

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

February 2018

Presidents' Letter

We have all just returned home after a wonderful and uplifting weekend at the retreat. Wow! What a weekend. WHAT A WONDERFUL AND TALENTED GROUP OF PEOPLE! WHAT A GUILD! So much fun, so much excitement being together, so much progress, so much laughter. Rugs were started, rugs were finished, opinions were asked and offered, and friendships were started or reinforced. So great to see our friends from afar and to be able to spend time with them. A great time was had by all. And a few pounds might have been gained too. We even experienced 3 seasons of weather while we were there---summer monsoons, fall, and freezing winter! Always a great event! We hope that all our long distance attendees made it home easily. We also hope that the rugs worked on will find their way to show and tell for February, however much progress has been made.

And in the same vein of excitement about our group, we had a very exciting meeting/auction in January, with lots of books being bought for ridiculously low prices, lots of wool being bought for great prices, and some unusual buyers. A man who had come to the County Admin building to check on some septic plans walked into our room (it was ridiculously warm in our room—64 degrees and pouring outside—the doors were open to the hall, as were the hall doors to the outside). His daughter was a fiber artist of some other sort, and he ended up the winning bid on an antique rug for her. He was excited, as were we. Thank you, John!

All in all, the auction raised over \$1900 (a record!) which goes to help underwrite the cost of our August rug hooking school (also known as camp). We are blessed by this kind of generosity, both in donations and in bidding, in that we can afford to keep camp costs down while we are bringing in nationally acclaimed instructors to lead us. Our June 2 hook-in will also help underwrite camp.

As “Presidents on the wane”, we would like to encourage those who have never or have not recently stepped up to help, to do so. We have volunteers to take our jobs beginning in May, which is a wonderful start. More excitement—new blood, new ideas, new enthusiasm. We will have new camp directors. When we have approved the bylaws, there will be other opportunities for people to help in small but important ways. Many hands make light work, but also make a sense of ownership. You know how when your favorite public TV or radio station does their fundraiser, and they are constantly interrupting the programming to ask for donations, and they mention the “thank you” list of donors? When I first donated to my local station, I suddenly didn't mind those anymore. I was now part of the support for that station. Same thing with our Guild. When you take on a job, even a very small one, it becomes much more real that it is “your” Guild.

We look forward to the rest of our term, and to the rest of the year, we are very encouraged and excited by what we see. It's going to be a great year!!

Yours in wool,

Weezie, Jan, and Fred

February Meeting – Friday, February 9, 2018

Program: Cherry Halliday-basket lid-how to attach hooking to objects

Cherry will demonstrate the steps for both covering the lid of a basket with a hooked piece and how to make a lid for a basket that is then covered with a hooked piece. Nothing needs to be done ahead to prepare as this is a demonstration with directions that she will give everyone.

The refreshments for February will be brought by Mary Passerello, Roberta Olah, Sharon Ballard, Juliana Kapusta, Diane Keweshan and Lisa Savino . Please bring your own beverage.

February Birthdays

Denise Dondiego (2/3), Dee Rosebrock (2/8), Sharon Ballard (2/10), Bonnie Saunders (2/13), Karen Paradise (2/20), Janet Santaniello (2/22), Barbara Boyko (2/25), Ingrid Cosmen (2/25), Donna McTeigue (2/25), Nancy Phillips (2/28), Ruthann Shapiro (2/28)

Guild News & Events

Auction Fundraiser Information

The annual guild meeting auction was a great success with the full participation of the guild attendees. This year we had a regular auction along with a silent auction, book sale and raffle (wool goodies basket). With all the fundraising options this year we were able to surpass the monies we have raised the last few years. The money we collected (\$2557) will defray the general costs of the summer rug school, keeping the costs down for our members.

Correspondence

"I want to thank each and every member of the guild for the beautiful sympathy card I received since my mom passed away the day before Thanksgiving. She was sick for a long time and seeing her struggle to breathe was horrible. I was with my dad when she took her last breath. My dad's heart broke that day, after being married for 61 years. I really appreciate the thoughtfulness that you have shown by sending me a beautiful card and helping me make it through another day. This is a wonderful guild and I am honored to be a part of it. I have met so many wonderful people coming to rug camp every year. Looking forward to this August. Many thanks to you all" Cindy Lott

Men's Ties Needed

Ellen DiClemente is asking for donations of men's 100% silk ties that you want to get rid of; ties will be used for a future guild program on dyeing wool with silk ties.

