

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

November 2007

From the Presidents' Corner -- The strength and success of our Guild comes from our supportive members who devote their time to support the Guild and its activities. Our recently revised by-laws created several additional positions which provide new opportunities for members to play an active role. We are gratified by the response from members, both long term members and relatively new ones, who have already volunteered to fill many of these positions. New people coming into officer and chair positions are a natural and vital form of renewal for all organizations. New people bring new ideas and new energy. (One exciting new idea already being pursued is a Guild website – see article) There are still positions available and we encourage all our members to look for how you can best play an active role in supporting your Guild.

We also want to encourage members to bring lunch and their current project and remain to hook after the formal meeting ends. This is a great way to get some hooking done and to visit with each other.

Happy Hooking! -- Heidi and Weezie

November Meeting – November 2, 2007 -- Please note that the meeting is a week earlier than usual and that the location will be in the Court Room at the Police Station in the Township of Raritan Municipal Complex at the traffic circle on Rt. 12, outside of Flemington, NJ from 10:00-2:00. The meeting date was changed so that members could attend Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild classes and show.

Guild Program – At our September meeting, Kim Kagan introduced the hooked doorstep project and provided instructions on what needed to be done. At this meeting, Kim will demonstrate how to complete the hooked doorstep. You need to bring (1) your hooked doorstep pattern that has been pressed and with the edge finished with a double zigzag stitch or fabric glue, (2) a brick, (3) wool to cover the brick and (4) a needle and thread to sew the background. Kim will supply the tape, batting and instruction needed to complete the project.

Show & Tell – Bring a Halloween, Thanksgiving or seasonal hooked item. If you do not have one, bring a current or old project. Please share something you have done with the Guild.

Hook-in -- Bring lunch and plan to stay after the formal meeting to get some hooking done. We have use of the room and this is a wonderful way to relax with each other.

Hooked Mats Needed for Doylestown Library Exhibit – The Guild will have an exhibit with a “Home For The Holidays” theme at the Doylestown Library during the month of December. The exhibit will be in locked glass cases at the Library entrance and will be observed by everyone who enters. This will provide excellent exposure for the Guild, but **your help is needed**. Please bring to the November meeting the mats we exchanged at our holiday luncheon at Sharon Ballard’s home last December. If you did not participate in the mat exchange, bring any other

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mat, small rug or three dimensional piece that fits the theme. They will be returned at the January meeting.

Recycled Wool Available -- Wool clothing donated to the Guild from a local thrift shop will be available at the meeting for those who use "as is" wool in their hooking or dye pot. In addition, fabric left by someone at our table at the 4-H Fair in August will also be available for a donation to the Guild.

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan has volunteered to chair our Hospitality Committee and Barbara Lugg has offered to assist her and Lydia Brenner. Thank you Helen, Barbara and Lydia!

Members responded to the need for refreshments at our October meeting, but unfortunately we did not record all the names. We do want to acknowledge Claudia Casebolt, Gail Ferdinando, Jamie Gartelmann, Mary Jo Gimber, Barbara Lugg, Dee Rosebrock, Bonnie Rusch and Kay Weeks. Our apologies to those overlooked.

We thank in advance Janet Bosshard, Carol Kindt, Debbie Walsh and Kay Weeks who volunteered to bring treats to the November meeting. The treats and snacks help make our meetings special and provide a way to support the Guild.

Membership – A current membership list was recently sent to members. The names in **bold type** indicate those for whom dues have been received. Please note that in order to receive the subsidized member rate for our August 2008 rug hooking camp, you must be a Guild member by November 2, 2007, the date of our November meeting. A membership renewal form is attached for those who have not yet renewed their membership.

Connie Coleman's email address was shown incorrectly. It is coleman_powell@verizon.net.

Let the Sun Shine – Our thoughts and prayers go to Heidi Blair whose husband has been hospitalized, to Lydia Brenner whose mother is not well and to Amy Korengut whose father is ill.

November Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to Jamie Gartelmann (11/5), Mary Henck (11/28), Carol Kindt (11/11), Marion Michel (11/28) and Kay Weeks (11/15). Have a wonderful day!

