 from 1-4. The workshop is intended for adults. Cherry Halliday will be the instructor. The \$70 fee provides for the rug backing, pattern, hook, wool and a basic rug hooking frame. Registration is required. Checks made payable to HCRAAG should be sent to Therese Shick at 3 Bristol Court, Annandale, NJ 08801. Questions can be directed to her at 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Guild to Sponsor Hook-in (June 3, 2017) – For the past few months, Marian Hall has chaired a committee of members who have investigated the possibility of the Guild hosting a local hook-in. Marian reported at the January meeting that her committee recommended that we hold a hook-in at the fire house in Three Bridges, NJ on June 3, 2017. There was widespread support for the proposal. Marian has already recruited sub-committee chairs. Sign up forms will circulate at the next meeting.

Guild's 21st Rug Hooking School (August 7-11, 2017) – Instructors *Maggie Bonanomi, Cammie Bruce, Capri Boyle Jones, and Cindy Irwin* follow in the Guild's tradition of inviting highly regarded and sought after teachers who will spend the week with us. Rug School will begin on Monday, August 7, 2017 and run to Friday, August 11, 2017. [Workshop descriptions, teacher bios, and registration information are available on our website \(www.hcrag.com.\)](http://www.hcrag.com)

At the present time there are openings in Cammie's and Cindy's workshops. Registration is now open to non-members.

Still an Opportunity to Attend Rug School Free – Housing is currently only needed for one of our instructors. Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice as long as an opening still exists in that class. All that is required is to provide housing (private room and bath), breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

Spring Fling and Hooking Retreat (April 21-23, 2017) -- Plans are underway for a special rug hooking weekend event held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ during the weekend of

April 21-23, 2017. One of the meeting rooms will be used for our regular retreat and the other for the Spring Fling Workshop on “Standing Wool” conducted by fiber artist Mary DeLano.

Hooking Retreat (April 21-23, 2017) – The retreat will follow our normal format. We will gather at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our April meeting on Friday April 21, 2017 and work on our hooking projects until Sunday afternoon. The fee for the weekend is \$45 – a real bargain! Gail Ferdinando is coordinating this fun event. She will not be at the February meeting so Amy Korengut will be accepting registrations and collecting checks. Members who will not be at the meeting can send their checks made payable to HCRAAG to Gail at 4 Bonnell Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867.

Standing Wool Rugs Workshop (April 22 & 23, 2017)

About the Instructor -- Mary DeLano is a multi-lingual fiber artist who loves color, texture, and recycling. Mary devotes most of her time to making wool rugs and embroidered wool applique pieces, and continually learns new techniques to integrate into her work. She mixes techniques and materials across the fiber arts to create magnificent, one-of-a-kind pieces that make a statement! Mary has a “what if” perspective that gives her the freedom to venture into uncharted territories and she takes her students along for the ride. She also enjoys knitting and creating wool applique with lots of embellishment. Some of her standing wool pieces will be included in Tracy Jamar’s new book Coils, Folds, Twists and Turns: Contemporary Techniques in Fiber.

About the Workshop -- “Everything old is new again.” Not only is the “old” technique known as standing wool regaining popularity, it is also a great way to recycle old wool clothes into new rugs and mats.

The standing wool technique was developed before the industrial revolution when thrifty homemakers tried to get the last bit of use out of cloth that was so time-consuming and labor intensive to produce. By standing bits of wool on edge, and sewing them together with a long needle and strong thread, beautiful pieces could be created out of clothing that was too worn to be passed down. Standing wool rugs, or quillies as they are sometimes called (because they resemble paper quilling) are enjoying a renaissance. New pieces are regularly posted on Facebook and Pinterest and creativity and complexity abound.

This class will explore the three basic techniques incorporated into most standing wool rugs: beading, center shirring and faux shirring. Students will gain familiarity with and control over the techniques by making a mug rug the first morning. Then, they will design and begin sewing their own chair pad or rug. Students who know how to knit may bring double pointed size 8 needles and worsted or bulky yarn to incorporate into their piece. Long strips of knitting add interesting texture to a standing wool rug.

Program Fee: \$150 plus \$10 materials fee (payable to the instructor) for two long needles, a needle threader, and thread. Payment includes non-class hours of the retreat. There is a \$50 deposit which Amy Korengut will be collecting at the January meeting. Please note that attendance is open to non-members so do not hesitate to register now.

What to Bring: Students should bring a bagful of wool that has been machine washed and dried. This is a great opportunity to use up braiding wool that has been gifted to you or wool that is otherwise not suitable for hooking. Students will be asked to contribute a

portion of their wool to a table for everyone to share. Recycled wool will also be available for sale. If you have a cutter with a size 10 or larger blade (or a braiding cutter like the Rigby B model) please bring it to class. Also bring a small scissors for snipping strips of wool and cutting thread.

Amy Korengut is our event coordinator for the Spring Fling. Contact her at 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com with questions or to register. Samples of Mary's work will be available at the next meeting.

May 2017 Meeting – Felted Appliqué & Pictorial Hand Embroidery – Debora Konchinsky of Critter Pattern Works (www.critterpat.com) will present a three hour workshop on felted applique and embroidery at our May 12, 2017 meeting. Felting tools will be required that you can bring or buy via the Guild or from Debora. A 12-inch square New Flock of Sheep kit incorporating felted applique and embroidery can be purchased for \$25. Money for kits and felting tools is due by Feb 10, 2017. Additional details can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). Questions can be directed to Jeanne Surdi (908-995-2142 or jsurdi2013@gmail.com) who has organized this special program.

Reminder: If you are participating in the May program, the kit check in the amount of \$25.00 made out to Debora Konchinsky is due at the February Guild meeting. If you have requested a Clover pen felting tool, your \$8.88 check made out to Jeanne Surdi is also due now. Jeanne will be collecting kit and pen checks and distributing the Clover pens.

Benjamin Franklin Attends January Meeting – Ellen DiClemente's surprise program for the January meeting was a visit by one of our Country's Founding Fathers – Benjamin Franklin!

Franklin was portrayed by Mike Kochan, an expert on 18th Century technology, who brought Franklin's achievements as a scientist, inventor, diplomat, humorist, philanthropist, and entrepreneur to life with a comprehensive and entertaining presentation. The program included a display of Mr. Kochan's extensive collection of 18th Century scientific instruments both antique and reproduction. The Franklin Public House tavern sign rug created by Therese Shick was appropriately displayed.

Photos of Ben Franklin and of the meeting can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

January Retreat – Much Work Was Done and Fun Was Had – Following our January meeting, 45 members of the Guild moved into the conference rooms at the Flemington Hampton Inn for our popular weekend rug hooking retreat.

There are quite a few members who attend each year and some who were there for the first time. This year we had several members who have relocated to other parts of the Country return for the weekend. Barbie Beck-Wilczek (New Hampshire), Claudia Casebolt (Washington State), Gisele Meader (North Carolina), Gail Schmidt (Arizona), and Roberta Smith (Vermont) joined other out of town members – Ellen Dolmetsch (Wilmington), Jackie Lee (Cape Cod), and Pat Levine (Lancaster, PA) for a reunion of sorts. It was nice to see our old friends again.

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.

Cathy Heilferty used the retreat as a time to complete work on her “Thuya Garden” rug and shared her New York City Subway Map rug that featured several of the ceramic tiles that were installed when the stations were completed. She noted that she started working on the subway map while demonstrating during the 2015 Hooked Rug Festival when she learned that Weezie Huntington was also working on a subway map. Weezie’s rug was of the Paris subway system. Apparently, Deb Smith, Editor of Rug Hooking Magazine, overheard the conversation and suggested an article for the magazine.

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 Linda Ehly and Aggie Harris 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.

Everyone was so happy to see Teri Dabrowski when she stopped by with her daughters to say “Hello.” Knowing that we usually order pizza for dinner Saturday night, she donated \$50 towards our pizza night. We were able to order a large salad for all to share.