Member Items For Sale

Members are encouraged to bring rug hooking equipment they wish to sell to monthly meetings. This would allow current and new members to see equipment in person prior to purchase. A table will be set up for display. All items are to be labeled as to what it is, brand name, current owner, contact info, and price. Remember, there is a classified section in our newsletter. To place your item in the classifieds, email Brenda before the 20th of the month. Bss45@cornell.edu.

Newsletter Contributions Requested

Reminder from the editor--- this is YOUR newsletter! Please contribute to it! Are you a veteran hooker? What do you wish you knew when you first started? Please share that. Have you picked up a neat tip from rug school or a teacher? Let us know! New to the guild? Introduce yourself! Can you describe yourself in 5 sentences or less? Please share! Beginner hooker? What attracted you to hooking? Share your enthusiasm! Email your contribution to Brenda at bss45@cornell.edu. Thanks!!!!

Member Share

Barb Perry shares that in Anita White's class she learned to use a reducing glass to view her rug "from a distance". By using the glass, you do not have to throw your rug on the floor and stand on tippy toe to see how everything is working together. Barb Boyko adds that a door peephole serves the same function! She carries a peephole in her rug tool kit! Apparently the peepholes, without the door, are available at hardware stores!

Weezie's Olympic Challenge

We have 17 days of exciting athletic events coming up Feb 9-25, when many of us will be glued to our TVs, or at least spending a lot of time in front of them. 8 years ago I gave myself a personal Olympic Challenge--to start and finish a rug within that time frame. I had a fairly simple pattern of a sunflower, but it was about 28" by 48". I did it, but not without watching a lot of curling at 2 am. This year I thought about doing the Old Tattered Flag's Stone House Runner, a mere 84" long (what is the matter with me???), but have decided that is more than I want to bite off.

Instead, I am challenging all of us (each of us? any of us??) to do one of the following: either hook a 5"x5" square each day, of something inspired by what you see on the Olympics--it can be very impressionistic, realistic, abstract, whatever, which will give you 17 squares. You could draw a grid 3 squares by 6 squares, with the 18th for either the Olympic rings. or the date and your initials or something.

The other option could be to hook a mat that has been divided into 17 or 18 random shapes (draw enough crossing lines to give you 17 or 18 spaces). Each day, take something from the Olympics, some impression, the colors, the speed, the country, the backstories, the events themselves, and hook something. It could look like a stained glass window, with lead lines, or do not hook the dividing lines and have the impressions run

into each other--just stop hooking at the edge of the shape, and the next day's events start there.

It would be neat if many of us did these, and then showed them at the April meeting (I will not be here for the March meeting, and I would really love to see them!). Are you on board?

2018 Hunterdon Hook-in

We are having our second Hook-in on June 2, 2018 at the Three Bridges Fire Hall, 9am to 4pm. Registration is \$15 and the forms are available on the website. If you can't come for the day, Walk-ins for shopping are welcome for \$10 after 12:00. If you didn't attend last year it is a day of good fun... bring your latest hooking project to work on, catch up with old friends, meet new hookers from all over, win wonderful door prizes, and find great shopping. You can buy a Jersey Mike's lunch when you register or bring your lunch. Snacks are provided by Guild members and water is provided by the Guild. We are having a variety of vendors again so you can stock up on all your hooking and fiber art needs! A preliminary list of vendors is: The Wool n' Gardener, Wooly Dye Works, Diane Pearce (baskets), Two Old Crows, , Susan Gonzalez Designs (wool applique), The Wool Farm (from Delaware), and MJ Miller (finished ornaments and applique work).

Rug School 2018

Instructors Announced for 2018 Rug Hooking School – This year is our 22nd year and we are excited to announce that the teachers will be Pris Buttler, Carrie Martin, Sharon Smith, and Ali Strebel, (see bios below). Rug School will begin on Monday, August 6, 2018 and run to Friday, August 10, 2018. The registration form can be found on the website under School Info.

The fee is \$200 for those who are Guild members at the time of our November 2017 meeting (November 10, 2017). A registration deposit of \$100 is required (\$50 is non-refundable).

Non-members (fee \$275) can register if there are any openings after January 1, 2018. If someone joins the Guild between November 11, 2017 and December 31, 2018, they will be able to register before January 1st but will have to pay the \$275 fee.

Registration forms and deposit checks can be sent to: Debbie Walsh, 51 Spruce St., Cranford, NJ 07016. If you have any questions, Debbie can also be reached at debywalsh1@gmail.com.

The following information is being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them.

ALI STREBEL

Ali has been teaching fiber arts nationally and internationally since 1986. Her business, Ali Strebel Designs for Kindred Spirits, is located in Dayton, Ohio where she sells her line of books and patterns she has published as well as hand dyed wool, yarn, roving and other fiber art supplies. Her work has been featured in Rug Hooking Magazine, Wool St. Journal, and numerous other publications. She specializes in incorporating different techniques and fibers into her work and teaches others, inspiring them to do the same.

Ali will have an open class, teaching different techniques and the use of different materials. Her website is alistrebeldesigns.com
Blog alistrebel.blogspot.com
Ali's Pinterest Page "my work"

PRIS BUTTLER

Pris Buttler is a professional oil painter as well as a rug hooking artist. She has been featured in RHM and Celebrations, Jesse Turbayne's book *Rug Hookers from the Deep South* as well as an upcoming book by Tamara Pavich (to be released during this next year, she believes). Her work is in the Tarot Card traveling show that is currently circulating through the U.S., and she currently has 2 rugs on display at the Ker Museum in Onancock, VA.

Pris is a fine artist and approaches rug hooking with these skills. She has designed workshops around Gustav Klimt, John Nieto of NM, Thomas Hart Benton, Georgia O'Keeffe and illustrator David Galchutt. Dyeing is a tool she has mastered, again from her painting experiences, and she has created a line of dye recipes, currently with 3 dye books on the market. She has also written *Easy Lettering Tips for the Rug Hooker* and *Basic Design Techniques for the Rug Hooker*

For this workshop, Pris is holding an open class but students may designate if they would like one of her designs or even design their own pattern, one of her specialties. Pris gives a lot of leeway to what can be accomplished, before the workshop, each student will be in contact with Pris to talk about their project. Anything goes. Pris encourages students to bring their own wools if they want and she will also supply wools for sale.

Pris and her daughter Christy Fultz run Black Bear Rug Camp at Unicoi State Park Lodge in Helen, GA. and their website is blackbearrugcamp.com.

SHARON SMITH

Just a little introduction. I have a background in graphic design, working in the flat world of print design, versus drawing or painting. The emphasis in the field is on placement of objects: shaping a page with space, typography, and imagery; using dark color and light space for pleasing contrast; and balancing all of the elements in this one piece. In other words, it's all about design. With this graphic background, my attention is not on perspective in drawing, (from close range to middle distance, to horizon), nor is it about shading for a shadowy effect. It's about primitive or "naïve" art, along the line of Impressionism.

In teaching, I do mini-lectures, mini demonstrations, and mini show and tell. I allow one-on-one time to each student equally, spending many interactions with each individual over the course of the days. I try to answer all questions and offer help. My specialty is color, color, color—and making them work together.

I think my style began with what I call a contemporary primitive—rugs with a flourish of dynamic color and a feeling of whimsy. In my designs, I have evolved into a "roguish"

method of hooking, using a full range of various textiles to create a painterly or impressionistic look. The painterly style is what I will be focusing on in class. This means:

No straight line hooking; learning about other textiles and how to use them in rugs;
When and how to combine textiles such as velvet and wool to create a unique look;
How to use short worms to help blend or alter colors;
Examining impressionistic paintings to encourage “different strokes” in your work.

I do bring a mini-store with tons of hand-dyed wool and just about any kind of textile you can think of. And my patterns. And some of my hand-made textile items. We won't run out of stuff.

I bring some of these to class as they help me explain my use of color, work on backgrounds, and my “painterly” style of hooking.

www.offthehookwoolrugs.com

Please visit my website and see my work. Thank you.

CARRIE MARTIN

My start with hooked rugs

Hooked rugs have been a part of my life since I was volunteering for the Humane Society in the 1970's when a hooked rug came in as a donation. I purchased it and there began my love for rug hooking. Searching, using and repairing vintage hooked rugs became part of my life. Weekends were spent haunting thrift shops, flea markets and garage sales with an eye out for hooked rugs.

After moving to Louisiana and not finding hooked rugs in resale and antique shops, I decided that I would have to make my own. To the library I went and found a book on rug hooking with the most wonderful resource section in the rear of the book. Within weeks I was working on my first rug, receiving Rug Hooking Magazine and a Bliss cutter was on its way. As we all say, I was HOOKED.

My first rug Camp was “Castle in the Clouds” directed by Ramona Maddox. My first camp instructor and one of my greatest influences was Sharon Townsend, a friendship that I have valued ever since. If you have never been to a rug school, it is an experience not to be missed since you learn so much from your instructor and other students, seeing the colorful breadth of what they have created. Inspirations flow freely and you leave with a renewed sense of creativity. Many friendships have developed through this hobby.

