

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

September 2013

Presidents' Letter – September, the kick off to our hooking calendar, begins what we hope will be a remarkable year! Oh, the plans we have made....

Our Rug Festival is fast approaching and the committees have continued to meet making final plans and chores. All is coming together with what we hope will be a wonderful experience that is shared well beyond our hooking community. We truly wish the event to include rugs from all members, so send in your forms by September 1st and **bring those beautiful rugs for collection at our September meeting.** We want a festival feast for the eyes! Volunteers are still needed for all the tasks necessary to make the two-day event a success. A few hours helping with such tasks as admissions, parking, security, or where you are needed will make this goal possible. The time for the “WE” in “We Can Do It” has arrived. Also a reminder that you have to be “in it” to hang it. September is our membership renewal month; therefore, Weezie will be taking dues and forms at our next meeting. If you are one of our many distant members, please get the on-line application and send dues to Weezie. Membership is a great bargain whether to attend Spring Fling, Camp or just to receive our renowned Loop!

Thank you to all who organized and volunteered at the many demonstrations over the summer months that help make our Guild so successful. Additionally we hope to share travels and adventures that so often inspire our creative juices. Lakes, oceans, rivers, brilliant skies, flora and fauna all make their way into our post summer rugs .. not to mention whales and icebergs.

The Hunterdon Camp was acclaimed as one of the best in recent years. Every teacher was inspirational and all felt they had a productive week. The week offers the opportunity to watch process unfold. The initial blank slate of Monday turned into astonishing work in progress by our sharing show and tell on Thursday afternoon. While only a few Camp rugs will be completed by our rug show, hopefully the three classes will show the whole Guild the work nurtured by expert teaching, helpful suggestions, laughter and shared wool from stashes ... the perfect pink for all those puppy tongues.

We want to thank Gail Ferdanindo, Debbie Walsh, and Judy Quintman for the three years they so successfully organized our Camp. Both teachers and participants have appreciated their efforts to improve and continue this wonderful annual offering. They have left a precise record of the “How and What to Do”. And, we are happy to announce that Anndee Byers and Eleanor Dunker have volunteered to assume the leadership of the Camp. Thank you ladies all!

The full list of program offerings follows in The Loop, but some of the programs we are excited about are plans for a return visit from Cyndy Duade, unique methods of dyeing, and sharing our rich resource of Guild members who are either teachers or vendors. We are very happy and proud to offer our congratulations to Cheryl Halliday and Patty Mahaffey for their successful completion of McGown Teaching Certification and look forward to their sharing of this several year effort. And as promised, we have organized a bus trip in the spring that we hope inspires our

own artistic appreciation. Additionally, we have responded to requests that our Guild participate in 2014 Hunterdon County 300 Celebration. Details will follow for all these wonderful plans.

Our Hunterdon Guild has much to celebrate and we both look forward to the coming months with renewed energy and eagerness to hook, learn, and share our many talents. Cindy & Therese

September Meeting – Friday, September 13, 2013 -- Our first meeting of the program year 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 of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – Our September meeting will focus on catching up on what we all did this summer, discussing plans for the coming program year and finalizing plans for the Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill.

Show & Tell – Camp projects, rugs completed during the summer and current projects will be the focus of Show & Tell.

Those participating in S & T are eligible for a door prize gift. Here are the lucky winners from our June meeting:

Fred Cole	Jean Laurence
Ellen DiClemente	Lydia Lewis
Kathy Heilferty	Doug Sardo
Weezie Huntington	

Hospitality – We thank in advance our hospitality volunteers for this month – Bernadette Andrejco, Carol Kindt, Margaret Lutz, Mary Passerello, and Martha Thieling, The snacks really do add to the enjoyment of our meetings.

September Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month. Mary Bruinooge, (9/13), Colleen Conrad (9/26), Peggie Cunningham (9/4), Kathy Donovan (9/14), Cathy Edwards (9/29), Lee Hurford, (9/1), Jean Laurence (9/28), Cyndi Lott (9/23), Helen Nitzsche (9/1), Debbie Ryan (9/16), Gail Schmidt (9/25), and Roberta Smith (9/2). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – We welcome Judy Carter, Patricia and Alexis Marie Contessa, Sarah Guiliani, Lee Good Hurford, Barbara Kimbrough, Debbi Lacey, and Leslie Levitt to our Guild. Their contact information is shown below.

Patricia & Alexis Marie Contessa
101 Center St.
Clinton, NJ 08809
908-735-8615
conticity@embarqmail.com

Leslie Levitt
7c Old Nassau Road
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
410-858-7223
llevitty@gmail.com

Lee Good Hurford
P.O. Box 234
Ringoes, NJ 08551-0234

Sarah Guiliani
447 Ocean Street
South Portland. ME 04106

908-902-5917
lee@glenmarle.com

207-233-1953
uhookrugs@yahoo.com

Judy Carter
101 Lynette Circle
Willow Street, PA 17584
717-464-2156
jcrugs@yahoo.com

Barbara Kimbrough
P.O. Box 95
Sea Girt, NJ 08750
908-309-3881
beedkay@gmail.com

Debbi Lacey
416 Quackenbush Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201-669-7300
laceyd@yahoo.com

Patricia Brennan and Sue Schulz have new addresses. Their new contact information is as follows:

Patricia Brennan
169 Manor Drive
Red Bank, NJ 07701
No change in email
or phone number

Sue Schultz
440 Old Penllyn Pike
Penllyn, PA 19422
dragonfly@icloud.com
No change in phone number

September is the beginning of our program year and is the time to renew your membership. Also dues must be current in order to exhibit rugs in the Hooked Rug Festival. A membership form is attached.

Sunshine – Susan Atwater, Joanne McIlmurray and Sue Woodworth are recovering from surgery they had during the summer. We wish them 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

Festival News – The Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill is now a month away. How exciting!

We have some last minute appeals:

Publicity -- Our postcard announcements should be distributed at local stores, shops, restaurants, etc. starting the second week of September. Posters should go up the third week. The posters and postcards are the MAJOR form of local advertising, so your help is needed. A supply of postcards and posters will be available at the September meeting.

Rug Registration and Collection – Just a reminder the Rug Registration forms and photos are due to Janet Santaniello by the September 1st deadline. And please remember bring your Festival rugs to the September Guild meeting. If

you cannot make the meeting, please make arrangements with Janet, Eleanor Dunker or Dee Rosebrock to get those rugs handed in. Thanks!

Volunteers Needed – Remember it will take many hands to make this Festival a success. We can still use help with admissions, parking, vendor set-up, and as a general “floaters” to help with whatever. Some Guild members have committed to “spending the weekend at the Festival” and we are really grateful for that! But if you are on the fence, think about helping out for a couple of hours.

Boutique – Sharon Ballard is still accepting items for the Boutique. You can bring them to the September meeting, or make alternate arrangements with her.

Beginner’s Workshops – The Beginner’s Workshops, which are being coordinated by Cheryl Halliday, Juliana Kapusta and Patty Mahaffey, are ready to accept students. The information is now up and available on the Festival website (www.rugfestival.com). The classes will take place from 10-1 on Saturday and Sunday and will cost each participant \$50. This fee includes everything the student needs except for scissors.

Help is needed in cutting strips (#6 cut) for the workshops kits. Also, light colored wools (natural, white and very pale pastels) are needed. Please bring wool donations and your cutters to the September meeting.

As always, thanks for what you have done and what we are about to do together.

Busy Fall Demonstration Schedule -- The fall season is an active one for our members who give of their time to represent the Guild at local festivals. The fall schedule is as follows:

- September 7 & 8 Sheep & Fiber Festival Gisele Meader
- September 21 Hilltown Historical Fall Festival Karl Gimber
- October 5 Newtown Colonial Market Day Lydia Lewis
- October 19 Howell Living Farm (Quilt Day) Gisele Meader
- November 1 & 2 Thanksgiving in the Country * Martha Thieiling

*This will be the 40th Thanksgiving in the Country and regrettably the last time the event will be held.

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

Janet Keller Laughlin Studio Tour (October 12 & 13, 2013) -- Janet Keller Laughlin, our Featured Member in June, will have her studio open during the Hopewell Tour des Arts 2013 on Saturday, October 12 from 10-5 and on Sunday, October 13 from 11-4. The event takes place rain or shine. Janet and her daughter Alissa will have their work for show and sale. Alissa creates upcycled jewelry. Janet’s works include painting, sculpture and decorative arts. Visit www.janetkellerlaughlin.com for more information.

The location of the JKL Studio is at 218 Hopewell-Wertsville Road, Hopewell, NJ 08525. If you have questions or need more information, contact Janet at 609-713-0557 or jklstudio218@aol.com.

Mark Your Calendar! Annual Rug Hooking Retreat – January 10-12, 2014 --

Plans are underway for our annual rug hooking retreat to again be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ. As in the past, the retreat will follow our January meeting. Arrangements with the Hampton Inn are still being worked on. Weezie Huntington is coordinating this highly popular event and will have more information shortly.

Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair – Ribbon Winners Announced --

Once again our Guild participated in the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair by exhibiting the work of our members and by demonstrating rug hooking on Thursday, August 22. The exhibit showcased a wide spectrum of work by our talented members. A separate display case was devoted to publicizing the Hooked Rug Festival with a creative exhibit of boutique items.

Our camp instructors, Judy Carter and Sarah Guiliani, along with Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar judged the pieces submitted for the Fair's Hooked Rug Division. Congratulations to the ribbon winners shown below:

Wide Cut

- **Best of Show:** Therese Shick "Fraktur Rooster"
- **Second Place:** Barbara Dalrymple Lugg "Wooltown"
- **Third Place:** Joyce Combs "Compass Rose"

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional

- **Best of Show:** Kathy Donovan "Gemstone Bag"

Wearables

- **Best of Show:** Carol Kindt "Hooked Purse"

Best of Show Overall

- Therese Shick "Fraktur Rooster"

Viewer's Choice

- Barbara Lugg: "Wooltown"

Thanks to everyone who submitted items for the exhibit and to the following members who supported the Guild by demonstrating at the Fair:

Sharon Ballard	Margaret Lutz
Cindy Boults	Gisele Meader
Kathy Donovan	Dee Rosebrock
Teri Dabrowski	Martha Thieling
Carol Kindt	

A lot of interest was expressed in our upcoming Festival and over \$80 of raffle tickets were sold. A special thank you goes to Dee for again coordinating our participation in this major local event and to Sharon Ballard who helped to creatively set up the exhibit cases. Carol and Ray Kindt helped to dismantle to the exhibit on Sunday.

Plans for Camp 2014 Underway -- Our Guild's 18th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 11 through August 15, 2014. In keeping with our tradition, three

excellent teachers –Jayne Hester, Liz Marino and Anita White – will spend the week with us. Guild members, Anndee Byers and Eleanor Dunker, have volunteered to serve as our Camp Directors. They are recruiting a team to help them. Let Anndee and Eleanor know if you can help.

Camp Workshops

Jayne Hester – Jayne will be teaching a class on hooking primitive rugs in a wide cut. She has a great color sense for old colors and will bring her large stash of fabulous textured wool. Jayne will help you color plan your rug with “dirty-muddy” colors or soft natural colors, possibly enhanced by a splash of dancing colors. You will learn to hook in a true primitive style on any pattern of your choice.

Liz Marino – Liz is a McGown certified rug hooking instructor who is schooled in all the disciplines. She likes a detailed and realistic approach to her own work; Liz looks for a photo that will stand as an image that has the drama she likes. She has created a number of rugs for herself and for students based on old photographs and drawings of birds from books. Liz is open to working on anything and loves color planning Orientals. Go to her website (www.lizmarinorughooking.com) for more information about Liz.

Anita White -- Anita will have an open class, so students can choose any pattern by any designer – or design something themselves – or have her design something for them. She does have a style preference for wide-cut (#5-9 as well as hand cut and tear) florals, geometrics, floral/geometric combinations, paisley designs, folk art, antique reproductions, animals, crewel and Orientals. Anita loves working with all kinds of textures, plaids, stripes, and antique paisley while also incorporating some spots and smoother flannels for contrast, as needed. During the week, Anita will discuss dyeing, finishing techniques and any other topic that present themselves during the week. You can find Anita at anitawhite.blogspot.com.

Registration/Instructional Fees – Registration will begin at our September meeting. The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2013. For all others, the fee is \$250. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2014. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAAG can be sent to Eleanor Dunker, 1789 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 13, 2014, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 13th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Anndee Byers (856-829-7179 or Anndee@hookandhistory.com) or Eleanor Dunker (609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com).

Nominations Due for the Brightbill Camp Scholarship -- The Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to allow a deserving member to attend the HCRAAG summer rug hooking camp. This is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations and recommendations 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 Cindy or Therese by December 2, 2013. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting.

Attend Camp Free -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. 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 have interest, let Camp Directors Anndee or Eleanor Dunker know.

Hunterdon County 300th Birthday Celebration -- Hunterdon County will have a yearlong 300th birthday celebration in 2014. All Hunterdon County organizations have been encouraged to participate in some way. Since our Guild is supported by the County, we are eager to participate. The current plan is to hold the HCRAAG event on Friday, October 10, 2014 at our normal meeting site. The tentative plans include the following:

- Open House Hook-in
- Rug hooking demonstrations
- Lecture on Early American Tavern Sign Rugs
- Presentation on the history of Golden Talents and our Guild in Hunterdon County

Cindy Boults is coordinating this effort and will have more information in the days ahead. Share with her any additional ideas.

Introducing “From the Dye Pot of ” -- This issue of The Loop introduces a regular wool dyeing column that will be contributed to by any Guild member who wants to share their knowledge. The idea is to provide our members with concise dyeing tips, favorite formulas and suggestions from members who enjoy dyeing the wool for their rugs. Patty Mahaffey has offered to coordinate the collection of ideas, so let her know if you have a wool dyeing formula or tip to share. You can reach Patty at 215-453-0174 or mcmahaffey@comcast.net.

We launch the column with a tip from “honorary member” and camp instructor Cynthia Norwood who shared with her camp students a way to use avocado pits as a source of natural dye that produces a soft pale flesh color. Here are the easy steps:

- Remove and wash the pits
- Boil pits in the dye pot to produce the “blood”
- Use the “blood” for the dye
- Add presoaked wool
- Simmer for at least 20 minutes
- Stir, add vinegar, and simmer another 20 minutes, or until the water clears
- Let dyed wool cool, rinse and dry

Cheryl Halliday and Patty Mahaffey Earn McGown Certification – Kudos to Cheryl Halliday and Patty Mahaffey for earning their McGown Teacher Certification. The National Guild of the Pearl McGown Rughookrafters is committed to the education and promotion of the art of rug hooking. The certification process typically takes five years and prepares participants for teaching all aspects of rug hooking. The McGown certification is recognized and valued throughout the rug hooking world. Cheryl and Patty make us proud!

To learn more about the National Guild go to their website – www.mcgownguild.com.

Rugs From the Maine Sea Coast Mission Hooked Rug Project -- The July/August 2013 issue of The Magazine Antiques features an article -- “Discoveries in Self Expression” -- on 24 surviving rugs from the Maine Sea Coast Mission Hooked Rug Project. A copy of the issue will be available the September meeting for your perusal.

Mentoring Program Available -- With a new program year beginning we want to remind members, especially new members, that the Guild’s Mentoring Program was created last year as a way to facilitate a new member’s introduction to our Guild. Under the program a member is hooked up with a mentor who can provide advice and suggestions on hooking issues or help explain Guild programs, events or activities. For example, longer term members know what our January Hooking Retreat is all about. Someone new may not. A mentor can also be of assistance to an established rug hooker who is new to the area and not familiar with the resources available in the area such as open studios, suppliers, local teachers etc.

Anyone interested in having a mentor just needs to let Donna Kolznak know. Her contact information can be found under the Officer/ Chair listing at the end of the newsletter.

2013 Rug Camp – A Big Success -- We hooked, we ate, we talked, we learned, and we laughed. Based on all the feedback, both formal and informal, our 16th Annual Rug Hooking Camp was a huge success.

Here is just a sample of the wonderful teacher evaluations:

- Wonderful learning experience
- The best for fine hooking
- Covered class beautifully
- Best teacher ever
- Very encouraging, fabulous
- Knows variety of techniques and styles

- Excellent at working us through color and design issues
- Great advice and enthusiasm
- Excellent handouts
- Shared so much information, gave gentle criticism
- Gave practical techniques that could be used with all style rugs

The friendly and relaxed atmosphere along with the camaraderie continues to be hallmarks of our camp.

Daily door prizes are always popular and an anticipated point in the day. We are grateful to our friends listed below who continue to support the Guild each year. Please show our appreciation by patronizing them.

- Early American Life Magazine
- Blue Tulip (Karen Worthington)
- Heart in Hand (Norma Batastini)
- Judy Quintman
- Two Old Crows (Jeannine Happe)
- Wool 'n Gardener (Jan Cole)
- Wool Street Journal

A special thank you to those who hosted the teachers, made lunches for the teachers, brought in goodies to share, helped to clean, helped our teachers unpack and repack, and helped out in many other ways. The ESC Staff went out of their way to respond to our various needs. Our favorite masseuse, Joy, helped all relax their stiff hooking muscles. We are indebted to our dedicated and hardworking camp directors – Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman, and Debbie Walsh. Judy helped in all the planning for camp but was needed at home in North Carolina and could not attend.

Visit our website (www.hcrag.com) to enjoy photos taken at Camp by Annie Edwards and Carol Kindt. A list of ideas and teacher suggestions has been accumulated for planning future camps.

Beginners Workshop -- We thank Patty Mahaffey for stepping in when Judy Quintman could not come to camp and for doing a great job teaching the beginner class. The six students in the class had fun and are well on their way to becoming hookers. Several decided to stay for lunch and hook for the afternoon. They have been invited to attend our September meeting.

HCRAG Library – 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.

Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair -- Howell Living Farm was the site for the Mercer County 4-H Fair on August 3, 2013. Annie Edwards, Karl Gimber and Martha Thieling represented the Guild at this popular family event. On again, off again

rain did limit attendance, but those who turned out were enthusiastic visitors. Cliff and Sharon Ballard, Teri Dabrowski and Lois Grieves accompanied by her grandson stopped by to say “hello”. Eleanor Dunker’s daughter, Meredith, who works with the Rutgers agriculture program, also came by. There was much interest in rug hooking and our beginners’ workshop conducted at camp.

Special Events Chair Open -- The position of Special Events Chair is now open. A brief description of the responsibilities is shown below.

Special Events Chair

Chairs Special Events Committee

Maintains schedule of Guild events (e.g., demonstrations, exhibits, retreat, workshops),

Arranges for event coordinators

Recommends additions/deletions of events to Board

Our gratitude is extended to Amy Korengut who has served in this position for an extended period. Contact her if you have questions on what is involved or with any questions.

Featured Member – Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar -- Today Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar is recognized as an accomplished rug hooker, camp director and sought after instructor. The journey which brought her to this point started in the mid-1970s shortly after a close friend moved from South Plainfield, NJ to Long Island. Her friend relocated a great deal and found that joining local groups was a good way to meet people in her new community. On Long Island, she was introduced to a quilting and rug hooking group. During a visit, Arline persuaded her friend to arrange a meeting with her hooking instructor. She ended up taking a one day “crash course” with Helen Connelly who taught rug hooking on Long Island. The journey was started!

When she got back home Arline started looking for a rug hooking teacher and found one 40 miles away who was McGown certified and gave Arline a good grounding in the fundamentals. In 1977 Arline joined the local McGown Guild. At that point in time McGown Guild’s concentrated on shading and narrow cut hooking and that is what Arline was taught. That was about to change.

Alice Beatty was scheduled to speak at a guild chapter meeting but was too ill to attend. One of Alice’s friends came instead and gave a presentation on primitive style rug hooking. That was Arline’s introduction into the world of wide cut primitive rug hooking which she now embraces. Arline recalls buying books written by Alice and having her sign them. Shortly thereafter, Alice Beatty passed away. In recognition of her contribution to the rug hooking world, the Molly Pitcher Chapter was renamed the Alice Beatty Chapter of ATHA. Arline went on to continue taking classes and workshops with many of the well-known instructors of the time including Ruth Roccia, Ethel Bruce and Mary Anne Lincoln.

Arline became involved with the McGown Teacher Certification Program in 1989 and has participated in their teacher workshops for the last 22 years. With the broad based training Arline received, she is in a position to “do it all”.

According to Arline, her style of hooking “depends on the pattern”. She prefers to work

with commercially available patterns and hooks with both new and recycled wool Arline “loves color” and looks forward to getting the dye pots out for a day of dyeing wool for one of her projects or for others. When attending a workshop, she “likes to get the input from the teacher on color planning”. “I could do it myself”, she notes “but I treat myself by getting ideas from the teacher.”

Arline “likes to learn” and makes it a practice to “attend a couple of camps a year”. The Maryland Shores Camp is a favorite which she attends often along with the HCRAG Camp. Arline is always on the lookout for interesting classes. An opportunity to attend a class with Deanne Fitzpatrick this summer was a particular treat.

Supporting and participating in local rug hooking groups is also a priority. Arline is an active member of the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter, HCRAG and the National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Rughookrafters. She is a teacher and mentor with the group that meets at Longstreet Farm.

Arline likes to hook every day which she generally does several days a week on her own or with friends. “There are months when I hook every day” she observes. “I like to hook first thing in the morning. I set the timer and hook and find it gets you going.” With this routine Arline is more inclined to hook at night too.

Teaching was a logical evolution of Arline’s growth as a rug hooking artisan. She began teaching in 1988 and gave lessons at home for many years. When her husband became ill, teaching from home was no longer possible. She then began to teach at camps and workshops. (Arline was one of the teachers at our Camp last year.) Specialized workshops on dyeing are a favorite of hers.

For the past 16 years Arline has been the director of the Country Inn Rug School that is held in Rindge, New Hampshire. The Sunday to Friday camp is held at the Woodbound Inn and has a McGown orientation. Before rug hooking took over her life, Arline was a quilter, but found there “was not time for both”. She is also a member of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration.

Arline lives in South Plainfield. Her first husband died suddenly the day after the 9/11 Attack in New York. Six years later, she married her “high school sweetheart” with whom she enjoyed two years before he passed away. Arline has three sons – Chris and twins Scott and Todd. Chris also lives in South Plainfield as do Scott and his wife, Jen. Todd lives in Milford enjoying the opportunity to have more land with his home.

Visit the Guild’s website – www.hcrag.com –to see a few of Arline’s rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – September for me is the beginning of a new year. The summer is over, fall is in the air and it is a time to think serious thoughts again and get back to work, whatever that is. My interior clock is still set from the years I worked as a high school teacher and September brought all the anxieties of starting a new year filled with new students, new curriculum, new demands of testing, grading, and commuting. You get the picture!

Now my new year is about what new hooking projects should I take on? What new family events are happening this year? Oh, yes, the oldest grandchild is graduating from high school. How did that happen when it seems just yesterday she was toddling on the beach? So I am deep in design mode.

This summer I concentrated on the flowers and plant life in the marsh where we walk every day. Our walk at the local municipal park starts with a long stretch of walking on the beach with the lapping ocean at our feet and the view of drumlins where cows are grazing ahead of us. At the end of the beach walk is a long board walk which winds through a marsh filled with spartina grasses, wild flowers, rugosa roses and various other plants and shrubs. The walk ends with a walk along a woodland path with pine trees, morning glories, and a variety of other flowers along the way. One morning we were greeted with spider webs filling the marsh. Small dew drops hung on the delicate fibers and all this was back lighted by the rays of the sun. Stunning!

From this inspiration, I created several pillows using a variety of fibers – wool strips, yarn, roving, bits of sari silk, velvet, whatever came to hand. I also hooked a series of 10 x 13 pieces which I mounted on thin wood paneling and will arrange as a collage. When I see these pieces and pillows, I am reminded of our morning walks. So think of some of the sights that moved you this summer and put them together in a mat or pillow. This will be your memory bank for Summer 2013.

Summer for me is grist for the design mill for the rugs and other items I will hook this coming year. I am anxious for fall to come and to see the turning of the leaves and the beauty of that time of the year. Fall will also bring the Rug Festival which will be a glorious display of the great talent in HCRAAG. I know we are all looking forward to that.

Think ahead to the fall and the time for new designs, new ideas for rug hooking and a new season of interesting programs at our Guild. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise – Heloise was eavesdropping on Judy Carter’s workshop at Camp and learned the following tip. When hooking animal faces Judy says, “Hook what you see.” In portraits, start with the eyes. The gleam of the highlight is what makes the eyes come alive. The seeing begins with taking note and hooking the dark and light spots. From there fill in becomes self-evident. The use of many textures gives the nuance to the fur.

Recipes

One of the highlights our Guild’s Camp is enjoying the treats brought each day by our hospitality volunteers. Eleanor Dunker’s “Hooker’s Chocolate Delight” was a major hit and enjoyed by all. She has shared her recipe with us.

Hooker’s Chocolate Delight

Ingredients (12 servings)

- 3 cups cold milk
- 2 pkgs. of Jell-O instant chocolate pudding mix
- 18 oz. tub of Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 package of marble pound cake (12 oz.)

