

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

October, 2015

Presidents' Letter – Therese and Weezie are buried right now with Festival details and last minute changes. It would be so easy just to say “Keep pulling those loops, folks!”

But... What did you learn this summer? Did you get inspired by anything? Have you made a challenge for yourself for this year? Did you take any photographs you could use as hooking tools? We previously mentioned a bunch of exhibits to visit—did you see any of them?

Weezie went to River Crossings, at the estates of Frederick Church and Thomas Cole. Wow. It was really cool -- so many ideas. Lots of photographs were taken—sunrises and sunsets—keep them in a file for hooking later; neat trees and leaves; watercolor paintings that suggest ways to hook certain things; so much inspiration everywhere we look.

Is your challenge is hook two rugs this year instead of the usual one? How about to learn a new way to finish a rug? How about learning how to sculpt? How about learning to dye, and experimenting? There are so many ways we can challenge ourselves and learn a lot in the process.

This coming year we have some wonderful programs planned, as well as our favorite things, like the January Retreat. But we also need to think about the future of the Guild. While it is easy to let the same people keep doing the jobs, they need a break, and new blood always brings new ideas. We will be holding “elections” in the spring—that word is in quotes because it is more like appointments rather than elections. It would be awesome to have people actually running for office. But in keeping with our history, and the history of so many volunteer organizations, we will be lucky to have people step forward. PLEASE consider how you could serve. There is certainly a job you could do for the Guild. Please look around you—who do you think would be good for any job. Please reach out to either of us with that person’s name. We will speak with them. Also, please look around and see who you would like to team up with to be “co”- something with. The future of the guild depends on everyone doing their part.

Now we can say it...”Keep pulling those loops, folks!” Weezie and Therese

October Meeting – Friday, October 9, 2015 – Our October 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 – Ellen DiClemente has planned a special educational program for our meeting. Those who attended our rug hooking school in August have been asked to bring their projects (finished or unfinished) and share what they learned. We all will have an opportunity to learn from the “campers.”

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

Hospitality – Lydia Brenner, Dolores Clark, Lynda Kling, Mary Passerello and Debbie Walsh have volunteered to provide the snacks for the meeting. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings.

October Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month -- Catherine Basich (10/26), Annie Edwards (10/3), Gisele Meader (10/25), Barbara Perry (10/5), Judy Quintman (10/3), and Katie Simonson (10/6). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – We welcome Jane Anderson to our Guild. Jane's contact information is shown below.

Jane Anderson
17 Bennington Road
Annandale, NJ 08801
908-735-4355
Cell- 908-247-0435
jane.anderson@embarqmail.com

Effective October 1, 2016, Gisele Meader's email address will change to meadergisele@gmail.com.

Sunshine – During the past month, several members underwent surgery or experienced accidents -- Ann Gagnon (surgery), Amy Korengut (surgery), Jean Laurence (broken pelvis), and Pat McDonnell (broken arm). We wish them all a speedy recovery.

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

Guild News & Events –

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. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

Weezie Huntington is still working out the details. Stay tuned!

Bus Trip Tentatively Planned for May Meeting -- A bus trip to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA is tentatively 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.

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.

Ellen DiClemente is still working on the details of the trip.

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 has normally been held has been moved forward a week 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 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 arrive. 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 or Eleanor Dunker know.

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.

Fall Demonstration Schedule --We have two remaining demonstrations on our 2015 schedule. This month we will participate in the Apple Butter Frolic at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA and at Quilt Day at Howell Living Farm.

Apple Butter Frolic (October 3, 2015) -- This popular autumn event has been enjoyed by the community for 40 years. It is an opportunity to learn how Mennonites and their neighbors lived 100 or more years ago. Due to the conflict with the Hooked Rug Festival, our participation will be limited to Pat McDonnell who lives very close to the Heritage Center

and has offered to represent the Guild at this popular traditional festival. For more information on the Apple Butter Frolic go to the website for the Heritage Center (www.mhep.org).

Quilt Day (October 10, 2015) – Howell Living Farm located just below Lambertville, NJ will be the site for their annual Quilt Day at which we have demonstrated for many years. We will be located in the Barn Annex that is connected to the Visitors’ Center, so weather will not be an issue. Lunch is provided by the Farm staff. The event is free to the public and runs from 10-4. Carol Kindt is coordinating our participation. Please let her know if you want to be part of this fun day by contacting her at 908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net. You can spend any amount of time that fits your schedule. We encourage new Guild members to support the Guild in these community events.

HCRAG Library – We wish to thank Sharon Ballard for her donation of the book Pictorial Weavings of the Navajo by Nancy N. Schiffer. The book will be available at our next meeting.

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 frejja2@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.

Hooking Frame Survey – Earlier in the summer Guild members were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on favorite hooking frames and recommendations for new rug hookers.

Highlights of the survey are summarized below.

Snap Dragon, Needleworks (Fitzgerald) and Puritan Frames appear to be the most popular, although the Puritan was mentioned more as a good “starter” frame.

Frames by Townsend, Gruber and K’s Creations were next in order of popularity.

Pittsburgh, Anderson, and Frazier frames received one comment each. Several frames by unknown manufactures that were purchased at sales were also mentioned.

Several members continue to prefer hooking with an embroidery hoop.

Rectangle frames are the most popular with round and octagon next.

Most members prefer frames with stands, but also have lap frames.

Wooden frames made by “Skeet” Combs were the most popular based on appearance and sturdiness.

Advice for beginners stressed starting with inexpensive frames such as Puritan, embroidery hoops, borrowed or used frames.

Whatever the brand, it is important that the frame “fits your body.” Ditto for the choice of stand.

A more detailed report will be sent to Guild members.

Guild Support Community Festivals – In the past month Guild members demonstrated rug hooking at the Sheep & Fiber Festival and at the 8th Annual Historical Fall Festival sponsored by the Historical Society of Hilltown Township.

The Garden State Sheep & Fiber Festival – The increasingly popular New Jersey Sheep & Fiber Festival held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds drew large crowds of fiber enthusiasts over the weekend of September 12-13th. There was a constant stream of visitors to the HCRAAG booth, interested in learning more about the art of traditional hand-hooked rug making and purchasing tickets for our magnificent raffle rug which was on display. Over \$240 of Festival Raffle Rug tickets were sold and visitors expressed a great deal of interest in the beginner workshops being offered at the Rug Festival. We extend our appreciation to the Guild members listed below who devoted their time supporting this effort and to Amy Korengut for coordinating this highly successful day.

Sharon Ballard	Diana Liberto	Lisa Savino
Cindy Boult	Mary Passerello	Martha Theiling
Teri Dabrowski	Barb Perry	

Historical Fall Festival & Open House (Historical Society of Hilltown Township) -- The Festival is held at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead in Sellersville, PA and attracts visitors interested in local history and handcrafts. The fall weather on September 19 was ideal for the event which drew hundreds of visitors who enjoyed the tours, demonstrations and the various vendors. There was considerable interest in the recycling aspect of rug hooking. The Festival provided yet another opportunity to sell tickets for the raffle rug and to promote the Festival at the Mill. We are grateful to Karl Gimber for representing the Guild this local event.

Featured Member – Carmen Mebus – Carmen Mebus grew up on a Nebraska farm in a small town of 400 people where she learned the importance of family and the value of handwork. Years later after she had relocated to the east coast those values continued to be important to her. Interestingly, it was at an annual family gathering on Long Island about 14 years ago where she was exposed to rug hooking for the first time. Her aunt, Eleanor Dunker, came to the “family feast with all her rug hooking stuff” and showed Carmen how to pull loops.

When she returned home Carmen relied on Eleanor for continuing advice. “We communicate well with each other,” Carmen observes “and use the phone and email all the time when I need rug hooking help.” Since there are few rug hooking resources close by, Carmen went on line and bought kits and wool. She found a woman in Nebraska who sold wool and also cut it into strips for her for \$1.00! “She cut piles and piles of wool for me,” Carmen says with a smile. She also cuts wool when visiting Gail Dufresne’s Studio during trips to the area. “Gail allowed me to use one of her mega cutters. After 14 years, I finally bought a cutter last year,” Carmen jokes.

With limited instructors in her area, Carmen has taken very few lessons. She relied on Rug Hooking Magazine and the ATHA Newsletter which she “read from cover to cover and kept them for future reference.” Carmen attended her first rug school when she came to the HCRAAG camp last year and worked with Carrie Martin. She subsequently journeyed to a Barb Carroll workshop in Ligonier, PA with

Eleanor. “I loved it and learned so much. I signed up for next year.” This year Carmen returned to the HCRAAG August Rug Hooking School and worked with Kris Miller. She also attended a “mini class” on shading with Cyndy Duade in Vermont last fall. “I always have a goal in mind when attending workshops,” Carmen observes. “I wanted to learn how to hook with roving from Kris Miller and how to hook letters when I worked with Carrie Martin.”

