

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

May 2011

Presidents' Letter -- When a group of rug hookers gets together, something magical happens. It is a light hearted happy time occurring just for the fun of it and the joy of being together. Visiting with old friends and meeting new ones adds to the fun. We learn about what others are doing and get to see their finished rugs and hooking projects.

Recently Guild members participated in a hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, Pa. This hook-in was a little different because it was smaller than many others in our area. The small size seemed to make it easier to meet more people and to enjoy the event. Many of the attending rug hookers were from areas that are not covered by an active guild and they were generous in their compliments about our group. This made us realize how lucky we are to have this Guild to keep our hooking spirit alive and full of inspiration.

By the time we read this edition of our "Loop" the Geometrics Workshop with Sandra Brown will be over and the members who attend our May meeting will be able to share their experiences in this class. Our demonstration at the Howell Farm will have taken place on May 7 and Guild members that volunteered to demonstrate will have introduced many more people to our art.

Every member of this Guild spreads the joy of hooking throughout our community! We are proud to be your Presidents!

Joyce and Dee

May Meeting – Friday, May 13, 2011 -- The May meeting will be at our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington from 10:00 to 2:00. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road. Guests are welcome.

Guild Program – Guild member Kay Weeks will present "Proddy 101 with a Salvage Confetti Special". Her program will include a demonstration of the special proddy technique after which, Kay will assist those who want to start a proddy project.

You will need to bring scissors, backing, burlap or linen, and a proddy tool (chop sticks will be provided for those not having a proddy tool). Blanket wool will be supplied for those making a floor rug. If you wish to make a "mug rug" flower, please bring a center circle pre-hooked in the traditional style and uncut wool you wish to use for the outer petals. Bring any selvage strips you want to use. If you have any questions, please call Kay Weeks at 908-832-7155.

Show & Tell – May is a month where flowers are springing up everywhere! Please share any rugs you have hooked that feature a flower/garden theme. Current projects are always welcomed.

Those who participate in Show & Tell are eligible for special raffle prizes. Annie Edwards, Jamie Gartelmann, Cheryl Halliday, Amy Korengut, Therese Shick, and Debbie Walsh were the winners last month. A mola mat, boxes of homemade cookies with mola icing designs, egg warmers, baskets and a dozen eggs (brown and green) were the prizes donated by Guild members.

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan, Joyce Combs, Dee Rosebrock and Debbie Walsh are our refreshment volunteers this month. We thank them for helping make our meetings so enjoyable.

May Birthdays – Sonia Force (5/15), Jeannine Happe (5/19), Deanna Kinney (5/13), Lydia Lewis (5/8), Margaret Lutz (5/21) and Rug Hooking Magazine celebrate birthdays in May. Happy Birthday to you all!

Membership – Barbara Kimbrough has a news address – P. O Box 95, Sea Girt, NJ 08750.

Sunshine – Last month we reported that Margie Briggs sprained her wrist. She actually fractured it! She had to cancel participation in the hook-in, but was able to stop by to say hello. Joanne McIlmurray also had to miss the hook-in. She had a serious eye infection that kept her at home. Tracy Fetzer broke her ankle and has a few more weeks in her soft cast. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Guild News & Events

Hooked Rug Lecture – Three Centuries of Hooked Rugs – May 2, 2011. The Greenwich Antiques Society will present "Three Centuries of Hooked Rugs", a lecture by Judith Burger-Gossart on May 2 at 1 p.m. at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT. Both the Maine Sea Coast Mission and the Grenfell Mission developed programs to provide income for the women and their families and to overcome the women's isolation. These two programs have been brought together by Judith Burger-Gossart in her book Three Centuries of Hooking. For more information or for reservations call Mary Heist at 203-637-0359 or Mary Olson at 914-631-9439.

Guild Scheduled to Demonstrate at Howell Living Farm – May 7, 2011 -- Our Guild returns to one of our favorite sites, the Howell Living Farm, to demonstrate rug hooking from 10-4 during the Farm's annual Sheep Shearing Day. Howell Farm is located off of Rt. 29 about two miles below Lambertville, NJ. We will set up in the barn annex to the Visitor Center which provides a comfortable setting and allows us to display a few rugs as well. Lunch is provided. Please let Karl Gimber know if you want to participate -- for any length of time that works for you.

Attend HCRAG Camp Free -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is 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 have interest, let Camp Directors Gail Ferdinando or Debbie Walsh know.

HCRAG 15th Annual Rug Hooking Camp --Our Guild's 15th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 15, 2011 though August 19, 2011. In keeping with our

tradition, nationally recognized instructors -- Jane Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. At the last meeting, Debbie Walsh reported that all classes were full; however, a subsequent cancellation has resulted in an opening in Kris McDermet's workshop. Her workshop will also be an open hooking class for students who would like to hook in addition to braiding, or instead of braiding

Our Teachers and Their Classes:

Jane Halliwell Green (Pictorials) Jane is known for her pictorial and floral rugs. In this workshop, Jane will offer a fresh approach to hooking houses, water, skies, trees, grass, flowers, rock walls and other pictorial elements. Participants will learn how to apply techniques such as pixelating, bundling, shagging and meandering to bring a new level of excitement and skill to their hooking projects. Jane will lead her class through a series of mini-lectures and demonstrations of techniques. She will also work with students on an individual basis. Students may work on a commercial pattern or an original design with wide or narrow strips.

Jane will also teach wide-cut florals that she calls "Close Ups." These rugs or wall hangings are hooked in a wide cut, anything from a #8 cut to a ripped strip of wool measuring close to one inch. The rugs are extremely fast to hook and dramatic in their appearance. Size can vary from a 16" pillow square to a 48" X 48" wall hanging. Jane frequently uses dip dyes to create the petals. She will have a number of her own patterns available or students may design their own.

Jane is the author of two books on pictorial rugs, including her most recent, *Pictorial Hooked Rugs*. Her latest rug "Botanical Fantasy" was chosen for the cover of the 2010 edition of *Celebrations*. Jane teaches at rug hooking schools throughout the United States and Canada. She was the first rug hooker to teach at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC and was a guest of HGTV in 2001. Jane is also a painter and signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society. She resides in Annapolis, Maryland. Visit her website at <http://www.rugandwool.com> and <http://www.woolofthemothclub.com>.

Kris McDermet (Open Workshop on Hooking and Braiding) With over 30 years of experience in hooking and braiding, Kris will offer an open class that will broaden your knowledge of rug hooking techniques and fancy braided and hooked borders. She will discuss how the color, design and texture of wool complements both mediums and will provide tips for both art forms.

Braids can frame, compliment or add contrast to a hooked project. They can be used as a border or center with endless possibilities for switching back and forth between hooking and braiding. This class will look beyond traditional rug borders to help you add texture and interest to your projects. Kris will present the many steps of braiding on hooking with easy to understand directions and hands-on instruction. Students will learn how to add braiding to a variety of hooked shapes and to the inside or outside of any hooked wall hanging or rug. There also will be instruction in hooking and braiding with silk. Silk adds a shimmering

quality to both art forms. Students are asked to bring a variety of small hooked shapes to class and will be contacted by Kris.

Kris lives in Dummerston, Vermont and teaches braiding on hooking around the country. She is a member of the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild. Please visit her website at www.krismcdermetrugs.com.

Iris Simpson (Open Workshop) Iris will offer an open class where anything goes and all levels of rug hookers are welcome. Students can use a commercially designed pattern or create one of their own (with or without help from Iris). They can choose any subject and use any cut from #2 to #9 or hand cut. The variety of choices made by the students will set the stage for what will be taught. Iris will teach her class through a series of mini-lectures on different topics, such as, Primitives, Orientals, Fine Shaded Fruits or Flowers. Hints, tips and techniques for each style will be shared. In addition, students will learn about materials (traditional and unusual), technique, design, color and finishing. Iris encourages questions and dialogue in her class and fun and laughter are always welcome.

Iris, an educator by trade and a hooker by choice, loves hooking and teaching at schools and workshops in Canada, the United States and England. She is an Ontario Hooking Craft Guild and McGown certified teacher, holds a Fiber Arts-Traditional Rug Hooking Certificate from St. Lawrence College and is a certified Oxford Punch Needle teacher. Iris enjoys all aspects of rug hooking, from mini-pictorials in a #2 cut to primitives in a #9 cut. She values close communication with students prior to, during and after class. Iris is well versed in all styles and subjects and loves to share information and fun. Her latest work combines hooking with mini punch needle for an interesting effect.

Registration/Instructional Fees – The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2010. 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 31, 2011.** For all reservations received after May 31st, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be brought to the May meeting or sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016. If you are unsure of how much you owe or have any questions, contact Debbie at debywalsh@yahoo.com or 908-272-7012.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2011, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

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

Volunteers Needed for Camp -- Camp participants will have the opportunity at the May meeting to sign up to help with the various camp chores. If you will not be at the meeting, please call Debbie Walsh or Gail Ferdinando to learn what help is needed.

Beginners' Workshop – Tuesday, August 16, 2011 -- The Guild's popular Beginners' Workshop will again be offered during our annual rug hooking camp at the ESC School. Connie Coleman and Kay Weeks will be the instructors for the workshop on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 from 9-12.

As in the past, Guild members are requested to donate wool that can be used for the kits. Kay and Connie can use wools in the following colors: blues, coral reds, browns, greens and neutrals (for background/sky). Odds and ends will do. Please bring what you can to the May meeting.

Workshop participants are requested to bring a 14" embroidery hoop and a sharp pair of scissors. All other supplies and equipment will be provided. The fee is \$50.

ATHA Biennial Shaping Up To Be A Blow Out -- Every two years the Association of Traditional Rug Hooking Artists (ATHA) holds a gathering of rug hookers commonly known as "The Biennial". In recent years they were held in Louisville, KY and New Orleans with the 2013 Biennial scheduled for California. Each Biennial is hosted by the chapters within an ATHA region. The chapters in Region 2 (Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York) are hosting the 2011 Biennial that will be held in Lancaster, PA from October 19-22, 2011.

This event is shaping up to be the largest gathering of rug hooking artisans to ever convene in the tri-state area. Close to 700 hookers have already registered! The short distance to Lancaster presents a special opportunity to those in the area to be part of a Biennial without the cost of traveling a great distance. There is still time to join the festivities.

Biennial activities include the following:

- Workshops conducted by over 20 of the most highly regarded instructors for hooking artisans at all levels of experience.
- Favorite vendors from across the country will be selling supplies and equipment to meet all hooking needs, including wool, rug patterns, hooking frames, wool cutters, and books.
- Rug exhibit featuring hundreds of rugs hooked by Biennial registrants will be on display and open to the public.
- Series of daily tours will be available so that participants can sample what makes Lancaster special.
- Mini-lectures on a series of rug hooking subjects will be presented each afternoon.
- Dr. Patricia "Trish" Herr", author and antique rug historian, will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

The Best Western Eden Resort & Suites will be the location and headquarters for the Biennial. They are centrally located near all Amish and other historical attractions, outlet shopping and entertainment venues. Visit their website at www.edenresort.com for more information and a visual tour.

To register or for more information, visit the ATHA website – www.atharugs.com -- and click on "Biennials".

The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Raffles Rugs with Alice Beatty

Connection -- The Brandywine Guild is raffling two vintage rugs that were started by Bille J. Smith, student of Alice Beatty, namesake of the well known Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter. After several twists of fate and many long hours into this labor of love, The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is proud to have had the privilege of completing these wonderful rugs. The members of Brandywine present these rugs as a benefit for the 2011 Biennial as a way to honor Billie J. Smith and the deep roots and camaraderie that endures throughout the rug hooking community.

This is an opportunity to own a piece of rug hooking history. Images of the rugs and raffle tickets will be available at the May meeting. For more information, contact Brandywine President Jeri Livingston at 610-363-2557 or jeri_liv@verizon.net.

Open Studio Sessions -- We sometimes forget how fortunate we are to have local instructors who offer open studio sessions on a regular basis. Rug hookers are invited to drop in and spend a few hours working on their latest project in the company of other hooking enthusiasts. There is normally a nominal fee. When attending for the first time, it is best to call the instructor to confirm the date and space availability. A partial list of local open studio sessions follows:

- Vicki Calu (Three Bags Full – Dublin, PA) – Normally every Thursday from 9-12. Contact Vicki at vickicalu@gmail.com or 215249-0790 for details.
- Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows – Columbia, NJ) – Days can differ each month. Contact Jeannine at 908-496- 4870 or by email at jhappe@ptd.net for details.
- Kay Leisey (Homespun, Hereford, PA) – Wednesdays Noon to 5 and first Fridays 5-9. Call Kay at 215-541-0565 for the particulars.
- Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip – Harmony, NJ) – Fridays 10-3. Contact Karen at 908-859-6350 or Karen@thebluetulipwoolery.com. For more information.

