

## THE LOOP

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

January 2014

**Presidents' Letter** – We are so grateful that our annual Holiday Luncheon managed to slip in between winter weather events. And it wasn't even officially winter! However the spirit of sharing and celebrating was evident by the overlaid table of delicious savories and treats. The generosity of our members was appreciated by our guest from SAFE as we raffled lovely items donated by our members adding excitement and fun to our festivities. Thanks to all who brought items for SAFE as that table was also overflowing! As always the Show and Tell displayed the creative and whimsical talent of our members. Giant hooked trees, several Santas, winter scenes and projects completed from Camp workshops covered the floor. What a wonderful meeting to welcome several new members who participated with great cheer and enthusiasm.

This spirit of generosity will surely be carried forward into the New Year at our January auction. Sharon will once again encourage and convince us that “yes you do desperately NEED that divine piece of wool, wonderful pattern, ornament or hooking equipment “ so let the bidding begin! Come for the fun and the good feeling of supporting the Guild's programs.

You will note further on in The Loop that there is still some room in a class for Spring Fling and we encourage anyone interested to add their name to a wait list for all classes as plans do change and places will usually open up. We will ask for full payment in February as the Auction requires the full attention of the Treasurer.

As you know Hunterdon County is celebrating its 300 Anniversary through 2014. At the request of several Guild members we have signed on to participate with a special program next October. We are planning a Hook-In and Karl Gimber will present a program on Tavern Rugs with a specially created rug inspired by the Ringos Tavern. As noted further in The Loop, the Guild will no longer hold a Hook-In at the Mennonite Center and thus we think this event will provide a home based opportunity for our members. The website for the 300 Celebration is: <http://www.hunterdon300th.org/> and our listing can be found under the Events heading. Check out all the upcoming Celebration plans as this will be an fun year here in Hunterdon County! As will the coming year for our Guild. Cindy & Therese

**January Meeting – Friday, January 10, 2014** -- Our January meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Our annual auction meeting 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 check books 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 – The S & T theme for this month is rugs with words or sayings. Of course, we are always anxious to see current projects too.

Those who bring rugs to share will be eligible for a door prize. Congratulations to the winners from last month who are shown below.

Lydia Brenner (homemade elderberry jam)	Kathy Donovan (Christmas candles)
Cindy Boults (Christmas ornament)	Karl Gimber (Christmas dish)
Ellen DiClemente (holiday bowl)	Weezie Huntington (Christmas cards)
	Debbie Walsh (holiday mug)

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks/treats to the meeting – Teri Dabrowski, Cathy Heilferty, Jean Laurence, Marion Michel, and Doug Sardo . Your snacks and treats helped make our gatherings more enjoyable.

**January Birthdays** – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Cindy Boults (1/14), Anndee Byers (1/27), Joyce Combs (1/15), Teri Dabrowski (1/11), Lois Grieves (1/14), Donna Kolznak (1/16), Janet Kovach (1/19), Annie Lee (1/15), and Pat Levin (1/3). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

**Membership** – We welcome Kat Britt, Carol Chernack and Sandy Denarski to our Guild. Their contact information is shown below. We look forward to seeing them at upcoming events.

Kat Britt	Carol Chernack	Sandy Denarski
22 Sneider Road	55 Park Lake Ave.	P.O. Box 138
Warren, NJ 07059	Titusville, NJ 08560	20 Front St.
908-397-7768	609-737-7680	Crosswicks, NJ 08515
<a href="mailto:kbritt7@optonline.net">kbritt7@optonline.net</a>	<a href="mailto:carolchernack@verizon.net">carolchernack@verizon.net</a>	609-298-1595
		<a href="mailto:sdenars1@yahoo.com">sdenars1@yahoo.com</a>

An updated membership list has been sent to members.

**Sunshine** – We are pleased to report that Eleanor Dunker is recovering nicely from recent gall bladder surgery.

For those who want to contact Virginia Sutton, we now have a current address and phone number for her. The best time to call her is in the afternoon.

