

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

May 2016

Presidents' Letter – Greetings to HCRAAG from all your presidents who are far afield.

I would like to thank those of you who sent me nice notes after last month's Presidents' Letter. We never know if anyone is reading what we write, so this was encouraging.

As I write this, the Coles are in Maine, vending at the Camp Wool four day hook-in, and I am just outside of Great Smoky National Park. So this is a letter on the fly, so to speak, to make Karl's deadline.

My husband and I are down here to do some hiking, and I am also here to take some pictures. When we get back from the day's activities, I try to spend at least an hour processing my Iceland photos. (I don't remember if I mentioned last month that I had taken about 5000 of them.). I am now down to less than 300 (I am incredibly proud of myself!) that I consider worth trying to "finish", or worthy of showing to someone. Post processing a photo is very similar to choosing the finish of a rug. It makes it complete.

I was brand new to my camera when I went to Iceland, and I concentrated so hard on learning how to use it that I neglected to pay attention to the quality of my pictures. There were many pictures that would have been really great if I had only remembered that you have to check your edges and your corners -- make sure they are filled, but don't chop anything off!! I have lots of shots of lovely Icelandic churches where the very top of the steeple has been chopped off. This is something we need to do with our hooking too.

As I go through the "post processing" part of my photography I am seeing lots of parallels to what we as fiber artists (and that IS what we are) do, or need to do, with our work. I am trying to learn Photoshop. Aargh! The first step in post processing is to level your horizon. Yup. Our patterns need to be level, or square, on our backing. That is step one for us too.

The next step has to do with adjusting brightness, contrast, highlights, shadows, hue (color) and saturation (intensity). Who knew? These are constants across all art forms. We need to pay attention to balancing all those factors to make the final product pleasing. I have found that just a touch too much contrast makes a picture unpleasant to my eye. Or over-saturating a color makes it look weird.

Over the next few months I will be talking about different elements of photography, and how they are related to fiber art. Photography was a passion of mine from 8th grade on. When I got married and had kids, I switched from a 35mm film camera to a decent digital point and shoot to get all those family pictures we all treasure. Getting back to photography is like re-meeting a dear old friend you haven't seen for years, only to discover that the friend no longer speaks English. I need to learn whatever language my friend speaks. The technology of photography has thrown me for a LOOP -- new terms, new options, new everything. But I am determined to learn it. Bear with me.

What you do is ART. Never forget it. Get out there and create! Weezie

May Meeting – Friday, May 13, 2016 – The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild is planning to visit the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA. We will journey from 16th century Germany to present day Pennsylvania. The mission of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret books, manuscripts and artifacts related to the Schwenkfelders, the people of southeastern Pennsylvania in general and the Perkiomen Valley in particular. Explore the history, art, genealogy and spirituality of the Perkiomen Valley.

We will view the special exhibits in the ground floor galleries. *Within and Without: The Art of the Book*. It will feature the artistry of bookbinding, manuscript books, book illustrations, and both fraktur and printed bookplates from their permanent collection. This is a special opportunity to view the extraordinary treasures from their permanent collection, from the 17th century onward. In addition, the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center will be featuring their Schwenkfelder Townscape wool embroidered pictures in the ground floor galleries, accompanied by artifacts that are depicted in the Townscapes. It's "I Spy" on a grand scale!

Guild members will partake in the special event of the Penn Dry Goods Market; an antiques show and sale which features antique and vintage textiles plus items that may have been found on the shelves of an old dry goods store. There will be 23 antique dealers awaiting their arrival.

In addition, we will have a wonderful presentation by Susan Feller who will present her works of art that are created by “painting” with wool, hooking one strip at a time. Susan will discuss "Elements and Principles," which will cover some of her "Year Study" squares; an exploration of techniques, material and composition on a daily basis for one year.

When you think that is enough, there is one more adventure! From the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Guild members will travel a short distance to Homespun and to one of our favorite vendors, Kay Leisey. Kay's store is a throwback to the old general stores with its original counters and shelving. Kay carries a wide variety of wool, patterns, kits, yarns, thread, and antiques.

Car pool arrangements have been made and communicated to those going on the trip. Any questions should be directed to Ellen DiClemente at 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com.

May Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Joyce DiGregorio (5/12), Sonia Force (5/15), Deanna Kinney (5/13), Lydia Lewis (5/8), Margaret Lutz (5/21), and Lucy Walsh (5/13). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – We welcome Robin Nissenfeld to our Guild. Robin was at our last meeting and we are delighted that she has joined. Her contact information is shown below.

Robin Nissenfeld
401 Fairview Way
New Hope, PA 18938
215-862-1896
cell – 609-933-5641
robinknits@hotmail.com.

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

Guild News & Events

It's Official! -- In accordance with our by-laws, a new slate of officers and committee chairs (listed below) were elected at the April meeting for a term of two years.

President – Jan Cole/ Fred Cole/Weezie Huntington
Vice President/Membership – Ellen DiClemente
Director Communications – Karl Gimber & Mary Passerello
Rug Hooking School Directors – Lydia Brenner & Debbie Walsh
Historian – Sonia Force
Hospitality – Deanna Kinney
Librarian – Kathy Donovan
Mentoring – Amy Korengut
Programs – Open
Secretary – Jane Anderson
Special Events – Chris Coslet
Spring Retreat – Gail Ferdinando & Diane Liberto
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando
Treasurer – Jean Laurence & Dee Rosebrock

We have a nice blend of those serving for the first time and incumbents. The transition is a healthy process of renewal that provides for new energy and fresh ideas. It is encouraging that members responded to the need to step forward and contribute to our Guild.

Contact information for all officers and chairs can be found at the end of the newsletter

We are greatly indebted to those who served in leadership roles for the past two years. Much was accomplished. Our Guild continues to be recognized for its program initiatives and activities.

Just Published – Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber – In 2003 Karl and Mary Jo Gimber started to create a series of hooked rugs inspired by 18th and 19th century taverns and their signboards. In their newly published book, *Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell*, the Gimbbers share the origins of historic tavern signs with images of their one-of-a-kind rugs reflecting messages and symbolism understood by our early forefathers. Karl and Mary Jo attribute feedback and encouragement received from Guild members at the 2015 Hooked Rug Festival for deciding to “hunker down and get it done!” Most of the winter was devoted to finalizing the project.

The book is available for purchase through CreateSpace.Com (a division of Amazon.Com) for \$19.95 plus shipping. For additional information or to place an order, go to wwwcreatespace.com/3856363. Books will be available at the June Guild meeting.

Enjoy this special slice of rug hooking history!

Rug Patterns by Folk Artist Renie Britenbucher Available Soon – During the Show & Tell portion of the last meeting, there was much interest in the rug shared by Jane Anderson that was inspired by the work of folk artist Renie Britenbucher. Jane provided the following in response to requests for more information:

Folk artist Renie Britenbucher has recently signed a contract with The Woolery to carry her designs as rug hooking patterns in the near future. The Woolery has informed her that the pattern blanks have been ordered and as soon as they arrive they will have them printed and then added to the website. They will start with just the patterns, but foresee potentially adding complete kits at some point in the future.

If anyone has any questions/requests regarding specific designs by Renie they should contact The Woolery via its website at www.woolery.com. Renie can no longer grant permission to anyone to make their own patterns from her artwork, as The Woolery now has the rights to any rug hooking based on her art. Renie's collection of artwork is available at www.reniebrittenbucher.com.

We thank Jane for introducing us to Renie Britenbucher and her work!

Rug Designed by Margaret Lutz and Hooked by Boletta Morris Available -- Guild members will recall the magnificent room size rug hooked by Boletta Morris that was on exhibit at the Guild's Hunterdon County's 300th birthday celebration event. That rug is in the collection of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. The pictorial pattern included various vignettes of rural Sergeantsville, NJ. Another rug hooked by Boletta Morris has surfaced. This one was designed by charter Guild member, Margaret Lutz.

Sandy Denarski has been approached by an elderly acquaintance who wishes to sell the rug which is signed, dated 1987 and on rug warp. It was hooked with small cuts (#3 and #4) and is in excellent condition. The size is 22" x 31". This charming rug was purchased in 1987 for \$450.

Anyone interested in purchasing the rug or with questions can call Sandy at 609-298-1595. The owner is willing to take offers on the rug.

The Needleworks Shop -- Carol Kindt brought to our attention a source for Fitzgerald rug hooking frames – The Needleworks Shop located in Northfield, Connecticut. Carol has had her Fitzgerald frame for nine years and continues to rave about it. More information on the frame and other hooking equipment can be found at www.theneedleworksshop.com or by phone at 860-283-8534.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Rug hooking presents opportunities for hookers to meet informally during the month to work on current projects, to support and encourage someone new to the craft, to share ideas, to get advice, and to enjoy the camaraderie of others with similar interests. These informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend weekday Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. Informal hooking groups meet in local churches, libraries, historical sites, and homes. While some groups are by invitation, many are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

In response to a specific request from a Guild member, we will attempt to accumulate and share information on informal groups that are available to local rug hookers. Here is an initial listing that we have been able to identify:

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

- A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

If you participate in a group not listed or know of a group, please inform Karl Gimber at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net.

Lucy Trask Barnard and Her Rugs -- The May 2016 issue of Maine Antique Digest has a fascinating article by Mildred Cole Peladeau on rugs hooked in the mid-1800s by Lucy Trask Barnard. As background, we quote from the article:

“For more than a half-century hooked rug enthusiasts have puzzled over the whereabouts of the fourth hooked rug offered to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1961 by Albert Root Jr., great-grandson of Lucy Trask Barnard of Dixfield, Maine.

“Correspondence between Root and the New York based museum dated January 2, 1961, states ‘I would sell the three rugs made by my great-grandmother Lucy Barnard, and now in your possession for \$1200....Also I am very glad to have the fourth one back on my bedroom floor.’ The three rugs purchased by the Metropolitan are considered to be among the most outstanding examples of this early craft, possibly indigenous to Maine. Added to the puzzlement was a curiosity as to the nature of the design that the Met rejected.

“There are two contenders for that title and both were recently donated by family decedents to the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine with the expressed desire that they remain in Maine. The two rugs are dramatically different from the Metropolitan rugs and from each other...

“...Recently another possible Barnard rug came to light. It was purchased at an antiques show in Maine...”

The story will be continued in future issues of The Loop.

Guild to Demonstrate at Sheep Shearing at Howell Living Farm –May 7, 2016 – The Guild returns to Howell Farm on Saturday May 7 to help celebrate the spring ritual of sheep shearing. Sheep’s wool and rug hooking go hand in hand! Howell Living Farm is located off of Route 29 just below the Golden Nugget Flea Market, Lambertville, NJ. Our demonstrators will be set up in the barn annex adjacent to the Visitors’ Center. Lunch is provided.

New members are encouraged to join our demonstrators for a fulfilling and relaxing day. It is important to recognize that even if you have only been hooking for a short period of time, you

know more about rug hooking and pulling loops than those who come out to these events. The feedback from visitors is gratifying and reassuring. Demonstrators are welcome to come for a couple of hours or the entire day.

Contact Karl Gimber at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net if you want to help.

Beginner's Workshop Offered – August 9, 2016 – Cheryl Halliday, a certified McGown instructor, will be teaching the Beginners' Workshop that is offered during our annual rug hooking school at the ESC School. This year the workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 9 from 9:00 until noon. The fee is \$70 which includes a pattern on linen backing, a hook, wool, and basic frame. Participants need to provide a sharp scissors. Beginners are welcome to bring a lunch and stay to hook for the afternoon with those attending school. The workshop is intended for adults.

To register, mail a check made out to HCRAAG to Eleanor Dunker, 1789 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Questions can also be directed to Eleanor at 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com.

Wool Request – Beginners' Workshop – Cheryl Halliday has prepared a great basket of flowers pattern for the beginners attending the summer rug school in August. It has been our practice to ask members to donate wool for the kits so that we can reduce the expenses associated with offering the workshop. For these new rug hooking students, Cheryl needs:

- Browns
- Golds
- Greens
- all colors for flowers in solids and plaids

Also, any selvages would be appreciated. This year she needs the wool cut in #6 thru #8 strips and tied in bundles if possible. Yardage will also be accepted. If you can donate any of the needed wool, *please bring them to the June Guild meeting*. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

2016 Rug Hooking School – Our 20th Rug Hooking School is scheduled for August 8-12, 2016 with instructors Norma Batastini, Nancy Jewett, Iris Simpson and Ali Strebel. Typically at this time of the year, cancellations and workshop shifts take place. At this time, there are currently openings in the workshops of Norma (1), Nancy (2) and Iris (3).

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is \$200 for *members with dues paid by November's meeting*. Non-members pay \$275. A deposit of \$100 will be required with registration with final payment due by April 10th. If you need to cancel after April 10th, \$150 will be refunded only if a replacement is found. \$50 is non-refundable if canceling before April 10.

Registration Process -- Registration forms are available at our meetings and on our website. All registration is by mail. The registration form provides for a selection of your first, second, third or fourth choice of an instructor.

Additional information can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. 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 chose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know.

Members Share Expertise at Round Robin Demonstrations -- Members Ellen DiClemente, Marian Hall, Sandy Denarski, Nina Seaman, and Brenda Smith shared their favorite rug finishing techniques at the round robin program during our April meeting. Groups of members rotated among the individual stations to observe several different approaches to finishing our rugs. Marian Hall demonstrated how to hook a secret message that can only be read from the back of the rug. Handouts provided at the meeting are reproduced below for those who could not attend the meeting.

Finishing Edge of Rug with Sewn Wool Binding (Brenda Smith)

BEFORE completing your rug:

- Cut wool 2 ½” wide by perimeter of your rug plus 6” or so
- Fold ½” on long side of wool over cording and sew to encase cording
- Line corded edge up to perimeter line of your rug with the wide part of the wool on top and away from hooking
- Sew over sewing line to attach to rug backing – join ends together
- Complete hooking
- Flip to back and hand sew to backing

For any questions or clarifications, contact Brenda Smith at 973-697-9167 or bss45@cornell.edu.

Hooking Secret Messages (Marian Hall as learned from Bev Conway)

- Do lettering on paper to the size and style required. Simple fonts are best (e.g., block letters) and larger letters are easier. Think about hooking the interior parts of the letters when drawing the letters – smaller spaces are hard to fill with cuts #8 and above.
- Trace letters on to Red Dot or other tracing material
- Turn the Red Dot over so the message is backwards and trace on to the front of the pattern (so you can read it in a mirror.)
- Hook the letters low on the front with a smaller cut (e.g., #6 cut if using an #8 cut for the rug, #7 or #8 cut if using #10 cut for rug) in a color that will stand out on the back when the rest of the rug is hooked.
- Hook the pattern as normal around the letters. Works best with larger cuts, a #8 works but is difficult, even larger cuts make it easier. Hook very close to the letters but not in the same hole, and pull the loops high. When the loops are hooked around a letter they should expand over the original hooked letter to obscure it from the front but it is readable from the back.

For any questions or clarifications, contact Marian Hall at 610-431-1835 or mariangh@aol.com.

Coordinated Binding (Sandy Denarski)

Sandy Denarski developed a comprehensive summary of her presentation which has been sent to members in a PDF file attached to an email message.

For any questions or clarifications, contact Sandy at 609-298-1595 or sdenars1@yahoo.co.

Spring Retreat a Success -- Our spring hooking retreat was held April 8-10 beginning Friday afternoon and ending about 4:00 on Sunday. Twenty two members attended and after three great days of uninterrupted hooking a lot was accomplished.

Rugs were started and some were well on their way to being completed. Linda Miller finished one of her chair pads while Annie Edwards meticulously worked on her hooked clock face. Therese and Sharon hooked with wide cuts -- Therese with torn strips and Sharon with unusual wool that she had collected. Barbara Perry and Arlene continued working on rugs that they started in summer camp.

During the weekend, hooking advice and design opinions were sought and given. Snacks were plentiful, friendships formed and strengthened and there were plenty of laughs. Teri Debrowski, who could not join us for hooking, stopped by to visit everyone.

We thank Gail Ferdinando and Diane Liberto for coordinating the retreat. A fall hooking retreat following our October meeting may be in the works if there is enough interest. Stay tuned!

Sheep Shearing at the Peter Wentz Farmstead Cancelled – Unfortunately Sheep Shearing Day on April 9, 2016 was cancelled due to the weather. Pat McDonnell who is also a Farmstead Board Member did some hooking in the visitors' center and passed out a few Guild brochures to the hearty visitors who braved the weather. The cold and wet snowy day was a BIG disappointment to all! We thank Pat for representing the Guild in spite of the nasty weather.

Guild Library – The full index of books in the Guild's library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). Our 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 other members.

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

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

name of the rug, as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Rugname. Without this identification protocol, we cannot assure that rugs will be uploaded to the site. Members who cannot attend meetings now have an opportunity to share their rugs.

Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website.

Featured Member – Linda Reitz -- In 1998 Linda along with a friend went to an exhibit of McAdoo hooked rugs that was held in Oldwick, NJ. She was so taken by the art form that she returned to the show for another look at the pictorial and animal rugs that really appealed to her. Her interest grew when she discovered many older hooked rugs in antique shops while on vacation in the Berkshires. That interest led Linda to sign up for a beginner's workshop at a wool store in Pennington, NJ.

The workshop provided Linda with the basic know-how to begin her rug hooking journey. She bought several patterns but was soon creating her own rug designs. Other than the initial workshop, Linda is basically a self-taught hooking artisan. With the aid of books from her library, she continued to learn and refine her technique. Her only other formal instruction has been from Cyndy Duade at the Guild's 2015 Rug School. Informally Linda benefits from the group of rug hookers who meet weekly at the Everittstown, NJ church. She has been part of the group for about six years. "I have learned a lot from them," she notes. "If you have a problem, they help by remedying it."

Linda prefers to hook mostly with #6 cuts and notes that she is a "high hooker." "For some reason, I started pulling high loops right from the beginning." She does not select projects based on a particular hooking style such as primitive or fine cut. For her, it is all about the pattern. Whimsical and pictorial patterns attract her, especially those by Nancy Jewett.

New and recycled wool are used. "I like to work with recycled wool, but it is harder and harder to find. I buy it when I see it," Linda says. "I take advantage of being close to Dorr Mills and buy new wool during visits to my granddaughter who attends nearby Coby Sawyer College." The recent dyeing program by Jan Cole motivated Linda to start dyeing some of her wool. She did some over dyeing of Door Mills wool before but is "now getting into it" and trying to match colors.

Linda is not intimidated by the prospect of designing her own rug patterns. In fact, she prefers to create her own designs or modify commercial patterns. She has completed three of her own designs in addition to modifying patterns from Sharon Smith. Linen is her preferred rug backing. Linda likes to hook each morning for at least an hour. She enjoys her morning cup of coffee while watching the news and pulling loops. Sunday afternoons are another favorite time to hook.

Our Guild was brought to Linda's attention by an article in the local newspaper. She became good friends with deceased member Irene Pasternak who also introduced her to the Everittstown group. Two years ago Linda formed the Woolkeepers, a community hooking group that meets at the Tewksbury Township Library every Tuesday. (See article above on Informal Rug Hooking Groups.) Those attending include experienced as well as those new to rug hooking.

Linda was "a big quilter until rug hooking took over." She finds rug hooking more relaxing and more forgiving than quilting. "It is easy to fix mistakes and I like what I can create with color," she notes.

Linda and her husband, Ken, who is a retired home builder, live in Whitehouse Station, NJ along with their cat, Lola. Their daughters Leslie and Patti live in Ludlow, Vermont. Linda and Ken are avid gardeners and take care of a large organic garden. For many years they lived in a big house on a property known as Hollandbrook Farm. The 200 year old bank house on the property was rented to a couple on a long term basis. When the couple retired and moved away, Linda and Ken decided to sell the farm and

move into the smaller house. Linda will soon be retiring from her part-time job at Rutgers University and looks forward to devoting more time to rug hooking and to skiing in Vermont with her family.

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Linda's hooking projects.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Welcome to the Merry Month of May! I am merry because spring is in its full glory; the azaleas in my front yard are blooming, many trees are fully leafed out and there is an occasional glimpse of summer with those super warm days. Even the "snow birds" are returning....all seems right with the world.

I am currently finishing two projects, one for a rug show in Nova Scotia featuring boats and fish as an homage to the collapse of commercial fishing. Karl and Mary Jo Gimber inspired me to try my hand at a small tavern sign and now I have a Seahaven B and B mat to hang in my guest bedroom.

My thoughts are turning toward summer and our annual trek to Nova Scotia. "Stuff" is beginning to pile up in our dining room. As our family says, "nothing ever dies, it goes to Nova Scotia to live." I am sure each one of you has your own "Nova Scotia" ...an attic, garage, spare bedroom, closet or wherever, for "stuff." Perhaps I need to read some books about getting rid of the stuff that doesn't bring you joy.

What does bring me joy is my hooking room, filled with wool, yarn, sari silk and all the other good stuff I need for hooking. I have enough "stuff" for 50 hookers! Do I see lots of heads nodding, smiles of recognition? However, it may be time to part with some of those bags of worms (the beginners workshop?), those pieces of fabric that aren't your color palette (the remnant table at the Guild meeting?). Yes, May brings on the desire to do some spring cleaning and clearing!

I think I will put aside the desire to clean and turn to the task of designing a hall runner for my daughter in law. I urge you to think spring with all its newness and delights. Think green, pastels, blue sky and lots of merry times discovering the artist that lives within each one of us.

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

From Mary Passerello's Dye Pot – Use Pennies to Dull Too Bright Wool --If you have some wool that is just too bright or that needs to be blended with some old vintage colors try this "Penny Dye" trick from Cindi Gay.

- 1) Fill a container with enough water to cover your wool. You can use a dye pot or a glass jar as a container. Use warm water to speed up the process. Make sure you have a lid that fits the container.
- 2) Add several dollars of copper pennies to the bottom of the container. No need to count but do not be stingy. Too few may not work. Save your pennies to use over and over.
- 3) Add a few glugs of ammonia (not sure what sure what a glug is, then add about 1/3 cup). The more water, the more ammonia you will need.

- 4) Add the wool. Just remember, some dyes may leek and discolor your whole batch. Red may make everything pink.
- 5) Add the lid and wait. Some wools may change in an hour. That brilliant red plaid could take a week. Be patient.
- 6) Heat can speed up the process, but don't use stove heat (the fumes are killers). Put the container in a sunny part of the yard and let nature do the work.
- 7) Keep checking your wool, when you like the color remove the wool, do a quick wash in soapy water and send it to the dryer.

Check out Cindi Gay on the web (www.cindigayrughooking.com.) to get more info.

Tips from Heloise – Collecting Hooking Dust -- Marian Hall shared a practical use for “Swifter” cloths with Heloise at the April Hooking Retreat. Freshly cut wool strips produce a lot of wool dust. That dust settles on whatever surface the wool strips are placed. Some of us place the strips on the surface of the rug being hooked. Others place the strips on an adjacent table. Marian lays her strips on a sheet of Swifter cloth which captures the dust and prevents it from accumulating on the surface of the rug or table.

Recipes – Barb Perry’s “Dump Cake” – One of the benefits of attending the Guild’s hooking retreats is the great snacks brought by the retreaters. Those attending the April retreat were treated with Barb Perry’s Dump Cake. We thank her for sharing her recipe.

Ingredients

- 2 cans Duncan Hines Comstock no sugar added apple pie filling
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 stick butter

Preparation

- Grease a 13 x 9" pan with light coating of butter
- Empty cans of apple pie filling in pan
- Sprinkle dry yellow cake mix over top of apples
- Thinly slice stick of butter and evenly place on top of dry cake mix
- Bake at 350 for 1 hr.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Maryland Sheep & Fiber Festival (May 7 & 8, 2016) – This major fiber festival will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. For more information go to www.sheepandwool.org or 410-531-3647.

2016 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 16-20, 2016) – Outstanding vendors, extensive exhibits, exclusive “Celebration Rugs,” and creative retreats and workshops are all part of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village. More information is available by going to www.saudervillage.org/RugHookingWeek.

Rugs by the Sea, Cape May, NJ (September 11-16 & 18-23, 2016) – The popular rug school will feature instructors Cammie Bruce, Jon Ciemiewicz, Kay Leisey, and Michele Micarelli during the first week and instructors Lucille Festa, Jen Manuell, Kris Miller, and Diane Stoffel the second week. Visit rugsbythesea.wordpress.com for more information.

The Country Inn Rug School (September 11-16, 2016) – The Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH is the site for the annual Country Inn Rug School. Betty McClentic, Gail Walden, Sarah Guiliani, and Beverley Mulcahy are the instructors. For additional information contact School Director Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or Bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Hooked in the Mountains XVIII (October 19-23, 2016) – The Hooked Rug and Fiber Exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. The Featured Artists will be Davey DeGraff, Jackye Hansen and Liz Alpert Fay. Workshop information is available at www.hookedinthemountainworkshops.com.

“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons” (November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300th Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 2:00 pm. For further information, please check -- www.hunterdon300th.org -- or call 908-788-2030.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School (November 11-14, 2016) – The rug school is held at the Hyannis Resort & Conference Center on Cape Cod. The teachers will be Nancy Blood, Betty McClentic, Angela Foote and Lucille Festa. Register by going to their website – www.oldecapecodrugschool.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 Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@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.

HCRAG Calendar of Events --

May 7, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ

May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Field Trip – Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – Penn Dry Good Market – Susan Feller Presentation – Kay Leisey/Homespun

June 4 & 5, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)

June 10, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon, Show & Tell Drawing and Review of

Construction of Michele Micarelli's Pouch *

August 8-12, 2016 – 20th Annual Rug Hooking School – ESC School
August 9, 2016 – Beginners Rug Hooking Workshop – ESC School
August 25, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ
September 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – General Business & Rug Hooking School Review*
September 10 & 11, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ
September 17, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Historic Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA
October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA
October 14, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Presentation on the Sanitary Commission of the Civil War (Dolores Higgins) *
November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Restoration (Cindy Comly) **
December 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Holiday Luncheon *
January 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Surprise Speaker -- Location TBD
February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCRA Auction -- Location TBD
March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in -- Location TBD
April 14, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – History of Rug Hooking (Kathleen Herbert) – Location TBD
May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Embellishments (Molly Colegrove) – Location TBD
June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon – Location TBD

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net
Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Vice President – Membership -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
Director – Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net
Camp Directors – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comvcast.net
Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com
Historian -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
Hospitality -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
Librarian -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net
Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.
Programs -- Open
Secretary – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com
Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring Hook-in -- Diane Liberto -- 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
Sunshine -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com
Treasurer -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

Guild's Email List Policy -- The HCRAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the group not solicit the membership as a whole.

.....

The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.

HCRAG CLASSIFIEDS

SALE

BLISS Rug Cutter Machine (white) with stand - (Like New) with #8, #6, and #4 blades.

Asking -- \$300.00

Contact -- Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net

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

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

