

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

September 2010

Presidents' Letter – It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. While we won't be sorry to see the hot weather behind us, we hate to see the season end.

We hope that you had a lovely summer and have some new hooked pieces to show at the September meeting. We hope that everyone who attended camp will bring in the projects that they started and show how productive they were in just a few short days.

Summer camp was well attended again this year with 35 people enrolled in the main camp and 6 in the beginner's workshop. Cherylyn Brubaker, Jen Lavoie and Diane Phillips received high praise from their students. Those of you who haven't seen the campers' rugs yet will be impressed by what your friends were able to achieve. Many campers were pleased by how quickly they were able to pick up new skills and techniques with just a little help from an experienced instructor.

Connie Coleman and Joyce Combs ran an outstanding workshop for the beginners and we think that several attendees were "hooked" by the time the session ended. A special thanks to Kay Weeks who devoted much time preparing for the workshop, but was unable to be there due to a family funeral in Virginia.

We would like to thank the members who helped with camp and kept everything running smoothly. A special thanks to Tom Wooden (Agnes' husband) who helped us set-up on the first day of camp. Kudos to Karl Gimber who does so much for the Guild and ensures that every event is a success.

We have a very full schedule set for this coming year. Gisele Meader and Lydia Lewis have been busy planning a wonderful series of educational programs for our monthly meetings. Weezie Huntington has booked Sandra Brown to conduct a weekend workshop on geometrics in April of 2011. This fall, we have a number of opportunities to demonstrate hooking at a variety of venues. Additional activities are being planned and will be announced as they are finalized.

We are looking forward to serving the Guild this coming year. We have a great team to support our efforts and hope that you will participate in our upcoming events. As always, we welcome your thoughts and input to make this the best year ever.

Dee and Joyce

September Meeting – Friday September 10, 2010 – The September meeting will be held at our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington from 10:00 to 2:00. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

Guild Program – After a long summer our September meeting provides an opportunity to get caught up on our hooking projects and activities. Members are requested to bring their summer hooking projects and rug camp projects. We want to see them! Hope you plan to stay and hook with us

Show & Tell – September signifies the beginning of our Guild program year, so show and/or tells us about your rug hooking plans for the coming year. It can be just an idea, a pattern you plan to hook, something ready to put on backing, your dye pot results from the summer, etc.

Each month Gisele Meader and Lydia Lewis will have a special raffle for those who participate in Show & Tell. In June, Kitty Platt won a dozen eggs and two heads of freshly picked lettuce from Gisele's garden.

Hospitality – Debbie Adam, Deanna Kinney, Joan Lucas and Barbara Lugg are the hospitality volunteers for September. We thank them in advance for providing the snacks that help make meetings more enjoyable.

September Birthdays – The following members have birthdays this month: Claudia Casebolt (9/14), Peggie Cunningham (9/4), Kathy Donovan (9/14), Cathy Edwards (9/29), Lee Hurford (9/1), Cyndi Lott (9/23), Gail Schmidt (9/25), Roberta Smith (9/2) and Sandy Watts (9/21). We hope you have a wonderful day!

Membership – Welcome our newest members -- Anne Geiger and Janet Keller Laughlin. Their contact information is as follows:

Anne Geiger
211 Silver Leaf Road
Sterling, VA 20164-2828
703-437-9413
Gei2@verizon.net

Janet Keller Laughlin
218 Hopewell – Wertsville Road
Hopewell, NJ 08525
609-466-4795
jklstudio218@aol.com

Several members have new contact information, as follows:

- Janet Bosshard has a new email address – j.bosshard@verizon.net.
- Ellen DiClemente has a new email address – ergot53@embarqmail.com.
- Cheryl Halliday has a new email address – havewenewool@yahoo.com
- Jackie Lee has a new email address – jackiejane@comcast.net.
- Sue Woodworth has a new address – 17 Green Way, Murray Hill, NJ 07974. Her phone number and email address are unchanged.

Kitty Platt and her family are relocating to Illinois as a result of Jerry's promotion. They are currently house hunting and plan to be out of their house in Ringoes by September 3rd. Kitty sends her "thanks to everyone for being the absolute best rug hooking friends a person could have!"