Abington Manor at Morgan Hill  
215 Cedar Park Blvd.  
Easton, PA 18042  
(908) 454-3595

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

## Guild News & Events

**Guild Members Respond Generously to “SAFE” Holiday Collection** – Guild members opened their hearts and generously donated items for the use of those who seek refuge at the safe house supported by "SAFE". Tillie Campbell represented SAFE at our meeting and accepted the many flannel pajama bottoms, slippers, socks and sweatpants donated.

Sharon Ballard organized and ran a fund raising raffle of three handmade items donated by creative members -- purse (Brigitte Levine), basket (Mary Passerello), and rug pattern (Peggie Cunningham). Lydia Brenner won the pattern. Joyce Combs won the basket and Joan Lucas won the bag. The raffle generated \$271 that was donated to SAFE.

SAFE provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information on SAFE and its services, go to its website -- [www.safeinhunterdon.org](http://www.safeinhunterdon.org) or call 908-788-7666.

**Guild Contributes to Woman’s Place** -- Joyce Combs and Mary Jo Gimber donated hooked boutique items to the Full Circle Thrift Shop in New Britain, PA for its Black Friday Sale. Full Circle donates wool garments that they cannot use to our Guild. All proceeds from Full Circle go to support a Woman’s Place which provides counseling and a safe house for abused women in Bucks County.

**Time to Start Thinking About Election of Officers/Chairs** -- Our by-laws call for the election of officers at our April meeting. The election of new officers/chairs is a healthy process of renewal that provides for new energy and fresh ideas. Many of our current officers/chairs have served in their roles for over two years and it is expected they are now anticipating stepping down.

All members should consider how they can contribute to the ongoing success of our Guild. Please look at the list of positions found at the end of the newsletter and let Therese or Cindy know of the positions in which you have interest in serving or for which you need more information. You can also approach the incumbents with questions.

**Festival Photos Available** -- The Guild wishes to thank Mary Passerello for her creation and donation of discs to the library. Each disc contains her photos of many the rugs at the 2013 Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill. If for some reason you were not able to attend the Festival borrow one of these from our library and see many of the rugs, or just enjoy seeing them once again.

**Janet Williams Sends Greetings from South Africa** -- Guild member Janet Williams is currently living in South Africa with her husband who is on a five year assignment with his employer. We received the following update from her:

“I love getting the newsletter. It makes me feel not so far away from home. There is no rug hooking in South Africa that I have been able to locate. However, I have joined a weaving guild and an embroidery guild and I'm introducing them to rug hooking. I hope to update my blog during the summer vacation here (next 4



**2014 Retreat Follows January Meeting** -- Our popular rug hooking retreat is this month at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ. After our monthly meeting, retreaters will move to the Hampton Inn for a weekend of hooking and fun.

Retreat Coordinator, Weezie Huntington, has the following final announcements and requests:

- We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose to.
- There are no openings right now, but there is a waiting list in case anyone needs to back out. Please let her know as soon as you know that you cannot attend, so she can let the others know. Weezie can also take more names onto the waiting list.
- If you reserved a room at the Hampton Inn and were not given the group rate, do not worry about it. It will be given at time of check in (or out).
- Everyone is encouraged to bring snacks--some healthy and some not.
- Our favorite masseuse, Joy Andrews, is set to come on Saturday. She is bringing her full table, so if you want a total body massage, that will also be available. Please let me know if you intend to sign up for a massage (and a rough idea of how long) so I can give her a start time.
- Donna Kolznak is organizing special door prizes. To participate and hopefully win a prize (wool may be involved) please bring one handful of "worms" (#8 cut if possible but any size and color will do) and give them to her on Friday at the retreat
- Saturday will be "Crazy Sock Day". Everyone who shows up in crazy socks will be entered in a drawing for a prize. Retreaters are encouraged to wear their craziest socks.
- A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate.
- Guild members are invited to stop by during the weekend and enjoy a cup of coffee.
- Any questions? Give Weezie a call at 609-477-4339 or send her an email message at [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com).

**Bus Trip To Barnes Foundation Museum Set for May 9, 2014** -- The Guild is sponsoring a bus trip to the Barnes Foundation Museum in Philadelphia on the day of our May meeting. The cost of the bus rental and driver gratuity will be paid by the Guild. Members participating need only to pay the museum admission fee (\$30), which includes an audio tour cassette.

After departing from the Hunterdon County Library parking lot, the first stop will be Philadelphia's historic Reading Terminal Market where members will have an exhilarating choice of luncheon selections. The Market has often been called a

“gastronomic bazaar” with more than 80 merchants. For more information, go to [www.readingterminalmarket.org](http://www.readingterminalmarket.org).

After lunch, the group will proceed to the Barnes Foundation Museum. The Barnes Foundation was established in 1922 to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture.” The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, Old Master paintings, important examples of African sculpture and Native American ceramics, jewelry and textiles, American paintings and decorative arts and antiquities from the Mediterranean region and Asia. Visit its website -- [www.barnesfoundations.org](http://www.barnesfoundations.org) more information.

The bus can accommodate 55 people. Cindy Boults is maintaining the signup list. A lottery drawing will be used if more than 55 members wish to participate.

**Spring Fling (March 28-30, 2014 & March 31– April 1 & 2, 2014)** – The two workshops initially scheduled by Norma Batastini (Heart in Hand Studio) and Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) on Friday March 28 to Sunday March 30, 2014 will be augmented by an additional workshop by Betsy Reed on Monday March 31 and April 1 & 2. (There are openings in this second workshop.) Openings are expected to develop, so Cindy Boults is maintaining a waiting list. These exciting Spring Fling workshops will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn.

**Norma’s Workshop** -- Exploring Color, A Hands-On Approach -- The workshop will be an in-depth look at color theory. We will explore two color wheels and the many color harmonies that are possible. With this knowledge, students will color plan a small pattern and begin hooking. Each student will have a kit of materials to work with (Cost about \$55) that will include dyed color swatches, pattern and other tools. Wool for the pattern will be extra. Students may purchase wool or bring some from home. There will be three pattern choices: fish decoy, pineapple or owl. Students will be contacted before class for pattern selection and other supplies to bring to class.

**Betsy’s Workshop** – Betsy will be offering workshops on "ripped" wool...as wide as it gets! Many saw her examples at the Festival. These classes for torn strips will be using a simple styled motif pattern. You can draw your own pattern or use a pattern from another designer. Betsy will have a variety of patterns available ranging in price from \$20.00 and up. She will have designs in hearts, cats, pumpkins, crows, horses and geometrics. Pictures of patterns will be available after the holidays. You should bring wools you think you would like to use up. Betsy will also be bringing wool for you.

The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for nonmembers. A \$25 deposit will be needed with the balance due at the February meeting. Checks should be made payable to HCRAAG. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$119 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. Cindy Boults is the Event Coordinator and is handling registration.

**2014 Rug Hooking Camp** -- Our 18th annual rug hooking camp will be held on August 11-15, 2014 at the ESC School in Lambertville, NJ for what promises to be a stimulating week of rug hooking. We will have four instructors this year -- Jayne Hester, Liz Marino, Carrie Martin, and Anita White.

At the present time there are two openings with Liz and Anita; the other workshops are currently full. HOWEVER, our past experience has shown that cancellations develop between now and August, so anyone who hopes to attend should get on the waiting list by contacting Eleanor Dunker, Camp Co-Director.

Details on the workshops and the registration process can be found on the Guild's website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)).

Questions should be directed to Camp Directors Anndee Byers (856-829-7179 or [Anndee@hookandhistory.com](mailto:Anndee@hookandhistory.com)) or Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or [eldunker@hotmail.com](mailto:eldunker@hotmail.com)).

**Attend Camp Free** -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. 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.

Housing is needed for Carrie Martin. If you have interest in providing housing, let Camp Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know and attend camp free.

**HCrag Library** – The library page on our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)) will be updated this month to include the many recent additions. Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. All you need to do borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or [freyja2@verizon.net](mailto:freyja2@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.*

**Featured Member – In Memory of Patty Mahaffey** -- Patty Mahaffey was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus in September and after a valiant battle succumbed to the cancer on December 5, 2013. She will be sorely missed by the Guild and others in the rug hooking community. In Patty's memory, we are reprinting her Featured Member article from the February 2010 issue of The Loop. Visit the Guild's website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)) for some favorite photos of Patty and her smile.

In 2003 Patty was watching a show on the Home & Garden TV channel when a segment on rug hooking caught her attention. She was intrigued and went on line to learn more. It was there that she first learned about Vicki Calu, the well-known and admired rug hooking instructor from Bucks County. Patty lived only 15 minutes from Vicki and started attending her Saturday classes. At the time, Vicki was also the director of the Highlands Rug Hooking School, so attending Highlands workshops came next. It was there that Patty met Gail Dufresne. She liked Gail's wool and creative rug hooking technique. Patty has attended Gail's open studio sessions on Saturdays for the last six years.

Geometric and pictorial patterns using bright colors are what Patty tends to hook. She likes to mix cuts depending on the rug. Most of her latest projects have been done in a #6 cut although

Patty is comfortable hooking in anything from a #3 to #8 cut. She will buy a commercial pattern if it is something that she likes, but enjoys designing her own rugs.

Right from the beginning Patty was committed to learning as much as she could. She is serious about improving her technique and knowledge about all aspects of rug hooking. Patty finds that the workshops sponsored by local instructors such as Norma Batastini and Gail Dufresne to be invaluable in her development as a rug hooking artisan. Local classes are augmented by regular attendance at Rugs by the Sea in Cape May where she has gone for the last five years and the HCRAAG camp which she attended last year for the first time. She was also “a regular” at the Highlands. Norma Batastini sponsored Patty’s participation in the McGown Certification Program where she has completed the first segment. The list of instructors with whom Patty has worked resembles the “Who’s Who” of the rug hooking world. The list currently includes 21 names! Patty states that she “has gained from every teacher and has learned from them all”. Since Patty has attended Gail Dufresne’s classes for so long, she credits Gail with being the most influential on her development and style.

Patty tries to hook after dinner every day, but when her schedule gets busy days or even a week can go by before she can sit down at her hooking frame. Weekends are the time when she can count on getting some serious hooking done. It is typical for Patty to have a couple of rugs that she alternates working on. She has about eight unfinished rugs, which is not that many considering the number of workshops she attends. Interestingly all of Patty’s completed pieces are wall hangings. None are done for the floor.

When it comes to wool, Patty takes advantage of the wool she finds at her classes and from local vendors. “There is so much beautiful wool available” says Patty “that I prefer to work with it rather than recycled wool. It can be as is or over-dyed.” Finding time to do more dyeing is something she wants to do.

Patty was first introduced to our Guild when she participated in the hook-in held at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in conjunction with our rug exhibit in 2006. She met several members at the Highlands. Patty is also active with the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter where she serves as secretary. She says “I enjoy coming to the meetings for both guilds because it's an opportunity to see people who I may not have a chance to see on a regular basis plus, it's always fun to see what everyone is hooking and catch up on anything new that is going on in the world of rug hooking.”

In addition to rug hooking, Patty is an avid reader and enjoys knitting. She is also proficient in miniature punch needle. Patty lives in Perkasio, PA with her husband Dave, who is a police officer in Hilltown Township (PA) along with their 14 year old Bichon Frise named Muffin. They have two children, Matthew and Colleen. Matthew, age 24, followed his father into law enforcement and is a police officer in Towamencin Township (PA). Colleen, age 21, is a student at Millersville University. Patty is an administrative assistant and has worked for an electronics company in Lansdale, PA for the past 25 years.

