

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

March 2012

Presidents' Letter – Rug hooking isn't only about making beautiful hooked pieces, it's about the people we meet along the way. The past couple of months were full of hook-ins and meetings with great programs but the best part of all of this was sharing it with friends. We are so lucky to share our interests with other great people. It opens the door for us to meet others who might not have crossed our paths.

Over the years our Guild has had core members as well as the people who come and stay for a while before moving on. We have members who have gone through sickness and faced life's tragedies. Through it all, our members have gathered around them to offer compassion and support and this speaks volumes of the quality of our members.

We also share happiness and laughter. Most recently, on February 18, a table full of HCRAG members celebrated Jo Knobloch's 90th birthday. If you don't already know Jo, we all owe her a debt of gratitude for starting the Guilds of Hunterdon County. It was a wonderful party, and even though she was the guest of honor, it felt like Jo was honoring us. As you looked around our table you saw so many active members of our Guild who have held office and been part of making us what we are today. There were new friends and old friends, most of whom would never have met if it weren't for Jo's passion and dedication. It may have been Jo's 90th birthday, but the gift of Jo's presence was shared by everyone in attendance.

Have a great March, Joyce and Dee

March Meeting – Friday, March 9, 2012 -- The March meeting will be held at our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road. Our meeting begins at 10:00 and ends at 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Gail Dufresne will lecture on geometric design and color and the value of value and chroma, one of her favorite topics. Understanding these two concepts is all you need to make beautiful rugs (well, nice wool helps too).

Gail has been working with optical illusions, which is a fun way to play around with color, value and chroma. She hopes to have several examples to share with you. She is hooking madly, as are her students.

For those who have ordered a pattern from Gail, please bring your hooking supplies and any wool you think may work. Gail will have beautiful wool in all sorts of colors for your buying pleasure.

If you would like Gail to bring any other supplies, such as hooks (she has a large supply), scissors, etc to the meeting, please let Gisele know and she will relay the message to Gail.

Show & Tell – March is National Craft Month. We all know you hook. What other crafts do you enjoy doing? We have a very talented membership! Bring in some samples of your other creative work and receive a raffle ticket and a chance to win a prize! Bring and share your current hooking projects too.

Remember there is a raffle ticket for those who show and tell with a chance to win one of our many prizes. Any member donations for raffle prizes are greatly appreciated. If you could send Cheryl, Gisele or Lydia an email or call to let them know you are bringing a prize, it will be helpful in planning the quantity of prizes at any one meeting. We thank you for your support!

The S & T raffle winners for February were:

Karl Gimber – Picture Frame
Joan Lucas – Note Paper
Robin Perelli -- Wool
Sue Schulz -- Chocolates
Martha Theiling – Tree Ornaments

The prizes were donated by Karl Gimber, Cheryl Halliday, Lydia Lewis, Dee Rosebrock and Sue Woodworth.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks for the meeting – Joyce Combs, Lydia Brenner, Carol Kindt, Dee Rosebrock, Martha Theiling. Your efforts help 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), Juliana Kapusta (3/4), Amy Korengut (3/26), Joan Lucas (3/13), Pat McDonnell (3/17), Irene Pasternak (3/27), Laurie Rubinetti (3/29), Mary Schenck (3/29) and Therese Shick (3/20). Happy Birthday to you all!

Membership – We welcome our newest member, Anndee Byers, to our Guild and look forward to seeing her at upcoming meetings. Anndee's contact information is shown below.

Anndee Byers
1 Woodside Lane
Riverton, NJ 08077
856-829-7179
andee@hookandhistory.com

Margaret Brightbill succumbed to cancer on February 9, 2012 after a long and courageous battle. A special memorial issue of The Loop has been sent to members.

Belated condolences are extended to former member Sandy Watts who lost her mother last year. Her mother, Mary Jenkins, was also a Guild member. We recall the enjoyment Mary received from attending our meetings.

Tony Townsend reports that “I have gone back to college after 50 years to study printmaking and silk-screening, so I may have to miss some meetings as my class is on Friday from 9 until 1pm at Bucks County Community College.”

