

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

January, 2007

From the Presidents' Corner – At this time of the year, it is appropriate to look back to see what we accomplished and what is planned for the new year.

Guild members should be proud of what we achieved last year. Included among our accomplishments are the following:

- Introduction of HCRAG newsletter, The Loop
- Rug hooking camp with Elizabeth Black, Susan Feller and Jayne Hester
- Hooked rug exhibit, hook-in and beginners' class (children) at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center
- Community rug hooking demonstrations at State History Fair (Washington Crossing Park, NJ), Hunterdon 4-H Fair (Ringoos, NJ), Celebration of Farming and Craft Fair (Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead) and Thanksgiving in the Country (Prallsville Mill)
- Twenty-two new and returning members (44% increase!)
- Nine creative and informative meeting programs
- Miniature punch-needle workshop
- Successful fund raising effort (\$1250 raised for Camp/Program Fund)
- Guild brochure developed
- Successful Holiday Luncheon and fundraiser.

Looking forward, the following plans are already in the works:

- Our first rug hooking retreat
- Our second hook-in
- Rug hooking camp with Norma Batastini, Rae Harrell and Jule Marie Smith
- Rug Exhibit and displays at Hunterdon and Doylestown Libraries

We came a long way in the past year! Our thanks and congratulations to all Guild members who contribute to the success of HCRAG!

Happy New Year and Happy Hooking! -- Heidi and Weezie

January Meeting – January 12, 2007 -- Auction and White Elephant Sale -- Our annual auction and white elephant sale at the January meeting is a major fundraiser for the Guild. Marion Michel presented the Guild with rug hooking tools owned by deceased member, Vera Davis. Several items sold at the November meeting and the rest will be included in the auction. Items for the auction do not have to be rug hooking related. Bring what you have and are willing to donate. Roberta and Peggy will oversee the auction. Part of the auction will be silent and part will be loud and raucous and fun!!! This is a great way to support the guild and recycle for the benefit of all the members.

After the auction, we will have a sampler roundabout. Each person who has demonstrated a block in the sampler is asked to sit at one of the tables on the roundabout, demonstrate and answer questions about the block that they are teaching or have taught.

Blocks include:

Laisy Daisy, Bead and Braid, Chain, French Knots, Kathy Donovan

Lighthouse, Joyce Combs

Plaid, Weezie Huntingdon

Flag, Trapunto Flower, Margaret Lutz

Log Cabin, Need volunteer for this one

Sculpted Ladybug, Patti Ann Finch

Color Wheel, Scrolls, Kay Weeks

Numbers and Letters, Claudia Casebolt

Little Sheep, Feather Tree, Nancy Culton

Prodded Delphinium, Need volunteer for this one.

For beginning rug hookers and new members who want to work on a sampler now is the time to start. Margaret Brightbill and Mary Jo Gimber will be available to answer questions offer help for beginners on the roundabout. At future meetings, we plan to have a beginners table where new rug hookers and new members can get help and get answers to their questions. We are asking for volunteers at the meetings to take turns helping the new ones. This can be very informal. Will designate a table where help and questions can be addressed. If you can spare some time, just sit at the table with us and start hooking and we will see how this works out.

SHOW & TELL - Bring samplers and whatever you are working on or completed in 2006.

Hospitality – Ingrid’s band of “baking elves” will be supplying the snacks for the January meeting. We have Gisele Meader, Bonnie Rusch, Janet Santaniello and Ingrid Cosmen to thank for adding to the enjoyment of the meeting.

Guild Retreat – January 12-14, 2007 – After our January meeting, we will move to the Flemington Hampton Inn to begin our first rug hooking retreat. The emphasis will be on hooking and fun with prizes and some favorite videos. There is still time to join in the fun. There are three openings remaining. The cost is \$30 (non-refundable). If you want to stay overnight, call the Hampton Inn at (908) 284-9427.

Coffee and tea will be available throughout the day. Members staying at the Hampton Inn have breakfast included. All other meals are on your own. You may want to bring lunch/dinner and your cooler. There are vending machines in the hotel and grocery stores and restaurants very convenient to the hotel.

Optional--Bring a snack to share **only if you want to do so.**

Weezie will lead aquatic exercises for those interested in a workout in the pool. The exercises can be as gentle or as strenuous as you choose. Weezie has taught Aquatic Fitness for 16 years at the Princeton YWCA.

The following Guild members have registered:

Susan Atwater	Joyce Combs	Karl Gimber	Margaret Lutz	Kay Weeks
Sandra Barkman	Nancy Culton	Mary Jo Gimber	Dee Rosebrock	Agnes Wooden
Cindy Boults	Annette D'Emidio	Phyllis Hamel	Gail Schmidt	
Helen Buchanan	Tracy Fetzer	Weezie Huntington	Bernice Smith	
Claudia Casebolt	Karen Gates	Amy Korengut	Roberta Smith	

Guild Hook-In -- April 21, 2007 -- Plans are well underway for our hook-in at the Rolling Hills Methodist Church, Rt. 611, Pipersville, PA on April 21, 2007. Dee Rosebrock and Mary Jo Gimber are the co-chairs.

The church has three levels, is handicap accessible and has ample parking on ground level and first floor level.. Vendors, refreshments and lunch will be on the lower floor. There is access from the lower parking level, so it will be easy for the vendors to unload and load their vehicles. The first floor will accommodate 100 rug hookers. The third floor room is perfect for the Beginners' Class.

Registration is in advance. Admission is \$18 and includes a lunch.

Bonnie Rusch will be conducting a Beginners' Rug Hooking Class (\$50 for kit and lunch).

A diverse group of vendors has been selected – American Country Rugs (Lucille Festa), Dump 'N Dye (Vicki Calu), Folk Art Designs (Karen Gates), Homespun (Kay Levan), Hook Nook (Margaret Lutz), The Woolery (Trish Becker) and The Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb) and the HCRAG table headed by Roberta Smith.

We need your help. Please plan to sign up for one of the following committees:

- . Beginners' Rug Hooking Class (Bonnie Rusch)
- . HCRAG Vending Table (Roberta Smith)
- . Hospitality (Ingrid Cosmen)
- . Mat Swap
- . Prizes/Raffles
- . Publicity (Karl Gimber)
- . Registration (Karl Gimber)
- . Set-up/Clean-up
- . Vendor Coordination

We already have 25 registrations, over half of which are from outside the Guild. Make sure to register while space is available. We expect a sellout.

2007 Rug Hooking Camp – Norma Batastini, Rae Harrell and Jule Marie Smith will be the instructors at our Rug Hooking Camp from August 13 to 17, 2007. We will be at the ESC School, as in the past.

The fee for members is \$150 and \$225 for non- members. The member rate is available to those who are Guild members as of the April meeting (April 13, 2007). There is a \$50 registration fee of which \$25 is non-refundable. The full fee is due on April 13, 2007. No refunds after May 31, 2007 unless there is a replacement from the paid waiting list.

To assure a place with the instructor you want, send your deposit check for \$50 made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber, P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 as soon as possible. The class with Jule Marie Smith is fully subscribed.

Sharon Ballard's Santa Raffle a Big Success – Our thanks to Sharon Ballard for donating a wonderful Santa and two snowmen for a fund raising raffle. The raffle generated a total of \$216 for the Guild's Camp/Program Fund. In addition, it made the three winning members very happy. Roberta Smith won the Orange Snowman. Mary Jo Gimber won the Green Snowman home and Claudia Casebolt won the Blue Santa. THANK YOU Sharon!

Holiday Luncheon – Event of the Year! -- All the fortunate Guild members and guests who were at our Holiday Luncheon at Sharon and Cliff Ballard's home agreed that this was the event of the year! Fantastic food, wonderful camaraderie, fun mat and wool swaps (**Right?** –Those there will understand; others are **left** out.), all amidst a beautifully decorated home. Door prizes were won by Susan Atwater (pincushion bird box made by Mary Jo Gimber), Brigitte Levine (pinecone tree made by Sharon Ballard) and Margaret Lutz (rose centerpiece arranged by Janet Santaniello). Also, vintage wooden Christmas tree ornaments were shared with those in attendance. It is hard to find the words that appropriately express our appreciation to Sharon and Cliff for opening their beautiful home to the Guild. We are deeply indebted to them. Thank you very, very much!!!

Camp/Program Fund – The Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter purchased \$58 of raffle tickets and Guild members purchased \$20 additional tickets at the Holiday Luncheon for a raffle total of \$216. Donations at the Holiday Luncheon amounted to \$320. Mary Jo and Karl Gimber donated a speaking fee (\$150) received from the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter. The total in the fund is now \$1250. We are grateful to all who have made this possible.

Let the Sun Shine – Our thoughts and prayers go to Barbara Lugg's mother who was hospitalized shortly after Christmas.

Guild to Display Our Work at Local Libraries – Thanks to the suggestion of Kitty Platt, HCRAAG has arranged to show our work at local libraries. Most libraries have display cases that can be used by clubs and organizations. The libraries in Doylestown, PA and Hunterdon County have agreed to allow HCRAAG to display our work and information about the Guild. The Hunterdon Library, which is in the same Complex where we normally have our meetings, also has a small gallery we can use for a rug exhibit. The rug exhibit at the library will be in September 2007 when the display cases are also available. The display case at the Doylestown Library is booked for December 2007. Joyce Combs and Roberta Smith are checking with the Pennington and West Windsor Libraries to learn about the availability of their display cases. Members are encouraged to explore these possibilities with their local libraries. This is a wonderful way to inform the community about rug hooking and HCRAAG.

Membership – We welcome Donna Brandt, Cindy Boults and Annette D'Emidio as new HCRAAG members. Please update you membership list.

Donna Brandt
103 Stout Lane
Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 237-9569
brandt@patmedia.net

Cindy Boults
1 Spring Hill Road
Annandale, NJ 08801
(908) 730-0146
cboults@patmedia.net

Annette D'Emidio
807 S. Bellvue
Langhorn, PA 19047
(215) 750-7463
jacdxray@aol.com

January Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to Joyce Combs (1/15), Mary Jo Gimber (1/30), Lois Grieves (1/14) and Janet Kovach (1/19).

Meet Our Members – Barbara Lugg – The rugs hooked by Barbara Lugg appear to have been created by someone who has been hooking for many, many years. The truth is that Barbara has been hooking rugs for less than 10 years. She was attracted to hooked rugs when she first saw an old rug in an antique shop. While she was fascinated by the rug, it was not until 1997 that she began hooking. It was shortly after her husband passed away and Barbara felt the need to get involved with something that would be outside the house. She saw an ESC School flyer that mentioned an upcoming meeting of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild. She went to the meeting and was befriended by Helen Buchanan. The meeting was the last one before the summer break, so Helen invited Barbara to meet with the Everittstown Group. She soon learned the basics from Helen Buchanan and Hildegaard Von Tenspold who was also a Guild member.

Barbara “loves pictorials” and “prefers to hook things she knows about.” She works mainly with a #6 cut and uses mostly recycled wool. Her wool comes from local vendors and from the occasional class that she takes. Barbara has been involved with fiber arts most of her life. She “tried all the crafts at one time or another” and took art lessons when she was 12. That background equipped her to design her own rug patterns. Barbara rarely works with someone else’s patterns. While Barbara was not attracted to painting as such, she sees herself “painting with wool.” Her rug creations confirm that assessment.

Dyeing wool is not something that Barbara does often. She is “not precise” about the process and generally only dyes enough wool for the current project. What she knows about dyeing wool, Barbara “learned along the way” and from Helen Woefel who conducted a class with the Everittstown Group one-year. Bev Conway has been an influence too. Barbara studied with Bev for three years at Cape May. She also attends our Guild’s camp each year.

Many of Barbara’s rugs have a personal connection, so she has trouble giving them up. However, she would consider selling rugs that do not have the personal or family attachment. Barbara does sell hooked flower pins and her wonderful purses. Last year someone gave her a purse kit and she found it addictive. Her purses are knitted with various yarns, lined with silk and trimmed with beads. Barbara has hooked “memory rugs” for her family. She has a son (Rick who lives in PA), two daughters (Katty who lives in Maine and Suzanne in Flemington), eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Her memory rugs have a series of blocks, like a friendship rug, and are designed with the family. Each block relates to something special. For example, Barbara’s husband enjoyed watching red tail hawks fly over their home in Frenchtown. The block of a red tail hawk reminds them of him. The grandchildren have footstools hooked by their grandmother.

Barbara is proud to be one of the “Tiger Ladies” whose rugs were exhibited at The Nassau Club in Princeton, NJ in 2004. Her rug titled “Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright” was inspired by a poem by William Blake. It, along with the other rugs by the Tiger Ladies, appears in Jessie Turbayne’s current book, Hooked on Rugs – Outstanding Contemporary Designs. Her farm house scene, “New Day”, attracted much attention and praise when it was shown in the Guild’s display at the Hunterdon 4-H Fair last summer.

Barbara has been a steady member of HCRAAG from the time she joined in 1997. She enjoys meeting the different members and talking about rug hooking. There is a strong social element of being with people who have the same interests. Barbara also draws inspiration from the work of the other members. The Guild is richer for having Barbara Lugg as a member.

Ask the Experts – Why Are Hooked Rugs Blocked? This question was recently raised by a member, so we turned to Margaret Lutz, co-author of The Secrets of Finishing Hooked Rugs, for answers. Margaret notes that: “Just as your clothes need a good pressing to look their best, your rug needs to be set with heat and steam. Blocking helps the loops look less like individual pieces, and ensures that the sides of the finished rug are the shape that you intended.”

