

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

March 2008

From the Presidents' Corner -- There has been a resurgence of interest in rug hooking in recent years. Our Guild continues to grow, new guilds are being formed and workshops and camps fill quickly. Rug Hooking Magazine reports growing subscriptions. Our quilting friends are experiencing similar renewal. A recent news article reported strong interest in knitting among teenage girls. Why this growing interest in hand made work?

In a world where multi-tasking is accepted (expected?) as normal, there is something healing to sit by our hooking frame and pull the loops in our rugs. At a time when so much of our communication is done electronically by email and text messaging, it is refreshing to hook with friends and to talk about everyday things, to share ideas and to offer comfort when needed. In a workplace where so much is done by committees and task forces, it is often difficult to see our personal contribution in a finished product. But when completing a rug, we can put it on the floor, step back and say "I did that. That's my rug." In a plastic and throw away world where so many things are used and then discarded, it is satisfying to recycle an old garment and give it new life in our rugs.

When we are hooking rugs, we are expressing our creativity, engaging in a relaxing and healthy activity and helping the environment all at the same time. In addition, we are creating heirlooms that will be admired for generations. How fortunate we are.

Happy Hooking -- Heidi and Weezie

March Meeting – March 7, 2008 -- **Please note that our meeting is a week earlier and will be in the Court Room at the Police Station of the Raritan Township Municipal Complex from 10:00 to 2:00.**

Guild Program -- By popular request, our March meeting will focus on making "wool" feather trees. Guild member Joanne McIlmurray will be teaching us. Joanne learned how to make these trees in a class at the Shelburne Museum and her teacher has given her permission to teach our Guild. Joanne has 18 members signed up to make the trees and she will bring 25 kits in total for those of you who may not have signed up. The kits cost \$15. You may also bring your own supplies.

If you are buying a kit, you will all need to bring:

- a small needle nose pliers
- a sharp scissors to fringe your wool
- 1/4 yard wool (any color that you choose)

If you are not buying a kit, but intend to make the tree at the meeting, then you need to bring all of the items listed in the directions attached to email sent separately, plus the three items listed above.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne at Josiecat@aol.com.

2/28/2008

Show and Tell -- Think spring!!! Any thing that fits into a spring theme and if you don't have that bring your latest rug or the one you are working on or the one that you will be working on next (even if it is just a pattern)!

Advance Information on April and May Meetings – In April Barbara Lugg and Joyce Combs will share their rugs, design methods and techniques with us. Norma Batastini will be our featured speaker/teacher in May. Be sure to mark your calendar. Details will be in April issue of The Loop.

Hospitality –We thank in advance Bonnie Rusch, Jamie Gartelmann, Lisa Mims and Lib Ryman for providing refreshments for the March meeting. Your treats add to the enjoyment of the meeting.

Membership -- Barbie Beck-Wilczek has a new email address – barbieandbill@wilczekwoodworks.com. Brigitte Levine's email address is incorrectly shown on the membership list. The correct address is brigittelevine@verizon.net.

Let the Sun Shine – Our condolences to Mary Schenck whose mother recently passed away. Kim Nixon, a popular instructor who taught at the Guild's camp in 2006, is seriously ill. Friends and students who want to send Kim a note or card can do so at 2117 Ludwick Dr., Maryville, TN 37804.

March Birthdays – Birthday wishes go Fran Artigliere (3/23), Nancy Culton (3/30), Helen Dowling (3/7), Tracy Fetzer (3/4), Sandy Francisco (3/7), Amy Korengut (3/26), Joan Lucas (3/13), Lauri Rubinetti (3/29) and Mary Schenck (3/29).

HCRAG Bus Trip to Lancaster Heritage Center -- Thanks to the support of Guild members for our fund raising activities, we are able to sponsor a bus trip to Lancaster, PA to see the "Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Handsewn Rugs" Exhibit at the Lancaster Heritage Center and to enjoy their other exhibits on Lancaster County's history and decorative arts.

When: Wednesday May 28, 2008. Leave Hunterdon County Complex (our regular meeting place) at 8:00 am and return around 6:00 pm. We are permitted to park at the far end of the library parking lot – furthest from the library.

