

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

May 2012

Presidents' Letter – Spring has arrived with all the promise of fresh beginnings and renewal of energy and creativity. For HCRAAG this May brings a new slate of officers in many positions and the re-commitment from those who continue in past roles.

However we must express our Guild's deep appreciation to the outgoing officers who have served these last two years. Dee and Joyce bravely proved that Guild life could continue after the amazing leadership of Weezie! And indeed the Guild grew and flourished under the grace and thoughtful guidance of these two women who were always present and available for any function required of our organization.

The innovations from the Program Committee have enriched and enlivened every meeting. The number of chairs now required attest to their success at making our meeting so meaningful to each of us! Not to mention the number of rugs and talents shared each month! Above all, the structural organization for all the Guild's activities have been carefully recorded and codified making the transfer and continuity of leadership a seamless transition.

Our Guild continues to grow and receive accolades from all who read the Loop. And a deeply felt thank you to those who have committed to new positions for the coming two years. While we are looking forward to another wonderful Camp program this summer and are well along on program plans for next year, we are exploding with ideas and plans for our 2013 Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill.

But we must first finish off the year with a fabulous finality: The Pot Luck Picnic in June. Several of our members visited Gravity Hill Farm, an organic farm in Titusville, NJ, where they have graciously offered us their community center. We will provide details at the May Guild meeting. It is the perfect setting for our Hooked Sheep Gathering.

And on April 14, a beautiful spring day members of the Guild, family and neighbors gathered at The United Methodist Church to celebrate the life of Margaret Brightbill. All cried, laughed and felt blessed to have known this remarkable woman. Memories and thoughts were shared by participants as a witness to her many faceted life. However, the constant threads were her softly shared wisdom, humility and hooking.

Cindy and Therese

May Meeting – Friday, May 11, 2012 -- The May meeting will be held at our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road. Our meeting begins at 10:00 and ends at 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Want a doorstep for the door that always swings closed or an attack tool? Lydia Lewis will teach us how to cover a brick with our completed hooked covers. She will quickly show how to do it from start to finish. If you have finished the cover bring it and the brick, a piece of material to cover the top of the brick, scissors, needle and thread to match the cover. If you have a curved needle, it helps.

Show & Tell – We celebrate Mother’s Day and Memorial Day during the month of May. Do you have a rug that celebrates or represents your Mother? Do you have a red, white and blue rug? Bring them in!

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

The S & T raffle winners for April were:

Sharon Ballard – Magnetized Flower Holder
Cindy Bolts – Magnetized Flower Holder
Kathy Donovan – Napkins (Painted)
Annie Edwards – Vera Bradley Notepaper
Margaret Lutz – Note Paper
Gisele Meader – Leather Wallet
Dee Rosebrock –
Debbie Walsh – Rug Hooking Magazine (current issue)

Our generous donors were.

Sharon Ballard
Tracy Fetzer
Karl Gimber
Dee Rosebrock
Mystery Donor

May Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Sonia Force (5/15), Deanna Kinney (5/13), Lydia Lewis (5/8), Margaret Lutz (5/21), and Laurie Milne (5/5). Happy Birthday!

Membership – We welcome new members Laurie Milne and Karen Worthington. Laurie recently relocated from Colorado and was at our last meeting. Karen, proprietress of The Blue Tulip Woolery has rejoined after a brief absence.

Laurie Milne
10 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07960
908-846-4972
laurimilne@yahoo.com

Karen Worthington
656 Harmony Brass Castle Rd.
Harmony, NJ 08865
908-859-6350
Karen@thebluetulipwoolery.com

Sunshine – Carol Collin reports that recent cancer biopsies came out negative for metastasis activity. Her doctor said “God must have plans for you yet”. Carol expects to be at our camp in August and to host instructor Jeanne Benjamin. Carol thanks “all those who asked for God's blessings for me”.

Our Hospitality Chair, Deanna Kinney, successfully underwent cataract surgery recently.

Guild News & Events

Name Badges -- Debbie Walsh, VP- Membership, is preparing to order name badges. To order one see her at the May meeting or send a \$7 check made payable to HCRAAG to her at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016. Include a note indicating exactly how your name should appear on the name badge. It takes six to eight weeks for delivery.

