

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

November 2013

Presidents' Letter –The accolades and THANK YOUs continue to circulate from near and far as we change the tense of “WE CAN DO IT” to “WE DID IT”! We think it is safe to say our expectations were far exceeded and all have a wonderful feeling of pride that our Festival at the Mill was a resounding success.

Due to the excellent efforts at “getting the word out” our hope that a broader public would be initiated to an appreciation of rug hooking was certainly accomplished. The admissions volunteers spoke with many who reported that they were not hookers but were curious and interested in the craft. The long list of those interested in our publication and teaching opportunities attest to this diversity of the attendees. Please check out the pictures and description of the event posted by Deb Smith, the Editor of Rug Hooking Magazine, at <http://www.rughookingmagazine.com/blog> Check under the October 16 posting.

As promised at our last meeting, Festival results will be presented at the November Guild meeting as will a discussion of future plans.

The October meeting was a busy one as we had post show details to attend to and again thank you to all who helped get those rugs back to their owners without a hitch! There are two pillow cases missing and a hanging rod was located. If anyone has these items please bring to the meeting.

Our thanks to Cyndy Duade who came down from New Hampshire to help with the the Festival and stay on to present a special program for our Guild. The details of Pearl McGown’s life, creative talent, entrepreneurial success and dedication to the establishment of continuing education were appreciated by all. She was truly a modern women who left an astonishing body of work. Cyndy announced that the teaching fee will be donated to the McGown Guild for their costly efforts to convert the slide film record of Pearl’s work to modern technology. Our Guild library will eventually receive a copy of this work and may be a fascinating follow up to the program. An appreciation of the history and significant contributors to our craft has been meaningful for both new and long time members.

Speaking of history we would like to recommend the current show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York entitled Interwoven Globe. The examples of exquisite hand work from all corners of the world are astonishing. The search for trade routes led to an exchange of techniques and designs in commercial textile starting in the 16th century. The show was inspiring but sadly “NO photos”!

Please check out the descriptions posted for the Spring Fling by the participating teachers. As noted at our October meeting we will take names on a list and if more interest exists then places we will select the classes by lottery but also maintain a waiting list.

The quiet of late fall brings us to our November program: The Mushroom Lady will present a program that will inform us on the use of nature to color our wool. Before the holiday rush there

is time to move indoors and and return to those waiting projects. We will have a Show & Tell and thanks to those responsible for hospitality this month. Cindy & Therese

November Meeting – Friday, November 8, 2013 -- Our November meeting will be at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Ursula Pohl, affectionately known as “The Mushroom Lady”, will share her expertise on the use of nature to color our wool. This will be a special educational experience.

Show & Tell – Our Guild members are creative in so many ways. This month we will share rugs that we have designed. Of course, you are encouraged to share current hooking projects too. Those participating in S & T are eligible for a door prize gift. (Note: Sharon Ballard is in need for non-holiday S & T raffle gifts.)

Barbara Boyko was the raffle winner of an annual subscription to the Wool Street Journal. The subscription was a Festival door prize that went unclaimed.

Hospitality – We thank in advance our hospitality volunteers for this month – Joyce Combs, Teri Dabrowski, Lydia Lewis, Barbara Lugg, and Pat McDonnell The snacks really do add to the enjoyment of our meetings.

November Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Fred Cole (11/2), Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Eileen Koch (11/22), Marion Michel (11/28), and Kay Weeks (11/15). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day! .

Membership – We welcome Patricia Branch, Sally Jagoe, Carmen Mebus, and Barbara Perry to our Guild. Their contact information is shown below. Pat and Carmen are Eleanor Dunker’s nieces and have already signed up for camp.

Sally Jagoe
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P.O. Box 13
New Hope, PA 18938
215-862-5033
sallygj@verizon.net

Barbara Perry
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Patricia Branch
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Carmen Mebus
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East Lyme, CT 06333-1154
860-691-1192
cmebus@att.net

Sue Johnson has a new email address --- powderhornsue8@verizon.net.

Sunshine – An unusual number of Guild members experienced family & medical issues last month.

- Our heartfelt condolences are extended to Kay Weeks on the death of her husband, Jay, and to Sarah Guillani at the recent loss of her father. Sympathy notes can be sent to Kay at 16 Sharrer Road, Port Murray, NJ 07865 and to Sarah at 447 Ocean Street, South Portland, Maine 04106.
- Margaret Lutz was hospitalized as a result of a fall at home and other health issues. She is now in the Hunterdon Care Center (Section A, Room 107) in Flemington, NJ. Get well wishes can be sent to her home at 49 Sampson Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822.
- Charter Guild member, Virginia Sutton, is also recovering at the Hunterdon Care Center (Section C, Room 126). Her home address is 91 Woodlawn Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.
- Deanna Kinney had a tumor removed from her hooking hand and is looking forward to when she can hook once again.
- Our prayers and best wishes go to Patty Mahaffey.
- Both Eileen Mahler and Joanne McIlmurry are recovering from successful surgery. It was nice to see them at the Rug Festival.

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

Festival Highlights – By all accounts our first Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill was a big success. Here are a few highlights:

An early estimate indicates that about 700 visitors attended the Festival. Many were not rug hookers.

Guests travelled from at least 15 states – as far north as Alberta, Canada and as far south as Alabama, from New York on the east coast to Arizona in the west.

The Boutique almost sold out; it was a big hit!

Several visitors said that the Festival was comparable to the nationally known hooked rug shows.

The much admired and coveted raffle rug was won by HCRAAG member Paula Patti.

Janet Santaniello's "Old Stony Window" won the Viewers' Choice Award. "My Story Rug" hooked by Debbie Walsh came in second.

Our biggest fear was that no one would show up and the supporting guilds would lose money. We were in the black after the first day!

Volunteers from the three supporting guilds turned out in force to set up and host the Festival. It was a real team effort!

Raffle Rug Pattern Available -- Guild member Judy Quintman created the pattern for the rug that was successfully offered as a raffle prize at the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill. There was so much interest in the primitive rug that Judy is now making the pattern drawn on linen available for \$60 plus \$7 for handling and shipping. To order the pattern just contact Judy at jquintman@ec.rr.com.

Festival Lost & Found -- One of the rugs exhibited was submitted with a wooden rod about 40-48 inches long with a strip of Velcro. Let Weezie know if it is yours. A label noting that a rug submitted was in Celebrations came detached from the rug. Debbie Walsh has it. Two pillow cases used to transport rugs to the exhibit are missing. Please bring them to the meeting if you have them.

Four Guild Members Recognized in Celebrations! -- Each year Rug Hooking Magazine conducts an international juried exhibit of hooked rugs that is published in A Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs, commonly known as “Celebrations”. Being selected for Celebrations is considered the pinnacle of recognition in the rug hooking community.

Four of our members were recently recognized –

- Judy Carter – “Mojo”
- Cyndy Duade – “Colchester Bed Rug”
- Gail Ferdinando – “At the Beach” *
- Debbie Walsh – “My Rug Hooking Story” *

* 2nd Celebrations award

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild has a proud history of the rugs hooked by its members being recognized by Celebrations. As a Guild, the designation is an indication of the artistry found within our talented membership. Judy, Cyndy, Gail and Debbie make us proud!

Guild to Demonstrate at the Last Thanksgiving in the Country -- November 2 & 3, 2013 – After 40 years, Thanksgiving in the Country will be held for the last time on November 2 & 3, 2013. The Guild will again support the event by demonstrating at the Prallsville Mills Complex in Stockton, NJ. There are house tours in the area and a tea served in the Prallsville Mill. All proceeds go to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia-Facial Reconstruction Unit.

Martha Thieling is the Guild Coordinator. If anyone wants to sell their hooking ornaments or a rug or two while demonstrating, it is allowed at this event with 15% of the sale donated to Children's Hospital. Please email Martha at ahtram1@aol.com or call her at 201-572-9885 to let her know if you can help support this worthy cause.

Guild Again Supports “SAFE” Holiday Collection -- Our Guild is again supporting the holiday clothing drive coordinated by The Consignment Shop in Flemington that donates their surplus wool garments to the Guild.

All proceeds from the Consignment Shop go to support "SAFE" (Stop Abuse for Everyone) in Hunterdon County. SAFE provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault. For more information on SAFE and its services, go to its website -- www.safeinhunterdon.org or call 908-788-7666.

SAFE is requesting help from the community by donating new unwrapped gifts. They have suggested our Guild collect flannel pajama bottoms, slippers, socks and sweat pants. Many who seek refuge at their safe house arrive without these basic items for themselves and their children.

We will be collecting donated items at the December meeting. (Tax receipts will be available.)

Additions to HCRAAG Library – The Guild has purchased the following resources on wool dyeing for our library:

Gene Shepherd's Prepared to Dye: Dyeing Techniques for Fiber Artists.

Ingrid Hieronimus's Multiple Fashion Spots: A Guide to Dyeing Spots & Backgrounds using 26 Pro Chemical Dyes

Primary Fusion: A Guide to Dyeing Using Only the 3 Primaries & Black Pro Chemical Dyes

The following additions were donated by the estate of Carol Collin:

Pris Butler's Basic Design & Drawing Techniques and Easy Lettering Tips for the Rug Hooker

Homespun Media's Primitive Quilts and Projects Magazine for the primitive quilter, rug hooker and stitcher (with pattern sheet)

Dotti Ebi's Scraps and Spots

Karen Kahle's Vintage Colors to Dye Book and The Dusty Little Dye Book, ANtique Light Colors

Laurilyn Wiles's Vermont Folk Rugs Dyeing to get Primitive Colors on Wool

Carol Collin: A compiled notebook of photos and inspirational materials from Carol's collection. May they provide inspiration to our Guild as they did to Carol.

ATHA Newsletters. A notebook of an assortment of ATHA Newsletters.

To borrow these and other books in the Guild's extensive reference library contact Kathy Donovan, Guild Librarian, 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.

A full listing of the material in the HCrag Library can be found on our website -- www.hcrag.com.

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.

2014 Retreat Fully Booked – Waiting List Established -- Our popular rug hooking retreat will again be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our January meeting on January 10, 2014. After our monthly meeting, participants will move over to the Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday. We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose to. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 which is nonrefundable unless there is a replacement from the waiting list or from your efforts. Right now the retreat is fully booked and a waiting list has been established. Let Weezie Huntington know if you want to be placed on the list.

A discounted room rate of \$119 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton In at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild.

A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate. Let Weezie know of ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

Spring Fling Set for March 28-30, 2014 -- Norma Batastini (Heart in Hand Studio) and Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) will conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday March 28 to Sunday March 30, 2014.

Norma's Workshop -- Exploring Color, A Hands-On Approach -- The workshop will be an in-depth look at color theory. We will explore two color wheels and the many color harmonies that are possible. With this knowledge, students will color plan a small pattern and begin hooking. Each student will have a kit of materials to work with (Cost about \$55) that will include dyed color swatches, pattern and other tools. Wool for the pattern will be extra. Students may purchase wool or bring some from home. There will be three pattern choices: fish decoy, pineapple or owl. Students will be contacted before class for pattern selection and other supplies to bring to class.

Betsy's Workshop – Betsy will be offering a workshop on "ripped" wool...as wide as it gets! Many saw her examples at the Festival. This class for torn strips will be using a simple styled motif pattern. You can draw your own pattern or use a pattern from another designer. Betsy will have a variety of patterns available ranging in price from \$20.00 and up. She will have designs in hearts, cats, pumpkins, crows, horses and geometrics. Pictures of patterns will be available after the holidays. You should bring wools you think you would like to use up. Betsy will also be bringing wool for you.

Registration Process – Because of past and growing interest in the Spring Fling Workshops, the registration process is intended to first determine if there is sufficient interest to engage the instructors and then to provide a fair approach for signing up.

- Those at the October meeting had an opportunity to “express interest in attending”. This was not a commitment to attend, just an expression of interest.
- Members not at the October meeting should inform Cindy Boults by November 15 if they have “interest in attending.” Again, this is not a commitment, just an expression of interest.
- If there is sufficient interest in the workshops to contract with the teachers, those who have “expressed interest” will be given the opportunity to register.
- Upon seeing the workshop descriptions and cost you can request to withdraw your name.
- If more want to register than can be accommodated, the selection of participants will be made by lottery and announced at the December meeting.
- A waiting list will be maintained in the event of cancellations.

The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for nonmembers. A \$25 deposit will be needed with the balance due at the February meeting. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$119 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. Cindy Boults is the Event Coordinator and is handling registration.

2014 Camp – Fourth Teacher Being Added – With our 18th annual rug hooking camp (August 11-15, 2014) fully booked after the September meeting, the Board has decided to add a fourth instructor. Carrie Martin from “One Rug Two Rug” will be joining us in August along with Jayne Hester, Liz Marino and Anita White.

Many of us have had Carrie as a teacher and she is fabulous. Carrie is experienced, creative and a great deal of fun. Quoting Carrie: “Through rug hooking, your work can express who you are: your views, your likes, dislikes. My goal as a teacher is to bring out those unique expressions in each of you.” Carrie has had extensive textile, color and design training and she is also McGowan certified and is a primitive hooker. Please look at her website at www.onerugtworug.com for more information.

Those on the waiting list have been contacted and those already enrolled have been given the opportunity to switch to Carrie. The goal is to accommodate everyone’s wishes. One slot is being held in abeyance in Anita’s, Carrie’s Liz workshops until the Brightbill Scholarship is awarded in December. At the present time there is one opening with Carrie in addition to the slot being held for the Scholarship winner. There is one person on the waiting list for Jayne.

After the scholarship winner selects her/his workshop, the remaining two openings will be available. Our past experience has shown that cancellations develop between now and August, so anyone who hopes to attend should get on the waiting list by contacting Eleanor Dunker, Camp Co-Director.

Camp Workshops

Jayne Hester – Jayne will be teaching a class on hooking primitive rugs in a wide cut. She has a great color sense for old colors and will bring her large stash of fabulous textured wool. Jayne will help you color plan your rug with “dirty-muddy” colors or soft natural colors, possibly enhanced by a splash of dancing colors. You will learn to hook in a true primitive style on any pattern of your choice.

Liz Marino – Liz is a McGown certified rug hooking instructor who is schooled in all the disciplines. She likes a detailed and realistic approach to her own work; Liz looks for a photo that will stand as an image that has the drama she likes. She has created a number of rugs for herself and for students based on old photographs and drawings of birds from books. Liz is open to working on anything and loves color planning Orientals. Go to her website (www.lizmarinorughooking.com) for more information about Liz.

Anita White -- Anita will have an open class, so students can choose any pattern by any designer – or design something themselves – or have her design something for them. She does have a style preference for wide-cut (#5-9 as well as hand cut and tear) florals, geometrics, floral/geometric combinations, paisley designs, folk art, antique reproductions, animals, crewel and Orientals. Anita loves working with all kinds of textures, plaids, stripes, and antique paisley while also incorporating some spots and smoother flannels for contrast, as needed. During the week, Anita will discuss dyeing, finishing techniques and any other topics that present themselves during the week. You can find Anita at anitawhite.blogspot.com.

Registration/Instructional Fees – The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2013. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2014. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Eleanor Dunker, 1789 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 13, 2014, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 13th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Camp Directors Anndee Byers (856-829-7179 or Anndee@hookandhistory.com) or Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com).

Nominations Due for the Brightbill Camp Scholarship -- The Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to allow a deserving member to attend the HCRAAG summer rug hooking camp. This is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations and recommendations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking; or
- for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Cindy or Therese by December 2, 2013. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting. One position in each teacher's workshop is being left open until the Scholarship is awarded so the winner can select the teacher of her/his choice.

Attend Camp Free -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day.

Housing is needed for Carrie Martin and Anita White. If you have interest in providing housing, let Camp Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know and attend camp free.

October Guild Demonstrations – Last month Guild volunteers demonstrated at Colonial Market Day in Newtown, PA on October 5 and during Quilt Day at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ on October 19. The weather cooperated and the sunny days attracted large crowds of visitors at both events.

Lydia Lewis gave up the first day of the Rug Festival to represent the Guild along with her granddaughter, Evelyn. She used the opportunity to help spread the word about rug hooking, the Festival and HCRAAG.

The craft demonstrators at Howell Living Farm included quilters, lace makers and rug hookers. Many farm activities were also presented to an eager audience anxious to learn more about early farm life. Joyce Combs, Teri Dabrowski, Karl Gimber, Lydia Lewis, Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock, and Martha Thieling shared their enthusiasm with admiring and curious visitors. The Farm provided us with a hearty lunch and a bottle of their maple syrup as a "thank you".

We are grateful to Lydia and Gisele for coordinating these events and for the Guild members who consistently support our community outreach efforts.

Featured Member – Anndee Byers -- Anndee Byers has collected primitive antiques for years and has decorated her home with them. Textiles such as quilts and samplers have a special appeal. "I like to live with the things I collect", she notes. Her collections include old hooked rugs that she bought from a dealer friend and displayed throughout her home. As the old rugs started to wear on the edges, Anndee put them away but missed the decorating touch they provided.

She started to think about learning to hook rugs herself when a friend brought to her attention a

flyer for Norma Batastini's popular "Rugs by the Sea" camp held each September in Cape May, NJ. Anndee signed up for Lucille Festa and headed to Cape May thinking that the camp was intended to teach beginners how to hook rugs. She soon learned that Rugs by the Sea was not a beginner's workshop! Fortunately, Anndee sat next to Judy Quintman's mother who took her under her wing. "She was great!" Anndee recalls. "She patiently taught me the basics that week." That was in 2004 after which Anndee continued to hook along with knitting which was her passion at the time. Lucille and Anndee both worked at AT&T at one point in their careers; that common thread was the beginning of a friendship.

Anndee was looking for ways to continue improving her technique when a friend introduced her to a monthly hook-in held at a quilt shop in Delaware. Even though the gathering was an hour away, Anndee was drawn to the "fabulous women" in the group. Those who came together each month included bankers, insurance executives and other professional women. Anndee continues to drive to Delaware each month to hook with her friends.

With her interest in primitive antiques, hooking in the primitive style was a natural extension of Anndee's love of things old. She appreciates the skill and results that can be achieved by fine cut hooking. "It blows me away!" she says. However, for Anndee hooking with wide cuts is more compatible with her personal interests. She prefers to hook with #8 cuts of wool.

Anndee likes to hook with recycled wool "if I can find it". At the same time, she wants to support her workshop instructors and local suppliers. "It is not easy to earn a living by teaching rug hooking and I feel an obligation to support the women who work hard to perpetuate the art form we all love." Anndee does not currently have the time to get into dyeing her wool which is another reason she likes to buy her wool from her teachers and vendors at events. "I am finally getting a stash of wool to draw upon. In the past, I would panic about not having the right wool before going home after each workshop."

When it comes to her rug patterns, Anndee is slowly getting more comfortable designing her patterns. Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh have been instrumental in encouraging Anndee to increase her confidence in this regard. Of course, Anndee sees buying patterns at workshops as another way to support her instructors.

When Anndee first travelled to Cape May in 2004 she was a novice. She has returned every year since then and continues to grow as a rug hooking artisan. Attending camp and workshops is an important part of her plan to learn and improve her technique. In addition to Cape May, she attends HCRAG workshops and went to Punderson, Ohio to work with Cynthia Norwood. Her instructors have included many of the most recognized in the rug hooking world today including Norma Batastini, Lucille Festa, Carrie Martin, Kris Miller, and Judy Quintman. "I have learned from all of them," she says. Here are a few recollections:

Norma – "Hook a fist size portion of your rug each day"

Lucille – How to hook "muddy old primitives"

Carrie – "Do something fun!"

Kris – Learned many, many techniques!

Cynthia – "Color affects color"

Judy – "Bring nature into your rugs."

Being active in the local rug hooking guilds is another way Anndee stays involved. She attends meetings of the Wool Whispers and Pinelands ATHA Chapters as well as HCRAG. Anndee is one of the co-directors of our 2014 rug hooking camp.

One reason Anndee is attracted to rug hooking is because she sees it “like painting with wool”. She likes the effect you can achieve by putting textured wool together. “It is pretty wonderful to pick fabrics and see them work together.” She has also observed that rug hooking “brings good people together”. Anndee believes that it is important “to make connections” and finds that “the guilds give you an opportunity to make friendships while you are hooking”. She would like to see more hooking done at our meetings since many members have full schedules and our monthly meetings could provide precious hooking time.

Anndee’s other interests include antiquing, knitting, walking, gardening, reading and American history. “I love a good mystery and anything to do with history”, she observes. Anndee is a trained colonial reenactor and portrays a middle class woman who lived in Philadelphia in 1770. She does historical interpretation of the colonial period for an organization known as Centipede (“1000 feet on the street”) and has organized quilting and historical tours in the Delaware Valley.

Anndee has combined her interest in history and rug hooking to launch her own business called “Hooking, Hoofing and History”. According to Anndee “the business is designed for people who love to hook, love to eat well and love history”. The first offering was in Philadelphia where participants enjoyed touring historic colonial sites, hooking with Lucille Festa and eating colonial fare at local taverns and restaurants. (The “Yankee Doodle Rugs” worked on during this trip were displayed at the Hooked Rug Festival.) Anndee has had to put her business on hold while she deals with serious damage to her home as a result of Hurricane Sandy. However, future plans being explored include trips to New England and Colonial Williamsburg.

Anndee’s “day job” is consulting and training on human resources issues. Many of her clients are in the healthcare industry. She has been a self-employed consultant in “human dynamics” for 22 years. Anndee lives in Riverton, NJ with her husband, Walt, and their two cats – Maximus and Quincy.

Visit the Guild’s website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Anndee’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- November is the month of Thanksgiving. It reminds me that there are a number of people in my life who deserve a big thank you. The first thank you is to all the people who made the rug show at the Mill possible. Thank you to all the rug artisans who created wonderful works of art to display. Thank you to all the people who worked so hard to pull it all together. Thank you to all who worked behind the scenes to make it all go seamlessly and with few glitches. It was a spectacular show and has gained recognition and kudos from many. Thank you for a job well done. These are just a few of my thanks.

A dear friend who died last year kept a journal during his final illness. Each day he wrote some of things for which he was grateful. Some days it was hard to find that one good thing but he did. I think this is a lesson also for the living. For me it is also a lesson for rug hooking. Who are the people, scenes, memories or whatever I want to remember and be thankful for?

As I was hooking last week I thought about my hands and how I use them; of course for hooking rugs, cooking, cleaning, praying, giving to others, hugging friends and family,

expressing ideas...the list is long. What about a folk art rug with themes of hearts and hands or perhaps a children or grandchildren rug of hands? What about a rug of hands through the ages...young, middle aged and finally aged with all the spots, gnarls etc. that show a life well lived.

Think of Thanksgiving as an inspiration to hook those precious moments and memories. We all have pumpkins, corn husks, turkey rugs which are beautiful, so on to something new and different. I know that Karl must have a tavern rug showing a thanksgiving scene and surely with a clever name for the establishment.

Happy hooking and happy Thanksgiving. Thank you rug artisans for your continuing inspiration! Nina Seaman.

Ideas from Jan Cole's Dye Pot – Want to use every last drop of dye in those packets and plastic jars? I save each and every packet and jar that contained dry dye. Periodically, I boil water in a large pot (turn off the stove) and add the packets and plastic jars – sometimes 30-40-50 or more. When it looks like I have a good mud (for lack of a better description) color, I remove the packets with tongs and discard them.

I restart the stove and then add the pre-soaked wool – natural/texture/oatmeal – whatever you choose in whatever quantity you choose. Of course, the color will be lighter/darker depending on the amount of wool added. Depending on what colors are added to the pot (more oranges or yellows, etc.) will, of course, affect the outcome of the color.

I never know what I am going to get but am always pleased with the new shade of mud! After cooking for ½ hour or so, I add citric acid and cook for another 10 minutes – then cool the pot of wool, rinse and dry – Wahla! A new one-of-a kind color – NEVER to be duplicated!

Tips From Heloise – When working on a rug, it is recommended to occasionally step back as far as you can from the rug. The distance gives you a perspective missing when you are hooking and close to the rug. For pictorial patterns and scenes, you can see how the details are working. You can also get another look at the contrast in the color values used.

Using a reducing glass, which is the opposite of a magnifying glass, allows you to get that distant look without standing far from your rug. Reducing glasses can be purchased from most suppliers of rug hooking equipment for a cost ranging from \$15 to \$25 but there is a less expensive approach.

Cynthia Norwood shared her cost saving tip with Heloise at our camp last August. Instead of buying an expensive reducing glass, purchase a “peeping glass” that is sold at hardware stores for your front door. It does the same thing as a reducing glass for a fraction of the cost.

Recipes -- Therese Shick brought her **Caramel Apple Blondie Pie** to the September meeting and before long it was gone. Everyone wanted the recipe! We thank Therese for sharing it with us.

Caramel Apple Blondie Pie

(From Southern Living Sept.2013)

Ingredients

- 6 large Granny Smith Apples (about 3 lbs.)
- 2 T. flour
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 cup butter, divided
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt
- 3 eggs
- 3 T. bourbon
- 3/4 cup chopped toasted pecans
- 1/2 package refrigerated pie crusts
- Apple Cider Caramel Sauce (Optional)

Peel apples and cut into 1/4 inch wedges. Toss with 2T. flour and 1/2 cup brown sugar. Melt 1/4 cup butter in large skillet over med heat and add apple mixture. Saute 15 minutes or until apples are tender. Remove from heat and cool.

Meanwhile, heat oven to 350 degrees. Melt remaining 3/4 cup butter. Stir together flour, baking powder, and salt in large bowl. Add eggs, bourbon, 3/4 cup melted butter, and remaining 1 1/2 cups brown sugar. Stir in pecans.

Fit piecrust into 10 inch cast iron skillet, and gently press up the sides. Spoon 2/3 cooled apple mixture over bottom of piecrust, gently spreading apples into an even layer. Spoon batter over apple mixture. Top with remaining apples.

Place on lower rack in oven. Bake for 70-80 minutes until toothpick comes out with a few crumbs. Cool completely and drizzle with sauce if desired.

Apple Cider Caramel Sauce

Ingredients

- 1 cup apple cider
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup whipping cream

Cook cider in saucepan for about 10 minutes, stirring often. Stir in remaining ingredients and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Once boiling, cook 2 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. (This will make too much, but it's good over vanilla ice cream!)

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Back to our Roots – Hooking with Recycled Clothing –November 16, 2013 – Mary Jo and Karl Gimber will be speaking at a meeting of the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild beginning at 10:00 on November 16, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Hankin Library Annex in Chester Springs, PA. There is no cost to attend. Contact Tracey Gillman at tgmg727@aol.com for more information.

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact 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.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

- November 8, 2103 – Monthly Meeting – The Fungus Among Us (Ursula Pohl)***
- November 2 & 3, 2013 – Thanksgiving in the Country, Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ**
- December 13, 2013 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon ***
- January 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting -- Auction & White Elephant Sale ***
- January 10-12, 2014 – Rug Hooking Retreat, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ**
- February 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Creating & Hooking Redware Pattern (Sharon Ballard, Jan Cole & Karl Gimber) ***
- March 14, 2014 – Monthly Meeting -- Rugs That Tell a Story ***
- March 28-30, 2014 – Spring Fling, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ**
- April 11, 2014-- Monthly Meeting – Round Robin (Members with rug hooking businesses) ***
- May 9, 2014 –Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip to Barnes Foundation Museum, Philadelphia**
- June 13, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Guild Picnic ***
- August 11-15, 2014 – Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ**
- August 12, 2014 – Beginner’s Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ**
- September 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD ***
- October 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hunterdon County 300th Celebration ***
- December 12, 2014 – 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/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 – 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

Camp Directors – Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com

Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com

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 freyja2@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 – Open

Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

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

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