

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

January 2013

Presidents' Letter -- We wish all our members and friends the very best for a Happy, Healthy and Energized New Year. We are finally in the year of our Festival and looking forward to months filled with anticipation and collective creative energy! This is indeed the year of 'We Can Do It!' Already our boutique has many contributions of charming lambs, exquisitely unique holiday trees and ornaments, with many more efforts underway. Thanks to all who have joined in all the planning and efforts to date.

We must also pause to remember the passing in the last days of 2012 of our Guild member Carol Collin. Carol was so happy to have been able to attend our camp this last summer as her health had improved enough to be able to join with friends, hook, laugh and hope. We were an important part of her support and I know her wry humor will be missed by many of us.

And if it's January, it must be auction time again. As you will be reminded in further pages of The Loop, this month is our highly anticipated opportunity to share our "bounty". As we pack up our holiday decorations and those special "gifts" in attic and cellar what a perfect opportunity to donate the special item for our Guild fundraising. Please consider items hooking and non-hooking that will delight others and help generate our laughter, and slightly ruckus bidding! We will have items for open bidding and silent bidding. So come prepared to give and get, while having a great time. Sharon and Weezie are ready to move things along with their special brand of banter and humor! As the auction is always packed full, we have decided to forgo Show and Tell this month.

If like us, you have been experiencing HOLIDAZE, not much hooking has been accomplished except for those much appreciated hooked gifts for family and friend. And since they have been bestowed, we can't show them! However as January brings that restive post season time to finally sit, watch the snow fall and HOOK; we will surely have wonderful rugs to share in February. And for those attending the retreat following the Guild meeting, there will diffidently be no excuses for UFOs! Cindy and Therese

January Meeting – Friday, January 11, 2013 -- 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 begins at 10:00 and runs to 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 – There will be no S & T this month so that more time will be available for the auction. Our raffle winners at the December meeting were:

Teri Dabrowski (knitting yarn)
Barbara Lugg (glittered snowflake ornament)
Gisele Meader (Santa candles)
Dee Rosebrock (candlestick)
Martha Thieling (knitting book)

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks/treats to the meeting – Helen Buchanan, Dolores Clark and Barbara Lugg. Others are encouraged to bring something too since we expect a good turnout at this meeting. 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), Margie Briggs (1/9), 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), Jacqueline Lee (1/6) and Pat Levin (1/3). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

Membership – We welcome Chris Coslet, Janet Ksiazek and Linda Miller as new members. Their contact information follows:

Christine Coslet 80 Lakeview Ave. Ringwood, NJ 07456 973-962-1884 chris622@optonline.net	Linda Miller 10 Ravine Ave Wyckoff, NJ 07481 201- 251-8791 gottacook56@optonline.net	Janet Ksiazek 11A June Lane Montvale, NJ 07645 201-307-4921 (no email)
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Annie Edwards has a new email address – anniechevinedwards@gmail.com.

An updated Membership List has been sent to members. Let Debbie Walsh, Membership VP, know of any changes needed.

Sunshine – We learned sadly that Guild member Carol Collin passed away on December 19, 2012 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. We enjoyed seeing Carol at our June picnic meeting and at last summer’s camp and admired her upbeat and positive attitude. Carol was a talented artisan and will be missed. She was our Featured Member for September 2011 – see article below.

Margaret Lutz is recovering at home following a recent stroke. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

Janet Santaniello’s home suffered extensive damage during the recent storm. Most of the repairs have been made and she has moved back in after spending several weeks in a motel.

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

Guild News & Events

Camp Instructor Judy Carter Featured in Rug Hooking Magazine – The January/February 2013 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine features an article on the “Eye See You” rug and project created by Judy Carter, who is one of our 2013 camp instructors, and Lenny Feenan. Guild members Patty Mahaffey and Janet Williams participated in the project and their rugs are pictured as well. Congratulations to all!