Several Guild members are regulars at these sessions.

Guild Demonstrates at the Peter Wentz Farmstead -- The weather was cool, but that did not detract the 900 visitors who came to enjoy the sheep shearing festivities at the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA. on April 2, 2011. The event was held several weeks earlier than usual due to the lateness of Easter this year.

Juliana Kapusta, Joanne McIlmurray and Karl Gimber represented the Guild and found a receptive audience. There was much interest in traditional rug hooking. Juliana brought an extra frame and helped visitors of all ages pull a few loops. As has been reported in the past, the Peter Wentz staff goes out of its way to make their volunteers feel welcomed. Hot coffee and doughnuts are there when we first arrive; volunteers and staff circulate during the day and eagerly bring more coffee.

Our rug hooking takes place behind the summer kitchen where open hearth cooking is demonstrated. The historically prepared food is served as lunch to the volunteers and staff. The menu includes food that would have been prepared at typical Pennsylvania

German farmsteads during the 17th and 18th century. This year we were treated to:

- Chicken Pot Pie
- Griddle Scones
- Asparagus forced in French Rolls (1747)
- Tissen Lap (Welsh for “moist cake”)
- Portugal Cakes/currant cakes (17th century)
- Shad
- Cheese & Pickles (18th century fast food)

We look forward to returning next year.

Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Awarded – The Scholarship Committee announced that Charter Member Helen Buchanan is the 2011 recipient of the Madeline Brightbill Scholarship which provides for attendance at our annual summer rug hooking camp. In addition to being one of the Guild’s founders, Helen has held many officer positions over the years including President. Most recently, Helen was our Hospitality Chair and as such was responsible for the refreshments at our meetings. The scholarship was presented in recognition of her many years of service to HCRAAG. Congratulations Helen!

New Officers Assume Responsibility – The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee (Kathy Donovan and Carol Kindt) were approved at the April meeting and will assume their duties this month. Many of the former officers have agreed to serve another term, so the transition should be seamless. Our Guild is fortunate to have members who are willing to give back and to help make our Guild successful.

Guild’s Rug Exhibit Ends -- Rugs and other items hooked by Guild members were creatively displayed at the Main County Branch of the Hunterdon County Library during the month of April. The Library staff noted that our exhibit is one of the most popular ones and generates much attention and positive comments. Our thanks go to Kathy Donovan, Gail Ferdinando and Amy Korengut who installed our exhibit and to members who loaned their work. The rugs that were on display will be returned at the May meeting. Contact Gail at thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com to make other pick up arrangements

Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center – Rug hookers from Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania gathered at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA on April 16, 2011. The event was a joint venture between our Guild and the Heritage Center. There were several elements to the day that were different from the typical hook-in model -- size, site, presentations, hooking clinic and beginners’ workshop. Annie Edwards captured the excitement of the day with a series of photos which will appear as a slide show on our website this month.

Based on feedback both formal and informal, the day was a big success. The smaller size and more intimate setting were seen as a plus. A sampling of the comments from the feedback forms says it best ---

- “Loved and was inspired by the rug show.”
- “The presentations alone were worth the price of admission.”
- “I think everything was perfect. Well organized.”
- “The beginners’ area was a great idea to bring in new people.”

- “This was a great hook-in, well planned, plenty of time, no pressure and great demonstrations.”
- “The raffles were great.”
- “The facility was lovely and comfortable. Food was delicious.”
- “Everybody involved helped so much. What a great group of people.”
- “Thank you! Please do it next year!”

Raffles are always much anticipated and a fun part of every hook-in. There were lots of “oohs” and “aahs” as our raffle items were displayed. We thank the following friends and supporters of our Guild for their generous donations:

- Jan & Fred Cole (Wool’n Gardener)
- Gail Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio)
- Mary Jo Gimber
- Jeannine Happe & Karen Worthington (American Color Woolens)
- Sarah Heffner (Mennonite Heritage Center)
- HCRAAG Members (Joyce Combs, Sonia Force, Jamie Gartelmann, Karl Gimber, Carol Kindt, Lydia Lewis, and Dee Rosebrock)
- Kay Leisey (Homespun)
- Bonnie Smith (Wool Street Journal)
- Debra Smith (Rug Hooking Magazine)
- Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip)

One of our beginners, Gail Gresh, is a reporter for the Montgomeryville-Lansdale Patch. She wrote a nice article about the hook-in that can be found by going to <http://lansdale.patch.com/articles/getting-hooked-in-to-the-rug-aristans-guild>.

