

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

March 2017

Presidents' Letter – As I write this letter, I am sitting in a hotel in West Yellowstone, Montana, contemplating my first snowmobile trip (today). I am out here for a photography workshop which starts tomorrow night. A friend and I went on a snowmobile tour today to a place called Two Top. There was never an explanation of what the name meant, but I am assuming it was a mountain with two peaks, but it was not “Two Top Mountain”, so I don't know for sure. Do the names we give our rugs convey meaning?

I have never been on a snowmobile until today, and I may never go on one again, but as we were racing (or so it seemed to me) around the area, some things popped into my head that there were some similarities with hooking.

We were on groomed trails for the most part, and I felt as though I were riding on the line of a pattern. I have no idea what the pattern was, but it was important to stay within the lines. The danger here was that if I were to stray, I would take my machine into deep powder and get stuck, and have to be rescued. Sometimes that happens to us in hooking.

There was one stretch of trail that ran alongside a pretty, little river. There was snow on the rocks, along the edge, and covering the trees. The water was running in some places and frozen in other. I would have liked to linger and take lots of photos, but we were cold (it was very windy, and about 5 degrees, and my hands were frozen) and we had to keep moving to our destination. This was one of those places that will be remembered in my mind and heart. A photo I didn't take. Similar to a rug I never hook. I know what it looks like in my mind, but no one else will see it. I hold it dear. We can't always take every picture or hook every rug. So little time...

The throttle on a snow machine is controlled by your right hand (thumb actually), and the brake by the left. We hook quickly with our right hand, and slow ourselves down by adding tension from the left hand (I am right handed--not sure how lefties do it). In order to steer the machine you need to pull the handlebar, not push it. We pull our loops. You cannot push a loop any more than you can push a wet noodle. My shoulders were very tired by the end (same with hooking), and all the bumps on the trail made me think my head was going to fall off (how often do our necks hurt from bad posture leaning over a frame?).

Mostly what I was thinking about was the fact that my visor was constantly iced up, making it very difficult to see where I was going or what was ahead on the trail. I could not see the bumps or grooves or deeper patches of snow. I should have had yellow goggles, which give contrast to otherwise flat snow. Yellow lenses highlight the bumps and grooves. I would get tossed about on the trail by the bumps. I would raise the visor when we stopped, and then I could see where we were. How many times do we not really see what we are working on until we stop, and step back, look at it through a filter or remove the filter caused by closeness? How many times might our rugs 'pop' a little more if we highlighted the

contrast between similar values? What would something look like if we used a value one darker or lighter than we thought?

By the time this Presidents' Letter gets into The LOOP this trip will be a memory. I will have shot 2000 pictures of Yellowstone, and spring will not be far off, on the calendar at least. Yippee! More things to celebrate.

Wishing you all good speed, good tension, and good contrast. Weezie, Jan, and Fred

March Meeting – Friday, March 10, 2017 – 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although there is no street number on the building. The meeting runs from 10:00 -2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Program – Our annual fundraising auction will be held this month. Members are encouraged to bring items for the silent and the live auctions. A hook-in will follow the auction so please bring your current project to work on. Weezie will present another Design Element and the drawing for the Teri Dabrowski Scholarship for our rug school this summer will be made. The garage sale has been moved to the June meeting.

The meeting agenda is a full one. Members are encouraged to arrive early so that the meeting can start on time.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Linda Ehly, Pat McDonnell, Robin Nissenfeld, Mary Passerello, and Anne Penkal. Our meetings are enhanced by their contributions!

March Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Dolores Clark (3/31), Tracy Fetzer (3/4), Ann Gagnon (3/28), Sarah Gerding (3/12), Juliana Kapusta (3/4), Amy Korengut (3/26), Joan Lucas (3/13), Pat McDonnell (3/17), Helen McWeeny-Dowling (3/7), Laurie Rubinetti (3/29), Therese Shick (3/20), and Linda Woodbury (3/26). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – We welcome Mary Guglielmo to our Guild. Her contact information follows:

Mary Guglielmo
232 County Road 627
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
908-619-3382
mlavender@ptd.net

Marsha Moyer-Payne wrote to say she was unable to attend the February meeting since she was in the Philippines participating in Medical Missions. She noted that “By doing this I have found the most rewarding part of my long career in Anesthesia.”

