

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

March 2014

Presidents' Letter – We are all hoping that by the second Friday in March....”it” will be over! Snow melted, arctic freeze banished and we can safely gather again. The only positive has been the opportunity to complete several UFOs and get some dying done. However, even those hunkered down activities can't quite banish cabin fever....So come to March meeting as we need to see and share the stories and rugs of this winter of extremes.

As there were many who were unable to attend the January Auction due to weather, we are planning a repeat with much more wool and treasures at our June meeting followed by a picnic off site. More details about those plans will follow. However we did not want anyone to feel they missed one of our most lively and generous meetings!

The Program Committee will present the Redware program with its history and many beautiful fun examples of this unique pottery. We are planning to offer materials that will demonstrate how to design and transfer a pattern.

We will have our presentation by Guild member teachers and vendors as planned in April at our alternative site the Police Station. Rugs with a Story originally planned for March can be planned for our September meeting, enriched by summer travel that inspires our creations.

As planned in February we will be asking for your vote of approval for the updated by-laws. Among other initiatives we have secured a storage space that will allow the Guild to safely maintain materials for program, hospitality, demonstrations, festival and administrative material all in one place. Committees and individuals will have easy access to the unit as it is located next to the Hampton Inn within easy distance of our monthly meetings.

Sharon will continue to take reservations for our May 9th bus trip to the Barnes Foundation Muesum at the March meeting and is now open to spouses and guests. A few who live closer to Philadelphia plan to meet us in the city instead of taking the bus and if this is a better option please let us know. Again the Guild is providing the transportation and members will purchase the Museum tickets for \$30. We will begin collecting the monies at the March meeting. For details please read further on in The Loop.

There are now several openings for all Spring Fling classes and if as the date nears you find you are able to attend please contact Cindy. Class descriptions follow in The Loop. Thank you in advance to all who will provide hospitality as we all miss not just meeting and greeting these last months, but eating those treats and the recipes that follow. Cindy & Therese

March Meeting – Friday, March 14, 2014 -- Our March meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State

Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Due to the cancellation of the February meeting, the program scheduled for last month will be presented in March.

Upon arriving from Europe, early American settlers had a need for all sorts of household wares and utensils. Usually these were available only through local potters whose shops were built on or near natural clay deposits. When fired in the kiln, the items developed a red color; hence the name “redware”. Redware from the 18th and 19th centuries is highly collectable and can still be found at local auctions, antique shops and flea markets. There are also highly skilled contemporary potters who continue the tradition, several of whom have a national following.

Redware plates, bowls, jugs, and flower pots provide interesting images for hooked rug patterns. Sharon Ballard and Karl Gimber will bring redware pieces from their collection to our meeting and these can be used for those who want to design a redware rug. Jan Cole will have suitably colored dyed wool available for your project. Members who wish to participate should bring backing. Sharon will have some extra backing available too.

A brief history of redware will be given along with several books that will provide additional history and many redware images.

By-Law Changes -- A draft of the proposed update to the Guild’s by-laws was sent to all members last month. The proposed changes will be discussed and voted upon at the meeting.

Show & Tell – February and March always provide rich ideas for S & T themes with special holidays such as Valentine’s Day and St. Patrick’s Day and their associated colors of red and green. The arrival of spring brings colorful flowers, early blooming shrubs and nesting songbirds. Please bring rugs to share that reflect February and March ideas. (See Nina Seaman’s February and March Notebook columns for other ideas.) Current projects are always welcome for S & T. Those who bring rugs to share will be eligible for a door prize.

Lots of Wool Will Be Available --There will be a considerable amount of wool clothing available for members who hook with recycled wool. This will be an opportunity to stock up for spring and summer projects. Come early to get the choice selection. All we ask is a donation to support Guild programs.

Hospitality – We are hoping that our February volunteers (Jean Laurence, Dee Rosebrock & Janet Santaniello) can bring treats and snacks to our meeting this month. Others are encouraged to share their baking skills with us too since we anticipate a large turnout. Your snacks and treats helped make our gatherings more enjoyable.

March Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Dolores Clark (3/31), Tracy Fetzer (3/4), Sandy Francisco (3/7), Ann Gagnon (3/28), Sarah Gerdling (3/12), Juliana Kapusta (3/4), Amy Korengut (3/26), Debbi Lacey (3/9), Joan Lucas (3/13), Pat McDonnell (3/17), Carmen Mebus (3/21), Laurie Rubinetti (3/29), Mary Schenck (3/29) and Therese Shick (3/20). Enjoy your day!

Membership -- Joan Lucas has a new email address – ettalu42@gmail.com.

Debbie Walsh, Membership VP, will be bringing recently ordered name badges to the meeting.

Sunshine – Ellen Dolmetsch is home recovering from surgery on February 7, 2014. 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

Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road? -- 2014 Challenge -- Deb Burcin of the Woolwrights ATHA Chapter has initiated an open ended challenge and invites our members to participate (see her explanation below). Deb can be reached at kansas54@verizon.net if you need more information.

“The question above started way back before our time in 1847 in The Knickerbocker, a New York City monthly magazine. Isn't it funny how long things stick around and children yet to this day repeat the same question over and over again year after year? Here are some other interesting facts about chickens and this will all come together.... just give me a chance. Groups of chickens are called broods, flocks, clutches, peeps and just plain old hens and roosters. Chickens can run up to 9 miles per hour. There are more chickens in the world than there are people. A hen can lay up to 300 eggs a year and last, but not least, it is illegal to eat chicken with a fork in Gainesville, Georgia!

“So, I have a non-stressful, unlimited time offer, with a no strings attached project to increase the number of chickens in our rug hooking world. Several years ago, I and a couple of friends came upon an antique chicken rug and we had our own challenge to hook this rug. It is a very easy pattern to hook and a person can use their own specialized creativity to make this the chicken rug of your dreams! I am working on my second chicken rug as a challenge with some friends from the plains of Nebraska and Texas, and the hills of Colorado.

“This is the thought behind the chicken rug. First of all, have fun with it. Don't worry about a schedule or time to get it done, it doesn't matter. Use any colors, wild embellishments, or any fabrics. Make this a rug all your own and use whatever your little heart desires. When you have completed your rug, email a photo with your name and where you live and we will have a page just for the Journey of the Chicken Rug because, you see, I want you to send this pattern to everyone that hooks, your friends near and far here and across the big ponds of water, to your groups, and to your fellow chicken farmers!

“So why did the chicken cross the road? How many roads, paths, bridges, and bodies of water can this chicken cross? Will this chicken rug end up in the hills and mountains in the western United States, on the shores of South Carolina, in Ozarks in Missouri, in a village in the United Kingdom, or on the slopes of French Alps? Let's see how many connections we can make around the world with this one silly chicken rug! Are you ready to increase the broods or flocks of chickens in this hen house? I hear them clucking away and I can't wait to see them!” Deb Burcin

A chicken pattern is available on the Woolwrights website (www.woolwrights.com) under "The Chicken Rug Challenge". However, any chicken pattern can be used.

Guild Members Appointed to ATHA Editorial Board – Kathleen Murray Boyda and Barbara Kimborough have been appointed to the Editorial Board for ATHA's Rugger's Companion – the new name for the ATHA Newsletter. We congratulate them!

Common Threads: Quilting Traditions in Hunterdon County Exhibit – April 5-13, 2014 – In the continuing celebration of Hunterdon County's 300th Anniversary, a major exhibition of quilts will be displayed in the Assembly Room of County Building One (location of our monthly meetings) from Saturday, April 5 to Sunday, April 13, 2014. The hours are from 10-4 each day (extended to 6:30 on Tuesday, April 8 and Saturday, April 12). Admission is free.

Forty quilts will be exhibited, all with a Hunterdon County connection. Most will be historic quilts; many are signature quilts associated with churches and families of note, and many date from the 1840s. The earliest quilt in the exhibition is signed and dated 1832.

Spring Demonstration Schedule -- As we anticipate warmer weather, it is not too early to start thinking about the Guild's spring schedule of rug hooking demonstrations. The schedule for the next few months is shown below along with our event coordinators who welcome your help.

- April 12 -- Peter Wentz Farmstead (Sheep Shearing) -- Joanne McIlmurray
- May 3 -- Howell Living Farm (Sheep Shearing) -- Karl Gimber
- May 10 -- N.J. State History Fair -- Joyce Combs

We are grateful for the core group of members who consistently support our community service activities and encourage new members to join us for the day or just a few hours. You do not need to be a highly experienced rug hooker to participate. If you have not demonstrated before and want to know more about what is involved, Karl Gimber will be available at the meeting to answer questions.

Election of Officers/Chairs -- Our by-laws call for the election of officers at our April meeting. This is a healthy process of renewal that provides new energy, ideas, and leadership. Primarily because of the bad weather and work on other Guild items (namely the by-laws) we have not been able to recruit members to fill the open positions.

Cindy and Therese will have completed their term as co-presidents after the April Guild meeting. This is a two-year position and needs to be filled. Also, Karl will remain as Director of Communications but is looking for a newsletter editor replacement. Sharon Ballard has completed her term as Program Chair and the Special Events position is open. These positions will be discussed in more detail at the Guild meeting, but if you have any questions beforehand please contact Therese or Cindy.

Rug Braider Needed -- Historic Longstreet Farm (located in Monmouth County, NJ) is in need of someone to demonstrate rug braiding at special events, especially their main

event in September. Please contact Ronnie Grothusen, Program Coordinator, at ronniegrothusen@co.monmouth.nj.us. if you know of anyone who might be interested.

Bus Trip To Barnes Foundation Museum -- May 9, 2014 -- Spouses and guests are invited to join members for our bus trip to the Barnes Foundation Museum in Philadelphia on May 9, the day of our May meeting. Participants need to only pay the museum admission fee (\$30), which includes an audio tour cassette. The cost of the bus rental and driver gratuity will be paid by the Guild. Sharon Ballard will begin collecting for the trip at the March meeting. Your checks for \$30 should be made payable to HCRAAG.

After departing from the Hunterdon County Library parking lot, the first stop will be Philadelphia's historic Reading Terminal Market where members will have an exhilarating choice of luncheon selections. The Market has often been called a "gastronomic bazaar" with more than 80 merchants. For more information, go to www.readingterminalmarket.org.

After lunch, the group will proceed to the Barnes Foundation Museum. The Barnes Foundation was established in 1922 to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture." The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, Old Master paintings, important examples of African sculpture and Native American ceramics, jewelry and textiles, American paintings and decorative arts and antiquities from the Mediterranean region and Asia. Visit its website -- www.barnesfoundations.org -- for more information.

Spring Fling (March 28-30, 2014 & March 31– April 1 & 2, 2014) – There is still room in the color wheel class with Norma Batastini (March 28 - 30) and a few slots in the Monday/Tuesday (April 1 & 2) class with Betsy Reed. We will be making these available to people in other local guilds, so sign up now if you want to attend.

Norma's Workshop -- Exploring Color, A Hands-On Approach -- The workshop will be an in-depth look at color theory. We will explore two color wheels and the many color harmonies that are possible. With this knowledge, students will color plan a small pattern and begin hooking. Each student will have a kit of materials to work with (Cost about \$55) that will include dyed color swatches, pattern and other tools. Wool for the pattern will be extra. Students may purchase wool or bring some from home. There will be three pattern choices: fish decoy, pineapple or owl. Students will be contacted before class for pattern selection and other supplies to bring to class.

Betsy's Workshop – Betsy will be offering workshops on "ripped" wool...as wide as it gets! Many saw her examples at the Hooked Rug Festival. These classes for torn strips will be using a simple styled motif pattern. You can draw your own pattern or use a pattern from another designer. Betsy will have a variety of patterns available ranging in price from \$20.00 and up. She will have designs in hearts, cats, pumpkins, crows, horses and geometrics. Pictures of patterns are available. You should bring wools you think you would like to use up. Betsy will also be bringing wool for you.

The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for nonmembers. We would appreciate final payment for the class in the coming month. Checks made out to HCRAAG should be sent to Cindy Bouts, the event coordinator..

Participants can commute or stay overnight at the Flemington Hampton Inn. A discounted room rate of \$119 is available to those who will be staying over but the lock on the room rates will be removed by the end of February. A reservation can be made and held with a credit card but not charged until the event by calling the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mentioning our Guild.

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.

At the present time there are two openings with Liz and **one with Anita**; the other workshops are currently full. HOWEVER, our past experience has shown that cancellations develop between now and August, so anyone who hopes to attend should get on the waiting list by contacting Eleanor Dunker, Camp Co-Director.

Details on the workshops and the registration process can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com).

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 meeting for campers to sign-up to help.

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).

Attend Camp Free -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day.

Housing is needed for Carrie Martin. If you have interest in providing housing, let Camp Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know and attend camp free.

HCRAG Library – Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. All you need to do borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net.

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

Featured Member – Kathleen Murray-Boyda -- Kathleen Murray-Boyda's journey as a rug hooker has led to her becoming a prolific and skilled artisan, a leader within the rug hooking community and has allowed her to make many new and lasting friendships. The journey started in 2003 when she saw an announcement in a local adult education brochure for a beginner's rug hooking workshop conducted by Guild member Janet

Williams. Janet, at the time, was teaching the class to fulfill a requirement for her McGown certification.

After learning the basics, Kathleen soon finished her first project and continued to work with Janet at her home along with two other new rug hookers. Janet was very generous with introductions to other rug hooking resources including the open studio sessions offered by Gail Dufresne in Lambertville, NJ. It was there that Kathleen met and became good friends with Patty Mahaffey and Eleanor Dunker. She also renewed a friendship with Cathy Heilferty with whom she attended nursing school but had not seen for many years. Kathleen attended the open studio sessions for two years during which time Gail established the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter (now the Lamb Yankees Chapter). Kathleen was a charter member.

In 2004 Janet invited Kathleen to assist her with a beginner's workshop at the RugFest in Richmond, Virginia. It was there that she met Mary Henck, a former HCRAG member and RugFest organizer. Mary invited Janet and Kathleen to stay at her home for the weekend; that was the beginning of a long standing friendship. A few years later, Kathleen returned to RugFest to teach a beginner's workshop.

Kathleen's work schedule makes it difficult for her to attend many rug hooking workshops and camps. However, she is a regular attendee at area weekend hook-ins such as the ones sponsored by the Brandywine and Woolwrights ATHA Chapters. One year she was able to go to Cape May where she worked with Stephanie Krauss. Kathleen recalls the inspiring opportunity she had in meeting Patsy Becker who sat next to her at Cape May. She is also a regular attendee at our annual Rug Hooking Retreat, although Kathleen admits "I spend more time talking and visiting with those there than hooking since I do not get as much of a chance to see my rug hooking friends as I would like."

"I have learned from all my teachers," Kathleen observes but Janet Williams has been the constant throughout. Norma Batastini has also been very influential especially on color and style. "She is laid back, very knowledgeable and listens to her students." Attending camps and hooking classes offered during the work week are not normally an option for Kathleen. She selects the workshops she can attend based on what techniques she can learn; she looks for something she does not know how to do.

Kathleen likes antiques and old things in general. Therefore, it is not surprising that she is drawn to primitive style rug patterns. She also finds primitive style hooking "to be more forgiving". Kathleen states "I don't need a hobby that makes me anxious. My job does that!"

"Good old wool is hard to find, so I tend to work with new wool that I buy at hook-ins and from local suppliers." Kathleen has taken classes on dyeing wool, so she knows what to do, but "prefers to have others do the dyeing. I am afraid it would take over and I would not hook. It's just my personality," she observes. She especially likes spot dyed wool and "always has the use of wool in mind when I buy it." Kathleen recalls buying a blazer from Margaret Lutz that was "fantastic wool. I was able to use it all until just recently."

Kathleen would prefer to design her own patterns, but with her time restrictions and the fact that she is "hard on myself", she does rely on commercial patterns. Norma Batastini (Heart & Hand Studio), Lori Brechlin (Notforgotten Farm), Patsy Becker, Karen Kahle (Primitive Spirit), Laurie Larson (Wooly Red Rug), and Kris Miller (Spruce Ridge Studios) are among her favorite sources.

The relationship between heart and hand that exists in hooking rugs is something that Kathleen finds to be therapeutic. Hooking for just 20 minutes makes her feel better after a stressful day. As a result, Kathleen tries to hook every day, especially in the evening often while watching TV. She is a fan of the Masterpiece Theater series on PBS and especially enjoys hooking while watching the shows. Kathleen once heard Martha Adams at RugFest say that if you hook the size of the palm of your hand each day, you can complete a room sized rug in a year. Kathleen takes a bag with her hooking project to work and hooks at lunchtime. "I sit in my cubicle facing inside and people know what I am doing and not to interrupt me," Kathleen jokes. That discipline has resulted in her completing over 60 rugs!

Kathleen's mentor, Janet Williams, was also responsible for introducing her to our Guild of which she has been a member for 10 years. Our weekend activities such as the Retreat, hook-ins and Spring Fling workshops are especially appealing since they allow Kathleen to be with her hooking friends without interfering with work. In addition to our Guild, Kathleen is heavily involved with the Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter and assumed the role of President a few years ago. She recently took on a two year commitment on the ATHA Editorial Board. Kathleen anticipates being active in supporting the 2015 Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill and looks forward to working with others to help make it another success.

In addition to being an accomplished rug hooker, Kathleen is a history buff and enjoys reading historical books. She is an avid "flea marketer" and is always looking for old furniture that she can rehab. Her collection includes refinished furniture inherited from her grandparents. Kathleen also likes to travel and fondly recalls a favorite trip to Italy last year.

Kathleen and her husband, David, live in Hillsborough, NJ along with their two sons – James (age 20) and Jack (age 15), their dog, Molly, (a 14 year old Brittany who is blind and deaf), and their two cats, Sweetums and BooBoo. Following graduation from nursing school, Kathleen spent 30 years in various nursing capacities including being a Navy Nurse, psychiatric nurse, visiting nurse, and a hospice nurse. For the last eight years, she has done medical malpractice analysis for a local insurance company. David is a Federal Agent with the Department of Defense. James attends Neumann University as a Criminal Justice major; Jack is a high school freshman. Kathleen has hooked duplicate rugs for her sons since both admire her work. The family recently bought a "fixer-upper" 1940s era weekend home in Brick, NJ that is two blocks from the Metedeconk River. It has become a sanctuary for Kathleen who tries to stay overnight at least once a week.

Little did Kathleen know when she started her rug hooking journey 11 years ago how important an element it would become in her life. The learning, the friendships and the opportunities to share have added an important dimension to her life. "It is an ongoing education," she notes. "Rug hooking is something where I am always learning from people and it is something I can do in solitude or with others. I am so grateful to those I have met along the way."

Visit the Featured Member page on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Kathleen's rugs. The site also shows an old department store advertisement for her Great, Great, Great Grandfather, P. C. Murray, who was from Ireland and owned a department store in Danville, PA. The text alongside his picture lists types of rugs that were popular at the time. "I think he'd approve of my hooking. He also bears an uncanny resemblance to my older brother who is a priest," Kathleen observes.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – The old saying, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, would be a wish come true after the endless winter we have had this year. Daffodils are the flower for the month of March and how we long to see them springing up with their bright cheerful colors, a sure sign that spring is in the air. If the weather isn't cooperating we can always look for those emerald green shamrocks that come with St. Patrick's Day. Mardi Gras comes this month and with its bright colors and jazz music which can bring a smile to our face and a lift to our steps.

March also celebrates International Women's Day. Think of some of the women who have influenced your life. What are some of the special memories you have of those women? What would translate into a mat or wall hanging? My grandmother loved to bake bread and pies which she would take to neighbors or shut-ins. Some of my favorite memories are being in her kitchen watching her knead the dough and then the smell of the bread baking in the oven, filling the kitchen with the odor of yeast and love.

Do you have a favorite aunt, teacher, mentor, neighbor who was a special person in your life? What special activities did you share with them, gardening, hiking, traveling, reading a book. My daughter-in-law just finished a mat showing the former owner of their house in Nova Scotia sitting by his wood cook stove with a big fluffy cat in his lap. This mat will carry a special memory of that house and its owner on to the next generation.

Enjoy March with all its promises, warmer weather, daffodils, budding trees and fond memories of the wise women that we know and love. And then...hook them into a memorable mat! Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Ideas from Juliana Kapusta's Dye Pot -- How to Color Correct -- Did you ever wonder what color you would get if you mixed purple and green or how to make red by mixing purple and orange? Until I took a Wanda Kerr's dye class I never even knew that you could mix tertiary colors and come back to a primary color. It was by learning this that I also learned how to correct colors that didn't come up looking quite the way I expected them to. In other words, they weren't like those tiny swatches.

If you have a color wheel it will be helpful to look at one now. Let's take a look at purple and green on the color wheel. What will happen if you mix those two colors? Well if they are pure colors (note: this doesn't work well with Cushing's dyes because they are such a mixture of colors.) Anyway, if they are pure colors, you will get blue. Blue is half way between purple and green on the color wheel.

Now let's look at how to make red by mixing purple and orange. Red is half way between purple and orange on the color wheel so if you make a mixture of half purple and half orange you should come up with red. Get the idea? If your color comes out a little too blue green and you want it to be more blue then go past blue on the color wheel, maybe to violet, add that and you will come closer to blue.

I always check my colors before they go into the dye pot by using a Q-tip of dye and paint it on watercolor paper to see that I am getting the color I want. I hope you find this little tip helpful. It sure has cut down on the frustration level on a dyeing day for me.

Tips From Heloise – (Hooking Letters – Why Bother?) -- Helen Woffel, who is now retired from the rug hooking camp circuit, was a longtime favorite HCRAG camp instructor. Heloise recalls an important lesson learned from Helen on hooking letters.

Helen's view was that it was important for the letters to stand out so that they could be easily read. She used to say, "If you cannot read the wording, why bother?" Have you ever seen a beautifully hooked rug with wording that gets lost in the background or can barely be read? Some of Helen's tips to avoid that problem included: (1) selecting wool for the letters that is in strong contrast with the background, (2) hook the letters in a sufficiently wide cut so that they stand out (#8, 8.5 or even two #6 strips). (3) outline each letter with a contrasting strip in a more narrow cut, and (4) hook the letters a bit higher than the background.

Do you have others suggestions? If so, share them with Heloise.

Cobwebs & Dust -- The Magazine Antiques was first published in January 1922 and was described as "A magazine for collectors and others who find interest in times past and in the articles of daily use and adornment devised by the forefathers." In the September 1922 issue, the editors responded to a letter from a reader who wrote "Why don't you get out an article distinguishing the good from the bad in hooked rugs?" Their reply is repeated here in the first of two installments.

"The suggestion thus specifically offered is excellent. The difficulty to be encountered in meeting it is, primarily, that of fixing standards. What does constitute a good hooked rug, -- or a bad one? How indispensable is the element of age? What is the importance of color? How much credit is to be given for close and tidy workmanship, without regard to other considerations?

"As for age, no satisfactory proofs have as yet been extracted from the Attic dust heaps, or elsewhere, that would lead to dating any hooked rug previous to 1840. In fact, 1850 seems a more probable year. That, however, is far enough back for the caress of time to have smoothed even the most turbulent color combinations into docility, if not into the beauty of complete harmony. Likewise many, many rugs of later vintage have acquired tone through the passing of years, the tread of muddy boots, successive washings with home-brewed soap and subsequent dryings in the warmth and light of a younger and, doubtless, more ardent sun. And in some rugs of but yesterday knowledge of color values has produced results which, for sheer color quality, compare favorably with those wrought by the slower process of wear and waiting.

"The best of old rugs exhibit a fine and patient workmanship today almost unapproachable. They are of a time when the making of objects of use was also a means of amusement, or, at worst, of time killing. A decent pride urged to close looping of rug patterns, just as it urged to fine stitching in the outfit of the bride, or in the tiny garments fashioned, with all exquisiteness of love's anticipation, for the dawning babe.

"The closer the approach to the present, the keener the competition between the amusement which comes from some form of self-expression in home-handicraft and the amusement which may be cheaply bought outside at virtually no effort whatsoever. In the course of that competition, home-handicraft becomes confining labor, which restricts the freedom of the worker, and hence seeks its compensation in money rather than in

spiritual satisfaction. When the requirements not of the specific home, but of a considerable market are to be met, prices, and hence time expended in production, must be kept within fixed limits. This is the simplest aspect of commercialization. It usually results in hurried and, consequently coarsened workmanship.”

The conclusion of the article will appear in the April 2014 issue of The Loop. A few advertisements for hooked rugs and supplies for making rugs that appeared in those early issues of the magazine will be available for perusal at the meeting.

Recipes – In recognition of St. Patrick’s Day that will be celebrated on March 17, 2014, we are featuring Helen Nitzsche’s recipe for **Irish Soda Bread**. Give yourself a treat and enjoy it!

Ingredients

3 C. sifted flour
2/3 C. sugar
1 T. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
2 eggs, beaten
1 ¼ C. buttermilk
2 T. melted shortening
1 ½ C. currants or dark raisins

- Sift together into a large bowl the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
- Stir in raisins.
- Combine eggs, buttermilk and melted shortening.
- Add liquid mixture to dry ingredients, mixing just until all ingredients are moistened.
- Turn batter into greased loaf pan (5 ½ x 9 ½).
- Bake at 350 for 1 hour.
- Remove from pan immediately

Helen’s recipe is one of the wonderful recipes found in the cookbook compiled by the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter --Hooking & Cooking – Once Again. The cookbook is available to Guild members at the discounted price of \$15 (normally \$20). To order one just contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or by email at flowjans@hotmail.com.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

4th Annual Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – Saturday March 15, 2014 – The Woolwrights ATHA Chapter is hosting its 4th Spring Hook-in on Saturday, March 15, 2014 from 9 to 4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center located at 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601. Registration forms and information can be found at www.woolwrights.com. Registration deadline is March 1, 2014.

Early American Tavern/Trade Sign Rugs & the Stories They Tell – May 11, 2014 – The Historical Society of Hilltown Township is hosting an open house on Sunday, May 11, 2014 from 1:30 to 4:00 with a presentation by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber at 2:00 on early American Tavern/Trade Sign Rugs. Each of their rugs has a special story associated with the tavern or shop from which the sign hung. The program will be held at the Society’s Headquarters – the Hartzel-

Strassburger Homestead -- that is located at 403-407 Keystone Drive, Sellersville, PA 18960. Contact Cindy Gerry at 267-614-9174 for additional information. Admission is free.

Ontario Hooking Craft Guild Annual Rug Show -- Sunday May 25, 2014 -- The Ontario Hooking Craft Guild is hosting its annual rug show on May 25, 2015 from 9:30 to 2:30 at Durham College, Oshawa Ontario. There will be over 600 rugs on display and vendors. The admission fee is \$10.00. For more information, contact Jayne Nevins jnevins@rogers.com.

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.

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 Strebel. 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.

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

March 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Creating & Hooking a Redware Pattern (Sharon Ballard, Jan Cole & Karl Gimber) *
March 28-30 & April 1 & 2, 2014 – Spring Fling, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 11, 2014-- Monthly Meeting – Round Robin (Members with hooking businesses) **
May 9, 2014 –Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip to Barnes Foundation Museum, Philadelphia
June 13, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – “January Auction” & Guild Picnic (Location TBD)
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 – Construction of Christmas Trees **
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 – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboults@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

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 – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net
 Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com
 Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
 Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net

Special Events – Open

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

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
 Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

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



The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAE). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.