

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

October 2016

Presidents' Letter – Fall has arrived, finally, and the cool days and chilly nights are a welcome respite from some of the really hot days of summer. Fall means getting back to school for some, back to work for others, and for us, it means getting back to the business of the Guild.

We have a very strong guild, but any group like ours is always in jeopardy of becoming another “has-been” organization. We are only as strong as our volunteers. Right now we have openings in two positions: Programs and Special Events coordinator. Ellen DiClemente did a superb job of programming, even to the point of lining up an extra year’s worth of programs beyond her term. If you want this Guild, YOUR Guild, to have interesting programs, we need YOU to step up to help. It cannot always be the same handful of people doing all the work. They are getting tired. You don’t need to do this by yourself—there are people to help.

Chris Coslet has resigned as Special Events Coordinator due to work commitments at her regular job. We thank her for her service, and we hope someone will step in to fill her shoes. This person coordinates the calendar of demos, fairs, and other opportunities to take hooking and hookers into the community. We are also getting ready to start our year-long exploration of aspects of design, hoping to make each of us a better artist (that *is* what we are). Hopefully at each meeting there will be a 5-10 minute discussion (that means it is not a lecture) with everyone participating. At the October meeting we will start with “lines”. At the June meeting we asked that everyone make a 5” square based on the discussion, to be shown at the following meeting. For example, you will hook a 5” square inspired by the discussion of “lines” to show at the November meeting. You can do individual squares, or you can do a grid of 5” squares as a sort of sampler. This is meant to be fun, by the way, not stressful. Creating art should be fun. It should be playful.

Fall also means wonderful colors, on the trees and in our hooking. It can also mean buckling down and finishing those unfinished pieces so you can start a new piece after the December holidays (think January retreat). Fall also means that all of your presidents are heading to Vermont shortly after the October meeting, the Coles to vend, and Weezie to play with exploring circles.

So much to do, so little time!! And it is all so much fun. Wishing you good loops, Weezie, Jan, and Fred

October Meeting – Friday, October 14, 2016 – 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 – Kathleen Herbert will take us through the history of rug hooking from the mid-1880s Waldoboro until the vintage McGown hooked rugs. She will bring many antique rugs to show examples of fine rug craftsmanship.

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

Hospitality – Our hospitality volunteers for the month are Jane Anderson, Lydia Brenner, Helen Buchanan, Marian Hall, Martha Thieling, and Debbie Walsh. 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), Carol Mowaswes (10/12), Barbara Perry (10/5), Judy Quintman (10/3), and Katie Simonson (10/6). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – Dues (\$25) for the new program year are now payable. The membership renewal form will be available at the meeting and on our website – www.hcrag.com.

Nancy Phillips joined our Guild while attending our last meeting. We welcome her and look forward to seeing her at subsequent events. Her contact information is shown below.

Nancy Phillips
Nanikiphillips88@gmail.com

Former member, Lib Ryman, wrote recently to extend her best wishes to her HCRAG friends. She noted that last year she underwent four surgeries in six months which “took the starch out of her.” Her arthritis limits her rug hooking but she still teaches in her retirement community. Lib can be reached at libr21226@aol.com.

Sunshine – Lee Hurford’s home was tragically destroyed by fire in June. Fortunately no one was injured. However, Lee will be living in temporary quarters until February, 2017. Her temporary address is 1103 Harpers Crossing, PA 19047. Lee’s phone number and email address remain unchanged. She is in need of rug hooking supplies – see article below.

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

October Hooking Retreat Follows Guild Meeting – Another of our fun packed retreat weekends begins after our October meeting. It will start 3:00 on Friday, October 14 and run through Sunday, October 16 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. The cost is still \$45 for the entire weekend. There are still a few openings but you need to contact Gail Ferdinando ASAP at gqferd@gmail.com.

Needlework New Jersey Samplers – (October 9, 2016) – Authors Dan and Marty Campanelli will speak on their work collecting historic needlework samplers from throughout the state of New Jersey at the Old Bridge Public Library on October 9, 2016 from 1-2. A small selection of their New Jersey samplers will be on display. Attendees who own a pre-1850 New Jersey sampler are encouraged to bring it for a “show and tell” following the presentation. The Old Bridge Library is located at 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ 08857. More information can be obtained by contacting the Library by calling 732-721-5600 x5010 or by going to their website (www.oldbridgellibrary.org.)