Our next retreat will be on April 21-23, 2017. Sign up now to assure yourself of a place.

HCRAg Website -- Our Guild’s website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

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

A Yankee Rug Designer – The August 1940 issue of The Magazine Antiques included an article by William Winthrop Kent entitled “A Yankee Rug Designer” that explores the life of Edward Sands Frost, the first commercial designer of hooked rug patterns. The second portion of the article is reproduced below:

“... Frost related that in the winter of ’68 his wife decided to work rags he had collected into a rug. A cousin marked out a pattern for her on burlap; she adjusted it to her quilting frame and began to work with a hook made from a nail or old gimlet.

“I noticed she was using a very poor hook, so being a machinist, I went to work and made the crooked hook ... which is still in vogue today.

“I ‘caught the fever’ ... every evening I worked on the rug until it was finished, and it was while thus engaged that I first conceived the idea of working up an article that is today about as staple as cotton cloth and sells the world over.. Every lady that ever made a rug knows that it is very pleasant and bewitching to work on a pretty design, but tiresome and hard on plain figure...I told my wife I thought I could make a better design

myself than that we were at work on... I wrote my first design on paper and then put it on to the burlap and worked the flower and scroll already for the ground-work...

“I got orders for twenty or more patterns like it within three days. So you see I got myself into business right away. I put in my time evenings and stormy days sketching designs...as the orders came in faster than I could fill them I began, Yankee-like, to study some way to do them quicker. Then the first idea of stenciling presented itself to me.

“Did I go to Boston to get my stencils made? Oh, no, I went out to the stable where I had some old iron and some old wash boilers I had bought for their copper bottoms, took the old tin off of them and made by first stencil out of it ...I got some old files, half flat and half round, took them to the tinshop of Cummings & West and forged my tools to cut the stencils with. I made a cutting block out of old lead and zink...

“I began making small stencils of single flowers, scrolls, leaves, buds, etc., each one on a small plate; then I could with a stencil brush print in ink in plain figures much faster than I could sketch. Thus I reduced ten hours’ labor to two and a half hours. I then had the art down fine enough to allow me to fill all my orders, so I began to print patterns and put them in my peddler’s cart and offer them for sale. The news of my invention of stamped rugs spread like magic ... I at once became known as Frost, the rug man ...”

The story continues in the next issue of [The Loop](#).

Featured Member – Cherry Halliday – Cherry Halliday was first featured in May 2010. Her story has been updated and is being shared anew.

Featured members have been introduced to rug hooking by their mothers, sisters, friends and other relatives. Cherry Halliday is the first to acknowledge that her real estate broker was the one responsible for her getting involved with rug hooking. Cherry and her husband, Kevin, purchased a small farm in upstate Pennsylvania through Sullivan County realtor, Janet Schleeter. A few years later Janet told Cherry about finding a new interest in rug hooking. At the time Cherry had a young son and simply did not have the time to take on another activity. Cherry grew up keeping busy with various fabric related activities, including cross stitch, crocheting, knitting and sewing. If it had to do with fabric, she was attracted, but rug hooking would have to wait.

Later, Janet formed the Old Barn Rug Hooking Guild with other rug hookers in the Sullivan County area. Conversations with Janet would always return to rug hooking. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in December 2004 and undergoing surgery and chemotherapy Cherry decided it was time to try rug hooking. By the summer of 2005, she was ready to get started and Janet suggested Vicki Calu as a local Bucks County instructor. Cherry started attending Vicki’s open studio sessions where she learned rug hooking basics and “has not put it down.” Cherry had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Old Barn Rug Hooking Guild and joined the dedicated hookers.

After being launched by Vicki Calu, Cherry attended workshops that were available within a reasonable driving distance. A weekend workshop at The Highlands was a favorite where she worked with Jon Ciemiewicz. (It was at the Highlands that she learned about our Guild.) During the summer, she combined trips to her upstate farm and attended workshops sponsored by the Old Barn Guild that gave her the opportunity to work with Susan Feller and Trish Becker. Cherry attended the 2009 HCRA Spring Fling with Michele Micarelli. With Jon, Cherry learned how to achieve detail in rugs by using narrow cuts. Trish Becker exposed her to wide cut hooking. She has learned from all her instructors and always looks forward to being exposed to others.

