

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

May 2013

Presidents' Letter – Thanks to all who once again braved “weird weather” to attend our April Guild meeting. Thus far this year, the second Friday has been consistently a challenge. But the Merry Month of May has to change that pattern! Please note that we will be gathering at the Court Room within the Raritan Township Police Station for the May meeting at our usual time.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our April meeting both productive and informative. Despite heavy rain our many rugs from the Hertzels-Strasburger Farmstead event were returned. Thank you to Martha Thieling for the “heavy lifting” and to all the effort by Annie Edwards, Juliana Kapusta, Karl and Guild members who displayed rugs and demonstrated that day. Annie also created a beautiful display at our Hunterdon Library that many of us were able to visit after our meeting. Beside the rug display, the signage presenting our Guild and upcoming Festival was very effective.

The Spring Fling was reported to have been once again a very successful event for all who attended. As a result of questions and interest in dyeing resources coming from the Leaf Dyeing class, Patty Mahaffey graciously agreed to present a short program showcasing a selection of books and color swatches. The number and variety were extraordinary and a decision to purchase formula books and swatches for our library was made. We had agreed at an earlier Guild meeting to add some books in memorial and also as a regular effort. The formula books will allow members to experiment before making a decision to add a book to their collection. Thank you to Patty who demonstrated a strong knowledge in this area and is a wonderful resource for our Guild.

We were very delighted and thankful to all who committed to various tasks for our Rug Festival. The “We Can Do It” spirit certainly prevailed as evidenced by the number of people who signed-up and all the wonderful Boutique items created and donated to date! Also Thank You to Debbie Walsh who began the process of selling and distributing tickets for our raffle rug. All agreed the finished rug is beautiful and will be highly coveted.

Our Show & Tell of chicken rugs was a perfect segue into our long delayed assembling of Clara Chicken. It was great fun to see all the different color selections and each was a charming delight. Ellen DiClemente’s willingness to create, share and teach us the assembling is so appreciated as she is a very knowledgeable seamstress who patiently shared “tricks” that can be utilized in many projects. Thank you to all who participated and most especially to Ellen. In the last year we have certainly explored three dimensional hooking with sheep, trees and chickens. We have found that they receive many accolades and make great gifts!

Our May meeting at the Police Station will be a hook-in. Additionally we will continue to collect and decide on pricing Boutique items, further discuss Festival organization and tasks. If anyone did not complete your Clara, Ellen will be available to help with finishing. As we approach the summer season we would like to encourage members to share hooking events, camps resources,

and inspiration that they have experience in their travels. Cindy & Therese

May Meeting – Friday, May 10, 2013 --.Our May meeting will be at our alternate site – the Court Room within the Police Station in the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 Traffic Circle outside of Flemington. The address for the Complex is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446, although it does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are welcome.

Guild Program – The May meeting will be a “mini-hook-in”. Take advantage of the time to work on your current project. Bring your hooking equipment and spend a few hours pulling loops. Ellen DiClemente will continue to assist those working on the Clara Chicken project. Completed items for the Rug Festival Boutique table should be brought to the meeting to be labeled and put in storage until October.

Show & Tell – Completed boutique items and current projects will be the focus of Show & Tell.

Those participating in S & T are eligible for a door prize gift. Here are the winners from last month:

- Barbara Boyko (Cheese)
- Ellen DiClemente (“Funky” Yarn)
- Karl Gimber (Craft Pattern)
- Cheryl Halliday (Berry Jam)
- Donna Kolznak (Decorative Tile)
- Gisele Meader (Santa Claus Pattern)
- Sue Schultz (Coffee Mug)
- Betsy Warner (Rug Pattern)

Hospitality – Hospitality volunteers are needed for the meeting. Please share a favorite treat or snack.

May Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Sonia Force (5/15), Cathy Heilferty (5/9), Deanna Kinney (5/13), Lydia Lewis (5/8), Margaret Lutz (5/21), Laurie Milne (5/5) and Doug Sardo (5/2). Enjoy your day! .