- ½ cup of Hershey's chocolate syrup
- Heath bars – use package of already crushed candy or crush four 1.4 oz. bars

Preparation

1. Pour milk into a large bowl and add pudding mix.
2. Whisk for about 2 minutes.
3. Let stand for 5 minutes
4. Add the thawed Cool Whip gently
5. Cut the pound cake into ½ inch cubes
6. Layer half in a glass bowl (about 3 ½ quarts)
7. Drizzle with half of the syrup and half of the crushed candy
8. Layer on half of the pudding mix
9. Repeat steps 6-8
10. Refrigerate at least 1 hour

If you like chocolate, this recipe is for you. Thank you Eleanor!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Coverlets & Hooked Rugs Show (September 1-28, 2013) –The National Museum of the American Coverlet in Bedford, PA is hosting an exhibit of American coverlets and hooked rugs. It is open to the public with museum admission. Go to www.coverletmuseum.org for the details.

Rugs by the Sea (September 15-20 & 22-27,2013) – The 26th season of Rugs by the Sea held at The Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey will be held from September 15 to 20 and September 22-27, 2013. Bev Conway, Lucille Festa, Laura Pierce and Diane Stoffel are the instructors for the first week. Cammie Bruce, Bev Conway, and Jen Lavoie will be teaching during the second week. Michele Micarelli has been added as an instructor for the second week. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-2936 or G_batastini@msn.com or Linda Woodbury at 973-743-6835 or linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Barbara Carroll Rug Workshop (September 24-27, 2013) – This workshop is offered in conjunction with the Coverlet & Hooked Rug Show at the National Museum of the American Coverlet (see above). More information can be found at www.woolleyfox.com.

Hook-in at the National Museum of the American Coverlet (September 27 & 28, 2013) – Barbara Carroll invites you to attend this fundraising event for the Museum. It will be held on Friday, September 27 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and Saturday, September 28 from 9:00AM to 3:30 PM at the Museum at 322 S. Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522. Details available at www.woolleyfox.com.

Rug Hooking Camp at Longstreet Farm (October 7-11, 2013) – The Monmouth County Park System is sponsoring a week long rug hooking camp at Longstreet Farm on October 7 to 11 from 9 to 3. Lucille Festa is the instructor and the cost is \$190. Reservations can be made by going to the website for the Monmouth County Park System or by calling 732-842-4000 ext.1 referencing Program #F0234A. Questions about the camp (but not to make reservations) can be directed to Ronnie Grothusen at the Farm at 732-946-3758.

Brandywine Guild Hook-in (October 26, 2013) -- The popular hook-in sponsored by the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild will be held in Wagontown, PA on October 26, 2013. Details can be found by going to their website – brandywinerughookingguild.org.

Haunted Hookers' Retreat (October 26-30 & October 31 -- November 3, 2013) -- The new Haunted Hookers' Retreat will be held at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Contact Betsy Reed for more information at 518-851-2140 or betsy@heavens-to-betsy.com.

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com.

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

HCRAG Calendar of Events

September 7 & 8, 2013 – Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes, NJ

September 13, 2013 – **Monthly Meeting – Review of Summer Projects ***

September 21, 2013 – Historical Fall Festival, Hilltown Township, PA

October 5, 2013 – Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA

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

October 11, 2013 – **Monthly Meeting – (Cyndy Duade) ***

October 19, 2013 – Quilting Day, Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ

November 8, 2013 – **Monthly Meeting – The Fungus Among Us (Ursala Pohl)***

November 2 & 3, 2013 – Thanksgiving in the Country, Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ

December 13, 2013 – **Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon ***

January 10, 2014 – **Monthly Meeting -- Auction & White Elephant Sale ***

January 10-12, 2014 – Rug Hooking Retreat, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 14, 2014 – **Monthly Meeting – Creating & Hooking Redware Pattern (Sharon Ballard, Jan Cole & Karl Gimber) ***

March 14, 2014 – **Monthly Meeting -- Rugs That Tell a Story ***

March 28-30, 2014 – Spring Fling, Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

April 11, 2014-- Monthly Meeting – Round Robin (Members with rug hooking businesses) *
April 26, 2014 – Hook-in – Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA
May 9, 2014 –Monthly Meeting – Bus Trip to Barnes Foundation Museum, Philadelphia
June 13, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Guild Picnic *
August 11-15, 2014 – Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
August 12, 2014 – Beginner’s Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ
September 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *
October 10, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Hunterdon County 300th Celebration *
December 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon *

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

Guild Officers/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** – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboultsg@gmail.com.
 Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.
Vice President – Membership – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com
Director -- Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
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
Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net
Mentoring – Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net
Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net
 Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com
 Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
 Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net
Special Events – Open
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.
Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
 Jean Laurence – 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net

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.



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.