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

Guild News & Events

Beginners' Workshop Planned – Vanderveer House (March 26, 2017) – Therese Shick is planning a workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking that will be held at the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum located in Bedminster, NJ on March 26, 2017 from 1-4. The workshop is intended for adults. Cherry Halliday will be the instructor. The \$70 fee provides for the rug backing, pattern, hook, wool and a basic rug hooking frame. Registration is required. Checks made payable to HCRAG should be sent to Therese Shick at 3 Bristol Court, Annandale, NJ 08801. Questions can be directed to her at 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Guild to Sponsor Hook-in (June 3, 2017) – For the past few months, Marian Hall has chaired a committee of members who have investigated the possibility of the Guild hosting a local hook-in. Marian reported at the January meeting that her committee recommended that we hold a hook-in at the fire house in Three Bridges, NJ on June 3, 2017. There was widespread support for the proposal. Marian has already recruited sub-committee chairs. Sign up forms will circulate at the next meeting.

The vendors who will be participating will be announced shortly. A registration form will be distributed with the newsletter and will be available on our website with the next monthly update.

Guild's 21st Rug Hooking School (August 7-11, 2017) – Instructors *Maggie Bonanomi, Cammie Bruce, Capri Boyle Jones, and Cindy Irwin* follow in the Guild's tradition of inviting highly regarded and sought after teachers who will spend the week with us. Rug School will begin on Monday, August 7, 2017 and run to Friday, August 11, 2017. [Workshop descriptions, teacher bios, and registration information are available on our website \(www.herag.com.\)](#)

At the present time there are openings in Cammie's and Cindy's workshops. Registration is now open to non-members.

Spring Fling and Hooking Retreat (April 21-23, 2017) -- Plans are underway for a special rug hooking weekend event held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ during the weekend of April 21-23, 2017. One of the meeting rooms will be used for our regular retreat and the other for the Spring Fling Workshop on "Standing Wool" conducted by fiber artist Mary DeLano.

Hooking Retreat (April 21-23, 2017) – The retreat will follow our normal format. We will gather at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our April meeting on Friday April 21, 2017 and work on our hooking projects until Sunday afternoon. The fee for the weekend is \$45 – a real bargain! Gail Ferdinando is coordinating this fun event. She will not be at the March meeting so Amy Korengut will be accepting registrations and collecting checks. Members who will not be at the meeting can send their checks made payable to HCRAG to Gail at 4 Bonnell Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867.

Standing Wool Rugs Workshop (April 22 & 23, 2017)

About the Instructor -- Mary DeLano is a multi-lingual fiber artist who loves color, texture, and recycling. Mary devotes most of her time to making wool rugs and embroidered wool applique pieces, and continually learns new techniques to integrate into her work. She mixes techniques and materials across the fiber arts to create magnificent, one-of-a-kind pieces that make a statement! Mary has a "what if" perspective that gives her the freedom to venture into uncharted territories and she takes

her students along for the ride. She also enjoys knitting and creating wool applique with lots of embellishment. Some of her standing wool pieces will be included in Tracy Jamar's new book Coils, Folds, Twists and Turns: Contemporary Techniques in Fiber.

About the Workshop -- "Everything old is new again." Not only is the "old" technique known as standing wool regaining popularity, it is also a great way to recycle old wool clothes into new rugs and mats.

The standing wool technique was developed before the industrial revolution when thrifty homemakers tried to get the last bit of use out of cloth that was so time-consuming and labor intensive to produce. By standing bits of wool on edge, and sewing them together with a long needle and strong thread, beautiful pieces could be created out of clothing that was too worn to be passed down. Standing wool rugs, or quillies as they are sometimes called (because they resemble paper quilling) are enjoying a renaissance. New pieces are regularly posted on Facebook and Pinterest and creativity and complexity abound.

This class will explore the three basic techniques incorporated into most standing wool rugs: beading, center shirring and faux shirring. Students will gain familiarity with and control over the techniques by making a mug rug the first morning. Then, they will design and begin sewing their own chair pad or rug. Students who know how to knit may bring double pointed size 8 needles and worsted or bulky yarn to incorporate into their piece. Long strips of knitting add interesting texture to a standing wool rug.

Program Fee: \$150 plus \$10 materials fee (payable to the instructor) for two long needles, a needle threader, and thread. Payment includes non-class hours of the retreat. There is a \$50 deposit which Amy Korengut will be collecting at the March meeting. Please note that attendance is open to non-members so do not hesitate to register now.

What to Bring: Students should bring a bagful of wool that has been machine washed and dried. This is a great opportunity to use up braiding wool that has been gifted to you or wool that is otherwise not suitable for hooking. Students will be asked to contribute a portion of their wool to a table for everyone to share. Recycled wool will also be available for sale. If you have a cutter with a size 10 or larger blade (or a braiding cutter like the Rigby B model) please bring it to class. Also bring a small scissors for snipping strips of wool and cutting thread.

Amy Korengut is our event coordinator for the Spring Fling. Contact her at 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com with questions or to register. Samples of Mary's work will be available at the next meeting.

May 2017 Meeting – Felted Appliqué & Pictorial Hand Embroidery – Debora Konchinsky of Critter Pattern Works (www.critterpat.com) will present a three hour workshop on felted applique and embroidery at our May 12, 2017 meeting. Felting tools will be required that you can bring or buy via the Guild or from Debora. A 12-inch square New Flock of Sheep kit incorporating felted applique and embroidery can be purchased for \$25. Money for kits and felting tools is due by March 10, 2017. Additional details can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). Questions can be directed to Jeanne Surdi (908-995-2142 or jsurdi2013@gmail.com) who has organized this special program.

Reminder: If you are participating in the May program, the kit check in the amount of \$25.00 made out to Debora Konchinsky is due at the March Guild meeting. If you have requested a Clover pen felting tool, your \$8.88 check made out to Jeanne Surdi is also due now. If you requested the Guild offer of 3 #40 gauge felting needles and a felting foam pad, please bring your \$8.00 check made out to Jeanne Surdi. Jeanne will be collecting payments and distributing the Clover pens and the Guild needles and felting foam.

Liz Alpert Fay Gallery Talk (March 11, 2017) -- On March 11, at 2:00, Liz Alpert Fay will be giving a gallery talk at her solo show at the New Canaan Library at 151 Main St, New Canaan, Ct. Liz has several really large pieces as well as some smaller ones, many of which were at the Essex, Vermont show (formerly Shelburne). The stories behind the pieces are very interesting. More information can be found in the listing of Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities at the end of the newsletter. Anyone interested in carpooling to the talk should contact Weezie.

Lucy Walsh to Demonstrate at Bouman-Stickney Museum (April 2, 2017) – Our Featured Member for this month, Lucy Walsh, will be demonstrating rug hooking at the Bouman-Stickney Museum open house in Readington Township on Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 1:00-4:00. The GPS address for the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is 114 Dreahook Road, Lebanon NJ 08833.

Hooked on Nature: Hooked & Sewn Art Exhibit (Through May 7, 2017) – An exhibit of textile work by artists Alice Rudell, Tracy Jamar, Liz Alpert Fay, and Marilyn Bottjer is now open at the Wisner House Gallery of the Reeves-Reed Arboretum. The Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, NJ 07901. For more information, visit www.reeves-reedarboretum.org or call 908-273-8787.

Hooking in Guatemala with Multicolores -- Guild Member Claudia Casebolt who relocated to Washington State several years ago returned to the area for our January hooking retreat. She attended the January meeting and shared the experience she had observing and learning rug hooking techniques in Guatemala. We are grateful to Claudia for agreeing to expand on her comments at the meeting with the following article.

“About a year and a half ago I was hooking with a group in Seattle. Many of them were eagerly talking about a trip to Guatemala that they had signed up for sponsored by the non-profit Multicolores (multicolores.org). It was billed as a 10 day fiber arts tour but the highlight would be four days of rug hooking with Guatemalan women. Every February Multicolores offers this trip to help teach leadership skills to Guatemalan women. It sounded so wonderful and at \$2000 seemed affordable, especially compared to other guided trips around the world, so I contacted the group to sign up when I got home. Unfortunately, the trip was fully booked but I was added to the waiting list. As luck would have it, people cancelled and I was moved up from the waiting list to become a participant.

“I assumed that we would be teaching the Guatemalan women the finer points of rug hooking but I was wrong... they were teaching us their methods and I had a lot to learn. The trip began and ended in Antigua. On our second day we drove to Lake Atitlan where we met the 16 Guatemalan women who we would be hooking with and we all boarded a boat, decorated for a party, that would transport us across the lake to

the town of Santiago. We were each assigned a Guatemalan partner to rug hook with. She would help us design, color plan and hook a rug. My partner was Carman a tiny 54 year old woman who spoke a native Guatemalan language but no English or Spanish. Luckily one of our tour leaders, Reyna, was fluent in all three and helped us with any communication that was not very, very basic.

“All of the hooking was done with cottons and synthetic recycled fabrics. We went with our partners by tuk-tuk (a covered motorbike that seats two passengers in the back) to a local market and shopped for used hookable clothing in the back of an old pickup piled high with what was probably clothing from the USA rejected by our thrift shops. Carman filled a bag at \$.12 per garment then we headed back to our hotel to continue hooking.

“The hotel was right on the lake and we hooked in an open pavilion overlooking the lake. It was simply beautiful- the best “rug camp” I’ve ever attended. The Guatemalan women were wonderful and Multicolores has changed their lives by giving them a way to earn money while still remaining at home with their children. Their style is very different than anything you would see hooked here with incredibly bright colors plus extreme color “jumps” in their backgrounds and often in their subjects. Some of them also have a way of injecting bits of bright color in spots of their backgrounds. The final creations are busy, bright and have a very happy feeling.

“Towards the end of the tour we had a chance to visit the Multicolores office and see hundreds of rugs that were for sale by these women. Most of us bought rugs for ourselves as a means of supporting this wonderful cooperative of women. For me this was a truly unique rug hooking experience that I think anyone in the Guild would enjoy.”

Visit our website (www.hcrag.com) to see Claudia’s colorful Guatemala rugs.

Mentoring Program Experience -- The Guild’s Mentoring Program was created as a way to facilitate a new member’s introduction to our Guild and to rug hooking. Under the program a member is hooked up with a mentor who can provide advice and suggestions on hooking issues or help explain Guild programs, events or activities.

Aggie Harris participated in the program and has shared her experience with us.

“Beginning a new endeavor can be a challenging, exciting, frightening, and wonderful experience. You purchase a hook and a book, view a video, find an old piece of burlap and some gently-used woolen fabrics and you have every good intention to hook a masterpiece. Yikes!! Nothing could be further from reality. Until you actually hook your first loops and attempt to choose your first color pallet you do not realize just how little you know!

“You practice with your rotary cutter and scissors to get perfect noodles. You meticulously hook your loops to the same height. You use flat colors in little rows to create a cat that looks as if it just stepped out of a four-year-old’s coloring book! At this point you are pulling your hair, wondering why your cat is not museum worthy. What more could you do? Remarkably, you think perhaps joining a group of experienced rug hookers might be a good idea.

“You arrive with glazed eyes and a question mark over your head! H E L P !!! A warm and welcoming group of what I can only describe as textile art magicians invite you into their world. This is when the magic begins . . .

“This describes my first encounter with the world of rug hooking guilds. The HCRAG provides a mentoring program that has proven very beneficial to me as a new rug hooker. The fact that such a program exists emphasizes that fact that this Guild WANTS new hookers to learn and excel. What a wonderful concept. Everyone is willing to share their knowledge and expertise, answering numerous questions at meetings which must seem so rudimentary to everyone but the novice. However, the mentoring program goes one step further. The mentoring program provides an experienced, sharing, caring fiber artist to work with a new hooker on an individual basis.

“My mentor, Laura Robinson, epitomizes the perfect mentor. Laura was gracious enough to invite me to her home to share her in-depth knowledge of color planning, layout and design. She has an innate sense of color and proportion and can look at a piece and make recommendations that change a boring, “ho-hum” subject into a vibrant focal point! The friendly, subtle manner in which these suggestions were presented was true discovery learning. I looked forward to our once-a-month hooking sessions to share new ideas and receive excellent feedback and encouragement. I look on Laura as not only my mentor, but a friend.

“I will constantly struggle with color planning and pattern design; however, thanks to the HCRAG mentoring program and mentor of excellence, Laura Robinson, I can do anything with a little help from a friend.”

HCRAG Library – Kathy Donovan brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild’s library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want from our library, 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 freya2@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.

HCRAG Website -- Our Guild’s website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

A Yankee Rug Designer – The August 1940 issue of The Magazine Antiques included an article by William Winthrop Kent entitled “A Yankee Rug Designer” that explores the life of Edward Sands Frost, the first commercial designer of hooked rug patterns. The third portion of the article is reproduced below:

“...The news of my invention of stamped rugs spread like magic ... I at once became known as Frost, the rug man ...”