Patty Mahaffey was clearly “hooked” when she first learned about rug hooking. When asked what it was that grabbed her, she said: “I love the fact that rug hooking can be tailored to whatever style you want whether it is primitive, traditional, whimsical, large, small, etc. and that you can either design your own rug or choose from the hundreds of patterns that are available. You can choose not only the beautiful colors and textures of wool, but also any kind of embellishment (i.e., felting, yarn, buttons, etc.) to make the rug your own. I remember being so amazed when I first started rug hooking by the whole network of teachers, workshops, and

classes that are out there and, especially, the fellow rug hookers with whom I have become friends. I find it so inspiring to see other people's work and I have met so many interesting people whom I never would have met if it wasn't for rug hooking.”

#### Addendum to original article

Patty continued to grow and develop as a rug hooking artisan. In July 2009, she began the process of becoming a McGown certified teacher at Northern McGown Teacher Workshop under the sponsorship of Norma Batastini. By July 2013 Patty completed all her requirements and received certification as a McGown Teacher. During the winter of 2012 Patty helped in the establishment of a new ATHA chapter called Wool Whisperers, Chapter 131, in Pennsylvania. She contributed her Red Fox Eye to the nationally acclaimed Eye See You II exhibit organized by Judy Carter. The exhibit was the special feature at Sauder Village in 2012 and the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen in Lancaster.

**We Remember Patty** – Patty Mahaffey touched the lives of many Guild members. We share below some of our special remembrances.

- I will always remember Patty’s infectious smile and her loving demeanor – always very supportive and approaching everything with a positive attitude! I miss her deeply. Jan Cole
- I met Patty pretty soon after I started rug hooking. She was always very sweet to me. If I went to an event, very often she would save me a seat knowing that I didn’t know too many people. I always appreciated that and will remember her for her kindness. Also, any time I go by a Pretzel Factory I think of Patty because she ALWAYS remembered to bring soft pretzels. Just a very thoughtful and lovely person who will be terribly missed. Therese Shick
- Party Mahaffey was a lady of integrity and quiet good humor. She went out of her way to be kind to me and make me feel comfortable and welcomed when I was a newcomer. She was a fabulous hooker and I enjoyed her company and artistic sensibility. I am sad and will miss her lovely gentle smile. Barbara Kimbrough
- I will always remember her bright blue eyes, her beautiful smile, and her warm welcoming heart. Eileen Koch
- Patty was such a sweetheart! She was ALWAYS doing something creative. If she wasn't hooking, she was making jewelry or something else. I admire her for completing her McGown training. When asked why she did it and if she was going to start teaching, her answer was she did it just to learn everything there was about rug hooking. Good for her....she was an expert! If you needed an extra worm, you got it. If you needed her to critique your work, you got it. She had a good eye and we will all miss her talent and expertise. Farewell to a wonderful woman. Barbara Boyko
- Though I only knew Patty for a few years...I never saw her without a smile and a happy word for everyone. Patty was always inclusive to everyone...and was an inspiration in her kindness, and happy view of the world. I will miss her. Katie Simonson

