

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

October 2012

Presidents' Letter – “NO SEASON HAS MORE OF A SIGNATURE PALETTE THAN FALL.” And it just so happens that we both share an affinity for those oranges, golds and browns. Just look at our hooked sheep! And as the days and evenings cool, our rugs no longer seem so hot and heavy lying across our laps as we work alone in front of our favorite resumed television shows or once again gathering with our various hooking circles. Our many crow projects seem to sing to the season... Welcome autumn!

Therefore, it seems so appropriate that our October Guild meeting (at the POLICE STATION) will feature the work of perhaps the quintessential primitive hooker, Magdalena Briner Eby as presented by Evelyn Lawrence with pattern and wool support from Norma Batastini. Magdalena's themes and palette are so evocative of the deep rich colors of autumn. But then there is always that surprising inclusion of a vibrant blue or red berry!

We are looking forward to seeing and hearing the history of this extraordinary artist and how her art lives on through the research and work of Evelyn. This presentation is being gifted to the Guild by the memorial fund raised in Connie Coleman's memory. Connie was a wonderfully talented artist and teacher. Her hooking was refined work exemplified by exquisitely perfect lettering; she certainly would have been keenly interested in this hooking history. So come and learn about a fascinating piece of “our hooking history”.

While we will have a quick business meeting to catch up on Festival news and up coming events, we will not have Show & Tell so as to have sufficient time for the special presentation. However, there will be hospitality and again thanks to those who volunteered to bring the treats. No tricks since we will be at the Police Station!

If you would like to participate in the tree program in November, patterns will still be available at the October meeting for purchase or by contacting Therese directly. There will be plenty of time to hook these three dimensional works of art for all seasons. Thank you to those who hooked sheep and trees for the upcoming Thanksgiving in the Country event as they are now completed and ready for sale.

A big thank you goes to Ellen DiClemente for volunteering to join Sharon and Barb on the Program Committee with the considerable effort of running our monthly programs -- the “We can do it!” spirit.

Just a heads-up that the sign up for next summer's camp has begun with great enthusiasm with the result that one offering is full and another almost full. However we have always found that those on the wait-listed usually get a space, so make a commitment soon if you are interested. We will provide more details and sign up for the Spring Fling in November.

At our September meeting we discussed the intention to work on the by-laws in the future. However a few changes were made by a meeting of the Board. The title of Public Relations/Newsletter will be changed to Director of Communications/Public Relations and that person will be a voting member of the Board. Requests for participation in demonstrations, hook-ins and other special events will be made to the Special Events Committee for scheduling and availability of volunteers and then voted on by the Board. We also made a commitment to recording duties, tasks and resources involved in meeting the responsibilities of our committees, thereby making possible smooth transitions in the future. Cindy and Therese

October Meeting – Friday, October 12, 2012 -- **The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild will hold its monthly meeting on Friday, October 12, 2012 at its alternate meeting location -- the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt. 523 and Rt. 12 traffic circle outside of Flemington, NJ. 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.**

Guild Program – Evelyn Lawrence from Hallstead, PA is a nationally recognized expert on rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner Eby who lived in Perry County, PA from 1832 to 1915. Rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner Eby have a distinct look and are regarded as exceptional examples of American folk art. They can be found in some of the most distinguished private collections and sell for tens of thousands of dollars when they come up at auctions.

Ms. Lawrence will share the results of over ten years of research that included interviews with descendants, historians, antique dealers and private collectors as well as many others who were able to provide personal memories. She will tell why she started on this journey and how she found the rugs. Evelyn will focus on the rugs and why she is sure these are by the hand of Magdalena Briner Eby.

In the 1800s, women were never idle. If there were not enough chores to go around, handwork was done to keep busy and to provide comfort and beauty for the home such as quilts, clothing and rugs. Evelyn relates to that history growing up on a farm with a step-grandmother who braided rugs every day and made bread, applesauce, salt pork and sauerkraut. She never sat idle.

Evelyn Lawrence observes that “I have almost channeled Magdalena as I have studied the rugs, read the letters, toured the area and talked to her relatives. I can hear the rocking chair squeak and feel the horsehair of the furniture in the parlor.” The original Magdalena Briner Eby rugs are the inspiration for a series of rugs hooked by Evelyn Lawrence. These rugs will be discussed and displayed at the meeting.

Evelyn is the co-author of Rug Hooking Traditions with Magdalena Briner Eby that was published last year. A book signing follows the program.

This special program is made possible by a donation from Alan Powell in memory of his wife, Connie Coleman, who was an active member of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild.

Show & Tell – There will be no Show & Tell this month in order to provide more time for the special program. Thanks to Sharon Ballard’s generous donations, the September S & T raffle winners were Karl Gimber (variegated yarn), Cheryl Halliday (Yankee candle), Barbara Lugg (candleholder), Kay Weeks (wool cutter blade holders), and Sue Woodward (address book).

Hospitality – We thank in advance Helen Buchanan, Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas for volunteering to bring refreshments to the meeting. Since we anticipate increased attendance due to the special program, the Hospitality Committee is requesting additional support in providing treats for the meeting.

October Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Catherine Basich (10/26), Margie Briggs (10/13), Annie Edwards (10/3), Jana Laidlaw (10/27), Gisele Meader (10/25), Judy Quintman (10/3), Katie Simonson (10/6), and Bernice Smith (10/10). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

Membership – We welcome the following new members and look forward to seeing them at upcoming Guild activities:

Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar
208 Fred Allen Dr.
S. Plainfield, NJ 07080
908-757-5257
Bechtoldt@comcast.net

Helen Nitzsche
520 Wadsworth Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-755-8161
helennitzsche@comcast.net

Teri Dabrowski
7 Prospect Hills, Apt. 1-B
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-782-7156
(no email)

Attilia (Tillie) Ren
19 Davis Ct.
Martinsville, NJ 08836
732-356-2970
tilliebean@optonline.net

Karen Gates
5251 Downs Run
Pipersville, PA E.
215-766-0746
Karen.gates@comcast.net

Nancy Sears
6213 Blackberry Terrace
Stroudsburg, PA 18301
410-627-8179
njsears@ptd.net

Our program year started last month, so it is time to renew your membership. The renewal form is attached.

Sunshine – Carol Kindt is recovering from her second knee replacement surgery. She reports that “If it weren't for the pinched nerve in my back, I think my recovery would be coming along much better. The new knees get very stiff if I don't work them all the time. Going to PT three days a week and that helps a lot.”

Guild News & Events

Guild Demonstrations Continue in October – This month is another active one for demonstrating at local festivals. The schedule for the balance of the year is as follows:

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|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • October 6 | Apple Butter Frolic | Joanne McIlmurray |
| • October 6 | Newtown Colonial Market Day | Karl Gimber/Annie Edwards |
| • October 20 | Howell Living Farm (Quilt Day) | Carol Kindt |
| • November 3 & 4 | Thanksgiving in the Country | Joyce Combs |

Please let the coordinators, whose names are shown with each event, if you can help. Our participation in these events not only helps support the community but also allows us to spread the word about rug hooking and our Guild. They are fun too!

Items Needed for Guild Exhibit at Doylestown Library During November

Our Guild will be displaying works by our members at the Bucks County Library in Doylestown, PA during the month of November. The exhibit will be in a locked display case that visitors pass as they enter the library. (The display case is 9' 6" long by 14" deep by 47" high with adjustable glass shelves.) The location is ideal for publicizing the Guild in Bucks County and the timing is perfect for launching our Rug Festival PR efforts.

Members are requested to bring small rugs, mats and three dimensional hooked items to the October meeting for the exhibit. Ideally we would like to have examples of items hooked with different techniques such as proddy, fine cut, Waldoboro, wide cut, etc to help tell the story of contemporary rug hooking. Hooked masks, sheep, trees, pins, and ornaments will allow us to illustrate the range of rug hooking projects possible and the creativity of our members.

Karl Gimber, who is coordinating the exhibit, is looking for help in setting up the display on November 1. The items displayed will be returned at the December meeting.

2012 Autumn Hook-in on October 27, 2012 -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild will hold its annual hook-in at the Wagontown Fire Hall, in Wagontown, PA on October 27 2012. There will be vendors, a rug show, a Eurostream Iron Raffle and challenge mat. Advance registration is recommended. For more information visit the Guild's website (www.brandywinerughookingguild.org).

Bargain of the Year -- Hooking Retreat Set for January 11-13, 2013 -- Our popular hooking retreat will be on January 11-13 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. After our monthly meeting, participants will move over to the Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday at 4:00. Participants can commute or stay overnight. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

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

A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton In at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild.

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

Spring Fling Workshops With Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa – April 5 - 7, 2013 – Cyndy Duade and Lucille Festa are returning by popular demand to conduct two exciting Spring Fling workshops at the Flemington Hampton Inn on

Friday, April 5, 2013 to Sunday April 7, 2013. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton In at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild.

The registration fee is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Additional details are still being developed.

Guild to Exhibit Rugs at Hilltown Historical Society – March 16, 2013 -- The Hilltown Historical Society has invited the Guild to exhibit our rugs at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead on March 16, 2013. In addition to displaying our members' one-of-a-kind creations, we will demonstrate rug hooking during the day. More details will follow.

Plans for Camp 2013 Underway --Our Guild's 17th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors have been recruited. Judy Carter, Sarah Guiliani and Cynthia Norwood will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. Our great team of camp directors from this year – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh – will again run camp in 2013.

Camp Workshops

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

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

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

Cynthia Norwood -- This will be a primarily a primitive and wide cut class. Cynthia is comfortable teaching all types of hooking and loves to work with unusual textures and paisleys. She tries to get students to push their own comfort zones. Cynthia will work with you on a pattern of your choice. Her class will include lectures, demonstrations and class discussions.

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

Registration/Instructional Fees – Registration began at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2012. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2013. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2013, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill – Update – Thanks to the hard work of a core group of rug hookers we are beginning to see our Festival take shape. We held our first organizational meeting on Saturday September 22nd. The Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill now has an Executive Committee and Chairs for most of the committees and they were in attendance at this meeting. The committee chairs are shown below.

- Rug Collection: Janet Santaniello & Eleanor Dunker (Co-Chairs)
- Vendors: Margaret Lutz & Sue Menges (Co-Chairs)
- Boutique: Sharon Ballard (Chair)
- Rug Raffle: Debbie Walsh (Chair)
- Rug Hanging: Weezie Huntington (Chair)
- PR: Karl Gimber (Chair)

We are excited to announce that we have secured the following vendors for our Festival:

Gail Dufresne – Goat Hill Studio
Rebecca Erb – The Wool Studio
Jeannine Happe & Karen Worthington – Two Old Crows/The Blue Tulip
Kay Leisey – Homespun
Betsy Reed – Heavens to Betsy
Norma Batastini – Heart in Hand
Jan Cole – Wool-n-Gardner

There has been some preliminary work on both public relations for the event as well as a website (www.rugfestival.com) that will be dedicated to the Festival. Those will be more apparent the closer we get to the event.

There are three guilds participating in our Festival: HCRAAG, Lamb Yankees and Alice Beatty. All three guilds have been busy brainstorming ideas for the boutique and many volunteers have made or are making items for that.

And there has been progress on the raffle rug. Hooking is continuing on the rug and we should see the rug at our November meeting. The raffle license has been applied for, so once we have that, we will print tickets and begin to sell them for this gorgeous piece.

If you have not claimed your niche on a committee yet, please consider where you can help. We will need EVERYONE to make this a success! Please contact Therese with any and all questions especially how to get hooked up with a committee. Thanks!

Guild Library Continues to Expand -- The Guild wishes to thank the following for their kind donations to our ever growing library.

- Weezie Huntington donated a catalogue from the D. Landreth Seed Company. The title is the Heirloom Bulb Collection, Garlic and Flowers. The catalogue is illustrated with reproductions of antique watercolors from the private collection of The International Bulb Center in The Netherlands. They are a good reference if you are hooking any of the plants illustrated.
- Ellen DiClemente graciously purchased a copy of The Complete Book of Fruits and Vegetables written by F. Bianchini and F. Corbetta. The illustrator is Marilea Pistoia. The color illustrations in this book are a wonderful reference for anyone hooking fruits or vegetables in a rug. Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar recommended this book during our summer camp.

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.

“Freshman” Special Events Coordinator Needed -- We are still looking for someone to step in as the “Freshman” Special Events Chair to comply with the Guild’s by-laws and to maintain continuity when Amy Korengut completes her two year term as of June 2013.

Our by-laws define the duties of the Special Events Chair as follows:

“The Special Events Committee Chair will oversee and lead a committee of no less than 4 people to consider and organize any special events, such as a weekend retreat, a hook-in, opportunities to demonstrate hooking, opportunities to exhibit our work, or any necessary fundraising.”

Amy will work together with anyone on this project and help out so that no one person will bear all the responsibility. She would appreciate if those interested in getting additional information would see her at the October meeting as we do need to fill this position.

Friends of the Guild Recognized -- Our Guild is very fortunate to have the support of various vendors, magazines and teachers who generously donate items that we use for raffles at camp and workshops. We are pleased to have an opportunity to reciprocate by providing information on these “Friends of the Guild”. Please support them!

Rug Hooking Magazine -- **Rug Beat** offers the latest rug hooking scoop in a fun, online format. Created by the editors of *Rug Hooking Magazine*, **Rug Beat** is a friendly place to kick up your heels, grab a coffee, and relax and enjoy a feast of hooked art. It includes features on collaborative and guild projects, fun and simple ideas, interesting and different techniques, and much more. With unlimited space on the Internet, Rug Beat is full of photos, and videos make techniques easy to follow.

To make sure that you don't miss out on the latest on the rug hooking scene, visit <http://www.rughookingmagazine.com> today and click on the **Rug Beat** link to subscribe. It's only \$9.95 a year for four issues, plus access to back issues as long as you remain a member. See you on the Beat!

Create & Decorate Magazine -- Come home to country style! *Create & Decorate* is an instructional country, primitive, and vintage-inspired craft magazine that features an array of creative techniques and projects, including rug hooking, punch needle, stitchery, sewing, painting, and more. The magazine shares informative articles, photo galleries of private collections, flea market junking journeys, and boasts two full-size pattern sections! Each magazine contains over 35 original projects for you to create heirloom quality designs.

We love to be social, too! Follow our blog for even more creativity, and find out what's new with Create & Decorate magazine on Facebook and Twitter. Visit us at createanddecorate.com to peek into the latest magazine, view free online projects, and find convenient links to follow us online!

Guild Demonstrates at Successful Events -- Last month Guild members demonstrated rug hooking at the Sheep & Fiber Festival held at the Hunterdon County Fair Grounds in Ringoes, NJ and at the Fall Historical Festival sponsored by the Hilltown Historical Society. Both events attracted large crowds of visitors.

Gisele Meader, who coordinated our involvement with the Sheep & Fiber Festival, reported that they "had a terrific turnout, selling several kits, introducing people to the art of rug hooking and informing them about our Guild and the 2013 Rug Festival. We ran out of handouts! The genuine interest in rug hooking just amazed me. I am sure we will see some new faces at our meetings! Shopping was a nice perk too."

The Hilltown Historical Festival grows in size each year with additional artisans, vendors and demonstrators. There is always much interest in handcrafts. The Hartzel-Strassburger Homstead is an ideal location for the Festival and is the site for a Guild's exhibit in March 2013 (see article above).

We are grateful to Sharon Ballard, Cindy Boults, Ellen DiClemente, Karl Gimber, Weezie Huntington, Lynda Kling, Amy Korengut, Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock, Therese Shick, and Joan Shymko for representing the Guild at these events.

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

Meet Our Assistant Treasurer – Jean Laurence – Jean recalls shopping at the Souder Store in Souderton, PA when she saw a sample of a hooked chair pad. The store was having a beginner rug hooking class for which she signed up. “I just went on from there”, she says. However, it turned out that the workshop was the first one conducted by the instructor and the entire class had difficulty cutting wool strips correctly. So Jean ended up retaking the beginner class as a “remedial student”. In that class all the students (including Jean) learned to cut wool strips properly with no problem.

The McGowan National Exhibit was held in King of Prussia, PA the same year that Jean started hooking. She attended and recalls that “the show was amazing and made me want to hook all the rug styles I saw”. Jean has subsequently attended all McGowan and ATHA national exhibits but one. She also started attending all the workshops directed by Vicki Calu at the Highlands.

As Jean grew as a rug hooking artisan, she was attracted to fine shading but wanted to try all styles. She started out with a #6 cut for a chair pad and continued with #6 to #8 cuts until she took a class with Nancy Blood who assured her that working with a #3 cut would not be a problem. For fun and smiles Jean says “I really like the bright colors and pushing the rules when I work with Gail Dufresne”.

Attending at least one camp or workshop a year was a way for Jean to continue learning. Now that she has retired, Jean is able to attend four or more. The camps held in Santa Fe in February and Cape May in September are among her favorites. Jean typically starts a new rug with each new instructor so that she can learn the most from them. This does result in many rugs in progress.

The number of workshops and camps that Jean attends has allowed her to work and learn with many talented instructors. It is an impressive list.

- Danielle Cavellos (first instructor who taught her the basics)
- Vivily Powers (adding personal touches to commercial patterns)
- Bev Conway (keep it fun with textures)
- Gail Dufresne (push the envelope)
- Pris Butler (you can draw your patterns- the fine points of design in art)
- Diane Stoffel (origami with wool and understanding color –What black?)
- Anita White (use those textures)
- Nancy Blood (traditional fine shading, a #3 cut is easy)
- Elizabeth Black (animal images can be captured in hooking)
- Peggy Hannum (beautiful jewel tones in fine shading and perfecting your technique)
- Jon Ciemiewicz (where is the light on your subject?)
- Michelle Micarelli (fun with hooking and make it glitter and light it up with creative materials)
- Norma Batastini (appreciating the history of hooking and hooking those rugs)

- Cynthia Norwood (primitives with paisleys and working with interesting backgrounds)
- Sibyl Osicka (wild animals)
- Charlotte Price (where to get McGowan patterns)
- Sara Minorini (importance of checking and re-drawing geometrics to stay on straight of grain)
- Jeanne Benjamin (using colors outside your preferences and mixing cuts and styles of hooking in one rug).

Jean notes that “I have learned something from every instructor I have had the opportunity to work with (see notes following the names above). Each instructor has their preferences and I find that if I begin a workshop with an open mind, curiosity, and willingness to try what they suggest I learn the most.” She attributes learning fine shading in flowers, leaves, animals, birds, and hooking Orientals to Nancy Blood and to Gail Dufrense for bright chromas, sculpting, and mixed media.

Jean works primarily with commercial patterns although she does on occasion design her own rug patterns. She works almost exclusively with new wool purchased at camps, workshops and local suppliers.

Most of her hooking is done in the winter when Jean has more time since her farm and horses seem to require less attention that time of year. She also likes to go to hook-ins particularly the HCRAG hooking retreat where she “can catch up on all those rugs in progress, hook late into the night and early in the morning and enjoy the company of other hookers”.

In 2011, Pat McDonnell introduced Jean to our Guild by bringing her to a meeting. She became a member and later attended the summer workshop with Diane Stoffel. Jean is currently our Guild’s Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer for the 2013 Hooked Rug Festival. She is also active with a McGowan Guild and two ATHA Chapters.

Jean and her husband, Ken, have a small horse farm in Harleysville, PA. They have four horses (Nemours Lord Nelson, Nemours Queen Katherine, Jemini Equulei, and Tranquility Daze). In addition to the horses, their immediate family at the farm consists of an Irish Water Spaniel, Saiorse, and a domestic short hair cat named Yo. They have had as many as six horses, four cats, and two dogs all at one time. However, Jean notes “As we get older we have tried to keep the number of creatures on the farm a little lower so we can find time for travel and relaxation”. Jean and Ken have four nieces and nephews and a great niece and a great nephew.

Jean competes in equestrian sports including dressage. She also likes to participate in paper chases and fox hunting. Trail riding is the most relaxing. When she was younger Jean competed in horse events. She says that “Now I like to stay closer to the ground.” Like most rug hookers Jean is “crazy about all fiber arts”. She learned to knit when she was four and to quilt when she was 12. Jean has also done dressmaking, appliqué, embroidery, needlepoint, crewel, and bear/doll making. “I am a fiber fanatic.”

Three years ago Jean retired after working 32 years in the pharmaceutical industry. She worked in Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs and also taught pharmaceutical research process and mentored new staff. She has certifications in professional development team dynamics.

Go to the Guild's website – www.hcrag.com – to see some of Jean's wonderful rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- Each summer for the past 15 years I have created a Santa rug for Aunt Virginia, the matriarch of our family and an artist in her own right, doing braided rugs and stained glass lamps until her death at age 99 this past May. This summer I was at a loss. What would take the place of her Santa rug? So I began hooking a bunch of small Christmas items -- a wreath which is wired so it can be hung, a small table pad which says JOY, a Santa face and a few ornaments for a tree. All of this helped ease the sorrow as well as providing me with some new Christmas items for my house.

It is never too early to begin thinking about Christmas items. What about a stocking for your new grand baby, or the older one you haven't made for yet? How about a Christmas runner for the table? Some hooked and stuffed Santas? A wall hanging of that special place or scene you have been meaning to do? A small seat pad or mat for the threshold?

It is always fun to take out the familiar Christmas pieces but it also great to have a few new ones for this year. So take out your red and green wools, plus all those plaids and tweeds and let your imagination and creativity loose! Create beauty everyday and for each time and season. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise – During a recent visit to Homespun, Kay Leisey shared with Heloise an easy way to dull the color of wool using penny coins. The process is easy and learned from Cindi Gay.

- Fill a container (with a lid) with enough water to cover your wool.
- Add several dollars of pennies to the bottom of the pot. You cannot add too many.
- Add a few glugs of ammonia. The more water you use, the more ammonia you will need.
- Add the wool. You can add several different wools, if you like.
- Add the lid. The ammonia stinks!
- Keep a small piece of the original wool to check progress. Compare wet to wet.
- Check for the first time in about 30 minutes. If nothing noticeable has happened, double the time to 60 minutes. Check again in 2 hours 4 hours, 8 hours etc.

If you try this simple dyeing technique, bring the wool to a meeting so that members can see the results.

Recipes – Everyone enjoyed Joan Shymko's Zucchini Appetizers that she brought to the last meeting. We thank her for sharing her recipe.

Ingredients: (Makes four dozen)

- 4 small zucchini, unpeeled
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 oz. parmesan cheese (1/2 cup grated) or sharp cheddar
- 3 sprigs parsley (2 Tbsp. chopped)
- 1 small onion (1/2 cup chopped)
- 1/2 tsp. salt

- ½ tsp. dried oregano (optional)
- Dash of pepper
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup oil/1 cup biscuit mix (don't skimp)

Preparation

- Beat slightly : 4 eggs
- Add and beat in: 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. dried oregano, dash pepper, 1/2 cup oil
- Mix in : 1 crushed clove garlic, 3 cups loosely packed shredded unpeeled zucchini, 2 oz.(1/2 cup grated) parmesan or sharp cheddar,
- 1 small onion, chopped (1/2 cup), 3 large sprigs fresh parsley, chopped
- Stir in 1 cup biscuit mix (Bisquick)
- Spread into a greased and floured 12x7 inch pan. Bake at 350 for 25 min. or until golden brown.
- A 9x13 in. pan will give thinner squares.

Serve warm or at room temperature if freshly baked. Works well to reheat before serving. Make a double batch - freezes well.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Buckeystown Workshop – October 7-10, 2012. – Judy Carter is conducting a three day workshop based on her “Eye See You” rug at Buckeysville, MD. She will be teaching a full face Tiger, the full Mother's Comfort, or the baby giraffe. Anyone who may be interested should contact Pat Duggan at masondixonatha@gmail.com for information.

Historic Longstreet Farm Rug Hooking Camp – October 15-19, 2012 Longstreet Farm has a rug hooking camp this fall from Monday October 15 through Friday October 19 (9 am to 3 pm). This year's teacher will be Sarah Guilliani. The cost of the camp is \$190. Go to the Monmouth County Parks website to register or call Ronnie Grothusen for more information at 732-946-3758.

18th Annual Tour of Historic Pohatcong – October 20, 2012 – The Pohatcong History & Heritage Society is sponsoring its 18th annual historic tour. Sip fine wine, blow off some steam and walk back in time with the Delaware River Railroad Excursions, Villa Milagro Vineyards and the Pohatcong History & Heritage Society. For more information call 908-387-1493 or visit www.pohatconghistory.com.

Autumn Hook-in on October 27, 2012 -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild will hold its annual hook-in Wagontown, PA on October 27 2012. There will be vendors, a rug show, a Eurostream Iron Raffle and challenge mat. Advance registration is recommended. For more information visit the Guild's website (www.brandywinerughookingguild.org).

Hooked in the Mountains XVI (November 10-17, 2012) – The Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild holds its annual hooked rug and fiber art exhibit at the Shelburne Museum from November 10-17, 2012. Over 450 works of hooked art will be on display. More than 20 vendors will be on site for the week. Three day workshops with nationally known instructors will be offered. For more information visit www.gmrhg.org or call 802-434-8191.

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.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

October 12, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Hooking Traditions with Magdalena Briner Eby (Evelyn Lawrence) **

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

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

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

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

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

February 8, 2013 – Assemble chicken *

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

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

April 5-7, 2013 – Spring Fling (Cyndy Duade & Lucille Festa) at Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

April 12, 2013 – Member Led Round Table *

May 10, 2013 – Program TBD *

June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *

August 12-16, 2013 – Summer Rug Hooking Camp at ESC School, West Amwell, NJ

October 5 & 6, 2013 – Hooked Rug Festival at Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the

Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com.

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

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

Director -- Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

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

Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net

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

Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com

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

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net

Special Events – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net

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

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

Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

Guild's Email List Policy - The HCRAE Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the guild 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.