

# THE LOOP

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

January 2018

### Presidents' Letter

Yikes!! I have just typed 2018 for the first time....well, the first time it might really mean something. Happy New Year to all! Are we going to make any resolutions (worth keeping) this year? Oh, I know, I know, we will all resolve to lose the same 10 lbs we've been resolving for the last 20 years. We will probably resolve to go to the gym more too. BOR-ING!!!!

How about resolutions like: finish all my UFO's (unfinished objects); start and finish a rug during the Olympics (Feb 9-25) even if you have to stay up half the night watching curling; complete a pattern that is absolutely not you; or hook an entire rug in colors that are not your usual palette; be more involved with the Guild; be a nicer person; be more generous...etc. What are you going to learn this year???

Speaking of getting more involved with the Guild, I am pleased that we have 2 volunteers to serve the next term as co-Presidents!! I am very excited, and I know they will do a great job. This will be the first time either of them has held an office. I will reveal their names at the January meeting, so if you want to know who it is, be there or be square. This does not preclude anyone else from throwing their hat into the ring, but I think I would faint if we ever actually held an "election". The future of the Guild is in good hands so far.

The January meeting will be a busy one for us—lots of work and lots of play, followed by lots of play and lots of good company. The program for the meeting is our annual auction, the proceeds of which go to defray costs of our August camp. Please bring nicer white elephant items to donate for either the silent or live auction. If the item does not sell, you must either take it with you, or dispose of it properly (or we will toss it into the trash). We will select about 15 items to live auction. Our live auction is always a raucous good time. Come prepared to bid!

We will also be discussing the bylaws (which are no relation to the in-laws). It is not too late to make your suggestions for changes. The board will finalize changes to be voted on at the Feb. meeting.

The meeting will be followed, by a lucky 45+ of us heading to the Hampton Inn for the annual retreat. I always love this weekend. LOTS of laughter, lots of hooking, friendships made, creativity abounding, help where it is needed, opinions offered even if they are not asked (!), and just generally a lot of fun being had. We always get a few new hookers there for this. New ladies, buckle your seatbelts. You would not believe the ride!

So here is wishing each of you a joyous, successful, healthy, happy 2018!

Yours in wool,

Weezie, Jan, and Fred

## **January Meeting – Friday, January 12, 2018**

**Program:** Raucous Auction!!!! Whooo Hooooo! Proceeds help defray the cost of August school. Please bring a nicer white elephant item or hooking related item to donate for the auction.

By-laws will be discussed.

Volunteers for co-president will be announced.

The refreshments for January will be brought by Joyce Combs, Barb Perry, Jeanne Surdi, Jean Laurence, Tracy Fetzer and Linda Ehly. Please bring your own beverage.

## **January Birthdays**

Pat Levin 1/3, Brenda Smith 1/3, Jane Anderson 1/9, Cindy Boults 1/14, Lois Grieves 1/14, Annie Lee 1/15, Linda Meier 1/15, Eleanor Dunker 1/19, Anndee Byers 1/27, Dianna Liberto 1/27, Anne Penkal 1/28, and MaryJo Gimber 1/30

## **New Member**

We welcome the following new member.

Cindy Quick  
422 Pittstown Rd.  
Pittstown, NJ 08867  
908-268-5046  
cindy@embarqmail.com

## **Sunshine**

We send our condolences to Tracy Fetzer on the loss of her brother who passed away in November.

We also send our condolences to Cindy Lott on the loss of her mother who passed away in November.

We wish Marian Hall a speedy recovery from her recent knee surgery.

## **Guild News & Events**

**Retreat** The retreat will start at the conclusion of the January meeting/auction. Please remember to bring a snack to share, wine if you like, *someone please remember to bring a corkscrew!!*, bring your ceramic mug for coffee or tea (unless you enjoy the taste of styrofoam). If you have signed up for a massage, please bring enough cash for your massage and a tip. Plan on a little extra as I believe they always run over. I know Jan

and Fred will have wool to sell, and I (Weezie) am still trying to reduce my stash, so I will have some too.