Officer and Committee Positions – Our recently revised by-laws established a two tier arrangement for major Guild offices – a "senior" position for the incumbent and a "freshman" who serves as the understudy/backup. The "freshman" becomes the senior officer after one year at which time a new "freshman" is elected. Our current officers will continue with their original two year terms, that will expire at the May meeting. The response from members to fill Guild positions has been reassuring (see below). We still need someone to fill the Vice President position. The VP will become President in May 2008. Please speak with Weezie or Heidi if you have interest or need more information.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Senior (until May 2008)</u>	<u>Freshman (until May 2008; Senior until May 2009)</u>
President	Weezie Huntington Heidi Blair	Vacant (position is actually VP)
Treasurer	Susan Atwater	Gisele Meader

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Secretary	Gail Schmidt	Joyce Combs
Camp Director	Karl Gimber	Weezie Huntington
Programs	Mary Jo Gimber	Sharon Ballard
Special Events - new position		Kitty Platt

(Special Events Committee: Connie Coleman, Lisa Mims and Kay Weeks -- need one more volunteer)

Vice President's Committee:

Historian	Marion Michel	Vacant
Hospitality	Lydia Brenner	Helen Buchanan Barbara Lugg
Librarian	Kathy Donovan	Vacant
Newsletter	Karl Gimber	Karl Gimber
Publicity	Karl Gimber	Karl Gimber
Sunshine	Dee Rosenberg	Lib Ryman

We are thankful to the Guild members who have volunteered for these positions. Your work helps make our Guild great!

2008 HCrag Rug Hooking Camp (August 11- 15, 2008) – Shortly after our October meeting, we learned that Elizabeth Black will not be an instructor next August. Fortunately, Anne-Marie Littenburg was available and will replace Elizabeth. Anne-Marie was one of the top instructors being discussed for our camp in 2009, so we now have the opportunity to work with her a year earlier. She continues our tradition of inviting nationally know instructors to share the week with us. We will have a strong team with Anne-Marie, Gail Dufresne and Jayne Hester. Because of the change, we will accommodate anyone who has already registered and who wants to switch instructors. A camp “flyer” is attached and provides more information on each of the classes being offered. Please let Karl Gimber know ASAP if you want to switch instructors.

The camp fee is \$150 for those who are Guild members as of November 2, 2008. The non-member fee of \$225 will apply to all others. To register, a nonrefundable \$25 deposit is required with the balance due by the April Guild meeting. Cancellations will be accepted until June 1, 2008. Registration is limited to HCrag members until December 31, 2007 after which non-members can register. Deposits are now being accepted.

www.hcrag.com -- Thanks to Guild member Laurie Rubinetti, the Guild will soon have its own website – www.hcrag.com. Laurie, who has her own business (Lola Design) for creating and maintaining websites for clients, has offered to establish and manage a site for us on a pro bono basis. There will be minor expenses to register the name of the site. Laurie’s current plans include:

- 1) Home Page: Consisting of a brief description and history of the guild, with graphics/photos of hooked rugs, tools etc.
- 2) Schedule Page: The calendar of meetings and events for the upcoming year.
- 3) Contacts: Contact information for Guild officers.

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- 4) Gallery: Rugs hooked by members! (see more below).
- 5) News: Announcements and a link to Guild's newsletters.
- 6) Ms./Mr. Hooker 2008: A page featuring a guild member and pictures of her/his rugs.
- 7) Links: Links to our favorite hooking related sites. Usually, other sites will reciprocate and put a link back to our site.

The Gallery page will show rugs hooked by HCRAG members. Each Guild member has the opportunity to have a rug included and we encourage all members to participate. Laurie notes that the best images are taken straight on so that they look proportionate. Photographs taken of rugs hanging on the wall look better than those taken on the floor. If you want one of your rugs included, send a photo to Laurie **by November 15, 2007**. Images can be sent by email or regular mail. Include your name and name of the rug. If you want to submit a photo but do not wish to have your name on the web, just let Laurie know when you submit the photo. If using email, send jpeg images no larger than 2 mb to Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net. If using regular mail, send to Laurie Rubinetti, 320 Mt. Joy Road, Milford, NJ 08848. Include a SASE and your photos or discs will be returned. A lot of work is involved in installing the photos, so please send your photos to Laurie as soon as possible.

Guild Name Badges -- If you want to place an order for one of the Guild's attractive name badges, just send a check for \$6.75 made payable to "HCRAG" to Karl Gimber. Include a note that shows exactly how your name should appear. Delivery takes 6-8 weeks.

Guild Members' Rugs Accepted for The Heritage Center of Lancaster County

Exhibit -- The Heritage Center of Lancaster County has an important exhibit -- "Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs" -- opening on November 17, 2007 and running until December 30, 2008. A juried show of rugs hooked by contemporary artisans from southeastern Pennsylvania is a component of the exhibition. Guild members Rebecca Buckwalter, Mary Jo Gimber and Karl Gimber have had rugs selected for the exhibit. The rugs will be exhibited according to the following schedule: Animals (November 17, 2007 – April 26, 2008), Flowers and Fruits (May 2 – August 30, 2008) and Pictorials (September 5 – December 30, 2008). The rugs from the Heritage Center's collection will be on display for the entire period.

Christmas Market – A Tour of Pennsylvania German Tradition and Folk Art (December 1 & 2, 2007) – Join The Goschenhoppen Historians, The Schwenkfelder Heritage Center and the Mennonite Heritage Center as they open their facilities for two days of seasonal holiday shopping, special Christmas exhibits and fun.

Three regional institutions dedicated to preserving the region's Pennsylvania German culture are coordinating their efforts with a two day tour of PA German tradition and folk art sale. Each facility is within a half hour drive of each other. If you enjoy PA German history, folk art and food, the tour is not to be missed.

The Goschenhoppen Historians, Redmen's Hall, routes 26 & 63, Green Lane, PA: vintage Christmas Collectables, home baked goodies, unique historical and PA German books and folk festival craftsmen's wares. Exhibits: period Christmas trees, large standard gauge trains, Christmas garden and quilts. Museum features special researched, local Christmas displays of PA German folk traditions. (for more information - 610-367-8286 or www.goschenhoppen.org)

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The Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA: Pennsylvania German Folk art sale featuring wares of the finest traditional craftsmen as well as holiday exhibits. (for more information – 215-256-3020 or www.mhep.org).

The Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center, Seminary Street, Pennsburg, PA: A Father Christmas Boutique – folk art renditions of Santa Claus. Exhibits: Traditional Christmas Putz. Various authentic items from the craftsman’s bench will be offered for sale. (for more information – 215-679-3103 or www.schwenkfelder.com).

Hooked Rug Exhibit at Mennonite Heritage Center -- February 2 - March 1, 2008.

The Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA is hosting an exhibit, Fraktur Motifs Explored in Hooked Rugs, during the month of February. The exhibit will feature contemporary artists who have studied with Susan Feller. There is an opening reception on February 2. In conjunction with the exhibit, two one-day workshops, "Design a Rug with a Fraktur Flair", will be offered on February 1 and March 1. To register contact the Heritage Center at 215-256-3020. Their website, www.mhep.org, provides more information on the Heritage Center including directions.

Guild To Demonstrate at “Thanksgiving in the Country” – November 3 & 4, 2007 –

The Guild will once again support “Thanksgiving in the Country” - a non-profit organization whose proceeds go to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – Facial Reconstruction Unit. Please let Joyce Combs know if you can help demonstrate rug hooking at this worthwhile event. The event takes place in the Stockton/Sergentsville, NJ area.

Rug Hooking Retreat – January 11-13, 2008 – As previously reported, plans are well underway for our second annual rug hooking retreat at the Flemington Hampton Inn. Participation is limited to 25 members and we are almost fully booked. To date, twenty-one people have paid and we urge other Guild members to register as soon as possible. We will set up a waiting list once we have received 25 registrations. Please see last month's issue of The Loop for more details. If you have any questions, please contact Dee Rosebrock or Kitty Platt.

Meet Our Member – Amy Korengut -- Amy Korengut admired hooked rugs as folk art for many years before she started to hook herself. In 2000 she bought an old rug at a garage sale and shortly thereafter “was taken” by a hooked rug exhibit at the Dutchess County Fair in upstate New York. She got Norma Batastini’s name from a list of instructors that was available at the Fair and was soon on her way. At the time, Amy was finishing a major professional undertaking. She was responsible for establishing a veterinarian technicians program with three colleges in northern New Jersey. She functioned as a teacher and administrator working “every waking hour” for three years after which the program was accredited. At that point, Amy was burned out, needed a break and wanted to do something creative. Rug hooking was the answer.

In 2002 Amy took several private lessons with Norma who got her started. She learned of HCRAAG and the other rug hooking guilds in the area and joined them all. Amy participated in workshops, classes and camps in a big way. The camps she attended included Kinderhook where she studied with Barb Carroll, Arrow Rock with Emma Lou Lais and Santa Fe with Jule Marie Smith. Amy has gone to Cape May the last few years as well as the HCRAAG camps. She found that she started a new rug at each camp, but was not able to complete them. Now Amy selects camp/workshop instructors based on being able to work on an existing project rather than starting a new one.

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There are too many distractions at home, so Amy does most of her hooking with the various guilds and hooking groups to which she belongs. She regularly attends Norma Batastini's Heart in Hand group, the McGown Guild, Midland Park group and HCRAAG.

Amy considers herself "more of a rug hooking scholar than a rug hooker." She tends to read more than she hooks. She enjoys studying old rugs and hearing speakers on the art and history of rug hooking. Amy has a major collection of books and digital photos of folk art that serve as inspirational ideas for her rugs. Narrower cuts are incorporated in her rugs, but Amy prefers to work with #6 and #8 cuts using mainly "as is" recycled wool. She designs her own rug patterns based on "things that matter to her" such as the recently completed wedding rug for her daughter. Amy is contemplating a major rug hooking project that will depict scenes from her years living on a kibbutz in Israel.

In the 1970s Amy spent 10 years on a kibbutz in Israel where she met her husband, Shmuel. He is now retired and enjoys cabinetry. He just completed building shelving for Amy's wool stash. For the past 20 years Amy has been a veterinarian. Prior to that, she was a registered nurse. She now works as a "relief vet" filling in where she is needed. This role as an independent contractor gives her the control over her schedule that she wants. Amy and Shmuel have a daughter, Tahl, who is a forensic psychologist living in Cherry Hill, NJ. Besides rug hooking, Amy has a strong interest in folk art and the outdoors. Amy and Shmuel are avid hikers, bikers and birders. Staying in shape is important too. You will often find Amy at her gym as early as 5 a.m.

How fortunate we are to have Amy as a Guild member!

2009 HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp -- Work is already underway for our 13th annual rug hooking camp in August 2009. The dates have been selected and the ESC School reserved. Camp Director, Weezie Huntington, is contacting the potential instructors identified at our October meeting. However, she is having difficulty identifying one of the potential instructors. Her notes have the incomplete/incorrect name of "Duade". Will whoever made the suggestion, please contact Weezie and give her the correct name.

Guild Members Demonstrate at The Peter Wentz Farmstead Festival -- Rain storms passed through the area Friday night, but Saturday, October 20 was a beautiful fall day for the Peter Wentz Farmstead Festival. Rug hooking demonstrations by Joanne McIlmurray and Karl Gimber were an addition this year to the festival's activities that included tape weaving, spinning, weaving and blacksmithing, just to name some of the 18th and 19th century activities being demonstrated. Tours of the historic Peter Wentz homestead, games, music and food added to the events of the day. Guests had an opportunity try their hand at rug hooking using Joanne's lap frame. Her mats and small rugs found admiring customers. The Peter Wentz staff did an exceptional job in making volunteers feel at home and appreciated.

Some Camp History -- The first HCRAAG summer rug hooking camp was held on July 10 & 11, 1997 under the leadership of then Guild President, Helen Buchanan. It was at the "Yellow Cottage" at the Sandhill ESC Center. Penny Hayes was the instructor and 13 members attended. The cost was \$50 plus \$25 for supplies (pattern of a flower basket and wool for the flowers). The success of the first camp led to an expansion to four days the following year and a move to our current location. Perennial favorite, Helen Wolfel, was the instructor for the 26 attendees. We thank Helen Buchanan, Gail Dufresne, Jo Knobloch, Margaret Lutz, Marion Michel and Virginia Sutton for helping piece together this element of Guild history. The success of those early camps provided the momentum and established the foundation for what continues today.

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Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

The Long Island Guild of Rug Hooking Artists Show, November 3, 2007 at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow located at 95 Old Country Road, Melville NY 11747. Workshops featuring Jon Ciemiewicz, Lucille Festa, Jeanine Happe, Carrie Martin and rug hooking 101. Jon will be doing a fine shading class of a macaw, Lucille will offer various patterns for wide hooking, and Carrie will be doing a hooked doll class. To register contact Loretta Scena at 631-254 3930 or rhet413@optonline.net. For other questions about the show contact Arlene Schwen, Show Coordinator at 631- 549-7158 or rughooking1@verizon.net. Many rugs will be on display. There will be door prizes, a raffle rug, vendors, baskets and punch needle. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beverages and desserts will be available. Admission is \$5.

Workshops at The Woolery will be hosting Sherri Hieber Day for a 3 day workshop entitled "Folk Art for the Floor" on November 1 - 3, 2007. Contact Trish Becker for details at 908-268-3949.

Hooked in the Mountains XII, at Round Barn, Shelburne Museum. Exhibit November 10 to November 17, 2007, 10 AM-5PM. Sunday, November 18, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs Exhibition – November 17, 2007 to December 31, 2008 at the Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum. For more information contact Kim Fortney, VP, Heritage Center of Lancaster County at 717-299-6440 or kfortney@lancasterheritage.com.

Virginia Rugfest will celebrate its 6th year! April 5, 2008, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, VA from 9am- 3:30pm. Guest Speaker: Ginny Stimmel, Editor, Rug Hooking magazine. Featured Artist is Sarah Province plus Hook-in, Rug show, Vendors, and Beginners' class. Loads of door prizes and a hooked rug will be raffled off! Contact: Mary Henck, hookrug@comcast.net, 804-740-6511 or www.geocities.com/varugfest/

FIBERFEST 2008 -- August 9, 2008 in Yellow Spring, WV, sponsored by the Mountain State Fiber Artists. Contact Susan Feller for pre-registration and program information at rugs2w@yahoo.com. Lunch included with registration fee. There will be vendors as well as hooking and fiber artists.

The Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie.huntington@verizon.net) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

November 2 – Monthly Meeting – Assembling Hooked Brick Doorstop (Kim Kagan)* – note meeting is a week earlier just in case you are planning to attend the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild show.

December – HCRAG Exhibit – Doylestown Library

December 14 – Holiday Luncheon/ Shoe Box Trade

January 11, 2008 – Monthly meeting – Auction and White Elephant Sale *

January 11-13, 2008 – Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 8, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Valentines' Day Hook-in/ Trade hooked Valentines/ Show rugs or hooked items with hearts, angels, candy, bow & arrows,

flowers, diamonds, red ribbons, etc.*

March 14, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- How Do You Design Your Own Rug? (Panel) *

April 11, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- What Do Judges Look For? / Rug Critique*

May 9, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- Featured Rug Hookers*

June 13, 2008 – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic

August 11 – 15, 2008 – 12th Annual HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp featuring
Gail Dufresne, Jayne Hester and Anne-Marie Littenberg

* Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 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, it is the first building on the right.

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

Co-Presidents – Heidi Blair -- 732-942-3743 or jenyjump@optonline.net

Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie.huntington@verizon.net

Fund Raising – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410

Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749

Lydia Brenner -- 732-741-9313 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Barbara Lugg – 908-996-2562

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja@optonline.net

Programs – Mary Jo Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or mjg12@nni.com

Public Relations -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com

Secretary – Gail Schmidt – 732-741-6620 or gks001@aol.com

Sunshine – Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com

Treasurer – Susan Atwater – 908-439-3473 or susanatwater@earthlink.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 Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com. by than the 20th of the month.

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