Consequences of rug hooking:

Catching the rug bug is easy and can be spread by sitting in a meeting, doctor's office, or at an outdoor concert and working on a project. Once caught, it is difficult to cure the

lure this craft holds. It first starts with collecting a “stash “ of wool in many colors, textures from yardage to tiny scraps bursting out of drawers, closets and even sometimes stored in unused showers. Next thing you know you have others who are infected coming to your home or meeting in churches, libraries and at times even dental offices to commune in rug hooking. I don't mean to alarm those of you reading this as there is a cure: just venture out as often as you can to Hook ins, rug hooking workshops, and suppress the symptoms by purchasing a little wool, a pattern, a hook and be inspired by what you can create.

Carrie counsels and aids those with this addiction at camps and private workshops, so if you suspect you have the condition, this is the class for you.

My classes are open, meaning you may bring any pattern of your choosing it may be one of mine, yours or any designer. I always bring plenty of wool. We will have lessons daily. My goal is to instill the confidence in you to design and color plan your own hooked pieces.

Carrie's website is www.onerugtworug.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. Hosts are asked 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 choose 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 Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

Guild Library – The Guild maintains an extensive library to provide for your rug hooking reading. The listing of books in the library can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow books is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring them to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freija2@verizon.net.

Kathy will be bringing an assortment of the new additions to our library to each meeting for the next several months.

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.

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 Patti Mahar at patriciamahar@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

Nina's Notebook

February is here with its Cupids, hearts, flowers, and bright red. It is a real pick up after the January letdown and grey skies. February speaks of love and passion, reaching out with hugs, kisses and candy. A real feel good holiday! Even for those who aren't feeling well.

February reminds us that it is good to be passionate. St.Valentine and romantic love are celebrated but there are other kinds of passion to think about. For many of us, hooking is our passion. The pieces we are working on consume us...is the design right, what about the color, how much time do I have to finish this? And then there is always, what do I hook next?

Sometimes I have three pieces lined up to hook. One which I can only do at home because it requires me to use my large frame, a second one which I call my traveler, small enough to lug around from place to place and hook on my smaller frame and then there is a third piece which exists mostly in my mind and needs further design, color planning and then execution.

Last month, I was approached about putting together an exhibit of Hooking. Because few people know about hooking, I am thinking about how I will introduce Hooking, how to show the various types of Hooking such as traditional, primitive, mixed fibers etc.

Should I have a particular theme or is it better to have random selections such as houses, flowers, seascapes, farm scenes so there is something to appeal to everyone.

All these questions are running through my mind as I plan for this show. It will be a small show, limited to maybe twenty or so pieces, which is more pressure to get it right!

All this because I am passionate about hooking!

There are other holidays in February which elicit passion. Mardi Gras is a day to party with beads and parades, a day to be in New Orleans. If you love American history, don't forget to celebrate Presidents Day which honors George Washington as well as other US presidents.

And so the artist within you has lots to choose from this February. Think about your own passions and honor them.

Happy Hooking!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Workshop on a variety of Stitches

Spring Lake (NJ) ATHA is hosting a workshop with Benita Raleigh on April 16 and 17, 2018. This is Benita's Hooter the owl rug hooking workshop featuring the use of 10 different types of stitches. The workshop will be held at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Spring Lake, NJ. Please contact Lydia Brenner for more information @lbrenuva@comcast.net or 732-687-2487.

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 barb@bboyko.com or 914-588-7077. 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 9, 2018- Monthly Meeting-Cherry Halliday-basket lid-how to attach hooking to objects*

March 9, 2018- Hook In and Guild only flea market. Bring your new and used items in good condition to sell. Arrive early to set up your wares and hooking stuff*

April 13, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program will be Weezie, and Amy Korengut presenting their trip to Guatemala with Multicolores (hooking in Guatemala)*

May 11, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program Lettering*

June 8, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Annual HCRA G End of the Year Luncheon, show and tell drawing*

*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

Newsletter – Brenda Smith-201-317-0586 or bss45@cornell.edu

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 freyja2@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 --

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 HCRA G 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 (HCRA G). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Brenda Smith at bss45@cornell.edu by the 20th of the month.

HCRA G CLASSIFIED SECTION

Please submit items to be included in “The Loop” to Brenda Smith bss45@cornell.edu or 201-317-0586 by the 20th of the month prior to the month you want it included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads.