

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

January 2010

From the President's Corner – We know that Guild members are talented rug hooking artisans. Our holiday luncheon reminds us of your wonderful culinary talents – just ask those who were at the December meeting. This year we learned that HCRAAG members are generous and have very big hearts in addition. Your response to the appeal for clothing for the homeless in Hunterdon County was truly heartwarming. Those coordinating the clothing drive want the Guild to know how meaningful our contributions were to their efforts.

This is the time of the year when it is customary to develop a list of resolutions for the New Year. I encourage you to add a rug hooking resolution or two to your list. For members who are relatively new rug hookers, you may want to sign up for a workshop or camp. Until you participate in one of these events, it is hard to appreciate how worthwhile they are to our learning and development. They are lots of fun too! For more experienced members, perhaps this is the year to tackle a project that has been on your mind for some time. For some it may be simply a commitment to carve out time to hook on a regular basis.

Consider how the Guild can help you achieve your hooking goals. Let us know if there is an instructor with whom you want to work or a subject or technique that can be covered at one of our meetings. Our goal is to be responsive to the needs of Guild members. Let us know how we can help.

On behalf of our officers, we wish you all the very best for the New Year. Keep pulling those loops! -- Weezie

January Meeting – Friday, January 8, 2010 – Our normal meeting location is not available in January, so we will meet at our alternate site -- the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the traffic circle outside of Flemington. For new members and guests, this is the circle on Rt. 523 a mile or so from our regular meeting location. (If you were leaving our regular meeting site, turn right onto Rt. 12. Go beyond the traffic light to the first traffic circle. The Raritan Township Municipal Complex is on the right just as you enter the traffic circle.)

Guild Program – Our annual White Elephant Sale and Auction is a major fundraiser for the Guild. Sharon Ballard, our usual Guild auctioneer, will not be able to be at the meeting, but Weezie has offered to step in. She will be recruiting auctioneer assistants to help. Bring quality items you are willing to donate. We will have less meeting room space, so please donate nicer things - no left over garage sale items please. 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. Part of the auction will be silent

and part out loud and raucous. Your participation is a great way to support our Guild - by recycling – by bidding -- by buying – by cheering on the bidders.

Show & Tell – Bring rugs/mats with a seasonal theme, your current project or something you completed in 2009. The “show & tell” portion of the meeting is consistently mentioned by members as an important source of inspiration. Please share your work with the Guild. (This is an easy New Year’s resolution!)

Hospitality – Kathy Donovan, Dee Rosebrock, Joan Shymko and Aggie Wooden are our hospitality volunteers for January. We thank them in advance for providing the treats that add to our meeting enjoyment.

Membership – Loriann Fell and Sonia Force joined the Guild several months ago, but we overlooked mentioning this in earlier issues of The Loop. We welcome them now and look forward to getting to know them better

Roberta Smith reports from her new home in Vermont that she follows the Guild through The Loop and is “pleased to learn that the Guild is growing and is so active”. In addition to two local groups, Roberts hooks with Guild member Barbie Beck-Wilczek and goes to the Northeast Kingdom Guild meetings which are every other month in different towns. She sees Helen Wolfel, a long standing and favorite HCRAAG camp instructor, there.

Deb Adam has a new email address – deborahadam164@comcast.net. Linda Czeck also has a new email address – wildflowersfarm@gmail.com.

Sunshine – Lee Hurford fell leaving the December meeting breaking and dislocating her shoulder. She and her husband are very grateful to those who stayed with Lee and comforted her until the ambulance arrived. The accident did not prevent Lee from attending her grandchild’s baby shower the next day. After all some things are just important!

Cliff Ballard is recovering from heart surgery that took place in early December. Sharon Ballard’s mother suffered a stroke a few days after Christmas. Please keep them in your prayers along with others members who are recovering from illnesses.

January Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to those celebrating their special day this month – Sandra Barkman (1/17), Margie Briggs (1/9), Joyce Combs (1/15), Mary Gaskin (1/14), Lois Grieves (1/14), Kim Korth (1/9), Janet Kovach (1/19), Annie Lee (1/15), Jacqueline Lee (1/6) and Kitty Platt (1/9). Happy Birthday to you all!

January Hooking Retreat – Two Spots Still Available -- It may be raining or even snowing as it did one year, but those attending our January hooking retreat will be warm inside the Flemington Hampton Inn enjoying the company of fellow rug hookers -- an ideal remedy for post-holiday stress.

Following our January meeting, participants will make the short journey to gather at the Hampton Inn. We will be hooking Friday afternoon, Friday night, all day Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday until 4 in the afternoon. This is an ideal time to work on the Guild’s current friendship rug project, to complete a long neglected project or to start a new one. You can commute or stay overnight.

