

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

September 2007

From the Presidents' Corner – We hope you all had a relaxing and productive summer and that you had an opportunity to spend time rug hooking. This month is the start of our program year and time to renew our Guild membership. We sometimes take for granted what we get from participation in HCRAAG. Guild membership is a real bargain! Here is a partial list of what comes with membership:

- First and foremost, an opportunity to spend time with others who share your passion for rug hooking.
- Stimulating and educational monthly programs (September to June)
- Monthly newsletter (September to June)
- Opportunity to attend rug hooking camp with nationally known instructors
- Educational programs on rug hooking and related fiber arts
- Opportunity to participate in week-end hooking retreat
- Demonstrate rug hooking at local historical sites
- Wool swaps
- Members' rug exhibits
- Annual membership picnic
- Opportunity to attend regional hook-ins
- Learn what others are doing

The strength of our organization is in our members (currently 90). Guild membership provides the unique opportunity to know and be with people with similar interests. We learn from each other. We inspire each other. And we comfort each other when things do not go the way we hoped.

HCRAAG has enjoyed much success during the last two years. Our by-laws are no longer adequate for an organization that has experienced the significant increase in programs, activities and membership that we have. At the May meeting a committee was formed to take a look at our by-laws and to make recommendations for any changes that may be needed. Another committee was formed to look at our summer rug hooking camp fee structure and cancellation policies. The recommendations from both committees were sent to Guild members last month. These proposals will be discussed and voted upon at the September meeting. This is your Guild, so it is important that your voice be heard on these issues.

Happy hooking! -- Heidi and Weezie

September Meeting – September 21, 2007 -- **Please note that the date of our September meeting has changed to September 21, 2007.** The meeting will be at our regular meeting place, the Hunterdon County Administration Building, on Rt. 12, outside of Flemington, NJ from 10:00-2:00.

Guild Program – Kim Kagan will introduce her hooked doorstep project that will be assembled at the November meeting. She will bring the template for us to trace and will explain what we need to do prior to November. You will need to bring a piece of backing (20”x20”) on which to trace the pattern. The pattern on Kim’s doorstep is bittersweet or blueberries depending on what color wool you use. Of course, you can use your own pattern, if you wish. If time permits, we will be showing a video.

Show & Tell – Bring your summer and/or camp projects (completed or in progress) and hooked brick doorstops.

Business Meeting – The proposed changes to our by-laws and camp fees and cancellation policies will be discussed and voted upon. The proposals were sent to Guild members last month for review prior to the meeting. It is important that you attend this meeting and share your thoughts on these issues.

Hospitality -- Someone to assume responsibility for our hospitality function is needed. The Hospitality Chair is responsible for organizing refreshments for our monthly meetings, including recruiting volunteers to bring refreshments and maintaining our hospitality supplies. Everyone looks forward to the marvelous treats provided at our meetings, so this role allows you to make an important contribution to our Guild. Lydia Brenner continues to assist with Hospitality. If you can help, please speak with Weezie or Heidi.

Membership – Our program year begins this month. That means Guild dues are now payable (membership renewal form attached). Thirty one members have already renewed and we have three new members. We welcome Nancy Carmen, Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas to our Guild. Please add them to your membership list

Nancy Carmen	Deanna Kinney	Joan Lucas
105 Boss Rd	30 Boulder Hill Rd	42 Musconetcong River Road
Stockton, NJ 08559	Lebanon, NJ 08833	Hampton, NJ 08827
609-397-2906	908-832-7587	908-537-2086
nlcarmen@verizon.net	deakinn@yahoo.net	joadon@embarg.com

Trish Becker has a new telephone number – 908-268-3949.

Let the Sun Shine – It is with a sad heart that we report that Guild member, Jennifer Gerlach, passed away Friday, August 17, 2007 after a long battle with a brain tumor which she fought courageously. Jennifer was a student of Claudia Casebolt. Claudia and Dee Rosebrock will represent the Guild at the memorial service. Our thoughts and prayers are also extended to Heidi Blair whose husband is ill, to Lydia Brenner whose mother is in the hospital, to Janet Kovach who is recovering from cataract surgery and to Kay Weeks whose mother is in failing health.

September Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to Claudia Casebolt, (9/14), Barbara Calvo (9/16), Peggie Cunningham (9/4), Kathy Donovan (9/14), Cyndi Lott (9/23), Karen Meyers (9/21), Helen Nitzsche (9/1), Gail Schmidt (9/25) and Roberta Smith (9/2). Happy Birthday to you all!

