

# **THE LOOP**

## **The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter**

September 2008

**From the President's Corner** – Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who helped make our camp a huge success! Our three outstanding instructors stimulated us, challenged us and encouraged us. Our members assisted with refreshments, logistical support and helped in so many other ways. We are also indebted to the ESC School staff for all their assistance. Camp was a real team effort! The feedback from participants was consistently favorable. One of our guests, who attends workshops around the country, said our camp was “the best one I ever attended”. Two camp guests and one beginner are now members (see membership information below).

Camp marks the end of our program year and with fall weather in the air, we now turn our attention to the coming year and new possibilities for our Guild. One idea being explored is holding a week-end workshop with one or more instructors, perhaps in February. We will be discussing this idea at our September meeting, so please plan on attending and giving us your thoughts.

Keep on Hooking -- Weezie

**September Meeting – September 12, 2008** -- Our first meeting of the new program year will be held at our regular location, the Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington from 10:00 to 2:00.

**Program** – The focus of the program will be on sharing our hooking activities since we last met. There will also be a brief business meeting to discuss upcoming events and plans. Ribbons will be presented to Guild members who won awards at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair.

**Show and Tell** – Bring your summer hooking projects, completed or otherwise, to share with the Guild. “Campers” are asked to please bring their camp projects for every one to see.

**Membership** – We welcome three new members – Adriane Collett, Carol Collin and Pat McDonnell. Adriane participated in our Beginners’ Workshop. Carol and Pat were in Jayne Hester’s camp workshop. Their contact information follows.

Adriane Collett  
406 North Rd.  
Califon, NJ 07830  
908-638-6447  
daisyskirt@hotmail.com

Carol Collin  
2335 Goode Station Rd.  
Goode, VA 24556  
540-586-3346  
[oakknoll@aol.com](mailto:oakknoll@aol.com)

Pat McDonnell  
P.O. Box 889  
Worcester, PA 19490  
610-584-8844  
[drpmcdonnell@aol.com](mailto:drpmcdonnell@aol.com)

**Now is the time to renew your Guild membership. A membership renewal form is attached.**

**Let the Sun Shine** – Our thoughts and prayers are extended to LeeAnn Metropoulos whose son was hospitalized during camp week and to Anne-Marie Littenberg whose husband who has been diagnosed with cancer. Jeannette Szatskowski, the owner of Fraser Wool Cutter, passed away on August 22, 2008.

Please inform Lib Ryman of any member who needs a note of cheer.

**September Birthdays** – Our happiest birthday wishes go to Guild members who are celebrating birthdays this month. They are Barbara Calvo (9/26), Claudia Casebolt (9/14), Carole Cossa (9/15), Peggie Cunningham (9/4), Kathy Donovan (9/14), Helen Nitzsche (9/1), Cyndi Lott (9/23), Gail Schmidt (9/25) and Roberta Smith (9/2). Enjoy your special day!

**Guild Exhibit – Lebanon Township Museum – October 1-31, 2008** – Guild members Deanne Kinney and Joan Lucas have invited us to exhibit our rugs at the Lebanon Township Museum during the month of October. The museum is a former one room school and a charming setting for showing our rugs. Ingrid Cosmen and Kay Weeks are coordinating the exhibit. Ingrid and Kay will be at the September meeting to receive rugs for the show. They will have insurance documentation forms from the museum for completion. If you cannot be at the meeting, delivery arrangements will need to be made with Ingrid or Kay. (Note that Kay will be gone from September 17-28.). There is no limit to the number or size of the rugs entered.

**3rd Annual Rug Hooking Retreat – January 9-11 2009**– Our rug hooking retreat is scheduled for January 9-11, 2009 at the Hampton Inn in Flemington. Participation will be limited to 25 HCRAAG members. A non-refundable registration fee of \$35 must be paid in advance. Give or send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Gail Ferdinando at 4 Bonnell Rd., Pittstown, NJ 08867.

Participants can commute daily or stay overnight. A discounted rate of \$112 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated for all reservations made prior to December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Hampton Inn at (908) 284-9427 to reserve your room and mention HCRAAG to get the special rate

Our hooking retreats have been very popular, so you are encouraged to register early. There will be an “early bird” drawing for a free massage session for all paid registrants by the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**13<sup>th</sup> HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp Set** -- With our 2008 camp now in the history books, we already look forward to next year. Another group of outstanding instructors – Sandra Brown, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay -- are scheduled to be with us from August 10-14, 2009. More details will follow in subsequent issues of The Loop.

