

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

January 2012

Presidents' Letter – January is a quiet month. No holidays that require cooking large meals, buying presents for everyone and decorating. Just normal life and a little more time for ourselves. As rug hookers it is a time to get back to the art that we love. Will we design a new rug, finish an already started project, or learn a new skill? It is a great month to get ourselves organized!

We have many programs and special events planned for the remainder of our program year. There should be something for everyone! Our January meeting will be full of laughter and bidding on the wide variety of items that will be brought to the White Elephant sale. The same day many of our members will enjoy the beginning of a weekend of hooking at the Hampton Inn. This is our very popular January Retreat. It has always been a fun and productive weekend. If you are not signed up for the retreat but want to see what we are working on, you are welcome to stop by for a short visit.

We hope each and everyone of us has a wonderful 2012.

Dee and Joyce

January Meeting – Friday, January 13, 2012 -- The January meeting will be held at our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road. Our meeting begins at 10:00 and ends at 2:00. 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 – January is National Hobby Month. Let's show off our favorite hobby. The flower for this month is the carnation. Bring in a rug with flowers to give us a taste of the spring yet to come. You never know what you could take home for helping lift our winter spirits! We are always interested in seeing your current project.

Remember there is a raffle ticket for those who show and tell with a chance to win one of our many prizes. Any member donations for raffle prizes are greatly appreciated. If you could send Cheryl, Gisele or Lydia an email or call to let them know you are bringing a prize, it will be helpful in planning the quantity of prizes at any one meeting. We thank you for your support!

The S & T winners for December were:

- Sharon Ballard – Candy
- Cindy Boults – Towel & Pot Holder
- Margaret Brightbill – Sheep Ornament
- Ellen DiClemente – Painted Multi-Purpose Handle
- Juliana Kapusta – Snippet Bag
- Therese Shick – Gin & Tonic Ice Cube Molds
- Bernice Smith -- Wool

The prizes were donated by Joyce Combs, Ingrid Cosmen, Karl Gimber, Weezie Huntington, Lydia Lewis, Dee Rosebrock, and Betsy Warner.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks for the meeting -- Cindy Boults, Helen Buchanan, Kathy Donovan, Barbara Kimborough, and Amy Korengut. Your efforts help make our gatherings more enjoyable.

January Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - - Cindy Boults (1/14), Margie Briggs (1/9), Eileen McNally (1/23), Joyce Combs (1/15), Lois Grieves (1/14), Janet Kovach (1/19), Annie Lee (1/15), Jacqueline Lee (1/6) and Pat Levin (1/3). Enjoy your day! .

Membership – Linda Reitz has a new email address – lindarz@gmail.com.

Sunshine – Joan Lucas broke her ankle after slipping and falling in her yard. We wish her a fast recovery.

Guild News & Events

Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship -- The nomination and selection process for the Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship is being accelerated this year so that the recipient will have all workshops available from which to select. In past years some of the camp workshops were full at the time the scholarship was announced.

The Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to allow a deserving member to attend the HCRAg summer rug hooking camp. This is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations and recommendations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking;
- or for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Joyce or Dee by January 20, 2012. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the February meeting.

Hooked Rug Tavern Sign in Early American Life Magazine -- An article by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber on their Green Dragon Tavern sign rug and the story associated with the tavern is in the February 2012 issue of Early American Life. The Boston Tea Party was planned at the Green Dragon.

Officer Nominations – Nominations are being accepted for the team of officers/chairs who will assume their responsibilities in May. The formal election will be at the April meeting. A change to our by-laws that expands the role of Vice President to include responsibility for Membership was approved at the last meeting. Our revised by-laws are being sent to members with this newsletter.

Those who have been nominated or who have expressed interest are listed below.

- Co-President – Cindy Boults and Therese Shick
- Vice President – Debbie Walsh *
- Historian – Sonia Force *
- Hospitality – Deanna Kinney *
- Librarian – Kathy Donovan *
- Programs -- OPEN
- Public Relations & Newsletter – Karl Gimber *
- Secretary – Susan Woodworth (Assistant – Linda Kling)
- Special Events -- OPEN
- Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando
- Treasurer – Jana Laidlaw * (Assistant Treasurer – OPEN)

* incumbent

Members having interest in or needing information about the various positions should contact the incumbents or our Co-Presidents -- Joyce Combs or Dee Rosebrock. Their contact information can be found at the end of The Loop.