“I soon found that I could not print fast enough ... I began to make a whole design on one plate ...till I had fourteen different designs on hand, ranging from a yard long and half a yard wide to two yards long and a yard wide ... I think there is not a stencil workman in this country that would consider it possible to cut so large a plate with such fine figures and take an impression. It required a great deal of patience...

“I failed to find a man who dared to invest a dollar in them; in fact, people did not know what they were for, and I had to go from house to house ... for I found that the ladies knew what they were for.

“The question of how to print them in colors so as to sell them at a profit seemed to be the point on which the success of the whole business hung ...in March 1870, one morning about two o'clock ... I seemed to hear a voice in my room say: ‘Print your bright colors first and then the dark ones.’ That settled it ...I sold my tin peddling business and hired a room in the building on Main Street just above the savings bank, where I began in the month of April 1870 to print patterns in colors ...

“Frost sold his business in 1876 to James A. Stout, who continued it under the name. E. S. Frost & Company until 1900; interest in hooked rugs had waned and, according to Mrs. Mason, Stout tried to sell the stock on hand, including the stencils. These were purchased by the late Henry F. Whiting of Lowell, Massachusetts, about thirty-five years ago and remained in his family until his death in 1936, when they passed into the possession of his widow. From her the metal stencils – nearly four tons of them – were purchased by Mrs. Charlotte K. Stratton who uses them in her Old New England Hooked Rug Craft studio in Montpelier, Vermont. She has issued a handsome catalogue of the Frost designs...”

The story continues in the next issue of [The Loop](#).

Featured Member –Lucy Walsh – Our Featured Member for this month provided us with a fascinating article on her journey as an accomplished rug hooking artisan.

Beginnings -- “It was a lucky thing that two situations early in my rug hooking career did not deter me from hooking ever again!

“The first time was when I was 17 or so and my mother fixed me up with a large piece of burlap, pinned to an inverted picture frame, and three hanks of wool, orange, beige and green. I vividly recall the pre-printed pattern of a dozen random maple leaves. I worked on it for a short time days before we drove to Miami Beach for a family vacation. A week later, there I was on the beach poking a piece of burlap with my hook while other teenagers ran past me having a good old time.

“A good number of years later I thought I would try hooking again. I purchased a rather large pattern, again on burlap, of a Grandma Moses type scene. I toiled along using a #6 cut on a pattern meant for a #3, and decided this wasn't going to work for me either.

“I flipped the backing over and created my first original design on this nice blank backing, a simple rectangle geometric using all the colors in my limited stash. How little I knew about rug hooking at that

time but something nagged at me to try again. Surprisingly, I finished it and hooked the year 1990 into the rug, and I still have it to this day.

“Perhaps I would have saved myself a lot of time with do-overs if I took more classes and read more magazines about hooking during those early years. However, time and resources were limited and I didn't know if there was even a hooking community out there somewhere to learn and get support from your fellow artisans. I was determined to stay true to my early appreciation of developing my own style of hooking so I kept on without any formal training. All of my many rugs are either reflections of my experiences or things that I want to know more about. In my own way and in my own time I still sit down to develop a new rug in wool from an image in my mind. This is my preferred style, then and now.

“Recently when another hooker heard that I do not draw my designs on linen in advance, I thought I must be missing out on a better way to create an original design. So, I cut out five shapes for a new rug and transferred them to the linen. Let me tell you, I am a better artist in my head than I am on paper. The design on linen did not translate at all. I scrapped that idea and went to work in my usual way, hooking what I see in my mind's eye directly onto my backing.

“I love to do story rugs because they incorporate many small details that add interest to the total picture and cause you to linger over the subtle nuances. However, they may have too personal a meaning to me and may not be relatable. One of my favorites is called ‘Can You Hear Me.’ Two personal recollections are included: my sister and I trying to devise a string telephone as kids, and me learning to ride a bicycle by rolling down a hill. Even though both are my own experiences, many people who saw this rug at shows commented that they also recall doing such crazy things.

“In 1997 I hooked my interpretation of a Crayola crayon box. In a Warhol-like moment I decided to hook it. Now 20 years later it hangs in the bedroom of my little grandson. I imagine that with the coming of a second grandson recently that there will be another rug soon suitable for him, too.

“I am fortunate to have two hooking accomplices, my sister and sister-in-law. Since 2009 we have challenged each other to hook a rug from a theme selected by one of us in turn. We are on our 12th Challenge, and this is in addition to our own other projects. We do not share our design ideas until we reveal the finished work to each other some months later. ‘Mystery’ was a theme a few years ago and my entry was ‘Amelia Earhart – Everyone Has Oceans to Fly.’