**HCRAAG Members Participate in the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in.**

A contingent of Guild members consisting of Gail Ferdinando, Mary Jo and Karl Gimber, LeeAnn Metropoulos, Lisa Mims, Roberta Smith and Debbie Walsh headed north for the Green Mountain Guild hook-in on August 1 and 2, 2008. Former Guild member Pat Eldridge, who now lives in Vermont, joined the group at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, Vermont. The vendors included former HCRAAG camp instructors Rae Harrell and Jule Marie Smith and Lucille Festa who was a vendor at our hook-in. The weekend provided a nice time to catch up with these friends as well time to meet new ones. Karl and Mary Jo spoke about their tavern and trade sign rugs and their journey as rug hookers. Lisa Mims had the formidable responsibility of planning and running the hook-in and was ably assisted by LeeAnn.

**Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair - August 20-24, 2008** - The Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair is the first event at which we demonstrate in late summer. It is a major local event that draws thousands of visitors. There was much interest in the Guild and our activities. Under Dee Rosebrock's leadership, HCRAG members turned out in strength to demonstrate traditional rug hooking in its various forms. Janet Bosshard, Cindy Boults, Margaret Brightbill, Kathy Donovan, Gail Ferdinando, Karl Gimber, Weezie Huntington, Carol Kindt, Dee Rosebrock, Bonnie Rusch, Gisele Meader, Kitty Platt and Janet Williams supported the Guild's efforts during the fair.

Rugs to be shown during the fair were brought to camp where instructors Jayne Hester and Jen Lavoie decided which rugs were ribbon winners. Congratulations go to Weezie Huntington for Best of Show – Primitive for her “Buffalo” rug, to Gisele Meader for Best of Show – Traditional for her “Snack Time” and to Barbara Lugg for Best of Show – Three Dimensional for her Sheep Pillow.

**From the Dye Kitchen of Jule Marie Smith** – The following article is from the spring 2008 issue of the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Newsletter and reproduced here with the permission of our friend Jule Marie.

“Think SPRING ..... Let's dye the color of those tender little shoots that are sticking out of the ground....just next to the snow!!! This is a really vivid CHARTREUSE, dyed with Pro-Chem colors.

1 teaspoon of Yellow 119	1/64 teaspoon of Red 338
1/32 teaspoon of Blue 490	1/64 teaspoon of Black 672

Just to refresh your minds, I put my pot on to simmer while I mix the dye, with boiling water. I put synthrapol in the water. (That way I don't have to soak the wool.) When my water is quite hot, I add the dye, and then the wool. I stir and jog with thongs....but not too much....just enough to make sure the dye has reached all the parts of the wools. After 20 minutes or so at a simmer, I add the citric acid crystals or the vinegar, as your preference allows. I simmer for another 15 minutes or so and pour it all in the sink to cool. I rinse in the washer and dry, with dryer sheets on warm.

This formula goes well over 1 yard of various wools. I often put 4 or 5 different quarter yards in the pot. You can cut the formula in half for less wool. The fun is in the wools that you choose to overdye. White or Natural Dorr wool will yield the brightest and truest chartreuse. Anything with white parts will have that bright color. The darker the shade of oatmeal or tan, the older and more muted your color will be. Imagine ripping off samples of 8 to 10 pieces of varied wools, half the formula and see what happens! Then imagine how great that color looks next to the other colors!!! Have fun!!!”

**Meet Our Treasurer – Gisele Meader** -- Gisele Meader is one talented lady! Not only does she create beautiful fine cut rugs, but she is an award winning quilter, a doll maker and a sewer. She also does counted cross stitch and redwork. The amazing thing is that Gisele works on all these creative endeavors at the same time. Her rugs and quilts have won awards at many local shows. She won blue ribbons this year at the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair for her miniature redwork quilt and one for her rabbit rug entitled “Snack Time.” Her quilts and rugs received similar recognition at the Mercer County 4- Fair recently held at the Howell Farm just

south of Lambertville, NJ. Gisele is the proud winner of a national contest sponsored by the manufacturer of the Bernina Sewing Machine. The challenge was to complete an 8 ½ inch quilt block using the color red. Her award was an all expense paid trip to Alex Anderson's Quilt Retreat in Livermore, California.

