

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

June 2014

Presidents' Letter – Wow. Hard to believe we are heading into June, and into summer. Where has the time gone?!? And what have we accomplished? What are our hopes and expectations for the summer?

Past -- A good number of us went to the Barnes Foundation Museum on May 9, and what a trip that was! We started off by going to the Reading Terminal, a food fest if there ever was one -- sensory overload to the greatest degree. I have never seen so many food stalls, offering so many items, every one of which was a tempting delight. I could have eaten until I exploded; there were so many things that looked and smelled so good. This was followed by walking around the area to help digestion. If you have never been to the Reading Terminal, you HAVE TO go. Then we boarded the bus and headed to the Barnes. And what a treat *that* was. After an introductory video, we were taken to the two floors to peruse the exhibit at our own pace. There were many, many Renoir's --I had no idea his paintings were so huge; there were paintings by Cezanne, Glackens, Matisse, Picasso, Modigliani, and more; a collection of African art, Pennsylvania German and Dutch pieces, lots of post-industrial work. It was utterly fascinating, and utterly incredible.

If you went on the trip, what was your favorite piece? Has it inspired a pattern? Mine was a Pennsylvania Dutch chest with a heart design. (There are images of many of the items in the internet in Google images). If you have never been to the Barnes Foundation Museum, you owe it to yourself to spend some time there. I found that I was overloaded in about 90 minutes (too much good art on top of good food?). That is a good piece of information for me when planning trips to places like that---don't plan on spending all day at the Louvre, for example.

Present -- Our June meeting will be held at our alternate location (the Police Station), and it will be a different kind of year-end get-together. We will hold the balance of the January auction, which got snowed out for the most part. We will be doing something different for the "picnic" this time—see the article in the program section—and email or call Ellen DiClemente to tell her if you plan to attend.

We also need to fill the Special Events Coordinator position. Please volunteer—it is not a hard or time consuming job, and it is a necessary one or we end up with scheduling conflicts.

Future -- My future holds a move (May 29) to Allentown, NJ, and then a summer of unpacking and traveling. My motto during the past few weeks of scrutinizing everything I own to decide if I keep it or not, has been "Packing all day, drinking all night". By 5 pm every day I am exhausted. I have pared down my stash (I would like to say that I have slashed my stash, but I still have so much), but I know that it will all fit in the new storage room. But I don't know where my husband will put his stuff. I have come across several file folders of pattern ideas I have had over the years. So many ideas, so little time. How are you doing with your ideas for a camp rug? Are you traveling this summer? Camp seems so distant, and yet it will be upon us in no time.

Thank you for entrusting me with co-running the Guild again, with my trusty side-kick, Therese. I am looking forward to cementing the changes that Therese and Cindy made to the Guild and to our programs. It's all good.

Weezie and Therese

June Meeting – Friday, June 13, 2014 – Our June meeting will be at our alternate site – the Court Room within the Police Station in the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 Traffic Circle outside of Flemington. The address for the Complex is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446, although it does not appear on the road. The meeting will begin at 10:00.

Auction -- We will hold the balance of the January auction, which got snowed out for the most part. 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.

Picnic – Our alternate meeting site now requires a significant deposit that covers the cost of damage or soiling the new carpeting. Another possibility considered was using a nearby park but that turned out not to be practical since it does not have restrooms.

Therefore, the Board has decided to do something different for the end of the year “picnic”. We will celebrate a productive Guild year by going out to eat at the Blue Fish Grill located in Flemington not far from the Police Station. If you wish to join in, please contact Ellen DiClemente: 908-284-9570 (leave message) or ergot53@embarqmail.com. Your interest in going is not a commitment and the reservation is not firm; we would just like to have a rough head count so we can inform the restaurant.

Those not going to the luncheon can stay in the Court Room and hook.

Worm Basket -- As you may be aware, we have a very large basket of worms that are free for the taking at our monthly meetings. But, we also have a need for wool at our beginners' workshops where the very same worms can be utilized. We would like to encourage all Guild members to take and donate some worms, so keep them coming! (No short snippets please. Strips at least 8” long preferred.) Get your worms for summer projects!

Recycled Wool – A selection of recycled wool clothing will be available for a donation to the Guild. This is a good opportunity to stock up on wool for summer projects.

Hospitality – Our Guild is fortunate to have members who share their baking skills and treats with us whenever we meet at the Library Complex. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings.

June Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month. Janet Bosshard (6/14), Lydia Brenner (6/4), Chris Coslet (6/12), Gail Ferdinando (6/6), Karen Gates (6/7), Cheryl Halliday (6/18), Jackie Lee (6/26), Barbara Lugg (6/15), June Madden (6/8), Kathleen Murray-Boyda (6/1) and Debbie Walsh (6/6) celebrate birthdays in June. We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day! .

July Birthdays -- The Loop is not published in July, so we want to recognize Guild members with birthdays next month. Sharon Bennett (7/9), Weezie Huntington (7/11), Tillie Ren (7/15), Nina Seaman (7/20), Susan Schulz (7/13), Virginia Sutton (7/14), Betsy Warner (7/10) and Susan Woodworth (7/17) have birthdays in July. Happy Birthday!

Membership – Bernadette Andrejco has a new email address --- bandrejco@icloud.com.

An updated membership list is being sent along with the newsletter for your use during the summer.

Sunshine – Gisele Meader is home recovering from foot surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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

Rug Hooking Community Mourns Death of Elizabeth Black -- Long time rug hooking instructor Elizabeth Black passed away last month. She was a favorite HCRAAG camp instructor for many years. Elizabeth was known for her narrow cut realistic animal rugs and was the author of Hooking on the Wild Side. She will be missed.

Wool Needed for Beginners' Workshop – Each year we depend on wool donations from our members for the kits used in our workshops for beginners so that we can keep expenses down. We are appealing to members for light and medium blue colored wool for the workshop that will be offered at our annual hooking camp. Donations do not have to be cut in strips. Please bring donations to the June meeting.

Casual Hooking Days – Summer Schedule – Our casual hooking days will continue during the summer. We will gather at the Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex from 10-2 on the following days:

- June 6
- June 27 (jointly with Knitting Guild)
- July 11 (in lieu of July 4)
- July 25 (jointly with Knitting Guild)

On July 11 Karl Gimber will give an overview on tavern signs for those participating in the Guild's Tavern Sign Rug Challenge (see next article).

Hunterdon County Tavern Sign Rug Challenge -- Our Guild is participating in Hunterdon County's 300th Birthday Celebration with a public day of hooking at our

October meeting. In addition, Karl Gimber will give a presentation on “Colonial Tavern Signs & the Stories They Tell” using his collection of hooked tavern sign rugs to illustrate how tavern and trade signs were an early form of advertising in a time when buildings were not numbered and most streets unnamed.

To add to the celebration, the Guild is sponsoring a Tavern Sign Rug Challenge. Guild members and other rug hookers are “challenged” to design and hook a tavern sign rug inspired by Hunterdon County.

Karl will provide a tavern sign overview at the Police Station on July 11 that will help stimulate ideas for your rug design. (A handout will be provided.) The items covered will include:

- 1) popular sign shapes
- 2) common wording
- 3) popular themes and images
- 4) lettering styles
- 5) historic Hunterdon County tavern names
- 6) rug ideas

Did you know that during the period of the American Revolution, Hunterdon County included the townships of Trenton, Hopewell, Maidenhead (Lawrence), Amwell, Reading, Kingwood, Alexandria, Bethlehem, Lebanon and Tewksbury? If you live in the old Hunterdon County, you may want to personalize your design. How about the Ballard Inn, the Boult's Tavern or the Thieling Ordinary?

The challenge rugs will be displayed at our 300th Birthday Celebration event in October, the 2015 Rug Festival, and possibly other venues.

New for the 2015 Rug Festival -- Our 2015 Rug Festival Boutique will have a few changes. In addition to items donated for sale, members of all four guilds will be able to sell their wool related items at the Boutique. The terms of each sale will be 20% to the Festival and 80% to the artist. There will be no limitations on items. However, all items will need to be wool or wool hooking related (e.g., hooked rugs, penny rugs, felting, proddy, mats, ornaments, etc.) The Festival will not be responsible for any lost items.

In order to keep sales organized a colored tag system will be used. Each guild will be assigned colored tags which will identify the guild, the artist, and the price of the item. Monies will be distributed at the close of the Festival to guild representatives. One check will be written to each guild. It will be the responsibility of each guild to distribute the money to the members who sold items.

Guild members will be able to sell their personal rugs. The current thinking is to have the rugs for sale displayed on the second floor of the Mill. Additional details will be discussed at a later date.

A fuller report including a listing of volunteer needs will be provided by Therese Shick, Festival Chair, at the September meeting.

Summer Demonstration Schedule – Volunteers are needed to support our Guild's active demonstration schedule this summer. During the summer we will be demonstrating at the:

- 1) Mercer County 4-H Fair
- 2) Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair
- 3) Holcombe - Jimison Farm Celebration (new event this year)
- 4) Garden State Sheep Festival.

Mercer County 4-H Fair (August 2 & 3, 2014) -- Howell Living Farm is the ideal location for a 4-H Fair. This year we hope to have enough demonstrators to cover both days. We will be set up under a large tent in the field behind the Visitors Center. Volunteers need to provide chairs and bring lunch or purchase food that will be available. Karl Gimber is our Event Coordinator. Contact him at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net to let him know if you can assist. The event is free and attracts many local families.

Hunterdon County 4-H Fair and Agricultural Fair - This old fashioned fair attracts large crowds during its five days at the end of August. Several craft guilds including HCRAAG will be exhibiting their work in locked, protective cases. Ribbons will be awarded in several categories. Each Guild is assigned a day to demonstrate their craft. Our Guild will be demonstrating on Thursday, August 22nd from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. If you are available to help with the demo, please contact Dee Rosebrock, our Event Coordinator for the Fair, at (609) 771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com. Dee will be collecting the hooked items for display at our next meeting, June 13th and at Summer Camp on August 14th at the ESC School between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM. She will distribute the 4-H Hooked Rug Division Entry Form on June 13th and August 14th. If you would like to make other arrangements for submitting your hooked items, please contact Dee.

Holcombe-Jimison Farm Celebration (July 26, 2014) –The Celebration will be held at the Farmstead just above Lambertville, NJ on Saturday, July 26, 2014 from 10-4. The event is part of Hunterdon County's 300th anniversary celebration. Gisele Meader usually coordinates our events at the Farmstead, but she is not available this summer. Demonstrators and an event coordinator are needed. Contact Weezie or Therese if you would be willing to help with this event.

The Garden State Sheep Festival (September 6 & 7, 2014) – The Festival will be at the Hunterdon County Fair Grounds in Ringoes, NJ. This popular event draws large crowds of people interested in fiber arts. We need demonstrators for both days. Festival planners are thinking of offering workshops on the afternoon of Friday, September 5. They would love to have a hooking workshop. Weezie has been our event coordinator in past years, but she will be away during the Festival. Contact either Therese or Weezie to help out with this fabulous event.

Stock Up For Summer Reading – Now is the time to borrow books from the Guild's extensive library to provide for your summer reading. The listing of books in the library can be found on the Guild's website (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 frejja2@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.

Coming in September -- Several initiatives will be introduced after our summer break.