Canadian born Annie Edwards is in the final stages of becoming a US Citizen. Congratulations Annie!

Sunshine – Carol Collin is currently under treatment for cancer. She misses everyone and hopes to get back soon. We look forward to Carol’s return.

Guild News & Events

Rug Hooking Community Grieves Loss of Vicki Calu -- Vicki Calu passed away last month after an extended battle with cancer. For many years she was the Director of the Highlands Rug Hooking School, taking over those responsibilities from her mother. Vicki held open studio sessions at her studio in Dublin, PA. where several Guild members were regulars. She was also a retired Chair of the National Guild of the Pearl K. McGown Handrafter's Guild, President of the McGown Guild and a founding director of the Hooked Rug Museum of North America. Vicki inspired rug hookers across the country to pursue the preservation of rug hooking which had evolved from a humble craft form to provide warmth to the beds and floors of pioneer homes.

Patty Mahaffey and Janet Williams Rugs at Sauder Village -- Those who attended the ATHA Biennial in Lancaster may have seen Judy Carter’s “Eye See You” rug which she was working on at the time. The 24” x 36” rug has 38 detailed animal eyes that were magnificently drawn by Leonard Feenan and hooked by Judy. It is truly a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. The rug is featured in the January/February 2012 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine. The completed rug will be exhibited at Sauder Village during its Rug Hooking Week from August 14-18, 2012.

After the rug was completed, Judy approached several of her rug hooking friends asking if they would have interest in hooking one of the eyes as an individual rug. Guild members Patty Mahaffey and Janet Williams agreed and are working on their rugs that will be included in the special “Eye See You” exhibit at Sauder Village. Congratulations Patty and Janet.

Slate of New Officers/Chairs Finalized – Barbara Boyko and Robin Perelli have volunteered to share program responsibilities. Jean Laurence has agreed to become our Assistant Treasurer. The combination of incumbents who will continue for another year and new leaders augers well for another successful year for our Guild

The full slate of officers/chairs is as follows:

- Co-President – Cindy Boults and Therese Shick
- Vice President – Debbie Walsh *
- Historian – Sonia Force *
- Hospitality – Deanna Kinney *
- Librarian – Kathy Donovan *
- Programs – Barbara Boyko and Robin Perelli

- Public Relations & Newsletter – Karl Gimber *
- Secretary – Susan Woodworth
- Assistant Secretary – Linda Kling
- Special Events – Amy Korengut *
- Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando
- Treasurer – Jana Laidlaw *
- Assistant Treasurer – Jean Laurence

* incumbent

The election will take place at our April meeting with the officers/chairs assuming their responsibilities at the May meeting.

Woolwrights 2012 Spring Hook-in – Saturday, March 17, 2012 -- The Woolwrights ATHA Chapter is sponsoring its popular regional hook-in on March 17, 2012 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center in Lancaster, PA from 9-4. Join them for a fun day of hooking, visiting with friends and being inspired. There will be vendors with new and favorite patterns, wools and every supply that you need to make beautiful rugs. There will be wonderful door prizes, a rug show and a mat swap with an Americana theme. Pre registration is required. Visit the Guild's website – www.woolwrights.com – for details.

4th Annual Spring Fling – March 23, 24 & 25, 2012 -- Two exciting workshops (The Magic of Masquerade and Exploring Color & Hooking) will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, March 23, 2012 to Sunday March 25, 2012. **Please note that the Magic of Masquerade workshop is being opened to those who want to learn embellishment techniques for a mat or rug rather than a mask.**

While March is fast approaching, there is still space available in both offerings. You can choose to color plan utilizing your own stash and patterns or create using wonderful dip dyes, embellishments and patterns available in Angela and Cyndy's classes. We will be inviting Guild members to come see our creativity and have an opportunity to purchase available wool and patterns midday on Sunday. Come to Peek, Purchase and Perhaps have lunch at Perkins!