The day’s success was the result of a team effort. A special thank you to the following Guild members, Heritage Center staff and vendors who worked on the event:

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Joel Alderfer (MHC) | Juliana Kapusta |
| • Jan & Fred Cole (Vendor) | Lynda Kling |
| • Connie Coleman | Kay Leisey (Vendor) |
| • Joyce Combs | Patty Mahaffey |
| • Annie Edwards | Rose Moyer (MHC) |
| • Karl & Mary Jo Gimber | Dee Rosebrock |
| • Cheryl Halliday | Therese Shick |
| • Jeannine Happe (Vendor) | Karen Worthington (Vendor) |
| • Sarah Heffner (MHC) | |

As the Pennsylvania Germans say “Gross Danke!” to all who contributed to the success of the hook-in.

Mola Reference Resources -- Norma Batastini gave a fascinating and informative slide presentation at our April meeting on the molas made by the Kuna Indians who live on small islands off the coast of Panama. She mentioned several reference books on the Kuna Indians. They are listed here for those who were not in attendance and who may have interest.

1. Magnificent Molasses: The Heart of the Kuna Indians by Michel Perrin
2. Molas: Folk Art of the Cuna Indians by Ann Parker & Avon Neal

3. The Art of Being Kuna by Mari Lyn, Editor

HCRAG Website –Visit the Guild’s website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured member, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti normally updates the site by the first of the month. Take a look!

Meet Our Member – Juliana Kapusta -- Juliana Kapusta has always had an interest in pioneer life and admits “to having an over romanticized image” of that simpler life. While attending the Goschenhoppen Folk Festival in 1997 she saw a group of women demonstrating rug hooking and was fascinated by their work. She went to local fabric stores looking for information on rug hooking, but was unable to find anything. Juliana had to wait a full year for the next Goschenhoppen Folk Festival.

When she returned to the Festival in 1998, Juliana met Vicki Calu who was doing the rug hooking that year. Vicki had an extra hooking frame with her and encouraged Juliana to pull a few loops. That brief introduction resulted in Juliana taking more formal lessons with Vicki after which she became a regular participant in Vicki’s open studio sessions.

Her first rug was partially completed when according to Juliana her “son discovered scissors”. The backing was damaged so she had to reorder the pattern and start over again, but she was not discouraged. By that time she was committed to mastering the art of rug hooking. Her first rug was a McGown Flynn pattern that went right on the kitchen floor. The rug received a lot of wear and is now gone

Juliana is attracted to primitive style rugs, but when she selects the colors for her rugs, they tend to be brighter than the more muted colors normally associated with primitive style rugs. Juliana also likes patterns that allow her to do shading. Her current project is a pattern of a cat and cabbage plant that provides the opportunity to develop her shading technique.

In addition to studying with Vicki Calu, Juliana has taken workshops with Jon Ciemiewicz, Michelle Micarelli and Jane Halliwell Green. She journeyed to Buckeystown to work with Jon where she was introduced to hooking animals and Jon’s technique for dyeing wool for animal patterns in order to let the wool do the work for you. She wished she had not dyed all her wool before she went to class. Juliana was a student with Michelle at our Guild’s initial “Spring Fling” workshops. “It was a fun class” she recalls. “Michelle encouraged me to use bright colors in my hooking.” Color planning was the subject of the workshop with Jane Halliwell Green that was offered at Sauder Village. Looking back on these formal learning experiences, Juliana notes that she “has learned from each instructor. They are all different and I have been influenced by each of them.”

Juliana works with both new and recycled wool. The used clothing that goes into her rugs are found at locals thrift stores where she has more luck finding men’s wool clothing. Juliana enjoys the challenge of dyeing the wool she finds. Her goal is to get as good as Jan Cole.

When it comes to the patterns she hooks, Juliana will work with a commercial one if she likes the design. She also likes the challenge of designing her own patterns. Her project at

Jon Ciemiewicz's class was her own design of her cat. With Michelle, Juliana used a pattern that was adapted from a book on fusible quilts.

Juliana finds that by attending Vicki Calu's open sessions on Thursday that she is assured of getting some hooking done each week. She also tries to hook on Sundays and occasionally in the evenings.