- **Classified Ads** -- As a way to connect Guild members (especially our new members) with Guild members who have hooking related items to sell there will be something new to facilitate this connection. Starting in the September issue of The Loop, there will be a classified section where Guild members can place an ad for items they wish to buy or sell. Members who want to place an ad must contact Mary Passerello (908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net) by the 20th of the preceding month so their ad will make the deadline for The Loop. There is no charge for this service. In order to keep the information current, the information will be refreshed each month.
- **Vendors** -- Starting in September, members who are also vendors and who wish to sell their hooking related items after our monthly meetings may do so. Please contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com or 609-477-4339) or Ellen DiClemente (ergot53@embarqmail.com or 908-284-9570 -- leave message) for further information.
- **Show and Tell** -- Also starting in September there will be a change to our Guild's monthly Show and Tell. All Guild members who participate in Show and Tell will receive a ticket as they do now. From those tickets, three tickets will be chosen (Guild member's name and phone number will be written on the back of the ticket). Those three tickets will be put into a jar and saved. We will do this every month and during our June meeting three tickets will be pulled from the jar to win some nice hooking related gifts.

Beginners' Workshop Offered – August 12, 2014 – Cheryl Halliday, a certified McGown instructor, will be teaching the Beginners' Workshop that is offered during our annual rug hooking camp at the ESC School (see below). This year the workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 from 9:00 until noon. The fee is \$70 which includes a pattern on linen backing, a hook, wool, and a starter rug hooking frame. Participants will need to bring sharp scissors.

Beginners are welcome to bring a lunch and stay to hook for the afternoon with those attending camp. To register mail a check made out to HCRAAG to Eleanor Dunker, 1789 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, PA 08505. Contact Eleanor with any questions at 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com.

This year a basic tack frame will be provided and will replace the hoop used in previous workshops. We hope this change will encourage more beginners to continue hooking.

2014 Rug Hooking Camp -- Our 18th annual rug hooking camp will be held on August 11-15, 2014 at the ESC School in Lambertville, NJ for what promises to be a stimulating week of rug hooking. We will have four instructors this year -- Jayne Hester, Liz Marino, Carrie Martin, and Anita White. Details on the workshops and the

registration process can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com). Please note that the balance of the fee is now due.

Recent cancellations have resulted in openings in the workshops of Liz Marino, Anita White and Carrie Martin. Register now if you want to be assured of a spot by contacting Eleanor Dunker, Camp Co-Director.

Each summer we rely on participants to help with the chores associated with running a successful camp. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be circulated at the June meeting for campers to sign-up to help. Contact Anndee or Eleanor directly if you will not be at the meeting.

Questions should be directed to Camp Directors Anndee Byers (856-829-7179 or Anndee@hookandhistory.com) or Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com).

Guild Demonstrates in Beautiful Weather – The weather cooperated last month and provided almost ideal conditions for our dedicated team of rug hooking demonstrators.

Karl Gimber, Barbara Kimbrough, Laura Robinson, Dee Rosebrock, Brenda Smith, and Martha Thieling represented the Guild at Howell Living Farm on May 3, 2014. Sheep shearing was the theme for the day which allowed us to discuss the relationship with sheep's wool and hooking rugs. Visitors were intrigued by the process of making rugs with wool strips and admired our rugs on display. Our volunteers learned as well. During lunch with Pete Watson, Executive Director of Howell Farm, we learned that a farmhand and a team of horses can plow an acre of ground in a day. In the process they walk 11 miles! Howell Farm has a well-deserved reputation for appreciating their volunteers. At the end of the day, our demonstrators were given a bottle of Howell Farm Maple Syrup and two tickets for their upcoming Ice Cream Social.

Our team had a good day at Washington Crossing Park's Spirit of New Jersey Fair on May 10, 2014. Cindy Boults, Joyce Combs, Eileen Koch (and her friend Louise), and Martha Thieling set up chairs and their hooking projects in the shade and enjoyed the parade of costumes from the 1700s through present day pass by. They spoke to many interested visitors and had a few visitors try hooking on a hoop with a simple pattern. The rain held off to make the Fair a success. Martha's husband, George, stopped by and took some pictures.

We are grateful to our members who give of their time to help spread the word about traditional rug hooking and to help publicize our Guild.

Featured Member – Deb Leshner -- Deb Leshner and her good friend, Leslie Scoble, started their rug hooking journey in 1998 that continues today as they jointly travel to workshops to experience new hooking instructors. Deb had seen a rug hooking kit that intrigued her, but really was not aware of what rug hooking was all about. In 1998 Leslie learned of a workshop at The Summer House in Oley, PA and suggested that they attend. The workshop was held one day a week and ran for four weeks. They both "fell in love" with rug hooking.

The next step was tackling several small kits which produced leftover wool strips. Deb used

those strips for three small mats that she designed. Shortly thereafter, Deb's husband, "Fletch", discovered Rug Hooking Magazine and brought it to her attention. There she found information on a hooked rug exhibit held in conjunction with hooking workshops at The Highlands in Fort Washington, PA. Visitors were permitted to walk through the workshops to see what was going on. Deb experienced Michele Micarelli for the first time and "was blown away with all the color!"

Deb and Leslie attended their first formal workshop at the Laurel Mountain Rug Hooking School where they worked with Harriet Brown. They both returned to the Highlands and became regulars at the spring and fall workshops. Before the Highlands workshops were discontinued, Deb had the opportunity to work with many of the most admired rug hooking instructors including Norma Batastini, Gail Dufresne, Lucille Festa, Betty McClintock, Michele Micarelli, and Marie Sugar.

Deb chooses teachers "not for what they do, but for what I can learn from them." She notes that "I have learned from them all, but Michele has been especially influential because of her use of color. I am color challenged; Michele is not!" On the other end of the spectrum, Jayne Hester's use of monochromatic wools is very appealing.

Hooking in the primitive style with wide cuts and dulled colors was Deb's "first love." However, she always wants to learn something new and soon started to incorporate more color into her rugs. Leslie suggested that they take a workshop with Peggy Hannum, the Lancaster teacher known for her narrow cut rugs. "This was really out of the box for me" Deb notes, "but Peggy is a talented instructor and we learned a great deal from her. I continue to use what we learned in that workshop."

Rug hooking has allowed Deb to develop her artistic talents. She is drawn to "original work" and prefers to design her own patterns "that can take you anywhere when it comes to hooking styles. It is the rug pattern that determines my hooking style and the techniques used." For example, one of her projects was a wedding rug for which she went to Facebook to gather information about the wedding couple. Deb took that information and traveled to Pittsburgh with two friends to take a class with Sandra Brown who helped design the rug. Because of the design, the rug was hooked in more narrow cuts than Deb typically uses and with more detail.

Deb has taken classes on dyeing wool but is not set up to do it on a regular basis. "There is so much great wool available" that she tends to buy the wool needed when attending workshops. Jan and Fred Cole, who live close by, are also a favorite source. Deb met Jan at the Highlands where she was selling her over-dyed wool and they have become good friends.

"Hooking is so much fun that I often put a guilt trip on myself when I take time to hook because there are always things that need to be done. I need natural light when hooking, so most of my work is done during the day," Deb observes. The fact that you can hook "anyway you want" is one of the things that appeals to Deb. While there are certain guidelines, rug hooking allows freedom to pull out loops if you are not happy with what you have done. "I love the feel of wool. I enjoy looking at it. I don't even have to hook to appreciate it," she notes.

Deb and Leslie attended their first HCRAAG event in 2008 when they came to our Spring Fling featuring two of their favorite instructors – Jayne Hester and Michele Micarelli. They also attended our hook-in that was held in Pipersville, PA where they renewed friendships made at the Spring Fling. Deb joined the Guild last year and travels to our meetings with Jan and Fred Cole. She is also a member of the Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter and the Conestoga McGown Guild in Lancaster, PA.

Deb and her husband, “Fletch”, live in Boyertown, PA. Fletch is an attorney in Reading, PA. They have two children – Jake and Molly – both of whom went to art school. Jake, age 29, lives in Brooklyn, NY where he works as a metal sculptor. Molly, age 27, lives in Maine and is a dog walker. Deb spent 15 years teaching sign language at a Pennsylvania state facility and then 10 years working in a greenhouse before retiring. Gardening and drawing are other favorite activities. Deb has drawn and sketched ever since her childhood. She credits her parents in getting her started.

This year Deb will continue her rug hooking journey by going to Cape May for the first time for Norma Batastini’s Rugs by the Sea Camp. Deb will be working with Michele Micarelli, but is unsure what she will do. “I may just take a blank piece of backing and start from there,” she says with a smile.

Visit our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Deb’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Memory Mats -- June is busting out all over says the song. June is the month of many special days...just to name a few; Father's Day, Flag Day, wedding days, graduation days, last day of school, summer days, vacation days, and camp days. The list is long. Any one of these days can be an occasion for making a special mat to celebrate the "day".

This year it was my privilege to make a graduation rug for my granddaughter, Lydia, who is graduating from high school and will be attending college at Washington University in St. Louis this fall. She had attended school in Westfield, NJ from elementary through high school and also spent each summer in Nova Scotia. I started thinking about the design of this rug last summer. What do I include? My first thought was to get a list of her closest friends, her main activities in school, the special events of her school life, her trips with school, parents and grandparents, even the pets needed to be included. Also I needed to add her life at the summer camp she attended for several years. So I sought out help from her sister, Kate, and mom, Margo. Together we compiled a list and decided on the most important. (I wasn't going to make a room size carpet!). Next conundrum, how to put all of this together in an artistic and meaningful way?

With input from one of my hooking friends in Nova Scotia, we came up with the idea of the streams of life with intersecting lines and colors. The people, events, and travels would take the shape of leaves floating on those streams with their names on the leaves but the background being the color stream. The dogs were given the shape of bones with their names on them; the two rabbits were bunny ears. Friend’s names were hooked in yellow, travels in green, and events in blue all against various shades of blue water and green grass. Sari ribbon in bright colors marked the outline of the streams of color.

By the beginning of September I had finished the task of putting the design on linen. The first item to go in was her name, larger than all others in a special shape, as well as 2014, the date of her graduation. Then I started doing the lettering. Oh, my, I do not like hooking letters but I got very good at it after doing this rug! In December came the news of her college acceptance and so in went the name under the 2014, to signify education was now moving to a new level. (Does this mean another graduation mat in four years?)

Then came the process of putting in the streams of color. During the summer I had dyed several shades of green, blue, aqua and lavender to use for the background which represented the streams of her life.

Finally, at the end of March, I pulled the last loop; it was finished except for the binding. After binding it with black tape...my homage to Nova Scotia hooking and primitive style, my friend, Dee, used her "magic" iron to press it into shape.

Last week I presented it to Lydia and she was thrilled. Here is a memory of her school days in Westfield which she will have to recall those friends, events, and adventures.

I share this process with you to encourage each one of you to create those special memory mats. They are our legacy and heritage which we gift to our friends and family. Have a very happy summer, fill your memory bank and then spend it designing and creating that special rug which will carry on for generations.

Happy hooking. Nina Seaman

Ideas from Betsy Reed's Dye Pot – Dulling Hooked Strips -- Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) shared many practical tips during her workshop at our recent Spring Fling. One of her tips was to use black tea to dull the color of strips already hooked.

We have all had times when loops of adjacent strips appear too bright after being hooked and need to be toned down. Sometimes this need is not seen until after much of the rug has been hooked. According to Betsy an easy way to dull the offending loops is to take a wet black tea bag and dab the lighter/brighter loops until the loops are sufficiently toned down. This is much easier than pulling the strips out and re-hooking with other wool.

Betsy Reed is the proprietress of Heaven to Betsy specializing in 100% wool for rug hookers and fiber artists. She was one of the suppliers at our 2013 Rug Festival and was an instructor at our 2014 Spring Fling. She lives in Claverack, NY and can be reached at 518-851-2149 or betsy@heavens-to-betsy.com.