Signs of the Time: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards That Attracted Patrons

(November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300th Organization is sponsoring a presentation by nationally known watercolorist and authors Dan and Marty Campanelli. Dan has completed a series of watercolor paintings of local tavern signs that have been compiled into a 2017 calendar. The presentation will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon Taverns. Attendees will be able to see how artisans working in different mediums (watercolor and traditional rug hooking) approach a similar subject.

The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 7:00 pm. The Library is located in the same Complex where the Guild meets. For further information, please check – www.hunterdon300th.org or call 908-788-2030.

Guild Member Suffers Devastating Fire – Guild Member, Lee Hurford, suffered a devastating fire in June when her home in New Jersey was destroyed by fire. Fortunately no one was hurt but Lee lost all her hooking supplies and most of her rugs. She is in the process of replacing her basic hooking needs – wool, frames, cutters, and patterns. Members who have items to sell or donate can contact Lee at 908-902-5917 or at lee@glenmarle.com. Her temporary address until February 2017 is 1103 Harpers Crossing, Langhorne, PA 19047.

Members Shine -- Several members had their rugs featured in the October/November 2016 issue of the ATHA Magazine. “Autumn Splendor”, a pattern designed by Julie Thomas (The Old Tattered Flag), was hooked by Donna Kolznak and Mary Passerello and illustrates different colorways to the same pattern. Donna’s “Oaks & Acorns” and “Pumpkin” were included with rugs with a fall theme. An item by Donna entitled “Decorate with Indian Corn” provides a pattern for hooking Indian corn. The issue also includes an article by Karl Gimber on the tavern sign rugs designed and hooked by him and Mary Jo. Judy Carter will be teaching at the 2017 ATHA Biennial in Cleveland.

Save the Date – January Hooking Retreat Set for January 13-15, 2017 -- 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. Participants can commute or stay overnight. The cost for the weekend is \$45 – a real bargain!. Participation in the retreat is limited to members. Sign-ups will begin at the October meeting.

Interest Builds for Guild’s 21st Rug Hooking School – The announcement of the instructors for our 2017 Rug Hooking School has generated considerable excitement. Instructors *Maggie Bonanomi, Cammie Bruce, Capri Boyle Jones, and Cindy Irwin* follow in the Guild’s tradition of inviting highly regarded and sought after teachers who will spend the week with us. (see initial bios below). Rug School will begin on Monday, August 7, 2017 and run to Friday, August 11, 2017. The new registration form will be available on our website after the October update.

The fee is \$200 for those who are Guild members at the time of our November 2016 meeting (November 11, 2016). A registration deposit of \$100 is required. Non-members (fee \$275) can register if there are any openings after January 30, 2017. If someone joins the Guild between

November 11, 2016 and January 29, 2017, they will be able to register before January 29 but will have to pay the \$275 fee.

Registration forms will be accepted beginning October 14, 2016 which is the day of our October meeting. The forms will simply be collected – no class list established. If a class goes over the maximum number of students, we will take all registration forms for that class that have arrived by November 1, 2016 (no matter how they are received) and use a lottery system to choose the members that get into that class, and to determine the order of names on the wait list.

The following initial information is being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them.

Maggie Bonanomi

“I never know where to begin! I grew up sewing and creating things, I have been making wool applique for at least 20 years and nearly have hooked rugs that long as well. I learned rug hooking from Emma Lou Lais; she was a wonderful teacher. I have had the opportunity to design for Linda Brannock of Star Quilt Co, Renee Nannaman of Need’l Love, Blackbird designs as well as Blackberry Primitives. I have written eight books with the Kansas City Star. I have also been published in American Patchwork and Quilts magazine as well as Primitive Quilts and Projects and Quiltmania, a French publisher bought my first two books to publish in France.

“I have traveled around the country to teach, which I enjoy very much. I went to France in 2012 as well to promote my books as well as taught three workshops and thank goodness had an interpreter for that.

“I would say my style is primitive, designs simple. Color and design are what I usually am known for and are most important to me. I enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and love to share many timesaving tips I have found. I love the whole process of a project from design to every loop or stitch. I like to incorporate other fabrics into my applique; I even added some velvet to a hooked mat once. I have been tearing and cutting my wool strips, I began to do that years ago when I was trapped at home due to a bad snow storm. I’d just started to hook with a 9 cut (about 11 years ago) well I haven’t ever gone back. I like the look of torn strips in my rugs.

