

## THE LOOP

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

March 2013

**Presidents' Letter** -- Guess the groundhog lied....as we are indeed having a winter! We were sorry that prudence required us to cancel the February meeting of the Guild. When making phone calls to those without email, there was understanding but disappointment, as the need to get out in mid winter and gather with friends is always great. And the "treats" we usually enjoy were missing.

The bright side is that we should have an awesome Show & Tell this month! The 3D chickens are multiplying as snow falls...after all chickens are flock animals. Ellen has assured us that she will be available to assemble them at our May meeting. In March, Weezie will present a program sharing the concept of designing from nature from the class she attended in Hooked In The Mountains. We think sharing our learning experiences helps us all to enhance our art and move out of our zone or "box". Be prepared to be moved by nature.

Please remember to bring rugs for the Hilltown Township Historical Society rug show, as we were unable to collect any at our February gathering. Since this show is a distance, and in at a new venue for us, it is great opportunity to show those treasures and pearls from the past. Therefore, take the old crow rugs off the walls, the basket rugs from the floor and perhaps those Jersey Girls rugs and give them an outing to the Hilltown show.

The Spring Fling is fast approaching. Please make payment to Weezie if you have not done so. The teachers will be getting in touch with participants to make sure we are ready to get dying and hooking on that first weekend in April. We still have room in Lucille Festa's class. She has many wonderful patterns besides the door people and will do an open class for anyone preferring that direction. If you got the ATHA Newsletter this month, there is a neat ad about the Door People. Who knew they were ten years old!

We will contact those involved, but we are planning on a Board Meeting following Weezie's program, as we discussed earlier in the year. Cindy and Therese

**March Meeting – Friday, March 8, 2013** -- 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 begins at 10:00 and runs to 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program -- Weezie Huntington will present a program on Designing with Nature that is drawn from a class she took at Shelburne Museum last fall during the Green Mountain Guild's Hooked in the Mountains week. Everyone needs to bring some objects from nature; things you like, things that inspire you, such as: seed pods, rocks, driftwood, bark, pine cones, shells, leaves, feathers, crystals, etc. If you have a favorite photograph of something in nature, that is ok, but bring some real stuff too. We will be drawing so bring pencils, not

pens, and an eraser. Weezie will provide newsprint. The program is meant to be fun as well as educational. Weezie will also be showing pictures of material used in Shelburne and some of the designs that came out of the classes.

Show & Tell – Our Show & Tell rugs this month will reinforce the program theme -- nature. Share your landscape rugs or others involving the outdoors and nature. Of course, works in progress are always welcomed.

Hospitality – The cancelation of the February meeting prevented members from signing up to bring snacks. Debbie Walsh volunteered earlier, so volunteers are needed.

**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), Laurie Rubineti (3/29), Mary Schenck (3/29) and Therese Shick (3/20). Enjoy your day! .

**Membership** – Debbie Walsh has the name badges that were recently ordered and will bring them to the meeting.

**Sunshine** – Susan Atwater’s husband, Bill, had heart surgery at the University of Pennsylvania on February 28 and will be recuperating for the next few months. We wish him well!

Inform our Sunshine Chair, Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com)), of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

## **Guild News & Events**

**Rugs and Hooked Items Urgently Needed** -- The cancellation of our February meeting eliminated an opportunity to collect rugs for our exhibit at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead, home of the Hilltown Township Historical Society, on March 16 and for our display at the Hunterdon County Library in April. As a result, it is important that rugs be brought to the March meeting. All members are encouraged to support the Guild’s efforts by bringing items for these displays. The timing and location of these exhibits provides special opportunities to publicize the Hooked Rug Festival.

- Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead – About 60 rugs of any size are needed. Rugs will be returned at the April meeting. Please pin a note with your name and the title of the rug on the reverse side of the rug. In addition to the display of our rugs, Juliana Kapusta, Martha Thieling and Karl Gimber will be demonstrating. Announcements about the exhibit can be found on the websites for Early American Life Magazine and Pennsylvania Museums ([www.pamuseums.org](http://www.pamuseums.org) -- click on upcoming events).
- Hunterdon County Library – Our Guild will be displaying works by our members at the Hunterdon County Library in April. This is the Library located in the same complex where we meet each month. The exhibit will be in two locked display cases adjacent to the main desk. Members are requested to bring small rugs, mats and three dimensional hooked items to the March meeting for the exhibit. Ideally we would like to have examples of items hooked with different techniques such

as proddy, fine cut, Waldoboro, wide cut, etc. to help tell the story of contemporary rug hooking. Hooked masks, sheep, trees, pins, and ornaments will allow us to illustrate the range of rug hooking projects possible and the creativity of our members.

Karl Gimber is coordinating the exhibit at the Homestead and Annie Edwards will be installing the library exhibit. Annie needs one or two assistants to help with the installation on April 1. Contact them with any questions. You can reach Karl at 215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) and Annie at [anniechervinedwards@gmail.com](mailto:anniechervinedwards@gmail.com).

**You Can Help Spread the Word** -- The Rug Festival announcement postcards have been printed and a supply will be available at the March meeting. The postcards will be the major advertising piece used to attract visitors from the local area. Your help is needed in placing a supply of the postcards in key locations in your community. Here are a few ideas for logical sites:

- Rug hooking events such as hook-ins and workshops
- Quilt and fabric shops
- Community centers
- Senior citizen centers
- Libraries
- Antique shops/malls
- Restaurants
- General store in your town
- Museums
- Other related guilds

As you drive around your community keep on the lookout for locations to place the postcards.

**Rug Hooking Equipment For Sale** -- Edith Prundeanu, a long time Bucks County rug hooking instructor, has the following items for sale:

1. Puritan Lap Frame (used)	\$80.00
2. Floor stand for Puritan frame (used)	50.00
3. Fraser cutter with single head (used) *	70.00
4. Fraser cutter with two heads (used) *	90.00
5. Roll of binding tape	10.00
6. Eight hooks	3.00 each
7. The Rug Hook Book	\$5.00

- #5, #6 & #7 cutter blades available

Contact Edith directly if you want to purchase any of these items or if you have questions. You can reach her by email at [cprundeanu@verizon.net](mailto:cprundeanu@verizon.net) or by regular mail at 3892 York Road, Furlong, PA 18925.

**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.

- March 16 -- Hooked Rug Exhibit & Demonstration at Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (Hilltown Township Historical Society)
- April 13 -- Peter Wentz Farmstead (Sheep Shearing) -- Joanne McIlmurray
- May 4 -- Howell Living Farm (Sheep Shearing) -- Karl Gimber
- May 11 -- N.J. State History Fair -- Joyce Combs

We are grateful for the core group of members who consistently support our community service activities and welcome Jan and Fred Cole who have expressed interest in participating. Our demonstrations this year have the added benefit of providing opportunities to publicize the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill.

**HCRAG Website Resources Page – List Your Services** -- The Guild's website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)) has a page devoted to identifying rug hooking resources. This page is especially helpful to new rug hookers or experienced hookers who have moved into the area and need information on local resources. We want to remind members who teach rug hooking, sell wool and equipment, design patterns or repair rugs that they can have their information included on the Resources Page. If you want to be added to the website, just provide Karl Gimber with 1) your studio/shop name, 2) brief description of services/products offered, and 3) contact information (email, phone, and website).

**Lebanon Township Museum Hosts Hooked Rug Festival Workdays** -- Sharon Ballard, Festival Boutique Chair, has arranged with Museum Curators, Joan Lucas and Deanna Kinney, to work on projects at the Lebanon Township Museum that will be sold at our boutique table at the Hooked Rug Festival. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-5:00. Guild members are invited to participate and to support our Festival efforts. Contact Sharon (908-236-7410) to learn the dates she will be at the Museum and what you need to bring.

**Margaret Lutz Awarded Brightbill Scholarship** -- The Scholarship Committee awarded the Brightbill Scholarship to Margaret Lutz for her many contributions and service to the Guild over the years. Margaret is a Founding Member of the Guild and has held several officer positions including president. Many members learned how to from Margaret who is always generous with her time. As the proprietress of the Hook Nook, Margaret is the source for the popular Lib Callaway rug patterns as well as rug hooking supplies and equipment. She will be a vendor at our hook-in in April. Congratulations Margaret. Your recognition is well deserved!