Lebanon Township Museum Hosts Hooked Rug Festival Workdays -- Sharon Ballard, Festival Boutique Chair, has arranged with Museum Curators, Joan Lucas and Deanna Kinney, to work on projects at the Lebanon Township Museum that will be sold at our boutique table at the Hooked Rug Festival. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-5:00. Guild members are invited to participate and to support our Festival efforts. Contact Sharon (908-236-7410) to learn the dates she will be at the Museum and what you need to bring.

Early American Life Magazine Features Article on American Sewn Rugs -- The February 2013 issue of Early American Life features a lengthy article by Jan Whitlock on American sewn rugs. The introduction to the article notes: “New research upends what we think we know about so-called hearth rugs. Rather than home projects made from scraps like some hooked rugs, sewn rugs are the work of young women from wealthy households enrolled in academies to learn fine stitching with costly materials.”

The article is drawn from the book American Sewn Rugs: Their History with Exceptional Examples by Jan Whitlock. The issue of EAL will be available for perusal at the January meeting.

Hooking Retreat Follows January Meeting -- After our monthly meeting, participants will move over to the Hampton Inn where we will settle in for a weekend of hooking and fun.

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

- 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, so she can let the others know. She 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.

- Saturday will be “Crazy Sock Day”. Retreaters are encouraged to wear their craziest socks.
- A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate.
- Any questions? Give Weezie a call at 609-477-4339 or send her an email message at weezie711@gmail.com.

Rugs Needed for Guild Exhibit at Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (March 16, 2013) -- The Guild will be exhibiting the work of our members on March 16, 2013 from 10-4 at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead which is maintained by the Hilltown Historical Society in Sellersville, PA.

Our rugs will be displayed throughout the entire house. We estimate that upwards of 60 rugs can be displayed. The size of our hooked work that we typically exhibit is limited; that is not the case for this exhibit. Rugs of all sizes can be accommodated. Most of the rugs will be displayed on the floor, so sleeves are not needed. Smaller items and three dimensional pieces can be used as well. Rugs will be collected at the February and March meetings and will be returned at the April meeting. You are urged to provide a rug or two for this exhibit.

In addition to the display of our rugs, Guild members will be demonstrating rug hooking throughout the Homestead. Juliana Kapusta, Patty Mahaffey and Martha Thieling have volunteered to participate. Karl Gimber is coordinating our efforts. Please let him know if you can assist. You can reach Karl at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net.

Spring Fling Workshops with Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa – April 5 - 7, 2013 – Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning by popular demand to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 5, 2013 to Sunday April 7, 2013. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Cyndy’s workshop is currently full, but a waiting list has been established. There are still a few openings with Lucille. Cindy Boultis is handling registration.

“Door People” Workshop (Lucille Festa) -- If you like fun quick projects, then you will love this class. Door People are designed for your door or door knob. Hook- Finish - Hang a door person. Lucille will walk you through the entire process demonstrating each step. Please visit her website www.americancountryrugs.com to see the entire “Door People” collection (look under small things).

Colorful Leaves Workshop (Cyndy Duade) -- The workshop begins with a “casserole dye” demonstration on Friday night followed by group participation. Each student will dye a piece of wool using this technique. All equipment and wool will be provided. On Saturday students receive kits, choose wool colors, and begin to hook in the leaf veins. Cyndy will present methods and situations for using this dying technique. On Sunday you will continue hooking the leaf. There will be a demonstration and discussion on how to finish the mat by applying hand dyed wool and a ribbon yarn whipped edge.

Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 20, 2013

The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 20, 2013. Holding the event in a museum setting is one of the attractions.

Shopping is always a fun aspect of every hook-in. We are pleased to have “regulars” from previous hook-ins as well as “new faces” --

- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hook Nook (Margaret Lutz)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Wool’n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)
- Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb’s wool)

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 “Remembering the Farm” which has historic farm photographs, artifacts and small farm equipment as well as the newly renovated exhibit on Mennonite history entitled “Work & Hope” which has some interesting textiles.

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.

Our Hook-in Committee currently includes the following Guild volunteers:

Annie Edwards	Pat McDonnell	Cindy Boults
Cheryl Halliday	Joanne McIlmurray	Weezie Huntington
Juliana Kapusta	Sue Schulz	Nancy Sears
Margaret Lutz	Therese Shick	Donna Kolznak
Patty Mahaffey	Betsy Warner	

Please let Event Coordinator, Karl Gimber, know if you can help by contacting him at karlg12@verizon.net or 215-297-0803.

Beginners’ Rug Hooking Workshop (April 20, 2013) – Our plans for the hook-in include offering a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking. The workshop has been fully subscribed in the past. Joanne McIlmurray has volunteered to be one of the instructors. A second instructor is needed so that we can finalize the arrangements and begin to publicize the workshop. Helping to conduct the workshop is

an ideal way to gain teaching experience. Please contact Karl Gimber if you can help or need more information.

Nominations Due this Month for the Brightbill Camp Scholarship -- The 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 Cindy or Therese by January 18, 2013. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the February meeting.

HCRAG 2013 Summer Camp --Our Guild's 17th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors have been recruited. Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Please note that Cynthia's and Sarah's workshops are currently full; there are three openings in Judy's workshop. Waiting lists are being maintained. Cancellations often occur, so you are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list.

Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2013.

Camp Workshops

Judy Carter -- This will be an open animal class. Judy will have Leonard Feenan patterns available such as Giraffe, Mothers Comfort, Tiger, Elephant, Flamingo, etc. You can view Leonard's website at www.theburningartist.com for examples of some of his patterns. Judy will also do custom patterns (she will need the information well in advance of class). Judy can also have patterns made of a single eye or group of eyes from her recent Eye See You project.

Sarah Guiliani -- This will be an open class. Students are free to work on any design in any cut and in any style. Sarah enjoys hooking in a variety of styles; however she specializes in people portraits and animals. She loves the challenge of working with each student individually to create the look they want. The class will include lectures on current rug hooking topics. Sarah strives to create a caring, fun and creative classroom environment.

Sarah owns and operates New England Rug Hooking Studio in South Portland, Maine. Her website is www.uhookrugs.net. Sarah has been hooking and teaching for over 25 years and she is director of ATHA Region 1 South School in

Litchfield, CT.

Cynthia Norwood -- This will be primarily a primitive and wide cut class. Cynthia is comfortable teaching all types of hooking and loves to work with unusual textures and paisleys. She tries to get students to push their own comfort zones. Cynthia will work with you on a pattern of your choice. Her class will include lectures, demonstrations and class discussions.

Cynthia's strong suits include color planning and creating great backgrounds. Cynthia is the author of Creating the Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs; she is an active member of ATHA (and serves as their Advertising Manager) and is McGown certified.

Registration/Instructional Fees – Registration began at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2012. 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, 2013. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2013, 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.

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" (Stop Abuse for Everyone) in Hunterdon County. Following our January meeting, a carload of flannel pajama bottoms, slippers, socks and sweatpants. was delivered to the Consignment Shop in Flemington which coordinated the holiday collection.

Sharon Ballard donated one of her hooked Santa mats that was raffled off at the January meeting. Nancy Sears was the lucky raffle winner. The raffle generated \$135.50 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 or call 908-788-7666.

Guild Mentoring Program ("Get Hooked Up") Launched – Donna Kolznak has volunteered to coordinate the Guild's new mentoring program which is geared to support new members who have just started hooking or have relocated to the area. The transition into our Guild will be facilitated by our mentoring program that we are calling "Get Hooked Up".

Here are examples of some of the basic questions and subjects that have come up in early mentoring conversations:

- Where do I find wool?
- Where can I find sheep patterns?
- What kind of food do I bring to the meetings?
- What is the wool exchange at the holiday luncheon about?
- Are there hooking groups in the area?
- How do I steam my rug?
- What is the January hook-in about?
- How do I finish my rug?