Her friend Cheryl Halliday introduced Juliana to our Guild when she brought the Spring Fling Workshop with Michelle Micarelli to her attention. Juliana soon became a member. Living in Telford, PA makes it difficult to attend many monthly meetings. However, Juliana supports the Guild by demonstrating at the Peter Wentz Farmstead and at the Hilltown Historical Society Festival. She was one of the volunteers at our recent hook-in where she gave a presentation on finishing rugs.

Like many of our members, Juliana has worked with other fiber crafts such as counted cross stitch, quilting, embroidery, knitting and crocheting. She likes rug hooking the most and now spends more time hooking than she does with the other crafts. "Rug hooking is more of an art form than the others" she notes. "The wool dyeing, pattern designing and wool selecting results in a more creative art form. I still enjoy the others, but would rather spend time hooking."

Juliana and her husband Richard live in Telford, PA. They have recently become empty nesters except for three cats and a puppy. Richard is an architect and has his own business. To say that they have a large family is an understatement! Juliana and Richard adopted two sibling groups of children. Four children were in the first adoption and three children in a second adoption three and a half years later and Juliana home schooled them all! Juliana notes that "we adopted because we felt that the Lord was leading us to do that. We could not have done anything without God's help and His mercy and grace in our lives." Here is a brief overview of this remarkable family:

- Jason, age 31, and his wife Wendy live in Harleysville, PA with their 6 month old son. Jason was adopted at age 9.
- Farrah, age 30, and her husband Brian live in Green Lane, PA with their daughters Madison and Sallybeth. Another child is on the way. Farrah was adopted at age 7
- Josh, age 28, lives in Telford, PA with his wife Kristine and their two daughters Klarrissa and Emily. Josh was adopted at age 6
- Tony, age 27, is engaged to Crystal Weinle. He lives in Hilltown, PA. Tony was adopted at age 5.
- Heather, age 24, lives in Lansdale, PA. She gave birth to a little girl on April 27th.of this year. Heather was adopted at age 5.
- Katie, age 23, and her husband Jon live in Pittsburgh, PA. Katie was adopted at age 4.
- Brandon, age 21, is single and lives in Lansdale, PA. Brandon was adopted at age 2.

Juliana also enjoys gardening and cooking. When her children were young, canning was a big part of her life. It was important to her to show her children that they could be self sufficient with a little hard work. She also wanted to give the children the security of seeing plenty of food in the house because of their unstable early life.

Our Guild has a proud history of members completing rugs that are critically acclaimed and recognized for inclusion in Celebrations. Juliana's Cone Flower rug is included in Celebrations XX under the Adaptations Category. This rug was started at the HCRAG Spring Fling Workshop with Michelle Micarelli. Juliana continued to work on the rug at Vicki Calu's open studio sessions where she received much support and encouragement. Congratulations Juliana!

Visit the Guild's website – www.hcrag.com – and click on “Featured Member” to see Juliana's Celebrations rug and others she has completed..

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – All eyes are on London and the royal wedding...what will the dress look like, what will the Queen be wearing and what about all those English hats? This leads me to thoughts of wedding rugs. Do you know of someone who is getting married this year; what nicer gift than a hooked rug made especially for the couple.

When planning a wedding rug, many images come to mind...hearts, flowers, golden rings, sunrises and more. The secret is to choose the images that are meaningful to the wedding couple and the most important part, to edit those choices. Designs for wedding rugs are best when they include only those elements which are unique to the couple. For example, a friend made a rug which featured the bride and groom...he in black suit with top hat and she in white dress and veil...shown from the rear dancing off into a moonlit night. The border contained words of a poem which was special to this couple. The rug became a prized possession.

If the wedding is in a special place, a beach front or forest retreat, work that into the design. A mat which I did for a 50th anniversary featured odd shaped blocks with mementos from their life such as their VW bus which they had for many years and their sail boat which they used every summer.

German fraktur prints which were made for weddings often used brightly colored birds to represent the couple. The birds could be shown with several different types of flowers in the border or background. Borders on wedding rugs can be used for the names of the couple plus the date of the wedding. So think about that special wedding or anniversary and design a rug to commemorate the occasion.

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips from Heloise -- At our last meeting Therese Shick's Show & Tell piece was a portrait rug of her niece. This was Therese's first portrait rug, but it appeared to have been hooked by someone who had done many previous

portraits. In a conversation with Heloise, Therese shared a technique she used while working on the rug.