Carmen hooks with new wool; most of it used “as is.” While some of her wool is over-dyed, she has limited interest in dyeing her own wool. “Perhaps, this is something I will do in the future, but not now,” Carmen says. Gail Dufresne is a favorite source for her wool. “I buy hordes of it when I am in New Jersey.” She continues to buy wool from her Nebraska source when she is home.

“I prefer to work on commercially available rug patterns and rely on several sources for them,” Carmen says. “I always seem to second guess my wool selection in color planning my rugs and like to rely on the suggestions made by the instructors with whom I have worked. Kris Miller was a big help to me this last summer and Barb Carroll helped me work out the color plan for a Deanna Fitzpatrick pattern. Of course, Gail Dufresne is always so helpful.”

When it comes to her hooking style, Carmen is clear – “absolutely primitive, anything colonial, especially chickens!” She prefers to hook with #8 cuts, although she says “I am starting to look at patterns calling for narrower cuts.”

The amount of time Carmen can devote to hooking ebbs and flows. “For a while it was a fall and winter sport for me,” she notes. Hooking camps tends to rejuvenate her and she returns home and hooks a lot more regularly. Carmen has a large upstairs room that is a combination study room for her daughter and a place where she can retreat to work on her current rug. “The lighting is poor in our TV room, so I prefer to go to the Study. I can close the door and relax; it is like meditation.” Carmen often puts dinner in the oven and retreats to the Study and hooks for 45 minutes or so. She puts the phone on speaker mode and talks with an elderly aunt back in Nebraska while she hooks. Darby, her Cocker Spaniel, sits by her side.

Doing handwork was something Carmen has done all her life. She has always liked to do crafts. Here too, Eleanor has been an influence. Knitting, cross-stitch and decorating place cards were activities that were done when the family gathered for Thanksgiving. Her grandmother always crocheted and sewed. “We have her samplers all over the house. To me, it all means family,” Carmen reflects.

Carmen and her husband, Chuck, live in East Lyme, Connecticut along with their youngest daughter, Paige, and their dog, Darby. Chuck works for a major pharmaceutical company and prepares the material submitted with drugs for FDA approval. In addition to Paige, who is in graduate school preparing to be a radiologist, Carmen and Chuck have two other daughters – Alissa and Rachael. Alissa lives in Milford, CT and is a marketing specialist for a wealth management company. Rachael lives in West Hartford, CT and is a neuro-trauma nurse practitioner.

Hooking rugs provides Carmen with a link to her past. “I don’t live on a farm any more, but my heart is in family and my home. Rug hooking keeps me close to my roots. It is fun to share hooking experiences with Eleanor and to create objects that can be used in my home. I also enjoy the social element of being with other rug hookers.”

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

Hooking Information & Techniques –

From Nina’s Notebook – Moving into Fall -- October is here with its cooler days and nights; a great relief from the hot, muggy days of summer. Already a few of the trees and shrubs are showing their fall colors. Pumpkins, costumes, bright colored leaves are popping into our minds. The Hooked Rug Festival has filled us with beautiful images. The talent of our HCRAAG rug hooking artisans is amazing! Add the talent of the other participating guilds and you have a rug show that has no equal. Although I am writing this before the show opens, I know from the last one that it will be spectacular.

What did you see in the show that speaks to you? Was it a geometric, a landscape, a memory rug, a celebration rug? I am sure each one of you has a favorite. Seeing a large rug show leaves many imprints in my brain. In some cases it is the color and how the artist has combined colors and perhaps included that bit of "poison" that gives the rug its WOW! factor. Sometimes it is the design. How did the artist combine and balance all those elements? What was edited out, or what needed to be eliminated? A memory rug often triggers memories of my own....do I want to create a new mat using that memory or will I file it away for future use. Aunt Virginia always urged us to fill our memory bank because that is what we will draw on as we age. Never mind that we now have thousands of images stored on our smart phones which we can never seem to find when we want them! What new techniques did you see that you might like to learn; proddy, embellishment, using yarn and sari silk, a new way of finishing a rug?

So we move forward into the fall. Happy that it is cooler and the wool not so warm on our hands, filled with the glow of autumn colors and images of new projects in our heads. The artist within each one of us is calling for backing, hooks, scissors, wool and time to sit down to hook!

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Ideas From Stella Hay Rex’s Dye Pot – Old rug hooking books are a fun source of ideas that stand the test of time. In Practical Hooked Rugs written by Stella Hay Rex in 1949 she introduces new hookers to valuable ideas on dyeing wool. We share below some basic tips that are still valuable today.

“The good old dye pot transforms nondescript material into ragbag manna. The beginner has so pitifully few colors to start with, that a lesson in dyeing becomes an important part of instruction in rug hooking.