- I was fortunate to room with Patty at McGown Northern Teacher's Workshop for many years. It was a pleasure to get to know her and spend this extended time with her. Patty was a wonderful teacher (Watermelon/Fruit), student (Mother's Comfort), and team member (Eye See You II - Red Fox). But more importantly, she was a wonderful friend. Patty was always supportive, positive, friendly, and offering to do something for others. I always looked forward to seeing her at hook-ins or classes and hearing from her via email. Patty is missed already and I will think of her often. I'm very thankful for the time I had with her. Judy Carter
- I always looked forward to seeing Patty and will miss her company. Lydia Brenner
- When I think of Patty, I am reminded of her cheerfulness. She always noticed the good in people and the beauty in their rugs. Her own rugs symbolized the happiness she shared with others. The bright colors and lively designs made you smile when viewing her rugs. They gave you joy! Knowing Patty enriched my life with friendship and joy. And I will try to remember that joy as I deal with the grief of losing a dear friend. Janet Williams
- I had the privilege and pleasure to become better acquainted with Patty at our 2013 Camp. She sat near me but in the other class. She had taught the Beginners' Workshop and my niece, Melissa, had taken the class. I stopped to thank her and was awed by her fine rug hooking. I have seldom met a more gracious and lovely person. A great loss to all of us in many ways. I am truly moved by her passing. Barbara Lugg
- I will miss her smiling face and the happiness we all felt when we were with her! Joyce Combs
- I just had this thought this morning. It is nice that since Patty's birthday, Dec. 8th, it has been bright and cherry with the sparkling snow. Just like Patty. My husband, who only met Patty a couple of times, called her Patty McHappy this morning. It is a good and fitting name and her happy personality shined through even to people who only met her briefly. Juliana Kapusta
- Rug hooking and Patty seemed synonymous for me. When I was just learning, my small group didn't meet during the summer. I found Gail Dufresne that summer and met Patty at those Saturday classes. An immediate friendship began and we all shared learning and lots of laughter. It was evident that she had a remarkable talent and an eye for color. I started out doing primitives, but Patty's magnificent choice of colors has had a strong influence on me. She was a good friend to so many of us and she was always ready to help. Her future impact on hooking is a sad loss for all of us. In us, her friends, she will live on. Eleanor Dunker
- I have many wonderful memories of Patty in my rug hooking experiences and they always involved a lot of laughs and smiles. Her smile comes to me whenever I sit down at my frame. Rest peacefully good friend. Cheryl Halliday

- I've thought of Patty a lot over the past several months and wished that there was some way that I could have comforted her during this difficult period. During the time that I knew her, she was always kind and generous with her support to everyone around her. She always had a wonderful smile when she greeted you and a sparkle in her eyes that made you feel warm and special. Patty is one of the people that I feel fortunate to have met and so very sorry to have lost. Dee Rosebrock

## Hooking Information & Techniques

**From Nina's Notebook** –Happy New Year! Welcome to a year filled with mats, workshops, designs, and time with good friends doing our favorite thing, rug hooking!

Although I traditionally think of a new year beginning in September, (old school teacher habits never die) I am wrapping my head around some of the ideas for new rugs for 2014. My major project is the rug for my granddaughter's graduation which will include names of friends, activities, travels and school names from her secondary years. A space has been reserved for hooking in the initials or name of the university she will attend next fall.

If you have young grandchildren or children, think about translating some of their drawings into a mat. Their naive drawings and bright colors make wonderful mats. Or how about a favorite memory of one of the trips or activities you did together? How about that new baby in the family...a mat with birth date and name are special and then there are always those favorite nursery rhymes to be adapted. Some of the newer illustrated nursery rhyme books will give you some ideas for a new approach to familiar stories.

I also think of the new year as a time to learn some new approaches to rug hooking. In 2013, it was incorporating more yarn, roving and other materials and becoming a true fiber artist. For 2014 I am going to concentrate on color and using different palates. I look forward to Spring Fling and the course with Norma Batistini.

I wish for you a year filled with good health, good friends, and a pile of wool, a good hook and hours to become the true rug artisan you are! Nina Seaman

**Ideas from Marian Hall's Dye Pot – Blending Black Wools** -- Marian Hall, who is a member of the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild, recently shared a tip on how to blend the coloration of various shades of black.

April DeConick has a book on creating your own dye palette. For black, she suggests keeping a jar for all leftover bits of dye when you don't use it all in a recipe---just collect all colors in one jar. Put you black wool in a pot with water and simmer it with laundry soap to remove dye. Remove wool and dump water. Put more water in pot and add the jar of mixed dyes, and then add back the black wool, simmer for an hour and add vinegar and simmer for another hour. Then rinse and dry. The time frames are hers----I don't do it for two hours, I just do it till the dye is taken up completely or for one hour if the dye absorbs quickly, putting in the vinegar or citric acid when the dye is mostly in the fabric. It produces a softer black that blends more with colors.