She volunteered that she “blundered” her way through the face with help from Jeannine Happe and was happy with how the face came out. The shirt was another matter; it proved more difficult. About half way though hooking the shirt, Therese felt that it looked like a mass of color, not a shirt.

She remembered a technique whereby a grid is drawn on the image used for the pattern and again on the backing. After the grids were drawn, Therese looked at each grid and hooked what was in the grid ignoring what she thought the shirt should look like. She did not look at the shirt while hooking, just the grids. It was a challenge not to have preconceived ideas of what the shirt should look like.

The approach worked with the end result being a portrait rug that looked like it had been completed by someone who had hooked many portrait rugs.

HCRAG Library – Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net.

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

Favorite Recipes – Deanna Kinney provided a real treat at a recent Guild meeting with her Fluffy Pumpkin Cheesecake Pie. We thank her for sharing the recipe.

Ingredients

- 2 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
 - 2/3 cup sugar
 - 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice*
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin
 - 1 Keebler ready crust, Extra serving size pie crust
- * may substitute 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger and 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves in place of pumpkin pie spice.

In large mixing bowl beat cream cheese on medium speed of electric mixer until fluffy. Add sugar and spice. Beat until combined.

Add eggs, one at a time. Stir in pumpkin.

Pour into crust.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool 1 hour on wire rack. Refrigerate at least 3 hours. Store in refrigerator.

Note: You may soften cream cheese in the microwave at high for 15 to 20 seconds.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked Rug Lecture – Three Centuries of Hooked Rugs – May 2, 2011. The Greenwich Antiques Society will present "Three Centuries of Hooked Rugs", a lecture by Judith Burger-Gossart on May 2 at 1 p.m. at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT. For more information or for reservations call Mary Heist at 203-637-0359 or Mary Olson at 914-631-9439.

Jon Ciemiewicz Workshop - July 15-17, 2011 -- Jon will hold a workshop on bringing animals and people to life in a rug. The program will be held in Adamstown, PA. For more information, please contact Jon at www.anajon-rughooking.com.

2011 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village – August 17-20, 2011 are the dates for Rug Hooking Week which includes workshops (Jeanne Field, Cindi Gay, Jen Levoie and Susan Quicksall) and exhibits including the Celebrations XXI Exhibit. Get the latest information at www.saudervillage.org or by calling 800-590-9755.

Rugs by the Sea at Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ -- September 11-16 and 18-23, 2011 Beverly Conway, Cindi Gay, Kris Miller, and Judy Quintman are the instructors for the first week. Cherylyn Brubaker, Beverly Conway, Lucille Festa, and Sharon Townsend are the instructors for the second week. To register or for more information, contact Co-Directors Norma Batastini (973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com) or Linda Woodbury (973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com).

Harvest Celebration at the Wool Studio – October 18- 23, 2011 – Rebecca Erb is hosting this special event at the new location of her studio which is half an hour north of Lancaster, PA . Participants will include Homespun (Kay Leisey), Jim Brewley (hand-turned wooden snippet bowls), Misty Pond Primitives (Pat Donoho), Wool'n Gardner (Jan Cole), Wood Crest Rug Design (Joanne Gerwig) and the Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb). Visit www.thewoolstudio.com for directions and more information.

ATHA Biennial Conference in Lancaster, PA – October 19-22, 2011 -- For more information, visit the ATHA website at www.atharugs.com.

Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Exhibit and Workshops – November 12-20, 2011 – “All the Live Long Day” is the theme for the popular Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild’s rug exhibit. After a year off, the Guild is returning to Shelburne Museum for its highly anticipated exhibit, workshops, vendors and special events. Visit the Guild’s website – www.gmrhg.org – for more information.

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Sue Johnson at 908- 464-6324 or PowderhornSue8@hotmail.com.

Goat Hill ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (September to May) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 609-397-3425 or kathmb@hotmail.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.

A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events

May 13, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Prody 101 with a Selvage Confetti Special (Kay Weeks) *

June 10, 2011 -- Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic *

August 15-19, 2011 – HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp (June Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson) – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

August 16, 2011 – HCRAAG Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

September 9, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

October 14, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

November 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **

December 9, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon *

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Joyce Combs – 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net

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thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and

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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.



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 by the 20th of the month.