Feather Tree Class – May 1, 2012 -- Guild member Gisele Meader has scheduled a Feather Tree Class on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at the Old Rock Church, 260 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road, Mt. Airy, NJ from 10-3. She will bring a sample tree and will have a sign-up sheet at our next meeting. She will email a supply list to participants. The supplies cost under \$10 and the class is free. Come join Gisele for a fun filled day. Space is limited. For more information contact Gisele at 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net.

Guild to Demonstrate at Howell Living Farm – May 5, 2012 -- This is the time of the year when sheep shearing events are held at local historical sites. On Saturday, May 5, 2012, the sheep at Howell Living Farm will give up their winter coats to the amusement of the children and adults in attendance. This is always a popular event with local families. In addition to sheep shearing other related crafts will be demonstrated. Of course, using wool for hooking rugs is a logical story associated with sheep shearing.

The Guild will be demonstrating at the Farm from 10-4 that Saturday. We will be set up in the barn adjacent to the Visitors’ Center, so the weather is not a factor. Please let Karl Gimber know if you can assist. Lunch is provided by the Howell Farm staff.

Join the Guild at the Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair – May 12, 2012 - Joyce Combs is coordinating our demonstration efforts at the Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair that will be held at the Washington Crossing Park in Titusville, NJ on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 11-5. We will be set up on the lawn outside the Johnson Ferry Tavern. Demonstrators need to bring chairs. The event draws large crowds, so it is an ideal event at which to inform the public about rug hooking and publicize the Guild. Let Joyce (609-737-9282 or fjcombs@verizon.net) know if you would like to participate.

Go to the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com – and click on “Demonstrations” to find the Guild’s full schedule of rug hooking demonstrations for the year.

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill – Update – The idea of having a rug show at the Prallsville Mill in Stockton, NJ is being enthusiastically supported by the rug hooking guilds in the area. The Goat Hill, Pinelands and Spring Lake Guilds have already committed to participating with others indicating an interest too. Vendors, boutique tables, raffles, demonstrations, and door prizes are all anticipated to be part of the Festival.

For the past 20 years, The Mill has been the site for a biennial quilt show. The rug show, formally dubbed the “Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill”, will be held on the alternate year – October 2013. This allows lots of lead time to plan and organize the event. Planning has started with a preliminary budget and identifying needed committees. We now need to fill the committees with volunteers from the participating guilds. The current committees and those who have already volunteered are shown below:

Overall Committee (one from each guild)

1. Kathleen Murray-Boyda (Goat Hill)
2. Sue Schulz (Goat Hill)
3. Weezie Huntington (HCRAG)

Finance Committee

1. Jean Laurence

Rug Collection Committee (one from each guild)

1. Weezie Huntington (HCRAG)
2. Janet Santaniello (Alice Beatty or HCRAG ?)

Vendor Committee

1. Janet Williams (Goat Hill)
2. Margaret Lutz (HCRAG)

Boutique Committee (one from each guild)

1. Barbara Boyko (Goat Hill)
2. Sharon Ballard (HCRAG)

Raffle Committee

1. Debbie Walsh (HCRAG) – Chair

Rug Hanging/Set Up Committee

Decorations Committee

1. Cathy Heilferty (Goat Hill)

Demonstration/Presentation Committee

Program Committee

Door Prize Committee

PR Committee (one from each guild)

1. Karl Gimber (HCRAG) -- Chair

Security/Parking

Take Down/Clean Up Committee

The Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill has the potential for being a major regional event. A lot of work will be required, but we have a large Guild and the support of the other guilds so that the work will be spread out. Each member should assist in some way.

Please look over the list of committee and let our Festival Liaisons, Cindy Boults and Therese Shick, know where you can help. If the responsibilities are not clear, Cindy or Therese can elaborate on what is needed. More information will be available at the meeting.

Ideally, we would like to have the Overall, Boutique, Raffle, and Vendor Committees established before the summer so that they can begin their work during the summer.

Beginner's Workshop Offered – August 14, 2012 -- Judy Quintman, a certified McGown instructor, will be teaching the Beginners' Workshop that is offered during our annual rug hooking camp at the ESC School. This year the workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 from 9:00 until noon. The fee is \$50 which includes a pattern on linen backing, a hook and wool. Participants need to provide a 14" hoop and sharp scissors. Beginners are welcome to bring a lunch and stay to hook for the afternoon with those attending camp. To register mail a check made out to HCRAAG to Debbie Walsh, 51 Spruce St., Cranford, NJ 07016.

Any questions contact Debbie Walsh (debywalsh@yahoo.com or 908-272-7012) or Gail Ferdinando (thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com or 908-735-6720).

HCRAAG Annual Summer Camp (August 13 -17, 2012) --Our Guild's 16th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 13, 2012 through August 17, 2012 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors – Arline Bechtoldt, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. It appears that openings may develop, so those who still want to attend are encouraged to place their names on the waiting list. Please note that the balance of the registration fee is due by the end of May.

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

Our Teachers –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Officers/Chairs Elected – The Guild's officers/chairs were formally elected at our April meeting and will assume their responsibilities this month. The Program Committee has already been busy identifying the programs for the new program year. (See HCRAG Calendar of Events).

We are grateful to those who have served for the past year and for all they have done to help make our Guild successful. The list of new officers/chairs with their phone numbers and email addresses can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Beautiful Spring Weather Brings Out the Crowd -- A sunny Saturday with temperatures in the 70s brought record crowds to the Peter Wentz Farmstead for its annual Sheep Shearing Day on April 14, 2012. Over 1300 visitors turned out to see the sheep lose their winter coats and to learn about many historic trades and crafts of the late 18th through early 19th centuries that were typically practiced in rural communities. Activities included natural dyeing, spinning, weaving, rug hooking and information on Lenape culture.

Our Guild was strategically located between the summer kitchen and the reconstructed Pennsylvania German four-square garden, just up the lane from the barn where the sheep were being shorn. The location assured a lot of traffic for our demonstrators – Pat McDonnell, Joanne McIlmurray and Karl Gimber. This year rug hooker Ronnie Arena from Coopersburg, PA joined us and demonstrated rug braiding.

“The folks from the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans’ Guild really add to the offerings throughout the day since it shows an end-use of the wool sheared from the sheep,” noted Kimberly Boice, Museum Educator at the site. “It was so lovely to have so many folks working on various types of rugs this past Saturday. We had a record-breaking turnout with everyone truly seeming to enjoy themselves, visitors and craftspeople alike.”

Open hearth cooking was demonstrated in the summer kitchen. The Farmstead serves the food prepared to the volunteers and staff. What a treat! This year the menu consisted of:

- chicken pot pie with homemade noodles,
- squash cakes,
- griddle scones,
- cheese & pickles,
- lemon tea cakes (based on a 1742 recipe by E. Smith),
- Teisen Lap (Welsh for “moist cake,” similar to a cheesecake),
- cornbread,
- Sally Lunn bread,
- asparagus forced into French rolls, and
- eggs preserved in various ways

The staff at the Peter Wentz Farmstead really goes out of its way to take care of the volunteers. Coffee and doughnuts await us in the morning; snacks are provided in the afternoon. The staff makes the rounds during the day to see if anyone needs anything to eat or drink. It is no wonder that the Peter Wentz Farmstead is one of our favorite sites at which to demonstrate!

Guild’s 2nd Hook-in/Clinic at the Mennonite Heritage Center a Success – On Saturday, April 21, 2012 rug hookers from the region assembled at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA for the Guild’s second joint venture with the Heritage Center. Participants registered from Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Comments from the feedback forms say it all –

- “Well organized, food was outstanding!”
- “The facility was beautiful”

- “I attended last year and enjoyed it so much that I was really looking forward to coming again.”
- “Just a totally wonderful experience and I hope to be able to attend next year.”
- “A very inspiring and wonderful day!”
- “Facility is just lovely. A treat to return.”
- “Annie Edwards’ presentation was so good.”
- “The photo presentation was really helpful – just right amount of time.”
- “Enjoyed looking at the rugs, the people, the vendors, and food was great.”
- “This was my first time and I loved it all.”
- “Very much enhanced my thrill of rug hooking.”

Our members who volunteered at the hook-in deserve special recognition. The team consisted of :

Margie Briggs	Juliana Kapusta
Joyce Combs	Jean Laurence
Annie Edwards	Patty Mahaffey
Karl Gimber	Pat McDonnell
Cheryl Halliday	Therese Shick
	Sue Schulz

Participants, vendors and the Heritage Center are already talking about next year. That’s a strong endorsement!

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.

Featured Member – Joan Shymko -- Joan Shymko has had a long standing interest in fiber and fabrics. She is an excellent sewer and began making her own clothing in high school. While in high school she “dabbled” with rug hooking but did not get very far. It was not until about six years ago that she was able to pursue her rug hooking interest in a serious way. Joan and her husband, Ron, had just returned to the United States after living in Denmark for 15 years. She was quilting and decided to finally take up rug hooking.

An internet search revealed a well established rug hooking community in the area. Joan found our Guild’s website and attended a meeting where she sat next to Karen Worthington who offered help her get started. At the following meeting Karen brought supplies and equipment for Joan. The next stop was the library for books on rug hooking. Having done counted cross-stitch and other needle crafts over the years made it easier for Joan to pick up the basics from the books and by observing what members were doing at our meetings. Joan recalls that “It was not difficult to learn rug hooking since I have done lots of crafts.” Joan has attended our annual hooking retreats, but has not had any formal instruction. She is self taught!

Joan loves the primitive look. “It is what attracted me to rug hooking in the first place” she says. “Casual primitive” is how Joan describes her work. As a self proclaimed “fiber person” Joan finds herself “fondling the fabric” as she prepares it for her rugs. She works primarily with recycled wool, but has found her way to Gail Dufresne’s studio where she could not resist buying some new wool. “I will probably need ‘real wool’ as I design more of my patterns” she jokes.

Being self taught also allowed Joan to jump into the world of wool dyeing with little hesitation. She ran out of wool for one of her projects, so she pulled out the dye pots “just to dye a little wool”. She was having so much fun that she spent the rest of the afternoon dyeing more wool.

When it comes to patterns, Joan prefers to design her own. She has worked with commercial ones but finds herself modifying them. Her first project was a geometric pattern that she drew on the blank linen backing initially provided by Karen Worthington. The next project came from the “shoe box exchange” at our Guild’s holiday luncheon. The pattern was a three foot wide sunburst that Joan changed into a stain glass window design. “It was a real challenge and learning experience for my second hooking project, but I am forever grateful for the exchange” says Joan. “I did something I did not think I was capable of doing.” A fish design for a footstool followed. Joyce Combs provided a flower design pattern when Joan needed a project to work on while demonstrating at Howell Farm.

Joan was “overwhelmed by the talent found in our Guild. I can tell quality when I see it. It is inspiring to see what HCRAG members come up with”. She recalls being immediately accepted and continues to be active “because everyone is so helpful and friendly and for the good ideas.”

Counted cross stitch, knitting, crocheting, and quilting are among the other needle arts enjoyed by Joan. She is an accomplished sewer and started making her own cloths when she was 12. Today her sewing is done for items in the house such as window curtains. Hooking has a special appeal “because of the freedom to do what you want”. Patterns can be changed. Fabrics can be selected and then changed. Hooking can be done in stages. “When I am low on ambition, I can hook background” Joan notes.

In addition to the needle arts, Joan enjoys gardening and cooking. She and her husband are also members of the Curling Club in Plainfield, NJ. Curling is a sport they learned from their native Canada. Joan likes to fix things and often finds projects at yard sales and thrift stores. Her latest project is reupholstering a set of dining room chairs. “They look kind of nice”, she proudly beams.

Joan and Ron are native Canadians and now live in Flemington, NJ. Ron has a PhD in Physics and works for a Danish company where he is a research analyst using computers to facilitate research. His work took the family to Denmark for 15 years. Their son, Evan, remained in Denmark to complete his education and build his business (computer consulting and photography) when Joan and Bob returned to the States six years ago.

Joan earned two undergraduate degrees in Canada (Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education) and two graduate degrees (Masters in Education and Masters Equivalency in Education) in the United States. She taught in high school and junior high school in New York, Pennsylvania and Canada and kindergarten while in Denmark. Joan and Ron lived in California for a while and even though she had four degrees, the school system wanted some additional training. Instead, Joan went on to manage a microwave oven store in Pasadena for 10 years. This was a time when microwaves ovens were new to the market and selling them included offering classes on how to cook with them.

Ron is retiring this year and the Shymkos are planning to relocate to Vancouver. Their house may be sold so they hope to be moving this summer. Joan will be missed.