Rug Hooking Demonstrations – The busiest time for demonstrating rug hooking is late summer and early fall. Our increased visibility in the community may produce more requests than the Guild can support. For example, we had to cancel our participation in the Garden State Sheep and Fiber Festival held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds on September 15 and 16.

Two upcoming events will take place before we meet later this month. Therefore, please contact Karl Gimber if you are able to demonstrate at the **Holcombe - Jimison Farmstead Farming Festival**, Lambertville (September 8 & 9) or **Market Day**, Newtown, PA (September 15). Both events are opportunities for our Bucks County contingent and those in the Lambertville area. Volunteers are needed for both events. We only have one member scheduled to demonstrate so far.

September Guild Exhibits – Hunterdon County Libraries- Guild members will be exhibiting their work in two locations- Clinton and Flemington- during the month of September. Our thanks go to Ingrid Cosmen, Kay Weeks, Kitty Platt and Mary Jo Gimber for organizing and installing the shows at the libraries and to all of our members who are contributing works for them.

Rug Hooking Retreat – January 11-13, 2008 – Plans are well underway for our second annual rug hooking retreat under the direction of Dee Rosebrock and Kitty Platt. Eight members have already registered. The retreat was sold out last year and with a limit of 25 participants, Guild members are encouraged to register early. The retreat begins after our January meeting. When the meeting concludes, we will move to the Flemington Hampton Inn to begin a week-end of rug hooking, relaxation and fun. Attendance is limited to Guild members.

The registration fee of \$35 must be paid in advance and is non-refundable. Please make your check payable to HCRAG and mail it to Dee Rosebrock. You are welcome to commute daily or stay overnight. A block of rooms has been reserved for participants who would like to stay at the Inn. A discounted rate of \$110 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated for all reservations made prior to December 11th. Please contact the Hampton Inn at (908) 284-9427 to reserve your room and mention HCRAG to get the special rate. Each guest room has two queen-size beds. If you share a room, you'll double your fun and you'll reduce your costs. A Perkins Restaurant is connected to the Inn (a discount is provided for Hampton Inn guests) and there are numerous other restaurants nearby. Breakfast is included for participants who stay overnight. Coffee and tea will be available throughout the day. In addition, we can each bring a snack to share. Our emphasis for the weekend will be hooking with lots of laughs, some prizes and favorite videos to view.

2008 HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Our teachers are Elizabeth Black, Gail Dufresne and Jayne Hester. The dates are August 11-15, 2008 at the ESC School.

Guild Members Featured in New Book -- We sometimes lose sight of the talented artisans in our Guild. A review of the second volume of Linda Rae Coughlin's book entitled Modern Hooked Rugs quickly reminds us that HCRAG is a Guild with remarkably talented members. Congratulations to the 14 members shown below who have their work featured in this latest book on hooked rugs. You make us proud!

Sharon Ballard	Linda Rae Coughlin	Janet Santaniello
Janet Bosshard	Gail Ferdinando	Debbie Walsh
Helen Buchanan	Patti Ann Finch	Kay Weeks
Claudia Casebolt	Barbara Lugg	Janet Williams
Ingrid Cosmen	Margaret Lutz	

Meet Our Member – Dee Rosebrock

When Dee retired from the hospitality industry, she was looking for something creative, relaxing and something that related to her love of antiques. In the winter of 2004, she saw a notice at the local library about a rug hooking class offered by Guild member, Claudia Casebolt. Little did she know that the class would not only introduce her to rug hooking, but also lead to meaningful friendships with a group of women who would help reinvigorate her spirit.

Dee and her husband, Fred, appreciate what people did years ago. They are attracted to old things and believe that they reflect the people who created them. The same can be said of rugs hooked today, so it is natural that Dee values the look of hooked rugs. Fred and Dee are avid collectors who attend most of the local antique shows and others not so close by. Dee's collections include sewing items, kitchen tools, rabbit candy molds and rabbit books, of which she has over 30! At one time she devoted a lot of time to doing cross stitch. Fred collects old books on bass fishing, mainly ones published in the 1800s. Rescuing dogs and finding good homes for them is another passion. Dee and Fred currently have three dogs – Ebony (a Shih Tzu), Beanie and Gabbie (both Boston Terriers).

Dee has been hooking for three years, so her style is still evolving. However, she clearly is developing along the lines of traditional fine cut hooking. She likes the detail, shading and realism that can be achieved with a narrow cut. She is committed “to do good work.” Dee works on her technique and attends about two camps a year, including the HCRAG camp. When it comes to dyeing wool, Dee prefers to buy her wool already dyed. She has been exposed to wool dyeing techniques, but with her busy schedule, it is more practical to take advantage of the wonderfully dyed wools available today.

Claudia Casebolt introduced Dee to the “Hooksome and Chatmore” group at a time when Dee was coming from a stressful work environment. She found the group very welcoming and encouraging. “It is a wonderful group of women.”

Claudia was also responsible for bringing Dee to her first HCRAG meeting. It did not take long before she was an important contributor. She helps on every event sponsored by the Guild. Most recently, she played a major role in our very successful hook-in, helped at our camp, coordinated our 4-H Fair involvement and is co-chair for our up-coming retreat. Dee says that she “is motivated by the spirit and energy I see demonstrated by Guild officers”. The people, their work, their creativity and their friendship are among the reasons Dee devotes a growing portion of her time to our Guild. “I get more out of it than I put in” she claims.

Dee is by nature a social person and readily gives of herself. Her involvement in the Guild allows her to combine her interest in hooked rugs with her desire to play an active and contributing role. She is a godsend for anyone chairing a major Guild event. We are blessed to have Dee Rosebrock in our Guild.

2007 Rug Hooking Camp a Success -- From all reports, both formal and informal, guests and members who attended the HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp last month were “happy campers”. The beginners in Janet Williams’ class were enthusiastic and stimulated. The instructors had very good things to say about their week with us. Norma Batastini, Rae Harrell and Jule Marie Smith – provided diverse workshops that stressed creativity, design and color planning as well as hooking in all cuts and styles. The three dimensional creations and companion hooked pieces from Rae Harrell’s workshop will be on display at the Green Mountain Rug Show in November. Daily raffles provided a diversion and an element of fun. Emily Williams won the raffle for coming the

greatest distance from Portland, Maine and Lois Grieves won the raffle for bringing the greatest number of hooks to camp (9). We had a book signing with participants being able to obtain the recently released second volume of Linda Rae Coughlin's book and Margaret Lutz' best seller on finishing hooked rugs. The Bucks County Herald provided a photographer whose photos accompanied an article in the August 23, 2007 issue. As with all successful Guild events, credit goes to the collective efforts of many people. However, special recognition goes to 1) Mary Jo Gimber for hiring the instructors, 2) all who brought refreshments and lunches for the instructors, 3) Janet Williams, Mary Henck and Emily Williams for the Beginners' Workshop, 4) Lydia Brenner and Gail Schmidt for overseeing refreshments, 5) Dee Rosebrock for help on so many of the details and 6) Camp Coordinator Karl Gimber.

Hunterdon County 4-H Fair – Sharon Ballard and Dee Rosebrock did a marvelous job in displaying the work submitted by members for the 2007 Hunterdon County 4-H Fair. The Fair organizers want to recreate the feeling of an old time fair with ribbons presented to the artisans similar to the awards given in the agriculture area. Traditional/Fine Hooking, Primitive, Mixed Media/Three-Dimensional, Mini- Punch Needle and Wearables were the award categories for rug hooking. Participating Guild members brought their items on the Thursday of our camp where Rae Harrell and Jule Marie Smith served as the judges. *The winners will be announced and ribbons presented at our September meeting.* Items not being retained for display at the two library exhibits will be returned at the September meeting.

Each guild involved with the Fair was asked to demonstrate one day during the week. We thank Karl Gimber, Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock and Janet Williams for giving of their time to represent HCRAAG at the Fair. There was much interest in what we do by attendees of all ages. A special note of gratitude to Gisele Meader and Dee Rosebrock for co-chairing this event. We appreciate all of the Guild members who entered their hooked items for the exhibit. Thanks to each of you, we had a beautiful display which represented a wide variety of hooking styles.

Guild Demonstrates at Grange -- Thanks to the efforts of Connie Coleman, the Guild had the opportunity to demonstrate traditional rug hooking at the Plumsteadville, PA Grange on August 25. Much interest was shown in the recycling possible with our work. Several people expressed enthusiasm about learning rug hooking. Information about the Guild, local instructors, and vendors was provided. With Connie's encouragement, we will no doubt have guests at upcoming meetings!

A Memory of Grandmother's Mats -- The June 1925 issue of Antiques Magazine includes an article entitled "A Memory of Grandmother's Mats" by Gertrude DeWagner. That article is being reproduced in its entirety in The Loop. The fourth segment follows.

"My Grandmother worked at her mats, not because they were really needed, but because she had the spirit of an artist, the desire to create something beautiful. Many years have passed since she made her mats, but since then Time has been busily at work on them, making the colors lovelier with each mellowing year, and rendering the everlasting joy of beauty in terms of a slow ripening into perfect harmony.

Mats such as those Grandmother made have, I can not help believing, an intense value beyond that which later and often more elaborate examples possess. They were, first of all, a spontaneous response to the creative urge. They were products of household art in the truest sense of the word, because design and choice of colors were an expression of the ability and taste of some woman of the household and were not a mere abject following of printed directions."

Tips From Heloise (aka Barbara Calvo) -- Do your wool strips leave a lot of dust wherever you place them when you are hooking? Barbara Calvo has a solution to the dust residue problem. Place your wool strips on a fabric softener sheet (the ones used in clothes dryers) while you are working on your rug and the sheet attracts and holds the dust. You can also wrap the strips in the sheet and gently tap before you start hooking. Barbara reports that “Swiffer” sheets work just as well. Heloise welcomes other tips to share.

Guild Instructors -- We are so fortunate as a Guild to have a variety of teaching resources available to us from our membership. Beginning this month we will from time to time as space permits list Guild members who provide instruction on rug hooking and related fiber arts. There is no fee for the listing. Any member who wants to be included should inform The Loop.

Flemington, NJ, Margaret Lutz (Hook Nook), private lessons scheduled, mainly primitive rug hooking. Lib Callaway patterns and supplies available. For more information contact Margaret at 908-806-8083 or mmlutz@ptd.net

Harmony, NJ, Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip Woolery), classes every Friday from 10:00 to 1:00, mainly primitive rug hooking, punch needle and needle felting. For more information contact Karen at karen@thebluetulipwoolery or by phone at 908-859-6350.

Hereford, PA, Kay Levan (Homespun), monthly workshops Friday night or Saturday afternoon. Kay’s specialties are rug hooking, punch needle, and penny rugs. Wool, patterns, books, supplies and vintage sewing instruments available. For more information contact Kay at 215-541-0565.

Lititz, PA., Rebecca Buckwalter, classes run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 (w/lunch included) weekdays and Saturdays. Rebecca’s specialty is primitive beginner & punch needle instruction. For more information contact her at 717- 627-1181.

Medford, NJ (Burlington County), Patti Ann Finch, no set class schedule, one-on-one or group by appointment, beginners through advanced. Patti Ann specializes in teaching beginners and 3D effects (proddy, sculpting, & hooking with multi media). For more information contact her at (609)953-0098 or pafinch@comcast.net

Phillipsburg, NJ, Trish Becker (The Woolery, Inc.) Open 7 days by appointment. Primitive and wide-cut a specialty. Rug design, hand dyed wool, color planning and supplies available. For more information contact Trish at 908-268-3949.

Words of Inspiration -- Contained on pages throughout Modern Hooked Rugs, Linda Rae Coughlin’s latest book, are short statements of inspiration for all artisans. They have particular relevance to rug hookers. Several are listed below.

- If you feel stuck, leave your work and return later. If a certain part of your work catches your attention, it will catch others too.
- Take classes in other creative media outside your own area of expertise. You will be pleasantly surprised how this will enhance your own work.
- Without mistakes you wouldn’t learn your limits and what not to do the next time. Make them and be thankful for what you learn.
- Learn the color wheel. The rules of color are not hard and fast but are helpful. How you use color in your art will change the look.

- Focus on your natural strengths when looking for direction for future pieces.
- Art parallels life. Capture your passion in your rugs
- Our inner soul makes us an artist; own the title "I am an artist."

New ATHA Group Forming -- The ATHA Barnstormers Chapter is forming for the Northwest NJ and Eastern PA area. Interested parties should contact Trish Becker at (908) 268-3949.

Lebanon Museum Invites Guild to Exhibit -- Through new Guild member Deanna Kinney, The Township of Lebanon Museum at New Hampton has invited the Guild to return in October 2008 with an exhibit of members' work. It is an honor to be requested to return to this gem of a museum. The Guild last exhibited at the museum in 2005.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

The Great Cover-up: American Rugs on Beds, Tables and Floors Exhibit will be at the American Folk Art Museum in New York City from June 5 through September 16, 2007. The exhibit includes rugs from the Kopp book, American Hooked and Sewn Rugs: Folk Art Under Foot and 65 rugs from the 18th through mid 20th Centuries.

Country Inn Rug Hooking School sponsored by Rug Hookrafters, members of the National Guild of Pearl McGowan, will be held September 9 to 14, 2007 at the Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH. Betty McClentic, Martha Beals and Gail Walden will be the teachers. For more information, contact Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Rugs by the Sea, a traditional rug hooking school in Cape May, NJ, invites you to join them for their 20th year celebration during the weeks of September 16 to 28. There are still openings with Elizabeth Black during the second week. Contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-5361 or g_batastini@msn.com for details.

Outer Banks Rug Hooking Retreat, Corolla, NC. October 21- 26, 2007. Join us for our 5th year with teacher Diane Stoffel. Contact: Mary Henck, hookrug@comcast.net or 804-740-6511.

The Third Annual Brandywine Guild Hook-in – October 27, 2007 from 9:30 to 4:00 at the Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Campus, Lebanon, PA. For more information call 610-273-1213 or marylynnelan@aol.com.

Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs Exhibition – November 17, 2007 to December 31, 2008 at the Lancaster Quilt and Textile Museum. For more information contact Kim Fortney, VP, Heritage Center of Lancaster County at 717-299-6440 or kfortney@lancasterheritage.com.

Workshops at The Woolery will be hosting Sherri Hieber Day for a 3 day workshop entitled "Folk Art for the Floor" on November 1 - 3, 2007. Contact Trish Becker for details at 908-268-3949.

The Highland School of Rug Hooking Workshop features Norma Batastini, Susan Feller and Marie Sugar on November 2-4, 2007. For details contact Vicki Calu at 215-249-0790 or vcalu@verizon.net.

Virginia Rugfest will celebrate its 6th year! April 5, 2008, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, VA from 9am- 3:30pm. Guest Speaker: Ginny Stimmel, Editor, Rug Hooking magazine, Featured Artist is Sarah Province plus Hook-in, Rug show, Vendors, and Beginners class. Loads of door prizes and a hooked rug will be raffled off! Contact: Mary Henck, hookrug@comcast.net, 804-740-6511 or www.geocities.com/varugfest/

The Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie.huntington@verizon.net) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

September – HCRAG Exhibit – Flemington Library
-- HCRAG Exhibit – Clinton Library

September 21 – Monthly Meeting -- Kim Kagan presents information on making a hooked doorstep*

October 12 – Monthly Meeting – “Potluck, Borders and a Prize” (Sharon Ballard and Cindy Boults)*

November 2 – Monthly Meeting – Assembling Hooked Brick Doorstop (Kim Kagan)* – note meeting is a week earlier just in case you are planning to attend the Green Mountain

Rug Hooking Guild show.

December – HCRAG Exhibit – Doylestown Library

December 14 – Holiday Luncheon/ Shoe Box Trade

January 11, 2008 – Monthly meeting – Auction and White Elephant Sale *

January 11-13, 2008 – Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 8, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Valentines’ Day Hook-in/ Trade hooked Valentines/ Show rugs

or hooked items with hearts, angels, candy, bow & arrows, flowers, diamonds, red ribbons, etc.*

March 14, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- How Do You Design Your Own Rug? (Panel) *

April 11, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- What Do Judges Look For? / Rug Critique*

May 9, 2008 – Monthly Meeting -- Featured Rug Hookers*

June 13, 2008 – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic

* Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 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, it is the first building on the right.

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

Co-Presidents – Heidi Blair -- 732-942-3743 or jenyjump@optonline.net

Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie.huntington@verizon.net

Fund Raising – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410

Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net

Hospitality – (Open)

Lydia Brenner -- 732-741-9313 or lbrenuva@comcast.net
Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja@optonline.net
Programs – Mary Jo Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or mjj12@nni.com
Public Relations -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com
Secretary – Gail Schmidt – 732-741-6620 or gks001@aol.com
Sunshine – Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com
Treasurer – Susan Atwater –908-439-3473 or susanatwater@earthlink.com

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

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The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAE). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to karlg@nni.com. by than the 20th of the month.