Membership – We welcome Doug Sardo to our Guild. Doug attended our last meeting after being introduced to the Guild at the Hilltown Township Historical Society Rug Exhibit last month. He also attended our hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center. Here is Doug’s contact information:

Doug Sardo
P.O. Box 283
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
610-982-5292
dmsardo@aol.com

Anndee Byers has a new email address – anndee@hookandhistory.com.

Sunshine – Susan Atwater reports that Bill is “making an amazing recovery” from his recent heart surgery and “is pretty much on track for a full recovery”. Wonderful news!

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

Guild News & Events

Townsend Equipment for Sale -- Carol Collin’s husband, Barry, is offering her rug hooking equipment and supplies for sale. Of particular note is a Townsend Cutter, the cutter table stand, the soft case for the cutter (with an Allen wrench and brush) and six cutter blades (#4, 5,6,7,8 & 8.5). Barry wants to sell it all as a package and is asking \$1,000. Fred Cole went on line and reported that the current retail value for the package is about \$1,700. Townsend cutters do not come up for sale very often, so this is a special opportunity to own what many believe is the best wool cutter on the market today.

Barry is also offering the following items for sale:

- Puritan Frame -- \$80
- Pittsburg Frame -- \$120
- Wool Carousel -- \$90
- Dye Spoons (set of 3) – \$30
- Dye Spoon (1/32 & 1/4) -- \$10

Please contact Barry directly at 215-504-1207 or barrynos@aol.com, if you have interest.

Carol Collin’s Rug Hooking Books Donated to the Guild -- Barry Collin has donated Carol’s books on rug hooking to the Guild. Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, is currently cataloging them. A listing of these additions to our library will appear in the next issue of The Loop. We thank Barry for his generosity.

A Sampling of Hunterdon County Needlework -- In June, sampler collectors and researchers Dan and Marty Campanelli are releasing a book on schoolgirl needlework found in Hunterdon County, NJ. The couple’s research has uncovered dozens of examples of samplers made by young women from 1798 through the 1840’s. The Sampling of Hunterdon County Needlework: the motifs, the makers & their stories breaks new ground in regional needlework research.

The 132-page book features 74 full-color photos. Proceeds from the book sales benefit the Hunterdon County Historical Society. The historical society will host a one-day book signing and small exhibition of these samplers at the Hiram Deats Memorial Library in Flemington sometime in early June. For details, call 908-782-1091 or visit www.hunterdonhistory.org.

(Information taken from the June 2013 issue of Early American Life.)

Studio & Garden Website -- Susan Atwater’s daughter brought to her attention an interesting website – <http://altoonsultan.blogspot.com/search/label/hooked%20rugs>.

Small squares of hooked geometric designs are turned into art combining empty and filled spaces, lines and solid blocks of wool. As Susan notes, "It's not my style, but others in the Guild may have interest."

Wool Dyeing –Resource List -- The results of the wool dyeing workshop conducted by Cyndy Duade at the Spring Fling were remarkable. Many of the pieces worked on were presented during the Show & Tell portion of the April meeting. Patty Mahaffey gave a brief overview of her favorite dyeing books. Following the meeting Patty compiled a list of the books that are still available. Her list is shown below and includes where the books can be obtained. Thank you Patty!

Pro Chem Dyes

- Primary Fusion - A Guide to Dyeing With Only Three Primary Colors - Ingrid Hieronimus
RR#2, Petersburg, Ontario, Canada N0B 2H0
raggtyme@rughookinghome.com
- Multiple Fusion Spots - Ingrid Hieronimus
RR#2, Petersburg, Ontario, Canada N0B 2H0
raggtyme@rughookinghome.com
- Prisms #1 - Claire deRoos and Nancy MacLennan
Jeanne@JeanneSullivanDesign.com
www.JeanneSullivanDesign.com
- Prisms #2 - Claire deRoos and Nancy MacLennan
G_Batastini@msn.com
- Prisms #3 - Claire deRoos and Nancy MacLennan
c_deroos@juno.com
- Jewel Tones - Carolyn Clemens
156 Wedgewood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2B 3G4
- SPNEA Historic Colors of America - Sharon Townsend
GailDuf@aol.com
- Dyeing for Color - Susan Quicksall
www.hollyhilldesigns.net
- Dye Recipes 1 - Fraktur Colors Historical Information - Susan Feller
rugs2wv@yahoo.com
- Dye Recipes 2 - Flora and Fauna in West Virginia - Susan Feller
rugs2wv@yahoo.com

Cushing Dyes

- Anyone Can Dye - Clarisse C. Cox
www.greenvalleyrughooking.com
- Shading with Swatches - Clarisse McClain
www.greenvalleyrughooking.com
- Cushing Dye Colors - dyed by Joan Strasbaugh – Proceeds benefit the Adams County SPCA
onthecreek@embarqmail.com

Rug Hooking Magazine Introduces Book Club -- Rug Hooking Magazine recently introduced a rug hooking book club. Details can be found on the RHM website (www.rughookingmagazine.com) or by calling 877-462-2604 toll free.

Festival News -- Tickets for our raffle rug are now available from Debbie Walsh. Each Guild member is encouraged to sell at least two books of tickets. The tickets sell for \$1, six for \$5 and 12 for \$10. The rug is scheduled to be displayed at all Guild public events between now and the Festival.

Sharon Ballard, Boutique Chair, is recruiting volunteers to cover the boutique table on both days of the Festival. Responsibilities include collecting money, making change, giving receipts and keeping records of items sold. Let Sharon know if you can help.

Guild Invited to Demonstrate at Howell Living Farm (May 4, 2013) -- Guild members will be returning to Howell Living Farm, one of our favorite historical sites, to demonstrate rug hooking at their annual Sheep Shearing Day on May 4, 2013 from 10 to 4. The Farm is located a few miles below Lambertville, NJ off of Rt. 29. We will be set up in the barn annex that is part of the Visitors Center, so weather will not be an issue. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Sheep shearing is free to the public and normally attracts many local families. The event allows us to inform the public about the origins of traditional rug hooking and its contemporary applications. It will also be an opportunity to publicize the Guild and the October Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill.

Ingrid Cosmen, Karl Gimber, Dee Rosebrock, Martha Thieling and Kay Weeks have already volunteered to support this effort. Their rugs will be hung in the barn for a mini-rug show. Join them for a fun day. Contact Martha Thieling (201-572-9885 or ahtram1@aol.com) if you want to participate. You can demonstrate for a few hours or the entire day.

Join the Guild at the Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair (May 11, 2013) - 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 11, 2013 from 11-5. We will be set up on the lawn outside the Johnson Ferry House. Demonstrators need to bring chairs. We would love to have some of our demonstrators in period dress although this is not required. 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.

HCRAG 2013 Summer Camp --Our Guild's 17th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. Our instructors this year are Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood.

All the workshops are fully subscribed; however, waiting lists are being maintained since cancellations often occur. You are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list if you want to attend.

The balance of the camp fee is due on May 31, 2013. You can give Debbie Walsh your check at the May meeting or send it to her at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Volunteers will be needed during the camp to help the teachers set up, to clean up at the end of the day, to bring lunches for the teachers and to provide snacks. You can sign up at the meeting or just let Gail Ferdinando know how you can help by contacting her at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

For detailed information our 2013 Camp, visit the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) and click on "Calendar & News".

Beginner's Workshop Offered – August 13, 2013 -- 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 (see above). This year the workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 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 HCRAG 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).

Guild Demonstrates at Sheep Shearing Day -- The flock of sheep living at the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA had their winter fleece shorn on April 13, 2013. Hundreds of families brought their children to witness the event. It is a very popular day and attracts visitors from as far away as Philadelphia and New York City.

Guild members Juliana Kapusta, Joann McIlmurray and Karl Gimber demonstrated traditional rug hooking for eager visitors who expressed amazement at what could be achieved with strips of wool. Pat McDonnell and her husband stopped by to say "hello". The Festival Raffle Rug was on display resulting in raffle ticket sales. Several visitors expressed interest in our Beginner's Workshop at the Mennonite Heritage Center Hook-in.

Farmstead volunteers were rewarded with 18th Century foods prepared on the open hearth. Coffee and donuts await the volunteers when they arrive in the morning. Other snacks were provided during the day.

Cool Spring Day Ideal for Our Hook-in -- The weather outside was bright, windy and cool -- ideal conditions to be inside with friends at the Mennonite Heritage Center for our 3rd hook-in at this special site. The feedback was consistently positive. One participant noted "This is my favorite hook-in!" The vendors reported that they had a successful and enjoyable day. Favorite vendors, door prizes, a rug show and presentations on marbling wool and a discussion on favorite camps/workshops added to the day. Guild member Margie Briggs lives close by and stopped to show us her latest Jayne Hester pattern that arrived in the morning mail.

Joanne McIlmurray introduced 10 beginners to the world of rug hooking. One beginner was from northern California and was visiting her daughter in the area. She always wanted to learn how to hook and was thrilled to learn of our workshop.

A special "Thank You" goes to our Guild volunteers listed below who worked hard to make the hook-in a success.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sharon Ballard | Cheryl Halliday | Joanne McIlmurray |
| Cindy Boults | Weezie Huntington | Sue Schultz |
| Jan/Fred Cole | Juliana Kapusta | Nancy Sears |
| Annie Edwards | Margaret Lutz | Therese Shick |
| Karl Gimber | Patty Mahaffey | Betsy Warner |

Go to the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) to see photos of the day.

Library Exhibit Draws Kudos – Items hooked by Guild members were on exhibit in the display cases at the main branch of the Hunterdon County Library during the month of April. It has been a couple of years since the Guild's work was last exhibited at the Library. According to staff member Jim Thatch, "our display is among the favorites of the staff and public and always attracts positive attention and many favorable comments". We thank Annie Edwards for using her professional skills in installing the exhibit and for Barbara Lugg and Ellen DiClemente in assisting in the set up and take down.

Guild Library -- Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. A complete listing of items in our library can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want to borrow, contact Kathy by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net.

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

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

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill – HCRAg is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. Visit the special Festival website (www.rugfestival.com) for more information. All Guild

members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com)
- HCRAAG Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net)
- Admission: Cindy Boult (908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com)
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net)
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or smenges2072@comcast.net)
- Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com)
Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com)
Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Door Prizes: Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net)
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or mmlutz@ptd.net)
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net)
Carol Kindt (908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net)
- Beginners' Workshops:
Patty Mahaffey (215-453-0174 or mcmahaffey@comcast.net)
Cheryl Halliday (215-672-2629 or havewenewool@Yahoo.com)
Juliana Kapusta (215-721-4327 or juliana_kapusta@hotmail.com)

Featured Member – Nancy Sears -- Nancy attributes her friend Donna Kolznak with introducing her to the world of hooked rugs. They were both volunteers at Quiet Valley Historical Farm where they met in 2007. When Nancy took over running Everlastings, (dried flower arrangements) for their annual Harvest Festival in the fall, Donna helped and they soon became good friends. In 2009, Donna mentioned she was taking a rug hooking class being taught by Jeanne Happe (Two Old Crows). Although it sounded interesting, Nancy was not available for all of the class meetings.

“Donna’s first rug was the only hooked item I saw in person”, Nancy recalls. After learning that Jeannine had her studio open on Thursdays, Nancy decided to take a ride there with Donna to see if she “could learn how to make a tiny rug”. “One look at Jeanine’s things and I knew I was ‘hooked’! Nancy picked the same small log cabin kit that Jeanine had used for the class; Jeannine showed her how to start.

Nancy admires the results that can be achieved by the various styles of rug hooking, but from the beginning was particularly drawn to the primitive style with the wider cuts. That continues to be her preference.

The 2011 ATHA Biennial that was held in Lancaster presented a special opportunity to attend such a major rug hooking event. Nancy recalls “feeling a little intimidated by all of the wonderful instructors teaching classes” and felt “lucky to get into Chris Miller’s and Barb Carroll’s classes”. She has continued to develop her rug hooking knowledge with wool dyeing and color planning classes with Jeannine Happe and Norma Batastini. Nancy also learned to finish hooked rugs with a braided rug binding.

Nancy credits Jeannine Happe with being the most influential in her development as a hooking artisan. “Her patterns and color choices just make her rugs look like beautiful paintings.” Other rug hookers are also a great source of inspiration. Nancy notes that “Therese Schick never ceases to amaze with the beautiful projects she does using rich color planning and fine detail. But most of all, her encouraging words and help when asked show the true fellowship of hookers.”

Last summer, Nancy took a dyeing class with Jeanine Happe and was amazed at how simple she made it look. “I love the process and all the possibilities of color and have been doing a little on my own but resist the temptation out of necessity.” Nancy tends to only dye when she has a purpose for a particular color and wants to create her own rather than pick from all the amazing colors offered by vendors.

For the most part, Nancy buys her patterns from the rich resources available today. However, she recently wanted a simple snowman pattern for her dining room table so with Jeannine’s permission used the snowman head from her mug rugs. Nancy added some simple snowflakes and made her own pattern.

Trying to be practical, Nancy attempts to limit purchases only to patterns that she knows have a use or for which she has space. “That hasn’t stopped me from having what seems like an endless supply of un-started projects”, she jokes. Although Nancy is currently working on a larger rug, she prefers smaller projects “that don’t run in to multi-year projects”. She is drawn to 3-D seasonal projects such as sheep, a Christmas tree, a Santa, a chicken and the first of a set of three chocolate Easter bunnies (milk chocolate – her favorite!)

Like so many Guild members, finding time to hook on a regular basis is a challenge when you have a busy schedule. Nancy notes that “I don’t have a set hooking routine at home as my free time is limited”. She attempts to attend the open studio hook-ins at Two Old Crows every other Thursday as well as our monthly Guild meetings. She always takes her current project with her when heading to the beach for some relaxation.

Nancy learned of the Guild from Therese over a year ago but at that time she had a daytime commitment on Fridays and could not make the meetings. When her calendar opened up, Nancy came to the September meeting and joined then. She attended the Guild’s annual hook-in and “had a blast getting a chance spending time with other hookers, seeing and being able to talk about their projects”.

Enjoying doing various crafts started when Nancy was young. She remembers taking her first “official class” to learn macramé in elementary school and being taught to crochet around the same time by her mother. Afghans made by her mom, grandmother and great grandmother are treasured family heirlooms.

While still in school, Nancy became interested in needlework and counted cross-stitch became her favorite craft. When she and husband, Brad, dated, he was a competitive trap shooter so Nancy spent weekends at his shoots working on her projects and adding various mallard and wildlife scenes to his shooting shirts. She still enjoys both of these hobbies today and has added punch needle since it is a very portable craft. “When I have

free time and am not working on crafts, I usually have a book in my hands”, Nancy observes.

Nancy and Brad live in Stroudsburg, PA in the Poconos region. They have been married for 28 years this coming August and have two children -- Frankie and Micki. Frankie is a District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America and works in Maryland. Micki will be graduating from East Stroudsburg University in May and hopes to get a job in social work. Frankie will be married this July and Micki in April 2014. Brad also has an older daughter, Debbie, who has blessed them with four wonderful grandkids – Andrew, Diana, Mathew, and Julia. Sadly for Nancy and Brad, they reside in Maryland which limits how often they can see them.

Brad worked in information technology until he was downsized in 2009. He was able to take his talents and start two different businesses. His main business is one as a studio wood turner. He sells his work online at www.turningarts.com and through artist shows. This also became one of Nancy’s “jobs” as his bookkeeper and assistant at shows. Brad also created a web design business specializing in sites for artisans. Nancy keeps the books.

Nancy has an accounting degree and a master’s degree in business. She chose to stay home to raise her children after working just a few years in her field. Nancy currently works part time at a women’s clothing store at the mall.

Any spare time Nancy might find is usually taken up with volunteering for her church and other mission projects in her area. She was very active as the representative from her church working with others on a two year project to start Family Promise in Monroe County, PA. This program uses local churches to house, feed and assist local homeless families to get back on their feet and become active community members. She continued to be the coordinator for several years and still assists with the rotations at her church.

Visit the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com –to see a few of Nancy’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – The month of May is the month of “M” --- May flowers, Mother’s Day and Memorial Day.

For me May comes with dogwoods and azaleas. Growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, cherry blossoms always grabbed your attention but after they had come and gone, the dogwoods and azaleas would be the stars and they lasted much longer. Do you have a mat of your favorite May flowers? Whether true replicas or padulas, flowers are fun to hook.

Several years ago I made a mat of my grandmother in her kitchen. It is still one of my favorites and each time I see this mat it reminds me of her unconditional love for me and all her grandchildren. Mother’s Day is a time to think of a way to honor some of the women in our families; a beautiful mat is one way to do that. Think of a scene from childhood, or a special memory and you have a great subject for a mat.

Memorial Day is a good excuse for that patriotic rug that has been rattling in your head. Newfoundland soldiers who fought in World War I suffered very high casualties. A group of rug artists memorialized them, in some cases using actual clothing from the period, in a series of mats showing the soldiers, the crosses in the graveyard, and the red poppies which came to symbolize that war. How can we honor the veterans of this century's wars? A challenge for rug hookers now.

Happy hooking – even with summer coming there are lots of opportunities for starting new mats and revisiting old ideas! Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise – The old saying “Waste not, want not” came to mind after Jan Cole shared with those at the Guild’s hook-in a simple economical source of dye. Heloise wants to share the tip with those not at the hook-in.

Jan cleans her dye spoons in a dish of salt. Stirring the spoon in the salt crystals removes the specks of dye powder remaining on the spoon. This cleansing method is superior to cleaning spoons with water which is almost impossible to completely dry in the midst of a dyeing session.

In time the salt dish becomes “dirty” with the dye powder removed from the spoons. Rather than throwing the dirty salt away, Jan uses it as a source of dye in following process:

- Dump the dirty salt in the bottom of a casserole dye dish
- Add water, but do not stir
- Lay pre-soaked wool on top of the salt and cover
- Bake in the oven for 30 minutes at 325 degrees
- Add citric acid – in the beginning or after the wool has been cooked.
- Rinse and dry.

The process will produce a one of a kind piece of dyed wool with small specks of color appearing on the dominant background color. As Jan notes “You will never be able to reproduce the results. Each piece will be different.”

Recipes

This month we dip into the wonderful Pennsylvania Dutch recipes provided at the ATHA Biennial held in Lancaster, PA in 2011. Try something different!

Cracker Pudding

Ingredients:

- 1 quart milk
- 2 cups broken saltine crackers
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 cup grated coconut (medium shred)
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

While warming milk, beat egg yolks and sugar until frothy. Add to hot milk and stir in crackers and coconut. Remove from heat, cool until thick and add stiff beaten egg whites and vanilla. Serves 8.

Recipe contributed by Linda Shannon, ATHA Biennial Hospitality Committee.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Shaker Rug Hooking Retreat (July 13-17 & July 17-21, 2013) -- The 2nd Annual Shaker Village Rug Hooking Retreat will be held at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Contact Betsy Reed for more information at 518-851-2140 or betsy@heavens-to-betsy.com.

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

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

Brandywine Guild Hook-in (October 26, 2013) -- The popular hook-in sponsored by the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild will be held in Wagontown, PA on October 26, 2013. Details can be found by going to their website – brandywinerughookingguild.org.

Haunted Hookers' Retreat (October 26-30 & October 31 -- November 3, 2013) -- The new Haunted Hookers' Retreat will be held at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Contact Betsy Reed for more information at 518-851-2140 or betsy@heavens-to-betsy.com.

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

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

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

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For

more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – 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 4, 2013 – Sheep Shearing, Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ

May 10, 2013 – Monthly Meeting -- Hook-in **

May 11, 2013 – NJ State History Fair, Washington Crossing Park, Titusville, NJ

June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *

August 3, 2013 – Mercer County 4-H Fair, Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ

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

August 13, 2013 – Beginners’ Workshop at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

August 21-25, 2013 – Hunterdon County Agriculture & 4 H Fair, Ringoes, NJ

September 7 & 8, 2013 – Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes, NJ

September 13, 2013 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

September 21, 2013 – Historical Fall Festival, Hilltown Township, PA

October 5, 2013 – Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA

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

October 11, 2013 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

October 19, 2013 – Quilting Day, Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ

November 8, 2013 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

November 2 & 3, 2013 – Thanksgiving in the Country, Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

December 13, 2013 – 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 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

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

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

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

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

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

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

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

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net
Mentoring – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net
Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net
Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com
Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net
Special Events – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.
Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com
Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the 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.