Participants can stay at the Hampton Inn or commute. For a discounted room rate for those who want to stay overnight, call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

Instructors: The Magic of Masquerade with Cyndy Duade –Let your imagination go out to play! Create your own magical mask to wear or be a wall display. Class includes a kit with the basic mask pattern, eye ribbon, and soft backing for the mask (\$15). You can embellish the basic pattern as drawn or transform it to your own creation. Combine wool, yarn, fabric, beads, feathers, and bling. Hook, sculpt, proddy, or embellish.

Class will cover mask design, choosing materials and embellishments, attaching special effects, backing application, finishing edges, and mounting for wall display. Lots of colorful wool, fabric, and embellishments will be available. Bring your imagination and creativity to this fun class and you can wear your mask home on Sunday!

Cyndy Duade lives in Springfield NH near lakes and mountains. She is an accredited McGown Teacher and attends Teachers' Workshop for continuing education. She has been teaching rug hooking for 12 years and enthusiastically embraces all styles of rug hooking.

Exploring Color & Hooking with Angela Foote -- Let the knowledge of color stimulate you to step outside your color box. Use your favorite color in a new way. Explore a variety of dyed wools, spots, dips, and sparkling marbled wools, swirling with color to enliven your rugs. Bring your love of color and hooking to class. Students may start a new project or spark up an existing project. All styles of hooking are welcome!

Students are contacted prior to class to discuss rug patterns, custom designs, color choices and any other hooking needs. Wools can be custom dyed for your project or as an addition to your wool stash. Angela travels with a large assortment of beautiful dyed wools.

Angela Foote is a passionate creative rug hooker who loves to work with color. She is well known for her beautifully dyed wools and unique wool garments. Whether over the dye pot, teaching classes, lecturing on color, or creating in her studio, Angela's 30 years of experience is evident in her works of art. She is a certified McGown teacher, member of ATHA and enjoys hooking in both fine shading and primitive styles. She has regular classes in her studio and teaches at guild meetings and workshops across New England. FABRICFOOTE is her hooking and dyeing business.

Workshop Size: 12 - 15 students each class

Meals/Snacks: We will provide coffee and tea. Participants may bring snacks to share.

Cost: \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required at the time of registration. The balance will be due at or before our February meeting. In the event you need to cancel after our February meeting, a refund less a \$25 cancellation fee will be made if we are able to fill the spot. If we are unable to fill the spot there will be no refund.

Schedule: Friday- Evening reception and meeting with instructors (5:00 – 8:00)
Saturday - workshop (9:00 - 4:30)
Sunday - workshop (8:30 - 3:30)

To register, send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAAG, to Cindy Boultz 1 Spring Hill Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801, with a note indicating the instructor with whom you want to work. If you have questions, direct them to Cindy at cboultz@gmail.com or 908-730-0146.

HCRAAG Hook-in/Clinic at the Mennonite Heritage Center – April 21, 2012 --
The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 21, 2012 from 9:00 to 3:30. In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have vendors, mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. Rose Moyer from the Heritage Center reports that “registrations keep rolling

in.” Participation is limited to about 50 people. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to register early.

The museum exhibits that will be on display make the Mennonite Heritage Center a special site for our hook-in. Their exhibit of Pennsylvania German fraktur is quite extraordinary and an ideal setting for our exhibit of rugs hooked by participants. In addition, there will be a special display entitled “*Milestones: Observances in Mennonite Family and Church Life*” as well as their permanent exhibit on Mennonite history.

Registration is required as participation is limited. The event fee of \$45 (non-Heritage Center Member) and \$40 (MHC member) includes a full lunch and coffee/snacks. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020. Visit their website -- www.mhep.org -- for more information on their programs.

Raffles are always a fun part of every hook-in. Cheryl Halliday and Sue Schulz are busy collecting raffle items and our vendors and local professionals have generously responded. The current list of donors is as follows:

- Jan Cole (Wool ‘N Gardner)
- Pat Donoho (Misty Pond Primitives)
- Rebecca Erb (Wool Studio)
- Jackie Gauker (Jackie’s Woolens)
- Joanne Gerwig (Woodcrest Rug Designs)
- Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Kay Leisey (Homespun)
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy)
- Dee Rosebrock (HCRAAG)
- Karen Worthington (Blue Tulip)

Dee Rosebrock has donated a copy of the Rug Hookers Bible. If a member wants to donate rug hooking related items, please bring them to the meeting.