January Hooking Retreat – Only Two Openings Remain – There is still time to participate in our annual January hooking retreat; two openings remain. In past years the retreat took place in one of the conference rooms at the Flemington Hampton Inn. The response was so great this year that an adjoining conference room was booked as well.

The retreat will begin after our meeting on January 13, 2012 and will end at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday the 15th. The cost is \$35 for the entire week-end – the bargain of the year! Let Joyce Combs know if you want to join in on the fun weekend.

Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate is available for those who want to stay overnight. Call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild. Kay Weeks is looking for someone to share her room. She can be reached at 908 832-7155.

A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate. Let Joyce know of any other ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

4th Annual Spring Fling – March 23, 24 & 25, 2012 -- Two exciting workshops (The Magic of Masquerade and Exploring Color & Hooking) will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, March 23, 2012 to Sunday March 25, 2012. Participants can stay at the Hampton Inn or commute. For a discounted room rate for those who want to stay over night, call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

Instructors: The Magic of Masquerade with Cyndy Duade -- Let your imagination go out to play! Create your own magical mask to wear or be a wall display. Class includes a kit with the basic mask pattern, eye ribbon, and soft backing for the mask (\$15). You can embellish the basic pattern as drawn or transform it to your own creation. Combine wool, yarn, fabric, beads, feathers, and bling. Hook, sculpt, proddy, or embellish.

Class will cover mask design, choosing materials and embellishments, attaching special effects, backing application, finishing edges, and mounting for wall display. Lots of colorful wool, fabric, and embellishments will be available. Bring your imagination and creativity to this fun class and you can wear your mask home on Sunday!

Cyndy Duade lives in Springfield NH near lakes and mountains. She is an accredited McGown Teacher and attends Teachers' Workshop for continuing education. She has been teaching rug hooking for 12 years and enthusiastically embraces all styles of rug hooking.

Exploring Color & Hooking with Angela Foote -- Let the knowledge of color stimulate you to step outside your color box. Use your favorite color in a new way. Explore a variety of dyed wools, spots, dips, and sparkling marbled wools, swirling with color to enliven your rugs. Bring your love of color and hooking to class. Students may start a new project or spark up an existing project. All styles of hooking are welcome!

Students are contacted prior to class to discuss rug patterns, custom designs, color choices and any other hooking needs. Wools can be custom dyed for your project or as an addition to your wool stash. Angela travels with a large assortment of beautiful dyed wools.

Angela Foote is a passionate creative rug hooker who loves to work with color. She is well known for her beautifully dyed wools and unique wool garments. Whether over the dye pot, teaching classes, lecturing on color, or creating in her studio, Angela's 30 years of experience is evident in her works of art. She is a certified McGown teacher, member of ATHA and enjoys hooking in both fine shading and primitive styles. She has regular classes in her studio and teaches at guild meetings and workshops across New England. FABRICFOOTE is her hooking and dying business.

Workshop Size: 12 - 15 students each class

Meals/Snacks: We will provide coffee and tea. Participants may bring snacks to share.

Cost: \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required at the time of registration. The balance will be due at or before our February meeting. In the event you need to cancel after our February meeting, a refund less a \$25 cancellation fee will be made if we are able to fill the spot. If we are unable to fill the spot there will be no refund.

Schedule: Friday- Evening reception and meeting with instructors (5:00 – 8:00)
Saturday - workshop (9:00 - 4:30)
Sunday - workshop (8:30 - 3:30)

To register, send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAAG, to Cindy Boultz 1 Spring Hill Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801, with a note indicating the instructor with whom you want to work. If you have questions, direct them to Cindy at cboultz@gmail.com or 908-730-0146.

HCRAAG Partners with Mennonite Heritage Center for Hook-in/Clinic – April 21, 2012 -- The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 21, 2012 from 9:00 to 3:30. The feedback from last year confirmed that participants liked the smaller size and museum like venue.

We will have an expanded group of vendors --

- Blue Tulip (Karen Worthington)
- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Misty Pond Primitives (Pat Donoho)
- Two Old Crows (Jeannine Happe)
- Woodcrest Rug Designs (Joanne Gerwig)
- Wool'n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)

In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have two mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. We are planning for about 50 people in addition to the beginners' workshop. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to register early.

The museum exhibits that will be on display make the Mennonite Heritage Center a special site for our hook-in. Their exhibit of Pennsylvania German fraktur is quite extraordinary and an ideal location for our exhibit of rugs hooked by participants. In addition, there will be a special display entitled “*Milestones: Observances in Mennonite Family and Church Life*” as well as their permanent exhibit on Mennonite history.

