

## THE LOOP

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

March, 2007

**From the Presidents' Corner** – The Guild needs to congratulate itself for all that has been done over the last few months to establish a financial base that allows us to operate on a sound footing. This major accomplishment was a team effort. Creative programming, member participation and the generous support of our fund raising efforts led to this successful result. The committee who looked at our finances recommended an increase in our dues, which produced the revenue for the insurance coverage we needed. Last year at this time, we were concerned that the Guild may not be in a position to continue its long-standing subsidy for our rug hooking camp. Now we can do that and provide programming for members who do not attend camp. The nice thing was that we were able to generate the needed funds and have fun at the same time. Let's give ourselves a big pat on the back. Kudos to all!

The minutes for the February meeting follow the newsletter.

Happy Hooking! -- Heidi and Weezie

**March Meeting – March 8, 2007** from 10:00 to 2:00 at our regular meeting place, the Hunterdon County Administration Building on Rt.12, outside of Flemington, NJ.

**Guild Program** – Susan Feller will be doing a program/workshop on designing a rug with a fraktur influence. Twelve members will do the hands on work while the rest of us will be able to listen, observe and take notes on designing our own rugs. This should be a very good meeting because Susan will be doing a condensed version of what she did at camp last year. Several of us took her class at camp (Sharon Ballard, Connie Coleman, Nancy Culton, Cathy Edwards, Karl Gimber, Phyllis Hamel, Jennifer Larmour, Kay Weeks and Janet Williams) and loved it. Cyndi Lott, Patty Mahaffey and Mary Jo are going to take her class at the Highlands the first weekend in March.

Susan brings lots of materials and aids and you will walk away with a rug design. This is a good time to try designing your own rug without a lot of pressure. You will be very pleased with the results. Feel free to talk to the members who have taken Susan's class. The program will last between 2-3 hours.

The following members have signed up: Heidi Blair, Donna Brandt, Karen Gates, Kim Kagan, Carol Kindt, Tina Martin, Lee Ann Metropolitous, Lisa Mims, Kitty Platt and Dee Rosebrock.

Those who have already had a workshop with Susan will be observers. There are 12 spots for participants. Everyone else is gallery. Ten spots are filled. Two remain open. Contact Mary Jo at [mjg12@nni.com](mailto:mjg12@nni.com) or 215-297-0803 if you want to take one of the spots.

**Show & Tell** – 1) Any hooking that you are working on or have just completed, 2) Any Susan Feller rugs or designs that you are working on or have completed and 3) Any rugs or designs that you have made yourself.

**Video/DVD** - In case you did not get to see HGTV's Uncommon Threads last month with Anne-Marie Littenberg, Rae Harrell, Diane Phillips, and Barbara Held demonstrating how to hook a face, we have our new member, Joanne McIlmurray, to thank for providing Mary Jo with a copy of it. Joanne's husband, Phillip, copied it and two other terrific programs. The other two programs are on friendship rugs with Marilyn Bottjer and mat making with Deanne Fitzpatrick. All of the programs are worth watching and are

inspiring. Thank you so much Joanne and Phillip for doing this! We will use these videos in future programs and if there is time, we will preview part of the video at the March meeting.

Door prizes for Hook-in -- If you want to donate a door prize for the hook-in, please bring it to the March meeting and Sharon Ballard will be collecting them. We have a beautiful Lib Callaway pattern on linen donated by our vendor and member, Margaret Lutz. In addition, Piper Classics is donating a door prize. We hope that we will have something from Staples, our local post office and others -- just waiting to hear from them. In addition, our greeter will have a prize for each attendee and none of us has to make the prize. Yippee!

**Hospitality** – We thank in advance Susan Atwater, Madeline and Margaret Brightbill, Helen Buchanan and Cathy Edwards who have volunteered to bring refreshments to the March meeting. Their contributions help make the meeting more enjoyable.

**Hook-In Update** -- Interest in the hook- in has been very strong. **We are now sold out.** Those not registered are encouraged to shop with our vendors. There is still room in the Beginners' Workshop (\$50 for kit and lunch).

Evelyn Lawrence has graciously agreed to display her adaptations of historic Magdalena Briner rugs. Evelyn lives in Halstead, PA and has been researching the life and work of Magdalena Briner for some time. Magdalena Briner was born in Perry County, PA on November 4, 1832 and died March 7, 1915. Serious folk art collectors covet her rugs. They are in the collections of Barbara Johnson, Joel and Kate Kopp and Jesse Turbayne. Additional information can be found in Evelyn Lawrence's article "A Search for the Rugs of Magdalena Briner" in the January/February 2004 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine.