There is now an iHOP attached to the Hampton Inn, so if you want pancakes for 3 meals a day, you can eat without going outside. (I am sure they have other things too.) The shopping center right across the street has things like Panera and Chili's, and there are some unusual places in Flemington too. We have usually ordered pizza for Saturday night....would someone like to coordinate that?

Really looking forward to one of my favorite weekends of the year--me and 45 of my best friends

### **Men's Ties Needed**

Ellen DiClemente is asking for donation of men's 100% silk ties that you want to get rid of; ties will be used for a future guild program on dyeing wool with silk ties.

### **Rug School 2018**

Instructors Announced for 2018 Rug Hooking School -- Next year is our 22nd year and we are excited to announce that the teachers will be Pris Buttler, Carrie Martin, Sharon Smith, and Ali Strebel, (see bios below). Rug School will begin on Monday, August 6, 2018 and run to Friday, August 10, 2018. The registration form can be found on the website under School Info.

The fee is \$200 for those who are Guild members at the time of our November 2017 meeting (November 10, 2017). A registration deposit of \$100 is required (\$50 is non-refundable).

Non-members (fee \$275) can register if there are any openings after January 1, 2018. If someone joins the Guild between November 11, 2017 and December 31, 2018, they will be able to register before January 1st but will have to pay the \$275 fee.

Registration forms and deposit checks can be sent to: Debbie Walsh, 51 Spruce St., Cranford, NJ 07016. If you have any questions, Debbie can also be reached at [debywalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:debywalsh1@gmail.com).

The following information is being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them.

#### **ALI STREBEL**

Ali has been teaching fiber arts nationally and internationally since 1986. Her business, Ali Strebel Designs for Kindred Spirits, is located in Dayton, Ohio where she sells her line of books and patterns she has published as well as hand dyed wool, yarn, roving and other fiber art supplies. Her work has been featured in Rug Hooking Magazine, Wool St. Journal, and numerous other publications. She specializes in incorporating different techniques and fibers into her work and teaches others, inspiring them to do the same.

Ali will have an open class, teaching different techniques and the use of different materials. Her website is [alistrebeldesigns.com](http://alistrebeldesigns.com)

Blog [alistrebel.blogspot.com](http://alistrebel.blogspot.com)

Ali's Pinterest Page "my work"

## PRIS BUTTLER

Pris Buttler is a professional oil painter as well as a rug hooking artist. She has been featured in RHM and Celebrations, Jesse Turbayne's book *Rug Hookers from the Deep South* as well as an upcoming book by Tamara Pavich (to be released during this next year, she believes). Her work is in the Tarot Card traveling show that is currently circulating through the U.S., and she currently has 2 rugs on display at the Ker Museum in Onancock, VA.

Pris is a fine artist and approaches rug hooking with these skills. She has designed workshops around Gustav Klimt, John Nieto of NM, Thomas Hart Benton, Georgia O'Keeffe and illustrator David Galchutt. Dyeing is a tool she has mastered, again from her painting experiences, and she has created a line of dye recipes, currently with 3 dye books on the market. She has also written *Easy Lettering Tips for the Rug Hooker* and *Basic Design Techniques for the Rug Hooker*

For this workshop, Pris is holding an open class but students may designate if they would like one of her designs or even design their own pattern, one of her specialties. Pris gives a lot of leeway to what can be accomplished, before the workshop, each student will be in contact with Pris to talk about their project. Anything goes. Pris encourages students to bring their own wools if they want and she will also supply wools for sale.

Pris and her daughter Christy Fultz run Black Bear Rug Camp at Unicoi State Park Lodge in Helen, GA. and their website is [blackbearrugcamp.com](http://blackbearrugcamp.com).

## SHARON SMITH

Just a little introduction. I have a background in graphic design, working in the flat world of print design, versus drawing or painting. The emphasis in the field is on placement of objects: shaping a page with space, typography, and imagery; using dark color and light space for pleasing contrast; and balancing all of the elements in this one piece. In other words, it's all about design. With this graphic background, my attention is not on perspective in drawing, (from close range to middle distance, to horizon), nor is it about shading for a shadowy effect. It's about primitive or "naïve" art, along the line of Impressionism.