Registration is required as participation is limited. The event fee of \$45 (non-Heritage Center Member) and \$40 (MHC member) includes a full lunch and coffee/snacks. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020. Visit their website -- www.mhep.org for more information on their programs.

Beginners' Rug Hooking Workshop (April 21, 2012) – Call for Wool -- Juliana Kapusta and Patty Mahaffey will be conducting a workshop for beginners at our hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center. They have designed a geometric pattern and are requesting members to bring to our January meeting leftover wool strips that can be used for the kits. The strips should be a #5 cut or less and grouped by color. Please do not bring a loose pile of mixed color strips.

The fee for the workshop is \$45 (non-Heritage Center member) and \$40 (MHC member) plus \$20 for the kit. Participants need to provide a 10" embroidery hoop and a pair of sharp scissors. The workshop will be limited to nine participants. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020.

HCRAG Annual Summer Camp (August 13 -17, 2012) --Our Guild's 16th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 13, 2012 through August 17, 2012 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors – Arline Bechtoldt, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh will again run camp in 2012.

Our Teachers –

Jeanne Benjamin: Jeanne started hooking in 1971 and became McGown certified in 1979. She owns New Earth Designs, a pattern business of diverse designs, and also has a dyed wool mail order business. Jeanne has a loyal following and is known for her beautiful dyeing and color planning, often dyeing 50 yards or more of wool weekly.

Jeanne stresses good pre-camp communication and advance planning to maximize students' class time. She gives instructions in small increments which enables her to get around the classroom quickly. Class time includes question and answer periods so everyone can participate and learn, not only from individual instruction, but from group time as well.

Jeanne expects you to relax, keep an open mind, and enjoy this creative time! Jeanne often teaches an open class (she enjoys a large class with diversity) but her specialties are Orientals, making a primitive design look antique, folk art, and pictorials.

Arline Bechtoldt: Arline is an accredited teacher who enjoys teaching a student driven class. She recently gave a talk at the Alice Beatty Chapter of ATHA and showed her rugs which ranged from beautifully fine shaded faces, flowers, and antique designs, to whimsical and primitive motifs.

Before camp Arline discusses with each student their particular needs for their rug. She will help with color planning and can provide custom dyed wool as needed and/or work with wool already on hand. She will also bring a supply of wool to class.

During class time Arline will discuss technique, color planning, and finishing, and as the day is winding down, creative stitches, dyeing techniques, labeling,

and any other topics of interest. Arline plans to ensure that your rug becomes the masterpiece you envision!

Lucille Festa: Lucille is a collector of antiques and a history buff especially interested in the American Civil War era and women's history. She started her business, American Country Rugs, about seven years ago and sells patterns (including her “door people”) via her website.

She specializes in primitive style rugs and often incorporates old antique colors, textures, and wide cut wools as well as folk art images into her rugs. Lucille loves colors that evoke a feeling of antiquity and enjoys creating rugs with an aged look. She brings plenty of wool plaids, checks, tweeds, and herringbones to her classes. She will help you to color plan and hook a warm, antique style rug that will be passed down through the generations.

Registration/Instructional Fees –The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2011. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2012. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2012, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Members Respond Generously For SAFE Holiday Collection – The Guild collected towel sets, PJs and slippers for the women and children who seek refuge at the shelter supported by “SAFE” in Hunterdon County. The Guild coordinated their efforts with the Consignment Shop in Flemington, NJ whose proceeds go to support SAFE.

Our members responded generously and brought their donations to the December meeting. Ellen DiClemente photographed an image of Cindy Boults and Therese Shick with the table full of items collected (see website) and the image was sent to the local papers along with our press release on the collection drive.

SAFE provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault. Chris Vogel, Manager of The Consignment Shop, thanked the Guild for its continuing support and said “The Guild’s contributions will help bring some happiness and comfort to the women and children who are in need of shelter and safety in the holiday season.” For more information on SAFE and its services, go to its website -- www.safeinhunterdon.org or call 908-788-7666.

Thank You Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter – The Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter invited our members to their December meeting to enjoy the program on hooking “Door People” presented by Lucille Festa (American County Rugs) from Vermont. She

discussed tips on hooking, gluing and finishing the project. It was a relaxed and informative program. Most of the people who attended purchased at least one of Lucille's patterns.

