

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

November, 2015

Presidents' Letter -- The Festival is, at last, behind us, all summer travel is finished, the hot weather is done, it is finally time to step back to take a deep breath before heading into the fall and winter holidays. AAIIEEE. Where does the time go?

I (Weezie) have not pulled a single loop since the last day of our August Hooking School, and I don't know where to start! This summer I saw incredible landscapes in the Canadian Rockies, and I have just come back from a week-long Fall Color photography workshop in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where my mind was blown by the intensity of the reds, yellows, oranges, coppers, etc. I have never seen color like that—not in New England, not in Colorado, not along the Blue Ridge Parkway. I saw plenty of things that made me say “Oohhh...dye that field” or “dye that shade of red—call it Tundra Red”. I will try for “Yoooper Fall Leaves, Glacial Lake Blue, Pre-Autumn Meadow, Tundra Red,” and a few more. Therese is heading off on an adventure which will have her wanting to dye “Jungle Green, Swamp Brown,” etc. LOL.

I am always amazed at how where I go influences what I want to hook. I see everything in terms of “I could hook that” or “I should add one of those to my design,” or “look at the lines in that window—I could fill those spaces with (choose your own idea.” How do you look at things? What do you see when you go somewhere? Do you go to museums with the intention of looking for patterns or do they just jump out at you? My idea pot is overflowing. My inner artist is a maniac.

Please be sure to read the articles about our Retreat, summer School, and talk to us about in which job capacity you would like to serve. We will be retiring soon, and it is time for YOU to step up if you want the Guild to continue. Talk to us (or we will come around and talk to you!).

Wishing you all even loops and an unending supply of ideas (and wool).

Weezie and Therese

November Meeting – Friday, November 13, 2015 – 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although there is no street number on the building. The meeting runs from 10:00 -2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Michele Micarelli will give an hour presentation prior to the meeting snack break. After the break, she will do an instructional workshop for a pouch kit. Information on the kit was previously sent to members. If anyone wishes to purchase a kit or wants to order an extra kit, contact Ellen DiClemente by email at ergot53@embarqmail.com.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects.

Hospitality – Carol Kindt, Lydia Lewis, Diane Liberto, and Dee Rosebrock have volunteered to provide the snacks for the meeting. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings.

November Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Amanda Benson (11/6), Fred Cole (11/2), Elizabeth Dey (11/29), Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Eileen Koch (11/22), and Kay Weeks (11/15). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – We welcome Alma Coia, Linda Meier, Carol Mowaswes, and Marsha Moyer-Payne to our Guild. Linda participated in the Beginner’s Workshop at the Festival. We look forward to seeing them at upcoming Guild meetings and events. Their contact information is shown below.

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Sunshine – Paula Patti is recovering from knee surgery. The surgery did not prevent her from attending the Festival along with her husband, Tony.

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

Guild News & Events –

Festival Raffle Rug Pattern Available at December Meeting -- The Hooked Rug Festival Raffle Committee (Kathy Donovan and Debbie Walsh) would like to share the design of the raffle rug, Diamonds in Bloom, with members of the four guilds participating in the Festival as a “Thank You” for selling tickets for the raffle rug.

A paper copy of the center diamond design and a copy of ¼ of the background (These are put together to make the overall rug.) will be available at our December meeting. Members who have interest in making a copy of the pattern need to bring tracing paper to the December meeting to trace the raffle rug pattern. You will need two (2) pieces of tracing paper approximately 18” x 24” each.

This pattern is being given to members for our one time personal use. We ask that you please abide by this.

Annual Rug Hooking Retreat Set for January 8-10, 2016 -- Our popular rug hooking retreat will again be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our January meeting. After our monthly meeting, participants will move over to the Hampton Inn where we will hunker

down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday. We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose to. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Joy Andrews, our favorite massage therapist, will be there to help relax stiff muscles. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The price will be \$45 and members reserving sleeping rooms before December 12 will get a reduced rate of \$115 plus tax (figure \$130 per night). Mention the Rug Retreat when reserving rooms.

To register for the retreat send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Weezie Huntington at 69 Minuteman Circle, Allentown, NJ 08501. Payment can also be made at the November or December meeting. There are about 10 spaces left, so anyone interested who has not already contacted Weezie needs to do so. Email her at weezie711@gmail or call her at 609-477-4339. It will be helpful to let Weezie know how much massage time you want to schedule with Joy Andrews.

Exciting Bus Trip Planned for May Meeting -- A bus trip to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA is planned for our May 2016 meeting. The Schwenkfelders are a protestant religious sect that migrated to Pennsylvania from southern Germany and lower Silesia in the 1700s. They are one of the groups known as the Pennsylvania Germans. The Heritage Center has a major collection of Schwenkfelder decorative arts such as fraktur and textiles. For additional information, visit the Heritage Center's website at www.schwenkfelder.com.

Fiber artist, Susan Feller, will provide an hour presentation. Susan relocated from New Jersey to West Virginia several years ago where she now maintains her studio, Ruckman Mill Farm (www.ruckmanmillfarm.com).

The timing of the trip coincides with the Penn Dry Goods Market that will take place at the Heritage Center. The Market is a special kind of antique sale and show. It features antiques and vintage textiles plus things that might have been found on the shelves of an old dry goods store.

After the visit to the Heritage Center, we will travel to Kay Leisey's Homespun that is about 10 minutes away.

The trip was discussed at our October meeting and the consensus was that members preferred to bring a brown bag lunch instead of going to a restaurant. Members who prefer to drive themselves can meet at the Heritage Center. Ellen DiClemente is working on additional details.

2016 Rug Hooking School -- Next year is our 20th year and we continue the tradition of inviting instructors considered among the most respected in the rug hooking world today. We will have the opportunity to work with *Nancy Jewett*, *Diane Phillips*, *Norma Batastini* and *Ali Strebel* (see initial bios below). Registration this year is by **mail only** and begins on October 10, 2015. The process will assure that all members have the same opportunity to sign up.

The week our rug school will be held has been moved forward a week from when it is normally held to August 8-12, 2016 to avoid a conflict with Rug Hooking Week at Historic Sauder Village. This will allow members to go to Sauder Village and allow us to consider teachers who will be at Sauder's Rug Hooking Week.

School Fee -- The cost of attending rug school is \$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.

Registration Process -- This year registration will be done by mail only. (The registration form is available on the Guild's website – www.hcrag.com.) Forms can be mailed on or after October 10th with a check for \$100. Remember, that \$50 is a non-refundable fee. Registrations received between October 10th and November 1st, will be processed on November 1st by using the Board approved lottery system. Make sure you indicate your first, second, etc., choice on the form. Last year, everyone got either their first or second choice. Any registrations that arrive after November 1st will be placed in class as space allows. You will receive an email informing you of your instructor. For those without email, you will receive a phone call.

The following initial bios are being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them:

Norma Batastini -- Norma has been hooking since 1995 and is a certified McGown teacher. She teaches nationally and privately a variety of workshops in a variety of themes such as primitive embellished pineapples, handbag design and finishing, Rufus Porter primitives, designing primitives, log cabin, dyeing, geometrics, the Mola, and the Grenfell hooked mat. She is the Co-Director of Rugs by the Sea held in Cape May, New Jersey every September. Norma is currently on the editorial board of Rug Hooking Magazine and has written several articles.

The class will be an open class where you can hook on any commercial pattern or your own design. In class there will be mini-lectures on current topics as well as student requests.

Nancy Jewett -- Fluff and Peachy Bean Designs was launched in October 2003 by Nancy D Jewett, a self-taught artist and proud 4th generation Vermonter. All of Nancy's hand drawn designs are inspired by her imagination, life stories, words and quotes with her sense of whimsy. Her abiding love and joy for music, nature, animals and unwavering belief in focusing on the abundance and beauty in life is reflected in her patterns.

Diane Phillips -- Diane Phillips began her rug hooking journey in the mid-1990s when she responded to a classified ad in her local newspaper. The ad mentioned that rug hooking materials were being offered as part of an estate sale. At the time, all Diane knew about rug hooking was contained in a few pages of the book, Little Quilts: All Through the House by Alice Berg and Mary Ellen Von Holt. After the sale, Diane says, "I must have read the rug hooking section of that book 100 times, hoping I would find answers about what to do with all of the #3-cut strips of wool I had purchased!"

Ali Strebel -- Alice has been teaching fiber art nationally and internationally since 1986. Her business, Ali Strebel Designs for Kindred Spirits, is located in Dayton, Ohio; where she sells the extensive line of books and patterns she has published as well as hand dyed wool, yarn, roving and other fiber art supplies. She has also developed a line of fiber and fiber art inspired jewelry. Beside her own books, Alice's work has been featured in Rug Hooking Magazine's Designs for Primitive Hookers, The Wool Street Journal and numerous other publications.

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. 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.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know.

Additional Scholarship to be Awarded in Memory of Susan Woodworth -- Susan Woodworth was registered to attend our annual Rug Hooking School in August. However, her declining health prevented her from attending. Susan requested that her position be given to a deserving Guild member. This means that an additional Memorial Scholarship can be awarded this year. See next article for details on submitting a nomination.

Nominations Due for the HCRAG Memorial Scholarship – The Guild’s Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of deceased members. It provides a full scholarship to a deserving member to attend the HCRAG summer rug hooking school 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, 2015. 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.

HCRAG Library Continues to Grow– The following books have been added to the HCRAG library:

- Combining Rug Hooking and Braiding written and inscribed by Kris McDermet. Thanks to Eleanor Dunker for the special delivery from Texas she provided.
- Scrappy Hooked Rugs, Making the Most of the Wool in Your Stash by Bea Brock
- Design Basics for Rug Hookers by Susan Feller
- Rug Hookers Companion by Donna Hrkman

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.

Festival Summary -- Once again our Hooked Rug Festival was a wonderful success, despite the gloomy weather! Thanks to all of our committee chairs and to all the members who volunteered untold hours of time which all contributed to the great success. We have all heard lots of positive comments about the spectacular artistry of the rugs as well as the professional way in which the Festival was presented. According to our wonderful financial person Jean Laurence, approximately 550 people were in attendance. Ingrid Cosmen was the lucky winner of our raffle rug and was there to collect her prize! The Viewer's Choice winners were: Therese Shick for "Little Bear", Gail Ferdinando for "So this is Pittstown," and Barbie Beck-Wilczek for "Belgians & Bernese." We will have more financial results in the coming weeks as Jean is able to wade through all of the specific expenses and income from the various sources. So, thanks to all for another fabulous show!

"Lost Decade Found" -- Designed and Hooked by Amy Korengut -- Guild members are accustomed to seeing creatively designed and beautifully hooked rugs at our meetings, hook-ins and workshops. However, the collection of rugs displayed at the Hooked Rug Festival was truly remarkable and drew "oohs" and "aahs" from all. One rug attracted a great deal of attention, in part because of how it was exhibited, in part because of the story behind the rug, and in part because of the exquisite hooking. Amy Korengut's "Lost Decade Found" is a special rug that was creatively displayed in one of the nooks and crannies of the Mill with an "Under Construction" sign highlighting that the rug was a work in progress. Saw horses and construction tape in front of the rug added to the feeling that this was a construction site.

The Lost Decade Found is called an "Azeri Rug" by some and a "Folklife Rug" by others. In her Rug Hooking Magazine article (June/July/August 2014), Norma Batastini noted the following:

In the late 1990s in Toronto, Canada, renowned rug hooking teacher Betty Laine attended an exhibit of oriental carpets from southeastern Turkey. This exhibit featured around 40 rugs made by local weavers who had been encouraged to work on new designs inspired by their surroundings. A book called "Azeri Folklife Carpets" was written about this exhibit by American, George Jevremovic. Apparently, Betty was inspired by the stories told in those carpets and imagined rug hookers telling their own.

When Norma wrote the article, she entitled it "Folklife Rugs" or "story rugs," after speaking with George Jevremovic as he asked her not to use the term Azeri. He felt that this name should be reserved for the Turkish Folklife rugs.

Amy's rug does indeed have a story associated with it --

"Shortly after I learned how to hook rugs in 2002, I was captivated by the notion of designing and hooking a memory rug based on the almost 10 years that I spent living abroad on a kibbutz in Israel during the 1970s. A kibbutz is a communal, agricultural community, unique to Israel, whose members share the work to achieve a common goal. I was to spend one month of my 20th summer at work picking oranges, grapefruits, and olives, weeding cotton fields, and learning about people and a culture that was totally foreign to this American-born young woman.

Little did I know at the time that one month would become almost 10 years of living that alternative lifestyle after meeting my future husband and giving birth to our daughter. The name of the rug refers to the fact that upon my return to the United States in 1980, I found myself feeling somewhat alienated when I realized how ignorant I was of American news and popular culture during the prior decade. In conversations with others

I would refer to it as my 'lost decade.' The vignettes depicted throughout the rug are some of the most lasting personal memories that I have from that extraordinary period of time."

The complexity of the pattern required more than two years of planning prior to the drawing of the final design on the backing. Only then could the hooking commence. The rug is currently about two thirds completed. Visitors were in awe of the detailed pattern and the stories associated the vignettes depicted throughout the rug.

Guild Concludes 2015 Demonstration Schedule –Two rug hooking demonstrations were scheduled for October – Apple Butter Frolic (Mennonite Heritage Center) and Quilt Day (Howell Living Farm).

The *Apple Butter Frolic* was cancelled several days in advance because of the hurricane threat and the nasty weather forecast. We thank Pat McDonnell for planning our participation and being on the ready to attend.

A week later the weather was beautiful for *Quilt Day* at Howell Living Farm. Carol Kindt's S.O.S. message requesting help resulted in eight volunteers responding to her plea. Susan Atwater, Teri Dubrowski, Karl Gimber, Kathy Kane, Carol Kindt, Barb Perry, and Betsy Warner spent a delightful day in the Barn Annex along with the quilters, talking about rug hooking and showing how it is done. Their rugs that were displayed on the walls of the barn attracted lots of attention and admiration from the visitors. The Farm staff provided lunch and presented each volunteer with a bottle of their own Howell Farm Maple Syrup. Thank you Howell Farm! Veteran rug hooker Susan Atwater demonstrated for the first time. We thank Susan for joining in and Carol Kindt for serving as the event coordinator.

Our extensive demonstration schedule fulfills several Guild objectives. The demonstrations allow us to educate the public about traditional rug hooking, to support the sponsoring civic and historic organizations and to publicize the Guild and our programs. We are grateful to all members who supported the Guild by demonstrating this year. Several members started to demonstrate for the first time this year. We encourage others to join in next year.

Featured Member – Susan Johnson – Sue Johnson has had a longtime interest in antiques and all things old. She was the co-owner of an antiques shop and it was there she learned about hooked rugs. One day in 2006 the subject came up in a conversation with one of her customers. Sue mentioned that "I would love to learn how to do that." Her customer, Beverly Karcher, was a local rug hooking instructor who said "If you are serious, I can teach you." Sue went to her studio in Watchung and was able to get three lessons in before Beverly left for the New Jersey shore for the summer.

With the basics under her belt, Sue started to work on her initial projects. Shortly after returning from the shore, Beverly introduced Susan to the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter (ABC). Sue recalls, "I had lots of questions and they all took me under their wing. Everything I learned was from my ATHA friends." Alice Beatty had already passed away at the time Sue became involved with the Chapter, so she did not have an opportunity to learn from her.

The next step in developing her hooking techniques involved going to local and regional camps. Sue's first camp was Cape May where she worked with Judy Quintman. McGowan and HCRAG camps followed. This summer Sue went to New Hampshire for Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar's McGowan's workshop and also worked with Diane Stoffel at our school. Susan feels fortunate to have had the chance to work

with many of today's most admired teachers including Betty McClintic, Sarah Guiliani, Norma Batastini, Jayne Hester, Diane Stoffel, and Judy Quintman. "I learned from them all." Judy was her first formal teacher and most influential. "I was so green and had a zillion questions. Judy answered them all. She helped so much."

Sue prefers to hook primitive style rugs. "I like rugs to look as old as possible," she notes. She recalls seeing old rugs at an antiques show and immediately being able to "see them in my home." Sue hooks primarily with new wool, but does occasionally pick up recycled clothing at rummage sales. "I go nuts over Rebecca Erb's wool and love the wool from Jan Cole and Betsy Reed. I did a lot of damage with Kris Miller's wool at camp this summer."

At this point Sue relies on commercially available patterns that she finds at hook-ins, workshops, and "wherever I happen to be." However, she is collecting ideas for when she is ready to design her own patterns. Kathy Donovan did help Sue design a pattern for a wedding present rug for her daughter.

Hooking in the evening works best for Sue. She likes to settle in her finished basement and wind down by hooking for a couple of hours. The hooking she does at home is augmented by hooking with a group that meets at Midland Park on the second Saturday and the "Monday Group" that meets at the Berkeley Heights Library on the first and third Monday. Hooking is available after her monthly Alice Betty Chapter meetings.

Kathy Donovan and Janet Santaniello introduced Susan to our Guild and encouraged her to join. She looks forward to getting more involved after her term as President of ABC concludes.

In addition to rug hooking, Sue "has a passion for antiquing" and loves going to estate sales looking for treasures. Her collections include redware, yellow ware, pewter, baskets, and butter molds. This past summer Sue and a friend from Chicago decided to fulfill a long term wish and an item on her "bucket list." They met in Austin, Texas and rented a car to drive to Round Top, Texas for what is advertised as the largest flea market in the county. The market started in the 1940s and now runs 28 miles along the highway! "Old furniture is my all-time favorite and we saw lots of it but could not get it back home easily."

Sue was born and raised in Altoona, PA. She joined United Airlines as a stewardess in the mid-1960s and flew from the New York City area airports. "The New York Jets were on my first flight and I met Joe Namath," Sue recalls with a grin. She now lives in Berkley Heights, NJ with her husband, Alex, who is a retired stockbroker and their two dogs –Lilly (a Jack Russell) and Daisy (a Border Collie/Chow mix). They have two daughters – Britt and Michele. Britt lives in Warwick, N.Y. with her husband, Adam, and their four children – Drew, Charlotte, Emmerson and Abel. Adam is a chef, but the couple also own several small and diverse businesses including a restaurant, pool hall, old fashion candy store and a Philly Cheese Steak food truck! Michele and her husband Brad live in Warwick, NJ also. Michele manages a Spa at Mountain Creek, N.J., while Brad works for a large media company in New York.

Sue just retired from being a Dental Assistant after 25 years, and now has more time to hook and have fun.

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some Sue's hooked projects.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Hooking with Yarn -- The last of the leaves are falling. I will miss the bright reds and oranges, the golden yellow and the piles of leaves of many colors. But now I am beginning to see the sculptural structure of the trees. I am intrigued by the texture of the bark, the configuration of the limbs and branches, all set against the bright blue autumn sky....a feast for the artists eye.

After Show and Tell at the last HCRAAG meeting, some of you approached me about hooking with yarn. I had made a small mat from various yarns. The design was adapted from a watercolor by an artist friend of mine. And yes, I had asked her permission which was readily given. Most of the yarn I had acquired from several local shops near my summer home in Nova Scotia. As I told some of you, I would look into sources of yarn suitable for hooking. I personally prefer the unusual yarns, many of which are more suited to hooking than knitting.

Here are some of the types of fibers that I used in my mat. First there is a bit of roving which is probably familiar to many of you. It looks like chunks of cotton candy. You simply pull off a bit and twist it until it can easily be pulled through the linen. The normal one or two ply smooth yarn can be doubled and pulled up. It is fun to combine colors when you do this or even different shades of one color. Multicolored heavier yarns are very effective in creating a design. I also like to use what I call "slubby" yarns, those that are uneven in texture with thin, skinny parts and heavy chunky parts. I have used polyester yarns from Michaels, homespun wools from local shops and our own members. Deanne Fitzpatrick of Hookingrugs.com sells packages of colored yarns. Each package contains a wide variety of yarns and roving. She advertises them in several colors but if you call her shop (toll free) she will make up a package of the color you wish. I have not had time to research many sources but I am sure those of you who are more tech savvy can find additional sources on line for some materials.

I have made several pillows using yarns and roving, sari silk and other material using a colored burlap as my background and leaving blanks so the burlap can show. I suggest you start with a pillow or small item and experiment with using yarns and textures. I use the same hook I use for my regular hooking and a backing of primitive linen which a bit wider mesh which makes pulling through the yarns much easier.

If you are interested, I suggest you try hooking with yarns and textures. I will be happy to answer any questions you have and offer any suggestions that would be helpful. You can contact me at the next meeting or by email. Let the artist within experiment and blossom as you try something new to you!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! How thankful I am to be a part of such a creative group of rug hooking artisans! Nina Seaman

Ideas from Therese Shick's Dye Pot (As learned from Cyndy Duade) -- In our summer school class with Cyndy Duade we learned many things. One of my favorite dyeing techniques was a spot dye over brown wool.