As you can tell by the instructors with whom she has worked, Cherry is not wedded to a particular rug hooking style. She likes to try and do it all. Her first rug used cuts ranging from #2 to #6 and was featured in Rug Hooking Magazine (Mar/Apr/May 2007 issue) in the First Rug article. Since then she finds herself hooking mostly with #3 to #9 cuts. The project determines the cuts to be used. Cherry is especially attracted to hooking with plaids either new or recycled.

Cherry soon decided to learn the process of dyeing her own wool. Initially she was afraid of ruining a piece of wool by dyeing it. As she gained experience, her confidence increased and she reports that “I am beyond that now.” Her goal was to reach a point where she color plans the entire rug and dyes all the wool in advance of hooking. That goal has been achieved. Cherry also dyes wool for her students.

When it comes to rug patterns, Cherry uses both those commercially available and ones she designs herself. Patterns from Honey Bee Hive (formerly House of Price) are her favorites since they are used extensively in the McGown Teacher Workshops. Cherry has a very practical approach in developing her own patterns. For one of her early rugs, she took a photo of her dog to Staples to have it enlarged in a black and white copy. The copy was tacked up on a window and traced on tissue paper. The tissue paper was pinned to the backing and Cherry went over the design with a Sharpie. Enough of the Sharpie bled through on the backing so that she could go over it to make the outline darker. Today she uses Tulle netting (petticoat weight) to transfer the pattern to the backing.

Cherry finds that designing her rugs also allows her to more fully use her creativity. One of her favorite rugs is of a Luna Moth that she discovered at her upstate farm. Her rug depicts the moth growing up to become a fairy. While she has worked with commercial patterns, Cherry finds it more fulfilling to be involved in the entire process from designing the pattern to dyeing the wool to pulling the loops.

“I try to hook whenever I can steal the time” says Cherry. Her schedule normally allows time to hook a few hours two to three days a week. She notes that “Much of my hooking is done on weekends when we are at our upstate farm.”

In 2010 Vicki Calu graciously offered to sponsor Cherry for training as a McGown Certified teacher. She applied herself diligently and received her certification by July 2013. Cherry is committed to supporting and enhancing the professional growth of rug hooking instructors. In that respect, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Northern McGown Teachers Workshop and now serves as its Vice President. She is also the Second Vice President of the National Guild of Pearl K. McGown.

After earning her McGown Certification, Cherry immediately began to apply her expertise to teaching various beginner workshops. Her first workshop was offered at our 2013 Rug School. Cherry continues to teach most of the HCRAG Beginner Workshops which consistently receive rave reviews. She currently teaches a weekly class at her home.

Cherry worked with Patty Mahaffey to establish the Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter in May 2012 and continues to serve as co-secretary. The popular chapter meets a need for rugs hookers in the Montgomery County area of Pennsylvania. Cherry finds her three guild memberships (HCRAG, Old Barn Guild and Wool Whisperers) as a special opportunity to connect with other rug hookers, to share ideas and to see what others are doing. The supportive environment reinforces and stimulates her passion for hooking rugs.

Cherry and Kevin live in Hatboro, PA with their brother and sister Shelties, Rory and Spencer. Kevin sells parking and security equipment such as card access systems. Their son, Christopher is a service technician with the same company.

When asked what it was about rug hooking that has aroused such a committed interest, Cherry notes that “Rug hooking pulls together all of my previous craft experience. I can create a piece that is entirely my own. All I have done in the past was just practice to get to this. Working with wool is addictive. I love how it feels in my hands.”

Cherry believes that it is important to put identifying labels on all of our rugs. Each of her rugs includes an identifying number for the order it was finished. She has a separate label for rugs completed in conjunction with the McGown Teacher Workshops that includes information on the workshop.

