

## **THE LOOP**

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

March 2018

From the Presidents:

So much to do, and so little time!! That seems to be the theme of our lives these days. Our March meeting will be the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 10 we have each year. Have we done 70% of the goals we had in Sept? I don't even remember what my goals were, so how do I know if I have completed 70%? Anyone else feel like that? Sometimes we run from one thing to the next, never taking time to appreciate where we are.

So, where does that mean we (the Guild) are right now? We can certainly look at how the Guild is growing and thriving right now. We are thrilled that people have stepped up to fill the roles of Presidents and Camp Directors. And several of those people are relatively new members. New blood, new ideas, new energy. And many of the other people filling other positions have indicated they would serve another term. It all speaks to the health of our Guild, and the enthusiasm we have for hooking and for how the Guild has helped each of us. As we said in last month's letter, "what an awesome group of people, and what an awesome Guild".

We are in a great place.

We have good upcoming programs for the remainder of the year, we have our Hook-In in June, and Summer School in August, with all the new rugs that will produce. We have a list of program requests for next year, many of which can be led by our own members. Our plate is full. We are satisfied.

If you missed the February meeting, the by-laws were passed after a few minor changes. Cherry gave a nice presentation on making a basket topper.

Yours in wool,

Weezie, Jan, and Fred

### **March Meeting – Friday, March 9, 2018**

**Program:** Ellen and Sharon will demonstrate dyeing with silk ties. Guild Hook-in.

The refreshments for March will be brought by Debbie Walsh, Cindy Boults, Linda Ehly, Lois Grieves, and Susan Atwater. Please bring your own beverage.

### **March Birthdays**

Tracy Fetzer (3/4), Juliana Kapusta (3/4), Helen McWeeney-Dowling (3/7), Sarah Gerding (3/12), Joan Lucas (3/13), Pat McDonnell (3/17), Therese Shick (3/20), Amy Korengut (3/26), Linda Woodbury (3/26), Ann Gagnon (3/28)

### **Guild News & Events**

#### **Welcome new Members!**

We would like to make sure that you are aware of the existence of our mentoring program, which was created as a way to facilitate a new member's introduction to our guild. This program will match you with a current member who will be able to help you out with most things related to rug hooking, from providing advice and suggestions regarding a rug that you are working on, to helping explain Guild programs, events or activities. New and experienced rug hookers alike can also benefit from a mentor providing information regarding local resources, including open studios, suppliers, teachers, etc.

We hope that you will opt to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity!

Those interested should contact Amy Korengut, the Mentoring Chair, at (908) 221-9061 or at [akorengut@gmail.com](mailto:akorengut@gmail.com).

#### **New Members**

Susan Maccombie

4 O'Connor DR Hillsborough, NJ 08844

908-281-5858 908-315-8339

[susar@rcn.com](mailto:susar@rcn.com) 12/22

Lynne Montelone

6121 Hearthstone DR Pipersville, PA 18947

215-766-0737 215-262-4654

[lynnemonteleone@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnemonteleone@yahoo.com) 7/8

### **Information about Framer of Weezie's Birch Trees**

Those members in attendance at February's meeting saw my birch tree piece as I got it back from being "framed". It is not actually framed so much as mounted on a frame. The person who I use (and I have used her many times) is Kathy Wilson of Point Pleasant, Pa. Her phone number is 215-297-0806, and I highly recommend her. She not only mounts the rug, but I give it to her with just some zigzagging. She sews rug binding (which she sometimes has to dye to make it match) on it, finishes the edge, sews it to a piece of cotton duck, and then stretches it around a frame her husband makes for each piece. She adds a hanging wire to the back. She does a lot of work for antique dealers and museums too. Considering what she does, the price is VERY reasonable. If you contact her, mention that you are in the Guild.

Weezie

### **Pro Chemical & Dye Yellow Dye #135**

Periodically, Pro Chemical & Dye discontinues a dye color because their supplier can no longer produce it. Unfortunately, couple of years ago this happened to #135 (Yellow) in which Pro Chemical & Dye posted on their old website and in their newsletter. How many of you get Pro Chemical & Dye's newsletter? I didn't until now and I wasn't even dyeing two years ago, but I've collected dye from past guild members, hence I have the color #135. In fact, most of our dye books were published before this color was discontinued.

What to do, what to do...

The recommendation by Pro Chemical & Dye is to use #119 (Sun Yellow) at half the strength. In other words, if your dye recipe calls for 1/32 of #135 (Yellow) use 1/64 of #119 (Sun Yellow); I was told your dye recipe should come out exact or very close.

Ellen

### **Men's Ties Needed**

Ellen DiClemente is asking for donations of men's 100% silk ties that you want to get rid of; ties will be used for a future guild program on dyeing wool with silk ties.

### **Member Items For Sale**

Members are encouraged to bring rug hooking equipment they wish to sell to monthly meetings. This would allow current and new members to see equipment in person prior to purchase. A table will be set up for display. All items are to be labeled as to what it is, brand name, current owner, contact info, and price. Remember, there is a classified section in our newsletter. To place your item in the classifieds, email Brenda before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Bss45@cornell.edu.

### **Newsletter Contributions Requested**

Reminder from the editor--- this is YOUR newsletter! Please contribute to it! Are you a veteran hooker? What do you wish you knew when you first started? Please share that. Have you picked up a neat tip from rug school or a teacher? Let us know! New to the guild? Introduce yourself! Can you describe yourself in 5 sentences or less? Please share! Beginner hooker? What attracted you to hooking? Share your enthusiasm! Email your contribution to Brenda at [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu). Thanks!!!!

### **Member Recipe Share**

The Good Brownie  
By Ellen DiClemente

1 cup of **Almond Butter** or **Peanut Butter**  
6 very ripe **Bananas** (almost black), mashed  
4 TBL unsweetened **Cocoa**  
2 TBL unsweetened **Applesauce**

1. Preheat oven to 350
2. Lightly spray 8" x 8" Pyrex baking dish
3. Whisk all ingredients together until well blended and pour into baking dish
4. Bake for 25 minutes
5. Slightly cool
6. Cut into squares with a sharp knife and remove from baking dish to cooling rack to finish cooling
7. Put into a baggie (single layer) and freeze

Optional: You can add ½ cup chopped fruit sweetened cranberries; or ½ cup chopped walnuts; or ¼ cup cocoa nibs

### **Nina's Notebook**

March comes blowing in with threats of snow, ice and ugly cold weather but soon changes its mind and teases us with thoughts of spring. The sun shines bright but often masks the low temps that cause our rhododendron to curl up in disgust, waiting for the warmth to uncurl its leaves again.

Have you seen the movie Maude? It is the story of a Nova Scotia folk artist by the name of Maude Lewis. She was a tiny woman severely crippled by arthritis who made her living as a housekeeper for an abusive man named Everett Lewis. The two eventually married and made a life together in a small house in Digby on the Fundy shore where he worked as a fish peddler and she made small paintings which she sold for a few dollars each. In spite of her many ailments and abusive husband, Maude was a cheerful upbeat woman whose paintings brought a smile to your face. Her pictures were winsome and nostalgic featuring children at play, deer in the

woods, large black cats with golden eyes and pink cherry blossoms overhead. Her small house was a canvas for her red, white and yellow tulips. Today her house has been recreated in the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax. In the gift shop you can buy patterns of Maude's paintings for rug hooking.

Maude Lewis and Joe Norris, another Nova Scotia folk artist, are examples of people who overcame many difficulties in their lives. Joe was a fisherman who had a serious heart attack at 49 and was forced to give up fishing. When things got tough, Joe said, I goes inside and paints me some fine day.

So when March gets too much for you, go inside and create some fine day! The artist within you will be happy!

Happy Hooking!

### **2018 Hunterdon Hook-in**

We are having our second Hook-in on June 2, 2018 at the Three Bridges Fire Hall, 9am to 4pm. Registration is \$15 and the forms are available on the website. If you can't come for the day, walk-ins for shopping are welcome for \$10 after 12:00. If you didn't attend last year it is a day of good fun.... bring your latest hooking project to work on, catch up with old friends, meet new hookers from all over, win wonderful door prizes, and find great shopping. You can buy a Jersey Mike's lunch when you register or bring your lunch. Snacks are provided by Guild members and water is provided by the Guild. We are having a variety of vendors again so you can stock up on all your hooking and fiber art needs! A preliminary list of vendors is: The Wool n' Gardener, Wooly Dye Works, Diane Pearce (baskets), Two Old Crows, Susan Gonzalez Designs (wool applique), The Wool Farm (from Delaware), and MJ Miller (finished ornaments and applique work).

### **Rug School 2018**

#### **The balance of summer school payment is due on or before March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Guild's 22nd Rug Hooking School (August 6-10, 2018) – Instructors Pris Butler, Carrie Martin, Sharon Smith, and Ali Streibel 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 6, 2018 and run to Friday, August 10, 2018. Workshop descriptions, teacher bios, and registration information are available on our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com).)

At the present time all of our classes are full. We will keep a waiting list however, as openings often occur as we get closer to the rug school date.

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. Hosts are asked to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you choose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath. If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

**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](http://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 [freija2@verizon.net](mailto:freija2@verizon.net).

So many books have been donated this year that there will be a new group available each month for the next four months. Please come and see what is available at each upcoming meeting.

*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](http://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 Patti Mahar at [patriciamahar@verizon.net](mailto:patriciamahar@verizon.net). The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

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

### **Workshop on a variety of Stitches**

Spring Lake (NJ) ATHA is hosting a workshop with Benita Raleigh on April 16 and 17, 2018. This is Benita's Hooter the owl rug hooking workshop featuring the use of 10 different types of stitches. The workshop will be held at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Spring Lake, NJ. Please contact Lydia Brenner for more information @lbrenuva@comcast.net or 732-687-2487.

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 [barb@bboyko.com](mailto:barb@bboyko.com) or 914-588-7077. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:lindarz16@gmail.com).
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:chris622@optonline.net).

#### **HCRAG Calendar of Events --**

**March 9, 2018- Hook In and dyeing with silk ties demo.\***

**April 13, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program will be Weezie, and Amy Korengut presenting their trip to Guatemala with Multicolores (hooking in Guatemala)\***

**May 11, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Program Lettering\***

**June 8, 2018-Monthly Meeting-Annual HCRAG End of the Year Luncheon, show and tell drawing\***

\*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](mailto:jantique@ptd.net)  
Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)
- Vice President – Membership** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or [ergot53@embarqmail.com](mailto:ergot53@embarqmail.com)
- Newsletter** – Brenda Smith-201-317-0586 or [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu)
- Camp Directors** – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or [lbrenuva@comcast.net](mailto:lbrenuva@comcast.net)  
Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or [debywalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:debywalsh1@gmail.com)
- 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)  
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or [diane.mannon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.mannon@yahoo.com)
- Librarian** -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)
- Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [akorengut@gmail.com](mailto:akorengut@gmail.com)
- Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or [lisasavino55@gmail.com](mailto:lisasavino55@gmail.com)  
Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or [ahtram1@aol.com](mailto:ahtram1@aol.com)  
Monthly Program – Various members
- Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or [jasuanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jasuanderson@gmail.com)
- Special Events** – Open
- Spring Hook-in** --
- Sunshine** -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com)
- Treasurer** -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net)  
Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or [deerosebrock@aol.com](mailto:deerosebrock@aol.com)

**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 group not solicit the membership as a whole.

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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 Brenda Smith at [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**HCRAAG CLASSIFIED SECTION**

**FOR SALE: Townsend/Bliss #4 cutting blade, never used.**

**Asking \$100. Retail - \$200.**

**Please See Susan Atwater**

**Please submit items to be included in "The Loop" to Brenda Smith [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu) or 201-317-0586 by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month you want it included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads.**