

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

June, 2015

Presidents' Letter – We are recently back from our wonderful trip to the Cloisters on May 8th. Our bus was nearly full, and there was lots of chatting and noise on the way in (we were much quieter on the way home). We had wonderful tours of the museum, including the unicorn tapestries, the room full of treasures, and the beautiful gardens. The view from the Cloisters is beautiful, overlooking the Hudson River.

After lunch, Ray, from Ray's Food and Walking Tours, joined us on the bus, and directed our driver through Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. We drove on what we all thought were impossibly narrow streets, but we made it without hitting anything or anybody! We saw all kinds of stuff, and Ray gave good commentary. Kudos and thanks to Ellen DiClemente for organizing us—kind of like herding cats—and keeping us on schedule. (Did you realize that since the Cloisters is in Manhattan, and we drove across Staten Island to get home, that we were in all five boroughs of NYC?)

One of the things we fleetingly saw was some street art (murals and graffiti) and that started me thinking: what else is there to see nearby? This was added to by conversations I had with people on the tour, about what they would like to see in the area. Here are some suggestions for things you could see, and be inspired by, this summer:

Did you know there is lots of street art in Philadelphia, and that there are guided tours (trolley, and foot)? There are also tons of outdoor sculptures in Philly, and tours for that too. There is a website about the “Museum without walls” in New York. Closer to home is the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton. The Princeton University Art Museum is a little gem too. These are in addition to all the mega museums we have within striking distance.

A little farther away are all the amazing places along the Hudson River—Hyde Park, the Vanderbilt Estate, (the Culinary Institute!), and the homes of Hudson valley painters Frederick Church (Olana) and Thomas Cole (the Grove). This summer they are having a special exhibit of contemporary art called River Crossings. I have been to Olana several times (it is fabulous, on beautiful grounds), and I will be going to this exhibit in July.

For a different perspective on anything you see, take a piece of paper and make it into a “frame”. Try moving this across whatever you are looking at to see how it changes how you see things. Perhaps you will get an inspiration based on seeing only part of the view.

Be sure to read the articles on Camp and Festival stuff inside this issue.

Wishing everyone even loops this summer. Weezie and Therese

June Meeting – Friday, June 12, 2015 – Our last meeting of the program year will be our traditional potluck picnic luncheon 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. **Please note that the meeting will begin an hour later at 11:00.**

Guild Program – For those who have not attended in the past, this is an inside picnic. It is a potluck affair and all members are requested to bring their favorite appetizer, entrée, salad or dessert. HCRAG members are known for their exceptional cooking skills as well as their rug hooking. The food is wonderful!! The informal nature of the picnic presents an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better and to do some hooking. Bring your hooking!

As part of the meeting, Weezie will present a short summer challenge design exercise. Everyone needs to bring a pencil with an eraser.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects. Our Show & Tell winners will be drawn and announced this month.

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), Cheryl Halliday (6/18), Jackie Lee (6/26), Barbara Lugg (6/15), Kathleen Murray-Boyda (6/1), Teddi Pearson (6/26), Dana Psoinas (6/8), 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), Jean Graham (7/23), Weezie Huntington (7/11), Tillie Ren (7/15), Lisa Savino (7/6), 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 – A current membership list is being sent along with the newsletter for your use in reaching members during the summer.

Sunshine – Ellen Dolmetsch was in a bad car accident in early May. Fortunately she is ok but sore from the air bag. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Our condolences are extended to Karl Gimber and his family at the passing of his sister who succumbed to cancer after a brief but courageous battle.

We also express our sympathy to Janet Bosshard who lost her mother on May 25 at the age of 100.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Camille Buchanan on May 16 from a rare form of uterine cancer. Our condolences are extended to her husband, Harold, and her family

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 –

Hooking Frame Dilemma – What’s Best For Me? -- Earlier in the year Eleanor Dunker and Carmen Mebus were discussing hooking frames. Eleanor, who is an experienced rug hooker, noted that she “had way too much money invested in frames and floor stands that just don’t work.” Carmen, on the other hand, is a relatively new hooker and was unsure which frame would be best for her and what she should consider before investing in a frame. From that conversation came the idea of reaching out to our Guild for thoughts on the pros and cons of the various hooking frames currently available.

We typically advise someone new to rug hooking not to spend too much on equipment until they are sure that they will continue hooking. As projects get larger and the rugs heavier, sturdiness becomes a factor. Attending workshops and camps introduces concerns of mobility.

Carmen's situation is a case in point -- "I started out with the smallish blue one...and it's worked fine for the beginner projects. But now, I'm hooking bigger rugs, ones that I must turn while I hook. And I'm going to more and more camps...so something that collapses would be nice. And then there's the grippers. Mine bite into my arm and pull some of my loops out."

What are the pros and cons of your current or favorite frame? We are turning to the Guild and others who have an interest for their insights, suggestions and recommendations. The responses we get to the series of questions about hooking frames listed below will be summarized and shared with the Guild in the September issue of The Loop.

1. How much open space is provided for hooking?
2. How well does the frame hold the backing taught?
3. Optimal size? Bigger, but not too big. Maybe a general rule for if the rug is over this size...use this size frame.
4. Collapsible? How portable are the frame and stand?
5. Does the frame rotate? How well?
6. Sturdy enough to hold steady when it is put to the test with heavy wool and bigger rugs.
7. How about "snap" grippers? Do they work?
8. What is right shape -- round or square or rectangle?
9. Is it advantageous to be on a floor stand or have a base that it can attach on?
10. How sturdy is the stand?
11. Last but not least...cost?

Some rug hookers prefer to leave their frame set up all the time and want it to look like a piece of furniture. Appearance is an important consideration for them.

1. What are the sources for attractive looking wooden frames?
2. Are patterns available for constructing a wooden hooking frame?

Please share your thoughts by sending them to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net or P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913.

Wooley Fox Rugs Sought -- As previously reported, Barb Carroll (Wooley Fox) has sold her pattern business to A Nimble Thimble. We recently learned from Sandra Porter (saundra125@comcast.net) that Barb is asking for help in locating Woolley Fox rugs which have been hooked but not represented on the Nimble Thimble website. To learn which patterns are needed, please take a look at Sandra's blog, (<http://woodlandjunction.blogspot.com/>), read the info and click on the link for the patterns for which they need pictures.

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) Garden State Sheep & Fiber Festival.

Mercer County 4-H Fair (August 1 & 2, 2015) -- Howell Living Farm is the ideal location for a 4-H Fair. 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 (August 20, 2015) - 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 20th 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 12th, and at Summer Camp on August 13th 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 12th and August 13th. If you would like to make other arrangements for submitting your hooked items, please contact Dee.

The Garden State Sheep Festival (September 12 & 13, 2015) – 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. Contact Amy Korengut, our event coordinator, to help out with this fabulous event. She can be reached at 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.

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 freija2@verizon.net.

Members who borrow books are reminded that they need to be returned in a timely manner, so that the books will be available for other members.

Save the Date – October 24, 2015 (Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in) The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild's 10th Annual Autumn Hook-In will be held on October 24, 2015 at their new location -- Kimberton Fire Company, 2276 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton, PA 19442 from 9am to 4pm.

Registration forms as well as the box lunch descriptions are now available on their website <http://www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2015-hook-in.html> .

Festival Update: We are now less than six months away from our second Festival and there is a lot to be done!

- **Volunteers:** There will be a volunteer sign up sheet available at our June meeting. If you haven't stepped up to take a role in the Festival, now is the time! There are lots of options for you and many ways to help. We need everyone to make this a success!