Destination: The Lancaster Heritage Center in Lancaster, PA. The Heritage Center has two museums -- 1) The Quilt and Textile Museum and 2) the Heritage Center Museum. Both museums and the museum shop are within two blocks of each other. The exhibit "Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rug Exhibit" is featured at the Quilt and Textile Museum. The "Rags to Rugs Exhibit" has two components –1) rugs from the Heritage Center collection and 2) a juried show of rugs hooked by contemporary artisans living in southeastern Pennsylvania. Several Guild members have rugs in the exhibit. Check the Heritage Center web site - www.lancasterheritage.com - for more information.

Cost: The cost for HCRAG members is \$8.00. This non-refundable fee covers the museum entrance fee, gratuity for the bus driver and incidental expenses. The bus rental

will be paid by the Guild. Spouses of Guild members who assisted at Guild events such as the hook-in, retreat and picnic will be considered a Guild member for purposes of the trip. The cost for non Guild members is \$28.

Lunch: We will be on our own for lunch. You can bring lunch or visit one of the several restaurants in the area including the cafe at the Quilt and Textile Museum. Eating on the bus is not permitted. However, drinking water is allowed.

How to Register: So far 38 members have signed up. That leaves 17 remaining places. Members are encouraged to bring their payments to the March meeting. If you will not be at the meeting, your checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Kitty Platt at 34 Everittes Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551. Registration will be limited to HCRAG members until April 11 (the date of our April meeting) after which registration will be opened to non-Guild members. Register early to assure a place.

For more information contact Kitty Platt at 908-782-8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com.

2008 HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp (August 11- 15, 2008) – There is currently one position available with Gail Dufresne and one with Anne-Marie Littenberg. Jayne Hester's class remains full. A paid waiting list will be established.

The camp fee is \$150 for those who were Guild members as of November 2, 2007. The non-member fee of \$225 will apply to all others. To register, a nonrefundable \$25 deposit is required with the balance due by the April Guild meeting. Cancellations will be accepted until June 1, 2008.

In the past two years we have offered a half day Beginners' Workshop. It has been held on Thursday so that participants can see our rug show, review of our camp projects and enjoy the pot luck luncheon. There was strong interest in the workshop each year. Materials for the kits have been donated by the Guild. The proceeds from the workshop help underwrite our camp expenses. Connie Coleman has offered to help put the kits together. An instructor is needed. Please let Karl or Weezie know if you can help.

Special Events -- A series of special events are already on the Guild's calendar. A coordinator is needed for each event along with volunteers. If you have not demonstrated before, you will find it to be a very satisfying experience. Visitors to the events have an interest in the activities and are intrigued by what we do. They are very complimentary as well. This is also an opportunity to get some hooking done. Please let the event coordinator or Kitty know if you can help.

- April 12 -- Sheep Shearing Day at the Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA (Our coordinator is Karl Gimber. Joanne McIlmurray has volunteered to help)
- May 3 – New Jersey History Fair, Washington Crossing Park, Titusville, NJ (Margaret Brightbill is the coordinator. Volunteers needed to demonstrate.)
- May 28 -- Bus trip to Lancaster Heritage Center "Rags to Rugs" Exhibit (Kitty Platt has organized the trip. Connie Coleman has volunteered to be the coordinator for the day of the trip)
- August 20–24 – Hunterdon County 4–H Fair (Dee Rosebrock is our coordinator. Volunteers are needed to help set up our exhibit and demonstrate.)
- September 13 – Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA (Karl Gimber is the coordinator.)

- One or two volunteers to demonstrate would be helpful.)
- September 6 & 7 – Holcombe-Jimison Craft Festival, Lambertville, NJ (A coordinator and volunteers needed.)
 - October 4-30 – Lebanon Township Museum/HCRAG Rug Exhibit (A coordinator is needed and volunteers to help set up the exhibit)
 - October 18 – Larenswaert Festival at the Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA (Karl Gimber is the coordinator. Joanne McIlmurray has volunteered to help demonstrate. One or two additional demonstrators would be nice.)
 - November – Thanksgiving in the Country (Joyce Combs is our coordinator. Janet Bosshard and Amy Korengut have volunteered to help demonstrate. Additional volunteers are needed.)

Let Kitty Platt, Special Events Chair, know of any other events that should be considered.

Braided Rug Restorer Sought -- Jo Knobloch is looking for someone who restores braided rugs. If you know of such a resource, please let her know at joarts@patmedia.net.

Guild's Web Site -- Laurie Rubinetti updates our website at the beginning of each month. Go to www.hcrag.com for current information on Guild activities, new photos, past issues of The Loop and links to other rug hooking related sites.

Meet Our Member – M. Kay Weeks -- Kay Weeks' journey as a rug hooker started in 1998 when her mother gave her the home made rug hook used by her grandmother. The hook was made out of a wooden clothespin with a nail driven in one end which her grandfather filed down and bent to form the hook. There were teeth marks at the base of the clothes pin. According to the oral history of the family, Kay's mother would pick up the hook and put it in her mouth when her grandmother put it down, so that she could tend to whatever was cooking on the wood burning stove in the kitchen. Her grandmother recycled feed sacks and cut the fabric by hand. The rugs were put by the doors to cut down on drafts. Kay felt a strong need to use the hook and complete a rug in honor of her grandmother.

At the time the local library had very little information on rug hooking. All Kay could find was a page or two in craft books. Someone told her of Margaret Lutz who she called right away and went down to see her. Kay bought a frame, cutter and a professional hook, which she took home and "started to play around." Kay also went to the local thrift stores and started collecting wool of all kinds including blends. Her initial attempts at hooking did not go well. Much of the fabric frayed. Kay soon learned that 100% wool was preferred. Margaret was not teaching at the time, but encouraged Kay to come to a HCRAG meeting. Fearing that Guild members would "all be pros", she felt intimidated, and asked her friend Ingrid Cosmen to come with her. The two of them went to the "small Yellow House" in Flemington where the Guild met. They found the meeting room overflowing with rug hookers who were warm, welcoming and sharing. Both Ingrid and Kay were excited to find others who shared their interests. Gail Dufresne was President of the Guild at that time and was just getting started teaching. Kay signed up for a class and took advantage of all the Guild's programs and classes.

Kay has participated in HCRAG camps and workshops ever since. She finds the fellowship and new project ideas stimulating. In time, Kay found that she would be in a position to mentor others. She currently is involved with a rug hooking program for school children. Kay is also an active member of the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter.

“Not for the floor only” is how Kay describes her rug hooking projects. Living on a working farm with seven dogs and five cats means that floor rugs would be damaged in no time. Therefore, she creates pieces mainly for the wall and for the top of tables. As her abilities grew, Kay branched out and started to design her own patterns. They can be adaptations or completely original. However, each project has to have meaning for her. As an example, Kay once saw a painting by Barbara LeVallie, and Alaskan artist, in her book entitled “Painted Ladies”. With the artist’s permission, Kay adapted the image of her painting “Children Dancing with Umbrellas Over Puddles” to show her grandchildren jumping in puddles. In this case, she took someone’s image and modified it to reflect a family meaning.

Guild members have enjoyed following the development of Kay’s cedar chest series. The project started when Kay decided to hook a covering for an antique family cedar chest given to her by an uncle. The original idea was to hook a runner for each of the four seasons. She then decided to do one for each month. Seven have been completed so far. A new one is started each year at our camp in August. She attempts to work with a new instructor each year and to incorporate what she has learned into the rug. She also makes it a point to include wool purchased from the instructor.

Living on a working farm does not allow much time for traveling. Kay limits her attendance at camps and workshops to those sponsored by the Guild. Over the years, she recalls with fondness working with Elizabeth Black, Sherri Heber Day, Gail Dufresne, Susan Feller, Michele Micarelli, Kim Nixon and Helen Wolfel.

The recycling aspect of working with recycled garments was one of the features that attracted Kay to rug hooking. She now prefers to buy natural white wool and dye it. Kay and Ingrid will get together for a “dye day” where they work all day and share the results 50-50. They both like to experiment. Kay has accumulated all the equipment from local garage sales. She has taken various classes on wool dyeing and currently prefers the approach taught by Wanda Kerr, who is often featured in Rug Hooking Magazine. Kay now has bundles of dyed wool in boxes on shelves and can pick out what she needs before each project. She enjoys the creative process of matching wool colors to her designs.

Kay hooks as much as she can. She likes to get up early and hook for an hour or two, but finds it difficult to do that consistently. She finds the weekends a good time to hook when the demands of the farm are less. Kay enjoys settling in on Saturdays listening to a book on TV while she hooks. On Sunday after church and lunch, she will hook all afternoon if possible.

When asked to describe her style, Kay says: “It all has to do with color, not cut. I love to work with color.” She is especially attracted to light and medium values. Kay started hooking with #4 & #5 cuts and then was introduced to #3 cut by Elizabeth Black. Her Bolivar cutter has #3, 6 & 9 cutter blades which meet all her needs nicely. Kay fully organizes each project and needs to have every thing in place before she starts to hook. The pattern is drawn. Her wool is selected. Then it is time to sit and hook. Not surprisingly, her 2008 camp project is ready to go!

Kay was born in Alexandria, VA and grew up in Washington, DC. After attending American University she went to work with Capital Airlines (now United) where she met her future husband, Jay, who was a Capital Airlines pilot. They married in 1958. When Jay’s mother passed away, they returned to the family home in High Bridge, NJ. Going from the big city to the country was a big change and challenge for Kay. By the time their third son was born, they had out grown the house and eventually moved to the 100 acre farm in Port Murray, NJ which Jay had been operating “on the side” raising beef cattle, hay and corn. There was still the big city girl

in Kay, but she “bit the bullet” and made the move. She quickly fell in love with the farm and the life style it offered. There was a sense of freedom, family closeness and “trees for the boys to climb.” Kay was introduced to joys of flower and vegetable gardening.

Kay and Jay have three sons – Jay Jr., Jeffrey and James. Jay Jr. is married and lives on a home built on the farm. He has two step children – David who is in college and Ryan who is in the Air Force. Jeffrey lives in Anchorage, Alaska where he is a Captain on ships that fish for King Crab and salmon. James also lives in Alaska (Kodiak) and works for several captains fishing for salmon, cod and herring. James has a son and daughter who visit their grandparents each summer.

An interesting aspect of Kay’s talents is the work she has done with her church in the area of “Puppet Ministry”. For 14 years, she worked and traveled with children who performed puppet shows in various church settings such as Messiah College, a Christian college in Pennsylvania. When the children outgrew the puppets, Kay turned to “Clown Ministry” which she did with adults for seven years. She found the clowning was a great activity for empty nesters. Christian clowning brought her “to a whole person”. She could share her joy and her giving feelings. “Clowning was a freeing experience”, according to Kay. Guild members had a chance to appreciate Kay’s clowning skills when she as “Yakm” the clown welcomed participants to our hook-in in April. (Yakm is M. Kay spelled backwards.)

Kay has always had a special interest and love for children. She was trained at the Western Theological Seminary in Michigan and spent some 14 years as a trainer, counselor and consultant in the Reformed Church Children and Worship Program. This gave her the opportunity to travel to many church denominations and assist Christian leaders in setting up children worship centers. Weezie Huntington was one of her students. Kay feels her previous church involvements helped to prepare her for the exceptional opportunities to touch the lives of many young children giving them a foundation for spiritual development.

As Kay turns 70 years of age, she looks back on her life philosophically and sees that “Life puts us on many paths, ends become beginnings and beginnings become endings. The last 10 years of rug hooking have been wonderful. A new world of color has opened for me. I look at trees, the sky and things around me differently. Rug hooking has provided a world of creativity and fellowship for me.”

Our Guild benefits from Kay’s enthusiastic celebration of life!

Cathy Edwards’ “Love Rug” Featured -- The February/March 2008 ATHA Newsletter features Guild member Cathy Edwards’ rug that she hooked for her granddaughter, Madelyn. The rug was designed during the 2006 HCRAAG summer camp with instructor Susan Feller and completed with the assistance of Gail Dufresne who is an instructor in our 2008 camp. Several Guild meetings ago, Cathy shared her “Love Rug” with us during the “show and tell” portion of the meeting. We are happy that Cathy’s rug hooking skills were featured for all to see. Congratulations Cathy!

“More About Hooked Rugs” – The November 1922 issue of The Magazine Antiques includes an article by Leonard F. Burbank entitled “More About Hooked Rugs”. The article will be presented in segments in this and subsequent issues of The Loop. Segment Three follows.

“The middle years of the last century may be called the golden age of the hooked rug. Thereafter occurred a decline in the workmanship and, eventually, in popularity. Burlaps stamped with

ready-made patterns in colors made their appearance in stores. The first result was to destroy localization, and hence individuality of pattern – not completely, of course, but to an extent detrimental to quality and interest. These commercial working plans were common until the late days of the nineteenth century, and, indeed, are to be found even today. The demand was large, as they did away with much preparatory labor; but the result was that which invariably accrues from the meeting of domestic art and factory standardization. The advent of modern carpets at reasonable prices, which occurred when power looms for making ingrain carpets were introduced about 1839, a desire for more luxury and an increasing disinclination to improve each shining hour gradually worked their ruin of home rug making in New England, except in remote places and in the homes of the poorer people.

In their early days, hooked rugs were made for the entry or for the hall, as the living room was then called. Later they found their way into the bedrooms, and oftentimes, when their best days were over, they were relegated to the kitchen, and not infrequently found final repose at the shed door. I have not chanced to find these rugs mentioned in the inventories of estates, of which so many have come down to us. In fact, almost the only mention of floor coverings in such documents refers to the Turkey carpet, and that only lists belonging to people of wealth, more especially those living in the more populous and affluent cities of the South. The hooked rug was of too lowly an origin to be considered of much value.

The materials of which such rugs were made were various, the cast-off clothing of the men, because of its firmer texture and wearing qualities, being the most popular. Examined closely, one of these old rugs displays an interesting variety of material. In later times new cloth was often cut into strips and used where special colors were desired, but in the earlier examples, the reds, yellows, purples and pronounced colors were obtained from the wardrobes of the women, or by home dyeing with dyes of home manufacture.

Black was made from a mixture of sumac and gallberry leaves; red from madder root and sassafras; blue from indigo; and, by dyeing the cloth first a blue and then boiling it in a decoction of hickory bark and laurel leaves, a green was obtained; cedar tops and lilac leaves made purple; and the hulls of walnuts or butternuts a handsome brown. The ingredients of the dye-pot depended largely on what the workers found at hand, and varied in different localities. The housewife experimented and mixed, and usually obtained colors that were not only pleasing but permanent; for the day of aniline dyes had not yet come.

Some of the later rugs were worked with wool. In sections near carpet mills or woolen factories, which began operations in various parts of the country some years before the middle of the nineteenth century, women would buy waste, and, oftentimes good yarn to make into rugs; and they considered themselves fortunate when they obtained a supply. When only a small quantity of this wool could be bought, it was used for the figures of the pattern, while the body of the rug was made of rags; but in many instances the entire rug was made of wool. Such rugs, while more pretentious and highly priced than those made of rags, were less interesting as well as less common; for, primarily, the hooked rug was a means for making useful what otherwise would have been thrown into the discard by way of the rag-man.

Rug Labels and Whipping Wool -- Guild member Rebecca Buckwalter discovered good web sites for rug labels and whipping wool yarn – www.folkartwoolens.com (for the labels) and www.countrystitchesonline.com (for whipping wool). Rebecca has purchased items from these sites and recommends them to us.

Do You Have Rug Hooking Items to Sell? -- If you have a used cutter, frame or other rug hooking equipment that you no longer need, you can list them for sale in The Loop. This service, for which there is no charge, is for members only. It is intended for non-commercial use. (i.e., not intended for vendor sales) To list an item, write a small "ad" and send it to Karl Gimber by the 20th of the month. The Guild is not a party to the sale and makes no assertion with respect to the accuracy of ads listed.

Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs Exhibition – Through December 31, 2008 at the Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum. For more information contact Kim Fortney, VP, Heritage Center of Lancaster County at 717-299-6440 or kfortney@lancasterheritage.com.
Tribal Arts in the Garden State 2008 - New Jersey Arts Annual -- February 24-May 11, 2008 at the Montclair Art Museum, 3 South Mountain Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042-1747. For more information contact the museum at (973) 746-5555 or www.montclairartmuseum.org. A catalog will be published. Guild member Linda Rae Coughlin has two of her works in this juried show.
Rug Day at Folk Art Museum – Saturday March 8, 2008. The Folk Art Museum in New York City is holding its "Rug Day" on March 8 at the Eva & Morris Feld Gallery located at 2 Lincoln Square (Columbus Ave. between 65th and 66th Streets.) There is a Roslyn Logsdon workshop the day before on March 7. For more information, go to their web site – www.folkartmuseum.org.

Inspired Hooked Rugs – Frakturs is the subject of the Monmouth County Park System Lecture at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ on March 15, 2008 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Artist, teacher and author Susan Feller will share her expertise. The lecture is free, but pre-registration is required. Call the Monmouth County Park System at 732-842-4000 to register or for more information.

Art Rugs: The "Art" of Playing Cards will be exhibited and the featured talk will be by Guild member Linda Rae Coughlin at the Fairfield Rug Show on Saturday, March 29, 2008, at 1:00PM at the Fairfield Grace Church in Fairfield, Connecticut. For additional information contact Linda Rae Coughlin at 908-647-8100 or playingcardrugs@CS.com

Virginia Rugfest will celebrate its 6th year! April 5, 2008, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, VA from 9am- 3:30pm. Guest Speaker: Ginny Stimmel, Editor, Rug Hooking Magazine. Featured Artist is Sarah Province plus hook-in, rug show, vendors, and beginners' class. Loads of door prizes and a hooked rug will be raffled off! Contact: HCRA member, Mary Henck, hookrug@comcast.net, 804-740-6511 or www.geocities.com/varugfest/

American Country Rugs Workshops at Lollipop Farm, East Rupert, VT – April 8-10, 2008 Norma Batastini, May 20-21, 2008 Lucille Festa, June 10 & 11, 2008 Sandy Miarecki and July 15-17 Jayne Hester. For more information contact Lucille Festa at 802-325-2543 or lucillefesta@hotmail.com.

Workshops at The Woolery, Inc. presents Sherri Hieber Day "Folk Art for the Floor", a 3 day rug hooking workshop April 10-12, 2008. Choose from one of Sherri's glorious patterns or have her custom design one with special meaning for you! Create primitive/wide-cut rugs in an historic 1848 stone barn setting. Great instruction, richly dyed textured woolens and wonderful food! Contact Trish Becker by phone (908) 268 3949 or email thewoolery@earthlink.net for more information

FIBERFEST 2008 -- August 9, 2008 in Yellow Spring, WV, sponsored by the Mountain State Fiber Artists. Contact Susan Feller for pre-registration and program information at rugs2w@yahoo.com. Lunch included with registration fee. There will be vendors as well as

2/28/2008

hooking and fiber artists.

The Old Barn Rug Hooking Guild Hook-In -- Saturday, August 16, 2008, at The Blue Heron Art Gallery in Wyalusing, PA. Vendors, coffee and, snacks along with several charming places for lunch located in Wyalusing. Pre-registration is \$10.00. Contact ATHA Guild President, Janet Schleeter at jschleeter@epix.net for details.

Summer Workshop with Gail Dufresne – August 20 -24, 2008 at the Goat Hill Studio, Lambertville, NJ. For more information contact Gail at gailduf@aol.com.

Rugs by the Sea – The 21st traditional rug hooking school will be held in Cape May, NJ from September 14-25, 2008. The instructors for the first week are Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Cindy Gay and Nancy Miller Quigley. The second week features Bev Conway Lucille Festa, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay. For more information contact Norma Batastini at G_Batastini@email.msn.com.

Hooked in the Mountains XIII –November 8-16, 2008. The annual show and workshops sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be at the Shelburne Museum. For more information go the guild's web site – www.greenmountainrughookingguild.org.

The 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.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

March 7, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Making “Wool Feather Trees” (Joanne McIlmurray) –
Note: Meeting will be in the Court Room at the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex

April 11, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Featured Artists (Joyce Combs and Barbara Lugg)*

May 9, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Norma Batastini*

May 28, 2008 -- Bus Trip to Lancaster Heritage Center

June 13, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic

August 11 – 15, 2008 – 12th Annual HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp featuring
Gail Dufresne, Jayne Hester and Anne-Marie Littenberg

September 12, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- Program TBD*

October 4-30, 2008 -- HCRAG Rug Exhibit at Lebanon Township Museum

October 10, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

November 14, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

December 12, 2008 -- Holiday Luncheon *

* Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 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, it is the first building on the right.

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

Co-Presidents – Heidi Blair -- 732-942-3743 or jenyjump@optonline.net
Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com
Vice President – Kim Kagan – 215-766-3707 or kim.kagan@verizon.net
Fund Raising – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or cballard2@patmedia.net
Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net
Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749
Lydia Brenner -- 732-741-9313 or lbrenuva@comcast.net
Barbara Lugg – 908-996-2562
Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja@optonline.net
Programs – Mary Jo Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or mjg12@nni.com
Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or cballard2@patmedia.net
Public Relations -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com
Secretary – Gail Schmidt – 732-741-6620 or gks001@aol.com
Joyce Combs -- 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net
Special Events -- Kitty Platt – 908-782-8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com
Janet Bosshard – 732-528-1125 or j.bosshard@att.net
Sunshine – Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com
Lib Ryman -- 908-604-9459 or libr21226@aol.com
Treasurer – Susan Atwater --908-439-3473 or susanatwater@earthlink.com
Gisele Meader -- 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net
Web-Master – Laurie Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net

Visit the Guild Web Site at www.hcrag.com to find out what is happening with the Guild. Use it to check on membership information and to connect with other rug hooking links. Take a look!

Guild's Email List Policy - The HCRAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the guild, and asks that vendors within the group not solicit the membership as a whole.

The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com. by than the 20th of the month.

HUNTERDON RUG ARTISANS GUILD MEETING --FEBRUARY 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by President Weezie Huntington. Guests were introduced: Nina Seaman who just moved to NJ from Nova Scotia, and Irene Pasternak who came after reading the article in the Observer. Welcome and we hope they both join the guild.

OLD BUSINESS

The Retreat – All who attended had a wonderful time. Susan Atwater's husband cooked a wonderful meal for everyone on Saturday night. Dee will report how much the Guild made at the

2/28/2008

next meeting. It was decided that we will plan a retreat for January 2009.

The auction and wool table at the January meeting made almost \$600.00.

Janet Bosshard reported that the church in Massachusetts was not going to extend their project of footstools. They have a dozen right now and local hookers will make covers for them. They were very appreciative of our interest.

Camp – There is one opening for both Gail Dufresne's and Ann Marie Littenberg's class. The beginner's class has been a great success in the past. We are looking for a volunteer to run in this summer. Connie Coleman volunteered to "help".

Kitty reported on the bus trip. It was decided that the trip to the Heritage Center of Lancaster would be May 28. The bus would leave from the Hunterdon County Complex at 8:00 am and return at 6:00 pm. Everyone will be on their own for lunch. Priority will go to guild members, who have both February and March to sign up. After the March meeting, if there are seats available, it will be opened up to friends and other guilds. It was also decided that husbands who helped make the retreat a success could join the trip at no cost. The bus has 55 seats and a bathroom. The guild will pay for the bus. Members will be responsible for admission to the museum. Kitty will look into a possible stop on the way home and if food can be brought onto the bus.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand is \$7,853.35.

The Hunterdon Observer had a wonderful article about The Guild. Weezie and her rugs were featured. It was passed around for everyone to read. This is great PR for the Guild and for the art of rug hooking.

Weezie read a thank you from Joan Knobloch for inviting her to the December luncheon. She wished the guild much success in 2008.

The guild voted to pay for a two year subscription to Rug Hooking Magazine for the Bucks County Library in Doylestown. Karl and Mary Jo had been providing the subscription in the past.

Dee reported on the 4H Fair which will be August 20-24; set up will be August 19. Cabinets will be available to display rugs and judging will be done as in years past. The contest will be open to anyone who lives in Hunterdon County. Rugs must be completed within the last two years. Because of the size of the cabinets, there is a size restriction – approx. 2X3-3 ½. Dee hopes to get the teachers from the summer workshop to judge the entries.

Kitty passed around a list of all the places The Guild has demonstrated or displayed in the past year. The list is long and it is impossible for one person to coordinate all the events. Members are asked to sign up to coordinate and/or help with one event.

At this point, Weezie also reminded everyone that junior officers would be taking over in May and a new set of junior officers is needed. The success of the guild and its activities is dependent upon everyone getting involved!

Miscellaneous Announcements:

2/28/2008

Flyers were available for a hooking class with Sherri Hieber Day; for the Jersey Girls exhibit. Lucille Festa is conducting a workshop in April in Woodbury. Check with Dee about this. Kim Nixon is quite ill. You may contact her via her website or Karl and Mary Jo have her address. The Highlands Camp has been discontinued.

The Mennonite Meeting House in Harleysville has a small but wonderful Fraktur rug show and will be there for the month of February. Susan Feller will have a 1 day workshop March 1. The Curator from the Schwenkfelder Museum contacted Karl and Mary Jo about conducting a class for a group coming from Canada this summer.

Future Meetings:

The next meeting will be March 7.

We will be making Feather Trees. This was a workshop given at Shelburne this year and one of our members attended. She will put together kits for \$15.00. Look for details in The Loop.

The April meeting will feature Barbara Lugg and Joyce Combs. They will display their rugs and explain how they get their designs from their head to backing to hooking.

The meeting ended with Show and Tell; a wool swap; and a paper bag swap.