In teaching, I do mini-lectures, mini demonstrations, and mini show and tell. I allow one-on-one time to each student equally, spending many interactions with each individual over the course of the days. I try to answer all questions and offer help. My specialty is color, color, color—and making them work together.

I think my style began with what I call a contemporary primitive—rugs with a flourish of dynamic color and a feeling of whimsy. In my designs, I have evolved into a "roguish" method of hooking, using a full range of various textiles to create a painterly or impressionistic look. The painterly style is what I will be focusing on in class. This means:

No straight line hooking; learning about other textiles and how to use them in rugs;  
When and how to combine textiles such as velvet and wool to create a unique look;  
How to use short worms to help blend or alter colors;

Examining impressionistic paintings to encourage “different strokes” in your work.

I do bring a mini-store with tons of hand-dyed wool and just about any kind of textile you can think of. And my patterns. And some of my hand-made textile items. We won't run out of stuff.

I bring some of these to class as they help me explain my use of color, work on backgrounds, and my “painterly” style of hooking.

[www.offthehookwoolrugs.com](http://www.offthehookwoolrugs.com)

Please visit my website and see my work. Thank you.

### CARRIE MARTIN

My start with hooked rugs

Hooked rugs have been a part of my life since I was volunteering for the Humane Society in the 1970's when a hooked rug came in as a donation. I purchased it and there began my love for rug hooking. Searching, using and repairing vintage hooked rugs became part of my life. Weekends were spent haunting thrift shops, flea markets and garage sales with an eye out for hooked rugs.

After moving to Louisiana and not finding hooked rugs in resale and antique shops, I decided that I would have to make my own. To the library I went and found a book on rug hooking with the most wonderful resource section in the rear of the book. Within weeks I was working on my first rug, receiving Rug Hooking Magazine and a Bliss cutter was on its way. As we all say, I was HOOKED.

My first rug Camp was “Castle in the Clouds” directed by Ramona Maddox. My first camp instructor and one of my greatest influences was Sharon Townsend, a friendship that I have valued ever since. If you have never been to a rug school, it is an experience not to be missed since you learn so much from your instructor and other students, seeing the colorful breadth of what they have created. Inspirations flow freely and you leave with a renewed sense of creativity. Many friendships have developed through this hobby.

Consequences of rug hooking:

Catching the rug bug is easy and can be spread by sitting in a meeting, doctor's office, or at an outdoor concert and working on a project. Once caught, it is difficult to cure the lure this craft holds. It first starts with collecting a “stash “ of wool in many colors, textures from yardage to tiny scraps bursting out of drawers, closets and even sometimes stored in unused showers. Next thing you know you have others who are infected coming to your home or meeting in churches, libraries and at times even dental offices to commune in rug hooking. I don't mean to alarm those of you reading this as there is a cure: just venture out as often as you can to Hook ins, rug hooking workshops, and

suppress the symptoms by purchasing a little wool, a pattern, a hook and be inspired by what you can create.

Carrie counsels and aids those with this addiction at camps and private workshops, so if you suspect you have the condition, this is the class for you.

My classes are open, meaning you may bring any pattern of your choosing it may be one of mine, yours or any designer. I always bring plenty of wool. We will have lessons daily. My goal is to instill the confidence in you to design and color plan your own hooked pieces.

Carrie's website is [www.onerugtworug.com](http://www.onerugtworug.com).

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. Hosts are asked 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 choose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

**Guild Library** – The Guild maintains an extensive library to provide for your rug hooking reading. The listing of books in the library can be found on the Guild's website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)). All you need to do to borrow books is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring them to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or [freija2@verizon.net](mailto:freija2@verizon.net).

Kathy will be bringing an assortment of the new additions to our library to each meeting for the next several months.

Be sure to come to the January auction as we now have several duplicate books which will be offered for sale at that time.

*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.*

**HCRAg Website** -- Our Guild's website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Patti Mahar at [patriciamahar@verizon.net](mailto:patriciamahar@verizon.net). The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

### **Nina's Notebook**

Happy New Year!

Is it snowing yet? I am writing this in mid-November and the temperature is 68F. Way too warm! Hopefully it will be more seasonal weather when you are reading this.

New Years is a time for reflection and hopefully some planning for the year ahead. I am thinking of the mats I need to make, the possible designs. What wool do I have, what wool do I need...you know the process.

But I am also thinking of what would challenge me to grow in my work. Do I need to take some workshops, do I need to read some more books on design or color? What will break me out of some of my routines and into some new and creative channels?

HCRAG offers us many opportunities for broadening our work. The special presentations at Guild meetings, the summer school classes with renowned teachers, and Show and Tell are all avenues for new ideas.

And so I encourage you to think of 2018 as a new year with new challenges to make us better rug hooking artisans. I wish for you a year filled with hooks, wool, linen and time to be the creative artist that lives within each one of us.

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

#### **Workshop on a variety of Stitches**

Spring Lake (NJ) ATHA is hosting a workshop with Benita Raleigh on April 16 and 17, 2018. This is Benita's Hooter the owl rug hooking workshop featuring the use of 10 different types of stitches. The workshop will be held at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Spring Lake, NJ. Please contact Lydia Brenner for more information @lbrenuva@comcast.net or 732-687-2487.

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Barbara Boyko at [barb@bboyko.com](mailto:barb@bboyko.com) or 914-588-7077. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://www.lambyankees.weebly.com).

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St. Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – [www.springlakenjatha.org](http://www.springlakenjatha.org) – or contact Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or [jls7952@gmail.com](mailto:jls7952@gmail.com).

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 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.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or [lindarz16@gmail.com](mailto:lindarz16@gmail.com).
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or [chris622@optonline.net](mailto:chris622@optonline.net).

#### **HCRAAG Calendar of Events --**

**January 12, 2018- Monthly Meeting- Annual Auction, followed by the weekend retreat at the Hampton Inn in Flemington\***

**February 9, 2018- Monthly Meeting-Cherry Halliday-basket lid-how to attach hooking to objects\***

**March 9, 2018- Hook In and Guild only flea market. Bring your new and used items in good condition to sell. Arrive early to set up your wares and hooking stuff\***

**April 13, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program will be Weezie, and Amy Korengut presenting their trip to Guatemala with Multicolores (hooking in Guatemala)\***

**May 11, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program Lettering\***

**June 8, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Annual HCRAAG End of the Year Luncheon, show and tell drawing\***

\*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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

\*\* 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 for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

**Guild Officers/Chairs** -- Our officers and committee chairs are anxious to hear from you on ideas and suggestions on how we can make the Guild responsive to your needs. Feel free to contact them with your thoughts.

**Co-Presidents** – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or [jantique@ptd.net](mailto:jantique@ptd.net)

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

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

**Newsletter** – Brenda Smith-201-317-0586 or [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu)

**Camp Directors** – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or [lbrenuva@comcast.net](mailto:lbrenuva@comcast.net)

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or [debywalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:debywalsh1@gmail.com)

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

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

Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or [diane.mannon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.mannon@yahoo.com)

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

**Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [akorengut@gmail.com](mailto:akorengut@gmail.com)

**Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or [lisasavino55@gmail.com](mailto:lisasavino55@gmail.com)

Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or [ahtram1@aol.com](mailto:ahtram1@aol.com)

Monthly Program – Various members

**Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or [jasuanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jasuanderson@gmail.com)

**Special Events** – Open

**Spring Hook-in** --

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

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

Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or [deerosebrock@aol.com](mailto:deerosebrock@aol.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 Brenda Smith at [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### **HCRAE CLASSIFIED SECTION**

Please submit items to be included in "The Loop" to Mary Passerello at [mpassere@comcast.net](mailto:mpassere@comcast.net) or 908-782-1765 by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month you want it included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads.