

## THE LOOP

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

May 2018

From the Presidents:

Last month I promised you that spring was coming. FINALLY, it has arrived. It got detoured several times. How do you feel now?? Yes!! We feel great...we have energy...we are getting our daily dose of vitamin D from the sun now, not from a pill. Life is good.

And, life IS good. The Guild is also good. We are entering our own spring—new energy, new growth. As out-going Presidents, we would like to thank each of you for your contribution to our wonderful guild. Whether you have served as an officer, brought snacks to our meetings, attended our hook-in or the winter retreat, or just shown up for our meetings, your presence is important. Whoever you are, you bring energy to a meeting, you bring your laughter, you are enthusiastic about something having to do with hooking, whether it is designing a rug, dyeing wool, or completing a rug. We are a friendly, open and accepting group. We will offer our opinions of your piece if you ask us to (and sometimes when you don't), we will show you how to do something if we know how. We will share our knowledge. We will accept you if you don't design your own patterns, if you don't dye your own colors, if you do or do not use recycled wool. We will accept you if you punch hook your rugs, or if you are a quilter!

It has been a pleasure to serve as your co-Presidents for the past 2 years (and you are not rid of us yet...we will serve as advisors on the Board). We know that Mary and Robin will do an excellent job, and we will support them any way we can. And we know you will also support them. We feel very good leaving the guild in their hands.

Yours in wool,

Weezie, Jan and Fred

At the April meeting the members present voted unanimously approved the slate of officers to be installed at the May meeting. They are as follows:

Co-Presidents: Robin Nissenfeld, Mary Passerello

Vice President: Ellen DiClementi

Secretary: Jane Anderson

Treasurer: Jean Laurence, Dee Rosebrock

Camp Directors: Aggie Harris, Linda Hannemann

Programs: Joyce Combs

Communication Director: Lisa Savino

Non-voting board members:

Kathy Donovan, Library

Gail Ferdinando, Sunshine

Carol Kindt, Historian

Hospitality: Deanna Kinney, Joan Lucas, Barbara Lugg, Aggie Wooden

The entire Communication team: Patti Mahar, Brenda Smith, Jeanne Surdi, Therese Shick

Mentor Program: Amy Korengut

We thank everyone for volunteering.

### **May Meeting – Friday, May 10, 2018**

**Program** Ellen Banker will be bringing kits to hook at the meeting of a 6x6 letter of your choice in the font of your choice for \$25. She will also be demonstrating different methods of hooking letters, and different mounting techniques. Please contact Weezie to sign up for a kit.

The refreshments for May will be brought by Carol Kindt, Bonnie Saunders, Linda Reitz, Lydia Lewis, Aggie Harris, and Diane Liberto

### **Sunshine**

Lisa Savino's husband Pat is recovering from bypass surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery!!

Members-if you have any information that you would like included under "Sunshine", please email Gail Fernando at [gqferd@gmail.com](mailto:gqferd@gmail.com).

### **May Birthdays**

Susan Johnson (5/1), Lydia Lewis (5/8), Deanna Kinney (5/13), Lucy Walsh (5/13), Sonia Force (5/15), Jeannine Happe (5/19)

## **Guild News & Events**

### **New Member**

We welcome the following new member:

Bonnie Jean Rusch

198 Asbury Anderson Rd

Asbury, NJ 08802

(908) 537-2024      (908) 432-1214

[Drusch1@comcast.net](mailto:Drusch1@comcast.net)      2/4

### **Member Items For Sale**

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

### **Newsletter Contributions Requested**

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

### **Nina's Notebook**

My poor daffodils are struggling. They appeared in the midst of the March snowstorms and now mid-April their heads are drooping as if to say, where oh where is Spring! A part of me wants to bring them inside, put them in some warm water and whisper in their leaves, it's okay. I will make you warm and then we can all rejoice at seeing your bright sunny faces.

You will be reading this in May and I am hoping that you also will be experiencing weather that is above 40 degrees. Although the calendar says spring, it feels and looks like winter. Winter is like the guest that stays too long. The grey weather has cast its gloom too many days.

Joe Norris, one of my favorite Nova Scotia folk artists proclaims, when the weather gets bad, "I goes inside and paints me some fine day. " And so that is my watch word...hook some fine day! What is your idea of a fine day? Is it walking on the beach, with the gentle waves breaking on the shore and the sun shining on your face? Is it paddling your canoe on a lake with the sound of loons in the background? Is it walking through the woods with the gigantic trees and branches sheltering you? How about smelling the newly mown hay on the plains? Or the vista of mountains rising majestically into the sky? Or how about those petroglyphs you saw in the caves or stone walls of the west? Weezie and Amy taught us about hooking with T-shirts as they learned in Guatemala. The bright colors and designs of tropical birds and flowers lift our spirits

from the grey skies.

It is May. The trees are all leafed out, the flowers are blooming and we are making plans for those glorious summer days. Let the artist within you rejoice that at last the weather is warm, and there are some fine days and no grey skies. Hopefully the summer heat has not yet come as there is Hooking still waiting to be done and designs to be made and wool to be dyed...workshops to be attended...the joys of being a hooker!

Happy Hooking!

Nina Seaman

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

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

We will be making gift baskets for the Three Bridges Hook In and are asking for donations of wool or other hooking related items to fill these baskets. Joyce Combs will collect these items at our May meeting.

### **Rug School 2018**

Guild's 22nd Rug Hooking School (August 6-10, 2018) – Instructors Pris Butler, Carrie Martin, Sharon Smith, and Ali Streibel follow in the Guild's tradition of inviting highly regarded and sought after teachers who will spend the week with us. Rug School will begin on Monday, August 6, 2018 and run to Friday, August 10, 2018. Workshop descriptions, teacher bios, and registration information are available on our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com).)

**We currently have several openings-Contact Debbie Walsh or Lydia Brenner to sign up.**

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

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

**On Thursday morning last week, we learned that the ESC school is being sold on July 31, 2018. ESC administrators will ask the new owners if they are willing to accommodate our 2018 planned rug school. We feel we need to seek out an alternate location immediately to be prepared to move forward should the new owners decline. An email was sent out with a list of suggestions we have received so far. If you have any connections to, or know anything about the locations, or have other suggestions, please call or send us an email ASAP.**

**Thank you,  
Debbie, Lydia, Linda, and Aggie**

**HCRAG Library** – Kathy Donovan brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild’s library can be found on our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)). If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact Kathy by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at [908-755-1670](tel:908-755-1670) or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)

There will be another selection of new books available next month. Please come and see what is available.

The guild has purchased three new books.

Rug Hooking Traditions with Magdalena Briner Eby by Evelyn Lawrence and Kathy Wright.  
Rug Hooking Traditions with James and Mercedes Hutchinson by Kathy Wright and Janet Conner.

Rug Hooking Traditions with Patty Yoder and Esther Knipe by Kathy Wright and Judy Knipe. All will be available at the May meeting along with still more of the donated books.

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

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Patti Mahar at [patriciamahar@verizon.net](mailto:patriciamahar@verizon.net). The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

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

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

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Barbara Boyko at [barb@bboyko.com](mailto:barb@bboyko.com) or 914-588-7077. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://www.lambyankees.weebly.com).

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St. Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – [www.springlakenjatha.org](http://www.springlakenjatha.org) – or contact Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.
- A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or [lindarz16@gmail.com](mailto:lindarz16@gmail.com).
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or [chris622@optonline.net](mailto:chris622@optonline.net).

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

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

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

\*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex,

make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

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

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

**Co-Presidents** – Robin Nissenfeld (609) 933-5641 [robinknits@hotmail.com](mailto:robinknits@hotmail.com)

Mary Passerello (908) 782-1765 [mpassere@comcast.net](mailto:mpassere@comcast.net)

**Vice President – Membership** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or [ergot53@embarqmail.com](mailto:ergot53@embarqmail.com)

**Newsletter** – Brenda Smith-201-317-0586 or [bss45@cornell.edu](mailto:bss45@cornell.edu)

**Camp Directors** – Aggie Harris (215)348-4256 [aapelharris@verizon.net](mailto:aapelharris@verizon.net)

Linda Hannemann (908)730-0662 [lindahannemann@icloud.com](mailto:lindahannemann@icloud.com)

**Historian** – Carol Kindt (908) 782-7306 [ck-rk@comcast.net](mailto:ck-rk@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)

Joan Lucas

Barbara Lugg

Aggie Wooden

**Librarian** -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)

**Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [akorengut@gmail.com](mailto:akorengut@gmail.com)

**Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or [lisasavino55@gmail.com](mailto:lisasavino55@gmail.com)

Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or [ahtram1@aol.com](mailto:ahtram1@aol.com)

Monthly Program – Joyce Combs

**Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or [jasuanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jasuanderson@gmail.com)

**Special Events** – Open

**Spring Hook-in** --

**Sunshine** -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or [gqferd@gmail.com](mailto:gqferd@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net)

Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or [deerosebrock@aol.com](mailto:deerosebrock@aol.com)

**Guild's Email List Policy** -- The 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.

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

**HCRAG CLASSIFIED SECTION**

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