In response to a related question - Is it best to block the front or back of the rug first? - Margaret says that she prefers to block the back of the rug first and then the front. She also recommends blocking twice – once after the hooking is completed and again after the finishing is completed.

Guild Library – An updated library list follows the newsletter. To obtain an item, please contact Kathy Donovan the day before a Guild meeting and she will bring it to the meeting.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

The Highland School of Rug Hooking – March 2 – 4, 2007. Bev Conway, Susan Feller, Michelle Micarelli and Sibyl Osicka are the instructors at the Highlands March workshop. Contact Vicki Calu at 215-249-0790 or threebagsfull@netcarrier.com for details.

The Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie.huntington@verizon.net) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

HCRAg Calendar of Events

January 12 --Monthly Meeting - White Elephant Sale and Auction*

January 12 –14 -- Rug Hooking Retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ

February 9 -- Monthly Meeting - Hooked Footstool Workshop (Bonnie Rusch)*

March 9 – Monthly Meeting – Design Your Own Rug (Susan Feller)*

April 13 – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Pillow on Wool Workshop (Kay Levan)*

April 21 -- Guild Hook-in at Rolling Hills Methodist Church, Pipersville, PA

May 11 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking Trees (Bernice Smith)*

June 8 – Monthly Meeting – Guild Picnic at Sharon Ballard’s home

August 13-17 – HCRAg Rug Hooking Camp, ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

* Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 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, it is the first building on the right.

Guild Officers -- Our officers 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 – Heidi Blair -- 732-942-3743 or jenyjump@optonline.net

Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie.huntington@verizon.net

Fund Raising – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or cballard@patmedia.net

Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net

Hospitality – Ingrid Cosmen – 908-832-2215 or woodglen1@earthlink.net

Lydia Brenner -- 732-741-9313 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja@optonline.net
Programs – Mary Jo Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or mjg12@nni.com
Public Relations -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com
Secretary – Gail Schmidt – 732-741-6620 or gks001@aol.com
Sunshine – Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com
Treasurer – Susan Atwater –908-439-3473 or susanatwater@earthlink.com

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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 should be submitted to Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com.

HCRAg Library

Any Guild member who wishes to borrow an item from the HCRAg Library should contact our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, 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 frejja@optonline.net. **Please save this listing for future reference.**

BOOKS

Burton, Mary Sheppard w/ Mary Ellen Cooper

A Passion for the Creative Life; Textiles to Lift the Spirit, 2002

Carroll, Barbara & Lais, Emma Lou

American Primitive Hooked Rugs, 1999

Chiasson, Father Anselme (ed)

The History of Chetiaccamp Hooked Rugs and their Artisans, 1988

Coughlin, Linda Rae

Contemporary Hooked Rugs: Memories and Themes, 2006

Kent, William Winthrop

Rare Hooked Rugs and Others Both Antique and Modern from Cooperative Sources, 1941

Kopp, Joel and Kate

American Hooked and Sewn Rugs; Folk Art Underfoot, 1995 (reprint of 1975)

Koserowski, Laurette and Stimmel, Ginny (Editors)

Projects for Fiber Art Lovers: Country Coordinates to Quilt, Hook, Stitch and Paint 2006

Moshimer, Joan

The Complete Book of Rug Hooking, 1989 (reprint of 1975)

O'Neill, Edyth C.

Rugs for My Red Cape, 2004

Siano, Margaret w/ Susan Huxley

The Secrets of Finishing Hooked Rugs, 2003

Teale, Edwin Way

Audubon's Wildlife; A New Look at the Birds and Animals, 1964

Turbayne, Jessie A.

The Big Book of Hooked Rugs; 1950 - 1980's, 2005

Turbayne, Jessie A.

Hooked Rugs; History and the continuing tradition, 1991

Exhibition Catalog

American Classics Hooked Rugs from the Barbara Johnson Collection
Exhibited at the Squibb Gallery, Princeton, NJ, Dec 1988 - Jan 1989
Published 1988

NOTEBOOKS

#1 Rug Hooker News and Views

Issues #44, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61
Jan/Feb 1980 - Nov/Dec 1982

#2 Rug Hooker News and Views

Issues #62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71
Jan/Feb 1983 - Nov/Dec 1984

#3 Rug Hooker News and Views

Issues #72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82
Jan/Feb 1985 - Jan/ Feb 1987

#4 Rug Hooker News and Views

Issues #83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93
March/April 1987 - March/April 1989

VIDEO TAPES

Field, Jeanne

Let's Hook; an introduction to traditional hooking, 1996

Moshimer, Joan & Cox, Vera
Hooking and Braiding

Author and date not available
Rug Hooking; Here's How

DVD'S

Author not available
Geo Swap, 2003