

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

November 2014

Presidents' Letter – Tempis Fugit!! The 300th Celebration has come and gone, and what a celebration it was. If you missed it, you really missed something special. There was a lovely rug display by those who brought rugs; and tons of excellent food, laid out by the ever capable hands of Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas and provided by (and thanks to) everyone who responded to our plea for help. A very special thanks to Cindy Boults for organizing the event. Thanks also to Ellen DiClemente for handling the room set up and dealing with the county. But most of all, a very special thanks to Kay Weeks, who gave a very thorough and moving account of the founding of the Guild by Jo Knobloch, to Cherry Halliday for teaching another flock of beginners, and to Karl Gimber, our featured “lecturer”, for doing a magnificent presentation of his tavern signs, including one from the John Ringos Tavern. We know it took a huge amount of effort on the parts of several people. It was a spectacular day all around. Our thanks are inadequate for all your efforts.

Please pay attention to the upcoming events: Our November meeting will be “Hooking on Wool”, with a seasonal pattern from Kay Leisey. Please read the article about the meeting, as it promises to be a good one. The December meeting will be our Holiday feast (you never want to miss that!!), and the January meeting and retreat will be held a week later than usual, so please read the article about that.

There are other things you need to pay attention to as well—such as Spring Fling and camp registration. Please read the article about that, as things have changed since last year.

People are always telling us what an incredible Guild we have—great newsletter, great activities, etc.—but it is only as good as those who help out. Please start to think about what you can do for your Guild—can you help with guild functions? Can you shadow the Festival committee and learn a job there? Can you hook something for the Festival?

Wishing everyone a healthy fall, great tricking and treating, lots of turkey, and peace and calm heading into the holidays. Weezie and Therese

November Meeting – Friday, November 14, 2014 -- Our November meeting will be at our alternate site – the Court Room within the Police Station in the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 Traffic Circle outside of Flemington. The address for the Complex is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446, although it does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are welcome.

Program –The program for November is “Hooking through Wool” presented by Kay Leisey from Homespun. Participants have a variety of patterns and kits from which to select, as follows:

Patterns

- Holly pattern on wool - \$20

- Cardinal pattern on wool - \$20
- Triple panel (holly, cardinal, holly) pattern on wool - \$30

Kits

- Holly kit (includes everything except the stuffing – wool is already cut into strips) - \$35
- Cardinal kit (includes everything except the stuffing – wool is already cut into strips) - \$35
- Triple panel kit (holly, cardinal, holly - includes everything except the stuffing – wool is already cut into strips) - \$55

Kay will have extras (not sure how many) of everything but may run out; therefore, members who have not ordered already may wish to do so now by contacting Ellen DiClemente, ergot53@embarqmail.com. Otherwise, members who decide the day of the meeting that they wish to purchase the program pattern or kit will need to order it from Kay and she will ship it to them (there will be a shipping cost).

In addition, Kay will bring other kits/patterns not associated with the program to sell to anyone who wishes to buy.

Show & Tell – Bring your latest completed rug or current project to share with us.

Hospitality – There will not coffee and snacks served this month since we are meeting in the Court Room at the Police Station.

A huge “Thank You” goes to all members who responded to the appeal for snacks for our 300th Celebration meeting.

November Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Amanda Benson (11/6), Fred Cole (11/2), Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Eileen Koch (11/22), Marion Michel (11/28), and Kay Weeks (11/15). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – We welcome Blanca Alvarez, Linda Ehly, Helen McWeeny-Dowling, Teddi Pearson, Dana Psoinas, Debbie Ryan, and Lucy Walsh to our Guild. .

Helen and Debbie are previous members; we are delighted that they will again be active members. Several of Lucy’s rugs were featured in the current issue of the ATHA Magazine. See the article entitled “Who Doesn’t Love a Good Mystery” (pages 28 & 29).

Here is the contact information for our new members:

Blanca Alvarez 24 51 st Street West New York, NJ 07093 201-424-6673 LuLu1120@gmx.com	Linda Ehly 302 Hendrickson Ave. Beverly, NJ 08010 609-871-3181 LnL62vette@aol.com	Helen McWeeny-Dowling 612 Rt. 579 Flemington, NJ 08822 908-246-3138 hdadvisor@comcast.net
Teddi Pearson 293 Gemini Dr. Unit 2A	Debbie Ryan P.O. Box 160	Dana Psoinas 12 Yukon Dr.

Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908-745-1132
Pearson.tm@gmail.com

Hewitt, NJ 07421
973-853-4216
springwaterfarm2@yahoo.com

Woodbury, NY 11797
516-364-0562
dpsoinas@verizon.net

Lucy Walsh
33 North Slope
Clinton, NJ 08809
908-735-8756
wallu1@comcast.net

We were delighted to see Margaret Lutz at our October meeting. She is a very special member!

The photos from our October meeting were appreciated by members living away from the area. Lee Good Hurford and Roberta Smith took the opportunity to send their regards and best wishes to the Guild from Florida and Vermont respectively.

Sunshine – Sonia Force and Martha Thieling are recovering from recent surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Inform our Sunshine Chair Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com), of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

Guild News & Events

Featured Member Articles Compiled -- Beginning with the May 2006 issue of The Loop, a Guild member has been featured in each regular issue. Marion Michel was the first to be featured followed by 86 other members.

Mary Passerello has recently completed compiling the articles and placed them in binders that will be available at meetings for members to peruse and learn more about our talented member artisans. We are grateful to Mary for all the work she devoted to this project.

Mentors Available -- Our Mentoring Program was created as a way to facilitate a new member's introduction to our Guild. Under the program a member is hooked up with a mentor who can provide advice and suggestions on hooking issues or help explain Guild programs, events or activities. For example, longer term members know what our January Hooking Retreat is all about. Someone new may not. A mentor can also be of assistance to an established rug hooker who is new to the area and not familiar with the resources available in the area such as open studios, suppliers, local teachers etc.

Anyone interested in having a mentor just needs to let Donna Kolznak know. Her contact information can be found under the Officer/ Chair listing at the end of the newsletter.

Guild's Annual Hooking Retreat (January 16-18, 2015) – This year our retreat will be a week later than in past, but the location remains the same -- the Flemington Hampton Inn. The monthly meeting will be on January 16, 2015 with the auction following the business meeting, We do not yet know if our regular meeting room is available for the meeting, but since the Hampton Inn is going to charge us for Friday

regardless, we could always have the meeting and auction there before the retreat begins. As soon as we know the location for the meeting, we will let you know.

Only eight spots remain, so you need to sign up now if you want to join in. The cost this year will be \$40 since we are charged for the rooms on Friday. This is a member-only event. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Weezie Huntington, 69 Minuteman Circle, Allentown, NJ 08501. The Inn will be giving us a reduced rate on the rooms for people spending the night (half the fun of the retreat). Arrangements have been made to have our favorite masseuse, Joy Andrews, at the retreat to relax those stiff hooking muscles. She will be bringing a second masseuse with her.

You can reach Weezie at weezie711@gmail.com or 609-477-4339, if you have questions.

Spring Fling Set for March 20-22, 2015 -- Cheryl Halliday and Loretta Scena will conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday evening March 20th to Sunday March 22, 2015.

Cheryl Halliday's Workshop – Tangle Art -- The latest craze in the art world is a form of tangled doodling called "Zentangle" (a copyrighted name for specific tangle artwork created by Rick Roberts and Maria Thomas).

Doodling is a relaxing art form in which segments of a shape are filled with repetitive patterns. If you like to doodle, this could be the next great way to express yourself in a rug of your own design. Not a doodler, but want to join the fun? There will be designs to get you started. Drawing materials will be provided for all to design for #3 to #6 cuts. Come and explore the possibilities!

Loretta Scena's Workshop – Spirit Dolls -- Participants working with Loretta have two choices – an "Open Workshop" or a "Spirit Doll" class.

Loretta offers six doll choices with faces and motifs that are interchangeable (Photos can be found on our website.). Each will be a one of a kind doll representing all things good in a hooker's world. She will teach embellishments like felting, free form crochet, beading and more. A full range of wool, embellishing supplies and an embellishing machine will be available for use. The spirit doll patterns can accommodate #2 -- #6 cuts. Those who want a more primitive doll can hook with #8 cuts. Doll patterns will be available for 25.00 and will have both a front and back which can easily be joined. Loretta will be sending a completed doll for us to see and additional information on the patterns available. This workshop promises to be a really creative and fun time.

Those who prefer the open workshop can bring their projects that need a bit of help or they can start a pattern that they have in their stash.

You can learn more about Loretta and her work by going to her website – www.lorettascena.com.

Registration Process – The Spring Fling cost will remain at \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Registration will begin immediately at our October meeting and will

be on a lottery system as required by enrollment. Please contact Diane Liberto (diane.mannon@yahoo.com or 908- 782-7563) indicating teacher preference. The lottery drawing, if required, will be Nov 12 and names will be announced at our November 13 Guild meeting. No deposit is required but full payment will be due by the close of the January meeting. Checks can be made out to HCRAAG and mailed to Diane Liberto (8 Allens Corner Rd., Flemington, NJ. 08822) on or before the January meeting.

HCRAAG 2015 Rug Hooking Camp (August 10-14, 2015) -- Our 19th Annual Rug hooking camp will take place from August 10 – 14, 2015 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. We will again have four instructors -- Cyndy Duade, Michele Micarelli, Kris Miller and Diane Stoffel. Class size will be held at 12. However, if needed, a teacher may be approached and asked if she would take 13 or 14 students. Classes will never exceed 14.

Cyndy Duade lives and teaches in the New London, NH area. She is a McGown Certified Instructor and happily embraces all styles and cuts. She has been hooking for 20 years. Cyndy's rugs have appeared in Rug Hooking Magazine's Celebrations twice, and she was one of the artists to hook a piece for the "Eye See You II" project.

Wide Cut Crewel Workshop -- This class will focus on dying and wide cut (#6-#9 cuts) hooking techniques used to achieve the effect/look of crewel embroidery.

Prior to class students will choose one of four patterns and a color plan provided by instructor. The instructor will provide the wool for the motifs based on the color plan selected. Each color plan will be based on two dye formulas and the variety they provide. Cyndy will speak with each student before camp to work out a color plan and how to figure how much wool will be needed and its cost.

Here are the patterns Cyndy will be using for her class and their cost:

- Colchester bed rug 43 x 56, pattern on linen \$115
- Colchester vase (center of bed rug) 21 x 34 \$56
- Ense's runner 20 x 72 \$79
- Ense's bed rug block 19 x 19 \$38

A list of the patterns can be found at <http://rughook.com/>. Search for patterns: 1543, 1544, PR1330, PR 1331.

During the week the instructor will cover hooking techniques for each motif on the patterns. Students will benefit from this even if they are not hooking that motif. The dye techniques and resultant color plan will be discussed. Each day one of the dye techniques used will be demonstrated. Participants will also learn about crewel and its relationship to hooking.

The intent of this class is to understand how to translate methods used in fine hooking to the wide cut project, to learn about the crewel style of rug hooking, to use a simple color plan with multi-dye methods, have good discussions, and a good time.

Michele Micarelli lives in New Haven CT and is a certified rug-hooking teacher whose main objective is to unleash creativity. The classes she teaches are full of storytelling, imagination exercises, and laughter. She has been a rug hooker since 1991 and prefers using 4 and 5 cut wool and linen for lots of detail.

Michele is past President of the Northern McGown Teacher's Workshop. She served as a judge for 15 years of Craft's Adventure in New England and is pleased to have had her rugs appear in several editions of The Celebration of Rug Hooking and has also been a judge. Her rugs appear in books by Linda Coughlin, Jessie Turbayne, Mary Sheppard Burton, Amy Oxford and Rae Harrell. Michele has been in several issues of Rug Hooking Magazine with articles that featured her dying skills and rugs made with imagination.

Open Workshop -- This workshop is open to all levels, all cuts, patterns or originals. Requirements are an "OPEN" mind. We will explore anything you wish in an open classroom with imagination exercises and stories. Please come prepared to open up your mind and hook something amazing!

Kris Miller is a self-taught rug-hooking teacher and designer who specializes in primitive designs with an emphasis on textured wool and wide cuts. Roving, sheep curls, and paisleys are also some of her favorite hooking materials. She is the owner of Spruce Ridge Studios, featuring original primitive rug hooking patterns, hand-dyed and as-is wool, and a wide variety of rug hooking supplies. Kris has won many awards for her rugs, including three appearances in the prestigious annual competition, Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs. She writes for Rug Hooking Magazine and teaches at many workshops and rug camps across the United States and England. Kris lives in Howell, Michigan with her husband, two sons, and an assortment of angora goats, sheep, alpacas, dogs, and a cat.

Primitive Workshop -- Kris will focus on primitive style hooking for this workshop. It will be an Open Workshop so you may hook any pattern you wish. She will be bringing patterns and wool. Kris will share many techniques that she likes to use to make your rug one of a kind. Her website is www.spruceridgestudios.com where you can look and see many of her beautiful patterns and wools.

Diane Stoffel lives in Brewster Mass. She is a certified McGown teacher and has taught at camps and workshops across the country. Diane loves all types of hooking including oriental, florals, tapestry, portraits, and pictorials. She has a love for color and uses all the beautiful colors that make a magnificent rug. She is an expert in all facets of dyeing marvelous colors. Diane is happiest when placing color around a rug. She is well known nationwide for her rug hooking expertise and enjoys making class a fun and friendly environment.

Open Workshop -- Diane will be teaching this as an Open Workshop, so hook with any pattern you wish. She will focus on making your rug colorful and pleasing to your color palette. Diane is high energy and will keep you working throughout the week to plan all elements of your rug.

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is now \$200 for members with dues paid by November's meeting. Non-members will pay \$275 if there is available space after January 30th. A deposit of \$100 will be required with registration with final payment due by April 10th.

If you need to cancel after April 10th, \$150 will be refunded only if a replacement is found. \$50 is non-refundable if canceling before April 10.

Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend camp for free and will get the teacher of their choice. If you chose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

Registration Process -- Registration forms were sent with the October newsletter and were available at the October meeting. The form is also available on our website (www.hcrag.com). All registration is by mail. Registration forms can be sent in after our meeting on October 10th with a check for \$100. The registration form provides for a selection of your first, second, third or fourth choice of an instructor.

Registrations received between October 10 and November 1st will be chosen by lottery if there are more than 12 registrants. The results will be announced at the November meeting followed by email confirmation or wait list information. Your first choice will be honored if a place remains, if not; we will go to your second, third or fourth choice as needed if you selected that option.

If your first choice of a teacher has a full class, we will try for your second, third or fourth teacher in that order or put you on the waiting list. If you only make the waiting list for all of your choices, your deposit will be returned at that time. Any registration forms that come in after November 1st will be placed as forms come in and as space allows.

Nominations Due for the Memorial Scholarship -- The Guild's Scholarship Fund was established several years ago in memory of Madeline and Margaret Brightbill. With the passing of Connie Coleman, Carol Collin and Patty Mahaffey in recent years, the Board has decided to broaden the fund's name to the HCRAG Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of all deceased members. The Fund provides a full scholarship to a deserving member to attend the HCRAG summer rug hooking camp and is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

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

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Therese or Weezie by December 1, 2014. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting. One position in each teacher's workshop is being left open until the Scholarship is awarded so the winner can select the teacher of her/his choice.

Guild Concludes Active Demonstration Schedule – Guild members give unselfishly of their time to support community festivals and fairs by demonstrating traditional rug hooking throughout the year. In 2014 we

participated in 11 such events. The completed list can be found on our website (click on Demonstration page). In addition, several members also demonstrate at smaller “community days” in their local towns. All of these events help inform the public and stimulates interest in rug hooking and our Guild.

Last month we were involved with the Apple Butter Frolic sponsored by the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA and Colonial Market Day in Newtown, PA.

Apple Butter Frolic -- A rainy morning limited the turnout for the Apple Butter Frolic on October 4, but our dedicated demonstrators -- Juliana Kapusta, Jean Laurence and Pat McDonnell -- were under tents and “wowed” visitors with their hooking. Juliana noted that “the smaller crowd gave more time for discussion.” Pat McDonnell reported that “Jean's large rug, ‘The Winner,’ seemed to cast a spell on all onlookers. They, especially the children, loved Jean's angel rug as well and couldn't stop touching it. Juliana was hooking a life-like rabbit who claimed lots of attention also.

“Many adults as well as children got a chance to actually hook on rug a rug in process to experience the fun and wonder of it all. One man came by a second time to ask us if we could hook a rug showing his beloved pet companion. We directed him to Judy Carter who lives in Lancaster. The man commended us for being so generous (as he put it) to recommend an expert other than ourselves! I think we created more of a vision of hooking as a true art rather than a craft. As one woman said ‘What you are doing is nothing like the rugs I used to make using kits from craft stores.’ (We thought she was probably referring to latch-hooking.)”

Jean summed up the day well -- “We had many people interested in rug hooking and even took some time to learn to pull loops. We had women, men, girls and boys all sit to give it a try. The day was very rewarding.”

Heritage Center staff member Forrest Moyer, who coordinated the various craft demonstrations, expressed appreciation to our Guild in his following message:

“Thanks to members of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild who demonstrated rug hooking at the Mennonite Heritage Center's Apple Butter Frolic in Harleysville, PA on October 4. Despite a damp start to the day, the crowds came out in late morning and throughout the afternoon to enjoy the traditional food, farming, and craft demonstrations. Your Guild members had a lovely display of rugs that caught the eye, and your friendly spirit and interpretation of the craft helped to create a fun and educational experience for visitors. Thanks again for maintaining the practice of artful rug hooking and for cooperating with the Mennonite Heritage Center to share it in the 21st century.”

For more information about the Mennonite Heritage Center visit their website (www.mhep.org).

Colonial Market Day – Joyce Combs and Lydia Lewis were all primed to demonstrate at Colonial Market Day in historic Newtown, PA on Saturday October 11, but the cold and rainy weather prevented them from setting up.

Our Guild is fortunate to have a core group of members who give of their time to participate in our community demonstrations. We are grateful and deeply indebted to their commitment.

Guild Library – Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. The full listing of books in our library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freija2@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.

Featured Member – Barbie Beck-Wilczek -- Barbie and her husband, Bill Wilczek, live in a timber frame and log house on 14 acres in Littleton, NH. She was born and raised in New Jersey until her family moved to southern New Hampshire when she was a teenager. About 12 years ago, Barbie and Bill who lived in Clinton, Township, NJ were vacationing and exploring in northern New Hampshire when on a whim they stopped into a real-estate office and described their ideal home to the agent on duty. The real estate agent went on line and came up with the property where they now live. The process started at Christmas and was over by New Year's Day! Barbie and Bill love living in the "North Country."

In 2000 Barbie took a beginner's rug hooking workshop with Gail Dufresne that was sponsored by Hunterdon County Adult Education. She had seen hooked rugs in the past and was always interested in them. Having taken early retirement, Barbie now had the time to pursue her interests. Gail introduced her to our Guild and Barbie came to her first camp with Helen Wolfel, who was one of HCRAAG's favorite camp instructors. Interestingly, Barbie now lives relatively close to Helen and they meet on occasion to dye wool and talk rug hooking.

Other than a class or two with Gail and HCRAAG camps, Barbie is basically self-taught. Her second camp was with Elizabeth Black where she started to hook with #3 and #4 cuts. Barbie subsequently took a wide cut class with Jayne Hester. She admires what can be done with wide cuts, but realized "It was not for me." Subsequent HCRAAG camps exposed Barbie to some of the best instructors including Jen Lavoie, Norma Batastini and Judy Carter.

Elizabeth was responsible for introducing Barbie to the world of narrow cut hooking and the wonderful results that can be achieved. The workshop with Judy Carter, who is nationally recognized as one of the best for hooking realistic animal rugs, introduced Barbie to using textured wool with narrow cuts. "It results in a different look," Barbie notes. "I really clicked with Judy. She opened up a whole new world of challenges."

Barbie is known for the rugs she creates of her Bernese Mountain Dogs. For the last 15 years, the "Berners" have played an important role in Barbie's and Bill's lives. They breed, show and train the dogs and are active in regional and national dog clubs. Their specialized training includes draft, agility, obedience, and therapy training. Their biggest commitment is training and working

with therapy dogs that are registered to visit hospitals and nursing homes to provide emotional support to the patients, staff and residents. "A therapy dog's job is to put a smile on people's faces," Barbie notes.

After completing a moose rug that she started with Elizabeth Black, Barbie has gone back to creating rugs of her dogs. The patterns are adapted from photographs taken by Bill and meticulously hooked by Barbie. "It takes me two to three years to finish a rug. There is a lot of concentration required," Barbie says when discussing her approach. "I need the proper light and must be in the right frame of mind." Her rug, Tennescott Four Dog Rug, was recognized in Rug Hooking Magazine's Celebrations XXIV issue. Barbie's work was also featured in two recent issues of the ATHA Newsletter.

Barbie buys the wool she needs from her camp instructors, a local small rug school and at regional shows such as the Green Mountain Guild's annual exhibit. Stephanie Krauss, Gail Dufresne and Helen Wolfel are also favorite resources for her. "I have a small house and with four dogs, I do not want a large stash," Barbie observes.

In addition to her HCRAAG membership, Barbie belongs to the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild and the Northeast Kingdom Guild in Vermont. She also hooks with a group of friends who meet Wednesday mornings in each other's houses. Guild member Roberta Smith who relocated to Lower Waterford, Vermont several years ago participates in this group as well.

Before retiring Barbie worked in the utility industry, first in Reading, Pennsylvania and then for Public Service Gas & Electric Company in New Jersey. Bill took early retirement from Fed Ex and established his own woodworking business. He initially made Adirondack furniture and toys, but as their involvement with the dogs grew he recognized a market for carts and wagons for dogs. His business requires his full time responding to a worldwide client base. (Go to www.wilczekwoodworks.com for more information.) Barbie and Bill are active "birders" and belong to the local Audubon Society. Barbie is a hospice volunteer and often her work includes her therapy dogs.

Looking back, Barbie realizes that rug hooking has become an important part of her life. "I am constantly inspired and challenged to do better. I am not an artist, but have a knack for hooking and do it well according to what others tell me. I am a logical person, more like an engineer than an artist." Anyone who has seen Barbie's rugs will differ with her assessment. She paints with wool!

Visit our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Barbie's creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – November for me is the month of "drearies." Cold, grey, cloudy skies and drizzling rain is what comes to mind. The trees have lost their autumn glory and piles of soggy leaves fill the streets. The trees are like great sculptures of steel and I wonder if they will ever be green again. The occasional bright day still has only a pale blue sky unlike the radiance of summer. The Nova Scotia folk artist, Joe Norris, says "when the weather gets bad, I goes inside and paints me some fine day!"

The question for me is how do we get in the mind set of "some fine day?" I have been meeting with a small group of women at my church to grow spiritually by using art. We

begin by reading several passages from the Bible. You could substitute poetry, essays, short stories, and biographies, whatever you wish. As you listen to the writing being read, copy on a piece of drawing paper whatever words strike you. Then begin doodling around the word or words. Let your mind go wherever it will. Other thoughts, words, images will emerge. Gradually a design or the basis for a design will come and you can go from there. Even if nothing coalesces at this time, save that piece of paper for future reference. Perhaps even keeping a journal of your doodles as well as other items such as photos, cards, articles that you have saved from other sources can be grist for hooking your own "some fine day."

Since November is the month of Thanksgiving, you could start with the word thanks. Try doodling around that word and think of all the images that come to mind. Think about creating some new design beyond the traditional turkey, pumpkins etc. Let that be a jumping off place for the creativity which lives within each of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans.

Happy Thanksgiving and happy hooking! Nina

Ideas from Marian Hall's Dye Pot – Antique Black Over Colored Wool --

Marian Hall has been a member of the Brandywine Guild for many years. She retired recently and plans to devote more time to her favorite activity – rug hooking. As a new HCRAAG member, we will be seeing more of Marian and benefiting from her expertise. Earlier she shared a dye recipe used to dye antique black over colored wool that she learned from Jeanne Field in Canada.

The recipe used Magic Carpet Dyes, but any black and dark green dye could be used.

- Soak ½ yard of any color of wool and scrunch into a 9" x 13" pan to spot dye.
- Mix up two solutions – 1 ¼ tsp. black in 1 ½ cups boiling water, and ¾ tsp of Bottle Green in 1 ½ cups of boiling water.
- Add vinegar or citric acid to both solutions.
- Spot with black dye, and then spot with green dye.
- Using gloves "squish" the wool until the dye saturates the folds.
- Place pan in 200 degree oven for one hour or until dye is absorbed.
- Rinse and dry.

We look forward to more ideas and tips from Marian!

Tips From Heloise – Pulling Loops of Ripped Wool -- Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) is known her work with ripped wool that produces very wide strips for hooking. As those who took her workshop at our last Spring Fling learned, pulling extra wide strips can be tiring and put strain on hands and shoulders. Heloise overheard Betsy advising her students to pull the loops towards them instead of pulling them up as is the normal practice. That slight change makes all the difference!

Recipes – Lydia Lewis' Bean/Corn/Feta Dip -- Our talented members responded to the call for snacks and treats needed for our 300th Hunterdon County Celebration. There were multiple requests for recipes. Lydia Lewis was the first to respond, so her recipe is presented this month.

- 1/4 cup sugar

- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 6 ozs crumbled feta cheese
- 1 can (11ozs) shoepeg corn- drained
- 1 can (15ozs) black beans - drained
- Serve with scoops
- If you like -- 1/2 bunch of scallions chopped

Thank you Lydia!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

“Hooked Art 2014” Exhibit (October 25 through November 29, 2014) -- Newtown Hooked Art Shows is presenting the exhibit at The Gallery at the University of Connecticut (One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901). This is billed as “the largest show of innovative contemporary hooked art ever assembled” with 55 works by 18 artists from the United States and Canada. There is an opening reception on Saturday, October 25 from 1-4 that will include artist talks and book signings. For more information call 203-270-8293 or go to newtownhookedartshows.com.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School – November 14- 17, 2014 -- This new rug hooking camp will be held at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA. Nancy Blood, Bev Conway, Sarah Guiliani, and Michele Micarelli will be the instructors. For more information, contact Camp Director, Norma McElhenny at 508-896-9283 or oldecapecodrugschool@gmail.com.

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.

Spring Fling – Nancy Sears – 410-627-8179 or njsears@ptd.net
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.
Treasurer – Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

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.

HCRAE CLASSIFIEDS

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- **Description of Item for Sale or Wanted**
- **Asking Price for sale items**
- **Contact Information**