**Festival Website Updated and Expanded** -- In the past month the website for the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill has been updated and expanded. The updating was a team effort with the Festival Committee providing text and editing and Laurie Rubinetti, our Webmaster, providing creative technical support. Annie Edwards, our "roving photographer", supplied professional photos for the Boutique Page. Visit the site at [www.rugfestival.com](http://www.rugfestival.com) and tell your friends about it too.

**Spring Fling Workshops with Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa – April 5 - 7, 2013** – Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning by popular demand to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 5, 2013 to Sunday April 7, 2013. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Cyndy’s workshop is currently full, but a waiting list has been established. There are still a few openings with Lucille. Cindy Boults is handling registration.

“Door People” Workshop (Lucille Festa) -- If you like fun quick projects, then you will love this class. Door People are designed for your door or door knob. Hook- Finish - Hang a door person. Lucille will walk you through the entire process demonstrating each step. Please visit her website [www.americancountryrugs.com](http://www.americancountryrugs.com) to see the entire “Door People” collection (look under small things).

Colorful Leaves Workshop (Cyndy Duade) -- The workshop begins with a “casserole dye” demonstration on Friday night followed by group participation. Each student will dye a piece of wool using this technique. All equipment and wool will be provided. On Saturday students receive kits, choose wool colors, and begin to hook in the leaf veins. Cyndy will present methods and situations for using this dying technique. On Sunday you will continue hooking the leaf. There will be a demonstration and discussion on how to finish the mat by applying hand dyed wool and a ribbon yarn whipped edge.

**Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 20, 2013**  
The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 20, 2013. Holding the event in a museum setting is one of the attractions.

Shopping is always a fun aspect of every hook-in. We are pleased to have “regulars” from previous hook-ins as well as “new faces” --

- Dyeing for a Change (Weezie Huntington)
- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hook Nook – Lib Callaway Patterns (Margaret Lutz)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Wool’n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)
- Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb’s wool)

In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have two mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. Cheryl Halliday and Betsy Warner have arranged for great door prizes. We are planning for about 50 people in addition to the beginners' workshop. 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 location for our exhibit of rugs hooked by participants. In addition, there will be a special display entitled “Remembering the Farm” which has historic farm photographs, artifacts and small farm equipment as well as the newly

renovated exhibit on Mennonite history entitled “Work & Hope” which has some interesting textiles.

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](http://www.mhep.org) -- for more information on their programs.

Please let Event Coordinator, Karl Gimber, know if you can help by contacting him at [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) or 215-297-0803.

**Beginners’ Rug Hooking Workshop (April 20, 2013)** – Our plans for the hook-in include offering a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking. The workshop has been fully subscribed in the past. Joanne McIlmurray has volunteered to be one of the instructors. An assistant is needed to work with her. You do not have to be a teacher to assist. If you know how to hook, you can show others how to pull loops. Please contact Karl Gimber if you can help or need more information.

The fee for the workshop is \$45 (non-Heritage Center member) and \$40 (MHC member) plus \$25 for the kit. Participants need to provide a 14” embroidery hoop and a pair of sharp scissors. The workshop will be limited to 12 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.

Members are being asked to donate wool strips left over from previous projects that will be used for the hit or miss background. Wider cuts (#7 and #8) are preferred. Pieces of solid golds and reds can also be used.

**HCRAG 2013 Summer Camp** --Our Guild’s 17<sup>th</sup> annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors have been recruited. Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Please note that Cynthia’s and Sarah’s workshops are currently full; there is one opening in Judy’s workshop. Waiting lists are being maintained. Cancellations often occur, so you are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list.

Volunteers will be needed during the camp to help the teachers set up, to clean up at the end of the day, to bring lunches for the teachers and to provide snacks. Volunteer sign-ups will start this month. If you will not be at the meeting, just let Gail Ferdinando know how you can help by contacting her at 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com).

Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2013.