Visit the Guild’s website –www.hcrag.com -- and click on “Hooker of the Month” to see some of Cherry’s creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina’s Notebook -- Winter is upon us and so far it hasn't been too bad. Some snowfall but no blizzards, cold spells followed by warm and moderate and best of all, dreary days to stay home and hook on our latest project. Yesterday I hooked with a group of friends while sitting beside a wood stove exuding warmth and coziness. No better way to spend a winter day!

Looking for something to write about besides the usual Valentine Day, Presidents Day and Groundhog Day suggestions for February, I came across a bizarre list of "days" to celebrate this month. Have you ever heard of Toothache Day? Neither had I, but it conjures up a picture of someone with a bandanna wrapped around their head, a pained expression in their eyes, and hand to aching jaw with lightning bolts of pain radiating from their head. For a folk artist, this is a great subject. Anyone with major teeth issues could relate to that mat! Two others with appeal might be Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day or Plum Pudding Day. Either one of those can set our mouth watering as well as suggesting some designs.

And then there is Tell a Fairy Tale Day. For all those with young children or grandchildren, what could be more delightful than hooking a mat illustrating a fairy tale. I have done several mats using a pattern of the three bears. This particular pattern shows Momma, Poppa and Baby Bear carrying dishes of porridge against a woodland setting. For my granddaughter I changed the baby boy bear to a girl, complete with frilly dress. Whatever the favorite fairy tale, or other childhood story can be a subject for a mat. Or perhaps you could use a child's own story that they like to tell as your subject.

My favorite of the bizarre days was Random Acts of Kindness Day. It sets you thinking about many possibilities for doing just that. For hookers, making a small hooked piece such as a mug rug or table pad or small runner provides a ready gift for such an occasion. Who isn't delighted to have something that is handmade and given with kindness and caring! Both giver and receiver are rewarded. In the winter days when we feel grumpy and not ourselves, an act of kindness suddenly turns our world into sunshine and light.

And so we celebrate February with its red hearts, patriotic flags and weather predicting mammal as well as bizarre and contrary days. Those dreary, grumpy days we turn into times when the artist within each one of us awakens and says, time to start hooking a new mat and out comes another beautiful creation. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips from Heloise – Spotting What is Not Working – Jackie Lee recently shared with Heloise a tip she learned at a Massachusetts guild meeting she attended. To spot anything that is not working in your rug, hold it up to a mirror and what is not working becomes apparent. This is a simple but effective technique!

Recipes – Kathy Kane’s Bread Pudding – Another favorite from our Holiday Luncheon was Kathy Kane’s Bread Pudding. We thank her for sharing the recipe.

Ingredients

½ stick butter
1-can evaporated milk
1/2 cup milk
5 eggs (room temp)
Dash salt (deserts need dash of salt to bring out flavor)
1/4 cup brown sugar
1-1/2 teaspoon Vanilla
1-teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon FRESH grated nutmeg (can find at health food store)
Dash cinnamon

Note: All measurements are estimated. I do not measure.

Preparation

1. Heat oven to 300
2. Grease 12×12 pan
3. In small bowl mix butter, brown sugar and dash cinnamon and set in refrigerator.
4. In separate bowl mix evaporated milk, milk, eggs, dash salt, brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
5. Line bottom of greased pan with potato rolls broken into pieces.
6. Pour mixture all but 1/4 cup over bread let set about 15 minutes to be absorbed.
7. Break cold butter brown sugar mixture and place on top of bread milk mixture.
8. Poke down into mix then pour remaining milk mix over.
9. Bake at 300 for about 30-45 min until knife comes out clean.

Great served warm for breakfast with maple syrup.

