

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

October 2018

From the Presidents:

October, 2018

Well, we just had our first official meeting of the 2018/2019 hooking year. Lots of items were discussed and lots of plans made. We decided that doing a mat exchange for Christmas was not a good idea because members are too busy with their own projects. We did talk about doing a spring/summer challenge with a Seed Pack theme (Vintage or new – your choice.) Hopefully we will get a lot of participation and next year's 4H display will wow the viewers. Keep in mind that your design needs to be no larger than an 8 ½ by 11 Sheet of paper. One of our members agreed to talk to Burpee Seeds to determine if we need to worry about copyright infringements.

We discussed the need to keep members updated with happenings within the guild as well as keeping our interfaces with the public informative and up to date. A communications committee has been developed to work toward this goal. We'll talk more about this in October.

Fall is just around the corner, with winter right in the next room. If you have big plans for winter and fall projects now is the time to start. Our October program is about dyeing your own wool, maybe you can dye the wool you need for your projects. Now might be a good time to start. If not, think about what you want to finish when the days are cool and you are stuck indoors. Maybe just think spring and start your seed packet.

Yours in wool,
Mary and Robin

October Meeting – Friday October 12, 2018

Program:

Our October program will be a member led demonstration of various methods to dye wool. We will not be doing the actual dyeing, but the process will be shown. This will include how to read a formula, wool before and after, types of dyes, pans and various materials that can be used. There are so many ways to dye and we want to show that it is not that hard to do if you want to dye your own wool.

As always bring your current project to work on at the meeting.

The refreshments for October will be brought by Sharon Ballard, Sally Jagoe, Lisa Savino, and Lynne Monteleone. Please bring your own beverage.

October Birthdays

Lisa O'Connell (10/1), Annie Edwards (10/3), Judy Quintman (10/3), Barbara Perry (10/5), Katie Simonson (10/6), Patti Mahar (10/12), Loris Blandford (10/15)

Guild News & Events

The LOOP

New LOOP Newsletter editor is Anne Penkal. Her email is ampenkal@gmail.com

Welcome new Members!

We would like to make sure that you are aware of the existence of our mentoring program, which was created as a way to facilitate a new member's introduction to our guild. This program will match you with a current member who will be able to help you out with most things related to rug hooking, from providing advice and suggestions regarding a rug that you are working on, to helping explain Guild programs, events or activities. New and experienced rug hookers alike can also benefit from a mentor providing information regarding local resources, including open studios, suppliers, teachers, etc.

We hope that you will opt to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity!

Those interested should contact Amy Korengut, the Mentoring Chair, at (908) 221-9061 or at akorengut@gmail.com.

New Members

Lisa O'Connell
287 Old York Rd
Flemington, NJ
908-237-1714, 908-246-3469
loctoc@comcast.net 10/1

Sunshine

Members-if you have any information that you would like included under "Sunshine", please email Gail Ferdinando at gqferd@gmail.com.

Member Items For Sale

Members are encouraged to bring rug hooking equipment they wish to sell to monthly meetings. This would allow current and new members to see equipment in person prior to purchase. A table will be set up for display. All items are to be labeled as to what it is, brand name, current owner, contact info, and price. Remember, there is a classified section in our newsletter. To place your item in the classifieds, email Anne before the 20th of the month.

Newsletter Contributions Requested

Reminder from the editor--- this is YOUR newsletter! Please contribute to it! Are you a veteran hooker? What do you wish you knew when you first started? Please share that. Have you picked up a neat tip from rug school or a teacher? Let us know! New to the guild? Introduce yourself! Can you describe yourself in 5 sentences or less? Please share! Beginner hooker? What attracted you to hooking? Share your enthusiasm! Email your contribution to Anne at ampenkal@gmail.com. Thanks!!!!

Nina's Notebook

Fall is here and the day is ending much too soon with full darkness by 7:30pm. I am still in Nova Scotia and enjoying a very warm September. The tail end of Florence will reach us this week in the form of heavy rain which is much needed. The trees are very stressed, many of them with brown curled up leaves as well as some with their bright fall colors. The lawn is a crispy tan. Full disclosure, the lawn is a variety of weeds all at one length. Carefully manicured grass is not what grows in rocky soil and chemical dependence does not fit with Oceanside living. October is here with Halloween, bright leaves, Columbus Day and nice, cool nights. The pallet for the season seems to be orange, dark green, golden yellow and a bit of purple. Witches, brooms, crows, ravens, corn stalks, pumpkins are objects that come to mind when I think of October.

In Canada the Columbus Day weekend is Thanksgiving. The menu is similar to the US with turkey, potatoes, dressing, gravy and pumpkin pie with as many variations as there are in every family. It is a time right after the harvest when people pause to give thanks for the many blessings of their life. I think that is a question we all ask ourselves, what are the many good things in my life? In a time when there is so much negative in our social media, press and other sources, can we find the good amongst the bad? My answer is yes! Witness the actions of our guild...demonstrating our skills and encouraging others to get involved, our involvement with the hookers in Guatemala which has empowered them economically, and lots of individual involvement in various causes.

I encourage you to think of the causes you are involved with. Surely there is a Hooking there. What about hooking the logo of your organization? What about a mat to be raffled to raise money for your organization? What about selling some of your mats and donating the money to a special cause? What about a mat that honors one of the persons you know who is a leader in a special cause? The ideas are endless....

So call on the artist within you, take up that cause and create beauty to be shown everywhere every day.

Happy Hooking!

Nina Seaman

Demonstrations

Rug Hooking is Alive and Well in Hunterdon County!

(Why hooking demonstrations are rewarding and fun)

A continuous flow of County residents and out of towners stopped to admire the selection of hooked rugs displayed at the Hunterdon County Fair. Visitors commented on the details of the workmanship, range of colors, and variety of subjects. You could almost hear them thinking, "I'd like to have that one"!

Our demonstration table was a busy place. One of the best things about participating in a demo is when someone steps up alongside to quietly observe the process, then decides to hook a few rows. It's not unusual to see children, boys and girls, and sometimes teenagers pick up the hook and pull a few loops. We talk up the advantages of belonging to the Guild and direct them to our website for meeting info.

Voting for the Viewer's Choice award is a great way to pull in fairgoers, too. By examining each entry closely, they talk among themselves and get involved in the decision-making process by selecting their favorite work.

It was a nice surprise to see former Guild member Gisele and her husband, now living in North Carolina, who were passing through New Jersey and took the time to stop at the fair to see the rug hooking entries. That's loyalty.

A couple came up to say they were familiar with rug hooking and the Guild and always admired rugs on display. She said that her mother was a rug hooker. I asked if she has some of her mom's rugs displayed in her home and she said, oh yes, my mother belonged to the guild. Really? Who is your mother? I asked. Terry Dabrowski, she said. So nice to see her daughter there, and she sends regards to everyone.

In addition, I enjoy participating in the hooking demos at the Hunterdon Fair and other venues, because it's also a great opportunity to share our rugs in progress and swap hooking tips with other members around the table.

I urge members to take a turn at demonstrating your work and hear some of the wonderful comments first-hand that we receive from appreciative visitors. It will give you a great boost. I would also hope more members consider submitting a rug for display next year. They are beautifully protected in glass cases so that many people can oooh and ahhhhh at our amazing rugs.

Lucy Walsh

Demonstration Opportunities

Newtown Market Day Demo - October 6, 2018 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

We have been asked to demonstrate rug hooking at the Newtown Market Day on October 6th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Market Day is an annual outdoor event in Newtown, PA that celebrates the colonial tradition of local farmers and homesteads bringing their crops, livestock and homemade wares into town to sell to their neighbors and townspeople. It's a wonderful fun event featuring high quality crafters, artisans and artists; colonial-era demonstrations, reenactments and activities; farm stands and food from local restaurants.

Please contact Dee Rosebrock by phone (609) 771-0596 or e-mail deerosebrock@aol.com to volunteer to demonstrate at this event.

Somerset County Journey through the Past October 13-14

Somerset County is having a "Journey Through the Past" weekend, Oct 13-14. Many organizations are participating with a myriad of experiences. My church, built in 1727, is hosting an event with really old archives and a lot of history stuff. I was asked if I would demonstrate rug hooking, and, of course, I said I would. The event runs Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-4. I am looking for a few people to join me for Saturday shifts 10-1:30, or 1:30-5, and Sunday 12-4. I expect there will be a lot of interest in hooking. Let me know if you can help.

Thanks.

Weezie 609-477-4339

Rug School 2019

Rug School 2019

Next year is our 23rd year and we are excited to announce our teachers; Donna Hrkman, Tracy Jamar, Kris Miller and Loretta Scena. Rug school will be held Monday August 5, 2019 through Friday August 9, 2019.