Hooking has started on the friendship rug designed by Weezie Huntington. The rug will be donated to Rolling Hill United Methodist Church as payment for the use of their facility for our hook-in. The rug will be in their silent auction fundraiser later in the year. However, the Church has agreed to allow silent auction bidding to begin at the hook-in. The retail value of the rug is estimated to be in the \$1500 to \$1800 range. Weezie needs volunteers to hook one of the 6" x 6" house blocks. Please contact her if you can help. Our goal is to have the rug completed by the hook-in.

Bonnie Rusch will be teaching our Beginners' Workshop. The mat project will have an image of a chicken's egg nest with the word "Eggs". We are turning to the Guild to donate the supplies. Linen or rug warp backing (18" x 18") is needed for eight kits. Red wool (#5 & #6 cuts) and background barn board colors are needed. Bonnie has gold wool for the nest left over from our last Beginners' Workshop and is dying the wool for the eggs. Please bring your donations to our March meeting.

The hook-in is being supported by attendees from several local and not so local rug hooking guilds – Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter (Plainfield, NJ), Black Sheep Rug Hookers (East Berlin, PA), Blue & Gray Rug Hookers (Gettysburg, PA), Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild (Lancaster, PA), Garden State Chapter of Pearl K McGown Rug Hookrafters, Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild (VT), Old Barn Rug Hooking Guild (Laceyville, PA), Rug Hooking Workshop and The Woolwrights (Leola, PA). We are thankful for their participation and hope that our gathering will provide an opportunity to meet new friends, exchange ideas and compare notes.

**2007 Rug Hooking Camp Update**– Norma Batastini, Rae Harrell and Jule Marie Smith will be the instructors at our Rug Hooking Camp from August 13 to 17, 2007. There is one position still available with Norma. The classes with Rae and Jule Marie are full.

The February/March issue the ATHA Newsletter features the work of Rae Harrell students. The article “Creativity Led to Self-Discovery: A Change Brought On By Rae Harrell” provides excellent insights into what Rae’s students can expect from working with her.

The fee for members is \$150 and \$225 for non- members. The member rate is available to those who are Guild members as of the April meeting (April 13, 2007). There is a \$50 registration fee of which \$25 is non-refundable. The full fee is due on April 13, 2007. No refunds will be given after May 31, 2007 unless there is a replacement from the paid waiting list.

To register send your deposit check for \$50 made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber, P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913.

**30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Planned – October 13, 2007** – Our Guild will be 30 years old in October! A birthday party hook-in for members only is planned for Saturday, October 13. The birthday party will be instead of our regular meeting on October 12. More details will follow as plans develop. Kim Kagan knows Helen “Penny” Waring (Hayes) who organized a group of 10 women in 1973 to meet and hook rugs in their homes. That group eventually became HCRAAG in 1977. Kim says that Penny, who now lives in Tennessee, hopes to be back for the birthday party. More info will follow as plans progress.

**November Meeting Date Change** -- Our November meeting will be a week earlier than usual on November 2. The change will avoid a conflict for members who want to attend the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Rug Show at the Shelburne Museum. Kim Kagan will demonstrate how to hook and put together a brick doorstep. She will give us advice on brick selection and dimensions for the pattern at the September meeting so that we can come in November ready to put the doorstep together. We can design our own motif or use Kim’s.

**Membership** – We welcome new and returning members Kim Kagan, Karen Meyers, Helen Nitzsche, Emily Williams (Janet Williams’ daughter) and Karen Worthington to the Guild. Please add them to your membership list.

Kim Kagan	Karen Meyers	Helen Nitzsche
4190 Gregory Dr.	331 E. Fairview St.	520 Wadsworth Ave.
Doylestown, PA 18902	Bethlehem, PA 18018-4127	Plainfield, NJ 07060
215-766-3707	610-865-5168	908-755-8161
<a href="mailto:kim.kagan@verizon.net">kim.kagan@verizon.net</a>	<a href="mailto:happyhouse331@aol.com">happyhouse331@aol.com</a>	<a href="mailto:h.nitzsche@att.net">h.nitzsche@att.net</a>

Emily Williams	Karen Worthington
64 Providence St.	656 Harmony Brass Castle Rd.
Portland, ME 04103	Harmony, NJ 08865
207-807-1850	908-859- 6350
<a href="mailto:emilyluellawilliams@gmail.com">emilyluellawilliams@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:karen@thebluetullpwolery">karen@thebluetullpwolery</a>

**March Birthdays** – Birthday wishes go to Nancy Culton (3/30), Tracy Fetzer (3/4), Sandy Francisco (3/7), Amy Korengut (3/26) and Laurie Rubinetti (3/29).

**Meet Our Treasurer – Susan Atwater** – Susan has been involved with needlework since she was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She has done cross-stitch, samplers, needlepoint and quilting for many years. It was her interest in quilting that led her to rug hooking. In 2003, Susan visited the Lebanon Township Historical Society to review a quilt exhibit and found two docents who were rug hooking. When she expressed interest in what they were doing, the docents suggested that she contact Margaret Lutz which she did. Margaret taught her the basics and encouraged her to join the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild as a way for her to continue to learn and develop her technique.

Susan joined the Guild and has been an active member ever since. She looks upon the Guild as a place for her to learn and continue her development as a rug hooker. Susan is conscious of being a relatively new rug hooker, although the quality of her rugs suggest a level of skill more consistent with a seasoned rug hooker. She is attracted to primitive style projects rather than floral images that were popular in the past. Susan believes that rug hooking is like other art forms that develop and evolve. She hooks mostly with a # 6 cut and tends to work with patterns designed by others. Susan works with new wool obtained from local vendors. However, she recently was given several old kilts by her daughter that she plans to use in her rug hooking.

In spite of the short time she has been hooking, Susan's rugs show a remarkable consistency in the height of her loops. Her work appears to be done by an artisan who has been hooking for many years. Susan attributes her consistent loops to her years of doing needle work "where neatness counts."

Susan attended several rug hooking workshops and camps, but was disappointed with what she got out of them. They were enjoyable experiences, but did not feel that she learned as much as she had anticipated. Susan did benefit from workshops by Bev Conway on coloring and Sherri Heiber Day on hooking animals.

Susan is an avid collector of "off beat stuff". Guild members who attended our recent rug hooking retreat were invited to Susan's beautiful home for wine, cheese and dinner and had an opportunity to see some of her eclectic collections -- 37 at last count. Her favorites are oilcans, rolling pins and tractor wrenches. The shapes and silhouettes of objects appeal to her. Susan feels that a well-shaped tool is a pleasure to look at especially when it is no longer used.

In addition to her interest in rug hooking, Susan is an avid gardener and a graduate of the Master Gardener program conducted by Rutgers University. This comprehensive program covers all aspects of horticultural and takes at least a year to be certified. Susan is especially impressed by the public outreach component of the program. After completing the academic elements, students are required to participate in public outreach such as responding to hotline calls or teaching horticultural programs in local schools. Susan elected to work with a group home for young adults with disabilities and helped them plan and establish a vegetable garden. She finds her work in the Master Gardener's program very rewarding. Susan is also a member of the Herb Society.

Susan Atwater is a person of many talents and interests.

**From the Dye Pot** -- Bonnie Rusch was going through back issues of Rug Hooking Magazine looking for dye recipes and came across an article entitled, "The Mystery of The Changing Colors: How Water Affects Dyeing" by Pat Cross in the November/December 1999 issue. She saw the following formula for a nice blue that she was looking for.

Formula: Gray Smoke Blue (dyed over off-white wool)

Using Cushing Dyes

1/16 tsp. Black

1/16 tsp. Dark Gray

1/64 tsp. Blue

Add to one cup of boiled water and stir until dissolved. Add 3 tablespoons, plus 1 1/2 teaspoons of the dye solution to the dye bath.

Rug hookers from several states (FL, IL, NC, NY, and NJ) participated in an experiment to see what impact the local water had on the color of the dyed wool. The New Jersey participant was our own Gail Dufresne. Gail's wool was a beautiful blue color that Bonnie was looking for, while Dick LaBarge's (NY) wool came out dark navy blue. The others were a lovely shade of colonial looking blue that Bonnie was interested in as well.

What did Bonnie get in Asbury, NJ? Purple! Like Gail, Bonnie has hard well water with limestone, so she expected a color similar to Gail's. Thinking she must have done something wrong, Bonnie repeated her experiment, but this time used clean snow from the lawn. She heated the snow to a boil using a different stainless steel pot and placed the wet wool in the pot with the dye. Again, it started to show signs of purple. In frustration, Bonnie dumped the rest of the dye in and stirred it. This time besides some purple, she got navy blue. The colors are nice, but not the colonial blue color she was looking for.

Bonnie has concluded that the properties of her well water and the snow are a close equal. She knows there is a lot of iron in the area as well as the limestone. There have been other times when Bonnie has used Cushing's black dye in a recipe and seen signs of purple in her dyed wool. Now she knows it is her water.

Bonnie is interested in seeing what other Guild members come up with using the above recipe. If you try it, bring the results to the March meeting and compare it with Bonnie's.

**Additions to the Guild's Library**—Karen Kahle's color workshop DVD entitled "Color Inspiration for Primitive Hooked Rugs" has been donated to our library by the Hooksome and Chatmore Group in memory of Tracy's Fetzer's husband, Albi. Please add this DVD to your Library List. The DVD can be borrowed by contacting our librarian, Kathy Donovan.

**Wool Donations**— The Guild has received wool donated by Linda Beck (Flemington, NJ), Debi Slatkin (Upper Black Eddy, PA) and Full Circle Thrift Store (New Britain, PA). Family members who were rug hookers originally used the wool from Linda and Debi. Keep Linda in mind for your sewing needs. Her business, Sewing L.A.B., is in her Flemington home (908-782-8483). Full Circle Thrift is one of the best thrift stores in the area and their proceeds benefit A Woman's Place. It is located in the Towne Center Shopping Center on Rt. 202 in New Britain, PA. The wool will be available at the March meeting. We are so very thankful for these generous donations.

**Flower Basket Purse Kit** – There was much interest in the hooked flower basket purse that Kim Kagan shared at the "show and tell" portion of the February meeting. Following the meeting, Kim reported that the kit can be obtained from Patsy Jones, 6304 E. 116 Street, Fishers, Indiana 46038. When she purchased the kit last May, it was \$35, plus shipping. A purse with the image of a crow was also available at the time. Hooking on a wool backing, the technique used in this kit, will be the subject of our April program.

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

Tavern & Trade Sign Hooked Rug Exhibit – Through March 17, 2007. The rugs designed and hooked by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber are on display at the Carversville General Store in Carversville, PA.

Hooked Rugs: Past to Present- Saturday, March 24, 2007. Textile artist, teacher and long time rug hooker, Jule Marie Smith, will share her expertise in primitive rug hooking at the historic Longstreet Farm on Longstreet Road, Holmdel, NJ from 1:00 to 3:00. Jule is one of the instructors who will be at our Guild's summer camp. She is known for her imaginative designs and beautiful color combinations. Admission is free, but pre registration is preferred. To register, call Monmouth County Park System at 732-842-4000.

American Country Rugs invites you to rug hooking workshops at Lollipop Farms, East Rupert, VT. -- Lucille Festa; May 1-3 – Gail Dufresne; July 24-26 – Jayne Hester; September 10-12 – Dick LaBarge and George Kahle. Contact Lucille Festa at 802-325-2543 or [lucillefesta@hotmail.com](mailto:lucillefesta@hotmail.com) for details.

Rugs by the Sea, a traditional rug hooking school in Cape May, NJ, invites you to join them for their 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration during the weeks of September 16 to 28. The instructors for the first week are Beverly Conway, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay and Nancy Miller. The instructors for the second week are Elizabeth Black, Beverly Conway, Gail Dufresne and Abby Vakay. Contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-5361 or [g\\_batastini@msn.com](mailto:g_batastini@msn.com) for details.

The Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington ([weezie.huntington@verizon.net](mailto:weezie.huntington@verizon.net)) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

## **HCRAAG Calendar of Events**

**March 9** – Monthly Meeting – Design Your Own Rug (Susan Feller)\*

**April 13** – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Pillow on Wool Workshop (Kay Levan)\*

**April 21** -- Guild Hook-in at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, Pipersville, PA

**May 11** – Monthly Meeting – Hooking Trees (Bernice Smith)\*

**June 8** – HCRAAG/ATHA Picnic (Sharon Ballard's home)

**August 13-17** – HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp, ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

**September** – HCRAAG Exhibit – Clinton and Flemington Libraries

**September 14** – Monthly Meeting (Program TBD)\*

**October 13** – 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Hook-in\*

**November 2** – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Brick Doorstop (Kim Kagan)\* – note meeting is a week earlier

**December** – HCRAAG Exhibit – Doylestown Library

**December 14** – 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](mailto:jenyjump@optonline.net)

Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or [weezie.huntington@verizon.net](mailto:weezie.huntington@verizon.net)

**Fund Raising** – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or [cballard@patmedia.net](mailto:cballard@patmedia.net)

**Historian** – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or [marionmichel@earthlink.net](mailto:marionmichel@earthlink.net)

**Hospitality** – Ingrid Cosmen – 908-832-2215 or [woodglen1@earthlink.net](mailto:woodglen1@earthlink.net)

Lydia Brenner -- 732-741-9313 or [lbrenuva@comcast.net](mailto:lbrenuva@comcast.net)

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

**Programs** – Mary Jo Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or [mjg12@nni.com](mailto:mjg12@nni.com)

**Public Relations** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or [karlg@nni.com](mailto:karlg@nni.com)

**Secretary** – Gail Schmidt – 732-741-6620 or [gks001@aol.com](mailto:gks001@aol.com)

**Sunshine** – Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or [uncoolfred@aol.com](mailto:uncoolfred@aol.com)

**Treasurer** – Susan Atwater – 908-439-3473 or [susanatwater@earthlink.com](mailto:susanatwater@earthlink.com)

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

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAE). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter should be submitted to Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to [karlg@nni.com](mailto:karlg@nni.com).