Tips From Heloise – Dryer Sheets -- Betsy Reed's teaching sessions at our Spring Fling are the gift that keeps giving! Heloise learned that Betsy advises not to use dryer sheets when drying wool in the clothes dryer. Glycerin from the sheets comes off and coats the surface of the wool which in turn can dull your cutter blades. Instead, Betsy puts a damp towel in the dryer.

Recipes –Another favorite treat at the Spring Fling was Therese Shick's Cranberry Orange Scones. We are grateful to her for sharing the recipe.

Ingredients

- 4 cups flour
- ¼ cup sugar (plus additional for sprinkling)
- 2 T. baking powder
- 2 t. kosher salt
- 1-2 T. grated orange peel
- 3 sticks cold unsalted butter, diced

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup cold heavy cream
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 egg beaten with 2T. water for wash
- sugar
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 4 t. orange juice

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. In an electric mixer, mix 4 cups of flour, ¼ cup sugar, baking powder, salt and orange zest.
3. Add the cold butter and mix on lowest speed until butter is the size of peas.
4. Combine eggs and cream, and with the mixer on low, slowly pour into the flour and butter mixture.
5. Mix until just blended, the dough will look lumpy.
6. Combine cranberries and ¼ cup flour and add to dough.
7. Mix just until blended.
8. Dump dough onto floured surface and knead into a ball. (I like to divide the dough in half and freeze one half for another time.)
9. Roll dough out into a rectangle that is about ¾ inch thick.
10. Cut small triangles of dough to create scones.
11. Place scones onto baking tray with sides that has been lined with parchment paper. (Midway through baking, some of the butter will have seeped out of the scones, but will bake back into them.)
12. Brush tops of scones with egg wash and sprinkle with sugar.
13. Bake for 18-25 minutes depending on how large you made your scones. The tops should just be lightly browned.
14. Cool scones for about 15 minutes and then whisk together powdered sugar and orange juice and drizzle over the scones.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

2014 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 12 – 16, 2014 -- Retreats, workshops, exhibits and vendors are all part of the experience of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. This is one of the largest rug hooking events in the country. Call 800-590-9735 or go to www.saudervillage.org for details.

The Country Inn Rug School – September 7 – 12, 2014 – The Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH is the location for this McGown Rug HookKrafters camp. The instructors this year will be Betty McClellent, Lois Dugal, Gail Walden, and Sarah Guiliani. For more information contact Camp Director Arline Bechtold-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Rugs by the Sea (A Traditional Rug Hooking School) – September 14 -- 19 & September 21--26, 2014 – The popular rug hooking school held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ will again be held for two weeks in September. The instructors for the first week will be Bev Conway, Chizuka Hayam, Michele Micarelli and Ali Strelbel. The second week will feature Cherylyn Brubaker, Cammie Bruce, Diane Stoffel, and Margaret Wanger. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-2936 or nbatastini@gmail.com or Linda Woodbury at 862-253-4343 or linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Hooked in the Mountains XVII – October 15-19, 2014 – An exhibition of hooked rugs and fiber arts sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held on October 15-19, 2014 at their new location, the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, VT. For details visit the guild's website –www.gmrhg.org.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School – November 14- 17, 2014 -- This new rug hooking camp will be held at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA. Nancy Blood, Bev Conway, Sarah Guiliani, and Michele Micarelli will be the instructors. For more information, contact Camp Director, Norrma McElhenny at 508-896-9283 or oldecapecodrugschool@gmail.com.

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

June 6, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

June 13, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – “January Auction” & Luncheon

June 27, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

July 25, 2014 – Casual Hooking Day **

August 11-15, 2014 – Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

August 12, 2014 – Beginner's Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

September 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Rugs with a Story *

October 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hunterdon County 300th Celebration *

November 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking Through Wool (Kay Leisey) **

December 12, 2014 – 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 314 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/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 – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@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
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors – Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com
Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.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 freyja2@verizon.net

Mentoring – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net

Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

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

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

Special Events – Open

Spring Fling – Nancy Sears – 410-627-8179 or njsears@ptd.net

Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.

Treasurer – Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or 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 Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.