According to Donna “What really matters most is when new members come to the meeting they feel welcome and to know there is someone there for them”.

Members who are interested in serving as a mentor or who would like to have a mentor should contact Donna Kolznak. Mentoring does not have to be a long-term commitment, but rather meant to be a short term resource.

Guild Establishes Active Demonstration Schedule for 2013 -- Educating and informing the public about traditional rug hooking is one of the objectives of our Guild. Demonstrating rug hooking at local events is the major way in which we fulfill this objective. Our participation not only helps promote rug hooking and our Guild, but also helps support local organizations and historical sites. The current schedule is shown below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
March 16	Hooked Rug Exhibit & Demonstration Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (Hilltown Historical Society)	Karl Gimber
April 13	Peter Wentz Farmstead (Sheep Shearing)	Karl Gimber/ Joanne McIllmurray
May 4	Howell Living Farm (Sheep Shearing)	Karl Gimber
May 11	N.J. State History Fair	Joyce Combs
June 26-28	Fiberfest & Garden Show (Pearl Buck House)	Annie Edwards
August 3	Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)	Karl Gimber
August 21-25	Hunterdon County 4-H Fair	Dee Rosebrock
September 7& 8	Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoos, NJ)	Gisele Meader
September 21	Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October 5	Apple Butter Frolic (Mennonite Heritage Center)	Joanne McIllmurray
October 5	Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October 19	Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ)	Carol Kindt
November 2 & 3	Thanksgiving in the Country (Stockton, NJ)	Martha Thieling

After serving for 12 years, Joyce Combs is “retiring” as the coordinator for Thanksgiving in the Country. We thank her for her long service to the Guild and community. We also express our appreciation to Martha Thieling for assuming the coordinator role and for the others demonstration coordinators.

All members are encouraged to assist in our demonstration efforts. You can participate for an hour or two or for the entire day. It is a satisfying activity to share our commitment to rug hooking with others. Please contact the coordinators for information on how you can help.

Guild to Participate in the 2013 Pearl S. Buck Fiberfest & Garden Show --

After a discussion at our last meeting, the Guild decided to accept the invitation to participate in the 2013 Fiberfest & Garden Show sponsored by Pearl Buck International. The Festival will be held Wednesday June 26 to Friday June 28, 2013 at the Pearl Buck House in Dublin, PA. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate their craft although that is not required. Exhibitors are also invited to give one of the presentations that are scheduled daily. Vending is an additional option. Annie Edwards has offered to serve as the event coordinator. She will be attending an information meeting this month and will report on the plans. In the meantime, let Annie know if you want to be involved.

The Pearl Buck House is located a few miles above Doylestown, PA. Visit www.pearlsbuck.org for more information about the organization.

Guild Library -- 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 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.

Guild Website -- Visit the Guild's website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured members, 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!

We Remember Carol Collin -- Carol Collin who we lost last month was our Featured Member in September 2011. We take this opportunity to remember her by reprinting that article.

Carol Collin joined our Guild in 2009 after attending our camp with Jayne Hester which she learned about in [Rug Hooking Magazine](#). At the time Carol and her husband, Barry, lived in Goode, Virginia. They have recently returned to the area and are now living in Newtown, PA.

Carol has always loved old houses and decorating with antiques and country items. For years she savored and collected articles found in magazines especially [Early American Life](#). Hooked rugs were a natural extension of her interest in country décor. In 1997 Carol observed a hooking demonstration by Eleanor Branin when she attended the local Centerfest Craft Festival. Eleanor had her pull a few loops and by the following Tuesday, Carol purchased the rug hooking equipment needed to get started. She was on her way!