This is the time of the year to renew our membership. A renewal form is attached..

Sunshine – If you learn of a member who is ill or needs a note of cheer, just let our Sunshine Chair, Janet Santaniello, know and she will send an appropriate note. Janet’s contact information is included with the officer/chair listing at the end of the newsletter.

Guild News & Events

Hunterdon 4-H Fair Exhibit Ribbon Winners Announced -- Nineteen members and three non members submitted rugs to be exhibited at the Hunterdon County Agricultural & 4-H Fair exhibit. The rugs were collected during camp and our camp instructors who served as the judges had the difficult task of selecting the ribbon winners from among the wonderful rugs submitted. We congratulate the ribbon winners.

Traditional

- Best of Show: Gail Ferdinando “Lucy”
Dee Rosebrock “Hooked on Bass”
- Second Place: Dee Rosebrock “Seaside Village”
- Third Place: Kathleen Donovan “Mola Bats”

Primitive Best of Show: Gail Ferdinando “Twins”

- Second Place: Nellene Beaton “Herringbone”
- Third Place: Nellene Beaton “Liberty”
- Fourth Place: Weezie Huntington “Celtic Heart”

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional Best of Show: Cindy Boult “C & C Tree of Joy”

- Second Place: Barbara Dalrymple Lugg “Summer Song”
- Third Place: Ingrid Cosmen “ Our Pond” Tea Cozy

Mini-Punch Needle Best of Show: Cliff Ballard “New Hope”

Best of Show Overall

- Dee Rosebrock “Hooked on Bass”

Viewer’s Choice -- To be announced at the end of the 4-H Fair.

All the rugs submitted will be on exhibit at the Fair from Thursday, August 25 - 29, 2010.

HCRAG Supports ATHA Biennial Fund Raiser -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is hosting a hook-in as a fundraiser for the ATHA Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster in October 2011 (see following article). Our Guild will provide a basket to be auctioned at the hook-in. We will be collecting items for the basket at the September meeting. Members are requested to bring items that will appeal to rug hookers

Brandywine Guild Hook-in and Auction – October 30, 2010 -- Terry Dorr of Dorr Mill Store will be a guest speaker at the hook-in sponsored by the Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild on October 30, 2010. There will be a special auction featuring antique paisley fabric donated by Cynthia Norwood and wonderfully dyed wool by Gail Dufresne. The event will be held at the Wagontown Fire House Founder’s Hall in Wagontown, PA. Proceeds will benefit the 2011 ATHA Biennial scheduled for October 2011 in Lancaster, PA. Visit brandywinerughookingguild.weebly.com for more information.

September Guild Demonstrations – September is a busy month for Guild members who consistently turn out to represent the Guild at community events. This month the Guild will be demonstrating at four events, as noted below.

- September 11 & 12 Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoes, NJ) --- Weezie Huntington
- September 11& 12 Holcombe–Jimison Farmstead Festival (Lambertville, NJ) -- Gisele Meader
- September 18 Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA) – Juliana Kapusta
- September 18 Go Green at the Red Mill (Clinton, NJ) – Amy Korengut

All members are encouraged to support our efforts to inform the public about rug hooking. Please contact the coordinators shown above and find out how you can help.

Bargain of the Year -- Hooking Retreat Set for January 14-16, 2011 – Our popular hooking retreat will be on January 14-16 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. After our monthly meeting, participants will parade over to the Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday at 4:00.

Participants can commute or stay overnight. Call 908-284-9427 to make your room reservations. Mention our Guild and you will receive a special discounted room rate of \$112 plus tax. The rate applies up to the day of the retreat if rooms are available. You can save by sharing a room with a friend.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 – the bargain of the year! Space is limited to the first 25 who sign up and pay. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Gail Ferdinando at 4 Bonnell Road., Pittstown, NJ 08867. The fee is non refundable unless there is a replacement from the waiting list or from your efforts.

A gourmet pizza night is planned for Saturday dinner for those who want to participate. Let Gail or Debbie know of any other ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

Spring Fling – Geometrics with Sandra Brown – April 29 to May 1, 2011 -- Sandra Brown will conduct a comprehensive course on geometrics at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 29 to Sunday May 1, 2011. The course will run three FULL days (9-4 on Friday and Saturday and 8:30 to 3:30 on Sunday).

Geometrics go well in any decor - traditional to modern - and represent a unique opportunity for individual creativity and color choice. We will explore, in-depth, the possible interpretations of any geometric pattern - primitive to contemporary - and the various color options available to create a unique, one of a kind rug that the grandchildren will be fighting over. Students will work on a new pattern of their choice, and spend time in class color planning, either with wools of their own or the large inventory (including rich gradation swatches). Cut can be anything from #3 to #9 and project can be anything from a small tote bag to a room size rug.

Essentially the goal is to provide you with a systematic way of approaching any

geometric - not just the one you're working on during this workshop. In addition to analyzing what patterns lurk beneath any given printed geometric, some time will be spent on the first day showing the fundamentals of designing your own geometrics. If you have a pattern in mind already we can start right in with pattern analysis and move from there to color planning. If you are undecided about a pattern, then designing one is a fun experience - the idea is to stretch our brains and tap into levels of creativity in ways that are ultimately very satisfying.

Space is limited to 12 participants. The fee is \$225 for HCRAAG members and \$275 for non-members. A deposit of \$75 is due at sign up with \$75 due November 15 and the balance due February 12, 2011. A waiting list will be maintained. In the event you need to cancel after February 12, a refund of \$225 less a \$50 cancellation fee (net \$175) will be made only if your spot can be filled. If we are unable to fill the spot, there will be no refund.

.If you have questions, direct them to Weezie Huntington at weezie711@gmail.com or 609-466-1882. To register send your checks to Weezie Huntington at 1 Kings Path, Hopewell, NJ 08525.

Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond – Exhibit at Farnsworth Museum --

Earlier in the summer, Guild member Jamie Gartelman brought our attention to this exhibit at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine that runs through the end of December. Jamie reported that “The exhibit showed some wonderful examples of rugs made in Maine and a few special ones from Canada to illustrate the beginnings of the craft of rug hooking, very worthwhile to see. Included were some Waldoborough rugs.”

We also heard from Kathleen Murray-Boyden who reported that “the hooked rug exhibit at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland was very good. The website said there were 40 rugs but in recalling the ones I saw, maybe there were about 25. Unless I missed some but I don't think so. Three of them were by Marguerite Zorach and the famous one by her daughter of the oppositional tigers was gorgeous. Be sure to get the lobster roll sandwich at The Rockland Cafe. Excellent food and just about a block and a half down the street from the museum

The July issue of Maine Antiques Digest reported on the Exhibit. Much of its coverage focused on a rare pattern by Edward Sands Frost. An excerpt from the article follows.

“A long-forgotten Frost hooked rug pattern has surfaced! It is being shown publicly for the first time at an exhibit of historical hooked rugs at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine, closing December 31.

“The Frost pattern loaned by the Maine Historical Society in Portland, Maine, was purchased from an eBay dealer in 2008. Extremely rare, it is believed to have been ‘out of print’ for about 120 years. It is clearly marked “E.S. Frost & Co., Bidford, Me.” and bears pattern No. 171. The Maine State Museum in Augusta, which owns most of the Frost stencils, indicates the collection includes numbers 170 and 172, but the stencil for pattern No. 171 is missing.”

The exhibit is based on the book Rug Hooking in Maine: 1838-1940 by Mildred Cole Peladeau, guest curator. The book and the full article from Maine Antiques Digest will be available for perusal at the September meeting.

Additions to Our Library -- The damaged Color Inspirations DVD from Karen Kahle has been replaced. She also kindly sent along a copy in VHS format and copy of her current 2010 catalogue. The following are the listings.