- **Rug Registration:** NOW IS THE TIME! Rug registrations are due by June 30th. Please contact Sandy Denarski or Eleanor Dunker with any questions. You are assured that your first two rug submissions will be in the Festival, but submit more than that and they will be included as space allows. Remember that the group rugs do not count as one of your two main rugs. In addition to the rug registration form, you must submit a photo. Someone will be at the June meeting to take a photo of your rug. Please bring your rug if you need a photo taken. (If you are submitting rugs for sale, they are due by September 18th...contact Weezie with questions.)
- **Rug Registration Forms:** These are available online at www.hcrag.com. Click on "News and Events" and scroll down to the middle of the page. Forms will be available at the June meeting. Bring all the info on your rug and fill them out there, hand them in to Eleanor and you will be done!
- **Raffle Tickets:** Remember that we are asking each guild member sell two booklets of tickets each. If you need more than that, please contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com. We will be selling the tickets at each of our demonstrations in the months leading up to the Festival. Thanks to all the volunteers participating in that.
- **Postcards:** Postcards are here!! I have a box of postcards and will bring them to the June meeting. Contact either Therese, Debbie Walsh, or Karl Gimber to obtain postcards over the summer. We will begin to hand them out in earnest toward the middle of September.
- **Mini Raffle and Boutique:** If you have items for either the Mini Raffle (Cindy Boults) or the Boutique (Sharon Ballard) please let these women know. Cindy needs to plan for the number of items in the Mini Raffle so it will be helpful for her to know if you have something or are working on it. Remember you can still work on items over the summer. And the items you give to Sharon for the Boutique can either be donated (all proceeds going to the Festival) or on commission (you receive 80% of the proceeds).

Thanks to everyone. This is going to be great and I'm getting excited! Contact Therese with any and all questions.

Book Review – Sadie's Winter Dream: Fishermen's Wives & Maine Sea Coast

Mission Hooked Rugs, 1923-1938 – The June 2015 issue of Maine Antiques Digest features a book review on the book written by Judith Burger-Gossart and published by Maine Authors Publishing. It is a fascinating book and will be of interest to rug hookers. The review is reproduced in its entirety below.

“This is the story of the hooked rugs of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, of the tenacious Alice M. Peasley, who coordinated the Hooked Rug Department in order to ‘empower the fishermen’s wives and improve their lot in life,’ and of the women who made the rugs. Burger-Gossart used Peasley’s notes, mission surveys, historical society archives, and other books and sources in her research. She begins with a history of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, a spiritual and practical support mission for year-round island families along the coast of Maine that is still in operation. She continues with a biography of Alice Peasley and her involvement with the mission as a teacher, preacher, nurse, and finally the head of the Hooked Rug Department.

“The book discusses the growth of the Hooked Rug Department, as well as how the rugs were made, how they differ from other hooked rugs from the Northeast, such as Waldoboro rugs, and how they were marketed. The author has discovered about 23 rugs, although she estimates that hundreds were made. After 1924 some tugs were labeled; others may have lost their label or never had one.

“Burger Gossart writes that she has been able to identify eight rug hookers and rugs they made. Two prolific makers are featured, and others are mentioned, including Sarah ‘Sadie’ Lunt, the woman whose tropical seascape rug gave the books its title and cover image. The author also discusses the rug patterns and explains that Peasley encouraged the women to create their own designs.

‘This lovely little book features the people, places, and rugs of the Sea Coast Mission. Old photographs highlight the text and allow readers a window into the primitive, isolated, and challenging way of life on Maine’s coastal islands in the first quarter of the 1900’s. This little-known story of Maine Sea Coast Mission hooked rugs is a worthwhile read for those interested in Maine handicrafts, early 20th century life on the Maine coast or hooked rugs.’”

More information is available from Maine Authors Publishing (www.maineauthorspublishing.com) or 207-594-0091.

Recap of Creativity and Empowerment Workshop by Paul De Luca

COLORQUEST – Members who were fortunate enough to be at the April Guild meeting were treated to a special creativity and empowerment workshop presented by Paul De Luca, Founding Director of COLORQUEST. For members who were not in attendance and for those who could not take notes fast enough, Paul offered to provide the following summary:

“Greetings to all the HCRAAG members who attended my COLORQUEST presentation in April! Because so many hookers enjoyed learning about their personal *biochromatic* colors-textures-designs, I am recapping helpful tips for your future rug hooking projects. Hopefully, members who were unable to attend my *first-of-its-kind* lecture will benefit by reading about a novel approach to the art of rug hooking.

RECAP: My diverse experience in theatre and teaching combined with my pioneering research in *color psychology* led to the development of a holistic color system “*BIOCHROMATICS*” (*life-colors*) and the founding of COLORQUEST in 1990. COLORQUEST is the nation’s first image consultation service designed specifically for performing, literary and *visual artists – ergo, rug hookers*. It has inspired a forthcoming book “*Creatures of Color – Onstage/Offstage*” which introduces innovative, practical techniques for projecting and maintaining a successful image by using personal color palettes.

The cutting-edge science of color analysis underpins all HCRAAG programs because every person in your personal and professional experience as well as all historic and contemporary rug hooking motifs are *biochromatically* connected. Each rug you hook has specific *biochromatic* energy related to your biologic skin-eye-hair colors as do the environments in which you showcase them. Do the *biochromatic* colors-patterns-designs in your rugs resemble you and your family members? Why do certain rugs enhance your home or office décor more than others? By integrating a wide spectrum of rug hooking techniques with personal colors I clarified how to:

- gain new insights into your personal rug hooking skills and decision making strategies (matching designs with appropriate fabrics and colors)
- reinterpret traditional rug craft conventions
- positively influence others' emotional responses to your artistic creations

Currently there are no training programs like COLORQUEST that offer an all-purpose color system for visual artists and rug hookers. Neither has there been an HCRAG presentation or newsletter article about the profound *physiologic-psychological* effect that *biochromatics* has on each of us. As a result, many members told me that although they had taken numerous hooking courses on 'color harmony', they still have difficulty picking fabrics and colors that made their rugs 'cohesive'. I told them that using a standard 'color wheel' often results in unrewarding color selection because it is limited with regard to discerning and matching myriad color shades found in the wool, cloth, string and metallic wires that you hook into rugs. Unlike linear 'color theory', *biochromatics* is a two-fold *physical and psychological* natural system that precisely correlates a vast array of *specific* colors and textures with *specific* minerals, organic patterns and geometric designs.

First, I demonstrated how 16 *biochromatic* colors are identified to create your full spectrum palette – a powerful personal tool. Guild members were fascinated to learn quick cost-effective ways to select formal-business-casual attire (and rug fabrics) that complimented their skin-eye-hair color. Next, I revealed how your personal palette determines which of Mother Nature's 4 Seasonal Palettes (*Spring-Summer-Autumn-Winter*) relates to your *personality profile*. Identifying your individual *seasonal palette* as well as that of others for whom you hook rugs, enriches personal relationships and artistic collaborations. Because members found this unusual way to re-think their rug hooking process very effective, I've included helpful suggestions below. Follow these simple COLORQUEST tips and you will infuse your rug hooking creations with *personal style, flair and authenticity*. Enjoy!"

TIP #1: Before you purchase fabric and wool, you must envision the colors-textures-designs of the rug in context of its *seasonal essence*. Ask yourself 'Do the colors and patterns in my rug relate to each other and also to me – or to the individuals for whom I am crafting it – or to the room where it will be a wall-hanging, floor accent or pillow? Do my rug colors project the energy of *Spring* (clear bright watercolor) or *Summer* (pastel chalk fresco) or *Autumn* (rich toned oil painting) or *Winter* (contrasting black/white ink etching)?'

TIP #2: Although you may love a particular color, be aware: You may not look good wearing it. Choosing clothing and accessories that are not in your *biochromatic* palette weakens your 'image' and minimizes the impact you have on others. This is also true for the rugs you hook – for example:

TIP #3: Don't hook colors that are not in harmony with each other or the *seasonal essence* of the design elements that form the 'image-scene' on your rug. Simply put, don't incorporate dainty pops of yellow daffodil and pink tulip *Spring* colors into a robust matured *Autumn* orange-rust cornucopia design; they clash *biochromatically*. Instead, use mottled heavy earth-tones that mirror the jagged cacophony of shapes found in the bountiful harvest and fall landscape. Similarly:

TIP #4: If hooking a romantic still-life of a vase overflowing with long purple *Summer* roses on an antique lace-top table, don't add a stark *Winter* white frame border or outline the graceful petals with an intense black *Winter* fabric that befits a modern cityscape; the conflicting energies (romantic/graceful/antique vs stark/intense/modern) are *biochromatically* incompatible. Try

hooking serene muted backgrounds that blend into the margins to enhance the subtle nuances of the elegant bouquet.

FINAL THOUGHTS: For 25 years I have shared my groundbreaking color methodology at theatres, colleges, craft guilds and garden clubs across the country as well as with Broadway professionals and private clients from all walks of life. Introducing veteran and novice HCRAG members to manifold applications of *biochromatics* has opened a long overdue dialogue that offers new exciting ways for you to craft beautiful works of hand-made art. I hope our dialogue continues.

Always remember who you are: One Light....Many Colors!"

If you have questions or would like to schedule a private consultation, Paul Del Luca can be reached at (212) 333-4058 or pauldelucanyc@verizon.net. His mailing address is 444 W. 46th Street, Suite 2B, New York, New York 10036.

We thank Paul for his wonderful presentation and for this summary.

Guild Has Successful Day Demonstrating at Howell Living Farm – The Guild was strongly represented at Sheep Shearing Day at Howell Farm on May 2, 2015 with seven members -- Joyce Combs, Dee Rosebrock, Carol Chernack, Martha Thieling, Jan and Fred Cole, Kathy Kane and Carol Kindt. The event drew a big crowd and quite a few of the visitors came inside to see our exhibit. Our display included information on the upcoming Hooked Rug Festival. Raffle rug tickets were sold!

Carol Kindt, our event coordinator, reported that “It was so nice to have a large group of Guild members demonstrating and talking about rug hooking. It felt like a mini hook-in. The members new to demonstrating were like old pros. We were given a nice lunch and a bottle of maple syrup compliments of Howell Farm.”

Carol Chernack added “From what I could observe, adults and children showed interest and some a true joy for rug hooking, the October Festival and the Guild. The weather was super! Perhaps the next time, I'll take my rug hooking outside and sit at one of the picnic tables! Fortunately, the pleasant company of members and the interested crowd made the day whiz by, even from the inside! I was impressed by the welcoming volunteers and staff members; they were helpful and seemed genuinely pleased we were part of the event.”

We are grateful to the members who supported the Guild and to Carol Kindt for coordinating our participation. Photos from the day will be posted on our website (www.hcrag.com).

Wool Still Needed for Camp Beginners' Workshop – Guild members generously donate wool for the kits used at the camp beginners' workshop allowing us to reduce the expenses associated with offering the workshop.

Cheryl Halliday, our workshop instructor, still needs plaids and solids of the following colors:

- Blues-all shades
- Whites
- Naturals
- Light grays

If possible the wool should be washed and cut in #8 strips. Please bring your donations to the June Guild meeting. Help support your Guild!

Thank you to those who have contributed generously. Your support of the program is greatly appreciated.

Beginner's Workshop Offered – August 11, 2015 – 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. This year the workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 11 from 9:00 until noon. The fee is \$70 which includes a pattern on linen backing, a hook, wool, and basic frame. Participants need to provide a sharp scissors. Beginners are welcome to bring a lunch and stay to hook for the afternoon with those attending camp. The workshop is intended for adults.

To register, mail a check made out to HCRAG to Eleanor Dunker, 1789 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Questions can also be directed to Eleanor at 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com.

HCRAG 2015 Rug Hooking Camp (August 10-14, 2015) -- Our 19th Annual Rug hooking camp will take place from August 10 – 14, 2015 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. We will again have four instructors -- Cyndy Duade, Michele Micarelli, Kris Miller and Diane Stoffel. Openings currently exist in Michele's and Cyndy's workshops. Cancellations normally occur before camp, so you are encouraged to place your name on the waiting list if you wish to attend. Registrations are being accepted from rug hookers who are not Guild members.

Cyndy Duade (Wide Cut Crewel Workshop) -- This class will focus on dying and wide cut (#6-#9 cuts) hooking techniques used to achieve the effect/look of crewel embroidery. The intent of this class is to understand how to translate methods used in fine hooking to the wide cut project, to learn about the crewel style of rug hooking, and to use a simple color plan with multi-dye methods.

Michele Micarelli (Open Workshop) -- This workshop is open to all levels, all cuts, patterns or originals. We will explore using color in this open classroom with imagination!

Kris Miller (Primitive Workshop) -- Kris will focus on primitive style hooking for this workshop. It will be an Open Workshop so you may hook any pattern you wish. .

Diane Stoffel (Open Workshop) -- Diane will focus on making your rug colorful and pleasing to your color palette. Diane is high energy and will keep you working throughout the week to plan all elements of your rug.

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is \$200 (members) and \$275 (non-members). A cancellation refund of \$150 will be made if a replacement is found.

Registration Process -- Registration forms are available on our website.

Additional information on the instructors and their workshops can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

Featured Member – Sarah Gerding -- Sarah recalls inheriting hooked rugs from her grandmother. She thinks that they were made in the 1930s or 40s or possibly earlier. The rugs were dark and appear to have included silk stockings that were hooked along with other fabrics. Sarah liked the idea of recycling old clothing, an interest that continued when she started hooking herself in early 2000.

At the time, Sarah lived in West Chester and a friend introduced her to the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild. She was impressed with the beauty of the rugs she saw and soon purchased a kit. Members of the guild showed Sarah how to pull loops. Her mother discovered the hook used by Sarah's grandmother, but Sarah found it too bulky to use. Sarah's work and other responsibilities restricted the time she could devote to hooking. When her mother needed to move to an assisted living facility, Sarah returned to Bucks County to live in the old farmhouse where she grew up. This was before the first Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills which she attended. The Festival sparked a renewed interest in rug hooking! While at the Festival, Sarah met Cindy Boultz and Therese Shick who provided additional information, instruction and encouragement.

Sarah is attracted to primitive style rugs. "I do not have the patience needed for narrow cut hooking," she notes. She also prefers to hook with recycled "as is" wool. "I have a closet full of wool clothing from my college days and from my mother that I can't wait to use. I have not yet tackled dyeing my wool. That will come in time." After completing two small kits, Sarah decided to design a geometric pattern on a piece of burlap backing that she had. She jokingly confesses that "I decided to do a geometric log cabin pattern because hooking straight lines is easier than curves. I am working my way up to hooking curves!" Her favorite colors are vibrant. "I am attracted to bright colors," she observes.

At one of our meetings Sarah won a basket of wool as a raffle prize. The wool was an incentive for her to do more hooking during the winter evenings. She has difficulty hooking on a regular basis during the summer. Sarah has several ideas for her next rug. One idea is to develop a pattern representing paper cutouts of "A-line skirts" like she wore in college. She also has a collection of flower pictures that will make their way into a rug pattern at some point.

After attending the 2013 Hooked Rug Festival, Sarah investigated whether there were any hooking guilds in the Doylestown area and learned that our Guild was the nearest one to her. She attended our meeting that followed the Festival. The Festival debriefing helped her appreciate the organization and work involved in putting on such an event. Sarah was also impressed by the show and tell rugs brought by members. She joined the Guild and soon found support that a new rug hooker needs. Sarah notes "My mentor, Lydia Lewis, has been very helpful to me answering questions, critiquing my work, recommending a frame and providing books to inspire me."

Sarah has always had a strong interest in foreign languages. She studied Latin, French, and Russian in high school and majored in Russian at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation, Sarah received a scholarship to study in St. Petersburg, Russia. She subsequently received a master's degree in elementary education from Emory University and was certified for teaching gifted children in Georgia. She set up and ran a gifted program for grades 2-8 in a district in New Jersey and eventually started teaching in Upper Dublin, PA. "My passion was taking kids beyond the class room experience," Sarah reflects. She retired from teaching in 2012.

She loves reading, swimming, gardening, sewing, restoring old houses, and observing the many animals that live on the land and is an advocate for animal rights. Sarah and her three rescue cats – Fancy, Harry and Beau – live in Chalfont, Bucks County in the farm house in which she was raised.

Visit the Featured Member Page on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) to appreciate Sarah's first

hooking projects.

Hooking Information & Techniques --

From Nina's Notebook – As I write this, it is Memorial Day weekend...the official beginning of summer. The weather promises to oblige with 80 degree temperatures and even a 90degree day thrown in to make it official.

June is the month of beginnings and endings. For some it is both; graduates of high school are ending their childhood and beginning their young adult life with college, jobs, military service...all with new challenges ahead. It is the month of weddings...new life together as a couple, establishing a household and taking on new responsibilities.

The summer holds out many possibilities. Perhaps a trip to a new unexplored place whether city or wilderness, there is adventure ahead. For me it is a return to my island house, with a promise of rest and renewal...although this year it will be more renewal than rest. Gathering with dear friends and family, old and new is the theme of the summer with lots of celebrating and feasting!

Summer is often a time for renewal of friendships or time with dear ones we have known for years. Family, friends, cottages by the sea or in the wilderness, trips to sight near or far, feasting, playing...that is summer in my definition.

My favorite mats are those created to honor a special summer memory. Mats with shells, sand, fish and ocean waters come to mind. Also ones that show that special cottage where generations of family gathered each summer. The mountains, trees and trails portrayed in other mats tell the story of a summer spent exploring the woods. One of the mats I remember chronicled an RV trip west to some of the national parks.

What are your special summer memories? Is it an event such as a graduation or wedding? Is it a special place by the sea or lake or in the woods? Perhaps it is a special person who greeted you each year as you arrived at your summer place. These stories are the basis for your design of a new mat. Don't crowd all the stories into one mat, make it a series or perhaps do one large mat and two small ones showing a special element you want to highlight. One summer I created a series of six 7"x10" pieces which I mounted on thin pieces of plywood. Each one was a flower or plant I saw on my daily walk to the beach through an area of wetlands.

Summer is a time to let your creative juices flow. A time of design, color planning and letting your imagination and creativity soar to new heights. Most of all it is time to be in touch with the artist that lives within each one of us.

Happy summer! Happy Hooking! See you at the Hooked Rug Festival in October! Nina Seaman

Ideas From the Dye Pot – Take a First Step By Marrying Wool -- Experienced instructors encourage hookers who have not yet tried dyeing wool to plunge in by trying a simple technique known as “marrying” wool. The basic process is to put several pieces of wool in the dye pot and allow the dye to leach out, mix and be absorbed by the wool. The resulting colors are muted and softened. Here is how it works:

- Soak several pieces of different colored wools for at least an hour
- Place in pot of warm water
- Add one tsp. of baking soda or detergent

- Simmer for 30 minutes
- Observe color leaching out
- Add “glug” of white vinegar
- Simmer until the water is clear
- Rinse & dry.

No fuss! No mess! Challenge yourself and give this easy dyeing process a try.

Tips from Heloise – Add Variety When Building Your Stash -- Jayne Hester, one of our favorite camp instructors, is known for hooking with wide cuts of textured wools – herringbone, tweeds, and checks. Heloise observed her working with a student on a rug background that was in the form of a series of squares and rectangles hooked in a log cabin pattern with brown textured wools. Jayne encouraged the student to incorporate strips from four to six different wools in each square/rectangle.

The student, a new hooker, started to build a stash before camp and had a brown herringbone, brown tweed and a brown check but failed to realize the importance of having multiple shades of each in her stash. Jayne pointed out the subtle differences in the varieties of brown textured wools that can be found and how those subtle differences add depth, richness and interest to the rug.

When building your stash remember the importance of building variety into the wools selected.

Recipes – Bernadette Andrejco’s Blueberry Pie – Bernadette brought her special blueberry pie to the Guild’s Hunterdon County’s 300th Birthday Celebration and it was a big hit. We thank her for sharing the recipe with us.

Ingredients

- 5 cups Wymans frozen wild blueberries, thawed & drained, conserve 2 tbs. of juice
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 tbs. flour
- 2 tbs. cornstarch
- ½ - tsp. cinnamon
- Favorite pie crust (I use Martha Stewart’s recipe, Pillsbury, or a better replacement for your own pie crust is Trader Joe’s frozen pie crusts.)

Preparation

- Thaw blueberries in microwave on high or room temperature
- Drain and conserve 2 tbs. juice. Combine dry ingredients while adding juice.
- Place in pie crust
- Dab with a little butter and bake at 400 degrees for 40-50 minutes or until juice bubbles.

Enjoy!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 10-15, 2015) – Retreat, workshops, exhibits and vendors will be part of this special rug hooking event at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. Visit www.saudervillage.org for details.

ATHA Biennial (September 9-12, 2015) – Join ATHA Region 9 for the 2015 Biennial in San Antonio, Texas. Go to www.atharugs.com for details on the classes, exhibits, vendors, tours, etc.

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (October 3 & 4, 2015) – Historic Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ is the site for the 2nd biennial Hooked Rug Festival sponsored by four area rug hooking guilds -- Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter, Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild, Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter and the Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter. Hundreds of rugs will be exhibited for the first time. Beginners' workshops, handcrafted boutique items, vendors, demonstrations, raffle rug, rugs for sale, and presentations are part of this special event. More information is available at the Festival website –www.rugfestival.com.

TIGHR Triennial Meeting (October 4-7, 2015) – The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) holds its 8th Triennial in Victoria, BC, Canada. Visit www.tighr.net for more information.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in (October 24, 2015) -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild's 10th Annual Autumn Hook-In will be held on October 24, 2015 at their new location -- Kimberton Fire Company, 2276 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton, PA 19442 -- from 9am to 4pm. Registration forms as well as the box lunch descriptions are available on their website <http://www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2015-hook-in.html> .

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 5, 2015 Casual Hooking Day **

June 12, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Picnic or Luncheon *

July 3, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

August 7, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day**

August 10-14, 2015 – Rug Hooking Camp (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

August 11, 2015 – Beginners' Workshop (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

September 4, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

September 11, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD

October 3 & 4, 2015 – Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ)
October 9, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
November 6, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
November 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
December 4, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
December 11, 2015 – 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 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 -- 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
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@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 – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring Retreat & Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

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 (HCRAAG). 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.

HCRAAG CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Folding Lap Frame (Never Used)

This comfortable frame measures approx. 14.5 inches x 11.75 inches outside. The inside hooking area is a generous 11.75 inches x 9.25 inches. The frame folds down to a height of only 1.5 inches with the knobs removed. See <http://www.iloverughooking.com/folapfrforru.html> for more details.

Asking \$90.00

Contact – Mary Passerello @comcast.net

WANTED

Worm Donations for the Guild – all sizes needed – especially primitive cuts (any color)

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- **Description of Item for Sale or Wanted**
- **Asking Price for sale items**
- **Contact Information**

