

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

November 2012

Presidents' Letter -- The Halloween masks, spooky decorations and rugs have given pride of place to celebration of the harvest. Happily the pumpkins and gourds and the warm wool pallet can remain through the season of Thankfulness! We are hoping that by the time The Loop arrives, we can give thanks that no strange "weather events" have turned out beautiful Hunterdon fall into a weird winter.

Among the many things we are thankful for are all the enthusiasm, support and volunteerism that enable HCRAG to be so successful. We have received lovely notes from both Evelyn Lawrence and Pat Foster thanking us for the opportunity to present the Magdalena lecture for our October program. Whatever our individual style preference may be, it was wonderful to see those unique rugs, hear an important "story" in rug hooking history and then have the opportunity to take a project home. This is not to mention all of Norma and Linda's fabulous wool packets! We are thankful to the family of Connie Coleman for providing, in teacher speak, this "experiential learning" opportunity.

As we mentioned briefly at the last meeting, we want to explore ways we can support new members and interested future hookers (who we often encourage at our many demonstration events). The suggestion was offered that the transition into our Guild would be facilitated by a Big Sister/Big Brother opportunity. We are aware that often new people are invited to one of the small hooking circles that meet ad-hoc. However, an organized outreach to someone either new to hooking or new to the area would certainly demystify some of the material sources, activities, events and hooking language. We would like to ask for a list to be generated of people who would be willing to reach out to new members and guests at our meetings. This does not have to be a long-term commitment, but rather meant to be a short term resource. Additionally, we are always being asked for teaching resources. We have discussed creating a beginner class as a follow up to our Camp and summer demo programs. These generate a real interest in people being able to continue to move beyond a one day hands on experience. A thank you goes out to Patty Mahaffey, Cheryl Halliday, and Juliana Kapusta. They have already volunteered to run the beginner class that will take place at our Festival next October. So, we will be looking to generate a list of interested experienced hookers and/or teachers who would be willing to provide private lessons. Please give some thought to these ideas and we will discuss soon.

The November meeting is back at our regular location and we will be assembling our Holiday Trees. So bring your stuffing, strong needles and any other supplies on the list that came with your pattern. If you have any questions, just contact Therese. We will also be creating templates and concepts for our Festival Boutique. Please read the program offerings for our Spring Fling in April. We will begin taking reservations for that weekend at our November meeting. Also, any leftover Halloween candy....greatly appreciated. Cindy and Therese

November Meeting – Friday, November 9, 2012 -- 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 – Therese Shick will demonstrate how to assemble the hooked Christmas Tree project. Those who have purchased the pattern should bring the completely hooked pattern along with some fiberfill, tapestry needles, strong thread, large safety pins, the stand you have chosen, and any embellishments for your tree.

Show & Tell – Our theme for November is Thanksgiving and rugs with food related designs. Works in progress are always welcome. Those who participate in Show & Tell are eligible for a raffle prize.

Hospitality – We thank in advance Joyce Combs, Martha Theiling, and Sue Woodworth for volunteering to bring refreshments to the meeting. The Hospitality Committee is requesting additional support in providing treats for the meeting.

November Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Fred Cole (11/2), Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Jamie Gartelmann (11/5), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Eileen Koch (11/22), Marion Michel (11/28), Linda Reitz (11/16), and Kay Weeks (11/15). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

Membership – We welcome Patricia Brennan, Fred and Jan Cole, Shirley Hofling and Debbie Lease as new members and look forward to seeing them at upcoming Guild activities. Fred and Jan are the proprietors of Wool'n Gardner and have sold their beautiful dyed wool at our hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center.

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Fred and Jan Cole
5331 Shumervill Rd.
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Sunshine – Carol Collin recently underwent additional radiation treatments. We were delighted that Carol and her husband stopped by our set-up at Newtown's Colonial Market Day.

Guild News & Events

Thanksgiving in the Country is Canceled – Several houses on the tour were damaged in the storm, so the Thanksgiving in the Country House Tour and Craft Show has been canceled. The event was scheduled for November 3 & 4 at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ. We thank Guild members who planned to support this community fundraiser by demonstrating rug hooking.

Guild Exhibit at Doylestown Library During November -- Our Guild is displaying works by our members at the Bucks County Library in Doylestown, PA during the month of November. The exhibit is in a display case that visitors pass as they enter the library. The location is ideal for publicizing the Guild in Bucks County and the timing is perfect for launching our Rug Festival PR efforts. The items displayed will be returned at the December meeting. Annie Edwards organized the display and was assisted by Karl Gimber and Laura Robinson in installing it.

“Eye See You” and “Eye See You II” Rugs on Display (November 10 & 11, 2012) – The acclaimed creation by our 2013 Camp Instructor, Judy Carter, will be displayed at the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftmen Show (www.pacrafts.org/fine-craft-fairs/november) at the Lancaster Convention Center, 335 S Queen Street, Lancaster, PA on November 10 and November 11, 2012.

“Eye See You” is a custom 2’ x 3’ pattern designed and drawn by Lenny Feenan based on Judy Carter’s concept. “Eye See You II” was Lenny’s vision to take this pattern to a higher level by enlarging it four times the original size. In August 2011, Judy lined up 37 rug hooking teachers who attend the McGown Northern Teacher Workshop to each hook an enlarged block. Lenny drew the patterns and less than one year later, all blocks were hooked and ready for display. The 38 blocks were hooked and finished individually and when puzzled together, they form the large 9’ x 13’ Eye See You II rug. This project represents 3087 hours of hooking, and 802 years of hooking experience by rug hooking teachers from 13 US States, two Canadian Provinces, and Japan.

The rugs were awarded the Sauder Award in August 2012 and their stories have been told in articles in Rug Hooking Magazine (Jan/Feb & Jun/July/Aug 2012, and a future issue, Jan/Feb 2013). Please plan to visit the Convention Center in Lancaster, PA to see this one-of-a-kind project. You really need to see this to believe it!

Guild members and past HCRAAG camp/ workshop instructors contributed to this project including Sarah Guiliani, Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar, Cindy Irwin, Norma Batastini, Patty Mahaffey, Michelle Micarelli, Judy Carter, Janet Williams, and Cyndy Duade.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Carter at jcrugs@yahoo.com or Leonard Feenan at <http://www.theburningartist.com/>.

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.

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

Bargain of the Year -- Hooking Retreat Set for January 11-13, 2013 -- Our popular hooking retreat will be on January 11-13 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. 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 at 4:00. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 – the bargain of the year! Two meeting rooms have been reserved, but space is limited. You are encouraged to register early to assure a spot. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Weezie Huntington, 1 Kings Path, Hopewell, NJ 08525. The fee is non refundable unless there is a replacement from the waiting list or from your efforts.

A discounted room rate of \$118 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 any other ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

Guild Exhibit at Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (March 16, 2013) -- The Guild will be exhibiting the work of our members on March 16, 2013 from 10-4 at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead which is maintained by the Hilltown Historical Society in Sellersville, PA. In addition to the display of our rugs, Guild members will be demonstrating rug hooking throughout the Homestead.

Karl Gimber is coordinating our efforts. Please let him know if you can assist. You can reach Karl at 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net.

As a token of appreciation, the Board of the Hilltown Historical Society has granted the Guild a lifetime membership. We will receive their newsletter with information on events. We are honored to be recognized in this way.

Spring Fling Workshops With Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa – April 5 - 7, 2013 – Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning by popular demand to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 5, 2013 to Sunday April 7, 2013. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Cindy Boults is handling registration for this event.

“Door People” Workshop (Lucille Festa) -- If you like fun quick projects, then you will love this class. Door People are designed for your door or door knob. Hook- Finish - Hang a door person. Lucille will walk you through the entire process demonstrating each step. Please visit her website www.americancountryrugs.com to see the entire “Door People” collection (look under small things).

Colorful Leaves Workshop (Cyndy Duade) -- The workshop begins with a “casserole dye” demonstration on Friday night followed by group participation. Each student will dye a piece of wool using this technique. All equipment and wool will be provided. On Saturday students receive kits, choose wool colors, and begin to hook in the leaf veins. Cyndy will present methods and situations for using this dying technique. On Sunday you will continue hooking the leaf. There will be a demonstration and discussion on how to finish the mat by applying hand dyed wool and a ribbon yarn whipped edge.

Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA – April 20, 2013

The Guild is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 20, 2013. 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.

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

HCRAG 2013 Summer Camp --Our Guild’s 17th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors have been recruited. Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Please note that Cynthia’s and Sarah’s workshops are currently full; there are three openings in Judy’s workshop. Waiting lists are being maintained. Cancellations often occur, so you are encouraged to have your name placed on the waiting list.

Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2013.

Camp Workshops

Judy Carter -- This will be an open animal class. Judy will have Leonard Feenan patterns available such as Giraffe, Mothers Comfort, Tiger, Elephant, Flamingo, etc. You can view Leonard's website at www.theburningartist.com for examples of some of his patterns. Judy will also do custom patterns (she will need the information well in advance of class). Judy can also have patterns made of a single eye or group of eyes from her recent Eye See You project.

Sarah Guiliani -- This will be an open class. Students are free to work on any design in any cut and in any style. Sarah enjoys hooking in a variety of styles; however she specializes in people portraits and animals. She loves the challenge of working with each student individually to create the look they want. The class will include lectures on current rug hooking topics. Sarah strives to create a caring, fun and creative classroom environment.

Sarah owns and operates New England Rug Hooking Studio in South Portland, Maine. Her website is www.uhookrugs.net. Sarah has been hooking and teaching for over 25 years and she is director of ATHA Region 1 South School in Litchfield, CT.

Cynthia Norwood -- This will be primarily a primitive and wide cut class. Cynthia is comfortable teaching all types of hooking and loves to work with

unusual textures and paisleys. She tries to get students to push their own comfort zones. Cynthia will work with you on a pattern of your choice. Her class will include lectures, demonstrations and class discussions.

Cynthia's strong suits include color planning and creating great backgrounds. Cynthia is the author of Creating the Antique Look in Hand-Hooked Rugs; she is an active member of ATHA (and serves as their Advertising Manager) and is McGown certified.

Registration/Instructional Fees – Registration began at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2012. 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, 2013. 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 Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2013, 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 or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Guild Library -- Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or 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.

Cindy Comly -- Hooked Rug & Textile Repair -- Several times a year our Guild receives inquiries from individuals seeking information on local resources for restoring damaged hooked rugs. We recently met Cindy Comly from Warrington, PA who is a professional restorer of hooked rugs. Cindy, a former member of the Bucks-Mont Rug Hooking Guild, repairs rugs for antique dealers and collectors. She also repairs various textiles – woven, embroidered and crocheted. In addition to actually doing a repair, Cindy is prepared to teach you how to do the repair yourself. Photos of her repairs will be available at the November meeting. Cindy Comly can be reached at 215-441-5059 or rugfix@verizon.net.

Guild Demonstrators Busy in October -- Last month Guild members demonstrated rug hooking at the Apple Butter Frolic (Harleysville, PA), Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA) and Quilting Day at Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ). Each event attracted large crowds of visitors.

Apple Butter Frolic – Jean Laurence, Pat McDonnell and Joanne McIlmurray were the Guild volunteers at this popular event held on the grounds of the Mennoite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA, They reported that many people both women and men were

interested in what they were doing. Some were there in previous years and stopped by to say "Hi" again.

Jean brought an extra frame for anyone who wanted to try to attempt a few loops. She also brought completed rugs, and they were admired, especially her "horse" rug! These admirers could not believe that she had had the rug underfoot for eight years; it looked like new. Our volunteers shared information on the Guild and answered questions about teachers and groups which meet in their relative vicinities. They also mentioned our beginners' class at the Mennonite Heritage Center in April. The poster for the 2013 Rug Festival was prominently displayed. All in all, it was a great day. The weather turned out fine although the report was for rain late afternoon.

Carol Kindt and her husband, Ray, attended and reported that "the place was mobbed!" Colonial Market Day -- This event attracts large crowds of families who stroll the streets of historic Newtown in Bucks County that are lined with demonstrators, various crafters and food vendors. Annie Edwards and Betsy Warner represented the Guild and report that the day "was a great success!" Betsy and Annie demonstrated rug hooking, encouraged interested folks young and old, male and female to hook a loop or two and sold two kits to very excited new hookers. The weather held and a good time was had by all! Annie was interviewed by a local reporter. To see the interview on Phillyburbs (Intelligencer news) go to YouTube video... <http://youtu.be/y91JVCtTVHk>.

Quilting Day -- Howell Living Farm, located just below Lambertville, NJ, is the site for this annual fall event. Carol Kindt, Gisele Meader, Joan Shymko, and Martha Theiling returned to support the program. Carol, who coordinated our efforts, reported that "it turned out to be a great day for being at the Farm. The weather couldn't have been more perfect. That along with the quilt show and our exhibit attracted many visitors. We didn't get much hooking done; we were too busy talking to all the visitors who stopped by our area and the traffic was constant during most of the day. It was fun seeing so many people (women and men) interested in rug hooking, answering their many questions and listening to stories from their past of family members who used to make rugs."

Our Guild is indebted to our members who give of their time to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for rug hooking. Photos taken at Colonial Market Day and Quilting Day can be seen on our website.

Evelyn Lawrence Presents Magdalena Briner Eby and Her Rugs -- Members and guests who attended the October meeting were rewarded with an educational and entertaining presentation by Evelyn Lawrence. Evelyn is a nationally acclaimed expert on the rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner Eby who lived in Perry County, PA from 1832 to 1915. Rugs hooked by Magdalena have a distinct look and are regarded as exceptional examples of American folk art.

Sue Woodworth, Guild Secretary, compiled the following summary of Evelyn's refreshing presentation.

"Evelyn stated it is important to have a history of someone who hooked in the 1800's. Magdalena Briner Eby lived in Perry County, Pennsylvania which is just above Harrisburg. When she married her husband they lived in a spring house on her in-law's property. After her husband died, she moved in with her in-laws and subsequently moved back to her parents' home.

Since Evelyn's book (Rug Hooking Traditions with Magdalena Briner Eby) has been published, Evelyn has heard from a woman who rented the house and described it to her. She also mentioned that there was a ghost in the attic. Evelyn has been in contact with Magdalena's great grand daughter Ellen. She has also been able to read some of Magdalena's correspondence. Evelyn was able to find an antique dealer in Carlisle, Pa. who has bought most of the rugs and quilts when the house was sold. There were stacks of them rolled up on the piano in the "Funeral Parlor" of the house. The dealer sent photos to Evelyn. The dealer took the rugs to Sotheby's in New York City. The firm was not interested in them since they were from Pennsylvania!

At Sauder Village in 2011 eight original Magdalena's were hung next to the same rugs hooked by Evelyn. Two of Magdalena's rugs are shown in Joel and Kate Koop's book American Hooked and Sewn Rugs. Koop says that these are the characteristics found in Evelyn's rugs: halo around the main animal, rainbow corners, crow always has a cherry in its mouth and there is usually no border. Some horses have one ear and others have two.

There is one rug with an eagle as the center motif. Perhaps this was done around the time of the 1876 Centennial.

Evelyn said that if you hook an antique rug pattern, you have an obligation to give the person's name - if known. Or you can attribute it as an antique pattern

Magdalena may have used a template for the standing dogs as they appear to be an identical shape in each rug. The pink wool in her rugs may have been from wool dyed in pokeberry juice."

This special program was made possible by Alan Powell, husband of past Guild member Connie Coleman, who donated her rug hooking supplies and equipment to the Guild with the understanding that the proceeds from its sale would be used for an educational program in Connie's memory.

Guild Website -- Visit the Guild's website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured members, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill -- HCRAG is one of three guilds participating in the Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ on October 5 and 6, 2013. All Guild members are encouraged to participate in the planning and preparation for the Festival. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Festival Chair: Therese Shick (908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com)
- HCRAG Chair: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Jean Laurence (610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net)
- Door Prizes: Eileen Koch (570-992-7841 or efmk2003@yahoo.com)
Donna Kolznak (610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net)
- Rug Collection: Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com)

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

- Vendors: Margaret Lutz (908-782-8389 or mmlutz@ptd.net)
Sue Menges (856-273-8024 or smenges2072@comcast.net)
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net)
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com)
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com)
- PR: Karl Gimber (215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net)

Featured Member – Suzanne Menges -- The journey that put Sue Menges on her journey to becoming a master rug hooking artisan started in 1996 along with her good friend, June Madden. They have always had many of the same interests and over the years have encouraged each other. Gardening and growing herbs was a special interest that they shared. June recalls that “Every spring we would get very excited about going to the Highlands for their annual spring perennial sale and herbal luncheon. The Highlands Mansion and Gardens is a 44 acre site with an 18th Century Georgian mansion and a two-acre formal garden, including a formal herb garden. In 1996, while at the Highlands for the herbal luncheon, we spotted a lovely hooked rug hanging on the wall depicting the Highlands’ mansion and grounds. Little did we know that when we inquired about this charming hooked rug that we were about to discover a whole new world. That is how we fell into rug hooking.”

Sue and June learned about the Highlands Rug Hooking School and were encouraged to get in touch with Vicki Calu, who ran the School. They immediately called Vicki and went to her studio for some lessons and to get started. “I will always have fond memories of Vicki and be grateful to her for the wonderful foundation that she gave us in this beautiful art form” notes Sue.

Sue was an art major in college and has experimented with many different art forms. Ever since she was a child Sue loved to draw and paint. However, there was not a lot of time for that when she was raising three boys. When she began rug hooking, Sue discovered that “I could paint with wool and once again express that love of color and texture and design that had been put on the back burner for several years.”

Her rug hooking style mirrors her favorite periods in art history. Sue says that “I have always loved American Folk Art and the great French Impressionists. I am constantly torn between my love for the exciting colors and light and movement of impressionism and the simplicity, form, and subject matter of folk art.” When she paints with wool, Sue likes to hook her impressions in a primitive, folk art way. She hooks in #8 and #8 ½ cuts and finds that by using the bigger cuts, you can see more of the beautiful texture and pattern of the wool. “I think it is more interesting. I don’t usually hook in a fine cut but I can really appreciate the beautiful shading in the finer cut rugs just like I appreciate the classically trained painters in art history.” Sue’s mother was a great influence on her. She did not paint or draw, but she was an artist with textile. Her mother did beautiful hand quilting, knitting intricate patterned sweaters, sewing clothes for grandchildren and even hooking a rug. The beginnings of Sue’s love of wool and textiles definitely were a gift from her mother.

Sue got started at the Highlands and always looked forward to going to the workshops twice a year where she met so many wonderful hookers. “I am still friends with so many of them today”, Sue notes. She also observes that “once you have been bitten by the rug hooking bug, you can’t wait to take more classes and learn more.” Sue has been a regular

at Cape May; Ligonier, PA; Hooked in the Mountains in Vermont, Buckeystown, MD; Carrie Martin's workshop in New Orleans; Goat Hill Studio; HCRAAG workshops and ATHA Conventions in New Orleans, Louisville, KY and Lancaster. Going to workshops is not only a rug hooking learning experience, but also a chance to get away and have fun with her friends June Madden and Eleanor Dunker. "We have been called 'the triplets'", Sue jokes.

By attending a variety of regional and national workshops on a regular basis, Sue has had the opportunity to work with many of the most highly regarded rug hooking instructors. The list is impressive -- Vicki Calu, Patsy Becker, Beverly Conway, Norma Batastini, Linda Woodbury, Barbara Carroll, Cynthia Norcross, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay, Judy Quintman, Gail Dufresne, Kris Miller, Eric Sandberg, Susan Feller, Lee Ridgeway, Michelle Micarelli, Carrie Martin, Elizabeth Black, Jennifer Manuel, and Sandra Black.

"When I think of all the wonderful instructors that I have had over the years, I just feel so lucky. I have learned so much from each one." Sue recalls that "It was a joy to work with Patsy Becker. I loved her and I loved her whimsical spirit that found its way into her sense of design. She really taught my eye how to see." Patsy designed and customized a sailing ship rug for Sue and hooked the little man in the boat. That rug is one of Sue's most cherished. Taking a class with Edythe O'Neil is on Sue's "to do list."

Sue has taken a couple of "mini" and basic dye workshops. "Dyeing my own wool would complete the whole artistic experience for me. I would love to get into the dye pots and look forward to dyeing wool when I retire. But, for now, working full time, I'm grateful to have the time just to hook." Sue takes advantage of the many talented people dyeing wool. There is so much beautiful wool available and it is so much fun to shop for it. .

"I mostly fall in love with patterns that I see as I go around to workshops and hook-ins -- patterns that I just have to have." Sue observes. She has drawn a couple of her own patterns and wants to do more of that. One of her designs was a folk art "bride and groom" rug that was a wedding present for her older brother and his wife. "So many patterns, so little time!" she sighs

Sue does not have a regular hooking routine. She has always been a night person but lately, she likes to get up at 5 AM and hook a little while before she leaves for work at 7:30 am. "Instead of getting up just in time to dash off to work, it is more serene to start my day by getting up a little earlier and doing a little bit of hooking. Just pulling a few loops makes me feel I have already accomplished something before I really even get started." Sue observes.

The "triplets" -- June Madden, Eleanor Dunker and Sue -- joined our Guild a few years ago because they had so many friends in the Guild and our many great workshop opportunities. Sue is co-chair of the Vendors Committee for the 2013 Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill.

Sue and her husband, Bill, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this past May. They moved from Maryland to New Jersey in 1972 so Bill could attend Rutgers Law School. Bill has a private law practice in Moorestown, NJ. They have made their home in Moorestown where they have raised three sons. Their oldest son, Christopher, is a Police Officer in Moorestown. David is a Mechanical Engineer and Peter is in marketing. Sue has worked for Burlington County Office of Human Services for 21 years.

When she is not hooking, Sue loves to garden especially in the spring and fall; however she hates weeding in the summer. Another favorite activity is cooking for all the men in her family. Sue notes that her “cookbook collection has gotten as out of control as my wool collection.” She also likes to read and loves to travel and takes lots of photographs. Anything artistic has special appeal especially painting old furniture and doing something fun with it. “Because I live in a male household, I do watch a lot of college football, basketball and professional baseball. I have to admit that I love it! I can get a lot of hooking done during a football game.” Sue jokes.

Go to the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com – to enjoy some of Suzanne’s special rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina’s Notebook – The leaves are falling, the pumpkins are collapsing on the doorstep, the Halloween costumes are back in the box, the days seem long and dreary. November has come.

The Nova Scotia folk artist, Joe Norris, says, "When the weather turns bad, I goes inside and paints me some fine day!" With that thought, visions of turkeys, friends and loved ones gathered around the table, football games and bonfires come into my head. Thanksgiving is on the way! What a fine day that is, regardless of what the weather is outside, inside is warm and joyous.

So what new mats can we create to celebrate? The first part of the word is thanks. Last year I created a long runner for my table with the word thanks in four languages...danke (German), gracias (Spanish), merci (French) and thanks (English). Using your own heritage, you can create a mat incorporating your word or words for thanks.

One year I traced the hand prints of the people at the table and used them as a pattern. This is particularly fun when you have young grandchildren. A pair of folded hands at prayer, hands making the pie that you will eat for dessert, a workman's hands, the hands of a young couple newly wed...all these are possible subjects for a mat of thanks for the community of friends and family around you.

And the second part of the word is giving. What are some mats or pieces that you could give as gifts? The obvious ones are pumpkins, turkeys, and farm scenes. But what about the out of the ordinary, perhaps a scene from a special time that you have spent with a family member, such as a birthday party? Can you picture that cake? What about that historical place you visited? How about your house or your dog, or something particularly meaningful to you?

Many of us spend lots of time doing for others, how about something special for ourselves...a way of giving thanks for the special moments in our life which we can share with others. Thanks for Thanksgiving and the reminder of the great bounty with all share. Happy Hooking! And happy Thanksgiving! Nina Seaman

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked in the Mountains XVI (November 10-17, 2012) – The Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild holds its annual hooked rug and fiber art exhibit at the Shelburne Museum from November

10-17, 2012. Over 450 works of hooked art will be on display. More than 20 vendors will be on site for the week. Three day workshops with nationally known instructors will be offered. For more information visit www.gmrhg.org or call 802-434-8191.

Old Kinderhook Winter Rug Camp – February 4-6 & 7-9, 2013 – Jayne Hester is hosting two rug hooking camps at her Hook & Chatter Studio at 1008 Kinderhook St. (Rt. #9) in Valatie, NY 12184. Janice Johnson (Wooly Woolens) from Independence, MO is the instructor. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Activities begin with an open house on Sunday, February 3. For more information contact Jayne at beansiejo@aol.com or kinderhookb-b@berk.com.

Rug Hooking Week At Sauder Village (August 13–14, 2013) – Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, features workshops, exhibits (over 500 rugs) and leading vendors. For more information visit www.saudervillage.org or call 800-590-9755..

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.

Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter meets one Sunday each month from 10 to 4 at Foulkeways, in Lower Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. For more information contact Cheryl Halliday at havewenewool@yahoo.com or Patty Mahaffey at McMahaffey@comcast.net.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

November 2012 – Guild Exhibit – Bucks County Library, Doylestown, PA.

November 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Assemble Christmas Trees (Therese Shick)*

December 14, 2012 -- Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon with gift exchange *

January 11, 2013 -- Auction & White Elephant Sale (hand out chicken pattern) *

January 11-13, 2013 – Annual Hooking Retreat (Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ)

February 8, 2013 – Assemble chicken *

March 8, 2013 – Festival Boutique Items – Ideas & Patterns *

March 16, 2013 – Hilltown Historical Society Rug Exhibit (Hartzel-Strassburger Homstead)

April 5-7, 2013 – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 12, 2013 – Member Led Round Table *
May 10, 2013 – Program TBD *
June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *
August 12-16, 2013 – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
October 5 & 6, 2013 – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

*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 – 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

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 frejja2@verizon.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 – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net

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

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 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.