“There are but a few simple rules to keep in mind. You cannot, of course, dye a lighter shade over a dark one, without first stripping the color, either by boiling in ammonia and water (a tablespoon of ammonia to a quart of water), or using a commercial color remover. Save all the white or very light-toned goods for dyeing the more delicate shades.

“For best results, do not try to dye too large a quantity at one time. (An exception to this is dyeing for background.) Contrary to the rules on the package, do not lift and stir. That streaked and pied effect is what we are striving for. Allow a total of 30 minutes actual boiling time.

“Different weaves and fabrics ‘take’ dye in different ways, so that even though they are dyed in the same bath, and boiled exactly the same length of time, they will not always

come out the same shade. But you can dye several different colors and mixtures in the same bath, knowing that when done they will harmonize, whether they did or not before they went in.”

Note: “Boiling” wool is no longer recommended. Today simmering wool in the dye pot is encouraged.

Tips from Heloise – Hooking with an Assembled Shading Swatch (Michele Micarelli) – We thank Michele Micarelli for sharing with Heloise tips she discussed with the students in her workshop at our 2015 Rug Hooking School.

“An assembled swatch would be one put together from your wool stash. Let’s say you want to make a leaf -- gather your greens.

“For a primitive leaf maybe four colors will do. For a highly shaded leaf from 7-12 will do. This of course depends on the cut of the wool and the size of the leaf. Arrange the wool from dark to light disregarding the color/tone of green and paying close attention to the value. OK, so now you have an assembled swatch and you can hook the leaf in the usual way with the darker values near the vein and the lighter ones near the edge. This is a fabulous way to hook and creates a much more living looking motif, more like painting with the wool. Be sure to mix spots, solids and dips. Even plaids work in this way.

“This can be done with your reds for a barn or your yellows for a sunflower. There is no limit!”

Recipes – Barbara Lugg’s Fresh Peach Cobbler – Those attending our last rug hooking school were treated by Barbara’s fresh peach cobbler. She has graciously shared her recipe with us.

Ingredients (Pie Filling)

3 cups peaches
2 tbsp. flour
2/3 cups sugar (more or less)
½ tsp. cinnamon
2 tbsp. butter

Ingredients (Batter)

1 cup flour
2 tbsp. sugar
3 tbsp. milk
½ tsp. baking powder
1/3 cup oil
1 egg

Preparation (Pie Filling)

- Peel and slice peaches
- Arrange in buttered 7 or 9 inch pan
- Mix ingredients and sprinkle over peaches
- Dot with butter

Preparation (Batter)

- Whisk dry ingredients
- Add all at once oil, milk and egg
- Stir with fork to blend
- Drop by spoonful or spread over peaches

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until lightly brown. Great served warm with ice cream or whipped cream.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (October 3 & 4, 2015) – Historic Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ is the site for the 2nd biennial Hooked Rug Festival sponsored by four area rug hooking guilds -- Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter, Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild, Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter and the Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter. Hundreds of rugs will be exhibited for the first time. Beginners' workshops, handcrafted boutique items, vendors, demonstrations, raffle rug, rugs for sale, and presentations are part of this special event. More information is available at the Festival website –www.rugfestival.com.

TIGHR Triennial Meeting (October 4-7, 2015) – The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) holds its 8th Triennial in Victoria, BC, Canada. Visit www.tighr.net for more information.

Michele Micarelli Workshop at Longstreet Farm (October 12-16, 2015) -- Longstreet Farm is hosting a week long open class with Michele Micarelli from 9-3. The Farm is located at 50 Longstreet Road in Holmdel, NJ. The cost of the workshop (\$170) is being subsidized by the Monmouth County Park System. Call 732-842-4000 ext. 1 for assistance.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in (October 24, 2015) -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild's 10th Annual Autumn Hook-In will be held on October 24, 2015 at their new location --Kimberton Fire Company, 2276 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton, PA 19442 -- from 9am to 4pm. Registration forms as well as the box lunch descriptions are available on their website <http://www.bandywinerughookingguild.org/2015-hook-in.html> .

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 --

October 3 & 4, 2015 – Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ)
October 9, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Learnings from 2015 Rug Hooking School (Members) *
November 6, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
November 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Open Hooking *
December 4, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
December 11, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon*
January 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Auction
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)
March 4, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
March 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Hooking Embellishments (Loretta Scena)
April 1, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
April 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Finishes Round Robin (Members)
May 6, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip – Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center (Green Lane, PA)
June 3, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
June 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic
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
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Guild’s Email List Policy -- The HCRAAG 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 (HCRAAG). 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.

HCRAAG CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