#### **Camp Workshops**

Judy Carter -- This will be an open animal class. Judy will have Leonard Feenan patterns available such as Giraffe, Mothers Comfort, Tiger, Elephant, Flamingo, etc. You can view Leonard's website at [www.theburningartist.com](http://www.theburningartist.com) for examples

of some of his patterns. Judy will also do custom patterns (she will need the information well in advance of class). Judy can also have patterns made of a single eye or group of eyes from her recent Eye See You project.

Sarah Guiliani -- This will be an open class. Students are free to work on any design in any cut and in any style. Sarah enjoys hooking in a variety of styles; however she specializes in people portraits and animals. She loves the challenge of working with each student individually to create the look they want. The class will include lectures on current rug hooking topics. Sarah strives to create a caring, fun and creative classroom environment.

Sarah owns and operates New England Rug Hooking Studio in South Portland, Maine. Her website is [www.uhookrugs.net](http://www.uhookrugs.net). Sarah has been hooking and teaching for over 25 years and she is director of ATHA Region 1 South School in Litchfield, CT.

Cynthia Norwood -- This will be primarily a primitive and wide cut class. Cynthia is comfortable teaching all types of hooking and loves to work with unusual textures and paisleys. She tries to get students to push their own comfort zones. Cynthia will work with you on a pattern of your choice. Her class will include lectures, demonstrations and class discussions.

Cynthia's strong suits include color planning and creating great backgrounds. Cynthia is the author of Creating the Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs; she is an active member of ATHA (and serves as their Advertising Manager) and is McGown certified.

**Registration/Instructional Fees** – Registration began at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2012. 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, 2013. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

**Refund Policy** –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2013, 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](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com) or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com).

**Guild Library** -- Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. A complete listing of items in our library can be found on the Guild's website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)). If there is a specific item you want to borrow, contact Kathy 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](mailto: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.

**Guild Website** -- Visit the Guild's website at [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured members, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

**Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill** – HCRAAG is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. Visit the special Festival website ([www.rugfestival.com](http://www.rugfestival.com)) for more information. All Guild members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or [etshick@gmail.com](mailto:etshick@gmail.com))
- HCRAAG Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com))
- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net))
- Door Prizes: Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or [dmk17@ptd.net](mailto:dmk17@ptd.net))
- Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or [flowjans@hotmail.com](mailto:flowjans@hotmail.com))  
Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or [eldunker@hotmail.com](mailto:eldunker@hotmail.com))
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or [mmlutz@ptd.net](mailto:mmlutz@ptd.net))  
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or [smenges2072@comcast.net](mailto:smenges2072@comcast.net))
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or [stancot@comcast.net](mailto:stancot@comcast.net))
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com))
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com))
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net))
- Beginners' Workshops:
  - Patty Mahaffey (215-453-0174 or [mcmahaffey@comcast.net](mailto:mcmahaffey@comcast.net))
  - Cheryl Halliday (215-672-2629 or [havewenewool@Yahoo.com](mailto:havewenewool@Yahoo.com))
  - Juliana Kapusta (215-721-4327 or [juliana\\_kapusts@hotmail.com](mailto:juliana_kapusts@hotmail.com))

**Featured Member – Laurie Milne** -- Laurie Milne grew up in Connecticut and then moved to Colorado to attend Western State College where she majored in business marketing. She remained out west and was living in Vail when she met her husband, Bob, who lived in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The Milne family recently relocated to New Jersey.

It was in Colorado where Laurie first started to hooked rugs. She shares a passion for early American antiques with her good friend, Jenny, who she met in college. They admired old hooked rugs, but the ones they found in antique shops and shows were often in rough shape. Jenny's mother started to hook rugs in the early 1990s and soon introduced her daughter to the art form. Shortly thereafter, Laurie was hooking too. Jenny and Laurie realized that the rugs and other decorative items they made could make their homes special.

Laurie is basically self-taught and spent several years improving her technique on her own until the fall of 1998 when she attended her first rug hooking workshop. It was a weeklong workshop with Marion Ham that turned out to be a life changing experience. "Marion turned on every light bulb in my head. I couldn't sleep after the workshop" Laurie recalls. She was so motivated and inspired that she went home and started her own



rug hooking business – Get Hooked by Laurie – and created her own website.