“I grew up moving around, my father was in the Air Force, I married my hubby while living in California and he returned to the Army; after his tour in Vietnam we moved around, with two tours in Germany. I reside now in Lexington, Missouri with my hubby of 46 years. My home is a pre-civil war home dated about 1841-1845. I have a studio/shop on Main St here in Lexington called the Purple Turnip. I have two grown daughters with their own families and wonderful grandchildren for us to enjoy. This year we finally got ourselves a West Highland Terrier puppy named Lulu, she really runs the place we only pretend that we’re in charge.”

Maggie feels that she can better teach her own designs rather than someone else's and will be sending a list of her designs to choose from. For those students interested in applique, Maggie will offer a specific kit that includes instructions and wool. The cost will range from \$85 to \$125.

Note: -- Maggie will be teaching at the 2017 ATHA Biennial in Cleveland. An image of one of her wool applique pieces can be seen on page 19 of the October/November issue of the ATHA Magazine.

Capri Boyle-Jones

Capri has been developing her art in fiber professionally thru hooking, designing, dyeing, creating, and restoring rugs for twenty-four years. Owner of Capri Boyle Rug Studio, Inc., a McGown accredited teacher, member of ATHA and National Guild of Pearl K. McGowan Hookcrafters. Capri is experienced in and teaches a wide variety of styles while her personal painterly style is Impressionism, focusing on the use of light and color. You may find her artwork in *Rug Hooking Celebrations*, at Quayside Art Gallery in Pensacola (www.quaysidegallery.com), The Cultural Arts Alliance (www.CulturalArtsAlliance.com), various exhibits, art shows throughout the US, and private collections.

In this open class, any hooking style and size cut can be applied to your project. Capri will assist you in achieving your preferred outcome. From problem solving an existing project to developing new skills with your hooking, the possibilities are unlimited. Custom design is available upon request.

Cammie Bruce

Primitive and unique finishes are what you get when you take a class with Cammie Bruce. Bring your wide cuts (#7 and up) and experience the primitive arts of Cammie. She loves incorporating textures, plaids, dyed, and any other kind of wool you have into your own rug. Her work with color is subtle but definitive. Cammie enjoys playing with shapes and has created many interesting finishes, edges and borders on her rug designs. She can help you customize your pattern edge with a unique finish. Cammie has been teaching since 2002.

You can find Cammie's work on her blog: primitivejunky.blogspot.com and her patterns at www.etsy.com/shop/primitivejunky

Cindy Irwin

Cindy Irwin has been hooking rugs since 1983. She is a certified McGown teacher and holds classes in her home. Cindy is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and President of the Conestoga Guild of McGown Rug Crafters. She is the assistant director of Northern Teacher's Workshop, Director of Loanables for The Pearl McGown National Guild, and on the Board of the National Rug Hooking Museum. Cindy Irwin is well known among her students for embellishing rugs with gemstones.

Cindy will be holding an open class. She has a selection of over 70 Amish patterns available. Cindy also has original purse patterns and will have four chapters in the Rug Hooking Magazine book on purses coming out in April. Her purse design patterns will be in the book and she can teach them to students who have purchased the book. Cindy also sells patterns based on the work of Lisa Arkus. These are whimsical and fun to hook. Please visit Cindy's web site @ cindyirwinrughooking.weebly.com Cindy Irwin's rugs have been included in Celebrations nine times. Her Klimt's The Virgin is in 2015 Celebrations as an honorable mention and can be seen on the Guild's website.

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice as long as an opening still exists in that class. 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 Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

Rug School Scholarships Available – Two full scholarships for our 2017 Rug Hooking School will be awarded.

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 HCRAAG summer rug hooking school and is awarded 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 Jan or Weezie by December 1, 2016. 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.

Teri Dabrowski is sponsoring a Rug School Scholarship. This scholarship will be a random drawing from the names of those members signed up (at the member by November rate). The date for the drawing has not yet been established but will probably be late winter. Thank You Teri!

Two Rug Hooking Demonstrations Remain on Fall Schedule – Our active demonstration schedule for the year concludes with two popular local events – The Apple Butter Frolic and Colonial Market Day both on October 1, 2016.