The retreat is an ideal opportunity for new members to get to know others in the Guild. There are only two spots remaining. Sign up now and join the following Guild members for a fun weekend:

Deb Adam	Cheryl Halliday	Jacqueline Lee	Paula Patti
Susan Atwater	Weezie Huntington	Lydia Lewis	Dee Rosebrock
Helen Buchanan	Lee Hurford	Joan Lucas	Joan Symko
Gail Ferdinando	Carol Kindt	Gisele Meader	Debbie Walsh
Karl Gimber	Deanna Kinney	Marion Michel	Kay Weeks
Lois Grieves	Jana Laidlaw	Kathleen Murray-Boyda	

Participants are requested to bring snacks and treats for the refreshment table at the retreat.

The retreat is one of the bargains of the year – only \$35 for the entire weekend! (Give or send your check made payable to HCRAG to Carol Kindt at 17 Lazy Brook Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.) *Guild members are invited to stop by during the weekend and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with us.*

February Mat Swap -- We will be swapping mats at our February meeting. The mats should be 9" X 9" and the design should have something to do with Valentines Day or February. This is a chance to own another Guild member's artwork! Even if you are new, your mat will be appreciated. You do not have to be a seasoned hooker to make a good mat. If you have any questions, Joyce Combs will be available after the meeting to give you ideas and encouragement! Now that all the Holiday rush is calming down let's start to hook!

2nd Annual March Madness Weekend Workshops – March 19-21, 2010 – Michele Micarelli's workshop has been expanded to an open workshop to accommodate any project participants may want to work on in lieu of the Klimt Tree of Life (see below)..

Purses, Pocketbooks, Handbags --. Whatever you call them, they are fun. And they are a great way to try something new. You do not need to be a master rug hooker or a professional seamstress to create a beautiful purse. You just need patience and a few special tricks.

Along with a few hooking and color-planning tips, you will go through all the steps required to create a one-of-a-kind handmade bag, including: pre-hooking preparations, choosing and sewing lining, trim, handles, attaching closures and final assembly. Hook an original design or add your own motifs. Then learn how to put it all together.

This workshop is currently full; however, a waiting list has been established.

Michele Micarelli – Those participating in Michele's workshop have the option of bringing any project to work on or to begin the pattern inspired by the fabulous Klimt painting, the Tree of Life. The change to an open workshop permits broader participation for those who want the experience of working with Michele Micarelli.

Those electing to work on the Tree of Life will find amazing geometric configurations hidden in the branches and underground. The shapes that just seem to appear as stylized flowers and seeds are fodder for color and texture as well as some mixed fabrics and yarns. Michele will be coming loaded with wool and other supplies for your hooking adventure. Laughter guaranteed. Patterns can be purchased from Michele.

March Madness begins with a wine and cheese reception on Friday night (March 19) and provides an opportunity to visit with the instructors about their workshops. Our favorite massage therapist, Joy Andrews, will be there Saturday afternoon to help relax any stiff muscles.

The fee for members is \$150 and \$175 for non-members. A \$25 non refundable deposit is needed to reserve a spot. Send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber, P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913.

Hook-in and Rug Show - March 20, 2010 -- The Woolwrights ATHA Chapter is sponsoring a hook-in and rug show on the first day of spring – March 20, 2010. It will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 (www.farmandhomecenter.com). There will be 15 vendors (including many of our favorites and more), a guest rug show and a mat swap. Proddy and punch needle demonstrations will take place during the day. A gorgeous stand and frame from K's Creations will be raffled. A box lunch will be available. Raffle tickets for a hand crafted hooking stand and a 14" hexagonal frame from K's Creations will be available at our meeting.

The members of The Woolwrights are pleased to present this Hook-In and Rug Show as a fundraiser for the 2011 ATHA Biennial which will be held in Lancaster, PA. For registration, directions, vendor names, photo of raffle items go to: www.woolwrights.com.

14th Annual HCRAAG 2010 Rug Hooking Camp – August 9-13, 2010 – Our tradition of inviting nationally known instructors to our rug hooking camp continues with Cherylyn Brubaker, Jen Lavoie and Diane Phillips joining us for the week. Two workshops will be devoted to specific subjects – landscapes (Jen Lavoie) and portraits (Diane Phillips) – and one open workshop (Cherylyn Brubaker). Full workshop descriptions can be found on our website – www.hcrag.com – and in the November 2009 issue of The Loop.

