

## THE LOOP

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

November 2011

**Presidents' Letter** – November is a month of Thanksgiving -- The following are some of the things for which we are thankful:

- Our great Guild with so many talented artists and overall good people who enjoy coming together once a month to share their projects. We inspire each other with new ideas every month!
- Our Program Committee which has made the “Show and Tell” part of the meetings a fun and happy event. Members who donate items for the participation raffles. Also, the committee’s organization of our monthly programs and the members who teach us.
- Our Hospitality Committee for doing so much behind the scenes. Each month we have coffee and tea and wonderful snacks brought by members. This is all set up beautifully for us. At the end of the meeting the committee has the entire area cleaned up!
- We can’t say enough about our Public Relations, the Loop and our website, [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com). The work that goes into our newsletter and website is significant and is really something about which we are thankful!
- The large pile of wool that often appears at our meeting for our members to take home.
- Our Vice President and the Summer Camp Committee members who organize and make sure all is as it should be with teachers coming in from out of town and coordinating with the ESC school and keeping up to 45 students happy.
- Each member who coordinates an event such as the Spring Fling Workshop and all of our demonstrations, and those who participate in them. Our guilds story boards with the professional photographs of our rugs and our sample board used to show the tools and types of materials we use at our demonstrations.
- Our Librarian, who brings books to and from our meetings does a great job. Our Secretary and Assistant Secretary, who provide a written account of our meetings by attentively listening throughout the entire meeting
- Our Treasurer who makes sure we can afford to do what we plan.
- Our members who quietly perform the Sunshine, Historian and Special Events duties behind the scenes and who need to be remembered.

We are sure we missed many others and these are in no particular order but we want to thank you all for making this fun! Dee and Joyce

**November Meeting – Friday, November 11, 2011** -- Our normal meeting location is not available in November, so we will meet at our alternate site -- the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt. 12 and Rt.523 traffic circle outside of Flemington. For new members and guests, this is the circle a mile or so from our regular meeting location. The address for the Complex is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446, although it does not appear on the road. Our meeting runs from 10:00 -2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Vicki Calu was scheduled to give a presentation on the Hooked Rug Museum of North America. However, a medical issue prevents her from attending the meeting. Guild member Nina Seaman has agreed to step in. Nina spends a good portion of the year in Nova Scotia. In her presentation “Greetings from Nova Scotia”, she will discuss hooking in Nova Scotia.

Show & Tell – The second week in November is Children’s Book Week. We are looking for rugs with children’s book themes – Winnie the Pooh, The Mr. series, nursery rhymes, trucks, dolls, animals, etc. Certainly we have created rugs for our grandchildren, kids, and the young at heart – let’s share these this month. We always like to see current projects too.

Remember there is a raffle ticket for those who show and tell with a chance to win one of our many prizes. Any member donations for raffle prizes are greatly appreciated. If you could send Cheryl, Gisele or Lydia an email or call to let them know you are bringing a prize, it will be helpful in planning the quantity of prizes at any one meeting. We thank you for your support!

Last month the following members were S&T raffle winners: Barbara Boyko, Carol Collin, Ingrid Cosmen, Ellen DiClemente, Karl Gimber, Cheryl Halliday, Marion Michel, Betsy Warner, and Kay Weeks.

Hospitality – Our hospitality volunteers for November are Ingrid Cosmen, Lydia Lewis, Janet Santaniello and Bernice Smith. We thank them in advance for making our meetings more enjoyable by bringing snacks and treats.

**November Birthdays** -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Jamie Gartelmann (11/5), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Marion Michel (11/28), Linda Reitz (11/16), Susan Schulz (11/18), and Kay Weeks (11/15). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

**Membership** – We welcome Bernadette Andrejco, Robin Perelli and Katie Simonson to our Guild and look forward to having them involved with our various programs. Their contact information follows.

Bernadette Andrejco  
37 David Road  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
908-751-5054  
Bandrejco2@comcast.net

Robin Perelli  
315 Pennington-Harbourton Rd  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
609-737-8107  
[shelterwoodfarm@comcast.net](mailto:shelterwoodfarm@comcast.net)

Katie Simonson  
40 Olcott St.  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-873-2537  
[ek1047@aol.com](mailto:ek1047@aol.com)

**Sunshine** – Susan Atwater and Dee Rosebrock are recovering from falls. Susan fell while vacationing on Cape Cod. She broke her collar bone and punctured a lung. We were pleased to see her at the last meeting. Dee cut her head in a fall at home and required seven staples. She ran the last meeting as if nothing happened! Gisele Meader's shoulder continues to heal. The sling is gone and she was able to demonstrate at Howell Farm. Our warmest condolences are extended to Mary Jo Gimber at the loss of her mother and to George Boults, Cindy's husband, at the loss of his father.

## **Guild News & Events**

**Hooking Retreat Expanded** -- Our popular hooking retreat scheduled for January 13-15, 2012 was fully subscribed at our October meeting. Event Coordinator, Joyce Combs, was able to book the adjacent conference room, so we can accommodate those on the waiting list and still have room for 10 additional retreaters. Let her know if you have interest in attending.

The retreat begins after our January meeting at the Flemington Hampton Inn. Participants will move over to the Flemington Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday at 4:00. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate is available for those who want to stay over night. Call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 – the bargain of the year! Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Joyce Combs 1576 Harbourton-Rocktown Rd, Lambertville, NJ 08530. The fee is non refundable unless there is a replacement from the waiting list or from your efforts.

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

**4th Annual Spring Fling – March 23, 24 & 25, 2012** -- Two exciting workshops (The Magic of Masquerade and Exploring Color & Hooking) will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, March 23, 2012 to Sunday March 25, 2012. Participants can stay at the Hampton Inn or commute. For a discounted room rate for those who want to stay over night, call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

**Instructors: The Magic of Masquerade with Cyndy Duade** -- Let your imagination go out to play! Create your own magical mask to wear or be a wall display. Class includes a kit with the basic mask pattern, eye ribbon, and soft backing for the mask (\$15). You can embellish the basic pattern as drawn or transform it to your own creation. Combine wool, yarn, fabric, beads, feathers, and bling. Hook, sculpt, proddy, or embellish.

Class will cover mask design, choosing materials and embellishments, attaching special effects, backing application, finishing edges, and mounting for wall display. Lots of colorful wool, fabric, and embellishments will be available. Bring your imagination and creativity to this fun class and you can wear your mask home on Sunday!

Cyndy Duade lives in Springfield NH near lakes and mountains. She is an accredited McGown Teacher and attends Teachers' Workshop for continuing education. She has been teaching rug hooking for 12 years and enthusiastically embraces all styles of rug hooking.

Exploring Color & Hooking with Angela Foote -- Let the knowledge of color stimulate you to step outside your color box. Use your favorite color in a new way. Explore a variety of dyed wools, spots, dips, and sparkling marbled wools, swirling with color to enliven your rugs. Bring your love of color and hooking to class. Students may start a new project or spark up an existing project. All styles of hooking are welcome!

Students are contacted prior to class to discuss rug patterns, custom designs, color choices and any other hooking needs. Wools can be custom dyed for your project or as an addition to your wool stash. Angela travels with a large assortment of beautiful dyed wools.

Angela Foote is a passionate creative rug hooker who loves to work with color. She is well known for her beautifully dyed wools and unique wool garments. Whether over the dye pot, teaching classes, lecturing on color, or creating in her studio, Angela's 30 years of experience is evident in her works of art. She is a certified McGown teacher, member of ATHA and enjoys hooking in both fine shading and primitive styles. She has regular classes in her studio and teaches at guild meetings and workshops across New England. FABRICFOOTE is her hooking and dyeing business.

**Workshop Size:** 12 - 15 students each class

**Meals/Snacks:** Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Participants can bring their lunch or take advantage of the many local restaurants.

**Cost:** \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required at the time of registration. The balance will be due at or before our February meeting. In the event you need to cancel after our February meeting, a refund less a \$25 cancellation fee will be made if we are able to fill the spot. If we are unable to fill the spot there will be no refund.

**Schedule:** Friday- Evening reception and meeting with instructors (5:00 – 8:00)  
Saturday - workshop (9:00 - 4:30)  
Sunday - workshop (8:30 - 3:30)

To register, send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAAG, to Cindy Boult's 1 Spring Hill Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801, with a note indicating the instructor with whom you want to work. If you have questions, direct them to Cindy at [cboult's@gmail.com](mailto:cboult's@gmail.com) or 908-730-0146.

**Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 21, 2012** -- The Guild's is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 21, 2012. All the vendors from last year -- Jan and Fred Cole (Wool'n Gardner),

Kay Leisey (Homespun) and Jeannine Happe/Karen Worthington (American Color Woolens) -- have eagerly agreed to return.

Event Coordinator, Karl Gimber, is organizing a group to help plan and run the hook-in. Please let Karl know if you can help by contacting him at karlg12@verizon.net or 215-297-0803. So far, the following members have responded:

Margie Briggs	Jean Laurence	Therese Shick
Joyce Combs	Patty Mahaffey	
Annie Edwards	Joanne McIlmurray	
Cheryl Halliday	Dee Rosebrock	
Juliana Kapusta	Susan Schulz	

The feedback we received last year confirmed that participants liked the smaller size and museum like venue. Details will be available in the December newsletter.

**Plans for Camp 2012 Underway** --Our Guild's 16<sup>th</sup> annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 13, 2012 through August 17, 2012 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors – Arline Bechtoldt, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2012.

**Our Teachers –**

**Jeanne Benjamin:** Jeanne started hooking in 1971 and became McGown certified in 1979. She owns New Earth Designs, a pattern business of diverse designs, and also has a dyed wool mail order business. Jeanne has a loyal following and is known for her beautiful dyeing and color planning, often dyeing 50 yards or more of wool weekly.

Jeanne stresses good pre-camp communication and advance planning to maximize students' class time. She gives instructions in small increments which enables her to get around the classroom quickly. Class time includes question and answer periods so everyone can participate and learn, not only from individual instruction, but from group time as well.

Jeanne expects you to relax, keep an open mind, and enjoy this creative time! Jeanne often teaches an open class (she enjoys a large class with diversity) but her specialties are Orientals, making a primitive design look antique, folk art, and pictorials.

**Arline Bechtoldt:** Arline is an accredited teacher who enjoys teaching a student driven class. She recently gave a talk at the Alice Beatty Chapter of ATHA and showed her rugs which ranged from beautifully fine shaded faces, flowers, and antique designs, to whimsical and primitive motifs.

Before camp Arline discusses with each student their particular needs for their rug. She will help with color planning and can provide custom dyed wool as needed and/or work with wool already on hand. She will also bring a supply of wool to class.

During class time Arline will discuss technique, color planning, and finishing, and as the day is winding down, creative stitches, dyeing techniques, labeling, and any other topics of interest. Arline plans to ensure that your rug becomes the masterpiece you envision!

Lucille Festa: Lucille is a collector of antiques and a history buff especially interested in the American Civil War era and women's history. She started her business, American Country Rugs, about seven years ago and sell patterns (including her "door people") via her website.

She specializes in primitive style rugs and often incorporates old antique colors, textures, and wide cut wools as well as folk art images into her rugs. Lucille loves colors that evoke a feeling of antiquity and enjoys creating rugs with an aged look. She brings plenty of wool plaids, checks, tweeds, and herringbones to her classes. She will help you to color plan and hook a warm, antique style rug that will be passed down through the generations.

**Registration/Instructional Fees** –The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2011. 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, 2012. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

**Refund Policy** –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2012, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

**For more information**, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com) or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com).

**Summer Scrap Challenge Winners** -- At the June meeting our Program Chairs -- Cheryl Halliday, Lydia Lewis and Gisele Meader – challenged members to complete a rug or mat during the summer using only wool strips left over from previous projects. Members stepping up to the challenge brought their completed projects to the last meeting where the Guild had a chance to enjoy them and vote on their favorite. We congratulate the following winners:

- Want to take it home! – Geometric Squares pillow hooked by Gail Ferdinando
- Makes me smile – Worms and Apples hooked by Lydia Lewis
- I love it! – Crow on Pumpkin hooked by Cindy Boults.

One of the objectives of the challenge was to reduce our supply of left over wool. Several participants noted that the project did not even put a dent into their stash. Looks like we will need to do this again! Our thanks to all who participated.

**Important Additions to the Guild Library** -- Two new books have been added to the Guild's Library – *Combining Rug Hooking & Braiding: Basic Borders & Beyond* by Kris McDermet and *Basic Rug Hooking* by Judy Sopronyi, Editor. Kris was one of the

instructors at our camp last August at which time we had a chance to see her comprehensive new book. Those who have seen *Basic Rug Hooking* say it is one of the best rug hooking books for beginners. Both books are available for loan by contacting our Librarian, Kathy Donovan.

Kathy 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 [freyja2@verizon.net](mailto:freyja2@verizon.net).

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

**Another Busy Month for HCRAAG Demonstrators** – Joanne McIlmurray represented the Guild at the Apple Butter Frolic sponsored by the Mennonite Heritage Center. This year the Frolic was held on the Heritage Center grounds in Harleysville, PA on Saturday October 1, 2011. It was not the most pleasant day weather wise but there was a big turnout. In addition to rug hooking, rug braiding, tape making, spinning and flax processing were demonstrated. Sheep herding is always a popular attraction and since it took place close to Joanne's position, she benefited from the heavy traffic flow. Visitors were interested in hooking and learning more. Many also wanted to share stories of their grandmothers or relatives hooking or wanting to know where to get an old rug fixed.

We did not participate at Newtown's Colonial Market Day this year. The weather was raw and rain was forecasted. Since we would have been outside without a tent for protection, there was concern about our display and rugs being damaged.

The weather was picture perfect for Quilting Day at Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ) on October 15, 2011. Members Joyce Combs, Karl Gimber, Carol Kindt, Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock, Joan Shymko and Martha Theiling spent an enjoyable day sharing their knowledge and interest in traditional rug hooking with the many guests who stopped by the barn annex to view the quilt exhibit and see lace making and rug hooking being demonstrated. Lunch was provided by the Farm. The staff expressed their appreciation by giving our volunteers a "goody bag" containing a jar of honey and fresh eggs from the Farm and a Howell Farm tee shirt.

We subsequently received notes of appreciation (see below) from staff members Susan DeVore and Kathy Brilla.

"We always enjoy having your Guild members at Howell Farm. They do such a good job involving the public in their demonstrations. You have a very professional Guild and your mission of teaching traditional rug hooking fits perfectly with Howell Farm. Listening to the visitors comments, I know they gained an appreciation for the time and skill involved in the traditional arts. I personally was in hog heaven (as we say at Howell Farm) to be surrounded by all the beautiful rugs, quilts, and lace. Thanks for helping to make it a great day."  
Susan DeVore

"*We are grateful* to have you and the Guild join our programs. It's a beautiful way for visitors to enter the barn, and your displays are gorgeous. Thank you again for joining us. We look forward to next year's programs." Kathy Brilla.

Roving photographer Carol Kindt took photos which you will be able to see on the Guild's website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com).

Ingrid Cosmen and Marion Michel demonstrated at the Calvary Church in Finesville, NJ during the Pohatong Historical Tour on October 15. The good weather brought out lots of people. One visitor was a man whose mother was a rug hooker and he knew about cutters, frames and hooks. Her work is on his walls and he appreciated meeting others who shared her interests.

**Guild Supports Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** – On November 5 & 6, the Guild will once again support the annual fundraising effort for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Facial Reconstruction Unit by demonstrating rug hooking at the Thanksgiving in the Country House Tour and Craft Show held at the Mill at Prallsville Mill a short distance north of Stockton on Rt. 29. Let Joyce Combs know if you want to join in and support this worthy effort.

**ATHA Lancaster Biennial a Huge Success** -- Two years of planning paid off in a big way for our ATHA friends involved with the 2011 Biennial. It was the largest Biennial ever held with almost 700 registrants and hundreds of "walk-ins". By 11:00 AM on the first day over 200 walk-ins came to see the exhibit and shop the vendors. That is more than the total number who have come during past Biennials. The Lancaster location, the outstanding teachers and favorite vendors combined to make the Biennial a winner. Our Guild was well represented. HCRAG members listed below in random order were registered or spotted in Lancaster:

Jamie Gartlemann	Karl Gimber	Joyce Combs	Weezie Huntington
Mary Winkler	Jeannine Happe	Jana Laidlaw	Paula Patti
Eleanor Dunker	Juliana Kapusta	Lydia Lewis	Betsy Warner
June Madden	Jean Laurence	Nina Seaman	Susan Schulz
Sue Menges	Dee Rosebrock	Gisele Meader	Carol Collin
Patty Mahaffey	Barbara Kimborough	Cheryl Halliday	Ellen Dolmetsch
Gail Ferninando	Debbie Walsh	Judy Quintman	Amy Korengut
Kathy Donovan	Janet Santaniello	Ann Geiger	Annie Lee
Cindy Boults	Lydia Brenner	Margaret Lutz	Therese Shick
Katie Simonson	Sandy Francisco	Sue Johnson	

The 2013 Biennial will be in southern California.

**Meet Our Member -- Eleanor Dunker** – When Eleanor was a young child, she remembers watching her mother hook rugs. Her mother and a friend had learned to hook from a neighbor in town. Eleanor did not realize what an impact this had on her until she became an adult. Her mother had stopped hooking when Eleanor was in high school because her father had passed away and her mother needed to get a job outside of the home. She never hooked another rug after that.

Her mother gave rugs for special events like a marriage or milestone birthday. Since Eleanor was the youngest child by 15 years, she was the only one in her family who did not receive one of her mother's rugs. The memories of her sitting with a rug wrapped around her lap every evening started to invade Eleanor's thoughts. She also remembers her mother going out with her best friend to search for wool at places like rummage sales. At one auction, she bought a huge amount of wool yarn that she incorporated in many of her rugs.

Finally, around 2004, while visiting her daughter in college in Vermont, Eleanor stumbled on the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild as they were setting up their Hooked in the Mountains exhibit in the Shelburne Museum Round Barn. They were not open to the public yet, but they kindly let her in since she was heading back to NJ. It was then that Eleanor decided that she was going to learn how to hook and create one of those rugs that she admired that day. Eleanor could not believe the variety of styles and topics that she saw and the amazing talent on display. Eleanor recalls that "That some of the rugs I saw made you laugh, other's told a story of a personal journey, and others were just beautiful. All called to me."8:05:59 PM

However, finding people back home who hooked proved to be harder than she expected. Eleanor was unable to locate local instructors or other rug hookers. Today, the internet lets you connect easily. Quite by accident, she was talking with Sue Menges and June Madden at her women's investment club when she discovered that they were HOOKERS. They took her under their wings and invited Eleanor to come to the Highlands with them. That was her first mini camp and she has been "hooked" ever since. June and Sue were part of a small group of women that met once a month to hook, but they did not meet during the summer at that time. "I then found someone named Gail Dufresne and she lived a drivable distance from my home." Eleanor recalls. She called and Gail invited Eleanor to attend her Saturday class. "June, Sue and Gail were my first three mentors." notes Eleanor.8:05:59 PM

Hooking primitive style rugs fits in perfectly with Eleanor's love for history, antiques and the 1761 house that she and her husband, Skip, have been restoring for most of their married life. "The primitive rug goes quite well with my decorating. However, the brighter colors are calling--- thanks, Patty Mahaffey! Also, I do love some of the finely shaded rugs. I guess I will be exploring many styles.??I??can??see??that??I??will??be??expanding??my??style??of??hooking??in??the??future.??" says Eleanor.

8:05:59 PM After a difficult time initially locating rug hooking resources, Eleanor soon learned of the stimulating camps and schools available within driving distance. "I love Rugs by the Sea camp with Norma and Linda. You can park your car and not move it all week. The teachers are fabulous and it is so much fun to be around so many talented people." she observes. She has also attended "One Rug Two Rugs" by Carrie Martin in New Orleans, Barbara Carroll's camp at the Wooley Fox, and twice with Stephanie Krauss at her Green Mountain Camp in Vermont.

With so many skilled wool dyers producing beautiful dyed wool that is available locally and at workshops, Eleanor has not felt compelled to seriously take up wool dyeing. She has attended a few mini dye workshops and found that the one Diane Stoffel incorporated into her workshop this past August at our camp was very informative. "So far I have not really done any dyeing but I hope that changes soon. I will probably start with over-dyeing textures." she notes.

When Eleanor finds a pattern that she loves, she will buy it. She did design a pattern of her house, but it took three years to "get all the bugs out of it". That experience helped her appreciate the time involved in designing a rug pattern; she currently prefers to hook commercially available patterns.

Eleanor tries to hook in the evening while watching TV, but finds that daily demands can make that difficult. She has started a practice that her mother-in-law used when working on her many quilts. "It involves getting up an hour earlier, getting that cup of coffee and sitting down before the rest of the day's activities took over and just hooking for an hour. It is working and I am finally finishing some old projects."

Our Guild came to Eleanor's attention by members she met at Gail Dufresne's studio and who were talking about our camp. "Our Guild offers some great camps. It is amazing what HCRAAG accomplishes and the teacher's they bring in. Guild members are so friendly and welcoming. I feel privileged to be a part it." Eleanor is also a member of the Goat Hill Rug Hooking Guild and the Pinelands Guild that is growing in numbers and meets closer to her home.

Eleanor has always liked to do handcrafts. At various times over the years, she has done tole painting, quilting, knitting and counted cross stitch. There was something different with rug hooking. "Hooking really fits with my love of history and is something I will do the rest of my life." she observes. Her rugs decorate the floors of her historic house with the special ones displayed on the walls.

After earning a Master Degree in Education as a Reading Specialist, Eleanor devoted 35 years teaching elementary school. She went on to teach "how to teach reading" for two years at the Georgian Court College in Toms River, NJ. Eleanor and Skip live in Bordentown, NJ. Skip has spent his professional life in the aviation industry. After serving in the Air Force as an airplane mechanic, he has worked as a trouble shooter for companies manufacturing corporate airplanes. They have a daughter and son – Meredith and Rusty. Meredith lives in Burlington County with her husband, Elias, and two sons – Nathan, age 6, and Matthew, age 3. She is the Acting Agriculture Agent for Mercer County. Rusty is the manager of a roofing contractor and lives in Southampton, NJ.

Eleanor and Skip are avid kayakers which they enjoy doing in the New Jersey Pinelands. They also are downhill skiers. Eleanor is a committed volunteer at the 1840 historic Smithville Mansion ([www.smithvillemansion.org](http://www.smithvillemansion.org)) that is owned by Burlington County. She is donating the rug she hooked to the mansion. It was an adapted folk art rug of Bev Conway's called Wheels. The Star bicycle was made at Smithville.

Visit the Guild's website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) – and click on "Featured Member" to see some of Eleanor's rugs.

## **Hooking Information & Techniques**

**From Nina's Notebook** – I am one of the lucky people who celebrates two Thanksgivings; one in Canada and one in the US. Canadian Thanksgiving is the same weekend as the Columbus Day holiday in the US. For both countries it is a time of homecoming and gathering around the dining table filled with turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie; all the traditional foods of the holiday. Every year I am filled with thanks that I have the opportunity to celebrate in two countries.

On Deanne Fitzpatrick's blog [www.hookingrugs.com](http://www.hookingrugs.com) I found two beautiful examples of hooked pieces that simply said thanks. One was filled with hit or miss circles surrounding the word Thanks which was outlined with one color and hooked in another on neutral background. The second piece showed a woman in a flowered dress with the word Thanks written underneath in a wide border. Both these examples set my mind whirling on all the possibilities for a Thanks rug. What about a long table runner with the word thanks written several times and a twisting vine or padula flowered wide border with a spot dyed background? Pumpkins, leaves in fall colors, corn stalks and barns, colorful turkeys with their tails unfolded are also possibilities to include in a thanks mat.

Think of all the people, events, and places that you are thankful for and then choose one for a special thanks mat. Each time you see the mat it will remind you that there are many things for which to be thankful.

For me, I am especially thankful for the members of HCRAAG and their devotion to the art of rug hooking.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

**Tips from Heloise** – During the ATHA Biennial in Lancaster, Heloise spoke with a rug hooker who used the linings from old skirts to dye wool. Heloise learned that there is dye in the linings that can be leached out. It is a simple process:

- Roll a piece of dry wool with the skirt lining forming a “jelly roll” and tie it with a strip of wool.
- Place the jelly roll(s) in 3-4 inches of cold water in the die pot.
- Add a slug of laundry detergent
- Bring the water to a slow simmer and let simmer for about 30 minutes. You will see the color leach out into the water.
- Add ½ cup of white vinegar
- Simmer until the dye is absorbed by the wool (normally takes 5–20 minutes).
- Turn off the heat and allow the water to cool
- Rinse wool in warm water, spin dry and put in dryer

The wool will have an interesting mottled look. Sometimes the dyed wool will be a different color than the lining. In any event, using skirt linings is an inexpensive way to get beautiful dyed wool.

**Recipe** -- Therese Shick not only produces fabulous hooked rugs (Did you see her Giraffe and Orangutan rugs at the last meeting? Wow!) but bakes wonderful treats for our meetings. By popular demand she has provided the recipe for her Jewish Coffee Cake that she brought to the October meeting. Therese obtained the recipe from her good quilting friend Liz.

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 3 cups sifted flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 2 t. baking soda
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2 t. vanilla
- 4 eggs

Put all dry ingredients in mixer bowl. Add softened butter and mix to combine. Then add sour cream, vanilla and eggs, beating after each. Beat for 2 minutes.

Topping:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

- 2 t. cinnamon

Mix the topping together. Add about ½ of the topping to the batter (then sprinkle the rest on top). Grease and flour baking pan(s). The original recipe calls for one 11 x 14 pan. I used two 8 x 11 pans. This way I can freeze one if I want to. Or you could just cut the recipe in half and make one. It makes a lot!

Bake at 350° for 45-55 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Thank you Therese!

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

Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Exhibit and Workshops – November 12-20, 2011 – “All the Live Long Day” is the theme for the popular Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild’s rug exhibit. After a year off, the Guild is returning to Shelburne Museum for its highly anticipated exhibit, workshops, vendors and special events. Visit the Guild’s website – [www.gmrhg.org](http://www.gmrhg.org) – for more information.

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside (A Study of the Rugs of Magdalena Briner) – March 13, 14 & 15, 2012 – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering two workshop choices – a one day workshop on March 13, 2012 and a three day workshop on March 13, 14 & 15, 2012. The workshops will feature a lecture by Evelyn Lawrence who has researched the rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner. Contact Norma (973-746-2936 or [g\\_batastini@msn.com](mailto:g_batastini@msn.com)) or Linda (973-743-6835 or [Linda.woodbury@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.woodbury@gmail.com)) for more information.

2012 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 14-18, 2012 – Receive the most up-to-date information by going to [www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp](http://www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp).

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](mailto:flowjans@hotmail.com).

Goat Hill 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](mailto:kathmb@hotmail.com). Visit the Goat Hill website at [www.goathillatha.com](http://www.goathillatha.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](mailto: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. For more information visit its website – [www.springlakenjatha.org](http://www.springlakenjatha.org) – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or [beedkay@gmail.com](mailto: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 11, 2011** – Monthly Meeting – Rug Hooking Museum of North America –  
Presentation by Vicki Calu \*\*
- December 9, 2011** – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon & Snowflake Ornament Exchange –  
Snowflake Trunk Show \*
- January 13, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – White Elephant & Auction \*
- January 13-15, 2012** – Hooking Retreat – Flemington Hampton Inn
- February 10, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – 3-D Hooked Sheep – Workshop by Therese Shick \*
- March 9, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Hooking in Geometrics – Lecture & Workshop by Gail  
Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio) \*
- March 23-25, 2012** – March Madness Workshop – Flemington Hampton Inn
- April 13, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin – Member Led \*
- April 21, 2012** – Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA
- May 11, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Brick Covers – Workshop by Lydia Lewis \*
- June 8, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Annual “Picnic” & Paper Clipped Feet Chicken – Workshop  
by Debbie Adam \*
- August 13-17, 2012** – 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)
- August 14, 2012** – Beginners Workshop -- ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)
- September 14, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \*
- October 12, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \*
- November 2012** – Guild Exhibit – Bucks County Library, Doylestown, PA.
- November 9, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \*
- December 14, 2012** 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 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

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

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

- Co-Presidents** – Joyce Combs – 609-737-9281 or [fjcombs@verizon.net](mailto:fjcombs@verizon.net)  
Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or [uncoolfred@aol.com](mailto:uncoolfred@aol.com)
- Vice President** – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Historian** – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or [sojon@comcast.net](mailto:sojon@comcast.net)
- Hospitality** – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)
- Librarian** – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)
- Programs** – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or [misspid2@aol.com](mailto:misspid2@aol.com)  
Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or [g.meader@att.net](mailto:g.meader@att.net)

Cheryl Halliday – 215-672-2629 or havewenewool@yahoo.com  
**Public Relations/Newsletter** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net  
**Secretary** – Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net  
Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com  
**Special Events** – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or  
thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and  
Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net  
**Sunshine** – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com  
**Treasurer** – Jana Laidlaw – 609-497-4576 or jana@fastmail.fm  
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.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, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

#### MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 14, 2011 HCRAg MEETING

The meeting was called to order by co-president Dee Rosebrock at 10:20 A.M.

Dues are currently being accepted by Jana Laidlaw and Therese Shick. If they are not paid by December 1, you will be unable to take advantage of the special membership rates for Guild events such as the Spring Fling and Camp in August.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Jana said she had put membership forms on the table by the front door and also a list of people who have already paid their dues. Please make sure the information is correct. There is currently \$7820 in the bank. Camp cost the Guild \$400.

SUNSHINE; Janet Santaniello reported that Giselle Meader and Dee Rosebrock are recovering from their accidents and Susan Atwater has recovered from her illness

PROGRAM: Lydia Lewis said this meeting would cover the September and October programs and the Scrap Challenge. Cheryl Halliday has ballots for the voting. There are 3 categories:

- Love it
- Makes me smile
- Want to take it home

Balloting will take place during the break between the meeting and the program

Therese Shick is doing the February program – sheep on bobbin legs. She has requested that anyone interested in doing a sheep should sign up with her during the break. She has only enough legs for 25 sheep, but is hoping to find more bobbins. The sheep will need to be done before the meeting as the program will deal with how to finish it. There is a \$20 fee to cover the pattern.

Joyce Combs announce that Connie Coleman's rug hooking supplies had been donated to the Guild by her husband Alan Powell. The money raised by the sale of wool bundles and a silent auction of a standing frame, a lap frame, Bliss cutter with #6 blade and an unfinished rug will be used to do a program in Connie's memory. Several people in Connie's hooking group worked to finish her last rug. It will be presented to her husband at the Memorial service on October 22.

She also mentioned that she is collecting for the January Hook-In to be held January 13-15, 2012. There is space for 2 more people. If there is a lot of additional interest she will see if it is possible to get another room. The cost is \$35.

Joyce asked if anyone was interested in researching a sound system to be used during meeting. Martha Thieling volunteered to do some research.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Hunterdon County 4-H Fair

Dee thanked everyone who participated in the exhibit for the 4- Fair and read the names of the ribbon winners.

#### Traditional

Dee Rosebrock – Best in Show “Puffin

Jana Laidlow – “Celtic Circle” tied with Debbie Walsh “Mid Summer” for Second place

#### Primitive

Gail Ferdinando – Best in Show “Animal Crackers”

Cindy Boults - Second Place “Crow in the Garden”

Helen Buchanan – Third Place “Yellow Dog – Cookie

#### Mixed Media

Kathy Donovan – Best in Show “HCRAG Sampler”

Mary Jo Gimber – Second Place “Robin and Nest”

#### Best of Show Overall

Gail Ferdinando – “Animal Crackers”

Due to the imminent arrival of Hurricane Irene – Dee had to pick up the rugs early Saturday morning and does not know who won the Viewers' Choice ribbon. She will check and find out.

#### Demonstrations

Dee thanked those that had demonstrated over the summer at various venues.

Joyce Combs is looking for people to demonstrate at “Thanksgiving in the Country” November 5 and 6. It is a house tour with the proceeds going to Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Carol Kindt is looking for additional volunteers for this Saturday – October 15 – at Howell Farm

New members and visitors were introduced

## NEW BUSINESS

New acquisitions for HCRAAG Library. Two books have been purchased for the library. If you are interested in borrowing a book – either call or email librarian Kathy Donovan. The new books are Combining Rug Hooking and Braiding by Kris McDermet and Basic Rug Hooking

Nominating Committee: Dee reminded us that it never too early to think about officers for next year. Joyce and she will be putting together a committee. If you are interested in either serving on the committee or serving on the board next year, let Dee or Joyce know.

Website: Karl Gimber said that Laurie Rubinetti our webmaster is taking a class on putting video on a website. She will be producing a short video for our website as part of her class project. Laura expects to start by taping the demonstration at Howell Farm on Saturday.

Name Badges: Karl said that he will be placing an order soon for name badges. The cost is \$7. Please give him a piece of paper with your name on it so the spelling is correct on the badge.

Wool Donations: Karl let our new members and guests know that he brings in wool garments from several area thrift shops and request a donation to the Guild if you take a garment.

Hook-in: Karl said that the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA has asked us to conduct a hook-in again next year. The date is April 21, 2012 and he is looking for a few volunteers to help organize the event.

Demonstration: Ingrid Cosmen and Marion Michel are demonstrating this weekend at the church in Finesville for the Finesville Historic House Tour.

Warren County 4-H Fair: Dee announced that member Debbie Adam wants to know if any one is interested in exhibiting or demonstrating at the Warren County 4-H Fair in August of 2012. If interested, please see Dee.

Recent Book Publication: A book on the rugs of Magdalena Briner Eby has been authored by Evelyn Lawrence and Kathy Wright. Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are running a 1 day and 3 day workshop (March 13-15, 2012) on “A Study of the Rugs of Magdalena Briner” Evelyn Lawrence will be there to talk about Magdalena Briner and her rugs and to show the rugs that she has looked in the style of Magdalena Briner. There will be instruction on how to hook a rug in that style. If interested, contact Norma Batastini at Heart in Hand Rug Hooking (G\_Batastini@msn.com)

December Program: Lydia Lewis said there would be a snowflake ornament exchange at the December meeting. She passed around several examples.

The next order of business was Show and Tell. The following members were raffle prize winners

Kay Weeks  
Betsy Warner  
Carol Collin  
Barbara Boyko  
Ingrid Cosmen  
Cheryl Halliday  
Karl Gimber  
Marion Michel  
Ellen DiClemente

The winners of the Scrap Challenge were:

Love it – Cindy Boults -- Crow on Pumpkin

Makes me smile – Lydia Lewis – Worms and Apples

Take it me – Gail Ferdinando – Geometric squares pillow

Annie Edwards mentioned that Dover Publications had a number of books that contain copyright free designs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM

Following a short break for refreshments and bidding on the silent auction items, Joyce Combs gave an informative program on braiding.

Respectfully submitted

Susan R. Woodworth  
Assistant Secretary