Tools I Use -- “In addition to the usual hook, cutter and frame, there are two other valuable tools I use often. A simple 12-inch wooden school ruler is used to tap along the length of a finished straight row to get the little soldiers to stand up evenly. The short end of the ruler is good to tap around the curved lines. Loops line up in well-defined rows, allowing the next row to be hooked right up close.

“The other tool that is really helpful is a wooden skewer. I use this often after a row is completed to lift a loop sitting just lower than its neighbor. The nice pointy end is finer than my hook and allows me to slip in the loop to give it a nice tug to even out the row.

Dyeing -- “I never got heavily into dyeing wool, although I've tried microwave spot dyeing and marrying recycled wool on the stovetop with moderate success. The richly colored mottled wools that I see in craft shows and hook-ins are just too hard to resist and that's when I pick up some unusual color combinations with no particular project in mind. I know I'll use them somewhere.

“However, there was a dyeing project that happened quite by accident. I had an accumulation of solid camel-colored wool, pretty to look at but very dull and not at all lively in a rug. I got my mad scientist

face on and mixed a little of this, a little of that, and a combination I call 'Dirty Dog' was born. Don't ask me for the recipe, it was a one and done. But it does live on in several of my recent rugs. Love it!

Rug Hooking Has Its Funny Moments -- "While there is value in following a pattern and color planning a project, in my free-range hooking I'm empowered to make changes as I hook original designs. Once, while hooking a galloping horse design, I thought I would add circular hooking below his feet to show motion and perhaps rising dust. When I finished I realized that it looked as though he was pedaling a bicycle. I like quirkiness in a design but this came off a little weird. I had to do my least favorite thing in hooking and that's 'taking out.' Brrrrpppp.

"Depending on the season, natural light and the weather, I move my hooking chair from room to room, front porch to back porch. As a result wool worms could be found anywhere, and they are. They show up clinging to my slippers and t-shirts, even in the refrigerator and bathroom. Don't ask me how that happens but it always makes me laugh when I find one in an unexpected place. I even found a 'worm' woven into a bird nest near my seat on the back porch. On my website I have cartoons of the 'Wayward Worm' which only another hooker can appreciate.

Display Ideas -- "Preparing for a recent exhibit, I was challenged to hang a number of small rugs. The display room was in a fine 18th-century building with wonderful deep set windows. Curtain tension rods were passed through the pockets in the back of the rugs and securely set within the window walls. Nifty.

"I've also got terrific results using a tri-fold poster board, using T-pins to easily poke through the rugs and into the poster board. It stands up well and is a nice way to display rugs vertically.

"Oh yes, by the way. That maple leaf design on burlap never did get completed. I think I gave up on it soon after we returned home from Florida. During the next 20 years, I began to appreciate folk art, antiques, quilts and other early art forms as I decorated my newlywed home and actually purchased two vintage hooked rugs. It would be another 10 years before I actually picked up a hook again, dedicating myself to this passion that I was pursuing for so many years.

"The best advice I ever received when I had a hooking block or was contemplating changing a color choice, was to 'keep going.' My best advice is, always to end the day's hooking on the upbeat, with the next loop ready to be pulled through the very next time you sit down to hook. Sometimes I even leave my hook right in the next loop, ready to pull through.

"I can't stop hooking!"

Visit the Guild's website --www.hcrag.com -- and click on "Hooker of the Month" to see some of Lucy's creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- March Is Here... will you come IN like a lion, blasting us with snow, wind and ice? Will you go OUT like a lamb, meekly and gently, leaving behind soft breezes and budding flowers? March is often a tease, blustery and cold one day and calm and warm the next. It is an eternal guessing game, a contest between lion and lamb.

Have you found Pinterest on the internet? It is a wonderful resource for ideas, images and inspiration for rug hooking. For instance, if you are thinking about March going out like a lamb, you will find numerous hooked pieces featuring lambs. You can have a lamb surrounded by

roses, one with a wreath of hollyhocks and more! Warning: it is a rabbit hole which will entertain you for hours! PS. You can find rabbits there too!

But what about the lion of March? We often picture the lion as roaring and menacing but Edward Hicks, an American Folk artist of the 19th century pictured the lion quite differently. Hicks created a series of paintings called The Peaceable Kingdom. These paintings illustrated verses of the Bible which spoke of the lion lying down with the lamb; animals and humans creating an earthly kingdom filled with peace and harmony. The lion would use his strength to protect rather than consume the lamb.

Patsy Becker had a hooking pattern with a friendly lion and a cuddly lamb set against a starry night sky and words about Peace on earth written in the border. There is also an old folk art pattern of a lion in the jungle which looks more like the stalking, ferocious one we see in nature documentaries. So we have many choices as how to portray and hook either the lion or the lamb. So March, come in with all your bluster and bluff. Be a lion or a lamb, we will hook on until the real spring arrives to lure us from our frame and hooks. In the meantime we wool artisans will continue to create our art and find beauty in each day! For further information on Edward Hicks, go to www.Folkart.com

Happy Hooking! Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

From Lucy Walsh's Dye Pot – Dyeing with Skirt Linings – The January/February 2017 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine included an article by Karl Gimber on using the dye found in the linings of recycled skirts for an easy way to dye wool (see pages 52-54). Our Featured Member, Lucy Walsh, reported that she “tried the ‘lining dyeing’ and it worked great! The outcome was unpredictable but wow I loved the results. I used two wools, white and light blue. The lining was French blue and I added several small pieces of black. I rolled the jelly rolls on the diagonal so that the new color did not dye in vertical or horizontal stripes. I also used rubber bands to cinch the rolls, spreading the second cinch to create some additional non-dye lines. The finished pieces were teal and brown variation, with a little tan mixed in – I don't know where that came from. Really striking. It was quick and inexpensive.”

Go to our website to see the results.

Tips from Heloise – Counting Hooking Hours – “How long did it take to make that rug?” is probably the most frequently ask question directed to rug hookers. It certainly comes up all the time when we are demonstrating at local fairs and festivals.

Kathy Kane shared a tip with Heloise on her easy way of keeping track of her hooking hours. When you start hooking record with a marker along the outer edge of the rug backing the time you started hooking and then the time you stopped. It is then easy to keep track of your hooking time.

Recipes – Juliana Kapusta's Cinnamon Coffee Cake – Members who attended our January Retreat enjoyed Juliana's healthy treat. We thank her for sharing her recipe.

Blend:

- 2 Tbsp coconut oil, melted.
- 5 eggs (I added 1 more for a total of six because the Just Like Brown Sugar is dry.)

- 1/2 C honey (I substituted 1/4 Cup of Just Like Brown Sugar which is a natural sugar substitute made from chicory root. You can get it on line.)
- 2 Tbsp. coconut milk
- 3/4 tsp. maple flavoring (This was my addition. It is not part of the original recipe.)
- Sift together then add to wet mixture:
- 1/4 Cup coconut flour
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt

Stir in:

- 1/4 C raisins
- Pour the batter into a greased pan spreading evenly.
- Combine this swirl then mix into the batter by hand, stirring just a few times to create a ribbon through the batter.
- 1 Tbsp. melted coconut oil
- 1 Tbsp. honey (I used 1 Tbsp. Just Like Brown Sugar again being careful to stir it immediately or it tends to “glump.”)
- 2 tsp. cinnamon.

Bake 25 minutes in a preheated 325 degree oven or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 20 minutes.

I figured it out to be about 80 calories if you cut this into 16 servings (approximately a 2 inch by 2 inch square) and use the sugar substitute. Enjoy!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Tavern Sign Hooked Rug Exhibit Extended (March 18, 2017) -- An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA features the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbels. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community – Quilt Exhibit (November 19, 2016 -- March 2, 2017) -- The Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA invites the public to view the new exhibit: “A Riot of Color: Quilts from the Community”. The exhibit features numerous colorful pattern and scrap quilts from the Mennonite communities of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Enjoy the variety of patterns and riotous color combinations that reflect the Pennsylvania Dutch culture of early to mid-twentieth century southeastern Pennsylvania Mennonite women. The Mennonite Heritage Center is open from 10 am to 5 pm from Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday. For information about the Mennonite Heritage Center exhibits and programs, see mhcp.org.

Pennsylvania German *Putz* Tradition on Display (November 19, 2016 – March 4, 2017) – *Putz* visiting was a popular holiday activity in Lehigh and northern Montgomery Counties and other areas in the early 20th century. *Putz* makers would construct elaborate Christmas gardens in the homes, often with automated features, and would open their doors for the general public to visit. The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA has an extensive collection of *Putz* that will be on display until March 4, 2017. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

“Hand Work But Not Home Work” – Liz Alpert Fay Exhibit (February 16 – March 26, 2017) – Fiber artist Liz Alpert Fay will have a solo exhibit of her work at the H. Pelham Curtis Gallery at the New

Canaan Library, 151 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 3:00 - 5:00PM. Liz will conduct a gallery talk and demonstration on March 11, 2017. For more information or to register for the gallery talk contact newcanaanlibrary.org.

Rug Hooking Workshop for Beginners – Vanderveer House & Museum (March 26, 2017) – A workshop for those who want to learn traditional rug hooking will be held at the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum on March 26, 2017 from 1-4. Cherry Halliday, a certified McGown instructor, will conduct the workshop. The \$70 fee includes rug backing, pattern, wool, hook and a basic rug hooking frame. Registration is required. Checks made payable to HCRAAG should be sent to Therese Shick at 3 Bristol Court, Annandale, NJ 08801. Questions can be directed to her at 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Lucy Walsh to Demonstrate at Bouman-Stickney Museum (April 2, 2017) – Guild member Lucy Walsh will be demonstrating rug hooking at the Bouman-Stickney Museum open house in Readington Township on Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 1:00-4:00. The GPS address for the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is 114 Dreahook Road, Lebanon NJ 08833.

Hooked on Nature: Hooked & Sewn Art Exhibit (Through May 7, 2017) – An exhibit of textile work by artists Alice Rudell, Tracy Jamar, Liz Alpert Fay, and Marilyn Bottjer is now open at the Wisner House Gallery of the Reeves-Reed Arboretum. The Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, NJ 07901. For more information, visit www.reeves-reedarboretum.org or call 908-273-8787.

Penn Dry Goods Market – Antique and Vintage Textiles Show & Sale (May 19 & 20, 2017) – Last May, the Guild took a bus trip to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center. The Heritage Center is again sponsoring the Penn Dry Goods Market – a special antiques show and sale featuring antique and vintage needlework, quilts, buttons, linens, clothing, and Americana. A series of textile history lectures are offered as well. Admission to show and sale is \$6.00. For additional information call the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or visit its website at www.schwenkfelder.com.

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 14-19, 2017) – This major rug hooking event in Archbold, Ohio includes a hooking retreat, workshops, vendors and multiple exhibits. To get the latest information go to www.saudervillage.org/rughookingweek or call 800-590-9755.

Rugs by the Sea (September 10–22, 2017) – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury have announced the instructors for their popular rug hooking school held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ. The instructors for the first week (September 10-15) are Ingrid Hieronimus, Michele Micarelli, Kris Miller and Emily Silevinac. Cammie Bruce, Lucille Festa, Chizuko Hayami and Diane Stoffel are the instructors for the second week (September 17-22). Expanded information and photos can be found by visiting their blog – www.rugsbythesea.wordpress.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.

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 Barbara Boyko at 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

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 Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 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.
- 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.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCRAG Calendar of Events --

March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Auction & Hook-in *
March 26, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop (Vandermeer House & Museum, Bedminster, NJ)
April 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Flowers (Jan Cole) *
April 21-23, 2017 – Spring Fling & Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 22, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA)
May 6, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Sheep Shearing at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ)
May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Felted Applique & Pictorial Hand Embroidery (Debora Konchinsky *)
June 3, 2017 – Hook-in (3 Bridges Fire House, 3 Bridges, NJ)
June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Show & Tell Gift Drawing *
July 29 & 30, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Mercer County 4-H Fair, Howell Living Farm)
August 7 –11, 2017 – 21st Rug Hooking School – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 8, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 24, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, Ringoes, NJ)
September 8, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
September 9 & 10, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes, NJ)
September 16, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Hilltown Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Quilt Day at Howell Farm)
October 7, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA)
October 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
November 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **
November 25 & 26, 2017 – Hooking Demonstration (Vanderveer House, Bedminster, NJ)

December 8, 2017 – 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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** 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 for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Membership -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Director – Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com

Historian -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net

Hospitality -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com

Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

Librarian -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net

Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com

Programs – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or lisasavino55@gmail.com

Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or ahtram1@aol.com

Monthly Program – Various members

Secretary – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com

Special Events – Open

Spring Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

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

HCRAg CLASSIFIEDS

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- **Description of Item for Sale or Wanted**
- **Asking Price for sale items**
- **Contact Information**