The fee for the week is \$150 for HCRAAG members who paid their dues by November 13, 2009. It is \$225 for others. To register, just send a \$25 nonrefundable deposit to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. Make your check payable to HCRAAG.

Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship – The Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship for attendance at our annual rug hooking camp. The scholarship can be used to recognize a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild, for someone who would not attend otherwise, to recognize a long time member, to welcome a new member, etc. In other words, the criteria are very broad. Nominations should be submitted to Weezie Huntington, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, by March 12, 2010.

Contributions to the fund can be made by sending a check made payable to HCRAAG to Guild Treasurer, Margaret Brightbill, at 1382 Newtown-Langhorne Road, A111, Newtown, PA 18940.

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. If you have interest, let Camp Director, Dee Rosebrock, know.

HCRAG Members Open Their Hearts! -- The request to donate hats, scarves and gloves along with towels, washcloths and soap for the homeless was sent out and Guild members generously responded. Bags of donated items brought to the December meeting filled the corner or our meeting room.

The manager of The Consignment Shop in Flemington, who coordinated the collection drive, expected that we “might bring a bag or two”. She was nonplussed when we arrived with a car trunk stuffed with bags and the back seat jammed to the ceiling. She subsequently sent the following message: “Thanks to your Guild, we delivered over 100 scarves, over 100 hats and more than 100 bars of soap to Fisherman's Mark in Lambertville today. There was so much stuff I wasn't able to count it all! Some of the towel sets went to women who were leaving SAFE and getting their own apartments, the rest to the homeless in Lambertville.”

Time to Start Thinking About Officer Elections -- Guild by-laws call for the election of officers in April. This is the time to begin thinking about how you can assist the Guild in the coming year. Weezie announced at a recent meeting that she expects to move this year, so we will need a new president. Our by-laws provide for senior and junior roles. This allows for a period to be an understudy. Current officers are listed at the end of the newsletters. Seek them out to learn more about what is involved in their roles.

Guild Demonstration Coordinators Overlooked -- Gisele Meader and Dee Rosebrock were inadvertently overlooked as event coordinators in the listing in the December issue of The Loop. Gisele is responsible for organizing our participation at the Holcombe-Jimison Farming Celebration. Dee oversees our efforts at the popular Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair in August. A belated thank you to Gisele and Dee.

Featured Member – Tracy Fetzer -- Tracy was intrigued when she saw her friend Joyce Combs hooking a rug. That was in the late 1990s. Joyce gave her backing, wool and the instructional pages from Rug Hooking Magazine and sent her on her way. Although Tracy's first project required a lot of reverse hooking, she was not deterred. Her journey and development as a gifted rug hooking artisan was launched.

Finding time to hook had to compete with the passion for boating that Tracy shared with her husband, Albi. In 1997 they refurbished a boat in Maine which they then sailed to the Florida Keys where it was docked at a marina. It became their home away from home. That first boat was sold and they purchased a 58 foot “Launch” (used to carry sailors to shore). Work started on converting the boat to a floating home. For the next 10 years Tracy and Albi spent increasing periods of time in Florida. Tracy's hooking was restricted to their stays back in Pennsylvania. Life on the boat was too hot for hooking.

Tracy prefers hooking in the primitive style. She has done crewel embroidery and some McGown style hooking, but finds it too exacting. “I don't have the discipline required for fine cut hooking” she claims. Tracy is more comfortable hooking with # 8cuts. In the beginning, Tracy “bought wool like crazy”. She went to all the local thrift shops looking for wool garments. Like most of us, she made mistakes buying wool that was not well suited for rug hooking, but learned in the process. She continues to work with “as is” wool, but is much more selective. Tracy also does her share of buying new wool. Tracy enjoys over dyeing wool. At one point she experimented with natural dyes coming from Goldenrod and walnut hulls. She was pleased with the results and wants to do more.

The desire to learn and improve her skills is the motivation to attend local workshops and camps in the area. Tracy is a regular participant at the HCRAG rug hooking camp. In addition, she has attended workshops at Goat Hill Studio, The Highlands and Shelburne Museum. Tracy feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with and be exposed to talented instructors such as Norma Batastini, Elizabeth Black, Gail Dufresne, Jayne Hester, Anne Marie Littenberg, Jule Marie Smith and Helen Wolfel. She recalls fondly her HCRAG camp with Helen Wolfel who at the time was retiring from traveling to camps. "Helen was the most wonderful teacher... such a dream...loved her."

Joyce Combs introduced Tracy to HCRAG and to the "Hooksome Chatmore" Group. She is also a member of the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter. The relationships and friendships formed proved to be a blessing when Tracy's life changed dramatically with the sudden and unexpected death of her husband in early 2007. Her family and rug hooking friends provided comfort and helped Tracy deal with her new life. "I treasure those friendships and could not have made it without them" she says. Using her studio that Albi built over his woodworking shop has special meaning to her when she gathers with friends. "It is a wonderful place to hook, especially on sunny or rainy days" says Tracy. "It has lots of glass windows and the views are so relaxing."

Tracy prefers to hook on linen. Monk's cloth is "too slick". Her early use of commercial patterns was not satisfying. She found it difficult to relate to the designs. Consequently, Tracy now draws her own rug patterns. In the last two years, she has established more of a hooking routine. Tracy likes to hook in her kitchen in the mornings because the light is good and she can enjoy a fire in the woodstove. She finds that her schedule normally allows her to hook at least three mornings a week in addition to the Thursday gatherings of the "Hooksome Chatmore" Group. That schedule is augmented by a week long winter trip to New England to hook with past members.

Tracy is never bored with life. She is an avid gardener, belongs to a book club and has always "dabbled in the arts" -- pottery, watercolor and writing. Knitting has been a passion of hers for many years as is house restoration. Tracy also enjoys cooking, hiking and boating. "Travel has always been high on my list, starting when I was a teenager" she claims. She fondly recalls when she was living in New York City, her roommate's sister was going to Greece and asked her if she wanted to come. "Yes!" was the answer. Tracy's father once advised her to save one half of the money she earned from baby sitting and other odd jobs. Fortunately she heeded that advice and had a nest-egg to finance her first major trip. They traveled all through Europe, Greece, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. Before coming home, Tracy joined a Turkish freighter heading to Italy for six more weeks. "It was basic living, but a fabulous experience", Tracy recalls.

When it comes to her work experiences, they are diversified. Tracy lived in Manhattan and did editing for two magazines – Rudder (a boating magazine) and Woman's Day. She earned a BA Degree in Nursing and worked as a Hospice Nurse and a Home Care Nurse for 10 years. Tracy joined her sister-in-law as a partner in The Complete Gardener, a local landscape and gardening business. She has also worked as a massage therapist.

Her family is very important and much time is spent with them even though many miles separate them. She has two step-daughters – Shawn and Lischen. Shawn, the oldest, is an artist and lives in Atlanta with her husband Michael who works for the Cartoon Network. They have three sons – Fin, Alden and Tristan. Lischen is in nursing school and lives in Carversville, PA with her husband Steve and three children – Brooke, Morgan and Max. Steve is the CEO of a computer technology company. Tracy has two daughters of her own – Kelly and Amy. Kelly is a stay at home mom living in Reno, Nevada with her husband, Bill, who works for the Department of

Agriculture Conservation Service. They have three children – Zach, Samantha and Ian. Daughter Amy lives in Panama City, Panama. Her husband, Jorge, works for a natural resource company. They have two children – Blake and Isabella. Tracy looks forward to her trips to see her family and for the times they join her at her home in Point Pleasant, PA.

HCrag Library -- Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, will be bringing a selection of books to each meeting. 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. She can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net. A revised list of item in our library is attached to newsletter.

From Joyce Combs' Dye Pot – The amount of water in the dye pot does not affect the color just the evenness of the dyeing. Some people add 1 tablespoon of non-iodized salt. It may help the dye to absorb better. If you want a mottled effect do not add salt. Some dyers recommend a drop of Jet Dry or another wetting agent in their dye pot to make the dye absorb better.

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Lydia Lewis) – Who Dun It?! Remember when a good book or movie kept you in suspense and it was difficult to figure out who “dun it”? Well, we as rug hookers do not want that to happen to our creations in the future. We need to put some identification on our hooked artwork -- whether it is our initials, name or cute logo and the date. It is important to have the date spelled out...as 2010 rather than '10. If Heloise was doing a rug, she might make a huge H in a contrasting color or blend it in a little or even turn the H sideways. It depends on the background or border or where you are putting the ID. Also, we learned that the binding can be embroidered with all sorts of information for the future. Sewing machines can do miracles today. No matter how you ID your rug, just remember to do it.

HCrag Website –Visit the Guild’s website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured member, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 28, 2009 to April 24, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. Susan Feller is the Guest Curator for an exhibit of contemporary hooked rugs that were inspired by Pennsylvania German fraktur drawings. The rugs are on display with fraktur and redware pottery items from the Heritage Center’s collection. For more information, contact the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or www.schwenkfelder.com.