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

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- On Deanne Fitzpatrick's website is the statement "Create beauty everyday. Throw a pebble in the creativity pool". This is my goal each month...throwing a pebble in the creativity pool. The round robin and the show and tell at the last HCRAG meeting reminded me that we have many creative members of our Guild. The proddy demo, the crewel stitches, spinning yarn, every demo taught us something new.

May is the season of flowers and brings to mind the many ways we can incorporate flowers into our hooking. This week I saw a pillow with one beautifully shaded rose. Shading is an art and one that takes some time to learn to do properly but is most effective in creating a realistic flower. Or you can go the other way and create a padula -- a primitive, imaginary flower to be used in an arrangement placed in a straw basket or put to use in a border.

Wide borders which incorporate twining vines, leaves and flowers can enhance a pictorial or flower mat. One demo in the round robin taught us how to make flowers using strips of yarn. We could also proddy them into large bouquets of different flowers using various colors of wool. I have just finished a large pictorial and used small bits of roving and yarn to create wild flowers growing randomly on the paths and meadows of the scene.

Let's not forget the trees with their fresh blooms of pink and white and the yellow green of the willows.

So think flowers in May, and let the artist within create a mat which celebrates this month!

Happy Hooking! Nina

Tips From Heloise – Heloise took advantage of the beautiful weather and stopped by the Peter Wentz Farmstead last month to visit with our Guild members who were demonstrating traditional rug hooking at Sheep Shearing Day. One of the visitors raised a question about how to get odor out of a large hooked rug. The rug had been in a child's room and had a smoky odor. The visitors thought that the backing to the rug was linen after being shown samples of burlap and linen backing. After consulting with Kay Leisey at Homespun, the following advice was provided:

- (1) place a large piece of screening (wire or plastic) at the bottom of the bath tub,
- (2) lay the rug on top of the screening,
- (3) fill the tub with luke-warm water,
- (4) add Oxi-Clean,
- (5) add one cup of vinegar,
- (6) lift the screening up and down creating gentle agitation in the tub,

- (7) drain the tub, fill with clean warm water and repeat the agitation motion,
- (9) place the rug on the deck or lawn to dry.

Kay emphasized the importance of not placing stress on the backing. Lifting the rug by the screening avoids damaging the backing.

The gentleman who raised the question was delighted with the help. He noted that he was thinking of placing the rug on the top of his car and running it through a car wash. Ouch!

Recipes – Iced Cranberry Orange Cookies baked by Jean Laurence were a big hit at a recent meeting. Thanks to Jean we can share her recipe.

These festive and delicious orange drop cookies are flavored with orange juice concentrate and filled with plump dried cranberries.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup dark or light brown sugar, packed
- 4 ounces butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups quick oats
- 1 1/2 cups dried cranberries (6 ounces)
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, optional

Icing:

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 to 4 tablespoons orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 2 tablespoons melted butter

Preparation:

- Line cookie sheets with parchment paper or silicone mat; spray lightly with nonstick cooking spray.
- In a mixing bowl, beat sugars with butter until smooth. Beat in sour cream, orange juice concentrate, vanilla, and eggs.

- In a bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and soda, and oats. Slowly stir into the first mixture, blending well. Stir in the dried cranberries and pecans, if using.
- Using a teaspoon, drop spoonfuls of cookie dough onto prepared baking sheet, spacing about 2 inches apart. Chill the cookies for about 15 minutes before baking. Heat oven to 350°. Bake cookies for 10 to 14 minutes, until browned and set.

For icing, combine confectioners sugar with the melted butter and 3 tablespoons of orange juice concentrate. Add more juice, as needed to make a spreadable mixture. Spread a little of the icing on hot cookies. Makes about 4 to 5 dozen drop cookies.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

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

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

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

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

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

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

Goat Hill ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Goat Hill website at www.goathillatha.com.

Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com.

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

HCRAAG Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

September 14, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Christmas Trees for Rug Festival*

October 12, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Dip Dyeing **

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

November 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Construction of Christmas Trees *

December 14, 2012 -- Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon with mitten themed gift/ornament exchange *

January 11, 2013 -- Auction & White Elephant Sale *

February 8, 2013 -- Proddy Demonstration (Barbara Boyko) *

March 8, 2013 – Festival Boutique Items – Ideas & Patterns *

April 12, 2013 – Member Led Round Table *

May 10, 2013 – Bus Trip (Destination to be determined)

June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *

*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 – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com.

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

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Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAE 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 (HCRAE). 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.