If I don't have any leftover dyes lying around, I just mix up some of the colors I am using in a rug and use those for the over dye. April uses only Cushing dyes, but the concept can be used with any dyes.

**Tips From Heloise** – There are times when you need a narrow strip of wool and a #4 cut is a bit too wide. Heloise overheard Cynthia Norwood share a tip with her HCRA Camp class last August that can be used to solve this dilemma – simply pull one thread from the #4 strip of wool! When doing this, it is important that the strip has been cut very straight.

**Recipes** – Members who attended the November meeting had an opportunity to enjoy Barbara Lugg's **Apple Cranbury Pie**. Someone commented that "It tastes as good as it looks!" We thank Barbara for sharing her recipe with us.

### **Apple Cranberry Pie**

Use 10" pie dish or square deep dish. Prepare pastry, your own or store bought. Pastry recipe follows below.

#### **Ingredients**

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups fresh cranberries, halved  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups sugar  
1 tbsp. maple syrup  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup flour  
6 large baking apples, peeled and sliced  
3 tbsp. butter, cut in small pieces

- Roll out and fit pie crust into dish
- Cut several cookie cutter shapes for top.
- In large bowl, mix cranberries, sugar, flour and syrup.
- Add apples, toss lightly.
- Pour into pie crust and dot with butter pieces.
- Place cutouts on top.
- Bake 400 degrees 40-45 minutes or until edges brown.

#### **Pastry for One Crust**

##### **Ingredients**

1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups flour  
1 tsp. salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup unsalted butter, chilled and cut into pieces  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup shortening, chilled and cut into pieces  
6-7 tbsp. water

- Mix flour with salt, add butter and shortening.
- Rub into flour with pastry blender or fingertips.
- Gradually add water until mixture begins to mass together.
- Flatten into disk, wrap in plastic,
- Chill 30 minutes.

Enjoy!

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

2014 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 12 – 16, 2014 -- Retreats, workshops, exhibits and vendors are all part of the experience of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. This is one of the largest rug hooking events in the country. Call 800-590-9735 or go to [www.saudervillage.org](http://www.saudervillage.org) for details.

Hooked in the Mountains XVII – October 15-19, 2014 – An exhibition of hooked rugs and fiber arts sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held on October 15-19, 2014 at their new location, the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, VT. For details visit the guild's website –[www.gmrhg.org](http://www.gmrhg.org).

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

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

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

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

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

### **HCRAG Calendar of Events**

**January 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting -- Auction & White Elephant Sale \***

**January 10-12, 2014 – Rug Hooking Retreat, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ**

**February 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Creating & Hooking Redware Pattern (Sharon Ballard, Jan Cole & Karl Gimber) \***

**March 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting -- Rugs That Tell a Story \***

**March 28-30, 2014 – Spring Fling, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ**

**April 11, 2014-- Monthly Meeting – Round Robin (Members with rug hooking businesses) \***

**May 9, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip to Barnes Foundation Museum, Philadelphia**

**June 13, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Guild Picnic \***

**August 11-15, 2014 – Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ**

**August 12, 2014 – Beginner's Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ**

**September 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \***

**October 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hunterdon County 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration \***  
**December 12, 2014 – 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 the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

\*\* Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

**Guild Officers/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** – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or [cboults@gmail.com](mailto:cboults@gmail.com).

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

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

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

**Camp Directors** – Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or [anndee@hookandhistory.com](mailto:anndee@hookandhistory.com)

Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or [eldunker@hotmail.com](mailto:eldunker@hotmail.com)

**Historian** – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or [sojon@comcast.net](mailto:sojon@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Special Events** – Open

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

**Treasurer** – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)

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

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

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