New registration forms will be available on our website soon and are attached to this article. The fee is \$200.00 for guild members at the time of our November 9, 2018 meeting. A registration deposit of \$100.00 is required (\$50.00 is non-refundable)

Non-members (fee \$275.00) can register if there are openings after January 1, 2019. If someone joins the guild between November 9, 2018 and December 31, 2019, they will be able to register before January 1st but will have to pay the \$275.00 fee.

Registration forms will be accepted beginning October 12, 2018, the day of our October meeting. They can also be mailed to Aggie Harris, 56 Scarlet Oak Drive, Doylestown, Pa 18901.

The forms will 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 12, (No matter how they are received) and use a lottery system to choose the members that get into the class and to determine the order of names on the wait list.

Guild members who joined the guild before April 2018, will have priority in the lottery. Those who joined the guild on or after April 1, 2018 will be placed at the bottom of any wait list.

Donna Hrkman www.donnahrkmandesigns.com

Donna Hrkman has been an artist all her life. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drawing and painting. Her artistic experience in different media includes drawing, painting, and stenciling, just to name a few. She got started in rug hooking fifteen years ago, developed a reputation for creating realistic portraits of people and animals and has added a Steampunk theme to her list of design motifs. Donna also enjoys teaching workshops and travels extensively to do that. She has exhibited her work in art shows and galleries, and has written two books: *Rug Hookers Companion* and *Creative Techniques for Rug Hookers*. Her rugs have won awards in shows, have been displayed and sold in galleries, and eleven of them have been selected as Finalists in *Celebrations* magazine.

She continues to strive for excellence in her work and in her teaching. Donna loves making rugs and sharing what she knows with others. She lives in Dayton, Ohio with her husband and three cats. Her three sons are grown and on their own. Hooray!

I am pleased to have been invited to teach at HCRAG in 2019. This is the usual structure for the classes I teach:

First day I do my introductory talk, using my rugs as examples. It may take forty-five minutes to an hour, but it shows what I do and also explains concepts we'll use in class.

After my talk, I begin with the first student and get them started, working my way around the room until everyone has been seen. I then spend the rest of the class time walking around the room, student by student, monitoring progress, making suggestions, and answering questions.

Each day at the beginning of class, I'll give a short lecture or lesson, including how to draw your own enlarged patterns using a grid, which includes the students themselves doing a drawing. I also lecture about portraits, how to create depth, Backgrounds, Borders, and Lettering, and finally a talk about finishing edges.

Tracy Jamar www.tracyjamar.com

Tracy is intimately familiar with traditional forms of needlework as an antiques textile restorer and conservator specializing in quilts and hooked rugs for over 30 years. Starting in 1979 at America Hurrah Antiques, NYC and in 1985 with her own business Jamar Textile Restoration Studio, NYC.

In 2006 she returned to college to complete an undergraduate degree at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, an independent/individualized study of American history through women's handmade textiles. After graduating in 2009 Jamar set her restoration business aside and committed her time to creating contemporary fiber works that blend her appreciation and admiration of early American textiles with her knowledge of textile construction techniques.

A few of her awards are top honors at Newtown Hooked Art 2014 exhibit at the University of CT on the Stamford Campus, two Awards of Excellence from the Surface Design Association and Jurors' Choice from the Newtown Hooked Art Show. Her works have been shown in juried and invitational exhibits including "Beyond Rugs!" at the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME and "Stripes" a traveling exhibit to Japan, two pieces in "9x9x3: New Visions" were on a national tour in 2014 and a piece was part of a large exhibit in South Korea in late 2016.

In Coils, Folds, Twists and Turns: Contemporary Techniques in Fiber (January 2017) she shares some of her textile techniques. She contributed extensively on American Sewn Rugs: Their History with Exceptional Examples (October 2012) with Jan Whitlock. She appeared twice on Martha Stewart's Living television program, on HGTV with Mary Emmerling and in Mary Sheppard Burton's A Passion for the Creative Live: Textiles to Lift the Spirit.

Jamar received Best Mixed Media at Guild Hall in East Hampton, NY in the Member Exhibit in 2014; she has had three solo exhibits and received awards both years she participated in Jack Lenor Larsen's LongHouse Reserve's "Planters ON/OFF the Ground" exhibit in East Hampton, NY. In March 2011 she became a docent at the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center in Springs, NY.