- Apple Butter Frolic (October 1, 2016) – The Frolic is held on the grounds of the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA. This popular autumn festival has been enjoyed by the local community for over 40 years. The Frolic is an opportunity to learn how the Mennonites lived over 100 years ago and it is great fun for young and old alike. An apple food tent, folk craft demonstrations, delicious Pennsylvania German food, children activities and farming demonstrations are all part of this fun day. Contact Pat McDonnell, our event coordinator, at drpmedonnell@aol.com or 610-584-8844 with questions or to volunteer.
- Colonial Market Day (October 1, 2016) – Historic Court Street and Centre Avenue in Newtown, Pennsylvania is the site for this well attended event featuring crafters, artisans, fine arts, entertainment, and food from 10-4. Folk music, children activities, games, horse drawn hayrides and a colonial militia encampment are all part of the day. Free admission. This popular event presents an opportunity for the Guild to spread the word about traditional rug hooking, to support the community and to publicize the Guild. Lydia Lewis is our event coordinator. Contact her at 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com if you are available to help or if you have any questions.

Guild Supported Two Popular Festivals -- Our volunteers were active last month representing the Guild while supporting popular community festivals by demonstrating at the Historical Fall Festival sponsored by the Historical Society of Hilltown Township and the Sheep & Fiber Festival. Our Event Coordinators provided the following reports:

Historical Fall Festival

Laura Robinson stepped in to coordinate our participation at the last minute when Karl Gimber was unable to attend because of a health incident. She was joined by Aggie Harris who demonstrated for the first time. Both Laura and Aggie shared their experiences for The Loop.

Laura Robinson

“I was able to help several girls, boys and adult women pull some loops on the ghosts, cat and wind rug I designed for this event. We handed out sheets about the Guild with the website circled on the bottom of the sheet that I printed out from my computer. About 10 people were pretty interested. Maybe six were VERY interested and two of the six have hooked before. A few people took a membership form also. Two people who stopped by have taken lessons with Juliana Kapusta and one said she was heading straight to Gail Dufresne's to buy materials.

Aggie was telling the history of rug hooking to almost everyone who walked into our marvelous and spacious room. One of the ladies in charge gave me two pots of mums at the end of the day and told me the event was busier than ever this year.”

Aggie Harris

“What a wonderful experience for me! Laura and I must have had 100+ people going through the house and observing us. Many stopped to chat. Laura had flyers about HCRAG and provided membership forms for anyone interested. We may have someone interested in attending a meeting as a guest.

“Laura made a pattern and brought an extra frame, hook and noodles. Many younger people and adults tried their hand at hooking. I was very impressed with one young man, about 12 years old, who sat for about 30 minutes hooking. He was so interested in hooking correctly, he actually pulled some loops out because they were too low and rehooked them! I gave his mother an ATHA magazine I had as a resource.

“The weather was perfect. Cindy Gerry (Festival Coordinator) is a joy. She was very gracious and provided everything we could need. She asked that I extend her regrets that you were not able to come. She also indicated that next year she would be looking for the three of us to attend. Can't get a better compliment than that.”

Sheep & Fiber Festival

Amy Korengut organized the Guild's participation in this very popular festival that is held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds in Ringoes, NJ.

“The 22nd annual Sheep & Fiber Festival was held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds in Ringoes over the weekend of September 10-11th and our HCRAG members were in attendance, enthusiastically demonstrating the art of traditional rug hooking. This year Saturday's crowds were somewhat diminished as compared to years past due to the oppressive heat but we made up for it with larger than normal crowds on Sunday. There was a constant stream of visitors to the HCRAG booth, interested in learning more about hand-hooked rug making and viewing the items on display made by our members.

“Visitors expressed a great deal of interest in learning how to hook and inquired about the availability of beginner’s workshops. This year for the first time we were fortunate enough to have our first rug hooking vendor at the Festival, Green Mountain Hooked Rugs from Montpelier, Vermont. Potential beginners were observed purchasing kits at that booth after visiting ours and hopefully they will join us for our next meeting in October.”

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Guild members listed below who devoted their time and braved the heat to support this effort.

Jane Anderson Sharon Ballard Cindy Boults Gail Ferdinando Kathy Kane
Eileen Koch Robin Nissenfeld Jeanne Surdi Martha Theiling

Special recognition goes to Amy and Laura for coordinating our participation in these important community events.

HCRAg Library – We wish to thank Ann Gagnon for her donation of 5 issues of the Hooking Digest and Braiding Magazine. Edited by Ruth J. Davis and presented by Yankee Peddler Hooked Rug Studio the issues date from 1969 and 1970. Each issue contains several color plans for rug patterns which we assume are from the Yankee Peddler Studio. There is also a question and answer page as well as a section on braiding. The issues provide insights into what was going on in the rug hooking world during that time period.

Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild’s library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact Kathy 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.

Lucy Trask Barnard and Her Rugs (Part 4) -- The May 2016 issue of Maine Antique Digest has a fascinating article by Mildred Cole Peladeau on rugs hooked in the mid-1800s by Lucy Trask Barnard. We continue the story by quoting from the article:

“Records show Mrs. Silas (Lucy) Barnard won the first premium for her hooked rug; Mrs. Elizabeth Benjamin took second for a hooked rug; Mrs. Martha B. Coolidge got third for a chenille (caterpillar shirred) rag rug; Mrs. T.J. Akeely, fourth, and Miss Aura D. Norcross, fifth, for their hooked rag rugs. In addition, Mrs. Sarah White and Miss A. Wilson each received a gratuity for a hooked rug. The number of hooked rug exhibitors attests to the popularity of the craft as early as 1850, while the shirred rug is greatly outnumbered, and the oldest yarn-sewn category is totally lacking.

“In 1852 Barnard’s name appears again in the Oxford County Fair records. There was no rug listed for her, but she took second premium for a ‘counterpane.’ This is presumed to have been some type of woven coverlet or quilt other than patchwork since the first premium list includes a separate category for patchwork. Not only did Barnard have a passion for rug-hooking, she is also said to have made ‘a hundred quilts’ in her lifetime,

most of them created to give to the needy. 'It's a family number told to me by my grandmother,' said Karen Grimm, a Barnard descendant, 'but I assume it was an estimate meaning many quilts.'

"The quilt gifted to the Farnsworth is the only one of Barnard's known quilts to have survived. A variation of the Log Cabin pattern, it is beautifully handcrafted from treasured silks and other unusual fabrics, which provide an intimate insight into Barnard's lifestyle. The expensive fabrics hint of an above-average family income. 'I think the family was solidly middle-class,' said Grimm."

The story will continue in future issues of The Loop.

HCRAG Website -- Our Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug, as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Rugname. Without this identification protocol, we cannot assure that rugs will be uploaded to the site. Members who cannot attend meetings now have an opportunity to share their rugs.

Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Fall is Here! -- Fall is definitely here with cool mornings, warm days and early twilight. Why does it get dark so early?!!!! The changing leaves and browning ferns by the side of the road confirm the seasons change. And then there are those lavender button mums adding a touch of color to the scene.

My summer project was based on Weezie's challenge to create small sketches inspired by what caught your fancy each day. She also loaned me a pattern with thirty spaces of various shapes and sizes. The goal was to create a design and hook it each day for a month. This goal proved too difficult. Some days I could generate several sketches but didn't get them on the linen. Sometimes the sketch would take me several days to hook. So I modified it to putting on one design (or maybe more) every few days and then hooking several spaces before putting in the next set of designs. I tried not to overthink the design or their arrangement. I did follow the numbered spaces pretty much in order...doing 1, 2, 3 before proceeding to the next numbers. I did group some items together, such as flowers of early summer and autumn leaves. A first it seemed like a daunting task. The mat measures 55" x 31". However, I really enjoyed the challenge. Each section is a small vignette of a favorite scene or object. And yes, there is a hook in one section with a hit or miss background. Memories of past summers came flooding back as well as highlights of this summer. A flamingo made the cut because a flock of them appeared on our lawn for my birthday. Ps...They were of the plastic variety.

I loved the various types of hooking and used different materials including sari silk, roving, slubby yarn, in short, a melange of fibers to add texture to the piece. So far I have 20 sections finished and just 10 to go! Hopefully by November Guild meeting it will be finished and ready for display. Thanks, Weezie for the challenge!

And so I challenge each one of you to discover the artist within and rise to whatever challenge you choose! Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

From Jane Anderson's Dye Pot -- Confetti Effect Using Wool Snippets – I am still learning new dyeing techniques...this one gives a confetti look to your wool by using up your wool snippets in colors you would like for the area in which you plan to use the wool. I am using this as a background for a little footstool cover I am working on.

The design has a central flower which I did in values of rose and green colors. I saved the snippet ends from hooking the flower and leaves and then sized out the amount of plain wool needed to cover the background area. Laying the piece of plain wool flat, sprinkle the snippets across the piece of wool, then carefully roll it up so that the snippets stay distributed across the piece of wool. Then twist and tie as you would for marbling. Toss in dye pot and cook up same as for marbling wool. Remove, rinse under cold water and then unroll and remove the snippets.

Pictures of the wool after dyeing and how it looks hooked can be seen on our website. You will see that they leave a fun confetti effect on the wool!

Tips from Heloise – How To Avoid Packing – Hooking rows too closely together, commonly known as packing, is a practice often found with new rug hookers although some seasoned artisans do it as well. Too many loops packed into the backing strains the fabric. The ideal number of spaces between rows will vary depending on the thickness of the wool and the width of the cut. More space should be left when hooking with a #9 cut as opposed to a #4 cut.

Heloise overheard Iris Simpson share a practical and simple technique with her 2016 Rug School students that helps to avoid packing loops. Iris was right when she noted that “the tip was easier shown than written about.” Here are two efforts:

- 1) Putting the hook across the last line of loops rather than snuggling up to it from below will prevent packing.
- 2) When hooking horizontally, hook above the last row rather than below. When hooking below there is a tendency to hook closer to the last row. The opposite is true when hooking above the last row.

One way to tell if you are packing is to look at the back of the rug. Ideally you should see backing material between the rows.

Recipes – Bernadette Andrejco's Jicama and Watermelon Salad-Bobby Flay

Bernadette Andrejco's salad was a big hit at last year's June luncheon. We thank her for sharing the recipe with the Guild.

Ingredients

- ½ fresh orange juice plus 1 teaspoon zest
- ¼ fresh lime juice plus 1 teaspoon zest
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- Kosher salt
- 1 medium to large jicama peeled and cut into matchbox pieces. I use a mandolin.

- 4 cups watermelon cut into 2 inch chunks
- 1/8 cup roughly torn mint leaves

Preparation

- Wisk juices, honey, pepper, and salt in large bowl
- Add jicama, watermelon and mint
- Toss

Watermelons are still available so there is time to enjoy this special salad!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Hooked in the Mountains XVIII (October 19-23, 2016) – The Hooked Rug and Fiber Exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. The Featured Artists will be Davey DeGraff, Jackye Hansen and Liz Alpert Fay. Workshop information is available at www.hookedinthemountainworkshops.com.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild 11th Autumn Hook-in (October 22, 2016) – This popular gathering of rug hookers will be held at the Kimberton Fire Company in Kimberton, PA 19442 from 9-4. To register or for more information go to www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2016-hook-in.html.

“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons” (November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300th Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 7:00 pm. For further information, please check -- www.hunterdon300th.org -- or call 908-788-2030.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School (November 11-14, 2016) – The rug school is held at the Hyannis Resort & Conference Center on Cape Cod. The teachers will be Nancy Blood, Betty McClentic, Angela Foote and Lucille Festa. Register by going to their website – www.oldecapecodrugschool.com.

Hooked Rug Exhibit – “Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” -- (November 19, 2016 to February 18, 2017) – An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA will feature the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbbers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

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.

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 Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 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.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCRAG Calendar of Events --

October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA

October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA

October 14, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – History of Rug Hooking - Mid 1800s Waldoboro to Vintage McGown Hooked Rugs (Kathleen Herbert) *

October 14–16, 2016 – Hooking Retreat, Flemington Hampton Inn

November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Restoration (Cindy Comly) **

December 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Holiday Luncheon *

January 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Surprise Speaker -- Location TBD

February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCRAG Auction -- Location TBD

March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in -- Location TBD

April 14, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – TBD – Location TBD

May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – TBD – Location TBD

June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Show & Tell Gift Drawing - Location TBD

*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 – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

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

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

Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.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 frejja2@verizon.net

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

Programs – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or lisasavino55@gmail.com

Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or ahtram1@aol.com

Monthly Program – Various members

Secretary – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com

Special Events – Open

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

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

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

Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

Guild's Email List Policy -- The 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