Heat water in an appropriate spot dye vessel (I use my dyeing electric skillet but whatever you use for spot dyeing will work for this). Add citric acid or vinegar to the water. Place one of your "ugly" brown colors into the water, for this demonstration I used 1/2 yard. (I did not soak the wool before putting into the hot water). Work the wool into the water in one continuous mass scrunching up as you go along. Dissolve 3/4 t. of a blue, red, green (or any undertone that you might want) into a cup of boiling water. On Cyndy's recommendation, I used a warmer green (ProChem 707 Avocado). Gradually pour this cup of dissolved dyed water over your wool,

smooshing into the wool as you go along. Be sure to get a somewhat even distribution on the 1/2 yard. You can use the back of a spoon or a potato masher to help you smoosh (a dyeing term :-)

Then dissolve 1 t. of black dye (again I used ProChem 672). In the same manner as the first cup of dye, distribute over the wool, working the dye into the wool. Be careful not to stir. You are not looking for complete coverage, but a deep and dark spot dye. Leave the wool to soak in the water for 20-30 minutes on low, staying very hot but not boiling. If color remains in the water after this time, leave in for longer. I usually check in 10 minute intervals, you can always add more acid if you feel it isn't totally absorbing.

Once the wool has absorbed the dye, I usually throw the wool into my washer (usually with other wool) run through a rinse/spin. Then I put into my dryer so it is nice and fluffy.

Thanks so much Cyndy!

Note: At the last meeting Cindy Boult and Therese brought their Summer School projects and we could see the background coloration that could be achieved with the spot dyeing technique described above.

Tips from Heloise – Add Tweezers to Your Hooking Toolbox -- Kris Miller suggested to her students at our August Rug Hooking School that they add a pair of tweezers to their basic tools. The tweezers are ideal for straightening twisted loops and for turning loops so that they are positioned properly. After sniping off the tail of a strip, we occasionally need to raise or lower loops to achieve more consistency in their height. Tweezers are a perfect tool for grasping and pulling the snipped tail.

Recipes – Lydia Lewis' Refreshing Fiesta Dip – Lydia's dip was a big hit at our June picnic meeting. Not only is it tasty, but easy to make as well. We thank Lydia for sharing her recipe with the Guild.

Ingredients

- ¼ cup white wine
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup canola oil
- ½ bunch scallions, chopped – I omit
- 3 oz. crumbled feta cheese – or more
- 1 can 11 oz. shoe peg corn
- 1 can 15 oz. black beans – drained

Mix and serve.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Colonial Rug Hookers ATHA Chapter Hook-in – “A Remembrance of Elizabeth Black Featuring Gene Shepherd” (November 17 & 18, 2015). This special hook-in will be held at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA. The fee is \$25. Advance registration is required. Contact Chapter President Helen Vance with questions at vance.helen@gmail.com or 703-787-8369.

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.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events --

November 6, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

November 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Michele Micarelli Presentation & Instructional Workshop, “Water, Water Everywhere” *

December 4, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

December 11, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon & Copy Festival Raffle Hooked Rug “Diamond in Bloom” Pattern *

January 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Auction -- Location TBD

January 8-10, 2016 – Annual Rug Hooking Retreat (Flemington Hampton Inn)

February 5, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **

February 12, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Designing a Tavern Sign Rug (Karl Gimber) Location TBD

March 4, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **

March 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Hooking Embellishments (Loretta Scena) Location TBD

April 1, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **

April 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Finishes Round Robin (Members) Location TBD

May 6, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **

May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip – Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – Penn Dry Good Market – Susan Feller Presentation – Kay Leisey/Homespun

June 3, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **

June 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon – Location TBD

August 8-12, 2016 – 20th Annual Rug Hooking School – ESC School

August 9, 2016 – Beginners Rug Hooking Workshop – ESC School

*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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** 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 for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents -- Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership -- Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com

Director – Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors -- Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com
Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com

Historian -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net

Hospitality -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

Librarian -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net

Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.

Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Rug Festival -- Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Secretary -- Open

Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring Retreat & Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

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 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 by the 20th of the month.

HCRAG CLASSIFIEDS

FREE

1 Quart Mason jars for DYEING (never to be used for food). At least 18 jars are available.

Contact Eileen Mahler -- eamahler@embarqmail.com

WANTED

Wool Cutter (Jeanne Surdi is interested in buying a cutter and wonders if anyone in the guild may have one they are looking to sell)

Contact Jeanne Surdi -- jsurdi2013@gmail.com

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