The following members took advantage of this special invitation: Susan Atwater, Joyce Combs, Kathy Donovan, Susan Johnson, Margaret Lutz, Dee Rosebrock, Janet Santaniello, and Debbie Walsh.

We thank the members of the Alice Beatty Guild for the invitation and hope that there will be more opportunities for joint programs in the future.

New Library Additions – We wish to thank Gail Dufresne, Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas for their donations to the Guild's Library. The following books have been added to our library.

- *Creating Hooked Rugs* by Vera Bisbee Underhill (1951)
- *Geometric Hooked Rug : Color & Design* by Gail Dufresne (2011)
- *The Hooked Rug* by William Kent (1937)

Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her 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 freija2@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.

Meet Our Member – Dolores Clark -- Dolores Clark has had an interest in rug hooking from a time in the 1970s when she observed a rug hooking demonstration at a church in Pennington, NJ. She recalls "The women had frames that appeared to have been made by their husbands, not like the frames we see today." The demands of her family and her job prevented Dolores from pursuing her interest.

Dolores' father passed away in the early 1960s, so she had the responsibility of caring for her mother in addition to her brother who was born with a serious vision disability. She raised four children and worked as the municipal tax collector for East Windsor, NJ. Dolores and her husband, Barry, were living in a house next to the one in which she was born and raised when they lost both houses to the widening of the New Jersey Turnpike and relocation of Exit 8. In a short time, they had to find another house and consolidate possessions from the two houses.

Fiber arts always had a special appeal. Over the years, Dolores has done knitting, crocheting, quilting and spinning. In the 1970s she learned how to spin and dye wool using natural dyes. Her sons were in 4-H and raised rabbits and sheep, so she had a ready supply of wool. Dolores likes to work with bulky yarns. She still has her spinning wheels and wants to get back to spinning again. At one time she bought a kiln and made porcelain dolls.

It was not until she retired that Dolores was in a position to learn to hook. Again, it was a rug hooking demonstration that piqued her interest. This time it was our Guild members demonstrating at the Mercer County 4-H Fair at Howell Farm in 2009. Dolores attended our beginners' workshop that summer and learned the basics by hooking a mat with a bird image. She

joined the Guild shortly thereafter. Her next project was a kit of an American flag. Dolores was set to attend our hooking retreat last January, but her brother passed away a few days before. Dolores did attend our camp last year and worked on a bench pad with instruction and guidance from Iris Simpson. She is currently hooking the sheep for Therese Shick's February Guild meeting project. Up to now, Dolores' formal instruction has been limited to the beginners' workshop and camp. She wants to take additional classes and learn more about hooking techniques. She would also like to be part of a group that hooks on a regular basis; finding time to hook is still a challenge. Dolores is a full time baby sitter for her grandchildren and has raised her 13 year old great-granddaughter, Brianna, from the time she was an infant. Family is her #1 priority!

Dolores notes that she "likes rug hooking because you are creating something functional. The finished piece can go on the floor or hang on the wall. You can admire it and use it too." She "hates waste in any form", so the recycling aspect of rug hooking has considerable appeal. Dolores draws inspiration from Guild members who work with recycled wool and who hook on a regular basis. "I am in awe of the fine and beautiful things our Guild members produce." Dolores says "I do not want to be a perfectionist, just want to create something to use and enjoy. I want to be comfortable with my talents, not competitive."

"I am so new at this and my life is full of my family that I am still feeling my way with rug hooking. I am attracted to primitive rug hooking, but want to learn shading and other styles." She plans to design her own patterns after she "gets her technique down".

After joining the Guild, Dolores has attended all but two meetings. She is impressed by the way she has been received as a new member. "Guild members are so friendly and take you in. It is not 'clicky' like some organizations. I learn something at each meeting. Members are so willing to share."

Both Dolores and Barry worked in local government. Dolores was a municipal tax collector for 33 years. Barry is a former municipal administrator having worked in state and county government before retiring 15 years ago. They live in East Windsor, NJ on two acres of land that accommodates seven "Baby Doll" sheep, a small flock of chickens, a donkey, and a "Zebu" cow. Dolores explained that "the Zebu has the face of a cow but looks more like a donkey. It also has the hump found on Brahma cows." When discussing the donkey, Dolores jokes that "It is useless since it does absolutely nothing. On top of that, we have to build a shed to protect it from the winter weather." Her homestead also includes an orchard and a small fish pond.

Dolores and Barry have four sons – James, Robert, Richard, and David – 12 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Their oldest son James died in a motorcycle accident at the age of 25. Robert and his wife, Ginett, have five children – Christine, Sarah, James, Angelica and Robert. Richard and his wife, Mary Ellen, have three children – Alicia, Emily and Abigail. David has two children – Taylor and Samantha. The children all live close by and are a close knit family. Dolores sees most of her children every day and baby sits for the youngest grandchildren.

Hooking Information & Techniques

Peddler to Pattern-Maker -- "As he traveled throughout northern New England selling tin ware after the Civil War, Edwards Sands Frost (1843-1894) of Biddeford, Maine, noted the quality variations in designs farm women drew on burlap and hooked into rugs

to brighten their homes. Thinking he could tap into this market, Frost began using scrap sheet metal to create stencils for rug patterns.

His patterns proved so popular he abandoned the tin business in 1870 to produce color rug patterns. Six years later, when poor health forced him to sell the business, E. S. Frost and Company catalogs carried about 180 different patterns, including animal, floral, geometric, and 'Turkish' designs.

The Saco Museum explores Frost's enterprise in Rugs All Marked Out through rugs, burlap patterns, and metal stencils from the Maine State Museum collection, which organized the exhibition. The Saco Museum added Frost rugs and patterns from its collection, antique rug hooking tools, and Frost's advertising cards to give visitors an idea of the size, complexity, and range of the nearly 750 patterns the company designed and produced over three decades. A related exhibition, Hooked Rugs by Artists from the Maine Tin Peddler, showcases modern hooked rugs by members of a group of local hooked rug artists named in honor of Frost." (This information was taken from an article in the February 2012 issue of Early American Life.)

For more on these exhibits see the listing under Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities (Page 12).

From Nina's Notebook – Happy New Year! Welcome to a new year of hooking! New Year is a time when we are supposed to make resolutions about all the new habits which we will acquire in the coming year. I don't know about you, but my resolutions seem to last less than that proverbial New York minute. It just doesn't work for me. So instead of resolutions, I am going to suggest some goals which we as rug artisans might adopt for the New Year.

1. Honor our inner artist. There is within each of us an artist longing to be free. Some of us have made that discovery, but it is there for everyone.
2. Try something new...a new stitch, a different color palette, a workshop with a different teacher, whatever stretches your talents.
3. Either finish that piece that has been hanging around forever, or throw it out! You will be surprised how liberating that is.
4. Make your hooking space as attractive and inviting as you can. This will entice you to want to spend more time there and you will be amazed at how much you accomplish.
5. Give yourself permission to spend more time designing, hooking, finishing. No one on their deathbed says I wish I spent more time doing housework. Let your hooking be your greatest legacy.

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise -- Today there is a discussion underway within rug hooking circles about what constitutes the primitive rug hooking style. During the last HCRA Camp, Heloise had an opportunity to sit down with camp instructor Iris Simpson and get her thoughts on the matter. Here are Iris' thoughts on some of the characteristics of primitive rugs.

- All types of simple designs, but very often floral, houses, farm animals, and pets.
- Lack of scale and perspective.
- No concern for proportion or fine details.
- Often childlike, free-hand design.
- Central motif often dominates rug (This is referred to as the “hierarchical” scale; the size of the object is too big for its surroundings, yet is logical for the concept.)
- Motifs similar to those in quilts for geometric designs.
- Little or no shading. Some shading possible, but not “fingered”.
- Outlined, often in black, but not always.
- Lots of neutrals and blacks from discarded clothing.
- Abrupt changes of color when one fabric is used up and another started.
- Large areas such as background made up of different materials of the same hue producing a striated effect.
- All materials used, including wool, cotton, silk, and yarn.
- All weights of wool used, from flannel to coat-weight to blanket.
- Lots of textures from various fabrics e.g., as-is tweeds and plaids
- Strips are wide cut, often hand cut.
- Mostly flat hooking, but some raised up as in Nova Scotia’s “riz roses”. The loops may be open or not.
- Finishing is usually turn-under or show binding.

Thank you Iris!

Recipes – There were multiple requests for the recipes of items brought to our holiday luncheon. They will be included in upcoming issues of The Loop. This month we feature Ellen DiClemente’s Corn Spoon Bread and Kathy Donovan’s Italian Love Cake (a recipe from her friend Ann McCarthy)

CORN SPOON BREAD

Ingredients (serves six):

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for baking dish
- ½ small yellow onion, diced small (1/2 cup)
- 1 jalapeno, diced small
- Coarse salt and ground pepper
- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 cups frozen corn kernels, thawed

- ½ cup yellow cornmeal
 - 4 large eggs, yolks and whites separated
1. Preheat oven to 375. Butter an 8-inch square baking dish. In a medium pot, melt butter over medium-high. Add onion and jalapeno and season with salt and pepper. Cook until onion is soft, about 5 minutes. Add milk and corn and cook until milk is very hot but not bubbling, about 3 minutes. Whisk in cornmeal and cook, whisking constantly, until mixture is thick, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool 10 minutes. Whisk in egg yolks.
 2. In a large bowl, whisk or beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold into corn mixture, and then pour into baking dish. Bake spoon bread until browned on top and set in the middle, 30 to 35 minutes, rotating dish halfway through. Let cool 5 minutes before serving.

ITALIAN LOVE CAKE

Ingredients

1 Box deep chocolate cake mix	1 (8-oz) container Cool Whip
2 lbs ricotta cheese	1 (4-oz) pkg. instant chocolate pudding
¾ cup sugar	1 cup milk
4 eggs	
1 tsp. vanilla extract	

Prepare the cake mix using the box directions. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 inch pan. Mix the cheese, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Pour this over the cake. Bake 1 hour at 350°. When cool, ice the cake with the chocolate pudding prepared with milk and blended with Cool Whip. Refrigerate overnight.

We are thankful to Ellen and Kathy for sharing their recipes.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rugs All Marked Out and Hooked Rugs by Artists from the Maine Tin Peddler – Two Exhibits at Saco Museum, (January 14-March 24, 2012) Two related exhibits are being presented by the Saco Museum, Saco, Maine. One deals with Edward Sands Frost and his rug hooking pattern business; the other showcases contemporary rugs hooked by local hooking artisans. For information call 207-283-3861 or visit www.dyerlibrarysacomuseum.org.

Hook-in at Sauder Village – February 3-4, 2012 -- Historic Sauder Village is sponsoring a hook-in on Friday February 3 and Saturday February 4 from 10 a.m. on the 3rd to 5 p.m. on the 4th. The event is limited to 60 participants. Contact Dawn Hauter, Special Events Coordinator, at 800-590-9755, ext. 3076 to register or for more information.

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside (A Study of the Rugs of Magdalena Briner) – March 13, 14 & 15, 2012 – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering two workshop choices – a one day workshop on March 13, 2012 and a three day workshop on March 13, 14 & 15, 2012. The workshops will feature a lecture by Evelyn Lawrence who has researched the rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner. Contact Norma (973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com) or Linda (973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com) for more information.

Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – March 17, 2012 – The Woolwrights Rug Hooking Guild will be conducting their popular Spring Hook-in on March 17, 2012 from 9-4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Pre-registration is required. Visit the Guild’s website – www.woolwrights.com – for more information.

2012 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 14-18, 2012 – Receive the most up-to-date information by going to www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp.

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.

Goat Hill 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. Visit the Goat Hill website at www.goathillatha.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) 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. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or 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 13, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – White Elephant & Auction *

January 13-15, 2012 – Hooking Retreat – Flemington Hampton Inn

February 10, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – 3-D Hooked Sheep – Workshop by Therese Shick *

March 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking in Geometrics – Lecture & Workshop by Gail Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio) *

March 23-25, 2012 – March Madness Workshop – Flemington Hampton Inn

April 13, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin – Member Led *

April 21, 2012 – Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA

May 11, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Brick Covers – Workshop by Lydia Lewis *

June 8, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Annual “Picnic” & Paper Clipped Feet Chicken – Workshop by Debbie Adam *

August 13-17, 2012 – 16th Annual Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

August 14, 2012 – Beginners Workshop -- ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

September 14, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

October 12, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **

November 2012 – Guild Exhibit – Bucks County Library, Doylestown, PA.

November 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
December 14, 2012 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 1314 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 -- 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 – Joyce Combs – 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com
Vice President – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com
Historian – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freya2@verizon.net
Programs – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com
Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net
Cheryl Halliday – 215-672-2629 or havewenewool@yahoo.com
Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Secretary – Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net
Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
Special Events – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or
thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and
Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net
Sunshine – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com
Treasurer – Jana Laidlaw – 609-497-4576 or jana@fastmail.fm
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com

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 by the 20th of the month.