We are grateful to our team of volunteers who are listed below.

Set Up – Margie Briggs & Karl Gimber
Registration Table – Margie Briggs & Sue Schulz
Rug Exhibit – Annie Edwards
Raffles – Cheryl Halliday & Sue Schulz
Mini Presentations – Annie Edwards
HCRAAG Vending – Joyce Combs, Karl Gimber, Cheryl Halliday, Pat McDonnell
& Therese Shick
Beginners Workshop – Juliana Kapusta & Patty Mahaffey
Beginners Kits – Karl Gimber, Juliana Kapusta, Patty Mahaffey & Therese Shick
Clean Up – Joyce Combs, Karl Gimber & Pat McDonnell

Beginners' Rug Hooking Workshop (April 21, 2012) -- Juliana Kapusta and Patty Mahaffey will be conducting a workshop for beginners at our hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center. It is already half full!

The fee for the workshop is \$45 (non-Heritage Center member) and \$40 (MHC member) plus \$20 for the kit. Participants need to provide a 10" embroidery hoop and a pair of sharp scissors. The workshop will be limited to nine participants. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA 19438-1020.

Attend Camp Free! -- Do you want to come to the Guild's summer camp for free? All you need to do is provide housing for one of our instructors. The host is not expected to entertain the instructor. After a long day teaching, the instructors need time to relax, reflect on the day and get ready for the next day. They will welcome time alone at night. The host is requested to provide breakfast and dinner. Lunch is provided by the Guild. To sign up or to learn more, contact Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail) or Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com).

HCRAG Annual Summer Camp (August 13 -17, 2012) --Our Guild's 16th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 13, 2012 through August 17, 2012 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors – Arline Bechtoldt, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Jeanne Benjamin's class is full, but a waiting list has been established. The other classes are filling, so you are encouraged to register soon to be assured a place.

The camp volunteer signup sheets will be at the next meeting and members attending camp should sign up for at least two jobs. Last year everyone volunteered and all the jobs were covered.

Our Teachers –

Jeanne Benjamin: Jeanne started hooking in 1971 and became McGown certified in 1979. She owns New Earth Designs, a pattern business of diverse designs, and also has a dyed wool mail order business. Jeanne has a loyal following and is known for her beautiful dyeing and color planning, often dyeing 50 yards or more of wool weekly.

Jeanne stresses good pre-camp communication and advance planning to maximize students' class time. She gives instructions in small increments which enables her to get around the classroom quickly. Class time includes question and answer periods so everyone can participate and learn, not only from individual instruction, but from group time as well.

Jeanne expects you to relax, keep an open mind, and enjoy this creative time! Jeanne often teaches an open class (she enjoys a large class with diversity) but her specialties are Orientals, making a primitive design look antique, folk art, and pictorials.

Arline Bechtoldt: Arline is an accredited teacher who enjoys teaching a student driven class. She recently gave a talk at the Alice Beatty Chapter of ATHA and showed her rugs which ranged from beautifully fine shaded faces, flowers, and antique designs, to whimsical and primitive motifs.

Before camp Arline discusses with each student their particular needs for their rug. She will help with color planning and can provide custom dyed wool as needed and/or work with wool already on hand. She will also bring a supply of wool to class.

During class time Arline will discuss technique, color planning, and finishing, and as the day is winding down, creative stitches, dyeing techniques, labeling, and any other topics of interest. Arline plans to ensure that your rug becomes the masterpiece you envision!

Lucille Festa: Lucille is a collector of antiques and a history buff especially interested in the American Civil War era and women's history. She started her business, American Country Rugs, about seven years ago and sells patterns (including her “door people”) via her website.

She specializes in primitive style rugs and often incorporates old antique colors, textures, and wide cut wools as well as folk art images into her rugs. Lucille loves colors that evoke a feeling of antiquity and enjoys creating rugs with an aged look. She brings plenty of wool plaids, checks, tweeds, and herringbones to her classes. She will help you to color plan and hook a warm, antique style rug that will be passed down through the generations.

Registration/Instructional Fees –The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2011. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2012. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2012, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

“Rugs by the Sea” Workshops Announced – September 9-21, 2012 -- Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury have just announced plans for their very popular Rugs by the Sea Camp held in Cape May, NJ. The line up of instructors for this year is Bev Conway, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay, Kris Miller, Laura Pierce, Judy Quintman and Sharon Townsend. For details contact Norma at g_batastini@msn.com or 973-746-2936 or Linda at Linda.woodbury@gmail.com or 973-743-6835.

HCRAG Library – Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her 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 frejja2@verizon.net.

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

Featured Member – Betsy Warner – Betsy is the oldest of five daughters and grew up in Connecticut. She gained an appreciation of fiber arts early on from her grandmother and step-mother. Needlepoint, crewel, embroidery, quilting, weaving, and sewing were all skills she developed. In 2002 Betsy wanted a hooked rug for a special place in her home, but could not locate a commercial rug that appealed to her. She decided to do it herself!

At the time Betsy had not yet learned to hook, so she needed to learn the basics. Gail Dufresne was brought to her attention and Betsy started to take classes with Gail, initially once a month and then twice a month. It took her about four years, but Betsy got the rug she wanted. It is a round rug about 36 inches in diameter. After she started hooking, Betsy discovered two aunts who hooked 20 years before. One still tries to do some.

Hooking with #8 cuts is Betsy's standard with #6 and #4 cuts used as needed. She describes her hooking style as "colorful primitive". Betsy likes color and is not attracted to the muted colors often associated with primitive style rugs. She has hooked several geometric patterns and did a series on the "Goddess of Elements" – fire, earth, air and water. The goddess of water was the first in the series and featured a mermaid as the principle image. Betsy also enjoys hooking Celtic knots and landscapes.

Betsy attends several camps each year as a way to continue her development as a rug hooking artisan. Norma Batastini's Rugs by the Sea is her favorite and she returns each year. The Highlands Rug Hooking School was another favorite until it ceased operating several years ago. Betsy has attended two ATHA Biennials, one in Nova Scotia and the last one in Lancaster. Over the years, Betsy has worked with many of the most sought after rug hooking instructors including Norma Batastini, Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Cindi Gay, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Michele Micarelli, Kim Nixon, and Laura Pierce.

New and recycled wool are used in Betsy's rugs. She does not have the time to dye her wool especially in view of the beautiful woolens available from local suppliers and at the camps she attends. Betsy likes to incorporate yarn and roving into her rugs for the special affect they achieve.

Betsy works with both commercially available patterns and ones she designs herself. Karen Kahle and Vermont Folk Rug patterns are favorites. When Betsy designs rugs as a gift, she attempts to create a pattern that suits the recipient. She does not look at other rugs, but rather what suits the occasion such as a wedding or the individual. Betsy notes that "most of my rugs are on the small side, no more than about 24" by 36".

Hooking most evenings is a way for Betsy to relax and to make steady progress on her current project. She commutes into Philadelphia for her work and finds hooking at night while she is watching TV as a way to rejuvenate herself. Betsy hooks about two hours each day whenever possible.

When asked “Why rug hooking appeals to her?” Betsy observed that she “likes working with fabric and finds rug hooking a forgiving art form. It goes quickly unlike needlepoint. There is also a great rug hooking community out there.”

Betsy was attracted to our Guild because of our programs and activities. She learned about HCRAAG from others she met at local workshops. The “people and programs keep me coming back when I can”. She is active in the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter and a member of the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild. Betsy also hooks with a group of “Highlands people” who get together occasionally.

Betsy was a social worker for 14 years before she decided to attend Temple University Law School. . She is now a family law attorney working for a twenty lawyer firm in Philadelphia. Her practice includes child support, divorce, adoption and custody issues. Her other interests include attending the theater and dance performances.

Visit the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com – and click on “Featured Member” to see some of Betsy’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

Margaret’s Knitted Christmas Balls -- At a recent Guild meeting, Margaret Brightbill shared Christmas tree balls that she knitted for decorating her wool feather tree. Kathy Donovan, who is also a knitter, spoke with Margaret and gathered the instructional information needed to make the balls. Kathy has prepared the following directions.

Supplies

- Yarn: worsted weight wool in any color you wish to over dye,
or any other worsted weight yarn in desired color.
Needles: #5 knitting needles, tapestry needle.

Directions

- Cast on 9 stitches leaving a 12” tail
- Row 1: Knit across
- Row 2: Purl 2 together two times, purl last stitch. You will have 5 stitches remaining.
- Row 3: Knit 2 together two times, knit last stitch. You will have 3 stitches remaining.
- Cut about 10” of yarn, thread this onto tapestry needle.
- Go through the 3 stitches remaining on the needle and pull tight.
- Match the 2 short sides and stitch down.
- Pick up stitches around the bottom.
- Take the 12” starting yarn and stuff it into the cavity.
- Pull needle and thread tight to close.
- Run the needle back and forth top to bottom through middle several times pulling in any loose loops.
- Remove the needle, leaving the yarn at the top. You can use this as a hanger.
- Ornaments made of wool may now be thrown into the dye pot.

From Nina's Notebook – March is coming! Will it come in like a lamb or a lion? What about all those yellow crocus that are poking their shoots out of the ground as well as daffodils and tulips, will they be greeted with sun or snow? It often happened that when

our forsythia had reached its full bloom, it suffered the blows of a howling late March or early April snow storm.

And what about those little lambs frolicking about on the new grass enjoying the warm sun? Lions and lambs bring to mind a beautiful hooking by Margaret Brightbill called The Peaceable Kingdom. The artist, Edward Hicks, had created a series of paintings celebrating William Penn and his vision for Penns Woods where people would live in harmony with each other as well as with the natural world. Included in those images was one showing a lamb cradled in the paws of a lion. Margaret had used images from those paintings as well as adding some of her own touches. In many ways this hooking reflected her life and the quiet way she had of creating harmony in her work as well as her relationships. I will miss Margaret as will many members of HCRA. She has left us a beautiful legacy of hooked pieces as well as a vision for creating mats that reflect those values which mean the most to us.

I encourage you to call forth your inner artist, your visions for March and to create that mat that has been rattling around in your head. The cold days of March are meant for hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise – At the Guild’s recent retreat, Heloise noticed that Lydia Lewis was hooking a pillow on a piece of blue dyed linen. The linen backing was not going to be covered with hooked loops but rather would be the background for the pillow.

Amy Korengut, who was also at the retreat, overheard that conversation and noted that she had worked with dyed linen once in the past and was not pleased with the results. She found that color planning her rug was much more difficult due to the fact that it is best done on a neutral vs. a colored surface. Perhaps the difference was that in Amy’s case she was hooking the entire surface and this was not the situation with Lydia’s pillow.

Lydia bought the dyed linen from a rug hooking shop several years ago while on vacation in Texas. Heloise wanted more information on the backing and attempted to contact the shop, but learned that it recently went out of business. Calls to local vendors failed to identify anyone who was familiar with dyed linen.

Gail Dufresne, our local wool dyeing expert, immediately thought about how to dye linen. She observed that “Acid dyes, I am pretty certain, will not dye linen (or cotton). You need a dye that is called direct dye for this....I think.....but now you have me wanting to try to dye linen with my acid dyes. I have direct dyes but have never used them.”

Has anyone else had experience with dyed linen? If so, please let Heloise know.

Recipes – There were many requests for Cindy Boults’ recipe for her “Mutti’s Apple Sauce Cake”. We thank her for sharing it with us.

- one box of Social Tea cookies
- make a bottom layer of cookies then spread apple sauce followed by another layer of cookies....layering sauce and cookies...finish with apple sauce
- cover with foil and place in refrigerator overnight or for several hours so cookies soften and become "cake like"

- streak with whip cream before serving.

Now the trick is the apple sauce...I use well seasoned sauce or apple butter. Thankfully Social Teas are still with us! My Grandmutter (German) made this quickie dessert.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rugs All Marked Out and Hooked Rugs by Artists from the Maine Tin Peddler – Two Exhibits at Saco Museum, (January 14-March 24, 2012) Two related exhibits are being presented by the Saco Museum, Saco, Maine. One deals with Edward Sands Frost and his rug hooking pattern business; the other showcases contemporary rugs hooked by local hooking artisans. For information call 207-283-3861 or visit www.dyerlibrarysacomuseum.org.

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter Rug Exhibit -- February 2-April 2, 2012. The Brielle Public Library (<http://www.briellepubliclibrary.org/index.html>) at 610 South Street, Brielle, NJ. is the location of an exhibit of rugs hooked by members of the Guild. Contact Barbara Kimborough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com for more information.

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside (A Study of the Rugs of Magdalena Briner) – March 13, 14 & 15, 2012 – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering two workshop choices – a one day workshop on March 13, 2012 and a three day workshop on March 13, 14 & 15, 2012. The workshops will feature a lecture by Evelyn Lawrence who has researched the rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner. Contact Norma (973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com) or Linda (973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com) for more information.

Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – March 17, 2012 – The Woolwrights Rug Hooking Guild will be conducting their popular Spring Hook-in on March 17, 2012 from 9-4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Pre-registration is required. Visit the Guild's website – www.woolwrights.com – for more information.

Architecture in Contemporary Hooked Rugs and Traditional Folk Art Exhibit – March 18 – September 7, 2012 – Susan Feller is curating an exhibit of hooked rugs to accompany works from the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center that reflect the use of architecture in folk art. On view in particular will be glorious Schwenkfelder townscape wool needlework pictures. The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center is located in Pennsburg, PA. For more information visit its website – www.schwenkfelder.co.

Camp Wool Hook-in April -- 28&29, 2012 -- Camp Wool in Kennebunk, Maine is sponsoring a hook-in on April 28 & 29. For more information, go to its website -- www.campwool.net or call 1-866-938-wool.

2012 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 14-18, 2012 – Featured Exhibits: Barbara Carroll - Karl & Mary Jo Gimber - Esther & Judith Knipe. Special Exhibits: Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs XXII – Eye See You II – Retreat Teachers – Zodiac Collection. Main Exhibit: Extensive representation of contemporary artists. Retreats & Workshops: Over 30 half, full, 2-day, 3-day, & 4-day classes. Vendors: Everything a rug hooker could ever want or need. Receive the most up-to-date information by going to www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp.

“Rugs by the Sea” Workshops – September 9-21, 2012 – The 25th “Rugs by the Sea” Camp will be held in Cape May, NJ from September 9-21, 2012.. The line up of instructors for this year is Bev Conway, Lucile Festa, Cindi Gay, Kris Miller, Laura Pierce, Judy Quintman and Sharon Townsend. For details contact Norma at g_batastini@msn.com or 973-746-2936 or Linda at Linda.woodbury@gmail.com or 973-743-6835.

Buckeystown Workshop – October 7-10, 2012. – Judy Carter is conducting a three day workshop based on her “Eye See You” rug at Buckeysville, MD. She will be teaching a full face Tiger, the full Mother's Comfort, or the baby giraffe. Anyone who may be interested. should contact Pat Duggan at masondixonatha@gmail.com for information.

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.

Goat Hill 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 Goat Hill website at www.goathillatha.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.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events

March 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking in Geometrics – Lecture & Workshop by Gail Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio) *

March 23-25, 2012 – March Madness Workshop – Flemington Hampton Inn

April 13, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin – Member Led *

April 21, 2012 – Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA

May 11, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Brick Covers – Workshop by Lydia Lewis *

June 8, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Annual “Picnic” *

August 13-17, 2012 – 16th Annual Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

August 14, 2012 – Beginners Workshop -- ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

September 14, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

October 12, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **

November 2012 – Guild Exhibit – Bucks County Library, Doylestown, PA.

November 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

December 14, 2012 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 1314 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 -- 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 – Joyce Combs – 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net

Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

Vice President – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.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 frejja2@verizon.net

Programs – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com

Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net

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

Special Events – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or

thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and

Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net

Sunshine – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com

Treasurer – Jana Laidlaw – 609-497-4576 or jana@fastmail.fm

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

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.

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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, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.