Gisele's introduction to rug hooking came in the early 1970s when she lived in Hopkinton, New Hampshire and attended a rug show where she was inspired by the rugs hooked by Hallie Hall who was a McGown certified instructor from Contoocook, NH, an adjacent community. Hallie's classes were full, but she agreed to fit Gisele in "if she was serious and did the work." The classes were in Hallie's home and ran from 9 to 4 for \$3! All aspects of rug hooking were covered including dyeing, so Gisele received a strong foundation. Initially, Gisele worked on burlap and used narrow cuts to hook pictorial rugs based on Currier and Ives prints. She brought several of her early rugs to camp this year to share during the rug show.

In 1978 Gisele moved to Massachusetts and had to stop rug hooking. She held two full time jobs, commuted 75 miles one way to work and had two children to raise. There was simply no time for rug hooking. Twenty years later, Gisele returned to hooking on a part time basis. Her sister was remodeling her kitchen in 1998 and Gisele hooked four hot mats that had a flower motif based on the pattern of the wallpaper in the kitchen. She designed the patterns and dyed the wool. Her sister hung the mats on the wall where they still remain. Hooking items for the family continued when in 2000 she completed a buckboard bench seat cover for her cousin using English ivy leaves from her yard as the pattern source.

Bernie, Gisele's husband, encouraged her to return to rug hooking on a steady basis. She started to look for a guild and attended a HCRAG meeting in February 2003. Later that year Gisele was representing the quilting guild at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair when she met several HCRAG members who were demonstrating rug hooking. They encouraged her join the Guild, which she did.

Gisele is a member of the historic "Phillips House Group" (formerly the Birum House) that meets at the Howell Farm where they make items needed for the farm museum and store. While working on the hooked seat mat project, she learned of Gail Dufresne. It had been 25 years since her initial wool dyeing class, so she signed up for Gail's class to refresh herself. "It was a fantastic class", says Gisele. Gail helped design and plan Gisele's award winning Manatee rug that she hooked for her grandson Josh. Through Gail, she also took a class with Elizabeth Black who is the acknowledged expert on hooking animals. Since Gisele works with fine cut wool (3 cut is her largest), Elizabeth's approach was a natural one for her.

While Hallie Hall had a major influence on Gisele early on, she currently draws her inspiration from Guild meetings and from the interaction of small groups of members who demonstrate at the 4-H Fair, the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead and other sites.

The rugs created by Gisele are almost always in response to a specific person's request. She retains very few of her creations. Most are given to family or friends. About half of the patterns are ones Gisele creates for the occasion. The wool is purchased and dyed specifically for the project. Gisele does not work with "as is" wools. The backing used is fine linen specifically made for narrow cut hooking.

Gisele's sister Teresa is a long arm quilter and recently custom quilted Gisele's appliquéd Santa quilt that was on display at the 2008 Hunterdon County 4-H Fair. In return, Gisele is hooking a seat mat for a new bench in the master bedroom. Hooking on the project started at the HCRAG

camp this summer. The pattern is based on the quilt in the bedroom. Gisele designed the pattern and dyed the wool from swatches of fabric provided by her sister.

Gisele says she hooks “whenever I can fit it in”. She is driven by target dates often associated with her projects, such as birthdays. As a member of the “Hooksome Chatmore Group”, she is assured of at least a couple of days devoted to rug hooking each month.

Gisele spent 31 years working for AT&T. She started as an operator with New England Telephone and then moved into human resources. Shortly after retiring in December 1998, her son Jon, who had a framing sub-contractor business in North Carolina, asked her to help him start a general contracting business, supporting the bookkeeping end of both businesses. What was supposed to be one week a month for a few months turned into a four year commitment. When Gisele’s mother, who lived in New Hampshire, became ill, she spent much of her time travelling between New Jersey, North Carolina and New Hampshire. This was a time when family needs were her priority. There was no time for hooking or other creative things. When it became clear that the needs of Jon’s business would be more extensive than expected, they struck a deal that in lieu of salary he would build her a retirement house in North Carolina for cost.

When her life returned to some sense of normalcy, Gisele returned to New Jersey and was able to give more time working in the flower department of the Pennington Market where she is responsible for bookkeeping. Bernie is the Estate Manager for the Roebling Estate in West Amwell. They have two sons -- Mike who is a teacher in Wisconsin and Jon in North Carolina. Jon has three children – Josh (age 9), Caleb (age 7) and Abby (age 3) who is adopted from China.

Gisele’s bookkeeping skills are used to the benefit of our Guild, her church and the West Amwell Cemetery Association. She serves as the Treasurer for all three organizations. Gisele has also been a Hospice Volunteer for the last 14 years.

Gisele Meader is a talented and valued member of our Guild. She contributes in many ways and we are fortunate indeed to have her involved in the rug hooking community.

**Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Barbara Lugg)** -- Have you ever purchased a rug pattern and discovered that it was printed “off kilter”? Over the years Barbara Lugg has helped many rug hooking friends correct the problem with a simple solution. She takes a dull pencil, places it “in the ditch” and pulls it down the border of the pattern to get a straight line. The process is repeated on all four sides of the pattern. Barbara then hooks a row around the border of the pattern following the light line created by the pencil. The hooked row can remain as part of the rug or replaced later. In some cases, the rest of the pattern may need to be adjusted as well, but most often squaring off the border is sufficient.

**Hooking Frame for Sale** -- When Guild members demonstrated at the Plumsteadville Grange recently, they learned that Ms. Kathie Poore of Ottsville, PA has a Puritan Frame for sale. It is new and still in the box. Asking price is \$120. If you have interest, call Kathie at 215-795-2188 or by email at [kathiepoore@yahoo.com](mailto:kathiepoore@yahoo.com).

**Rug Hooking Demonstrations** – Our busiest time for demonstrating is upon us. We ask each member to assist in our efforts to inform the public about traditional rug hooking. You can demonstrate for only an hour or two or for the entire day. There is a lot of flexibility. The schedule for September is shown below. Please let the event coordinators know when you can help.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Sept. 13 & 14	Holcombe-Jimison Farm Festival Lambertville, NJ	Gisele Meader
September 13	Colonial Market Day Newtown, PA	Karl Gimber
September 20	Heritage Day Henry Muhlenberg House. Trappe, PA	Joanne McIllmurray
September 27	Historical Fall Festival Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead Hilltown, PA	Karl Gimber

The Guild has been approached by the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farm in Morris Plains, NJ and requested to demonstrate rug hooking on September 20, 2008. This provides an opportunity for members who live in northern New Jersey and find it difficult to participate when the Guild demonstrates in the Lambertville area. If you can help, contact Vonda Givens at 973-540-0311 or [vgivens@stickleymuseum.org](mailto:vgivens@stickleymuseum.org).

**Hooker Recipes** -- HCRA members are known for their culinary skills as well as their hooking skills. Our potluck lunches provide an opportunity to share favorite dishes with the Guild. By popular demand, Margaret Lutz and Janet Santaniello have provided their recipes for two dishes we enjoyed at the potluck lunch at our 2008 Rug Hooking Camp.  
**Crockpot Meatballs** (Margaret Lutz)

1 pkg. frozen meatballs  
1 (20 oz.) bottle tomato ketchup  
1 (22 oz.) jar grape jelly

Mix and melt ketchup and jelly together in crock-pot. Add meatballs and cook until hot.

**Blueberry Buckle** (Janet Santaniello)

Batter:

¾ c. sugar	2 c. flour
¼ c. butter	2 ½ t. baking powder
1 egg	¼ t. salt
½ c. milk	2 c. blueberries
1 t. vanilla	

Crumb topping:

½ c. butter, melted	¼ c. sugar
½ c. flour	2 tsp. cinnamon

Batter: Mix together by hand the sugar, butter and egg. Stir in milk. Sift together and stir in dry ingredients. Fold in fresh blueberries. Pour into 8 x 8 inch greased and floured pan.

Crumb Topping:

Combine butter, flour sugar and cinnamon. Add additional flour if necessary to make firm crumbs and sprinkle over blueberry batter. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes or until cake tests done.

I find a spring 10" form pan make a nice cake. Try it both ways and see what you prefer.

These recipes and many others are found in the cookbook produced by the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter and will be available in late September or early October in time for holiday gift giving.

**Montreal Guild Newsletter** -- The latest newsletter from Les Tapissiers de Saint-Henri is now available by going to the Guild's website – [www.totally-hooked.com](http://www.totally-hooked.com).

**Visit the Guild Website** at [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) to find out what is happening with the Guild. Use it to check on membership information, the schedule of programs and to connect with other rug hooking links. There are also photos from our 2008 Rug Hooking Camp and a gallery of rugs hooked by HCRAG members. Laurie Rubinetti updates the site monthly. Take a look!

### **Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities**

**Hooked on Rugs: An American Art** – An exhibit of hooked rugs will be at the Allentown Art Museum, 31 N. Fifth St., Allentown, PA from September 3, 2008 to January 4, 2009. There is a Gallery Talk at noon on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 by Jacqueline Atkins, Curator. For more information contact the museum at 215-432-4333.

**Rags to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs Exhibition** – Through 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](mailto:kfortney@lancasterheritage.com).

**Rugs by the Sea** – The 21<sup>st</sup> traditional rug hooking school will be held in Cape May, NJ from September 14-25, 2008. The instructors for the first week are Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Cindy Gay and Nancy Miller Quigley. The second week features Bev Conway Lucille Festa, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay. For more information contact Norma Batastini at [G\\_Batastini@email.msn.com](mailto:G_Batastini@email.msn.com).

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Newtown Hooked Rug Show** – Saturday October 4, 2008 at the Reed Intermediate School, 3 Trades Lane, Newtown, CT. Admission \$10. Full program offered - speaker (June Myles), workshop (Trish Becker), juried and non-juried show and 35 vendors. For more information visit website [www.newtownhookedrugs.com](http://www.newtownhookedrugs.com) or email [nmh1792@hotmail.com](mailto:nmh1792@hotmail.com) or call 203-270-8293.

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brandywine Hook-In** -- Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the Wagontown Fire Company in Wagontown, PA (northwest of Coatesville on Rt. 340). Vendors, rug show, door prizes and special raffle. Advance registration is \$12 (\$14 at the door) for non-members. For more information contact Marian Hall at [mariangh@aol.com](mailto:mariangh@aol.com).

**Hooked in the Mountains XIII** – November 8-16, 2008. The annual show and workshops sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be at the Shelburne Museum. For more information go to the guild's web site – [www.greenmountainrughookingguild.org](http://www.greenmountainrughookingguild.org).

Jersey Girls Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 at the Firehouse in Oldwick, NJ.

The 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.

### **HCRAAG Calendar of Events**

**September 12, 2008** – Monthly Meeting – Review of Summer Hooking Projects \*  
**October 1-31, 2008** – HCRAAG Rug Exhibit at Lebanon Township Museum  
**October 10, 2008** – Monthly Meeting -- Miniature Punch-Needle (Cliff Ballard) \*  
**November 14, 2008** – Monthly Meeting – Finishing Rugs (Margaret Lutz) \*.  
**December 12, 2008** – Holiday Luncheon \*  
**January 9, 2009** – Monthly meeting – Auction and White Elephant Sale \*  
**January 9-11, 2009** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ  
**February 13 2009** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD\*  
**March 13, 2009** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD\*  
**April 10, 2009** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD\*  
**May 8, 2009** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD\*  
**June 12, 2009** – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic\*  
**August 10-14, 2009** – HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

\* 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.

**President** – Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com  
**Vice President** – Nina Seaman – 609-785-5705 or bonal@comcast.net  
**Historian** – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net  
**Hospitality** – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749 & Barbara Lugg – 908-996-2562  
**Librarian** – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja@optonline.net  
**Programs** – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or cliffballard2@comcast.net  
**Public Relations/Newsletter** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com  
**Secretary** – Joyce Combs -- 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net  
**Special Events** -- Kitty Platt – 908-782-8985 or kitty\_platt@hotmail.com  
Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@att.net  
Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com  
**Sunshine** – Lib Ryman -- 908-604-9459 or libr21226@aol.com  
**Treasurer** – Gisele Meader -- 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net  
Margaret Brightbill (Asst. Treasurer) – 215-968-2711 or katie4rose@aol.com  
**Webmaster** – Laurie Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net

**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 Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to [karlg@nni.com](mailto:karlg@nni.com). by than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG)**  
**2008/2009 Membership Dues**

The Guild's program year begins on September 1, 2008 at which time membership dues are payable. To continue membership or to become a member, please send a check for \$20 made payable to HCRAAG to our Treasurer, Gisele Meader, 74 Barry Road, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

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Name

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Address

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Phone Number

Email Address

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Birthday (month and day only)