Addition option -- blueberries, chopped nuts or raisins

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked Rug Exhibit – “Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” -- (November 19, 2016 to February 18, 2017) – An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA will feature the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbbers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community – Quilt Exhibit (November 19, 2016 -- March 2, 2017) -- The Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA invites the public to view the new exhibit: “A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community”. The exhibit features numerous colorful pattern and scrap quilts from the Mennonite communities of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Enjoy the variety of patterns and riotous color combinations that reflect the Pennsylvania Dutch culture of early to mid-

twentieth century southeastern Pennsylvania Mennonite women. The Mennonite Heritage Center is open from 10 am to 5 pm from Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday. For information about the Mennonite Heritage Center exhibits and programs, see mhcp.org.

Pennsylvania German *Putz* Tradition on Display (November 19, 2016 – March 4, 2017) – *Putz* visiting was a popular holiday activity in Lehigh and northern Montgomery Counties and other areas in the early 20th century. *Putz* makers would construct elaborate Christmas gardens in the homes, often with automated features, and would open their doors for the general public to visit. The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA has an extensive collection of *Putz* that will be on display until March 4, 2017. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

“Exploring the Tarot – 23 Artists Hook the Major Arcana” -- A hooked rug exhibit organized by Michelle Micarelli and Loretta Scena will be on display in Woodbridge, NJ at the Barron Arts Center from February 4-26, 2017. To view the newsletter listing this event go to website link <http://twp.woodbridge.nj.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1339> and for directions and hours of the Barron Arts Center go to link <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/150/Barron-Arts-Center>

Rug Hooking Workshop for Beginners – Vanderveer House & Museum (March 26, 2017) – A workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking will be held at the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum on March 26, 2017 from 1-4. Cherry Halliday, a certified McGown instructor, will conduct the workshop. The \$70 fee includes rug backing, pattern, wool, hook and a basic rug hooking frame. Registration is required. Checks made payable to HCRAG should be sent to Therese Shick at 3 Bristol Court, Annandale, NJ 08801. Questions can be directed to her at 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Penn Dry Goods Market – Antique and Vintage Textiles Show & Sale (May 19 & 20, 2017) – Last May, the Guild took a bus trip to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. The Heritage Center is again sponsoring the Penn Dry Goods Market – a special antiques show and sale featuring antique and vintage needlework, quilts, buttons, linens, clothing, and Americana. A series of textile history lectures are offered as well. Admission to show and sale is \$6.00. For additional information call the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or visit its website at www.schwenkfelder.com.

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 14-19, 2017) – This major rug hooking event in Archbold, Ohio includes a hooking retreat, workshops, vendors and multiple exhibits. To get the latest information go to www.saudervillage.org/rughookingweek 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.

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 Barbara Boyko at 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

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 Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.
- A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCRAG Calendar of Events --

February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCRAG Auction *
March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in & “Garage Sale” *
March 26, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop (Vandermeer House & Museum, Bedminster, NJ)
April 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Flowers (Jan Cole) *
April 21-23, 2017 – Spring Fling & Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 22, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA)
May 6, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Sheep Shearing at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ)
May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Felted Applique & Pictorial Hand Embroidery (Debora Konchinsky *)
June 3, 2017 – Hook-in (3 Bridges Fire House, 3 Bridges, NJ)
June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Show & Tell Gift Drawing *
July 29 & 30, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Mercer County 4-H Fair, Howell Living Farm)
August 7 –11, 2017 – 21st Rug Hooking School – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 8, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
September 8, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
September 9 & 10, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes, NJ)
September 16, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Hilltown Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Quilt Day at Howell Farm)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA)
October 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
November 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **
November 25 & 26, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Vanderveer House, Bedminster, NJ)
December 8, 2017 – 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** – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net
Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
- Vice President – Membership** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
- Director – Communications** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net
- Camp Directors** – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net
Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.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 frejja2@verizon.net
- Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com
- Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or lisasavino55@gmail.com
Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or ahtram1@aol.com
Monthly Program – Various members
- Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com
- Special Events** – Open
- 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 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.

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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

Lisa Savino is looking for a travel/collapsible rug frame. If you can help Lisa please contact her at 908-285-6015 or lisasavino55@gmail.com

Mary Passerello has Rug Hooker Companion Baskets for sale at \$45.00 each. To order baskets contact Mary at mpassere@comcast.net.

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**