After that initial workshop experience, Laurie went on to attend others. She has worked with many highly admired instructors including Emma Lou Lais, Barb Carroll, Jeannie Benjamin, Nola Heidebreder, Jule Marie Smith, Sally Kallin and Rhonde Manley. The Arrow Rock Rug Hooking Camp in Missouri is one of her favorites.

From a style standpoint, Laurie is attracted to wide cut hooking. She works mostly with #8.5 and #9 cuts of wool. A #6 cut may be used for detailing. In the beginning, Laurie hooked mostly with recycled wool obtained from local thrift shops. Eventually she purchased new wool that she found at the workshops she attended as well as from Rebecca Erb (The Wool Studio) and Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy). She loves to over-dye her wool and before relocating made it a practice to regularly dye wool for her stash. Laurie's dye pots and equipment are in her Colorado studio, but she "dyes like crazy" when she and Bob return every few months.

Laurie enjoys designing and hooking pillows which she sells through her website and at the Into the West Shop in Steamboat Springs. The shop has been selling her pillows for 11 years. A few rugs have been designed at the request of her clients who wanted a rug to compliment a particular pillow. When she lived in Colorado, Laurie held open studio sessions where she taught and designed pillows, rugs and seasonal items.

Laurie tries to hook every day, but that is not always possible. She is a big ice hockey fan and often hooks in the evening while watching a hockey game on TV. There is always a project in the works, but there are times when a week can go by without any hooking. She enjoys the creative aspects of rug hooking, the colors and how the wool feels. "I am a texture girl" she proclaims.

Shortly after Laurie and Bob moved to New Jersey, she went online to locate rug hooking resources in the area. She found the HCRAAG website and then called Joyce Combs who was co-president at the time. When she attended her first Guild meeting, Laurie was pleasantly surprised to see Nina Seaman who was a participant in the 1998 workshop with Marion Ham.

As noted previously, Laurie is an avid ice hockey fan. She played on a women's team when she lived in Colorado. She also does dance cardio as part of her exercise regimen. Her volunteer activities include grocery shopping for senior citizens through a program sponsored by the Visiting Nurses Services.

Laurie and her family live in Morristown, NJ. Her husband, Bob, works for a major hotel chain where he is responsible for vacation rentals. They have two sons – Jonathan and Patrick. Jonathan attends Holy Cross College and Patrick attends the Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts.

Visit the Guild's website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) – to see a few of Laurie's creations and go to her website ([www.gethookedbylaurie.com](http://www.gethookedbylaurie.com)) for more.

## **Hooking Information & Techniques**

**From Nina's Notebook** – March ...”it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb” says the old nursery rhyme. Images of roaring lions, blowing snow, north winds, wool scarves and mittens dance in my head. Maybe even a snowman although he seems to belong to December and January. March is often the cruelest month, alternating between the roaring lion and the sweet lamb cavorting across green fields with a necklace of flowers around its neck. There are the teasing warm days when you are sure it is time to get out the spring clothes and shed the dark wools of winter but the next day you are looking for the heavy wool sweater that you just put away.

What else happens in March? This year Easter comes on the last day of the month, and Passover in the last week. Google March holidays and you will find among other things, Texas Independence Day, St. Patrick’s Day, International Women’s Day and the day spring begins, March 20. So, lots of ideas for mats ... quilts and blankets on the line blowing in the March winds, shamrocks and sweet spring flowers like violets and snow drops, lambs in the field or crowded up against the fence looking pensively, a majestic lion walking boldly in the jungle. Let your imagination roam through the images and see which one appeals to you and turn it into a spectacular mat which you can proudly display next fall at the rug show at the Mill. Happy hooking ...and welcome spring on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Nina Seaman

**Tips From Heloise** -- Heloise recently had the opportunity to visit the studio of hooked rug restorer Cindy Comly and to observe her instructing a student on the initial steps to be taken when restoring a hooked rug. Here are the basic steps.

1. Place and pin an acid free fusible interfacing such as Pellon (#807) on top of the back of the rug.
2. Place a new piece of linen backing on top of the Pellon. The linen should extend beyond the rug a few inches. This will allow the project to be put on your hooking frame when you are ready to hook.
3. Steam iron the new linen backing which will melt the Pellon and fuse the linen to the original rug backing.
4. Baste the entire rug from the back in horizontal and vertical rows six inches apart. Start the rows six inches from the edge of the rug being careful that the basting thread is not visible from the front.
5. Carefully sew around the holes in the rug to stabilize the area by attaching the rug to the new backing. The thread should be placed between the loops.

You are now ready to begin filling in the holes by hooking with replacement wool.

## **Recipes**

One of the special dishes at our Holiday Luncheon was a plate of shrimp with a tasty cocktail source. Barbara Boyko has provided us with her recipe for her Shrimp/Crab Cocktail Sauce which she notes “has evolved over the years”.

### **Ingredients**

- 1 cup ketchup
- Horseradish to taste, either bottled or grated
- 2 TBSP minced parsley
- 2 TBSP minced celery
- Juice of ½ or one lemon, depending on your taste
- Tobacco sauce to taste

Barbara says “There is no one way to make it. Make it the way you like it – hot or mild, spicy or not too spicy. Play with it until you get what you want.” Thank you Barbara!

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

Woolwrights Hook-in (March 16, 2013) – The Woolwrights Guild 3<sup>rd</sup> annual hook-in is scheduled for March 16, 2013 from 9-4 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. The vendor list and other information can be found at their website -- [www.woolwrights.com](http://www.woolwrights.com).

Rug Hooking Spring Retreat (April 25-28, 2013) – The Woolen Willow Quilt Shop & Rug Hooking Spring Retreat will be held at the Blackwater Falls Lodge in Davis, West Virginia on April 25-28, 2013. For more information go to <http://woolenwillowspringretreat2013.weebly.com>.

Rug Hooking Week At Sauder Village (August 13–14, 2013) – Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, features workshops, exhibits (over 500 rugs) and leading vendors. For more information visit [www.saudervillage.org](http://www.saudervillage.org) or call 800-590-9755.

Rugs by the Sea (September 15-20 & 22-27, 2013) – The 26<sup>th</sup> season of Rugs by the Sea held at The Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey will be held from September 15 to 20 and September 22-27, 2013. Bev Conway, Lucille Festa, Laura Pierce and Diane Stoffel are the instructors for the first week. Cammie Bruce, Bev Conway, Jen Lavoie and Judy Quintman will be teaching during the second week. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-2936 or [G\\_batastina@msn.com](mailto:G_batastina@msn.com) or Linda Woodbury at 973-743-6835 or [linda.woodbury@gmail.com](mailto:linda.woodbury@gmail.com).

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](mailto: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](mailto:kathmb@hotmail.com). Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://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](http://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 8, 2013** – Designing from Nature (Weezie Huntington) \*

**March 16, 2013** – Hilltown Historical Society Rug Exhibit (Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead)

**April 2013** – Guild Exhibit at Hunterdon County Library (Flemington, NJ)

**April 5-7, 2013** – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

**April 12, 2013** – Have Hook Will Travel (member led discussion) \*

**April 20, 2013** – HCRAG Hook-in (Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA)

**May 10, 2013** – Hook-in \*\*

**June 14, 2013** – Guild Picnic \*

**August 12-16, 2013** – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

**October 5 & 6, 2013** – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

\*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** -- 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** – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or [cboult@gmail.com](mailto:cboult@gmail.com).

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or [etshick@gmail.com](mailto:etshick@gmail.com).

**Vice President – Membership** – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com)

**Director -- Communications** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net)

**Historian** – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or [sojon@comcast.net](mailto:sojon@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)

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Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or [lkling@epix.net](mailto:lkling@epix.net)  
**Special Events** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [gutvet@optonline.net](mailto:gutvet@optonline.net)  
**Sunshine** – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com).  
**Treasurer** – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)  
Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net)

**Guild’s Email List Policy** - The HCRAAG 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 guild not solicit the membership as a whole.



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