Klimt Workshop – January 27 to 29, 2010 -- Michele Micarelli is conducting a three day workshop on a Klimt painting titled “Tree of Life”. You can hook it all in wool colors of your choice or break out into yarns and other fabrics. Using alternate material and techniques will be explored in depth. This is a great chance to be surrounded by creative like minded people. The workshop will be conducted at Michel’s studio in Hartford, CT from 10-3. The fee is \$285. For more information, contact Michele at 203-387-8690 or my email at amicarelli@snet.net.

Exploring Molas with Norma Batastini – March 8-10, 2010 – The Kuna Indians of the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama are known for their beautiful hand stitched molas. Layers of brightly colored cottons are cut away to form intricate designs inspired by their flora and fauna. Norma has designed several rugs reflecting the styles and themes of the traditional molas. The

class will explore the techniques, colors and subjects of traditional molas and how they translate into rug hooking. You may choose one of Norma's designs or she will work with you to design your own. For more information, contact Norma at 973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com.

The Textures of Africa with Linda Woodbury – March 12-14, 2010 – This class combines two of Linda's loves, rug hooking and the animals of Africa. The class will explore the use of textured wool when hooking animals and flowers. Linda will discuss the ins and outs of recycled wool, the treasures that make her work unique. You may choose from five designs in the African Series: the elephant, lion, greater kudu, rhinoceros and zebra. You may also work on any other design suitable for textures. For more information, contact Linda at 973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – March 20, 2010 -- The ATHA Woolwrights Chapter is hosting a hook-in at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. This is a fundraiser to support the 2011 ATHA Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster, PA. For more information and to register visit www.woolwrights.com.

Hooked Rug Presentation at Longstreet Farm – March 27, 2010 -- "Tavern Sign Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell" is the subject of a presentation by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber at Longstreet Farm from 1-3 on March 27, 2010. The Gimbels will also use their 50 + hooked rugs to help discuss their journey as rug hooking artisans. For more information contact Ronnie Grothusen at 732-946-3758.

ATHA Biennial Conference in Lancaster, PA – October 19-22, 2011 -- For more information, contact Mary Lynne Naples at marylynnelan@aol.com.

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

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 8, 2010 – Annual White Elephant Sale and Auction**

January 8-10, 2010 – Rug Hooking Retreat – Flemington Hampton Inn

February 12, 2010 – Something to Warm the Heart – Pet Designs (Lydia Brenner & Cheryl Halliday) **

March 12, 2010 Monthly Meeting – Round Robin Demo (Connie Coleman, Gisele Meader and others) *

March 19 – 21, 2010 – March Madness – Flemington Hampton Inn

April 9, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting -- Back a Jacket (Lydia Lewis)**

May 14, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

June 11, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting - - Annual Picnic*

August 9-13, 2010 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

August 12, 2010 – HCRAG Beginners' Workshop – Educational Services Commission School

*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.

** 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.

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.

President – Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Open

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

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net

Programs – Kitty Platt – 908-782- 8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com

Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com

Secretary – Debbie Walsh 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

Special Events – Carol Kindt 908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net

Sunshine – Sue Woodworth 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill - 215-968-2711 or katie4rose@aol.com

Dee Rosebrock (Asst. Treasurer) – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com

Webmaster – Laurie Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.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 karlg@nni.com. by the 20th of the month.

**Hunterdon Country Rug Artisans Guild
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by President Weezie Huntington. Weezie thanked everyone for bringing shoebox gifts to exchange. Guests today were Jo Knobloch and Norma Batastini..

Old Business

- March Madness - Michelle Micarelli's class will now be an open class.
- Retreat – There are currently 3 openings, due to some cancellations. Today is the last day to get a hotel room at the reduced rate. Weezie will contact the masseuse for Saturday afternoon.
- Camp – The 3 classes still have plenty of room. Teachers will be Jen Lavoie, Diane Phillips, and Cherylyn Brubaker. Weezie spoke with Donna at the ESC school and the school will not be closing so we will have camp there in 2011. There was discussion about whether Camp 2011 should be held the week of August 15 – 19 or August 8 – 12. It was mentioned that the Green Mountain hook-in is usually the first weekend in August.

New Business

- Carol Kindt needs to know how many Guild kits there are. During demonstrations some people have asked if there are any other patterns available. The possibility of making and selling two different patterns in our kits was discussed.
- The January meeting will be at the police station. Be sure the read The Loop – there are several other meetings that will be held at the police station as well.
- Lots of hats, scarves, and soap donations came in – Connie suggested that we continue to do similar charities.

The meeting was adjourned and members showed holiday ornaments and rugs that they've hooked. Lots of delicious food was eaten.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Debbie Walsh