The next step was to purchase an instructional rug hooking book. That provided the basics Carol needed. While she is self-taught, Carol religiously attends several camps each year so that she can continue to learn and develop her technique. Her camps include Caraway, Green Mountain, Shenandoah, Smith Mountain Lake and HCRAG. "I have

been very fortunate to work with many outstanding teachers” Carol says. Her instructors include Jeanne Benjamin, Pris Butler, Barb Carroll, Sandy Chevarie, Pat Cross, Nola Heidbreder, Jayne Hester, Sally Kallin, June McKoriak and Judy Quintman. Carol notes that she “learned about hooking with ‘dirty colors’ from Pat Cross which led me in the direction I like to hook. Pris Butler helped me spread my wings and learn to design my rugs.”

Hooking rugs in the primitive style appeals to Carol. Her rugs are hooked with 7 and 8 cuts. She works mostly with new wool, much of which she obtains from Rebecca Erb. “There was little wool clothing in Virginia” notes Carol, “so hooking with new wool was the easiest thing to do.”

Carol enjoys dyeing wool and does lots of it. She works almost exclusively with Cushing dyes. “I must have two-thirds of their colors” Carol observes. Her dyeing is typically done for a specific project, but then she dyes extra for her stash.

“I enjoy designing my rug patterns, but also hook a lot of commercial patterns. It all depends on my mood” says Carol. “My patterns tend to be geometrics.”

Carol tries to hook every day. She likes to hook in the morning when she can sit with a cup of coffee, watch the news and pull some loops. She will also try to sit with her hooking frame again in the afternoon when she can. According to Carol “I am not the best hooker, but I am fast. I like the routine of pulling loops and find it very comforting.” She likes the fact that hooking does not have to be done in a separate room apart from her family. When she did quilting and sewing, the sewing machine was generally in a separate room. Hooking allows her work on her project while being with friends and maintaining a conversation at the same time. Hooking is a creative and relaxing process for her.

Within the first year of hooking, Carol found that there was local interest in her rugs. A friend bought several of her rugs for herself and then bought some to sell in her shop that specialized in country and primitive items. Others, including local hookers, soon learned of Carol’s rugs by word of mouth. “I priced my rugs according to the economy and the town not by the suggested formulas. For me, I love the process of hooking and the sales help offset my expenses. I am also open to bartering, if someone wants to.”

Rug hooking is Carol’s primary activity. In the past, she has also done counted cross stitch, punch needle and quilting. Both Carol and Barry are committed golfers. In Virginia, they golfed several days a week. They look forward to resuming their golfing in Bucks County once they get settled down.

Carol and Barry will be married 50 years in January. Barry is a retired physical education teacher. Carol is a retired registered nurse. They have three children – Rachelle, Russell and Richard -- and three grandchildren. Rachelle lives in Furlong, PA with her husband, Tony, and their children Grace, age 12, and Alex, age 9. Russell is an executive chef who lives in New Jersey. Richard died in December 2009 following complications from cancer surgery. His daughter Reese, age 12, has one of her grandmother’s rugs as do the other two grandchildren.

Carol looks forward to being an active Guild member. She already joined members who demonstrated rug hooking at the recent Mercer County 4-H Fair. Carol was also at camp last month. We are delighted to have her creativity and enthusiasm in the Guild. Visit

the Guild's website – www.hcrag.com – and click on “Featured Member” to see some of Carol's rugs...

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill – HCRAAG is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. All Guild members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com)
- HCRAAG Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net)
- Door Prizes: Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net)
Eileen Koch (570-992-7841 or efmk2003@yahoo.com)
- Rug Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com)
Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com)
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or mmlutz@ptd.net)
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or smenges2072@comcast.net)
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net)
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net)

Featured Members – Jan & Fred Cole -- Most members know Jan and Fred Cole as the proprietors of Wool n' Gardener and their wonderfully dyed wool. Now that they are both approaching retirement from their “day jobs”, they envision having the time to devote to pulling loops. Jan has been hooking since the 1990s. Fred has been around rug hooking all that time, but has just recently started to hook himself.

Their introduction to rug hooking came in the mid -1990s when they first saw Vicki Calu working on her room size pictorial rug at the Goschenhoppen Folk Festival. They were also familiar with rug hooking from magazine articles. When Jan asked Vicki how to get started, she learned of Vicki's popular Saturday classes at her studio in Dublin, PA. Jan attended the classes for several years and met other local hookers – Ronnie Arena, Cheryl Halliday, Kim Kagan, Annie Lee, and Patty Mahaffey – who were regulars too.

Jan and Fred live in an old Pennsylvania stone farmhouse. Jan's goal was to create rugs for the house. She wanted rugs that looked old and would complement the house and their antiques. Jan was attracted to hooking with recycled wool because it made her rugs look older. “Vicki inspired me and tolerated my wide cut hooking and primitive pallet” Jan jokes.

From the beginning Jan wanted to hook in the primitive style. “I have no desire to change, although my color palette is getting slightly brighter. “Primitive looking rugs are in my heart and soul,” she notes. “I fell in love with rug hooking as soon as I had a hook in hand with wool strips”, Jan recalls.

Working full time did not allow time for Jan to attend many workshops or camps, but she did find her way to the Highlands Rug Hooking Workshops run by Vicki Calu. It was there that she worked with Lucille Festa and Pat Hornafius. During a trip to Vermont for the Green Mountain Guild's “Hooked in the Mountains” Workshops, Jan was able to get

into a class on wool dyeing with Dick Labarge and George Kahl, which was the only workshop open. Jan attributes Vicki as being the one who got her started. "I could not have gotten the basics any better." Vicki had "a passion for rug hooking and instilled that in those she touched", Jan observes. Lucille Festa was another influential teacher who "listens and responds to what you want to do".

Vicki Calu offered dyeing classes from time to time and Jan recalls telling her that she "did not want to get involved with dyeing", but she did take the workshop. Vicki was very precise in her dyeing techniques which were important for those who needed wool for their fine cut and shaded rugs. In her class with Dick and George, Jan was exposed to another approach in which "wool dyeing was not treated as a science, but more as fun". That was more consistent with her style.

Time limitations have caused Jan to work mostly with commercial patterns. Patterns by Karen Kahle and Camp Wool in Kennebunk, Maine are favorite sources. She has designed a few rugs that she has hooked to sell along with her wool.

In spite of her initial reluctance to get involved in dyeing wool, Jan slowly found herself being drawn to it. Vicki encouraged her to try over-dyeing the recycled wool with which she was hooking. Shortly thereafter, Vicki invited Jan to sell her recycled wool at the Highlands. People responded and liked what Jan and Fred were doing. They had accumulated so much wool by this time that it provided a way to get rid of some of it "and support her habit".

From that reluctant and humble start, Wool n' Gardener was born. Today dyeing wool both recycled and new is a major part of Jan's and Fred's lives. They have had experience running a small personal business together before. Years ago, they ran "The Wild Gardener" creating and selling dried flower arrangements. They found it too labor intense and eventually phased it out.

Jan and Fred are active partners and share the work. She does all the dyeing while he handles the ripping, rinsing, drying and marking of the wool as well as shipping/receiving. During their busy times when they are preparing for a hook-in or show, they devote most evenings from 6 to 10 PM. and most weekends to dyeing wool in their basement dye studio. They can dye 4-6 yards of wool (6-8 yards if spot dyed) a night and 10-12 yards a day during the weekend. About 1200 pieces of new wool and over 700 pieces of recycled wool are needed for each event.

The business got a boost from Kay Leisey (Homespun) when she needed more stock and was too busy to dye wool herself. Now there are 500+ pieces of wool in stock at Homespun at any one time. Local hookers were receptive to their dyed wool and word of mouth soon resulted in invitations to sell at hook-ins and shows. Wholesale accounts in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and New York followed. Their philosophy is to provide a quality product for traditional rug hookers that is reasonably priced. Jan and Fred are always looking for wool. They estimate they currently have 30 boxes of recycled clothing that "has not been touched" and over 80 bolts of news wool ready to be over-dyed.

Although Fred has been around rug hookers for a long time, he has just started to hook himself with pointers from Jan. He is intrigued by Native American art that he first observed during a trip to Alaska and wants to hook a series of rugs adapted from those

symbols. His first rug is in progress and plans are underway for his next project. A co-worker knows one of the best totem pole carvers in the northwest and Fred hopes to use one of his designs for his next rug. Fred hooks with #6 and #8 cuts in what he calls a “semi primitive” style. Naturally he will be hooking with their wool both new and recycled. Fred also creates penny rugs, wool ornaments that are layered like penny rugs and appliqué rugs that are sold when they are vending.

Fred retired last month from a document software management company where he was responsible for setting up and running classes for clients. Jan is scheduled to retire this month. She was a financial coordinator for a national credentialing agency for health educators. Jan and Fred live in Emmaus, PA in a stone farmhouse that was built in the late 1700s or early 1800s. They share their home with two cats – Nahla (a Maine Coon cat) and Sadie (a Tortoise cat). Jan and Fred have two daughters – Taryn and Tanya. Taryn lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL with her husband, Rafael, who works for one of the major cruise lines and three children – Andrea (age 12), Nicholas (age 9) and Isabella (age 6). Tanya lives in Allentown with her two children – Purnell (age 18) and Kendyl (age 13). Tanya is employed at the same company where Jan worked.

Now that Jan and Fred are retiring, they are both looking forward to attending more rug hooking programs and workshops. They also want to develop their business but on a more leisurely basis with fewer long nights over the dye pots. A website will also be added this year. Jan wants to take a Magdalena Briner workshop sometime soon. More time can also be devoted to interests they share such as sail boating, biking and kayaking.

Jan and Fred became involved with our Guild when they sold their wool at our first hook-in several years ago. They have vended at all of the hook-ins at the Mennonite Heritage Center and will be at the Hooked Rug Festival in October. With more time to now devote to hooking, they envision taking part in our various programs. Both will be at the January Retreat. We are delighted to have them as members of HCRAAG.

Go to the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com – to enjoy some of the Jan’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Greetings from Recife, Brazil! As they say here, “Feliz 2013!” The New Year is a time for new beginnings as well as continuing the good from the old year. To all who suffered damage from Sandy, I wish you a speedy recovery and reconstruction. May the new year bring to all of us a consciousness about our changing climate and a vow to do our part to be more environmentally aware.

This is the year of our Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill and I hope each of you is planning a special piece for that exhibit. There is much talent in our Guild that the show will be remembered for years! I hope that everyone is already at work planning their mat for the show.

This year also brings many opportunities to grow our rug hooking talents. In April are the Spring Fling workshops with Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa, in summer is our annual rug camp, and at each Guild meeting there is an opportunity to learn from the programs presented. We also learn from the many Show and Tell rugs.

And, so I encourage each and every one of you to pursue your art and to awaken the artist within you. Let 2013 be the year of rug hooking. Happy New Year and happy hooking.
Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise -- On a cold evening Heloise enjoys sitting by the fireplace with a stack of favorite rug hooking books. The Rug Hooker's Bible based on Jane Olson's Rugger's Roundtable is an important resource that always provides helpful hints for new and experienced rug hookers. "Where should I begin to hook?" is a question that new hookers often ask. Heloise found answers in her last evening by the fireplace.

Jane Olson recommended "Start in the center and work out. This allows the backing to move out with you as you hook. If you start on the outside and work in, the backing has no place to go once encircled and will cause the rug to bubble when hooked. Starting in the center and working out also helps if you run out of background wool. Since it is often difficult to match a color exactly, we can find ourselves in a bind when we run out of wool half way through a project. When this happens, you can replace your background wool at that point with a new shade of your color. Finger it in with the original wool and it will look like you planned it that way."

Recipes

We enjoyed seeing Eileen Mahler at our holiday luncheon. Her Pineapple Bread was a big hit and we are grateful for her sharing the recipe with us.

Ingredients

- 1/4 lb. butter
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 4 eggs
 - 1 - 16oz. crushed pineapple, drained
 - 5 slices bread (cubed) Note -- I trimmed the crusts prior to cubing it.
1. Cream butter, sugar and eggs.
 2. Add crushed pineapple.
 3. Fold bread slices into mixture.
 4. Pour into ungreased 1-1/2 qt casserole.
 5. Bake for 1 hour at 350° uncovered.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Michele Micarelli Workshop -- January 21 & 22, 2013 – Michele Micarelli is hosting a workshop at her home with guest teacher Eric Sandberg. He will be teaching her doily pattern, which comes in all sizes and shapes and has endless color possibilities. You must order your pattern ahead. Several sizes and shapes are available -- a rounded corner 2x3, a 2x3 true oval, a pillow top, a runner, and 20x30 oval. For more information, contact Michele at amicarelli@snet.net.

Old Kinderhook Winter Rug Camp – February 4-6 & 7-9, 2013 – Jayne Hester is hosting two rug hooking camps at her Hook & Chatter Studio at 1008 Kinderhook St. (Rt. #9) in Valatie, NY 12184. Janice Johnson (Wooly Woolens) from Independence, MO is the instructor. Participants

can commute or stay overnight. Activities begin with an open house on Sunday, February 3. For more information contact Jayne at beansiejoe@aol.com or kinderhookb-b@berk.com.

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside -- Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering their 5th annual spring workshops on March 5, 6 & 7, 2013 or March 9, 2013 at historic Oakeside in Bloomfield, New Jersey. The theme for the workshops is “Birds of a Feather Flock Together”.

The workshop will open with an introductory lecture, a power point presentation and display of hooked samples. Activities to hone your identification skills and translate field marks to rug hooking will follow. During the workshop feather fundamentals, beak basics, talon tenets, perch parameters and nest necessities will be covered. You will learn how to create sheen and iridescence with wool and mixed-media materials. The three day workshop will feature an after class field trip to the Meadowlands, a premier birding spot in the Northeast with NYC as a backdrop.

Students may work on any design, any style, any cut. Norma and Linda can help you with pattern selection or design. After registration a brochure with our bird designs and a selection of new owl patterns will be sent to you.

Oakeside is a large mansion previously owned by the Oakes family that was donated to the town of Bloomfield to be used as a cultural center. It is conveniently located just off the Garden State Parkway and has ample parking. The solarium and the living room will be used as classrooms. In addition, a shop will be set up in the music room. Norma and Linda will be team-teaching the classes.

For more information, contact Norma (973-746-2936 or g.batastini@msn.com) or Linda (973-743-6835 or linda.woodbury@gmail.com).

Woolwrights Hook-in (March 16, 2013) – The Woolwrights Guild 3rd annual hook-in is scheduled for March 16, 2013 from 9-4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. The vendor list and other information can be found at their website -- www.woolwrights.com.

Rug Hooking Week At Sauder Village (August 13–14, 2013) – Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, features workshops, exhibits (over 500 rugs) and leading vendors. For more information visit www.saudervillage.org or call 800-590-9755.

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at 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) 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 – 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 11, 2013 -- Auction & White Elephant Sale (hand out chicken pattern) *

January 11-13, 2013 – Annual Hooking Retreat (Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ)

February 8, 2013 – Assemble chicken *

March 8, 2013 – Festival Boutique Items – Ideas & Patterns *

March 16, 2013 – Hilltown Historical Society Rug Exhibit (Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead)

April 2013 – Guild Exhibit at Hunterdon County Library (Flemington, NJ)

April 5-7, 2013 – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

April 12, 2013 – Member Led Round Table *

April 20, 2013 – HCRAG Hook-in (Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA)

May 10, 2013 – Program TBD *

June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *

August 12-16, 2013 – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

October 5 & 6, 2013 – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

*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 – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com.

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

Director -- Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

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Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freya2@verizon.net

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Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or 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.



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.