Kahle, Karen

Color Inspiration for Primitive Hooked Rugs, 2005 DVD

Kahle, Karen

Color Inspiration for Primitive Hooked Rugs, 2005 VHS

Kahle, Karen

Wild Things, Primitive Spirit 2010 Catalogue

We want to thank Judy Quintman who donated the following books to our library while at rug hooking camp:

Cross, Pat

Purely Primitive: Hooked Rugs from Wool, Yarn and Homespun Crafts, 2003

Fitzpatrick, Deanne with Susan Huxley

The Secrets of Planning & Designing Hand-Hooked Rugs, 2005

Oxford, Amy

Hooked Rugs Today, 2005

Thompson, Nancy Butts

Hooking On the Hill: A Rug Hooking Picture Book, 2005

Yoder, Patty

The Alphabet of Sheep, 2003

Kathy Donovan will bring each of these new items to the meeting. An updated HCRAAG Library List is being sent with the newsletter.

Guild Demonstrators Active During the Summer -- This summer the Guild demonstrated traditional rug hooking at the Hunterdon County Agricultural & 4-H Fair, Mercer County 4-H Fair and the Sergeantsville Farmers' Market. The weather cooperated for each event and the crowds turned out. There was considerable interest at all ages in the work of our Guild.

A special thank you to the members listed below who gave their time to support the Guild.

Sharon Ballard	Kitty Platt	Claudia Casebolt
Cindy Boults	Karl Gimber	Dee Rosebrock
Margaret Brightbill	Jana Laidlaw	Therese Shick
Joyce Combs	Janet Williams	
Kathy Donovan	Gisele Meader	

Bring Rugs for Barron Art Center Exhibit -- Those who have rugs in the Hooked on New Jersey Exhibit at the Barron Art Center (September 24 through October 24, 2010) can bring them to the September meeting. If you are unable to bring or have a friend bring your rugs to the meeting, please contact Janet Santaniello (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com) so that special arrangements can be made for pick up or delivery of your rugs.

For correct record keeping place a label on the back of your rug/rugs that includes your name, address and phone number. Also any type of rod or dowel you use for hanging should be included with your rug on collection day.

Thank You Raffle Providers

The Guild is fortunate to have vendors and suppliers who generously support our Guild by donating items for the camp raffles. We are thankful for the support provided by the following friends:

- Norma Batastini
- Kay Leisey (Homespun)
- Cherylyn Brubaker (Camp Instructor)
- Diane Phillips (Camp Instructor)
- Gail Dufresne
- Bonnie Smith (Wool Street Journal)
- Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows/American Color Woolens)
- Debra Smith (Rug Hooking Magazine)
- Jen Lavoie (Camp Instructor)
- Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip/American Color Woolens)

Hand made items by members Lee Hurford and Kay Weeks were also donated and helped make the raffle portion of the camp day highly anticipated.

Guild members are encouraged to patronize those who support the Guild. Let them know we value their support!

Featured Member – Meet Our Co-President Joyce Combs -- Joyce Combs and her husband, “Skeet” spend their summers in Fishers Landing along the St. Lawrence River in upstate New York. It was there in the summer of 1999 that she began her rug hooking journey when she took a week long beginner’s class at the Handweaving Museum in Clayton, NY with Pandy Goodbody as the teacher. She notes that “I was immediately “hooked” and knew that this was an art I would enjoy.” It turned out that Pandy lived very near to Joyce in the winter and invited her to come to her hooking group, now known as the “Hooksome and Chatmore group”.

Joyce does not have a preferred style. “I love it all”, she says. Joyce has hooked with hand torn wool, wide cut, fine cut and proddy. She finds that “they are all fun. I don’t like to do the same thing too many times.” Landscapes are her favorite.

Attending HCRAAG camps and workshops is a priority. Joyce has also attended workshops at the Highlands before it closed. She recently participated in the Grenfeld Workshop sponsored by Norma Batastini. This provided yet another hooking technique experience. Joyce has also participated in workshops at Gail Dufresne’s studio. Over the years she has worked with Norma

Batastini, Elizabeth Black, Sandy Cheverie, Cecelia Clemens, Gail Dufresne, Pandy Goodbody, Jen Lavoie, Michele Micarelli and Jule Marie Smith.

Joyce has learned from each of her workshops and instructors, but identifies Gail Dufresne and the Hooksome and Chatmore Group as the most influential in her development as a rug hooking artisan. At one point she also found Padula, the internet discussion group, to be a wonderful source for ideas, but now finds the group less active.

Dyeing wool is something that Joyce enjoys and challenges her. While she claims that “I have much to learn”, Joyce is one of the Guild’s more experienced wool dyers who has taught wool dyeing and wrote a series of articles on the subject for The Loop. Joyce works with new and recycled wool from local thrift stores. She especially likes the wool available from Rebecca Erb. Old Pendleton skirts are a favorite source for the best old plaids. Joyce’s friends from upstate New York collect wool for her from church bag sales. In return, she hooks mats and small items for them.

Joyce prefers to design her own patterns. She finds that commercial patterns lack the excitement that comes from drawing her own, even though she may draw the pattern 10 times before she gets it right.

An extra bedroom has been converted into a studio with shelves of her wool on display. There is a comfortable chair where she can curl up with her I-pod audio book. Joyce’s dog, Jack, jumps up on her lap and anchors her until he feels she has completed enough of the rug. During the fall and winter months, Joyce will hook two to four hours a day, especially if she is working on a rug she likes. When she is finished hooking for the day, the rug is placed where she can see it first thing in the morning and can study it to see if something needs to be changed.

Our Guild was brought to Joyce’s attention by Gail Dufresne and by the Hooksome and Chatmore Group in late 1999 or early 2000. She actively supports the Guild by demonstrating at events throughout the year and currently serves as co-president. Joyce has also served as secretary and was the Guild’s treasurer for several years. The stimulation that comes from seeing what others are doing is a major reason she looks forward to Guild meetings each month. “The Show & Tell portion of the meeting is exciting and inspirational. I am inspired by the work being done by our members. Of course, the friendships formed are special.”

Joyce is a retired accounting manager. Skeet worked in the aerospace industry for 30 years before retiring. They have been married for 44 years. Restoring their 200 year old house is an ongoing project for them. They have two sons -- Jeff and Keith. Jeff has his own executive search business. He and his wife Betsy live in Stockton, NJ with their two daughters, Clara and Charlotte. Sadly, Keith died an accidental death at the age of 19. The entire family enjoyed American Power Boat (APBA) racing for many years, traveling from Maine to Florida and New Jersey to Michigan for many of the races. Skeet who is an accomplished woodworker built many of their boats. Kayaking and anything to do with water attracts Joyce and Skeet. Their summer home sits on the St. Lawrence River and is an ideal location for them to enjoy all the water sports

Before hooking, Joyce was a weaver. She still has her loom and expects to go back to weaving at some point. Hooking rugs appeals to her because “there are no boundaries for creativity.” It is also something you can do with others. Weaving, on the other hand, is a solitary activity. Most recently, Joyce has started drawing with pencil. She carries her sketch pad with her to capture images that attract her. “I am not very good, but will get better if I do it all the time”, notes Joyce.

Joyce's hooking adventure has gone full circle. During her summers at Fishers Island, Joyce and a group of hookers meet on Wednesdays and hook on the porch of the same museum where Joyce first learned to hook. As visitors enter the museum, they frequently stop and ask questions. Quite a few buy beginners' kits from the museum. One of Joyce's upstate friends, Marilyn Ellison, attended our camp this summer.

To see some of Joyce's creations go to the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) and click on "Hooker of the Month".

Hooking Information & Technique

Tips From Rug Hooking Camp -- Thanks to Cherylyn Brubaker several of her "Persnickety Primitive Tips" discussed at her camp workshop can be shared with the entire Guild. Cherylyn says "These are not rules but suggestions. Use what works for you."

1. Remember that when using solid wools every stitch shows. This is where loop height and direction really matter.
2. Textured wools have more strands of color and tend to diffuse light, making your stitches less visible.
3. I never use all textures in a rug. Textures have patterns and flecks that tend to hook up looking busy. Combining solid wool and over dyed pieces creates a resting place for the eye.
4. Even primitive patterns have small design elements. Use the size strand of wool you need to effectively hook these. By the same token, if you need a wide line, rather than using two smaller size strands, use one larger strand.
5. Multi cut hooking is very effective, but do pick one median height for your loops.
6. When using wider cuts hooking direction is very important. It not only helps the viewer recognize motifs but establishes dimension.
7. Don't end your loops so that the cut ends form a line. The viewer's eye will be drawn to it. Incorporate the back stitch or stagger the starts and stops.
8. Use colors you are drawn to. Nothing ruins the hooking experience more than trying to work with color palette you hate.
9. Make plaids work for you. There are often sections of fabric that have great accent lines or different values of the same colors.
10. Don't be so quick to tear out and make dramatic color changes. Colors are effected by proximity to each other and changing color plans midstream can throw everything off.

Thank you Cherylyn!

From Nina's Notebook -- It has been a grand summer for rug hooking in my part of Nova Scotia. This summer there were two shows, one at the La Have Islands Marine Museum which featured rugs from the Square Zebras, a group of 12 women dedicated to making rug hooking an art form as well as a craft. The second one at the Rossignol Center in Liverpool, Nova Scotia featured more traditional hooking. Both were well received and attended.

The La Have Marine Museum sold raffle tickets on a mat constructed by the Square Zebras and made over \$2,000 to be used to maintain the museum. Right now I am working on a mat which I will donate to the Autism Society in Baltimore in honor of my grandson, Will, who has autism. There are numerous charities which have auctions and special fund raising events. As a rug hooker, this is an opportunity to contribute to a charity of your choice as well as have the enjoyment of creating a piece of art. I find it is also a way of introducing rug hooking to a larger audience. I am amazed that some people still do not know about hooking and the beauty and joy of this art form.

Think about a special group that captures your interest, and see if a hooked rug would fit in with their fund raising plans. Happy Hooking!

Worm Mug Rugs -- Nifty Project from Gisele Meader -- At the June meeting Gisele Meader shared a creative way to use left over wool strips to make mug rugs. Her directions are shown below.

Supplies needed:

- Small piece of Styrofoam. (I used the lid from a small cooler)
- Flat head flower pins
- Several different colors and sizes of worms
- Steam-A-Seam2 (if you want to adhere your woven piece to cork) (JoAnn Fabrics)
- Small piece of thin wool or other fabric (if you want to make a rug from snippets)
- Painter's tape
- Cork (Walmart)

Start by selecting and lining up some worms on your workspace, mixing up colors and sizes.

- Pin end of first worm to the Styrofoam, keeping worm flat (they like to twist) pin other end to the Styrofoam
- Pin next worm butting the first one in the same manner. Continue until you have the width you want your rug.
- Start "weaving" worms, being careful to keep them tight against each other – even after washing, my little rugs didn't shrink or felt much.
- Weave until you have the size you want.
- Place pieces of painter's tape around the perimeter of your rug to hold worms in place, so you can remove the pins. Do this carefully.
- Machine sew around the perimeter to hold everything in place.

Finishing

- You can square it up and use it as is or you can wash it (in hopes that it might tighten up) then square it up.

- If you want to put it on cork, measure a piece of Steam-A-Seam2 and cork the size of your woven piece. Follow directions on the Steam-A-Seam2 package and adhere the cork to your woven piece.
- If you want to make a mug rug from snippets, place small, irregular pieces of worms on a piece of Steam-A-Seam2 - adhere it to a backing fabric, place another piece of Steam-A-Seam2 on the back of the fabric and adhere to the cork.

Have fun and get creative!

Favorite Recipes

Jana Laidlaw Shares Her Husband's Cold Sesame Soba Noodles Recipe --

Several members requested the recipe for the noodle dish brought to the June picnic meeting by Jana Laidlaw. The recipe is actually her husband's and is shared below.

“My dish is a modified version of Tyler Florence's recipe for Cold Sesame Noodles from the show Food 911, episode “Chinese Spare Ribs,” as posted on the Food Network's website. In the spirit of avoiding infringement of intellectual property rights the following recipe is Tyler's except for a couple of substitutions, additions, and omissions; mine is procedurally the same.”

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound soba (buckwheat) noodles, broken into thirds. Soba is typically sold in packages with wrapped individual servings; 4 of these bundles are slightly under ½ lb and sufficient.
- 3 tablespoons dark sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons peanut oil
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced on the diagonal
- 1-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and minced. This quantity is variable, so use discretion.
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon “Chili with Garlic” or similar to desired spiciness
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 6 tablespoons hot water
- toasted sesame seeds to garnish
- 5 chicken thighs, cooked and cubed
- 2 large carrots, peeled and cut into matchsticks
- 2 green bell peppers, chopped small
- 2 cups red cabbage, diced
- 1 typical package of asparagus, cooked and sliced into bite sized chunks

Procedure:

Cook the noodles in unsalted boiling water until tender, about 4-5 minutes or as dictated by its packaging. Drain and immediately rinse thoroughly with cold water. Again drain the noodles really well and transfer to a wide bowl; toss with the sesame oil to prevent sticking.

In a small saucepan, heat the peanut oil over medium-low flame. Add the green onions, ginger, garlic, and chosen spicy ingredient. Cook and stir for a minute until soft and fragrant. Mix in the brown sugar, peanut butter, rice vinegar, soy sauce, and hot water. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and the peanut butter has smoothed out. Toss the noodles with the peanut sauce until well coated. Mix in assorted meat and vegetables; garnish with the sesame seeds. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

HCRAG Library – 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 freyja2@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 others members.

HCRAG Website – Visit the Guild’s website at www.hcrag.com to enjoy the rugs completed by our monthly featured member, current and past, as well as the Gallery of member rugs. You can also connect with other rug hooking links. Laurie Rubinetti normally updates the site by the first of the month. Take a look!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rugs by the Sea – September 12 – 24, 2010 -- The popular rug hooking school returns to Cape May, NJ for its 23rd season. The instructors for the first week (September 12 -17) will be Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Kris Miller and Judy Quintman. Week two (September 20 - 24) features Cheryl Brubaker, Bev Conway, Lucille Festa and Cindi Gay. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-946-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com or Linda Woodbury at 973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Hooked on New Jersey Exhibit – September 24 – October 24, 2010 -- Rugs initially hooked for the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter’s 2009 Jersey Girls Challenge will be on display at the Barron Art Center in Woodbridge, NJ. An opening reception will be held on September 26. For more information, contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

Exhibit of Hooked Rug Tavern Signs – October 7, 2010 -- A selection of rugs inspired by tavern signs from the American Revolution era that were designed and hooked by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber will be on exhibit at the David Library of the American Revolution on October 7, 2010. The exhibit will follow the lecture “The Boston Tea Party” by Benjamin Carp, Associate Professor of History at Tufts University. The lecture and exhibit are free and open to the public. The event will take place in the Feinstone Conference Center at the David Library of the American Revolution, 1201 River Road (Rt. 32), Washington Crossing, PA. To make a reservation or for more information call 215-493-2233 ext. 100.

Brandywine ATHA Chapter Annual Hook-in and Auction – October 30, 2010 – The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is hosting a hook-in to support the 2011 ATHA Biennial in Lancaster, PA. Terry Dorr of Dorr Mill Store is the guest speaker. For more information, visit their website – brandywinerughookingguild.weebly.com.

ATHA Biennial Conference in Lancaster, PA – October 19-22, 2011 -- For more information, visit the ATHA website at www.atharugs.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.

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 10, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Show & Tell *

October 8, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Lettering (Claudia Casebolt) **

November 12, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Rug Tavern Signs (Karl Gimber)*

December 10, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon & Ornament Exchange *

January 14, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Auction & White Elephant Sale *

January 14-16, 2011 – Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ

February 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – TBD *

March 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin led by Members *

April 1-30, 2011 – Hooked Rug Exhibit – Hunterdon County Library, Rt. 12
Flemington, NJ

April 8, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Mola Mats Lecture & Workshop (Norma Batastini) *

April 29- May 1, 2011 – Spring Fling – Geometrics (Sandra Brown) Hampton Inn,
Flemington, NJ

May 13, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Mats (Kay Weeks) *

June 10, 2011 -- Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic *

August 15-19, 2011 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp (June Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson) – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

August 18, 2011 – HCRAG Beginners' Workshop – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

*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 1314 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 -- 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.

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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 group 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, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg@nni.com. by the 20th of the month.