

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

October 2008

From the President's Corner – Our new program year is just underway and we already have several new initiatives being discussed. At our last meeting there was strong support for the possibility of holding a week-end workshop with one or two instructors early next year and a proposed bus trip to Winterthur Museum.

Subsequent to our meeting, we were approached by the North County Branch of the Clinton Library and requested to exhibit our rugs in February. They have four display cases and wall space for 20 hanging items. This provides considerable room for a major exhibit of the works of our talented members. The exhibit opportunity came about from our exposure at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair and subsequent publicity.

In addition to the new initiatives, our exhibit at the Lebanon Township Museum opens this month. We have our hooking retreat in January and several special monthly meeting programs being developed. Of course, there will be another exciting rug hooking camp in August. We are just getting started and the year is already full of wonderful rug hooking activities.

With all that is planned, this is a good time for me to suggest that we ask ourselves “What can I do to support my Guild?” Our success comes from the collective efforts of many members. Ideally each member should participate in some way. There are lots of ways to help and most will not require a lot of time. Just let me know if you are unsure on how you can best contribute.

Keep on Hooking! -- Weezie

October Meeting – October 10, 2008 – The October meeting will be held at our regular location, the Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington from 10:00 to 2:00.

Program – “Methods or Madness -- Punch needle embroidery techniques that work for me” presented by Cliff Ballard.

Punch needle embroidery is a great “little” form of artistry that has many similarities with rug hooking. Both crafts involve much more than simply poking one form of fiber through another to create a pleasing pattern. In fact, the artisan must make a wide range of decisions regarding choice of subject, sizing, pattern creation, materials and equipment selection and final presentation to make a true “little gem”. After mastering the basics, it is up to each of us to develop our own creative style and technique. Cliff will discuss some of the things he has learned and show examples of his progress while traveling along that path.

Show and Tell – Many Guild members also do punch needle embroidery. Following Cliff's presentation, we will have a Show and Tell of our own punch needle creations. Please bring

both finished and “work-in process” projects to share with us. Also bring your latest traditional rug hooking projects to share.

Hooking Time– Take advantage of the meeting to do some hooking. Bring your equipment and current project to work on. We have the room until 2:00, so stay and hook.

Hospitality – We thank in advance Lydia Brenner, Kathy Donovan, Bernice Smith, and Agnes Wooden for volunteering to provide refreshments for the October meeting.

Last month we overlooked acknowledging Gisele Meader, Lib Ryman and Tony Townsend for supplying the refreshments for the September meeting. Thank you all.

Membership – Lisa Mims has a new email address – lisaandrod.mims1@gmail.com.

We wish Carol Orlove all the best as she relocates to Memphis, Tennessee as a result of her husband’s transfer. Carol notes that she “will miss hooking with the Guild”. She has not yet identified any rug hookers or guild in the Memphis area. If you know of any, please let Carol know. Her email address (yad50@ptd.net) will remain the same. We will miss Carol at our meetings and events such as camp.

Former Guild member Mary Alper-Firca sends her regards from Bayside, Maine where she is fulfilling a teaching assignment. She expects to be back in New Jersey this fall and hopes to return to the Guild. Her email address is acornstu@aol.com.

Now is the time to renew your Guild membership. Attendance at events such as our hooking retreat and discounts for camp attendance and bus trips require Guild membership. A membership renewal form is attached.

Let the Sun Shine – Our warmest condolences go to Kay Weeks whose mother passed away after a long illness.

October Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to Guild members who are celebrating birthdays this month. They are Catherine Baisch (10/26), Phyllis Hamel (10/16), Sherri Hieber-Day (10/7), Jana Laidlaw (10/27), Gisele Meader (10/25), Judy Quintman (10/3) and Bernice Smith (10/10). Happiest of birthdays to you all!

Reception Kicks Off Lebanon Township Museum Exhibit – On Saturday, October 4, 2008, the Lebanon Township Museum is hosting a reception from 1-5 as the opening event of our month long exhibit. All Guild members are invited. The museum is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 5 and on Saturday from 1-5. For more information, call the museum at 908-537-6464. To find the museum take Rt. 31 north above Clinton, NJ and turn right at the traffic light onto Musconetcong River Road. The museum is on the left one mile in from Rt. 31.

We thank Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas for arranging for us to be at the museum and for Ingrid Cosman and Kay Weeks for coordinating the exhibit installation. Rugs exhibited can be picked up at the museum on November 1. Otherwise, Kay will bring them to our November meeting.

Eileen Mahler Has Rug Accepted in Celebrations – Again ! – Congratulations to Eileen Mahler. Her rug, Antique Pineapple – Through My Eyes, has been accepted for inclusion in Celebrations V XIII. This is the second time Eileen’s work has received this prestigious

recognition. The judges' comments say it all – “Wonderful use of texture and color.” “The color is subtle and sumptuous and the quality of hooking and finishing is suburb.”

3rd Annual Rug Hooking Retreat – January 9-11 2009 – Our retreat is almost 50% booked! If you want to be assured of a spot for this fun packed weekend, you are encouraged to register soon. There will be an “early bird” drawing for a free massage session for those who have registered by the end of November.

The retreat is scheduled for January 9-11, 2009 at the Hampton Inn in Flemington. Participation will be limited to 25 HCRAAG members. A non-refundable registration fee of \$35 must be paid in advance. Give or send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Gail Ferdinando at 4 Bonnell Rd., Pittstown, NJ 08867.

Participants can commute daily or stay overnight. A discounted rate of \$112 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated for all reservations made prior to December 9th. Please contact the Hampton Inn at (908) 284-9427 to reserve your room and mention HCRAAG to get the special rate.

2009 HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp – August 10-14, 2009 -- Three excellent instructors – Sandra Brown, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay -- are scheduled to be at our 2009 camp. Beginning this month we will feature one of the instructors so that members will have additional information to assist in making their camp instructor decision.

We start with Sandra Brown who provided the following information.

“I started hooking 25 years ago, doing my own patterns, largely in #6 cut, and eschewing projects like cabbage roses and narrower cuts, though even from the beginning I preferred nature patterns and geometrics. My first teacher was Esther Miller, a McGown teacher from Decorah, Iowa, who would drive all the way to Rochester, Minnesota to teach two classes a day once a month in the winter even though she was already moving on in years. She was also of the opinion that dyeing was no mystery, and every class there was a hands-on dye demonstration. It was years later that I learned that not every rug hooker enjoys having sprinkles of color all over her country top.... Classes were held in a home with a fish pond in the living room and books lining the walls and it was my first introduction to the WOMEN in rug hooking as being not your ordinary females. Gifted, warm, involved, active and not easily fooled, I was not only drawn to the beautiful craft of turning luscious wool into hooked rugs, I was drawn to the women I could actually call mentors.

Some years later, I began to realize that much of the wisdom these older teachers had was going to be taken to the grave if I didn't pick up the mantle and start learning to teach myself, hence, my journey through the McGown Teacher Training Program. Put down the #6 and pick up the #3! But what beautiful results and there's no doubt that everything I learn through the McGown program informs my work as a fiber artist and juried member of the Pittsburgh Fiberarts Guild and the Pittsburgh Craftsman's Guild, both of which require original work for entry.

Somewhere along the way I invented the Pittsburgh Rug Hooking Frame, largely because I wanted a cheaper, transportable frame to take to workshops and on vacations, and for years my sons would help assemble them in the garage. I still glue each one myself and am now back to assembly as well.

In addition, I bought a 45 acre farm (sojourneyfarm.com) in the SW corner of Pennsylvania 3

years ago in order to raise grass-fed Highland beef, free-range French roasting chickens and live as nearly off the grid and out of the way as possible, offering this big ol' farm house as a place for workshops and B&B visitors, feeding people locally raised and healthy foods. The area is exquisite and reinforces my belief that the Earth is very giving when we treat it with respect.

I still tend toward geometrics, pictorials (a recent project for my two groups of classes was Grenfell style mats using Appalachian themes and vistas--there being a dearth of polar bears around these parts, although I fear around the world soon as well) and in recent years some primitives hooked with torn wool. On a down day I go into my studio and re-arrange the walls of dyed wool, hoping to hear what it wants to be turned into.

My goal in teaching is to get the student where she wants to go in her piece, nudging out possibilities, helping in the creative decisions process and teaching every technical skill I myself use to further the artisan's craftsmanship. It is never my design; it is theirs, and my privilege to help give it birth. It is always a learning experience for me as well.

I look forward to teaching at HCRAg camp next year and appreciate your kind invitation.”

Those who want more insights into Sandra's approach are encouraged to read her article entitled “Exploring Geometrics: Inspired Variations on Grids and Circles” found in the June/July/August 2008 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine. The opening paragraph provides a clue as to what you can expect in her camp workshop. “Hidden in every pattern that we call a geometric are hundreds of other patterns waiting to be brought to life. Bringing patterns to life is what rug hooking is all about – which color plans we use, which width of wool, whether to use texture or smooth wool, and finally, how to make each pattern our own. Our mission as fiber crafts people is to bring out the unrevealed possibilities – the truly creative ones.”

Please note that dues must be paid by the November meeting in order to be eligible for the HCRAg member rate of \$150. The non-member rate is \$225.

Susan Feller Workshop at Historic Longstreet Farm – October 20-24, 2008 – Past HCRAg Camp instructor Susan Feller will be conducting a week long workshop at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ from October 20-24, 2008. The focus will be on design, color planning and working with the history of the Pennsylvania German's and fraktur influence on our American folk art. She will intersperse social history and artistic concepts drawn from frakturs. For more information or to register go to www.monmouthcountyparks.com, click on Parks, then Historic Longstreet Farm, scroll to Program Activities and click on Rug Hooking Camp. If you do not have internet access, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

Historic Longstreet Farm also sponsors a weekly “Gathering” for rug hookers of all levels. They meet every Tuesday from 10 – 3. For more information contact the Farm at 732-946-3758.

Brandywine Hook-in – October 25, 2008 -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is having its 4th annual hook-in on October 25 from 9-4 at the Wagontown Fire Company Volunteer's Hall in Wagontown, PA. It is northwest of Coatesville, PA on Rt. 340. (The new location is at a closer location.). The vendors include HCRAg favorites – Jan Cole, Rebecca Erb, Susan Feller and Kay Levan (Homespun) – all of whom were at our hook-in. Special events this year include an exhibit of the Sally D'Albora's colorful rugs, a participants' rug show and a raffle for a Townsend Cutter. Advance registration is \$12 for non-members or \$14 at the door. Contact Marion Hall, Event Coordinator, at hookin2008@aol.com or 610-431-1835 for more information. We have had

a HCRAAG contingent attend in past years and hopefully members will support the Brandywine Guild again this year. It is a fun event!

Meet Our Member – Joanne McIlmurray -- Joanne lives in Schwenksville, PA. The distance to our meetings and her job prevents her from attending as many meetings as she would like. However, she finds ways to contribute to HCRAAG. Last year, Joanne presented the Guild program on wool “feather trees”. She also participates in most HCRAAG demonstrations in Pennsylvania at The Henry Muhlenberg House in Trappe, the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA and the Apple Butter Frolic in Harleysville, PA.

Joanne’s involvement with rug hooking started accidentally in October 2004 when she stopped at Homespun in Herford, PA and met Nettie Snyder who was so enthusiastic about rug hooking that Joanne signed up for a workshop in November. She went home and did some internet research and that night bought a little 8” x 8” pumpkin kit on eBay. The woman from whom she bought the kit was a big help too and told Joanne about online rug hooking groups which she joined. When the pumpkin kit arrived a few days later, she worked on it immediately using a hoop. It was finished in one day and she was hooked! The following weekend, she went back to Homespun and bought a Puritan frame. Joanne had three rugs completed by the time she took the November workshop. She has not stopped since.

Her first rug hooking camp was “Hooked in the Mountains” at Shelburne Museum in April 2006 where she worked with Karen Kahle. The following August she took a Jon Ciemiewicz workshop. Jon drew Joanne’s cat, Nicky, who she lost a few days after coming back from Vermont. Joanne prefers to hook in 8 and 8.5 cuts in the primitive style, but she completed Nicky’s rug in 4 and 6 cuts. Joanne has also taken several workshops at Homespun.

She is a real student and “absolutely loves pouring through books with antique rugs and trying to copy their style.” Her favorite book is American Folk Art Rugs Underfoot by Joel and Mary Kopp. She was able to see several of her favorite rugs from the book last year at the American Folk Art Museum’s exhibit in New York City

When she first started hooking, Joanne said that she would “never get into dyeing her own wool or drawing her own patterns”. That changed in less than two months. She now enjoys “playing in the dye pot” when she has the time. She especially likes the colors that can be achieved by marbleizing. Joanne visits the local thrift stores looking for wool skirts and slacks that she will over dye. She also buys yardage, more so lighter shades that she can also over dye.

Joanne works with patterns she buys as well as her own. She claims that she “cannot draw to save my life”, so she has a practical approach to rug design. She uses shapes from the internet that she prints, cuts out and traces and items from the house such as plates and various size bottles that she traces for circles. Her approach works well for primitive style patterns. Joanne believes that “Rug hooking is what you do with the colors you use that really make your rug come alive. The same person can hook the same rug, but one can look totally different than the other.” When not designing her own patterns, Joanne keeps her eyes open for “that pattern that when you see it you know you have to hook it.”

When you consider the energy and enthusiasm that she put into her first pumpkin project, it is not surprising that Joanne hooks every chance she gets. With a full time job, hooking in the evenings currently works best. You will find Joanne at her hooking frame most evenings. After work, she enjoys coming home and sitting down to hook after dinner that is often prepared by her husband. When hooking she concentrates completely on her rug. Joanne works on one rug at a time.

Usually that means whipping the edges and completely finishing the rug before starting the next one. However, she is often planning her next rug while working on one. Sometimes Joanne has trouble getting started on a new rug, but when she does, she “can’t seem to stop until it is finished.”

Being a prolific rug hooker presents the challenge of what to do with all her creations. The year after she started hooking, Joanne was accepted into several juried craft shows. She hates to part with them, but does not have the room for all she makes. She also has her rugs in several stores and does well around the holidays. The feather tree work shop that Joanne presented to the Guild has become popular and she has given the workshop at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA and the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA. Others have expressed interest too.

Joanne learned about our Guild from Mary Jo and Karl Gimber who were taking workshops at Shelburne when she was there. Her love of rug hooking has allowed her to support the Guild by demonstrating at events in Bucks and Montgomery Counties that are difficult for others to do.

When she is not working or hooking, Joanne enjoys reading, flea marketing, shopping and going to the movies. She also loves the ocean and will often jump into her car and drive to the beach for the day, mostly during the off season.

Joanne and her husband Phillip just celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary. They do not have children, but do share their lives with two cats – an Abyssinian named Miles who just turned 15 and a Bengal named Riley who is two. Joanne has worked in the construction industry for about 25 years. When she was laid off last year, she found work in another industry, but looks forward to returning when an opportunity arises. Phillip is an expeditor for a company that produces anesthesia machines.

Joanne grew up in a Pennsylvania German family where everyone did hand work of some kind. Her grandmother used to crochet, sew, needlework, knit and quilt. Her mother is still an avid quilter, seamstress and knitter. Her uncle taught her to do needlepoint and crewel embroidery. Joanne learned to do stamped cross stitch at the age of 6. She still has her first project, which hangs in her hooking room. For many years Joanne did counted cross stitch, but was unable to continue because of hand problems. She then discovered rug hooking. The rug hooking community and Guild are glad she did!

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Barbara Lugg) – When blocking a rug, several elements are needed - steam, pressure and duration of the pressure. In order to get a lot of steam, a hot iron is required. Generally when the hot iron is placed on the surface of the damp towel to produce the steam, the iron will cool. To maximize the heat you then need to wait for the iron to heat up again before you continue. This adds time to the blocking process. If you do not wait, less steam will be produced. One way to speed up the process is to use two irons and alternate using each one. When you are blocking with one, the other is heating up. Used irons can be found at thrift stores for under \$10. The investment will speed up the blocking process and should improve the results too.

Hooking Frame for Sale -- When Guild members demonstrated at the Plumsteadville Grange recently, they learned that Ms. Kathie Poore of Ottsville, PA has a Puritan Frame for sale. It is new and still in the box. Asking price is \$120. If you have interest, call Kathie at 215-795-2188

or by email at kathiepoore@yahoo.com. Karl Gimber does not live far from Ottsville and has offered to pick up the frame and bring it to a meeting for anyone who purchases it.

Guild Demonstrates Rug Hooking – During September, the Guild demonstrated rug hooking at Colonial Market Day in Newtown, PA, at Heritage Day in Trappe, PA, at the Historical Fall Festival in Hilltown, PA and at the Holcomb-Jimison Farmstead in Lambertville, NJ. We thank our members who supported these events by giving of their time and talents to help inform the public about traditional rug hooking and about HCRA. Specifically, we thank Janet Bosshard, Margaret Brightbill, Nancy Carman, Claudia Casebolt, Karl Gimber, Deanna Kinney, Joan Lucas, Joanne McIlmurray, Gisele Meader, Irene Pasternak and Kitty Platt for their support. There was a lot of interest in rug hooking and our Guild. Members who demonstrated for the first time commented on how fast the time went and how enjoyable it was. We received extra publicity when a photo of Margaret Brightbill was carried in the local Sunday paper. Someone had “rug hooking stuff” that she no longer wanted and was put in touch with Weezie.

October is another busy month and we ask each member to assist in our efforts. You can demonstrate for only an hour or two or for the entire day. There is a lot of flexibility. The schedule for October is shown below. Please let the event coordinators know when you can help.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
October 4, 2008	Apple Butter Frolic Mennonite Heritage Center, Creek Road Farm, Harleysville, PA	Karl Gimber
Oct. 4 & 5, 2008	Sheep & Fiber Festival * Hunterdon County Fair Grounds Ringoos, NJ	Weezie Huntington
October 18, 2008	Larenswaert Festival, Peter Wentz Farmstead, Worcester, PA	Karl Gimber

* Visit www.njsheep.org for more information on the Festival.

Volunteers are needed for Thanksgiving in the Country on November 1 and 2, 2008. We will be demonstrating rug hooking at the historic Prallsville Mill in Stockton, NJ from 9 to 5. We try to have two members in the morning and two in the afternoon. Dressing in period clothing is desired but not mandatory. Volunteers wishing to sell their rugs or hooked pins and ornaments will be required to donate 15% of their sales to the Facial Reconstruction Department of Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, PA.

This is a fun weekend with so many visitors and people interested in rug hooking. Contact Joyce Combs at 609 737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net if you are interested in participating.

Fourth Annual Worcester Historical Society Tour Day -- October 11, 2008 Guild member Pat McDonnell has provided information on her community's historical society tour day from 10 to 4 on Saturday, October 11, 2008.

Come celebrate the township's unique heritage! Pick up your ticket and map at Farmer's Union Hall, and then visit six township sites open for this special occasion. The charge is \$10 per car. The Farmer's Union Hall is located in Montgomery County, PA next to the Exxon station at the crossroads of Rt. 73 (Skipack Pike) and Rt. 363 (Valley Forge Road).

- Farmer's Union Hall – Visit this unique collection of items from Worcester Township dating from the 1850's to the 1950's. Be sure to see the newest exhibits, *Heebner Horsepower* and *Flax to Linen*.
- Bradford Woodworking– In this shop, located on property originally belonging to Peter Wentz, Sr., local artist Bradford Smith creates beautiful contemporary furniture, often using farm implements in his functional designs.
- Haines Property– Built from ballast bricks by a Quaker settler this home sits directly over the headwaters of Stony Creek. Of the several outbuildings, one may have been used to ward off Indian attacks as early as 1650.
- Methacton Mennonite Church and Cemetery– The third and present sanctuary appears much as it did when it was built about 1805. Many of Worcester's earliest residents, Mennonite and non-Mennonite alike, occupy this cemetery and tours will be given throughout the day.
- Variety Club—Historically part of the Spare Farm, the original home still stands amid the camp buildings which have been in use since the Posel family donated the property nearly sixty years ago.
- Evangelical Congregational "Dutchie" Church and Cemetery- Owned by the Worcester Historical Society this building dates to 1845. A trap door and escape tunnel suggest use by the Underground Railroad. A cemetery tour is now included.

Visit the Guild Website at www.hcrag.com to find out what is happening with the Guild. Use it to check on membership information, the schedule of programs and to connect with other rug hooking links. There are also photos from our 2008 Rug Hooking Camp and a gallery of rugs hooked by HCRAG members. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked on Rugs: An American Art – An exhibit of hooked rugs will be at the Allentown Art Museum, 31 N. Fifth St., Allentown, PA from September 3, 2008 to January 4, 2009. For more information contact the museum at 215-432-4333.

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

7th Annual Newtown Hooked Rug Show – Saturday October 4, 2008 at the Reed Intermediate School, 3 Trades Lane, Newtown, CT. Admission \$10. Full program offered - speaker (June Myles), workshop (Trish Becker), juried and non-juried show and 35 vendors. For more information visit website www.newtownhookedrugshow.com or email nmh1792@hotmail.com or call 203-270-8293.

Historic Longstreet Farm Workshop – Susan Feller will present a workshop at the Longstreet Farm on October 20-24, 2008. For more information go to www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call the farm at 732-946-3758.

4th Annual Brandywine Hook-In -- Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the Wagontown Fire Company in Wagontown, PA (northwest of Coatesville on Rt. 340). Vendors, rug show, door prizes and special raffle. Advance registration is \$12 (\$14 at the door) for non-members. For more information contact Marian Hall at mariangh@aol.com.

Hooked in the Mountains XIII –November 8-16, 2008. The annual show and workshops sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be at the Shelburne Museum. For more information go to the guild's web site – www.greenmountainrughookingguild.org.

Jersey Girls Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 at the Firehouse in Oldwick, NJ.

The 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.

A "Gathering" of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

October 1-31, 2008 – HCRAG Rug Exhibit at Lebanon Township Museum

October 10, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- Miniature Punch-Needle (Cliff Ballard) *

November 14, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Finishing Rugs (Margaret Lutz) *.

December 12, 2008 – Holiday Luncheon *

January 9, 2009 – Monthly meeting – Auction and White Elephant Sale *

January 9-11, 2009 – 3rd Annual Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 13 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

March 13, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

April 10, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

May 8, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD*

June 12, 2009 – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic*

August 10-14, 2009 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

* Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, it is the first building on the right.

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

President – Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Nina Seaman – 609-785-5705 or bonal@comcast.net

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

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749 & Barbara Lugg – 908-996-2562

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

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or cliffballard2@comcast.net

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

Secretary – Joyce Combs -- 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net

Special Events -- Kitty Platt – 908-782-8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com

Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@att.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

Sunshine – Lib Ryman -- 908-604-9459 or libr21226@aol.com
Treasurer – Gisele Meader -- 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net
Margaret Brightbill (Asst. Treasurer) – 215-968-2711 or katie4rose@aol.com
Webmaster – Laurie Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.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 at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com. by than the 20th of the month.

Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAE)
2008/2009 Membership Dues

The Guild's program year begins on September 1, 2008 at which time membership dues are payable. To continue membership or to become a member, please send a check for \$20 made payable to HCRAE to our Treasurer, Gisele Meader, 74 Barry Road, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

Name

Address

Phone Number	Email Address
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Birthday (month and day only)

Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild

Minutes: September 12, 2009
Recorded by: Bernice Smith

Karl Gimber, standing in for President Weezie Huntington, opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

Old Business:

Lebanon Township Rug Exhibit

Kay Weeks spoke about the upcoming rug exhibit at the Lebanon Township Museum which is located on Muscanetcong River Road off Route 31. The exhibit runs from October 4 – 30 2008. A reception will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 1 to 5 pm. The museum is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 5pm and on Saturday from 1pm to 5pm.

Set up for the exhibit will be Tuesday, September 30th from 9:30 to 5pm and Thursday, October 2nd from 9:30 am to 5pm. Ingrid Cosmen will arrange to meet anyone at the Hunterdon County Library on Route 12, Raritan Township to pick up rugs for the exhibit. Call Ingrid to set up a pick-up time. Rugs should have a card attached indicating the owner of the rug and all pertinent information about it including when it was hooked and the value of the rug for insurance purposes. The current rates are \$125 per square foot for primitive rugs (6+cut) and \$150 for fine rugs (5-cut). There is a need for volunteers to help with the set-up.

Rugs will be removed on Saturday, November 1. Any rug not picked up by the owner at that time will be available for pick-up at the November guild meeting.

HCRAG January 2009 Annual Hook-In

Gail Ferdinando is collecting the \$35.00 fee for the January hook-in to be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, N.J. on the weekend of January 9-11.

HCRAG 2008 Rug Hooking Camp

Historian, Marion Michel, had the guild scrapbooks on display at the September guild meeting and has requested that anyone who took pictures at the August camp provide some copies to be added to the scrapbooks.

Karl Gimber commented that the subsidy provided by the guild for the August camp was the lowest it has been in years at \$728.00. The outside revenues from non-members and beginning rug hookers plus the member provided housing for the teachers has helped a great deal in that regard.

Kitty Platt reported that the surveys at camp had many good comments. The only notable negative comments were that it was too cold for some (which we have no control over) and that there were too many 'raffles'

Kay weeks reported that the beginners' class, which she and Connie Coleman taught had 11 people and was very successful. The project was a mug rug with proddy petals around the outside. She noted that the response of the adults was very similar to that of the children she has introduced to rug hooking. They seem overwhelmed at the beginning of the project and some felt they could not do it, but once someone had completed the project. The others were encouraged and all finished. Kay feels that it is important to introduce beginners with a project that can be finished within the allotted time frame so that they have a completed project to take home. Weezie Huntington brought in boxes of donated wools, patterns, etc. which were a big help but that supply cannot be counted on in the future. It was suggested that members with extra hoops, cutters, or wool might offer them for sale to beginners looking for equipment at the camp.

HCRAG Demonstrations

Cindy Boults mentioned that Weezie Huntington suggested we develop a portable display including photos of various guild events and information about this guild and rug hooking that could be set up at the various demonstrations we do so people can find out exactly who we are and about our various activities.

Carol Kindt has created 2 samples for kits (one round and one square) and Dee Rosebrock hooked a sample. The kits could be sold at various hooking demonstrations for \$35.00. A kit would include a hook, hoop, backing, wool (precut #6), instructions and a telephone number.

There is a need for donations of wool for the kits and volunteers to put the kits together.

2008 Hunterdon County 4-H Agricultural Fair

Dee Rosebrock reported on the guild’s participation in the annual fair and presented the winners ribbons. The following members entered rugs in the fair: Cynthia Boults, Karl Gimber, MaryJo Gimber, Weezie Huntington, Barbara Lugg, Gisele Meader, Marion Michel, Dee Rosebrock, Janet Santaniello, and Mary Schenck.

The ribbon winners were:

<i>Traditional:</i>	Best of Show	Gisele Meader – “Snack Time”
	Viewers Choice	Gisele Meader – “Snack Time”
	Runners-up	Cynthia Boults – “School” Cynthia Boults – Stars & Stripes”
<i>Primitive:</i>	Best of Show	Weezie Huntington – “Buffalo”
	Best of Show Overall	Weezie Huntington – “Buffalo”
	Runners-up	Mary Schenck – “Birds&Pomegranates”
		Karl Gimber – “Carversville”

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional:

Best of Show Barbara Lugg – “Sheep”

“Thank You” to the following for Support and Help at the Fair: Janet Bosshard, Cindy Boults, Margaret Brighbill, Kathy Donovan, Gail Ferdinando, Weezie Huntington, Carol Kindt, Gisele Meader, Kitty Platt, Dee Rosebrock, Bonnie Rusch, and Janet Williams.

New Business

Weekend Workshop

Karl Gimber brought up that President Weezie Huntington has asked for feedback regarding the guild sponsoring a weekend workshop similar to the “Highlands”, which is no longer being offered. It would be a local weekend workshop with one or two instructors. If there is interest, Weezie would do preliminary work on setting it up. It might fall within \$150 range and be a Friday to Sunday workshop. Someone wondered if it might be possible to have access to the “Highlands” mailing list. Enough interest was expressed to ask Weezie to pursue the project.

2008-2009 Guild Bus Trip

Karl Gimber asked if there would be interest in the Guild sponsoring a bus trip this year similar to the one we took last year to Lancaster, Pa. The guild would provide the bus and the members would pay any museum entry fees required. The cost of the bus to Lancaster was about \$500.00.

The members were interested and it was suggested that we might go to Wintertur. The museum admission fee is \$19.00 (group of 20 or more) and would include a one hour tour and access to the exhibits. Including a tip and incidental, the cost for a member would be about \$25.00.

2008-2009 Programs

Sharon Ballard brought up the following:

“Jersey Girls” Rug Show sponsored by the Alice Beatty chapter of ATHA on April 24-25, 2009. A sign up sheet was passed around to indicate how many rugs each person was planning to enter in the show. Each person should enter at least on New Jersey related rug. Other rugs may be entered as space permits.

The October program will feature Cliff Ballard, Sharon’s husband. He will present a program on Russian punch needlepoint.

The November program will feature Margaret Lutz. She will present a program on finishing rugs. She will have copies of her book on the subject published by Rug Hooking Magazine.

The December program is the holiday luncheon. Those interested in doing a shoebox exchange should bring a decorated shoebox containing something related to rug hooking. Anyone interested should bring a hooked tree ornament that will be put on a small tree to be given to a lucky person. Margaret Brightbill suggested having two trees, one for ornaments to be given away and one for ornaments to be displayed and kept by the maker.

Sharon asked if we could afford to pay for outside people to come to do programs. The current rate is \$200 to \$250. Gisele Meader reported that we have \$5958.93 in our treasury for programs and projects.

Possible Programs:

Gail Dufresne – program on hooking animal eyes – After March, 2009

Laurie Rubinetti – braiding
Jeannine Happe of 2 Old Crows
Karen Worthington of Blue Tulip
Connie Coleman – how to do textile design on the computer – February, 2009

We welcome new member, Pat McDonald.

Member Eileen Mahler has a rug in ‘Celebrations’ Magazine.

Shows and Exhibits

The 7th Annual Newtown Hooked Rug Show will be held Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 9:30 am to 3:00pm at the Reed Intermediate School in Newtown, Connecticut. Guild member, Trish Becker will do a workshop on wide-cut animals in #9 cut.

The Pohatcong Historic House Tour will be held on October 18, 2008. Member Mary Schenck’s (formerly artist Dan Campanelli’s home) home will be on the tour.

The Harvest Home Tour will be held Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 11 am to 4pm in Quakertown, NJ. Artist Dan Campanelli’s home will be one of the historic homes on the tour. Tickets will be available on the day of the tour at the Franklin Township School at the West end of Quakertown.

Mary Schenck noted that antique coverlets will be on display at the Bowman-Stickney Museum in Readington, NJ this weekend and next. The hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm.

The rugs produced by Margaret and Madeline Brightbill will be on display at Pennswood in Newtown, PA during October, November and December.