Ms. Jamar expands the possibilities of traditional hand-made techniques such as rug hooking, collage, appliqué and embroidery in her diverse contemporary fiber pieces. Using a combination of new, old and repurposed yarns and fabrics as well as non-traditional materials Jamar works intuitively and spontaneously.

Students will explore the popular and colorful technique of coiling (aka quilling) as well as shirring techniques found in antique rugs from the early 19th century: bias, chenille, pleated, and bundled. These techniques add variety to contemporary hooked works. Strips of fabric are manipulated and sewn to the surface of a foundation creating interest and texture.

Kris Miller www.spruceridgestudios.com

Kris Miller specializes in primitive designs with an emphasis on textured wool and wide cuts (#8 and above). She also enjoys hooking with hand-torn wool. Her style has been described as “soft primitives. Roving, sheep curls, paisleys, novelty yarns, and hosiery have all found their way into Kris’s hooking style at one time or another.

Kris is the owner of Spruce Ridge Studios. She has won many awards and ribbons for her rugs including her county fair, Michigan State Fair, Sauder Village, honorable mentions in A Celebration Of Hand-Hooked Rugs XIII, XVI, XXII, and a Celebrations Finalist in 2018. Several of her original designs have also been featured as pattern inserts in Rug Hooking Magazine and the books *Projects For Primitive Rug Hookers*, *Pattern Designs for Rug Hookers*, and *Finishing Hooked Rugs*. She served as a judge for A Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs XVIII and XXVI. Her work has been selected for *Early American Life’s* Directory of Traditional American Crafts in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016. She is the author of *Introduction to Rug Hooking*, published by Stackpole Books, and the self-published books *The Grand Finale: Finish What You Start* and *The Little Book Of Eyes*. She has taught at many workshops and rug camps across the United States, England, and Finland. She lives in Howell, Michigan with her husband and an assortment of Angora goats, sheep, alpacas, and dogs.

Loretta Scena

Loretta Scena is a McGown certified Rug Hooking teacher from Long Island, NY. She is a self taught Fiber and Bead artist who uses fabric manipulation, specialty fibers and hand dyed wool to create whimsical embellishments that will add dimension and texture to your rug. She loves teaching an open class where all styles of rug hooking and all levels of experience are welcomed. This year she will also include a class called going in circles. It’s a fun technique using noodles and hand dyed wool.

****Attend Rug School Free --** Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. Hosts are asked 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 choose 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, please speak with Rug School Directors Aggie Harris or Linda Hannemann.

HCRAG Library

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 freija2@verizon.net.

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 Patti Mahar at wmwprincetonnj@gmail.com. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

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 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 --

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October 12, 2018 Monthly Meeting - General business. Member led Dyeing Demos: No actual dyeing but step by step procedures and examples.

November 9, 2018 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Member led Round Robin..

December 14, 2018 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Holiday Pot luck lunch. Mat exchange and more.....

January 11, 2019 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Annual Auction

February 8, 2019 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Program TBD

March 8, 2019 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Program TBD

April 12, 2019 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Body of work by Therese Shick

May 10, 2019 Monthly Meeting. General Business. Program TBD

June 14, 2019 Monthly Meeting. General Business. End of year Pot Lunch lunch.

*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 *-- Robin Nissenfeld (609) 933-5641 robinknits@hotmail.com

Mary Passerello (908) 782-1765 mpassere@comcast.net

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

Newsletter -- Anne Penkal at ampenkal@gmail.com

Camp Directors* -- Aggie Harris (215)348-4256 aappelharris@verizon.net

Linda Hannemann (908)730-0662 lindahannemann@icloud.com

Historian -- Carol Kindt (908) 782-7306 ck-rk@comcast.net

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

Joan Lucas

Barbara Lugg

Aggie Wooden

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 -- Sarah Gerding

Monthly Program -- Joyce Combs 609 737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net

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

Special Events -- Open

Spring Hook-in -- Marian Hall

Sunshine -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or gqferd@gmail.com

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

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

* Designates Board Member, please feel free to contact any board member with issues or concerns.

Guild's Email List Policy -- The HCRAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the group not solicit the membership as a whole.

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Anne Penkal ampenkal@gmail.com by the 20th of the month.

HCRAG CLASSIFIED SECTION

Please submit items to be included in “The Loop” to Anne Penkal at ampenkal@gmail.com by the 20th of the month prior to the month you want it included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads.